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Performance of export-oriented small and medium-sized manufacturing enterprises in Viet Nam

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Performance of export-oriented small and medium-sized manufacturing enterprises in Viet Nam

By

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Abbreviations and acronyms

ASMED	Agency for SME Development
CAGR	compound annual growth rate
IE	Institute of Economics
ILSSA	Institute for Labour Studies and Social Affairs
MPDF	Mekong Private Sector Development Facility
MPI	Ministry of Planning and Investment
OLS	ordinary least squares
SME	small and medium-sized enterprise
SMME	small and medium-sized manufacturing enterprise
SOE	state-owned enterprise
WTO	World Trade Organization

Executive summary

Liberalization of the business environment as well as increased international integration in Viet Nam have resulted in the rapid expansion of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in general and export-oriented small and medium-sized manufacturing enterprises (SMMEs) in particular, especially since 2000. More than 95 per cent of formal enterprises belong to the SME category. Around 17 per cent of SMMEs are involved in export activities. The export-oriented SMMEs account for 36 per cent of workforce and 45 per cent of total assets, and contribute to around 42 per cent of industrial output of all SMMEs.

Export-oriented SMMEs tend to be larger in size and mainly belong to the medium-sized category. They are unevenly distributed among regions and are mainly concentrated in the south-east of the country. They are owned both by domestic private companies and by foreign investment enterprises. Among SMMEs, the export-oriented firms are more likely to survive in business, expand their operations, generate jobs and become large enterprises. Although they perform well in terms of growth rate, especially foreign investment enterprises, the profitability of export-oriented SMMEs is relatively low. The promising findings are that among export-oriented SMMEs there is increasingly sustainable development, and that this sector is becoming more efficient and productive.

Those SMMEs in the medium-sized category, and which are owned by foreign investors operating export-oriented industries located in the South-East and the Red River delta, have a higher probability of participating in the export market. SMMEs also gain benefits from international integration in the improvement of their performance, and the large manufacturing enterprises within the industry play an important role in increasing export participation by SMMEs.

In addition to the traditional factors determining the performance of export-oriented SMMEs, i.e., capital and labour, this study finds ownership form, company location, previous experience in the export market (but not the type of industry in which they operate) to be significant determinants of export-oriented SMME performance – expressed in terms of revenue and revenue growth in this paper. The findings do not appear to support the hypothesis that financial constraints hinder export participation by SMMEs and the performance of export-oriented SMMEs. This is probably because export-oriented SMMEs are the best performers among SMEs and therefore have better access to financial sources than other SMEs. Analysis of the 2004-2005 data shows that export-oriented SMMEs are more likely to create jobs than those that are not, as well as to become large enterprises.

The study recommends the formulation of policies that support the development of business linkages and networking, and which promote subcontracting arrangements between small and large enterprises or between domestic firms and foreign investment enterprises. It is also necessary to support and facilitate the direct involvement of SMMEs in exporting or indirectly through large manufacturing enterprises. Moreover, it requires substantial investment in infrastructure and industrial support facilities and services (i.e., roads, ports, logistics facilities and services, and market information) in the underdeveloped regions with priority being given to those areas with the greatest potential for development, i.e., the North central coast, the South central coast and the Mekong delta.

Introduction

Since 1986, liberalization of the business environment and increased integration into the world economy has been a key theme in the open-door policy of Viet Nam. Most notably, the central Government has made great efforts in promoting and facilitating the development of the private sector by promulgating and implementing a number of business and investment promotion laws since the early 1990s, and has been especially successfully with its introduction of the Enterprise Law¹ in 2000. Furthermore, trade policy² in Viet Nam has changed significantly from inward-oriented import substitution towards outward-orientation (Oostendorp and others, 2006). Most recently, Viet Nam became an official World Trade Organization (WTO) member in January 2007.

During this process, the SME³ sector has developed at a remarkable pace in terms of the number and performance of enterprises. The highly dynamic SMEs created about 28 per cent of the total of 7.5 million newly created jobs during 2000-2005 (Government of Viet Nam, 2006). However, a review of the literature indicates that there are several major concerns regarding the SME sector:

- (a) Although the number of private domestic firms registered under the Enterprise Law increased steadily each year (e.g., from 14,441 in 2000 to 39,881 in 2005), only half of the firms actually exist. In addition, existing enterprises are very small whereas “middle and importantly high end” firms are missing (Viet Nam Development Report, 2005; Ministry of Planning and Investment, 2005);
- (b) The emerging private sector is still, to a large extent, inward-oriented, and a very small proportion of private manufacturing SMEs are participating in the export sector (Viet Nam Development Report, 2005; Kokko and Sjöholm, 2004);
- (c) Most SMEs do not realize the great impact that globalization and integration have on their businesses with regard to the continuous improvement of their competitiveness as well as the new opportunities provided by the integration (Ministry of Planning and Investment, 2005; Institute of Economics, 2003).

These concerns would suggest that small domestic businesses face obstacles in operating, expanding and eventually making it to the top (Viet Nam Development Report, 2005). The inward orientation and small scale of the SME sector are expected to pose a big challenge for the future contribution of SMEs to economic growth, export performance, job creation and poverty reduction targets, as pointed out in the Social Economic Development Plan, 2006-2010.

In Viet Nam, previous studies on the development of the private sector and SMEs have been conducted by Riedel and Tran (1997), Webster (1999), Webster and Taussig

¹ The most important aspect of the Enterprise Law was the simplification of the business registration procedure for new private enterprises and the elimination of more than 160 business licences and permits as well as thousands of sub-licences and conditions issued at the ministerial and local levels since 2000.

² It included a shift from a state monopoly of foreign trade towards a more competitive system, with increasing participation by the private sector, the abolition of non-tariff barriers, integration with the world economy via regional and multilateral trading agreements, and the unification of the multiple exchange rate system.

³ SMEs in Viet Nam are defined as businesses and production establishments that have a registered capital of less than Dong 10 billion (about US\$ 625,000) or annual permanent employees numbering less than an average of 300, or both. In this paper, SMEs in Viet Nam are defined in terms of labour.

(1999), Ronnas and Ramamurthy (2001), Steer and Taussig (2002), Ministry of Planning and Investment (2005), and Hansen and others (2005). These studies typically focused on analysing the changes in the role of the SME sector over the past few decades and on providing a comprehensive picture of the benefits, obstacles and challenges in the development and internationalization of SMEs in Viet Nam, and the important determinants of their performance. Recently, Kokko and Sjöholm (2004) reported that economic internationalization had little direct impact on SMEs, i.e., only a few SMEs actually benefited from internationalization with regard to the expansion of their markets and increased revenue. The study also noted that successful enterprises had gradually grown and no longer belonged to the SME category.

It is a fact that export-oriented manufacturing SMEs⁴ are viewed as a dynamic, flexible and innovative sector, contributing to exports and industrial development. In Viet Nam, these enterprises tend to be larger in size, perform better and enjoy more opportunities for becoming large enterprises when compared to the majority of SMEs in general, and manufacturing SMEs in particular. They also have very different characteristics in terms of ownership, regional distribution and industry of operation to those of other SMEs, especially manufacturing SMEs (annex 1a and 1b). A better understanding of this type of enterprise as well as how to support and promote them will be the key to the success and further industrial development of Viet Nam in the future.

Moreover, the literature review shows that to date none of the previous studies comprehensively analyses the performance of export-oriented manufacturing SMEs⁵ in Viet Nam. Therefore, it is an excellent opportunity to study this issue in Viet Nam in terms of the dynamic changes resulting from integration into the world economy.

The main objectives of this study were to reveal the factors behind export participation by manufacturing SMEs and the performance of export-oriented manufacturing SMEs, and to identify a set of measures that would enable SMEs to more easily and directly participate in global trade, especially in the post-WTO context.

To achieve the main objectives discussed above, this study seeks to answer the following questions:

- (a) What was the development and performance of export-oriented manufacturing SMEs in Viet Nam during 2000-2005?
- (b) What are the determinants of export participation by manufacturing SMEs in Viet Nam?
- (c) What are the determinants of performance by export-oriented manufacturing SMEs in Viet Nam?
- (d) What are the implications for formulating a set of administrative and regulatory measures and systems that would enable SMEs to more easily and directly participate in global trade?

⁴ Export-oriented manufacturing SMEs in Viet Nam are formally registered enterprises that have an average number of annual permanent employees of less than 300, are operating as manufacturers and are involved in direct export activities in the surveyed year.

⁵ *Ibid.*

The analysis in this paper is based on the availability of six enterprise surveys⁶ of enterprises that are in actual operation at the end of each previous year, which were conducted annually from 2001 to 2006 by the General Statistical Office of Viet Nam. The surveys collected information related to business industry, performance, labour, capital, taxation, and involvement in export and import activities of enterprises. Some extended sections regarding skilled labour, intermediate inputs, research and development expenditure, technology level, ICT applications, technical training for employees of enterprises and investment climate were collected separately.

Chapter I provides an overview of the SME sector and a review of SME support policies that have significant effects on the development of the SME sector in general, and an analysis of the development of export-oriented SMMEs since 2000 in particular. Chapter II quantitatively analyses the export participation of manufacturing SMEs and the performance of export-oriented SMMEs in Viet Nam during the past few years. Chapter III discusses the policy implications drawn from this study.

⁶ In 2001 and 2006, 42,288 and 113,352 enterprises were surveyed, respectively. Manufacturing enterprises accounted for around 22 per cent of all the enterprises surveyed. Some 89 per cent of all manufacturing enterprises were within the small and medium-sized categories. The panel enterprise data can be constructed from these surveys.

I. Development and performance of export-oriented SMMEs

A. Characteristics and development

The development of the SME sector in Viet Nam can be divided into two phases, with the turning point in 2000 when the Law on Enterprises came into effect. Since then, the Government has adopted more reform policies to accelerate development of the private enterprise sector (box 1). As a result, the SME sector has achieved significant development (box 2).

The rapid expansion of the SME sector resulted in the rapid increase in terms of the number of export-oriented SMMEs at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 16 per cent between 2000 and 2004. Table 1 shows the number of export-oriented SMMEs increased rapidly from 1,551 enterprises in 2000 to 2,225 enterprises in 2004. Although only around 17 per cent of SMMEs were involved in export activities, they accounted for 36 per cent of the total employees working in all SMMEs and 45 per cent of total assets utilized by all SMMEs. These shares have not changed much during the past few years.

Table 1. Export-oriented SMMEs in Viet Nam, 2000-2004

	2000	2003	2004	CAGR 2000-2004 (%)
Enterprises				
Number of export-oriented SMMEs	1 551	2 225	2 810	16.0
Percentage of all SMMEs (%)	17.3	16.0	17.2	
Employment				
Employment of export-oriented SMMEs (persons)	163 057	222 242	282 851	14.8
Percentage of all employees of all SMMEs (%)	36.9	33.0	35.9	
Persons engaged per export-oriented SMME (persons)	105.1	99.9	100.7	
Assets				
Total assets of export-oriented SMMEs (billion dong)	35 032.7	55 030.4	7 6903.4	
Percentage of total assets utilized by all SMMEs (%)	45.6	42.2	44.7	
Total assets utilized per export-oriented SMME (billion dong)	22.6	24.7	27.4	

Source: General Statistical Office Enterprise Surveys, 2000-2005.

Note: Calculation is for only those years in which export data were collected.

Box 1. Reforms of the legal framework for SMEs

After 2000, the Government of Viet Nam adopted more reform policies to accelerate development of the private enterprise sector. The Government formulated a comprehensive and synchronized legal framework in parallel with perfecting existing legal documents regulating enterprise activities. One of the milestones for the reform was the enforcement of the Law on Enterprises in 2000 and Decree 90/2001/ND-CP, dated 23 November 2001, which stipulates supporting measures for SME development. A number of **under-law** documents to guide the implementation of the Law on Enterprises have been issued and implemented.

In 2001, to resolve the finance constraints on SMEs, the Government set up the Credit Guarantee Fund, which enables SMEs to borrow credits to support business activities with favourable borrowing conditions. In 2002 the Ministry of Finance issued a circular guiding expenditure for supporting trade and export promotion activities of SMEs, which grants enterprises more authority in financing their trade and export promotion costs for expand business activities.

In 2003, support for SMEs was given high priority on agenda of the Government with the establishing the SME Development Promotion Council at the central level. The main mandate of the Council is to coordinate duties among concerned ministries and institutions in supporting the development of the SME sector. To increase the effectiveness of the supporting measures for SME development, the Government established the Agency for SME Development (ASMED) under the Ministry of Planning and Investment; ASMED acts as the focal point for coordinating support activities of other government agencies in promoting SME development. At the same time, the Government allowed the ministry to establish three Technical Assistance Centres for SMEs under ASMED in the south, north and central regions in order to deliver the supporting measures to SMEs. These centres are designed to assist SMEs, especially with technical issues within these regions, and to promote the establishment of SMEs.

The shortage of skilled labour continues to be a serious issue in Viet Nam. The Government has paid a great deal of attention to this issue by setting up support programmes for SMEs in training skilled labour. In early 2006, the State Bank of Viet Nam issued a circular that stipulated measures and conditions for mobilizing resources for Credit Guarantee Funds provided to SMEs. According to the circular, in certain sectors SMEs can be provided with financial support or access to favourable loans to support their labour-training activities.

In late 2006, the SME Development Plan for 2006-2010 was approved by the prime minister. The plan reaffirmed the Government's decisive efforts to promote this sector systematically and orderly.

At the local level, local authorities in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Binh Thuan and Ba Ria-Vung Tau have established Support Centres to promote SMEs within these cities and provinces. The centres are designed to support SMEs in human resources training, trade and investment promotion, and technology transfers.

Box 2. Overview of SME development

The legal framework reform has had a positive effect on the development of SMEs. As annex 2a shows, the number of SMEs increased nearly three-fold from 39,915 in 2000 to 109,738 in 2005. SMEs are still a dominant type of enterprise in Viet Nam, accounting for more than 95 per cent of total enterprises. However, the gap between the number of actively operating enterprises and the number of registered enterprises is still large. By the end of 2005, there were 113,352 active enterprises compared with 205,095 registered enterprises. This complements the Viet Nam Development Report (VDR) 2005 findings.

SMEs have been attracting a large proportion of the country's labour force. In 2005, SMEs created more than 2.5 million jobs for workers, which was more than two times higher than in 2000, and accounted for 40.5 per cent of total employees working in the formal enterprise sector. However, the average number of SME employees did not change much from 2000 to 2005, remaining at around 25 employees per enterprise.

Together with the increasing number of newly established SMEs, the total assets of SMEs also increased considerably from 2000 to 2005. Total assets of SMEs increased more than three-fold from 2000 to 2005 (annex 2a). As a result, from 2000 to 2005 the average total assets of SMEs increased from VND 7.4 billion to VND 8.3 billion (almost 12 per cent), respectively.

Although the total revenue of SMEs declined from 2000 to 2001, it showed an increasing trend from 2001 to 2005. However, the total profit per employee per enterprise decreased markedly from 2003 to 2005. The profit per employee per enterprise in 2005 was less than half that recorded in 2002 and 2003. Moreover, the gap between large enterprises and SMEs in terms of total profit per employee per enterprise increased sharply from 1.34 in 2000 to 6.87 in 2005. These figures indicate that there is increasing competition among enterprises and that there are obstacles hindering the development and efficient performance of SMEs.

Results from the Enterprises Survey for 2005 show that SMEs represented 96.8 per cent of total enterprises, of which micro and small enterprises formed the majority. Micro enterprises and small enterprises comprised 51.3 and 40.4 per cent of total enterprises, respectively (annex 2). Yet, the fixed assets utilized per large enterprise (VND 193.8 billion) are much larger than those of SMEs (VND 2.7 billion). In addition, each employee of large enterprises generated profit nearly seven times higher than those of SMEs.

Annex 2b reveals that large enterprises operate more effectively than small enterprises in terms of profit per employee. The profit per employee increased in accordance with the size of an enterprise. The performance of an enterprise depends not just on size, but on many other factors such as management skills, capacity of employees, technology and marketing management. However, it is clear that in Viet Nam larger enterprises appear to operate better than smaller enterprises.

Among sectors, SMEs in the service sector account for 63.4 per cent of total enterprises, followed by those in the manufacturing sector (20 per cent) and construction (13.3 per cent). Most large enterprises are to be found in the manufacturing sector (60.2 per cent) while only 16.4 per cent are involved in the service sector. Geographically, most SMEs are concentrated in the regions where big cities are located, such as the Red River delta area (27 per cent), south-east (36 per cent) and the Mekong River delta area (13 per cent). Only a small amount of SMEs are located in the remaining regions, such as the north-west and the Central Highlands, because of the underdevelopment of those regions.

In terms of ownership, domestic non-state-owned enterprises (SOEs) comprise 95 per cent of total SMEs while SOEs and foreign-owned enterprises account for only about 2.5 per cent. The size of the SME sector is very small. Nearly 95 per cent of SMEs fall within the small enterprise category and have less than 100 employees each.

Nearly two-thirds of export-oriented SMEs were manufacturing food products, textiles and garments, wood products and furniture, rubber and plastics products, in which Viet Nam has achieved a high growth rate in export volume during the past few years. It is important to note that the share of export-oriented SMMEs in these industries has been declining while the share of export-oriented SMEs manufacturing footwear, chemicals and chemical products, non-metallic mineral and metal products, and machinery and equipment has been increasing in terms of the number of enterprises, labour and revenue but not in terms of assets during the same period. The role of foreign investment in the capital incentive industries also increased (figure I). This implies that export-oriented SMMEs are shifting from labour-intensive industries to capital-intensive industries.

Figure II shows that export-oriented SMMEs, both domestic non-state-owned and those with foreign investment, accounted for the largest proportion of export-oriented SMMEs while only 3.3 per cent of export-oriented SMMEs were state-owned enterprises (SOEs). The foreign investment enterprises expanded faster than domestic enterprises while SOEs underwent contraction. The number of foreign investment export-oriented SMMEs increased by more than two times during 2000-2004. The main reason for the reduction in the number of SOEs was that the Government has been promoting the implementation of the SOE reform programme through equitization, transfer, sale, contracting and leasing small SOEs since 1998 (Mekong Economics, 2002).

Figure I. Export-oriented SMMEs by industry, 2000-2004

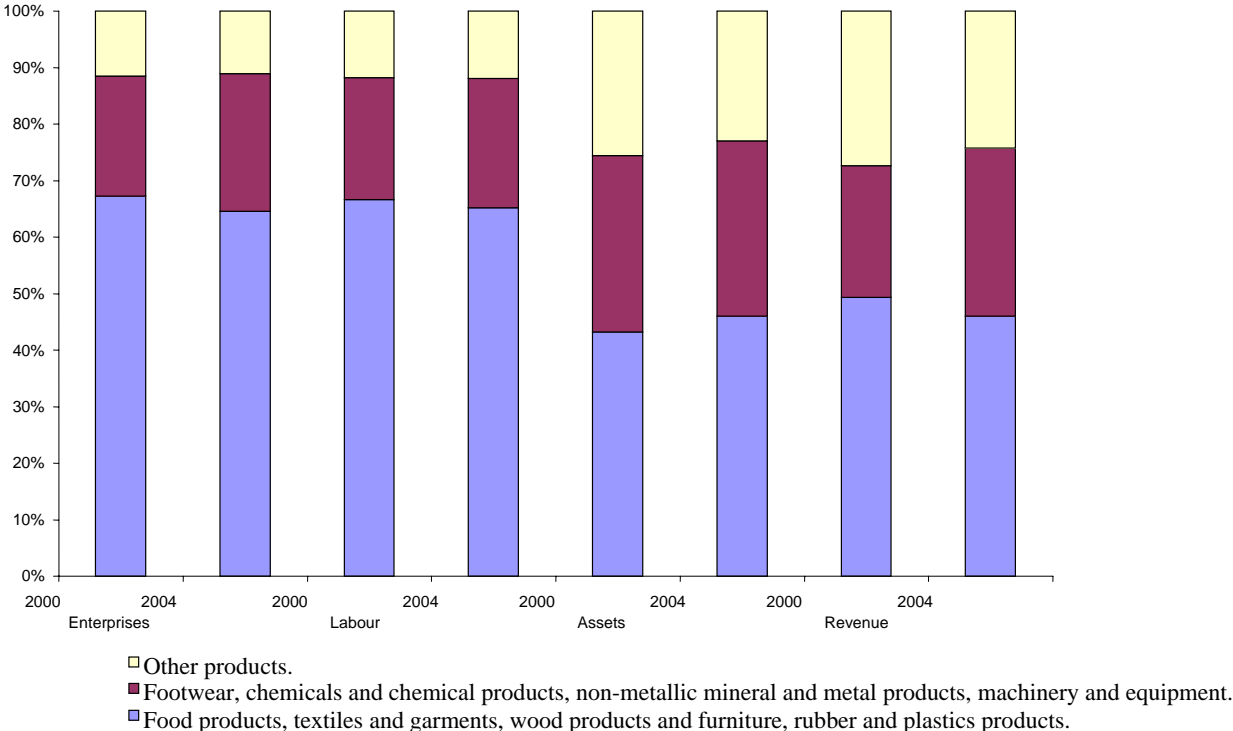
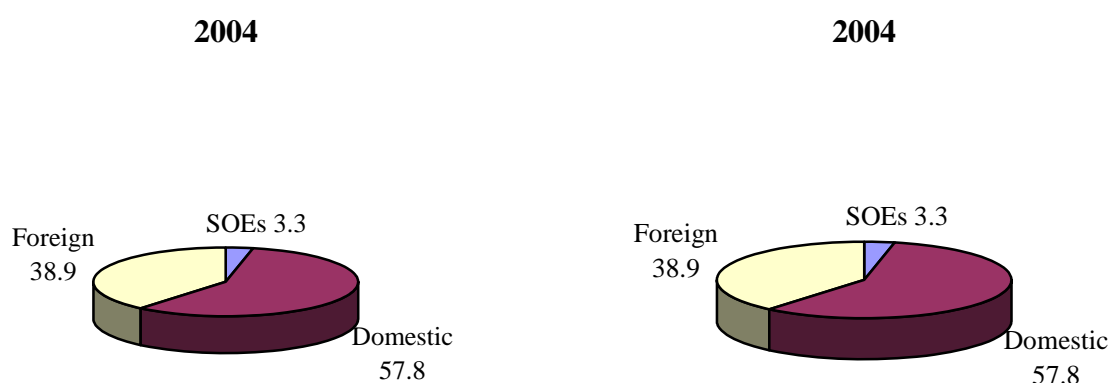


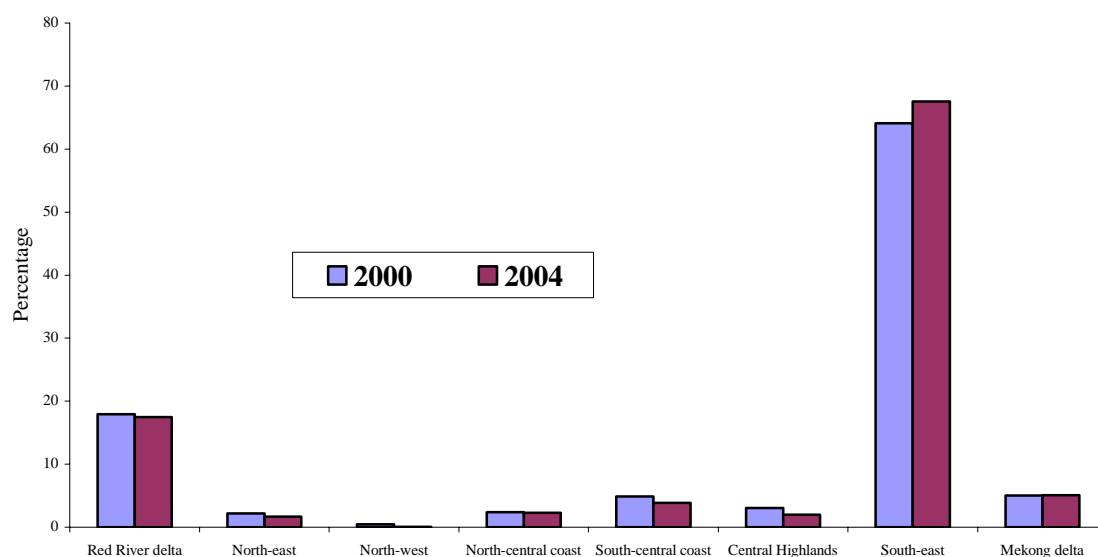
Figure II. Export-oriented SMMEs by ownership (percentage), 2000-2004



Source: General Statistical Office Enterprise Surveys, 2000-2004.

More than two-thirds of export-oriented SMMEs were located in south-eastern Viet Nam, the hub of industrial development with better infrastructure, and seaport and logistic facilities. The enterprises in all other regions (except the Red River delta) represent only a small number of export-oriented SMMEs. The share of export-oriented SMMEs in the south-east and the Mekong delta is increasing but is declining in all other regions (figure III). The enterprises mainly undergoing expansion are located in the south-east, the Mekong delta, the Red River delta, and the north-central coast.

Figure III. Distribution of export-oriented SMMEs by region, 2000-2004



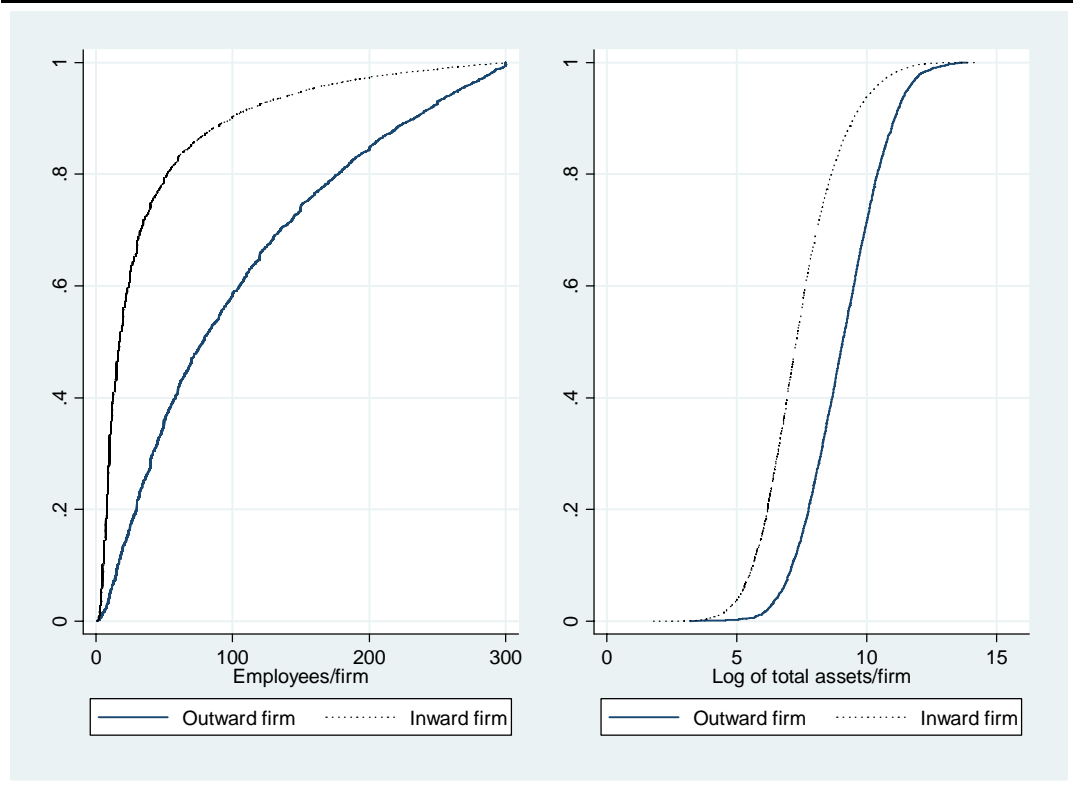
Source: General Statistical Office Enterprise Surveys, 2000-2004.

Compared to SMEs, the company size, ownership and geographical distribution of export-oriented SMMEs are quite different. Company size, in terms of labour and capital, of export-oriented SMMEs tends to be larger than that of other SMMEs as well as SMEs. The cumulative fraction in terms of labour and capital of export-oriented and inward-oriented SMMEs clearly indicates that the size of export-oriented SMMEs is much bigger than that of inward SMMEs (figure IV).

Domestic non-state-owned SMEs and SMMEs dominate the market while both domestic non-state-owned and foreign investment export-oriented SMMEs account for the largest proportion of enterprises. SMEs and SMMEs are distributed more evenly among the developed regions of the country and are expanding in all regions except the Mekong delta (annex 1a), whereas export-oriented SMMEs are mainly concentrated in the south-east (annex 1b).

Among export-oriented SMMEs, the ownership and geographical distribution characteristics of long-established and new export-oriented SMMEs are similar. In terms of size, as measured by total number of employees and total capital utilized, the well-established export-oriented SMMEs tend to be larger than new companies. More importantly, the new export-oriented SMEs are expanding the fastest (annex 1a). This implies that small manufacturing enterprises in Viet Nam also have strong potential for becoming exporters and for being able to catch up with the and large-size enterprises. However, it will require a major effort to reduce the regional development gaps in terms of infrastructure and industrial support services.

Figure IV. Cumulative fraction of export-oriented and inward-oriented SMMEs by labour and assets, 2004



Source: General Statistical Office Enterprise survey, 2004.

B. Performance of export-oriented SMMEs

Measured by the increase in revenue at CAGR of 19.7 per cent and profit at CAGR of 59.6 per cent, the export-oriented SMMEs performed well between 2000 and 2004. Although only about 17 per cent of SMMEs were involved in export activities, these export-oriented enterprises accounted for around 42 per cent of total revenue of all SMMEs, 46 per cent of total profit of all SMMEs and nearly 40 per cent of the total tax contribution of all SMMEs (tables 1 and 2). Because the export-oriented SMMEs grew relatively faster than other SMMEs, these share figures have shown a tendency to increase during the past few years.

Table 2. Performance of export-oriented SMMEs in Viet Nam, 2000-2004

(Unit: VND billion at constant price)

	2000	2003	2004	CAGR 2000-2004 (%)
Revenue				
Total revenue of export-oriented SMMEs	32 104.5	50 572.3	65 835.7	19.7
Percentage of total revenue of all SMMEs (%)	42.6	38.0	41.7	
Total revenue per export-oriented SMME	20.7	22.7	23.4	3.1
Profit				
Total profit of export-oriented SMMEs	295.1	1873.9	1915.0	59.6
Percentage of total profit of all SMMEs (%)	39.0	50.0	46.1	
Total profit per export-oriented SMME	0.2	0.8	0.7	37.6

Source: General Statistical Office Enterprise Surveys, 2000-2005.

Note: Calculation for only years where export data was collected.

The transition matrix of company size during 2000-2005 shows that export-oriented SMMEs in Viet Nam are more likely to expand and become large manufacturing enterprises than inward-oriented SMMEs. During 2000-2003, around 8.4 per cent of export-oriented SMMEs became large manufacturing enterprises while only 2.8 per cent of inward-oriented SMMEs achieved the same result. Similarly, 5.3 per cent of export-oriented SMMEs but only 1.2 per cent of inward-oriented SMMEs successfully expanded between 2003 and 2005 (table 3).

Table 3. Enterprise size transition matrix, 2000-2005

(Unit: Per cent)

		Enterprises in 2003											
		Export-oriented firms					Inward-oriented firms						
		Micro	Small	Small to medium	Medium	Large	Total number	Micro	Small	Small to medium	Medium	Large	Total number
Enterprises in 2000	Micro	40.7	51.9	3.7	0.0	3.7	27	71.7	28.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	1 154
	Small	2.4	72.1	17.8	5.5	2.2	505	12.6	77.6	8.0	1.1	0.8	2 236
	Small to medium	0.7	14.5	45.5	20.5	18.8	303	0.6	16.2	59.1	13.8	10.3	340
	Medium	0.0	4.3	18.3	38.2	39.3	186	0.0	3.8	12.0	43.7	40.5	158
	Large	0.2	1.1	1.7	5.4	91.7	664	0.0	0.9	0.9	5.1	93.2	235
	Total number	26	437	274	197	751	1 685	1 110	2 122	402	153	336	4 123
		Enterprises in 2005											
		Export-oriented firms					Inward-oriented firms						
		Micro	Small	Small to medium	Medium	Large	Total number	Micro	Small	Small to medium	Medium	Large	Total number
Enterprises in 2003	Micro	40.4	55.8	0.0	1.9	1.9	52	72.4	27.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	2 128
	Small	3.7	80.1	13.6	1.7	0.9	964	8.9	85.7	4.5	0.6	0.3	5 355
	Small to medium	1.2	19.8	53.6	16.8	8.6	500	0.8	22.5	60.1	11.9	4.8	716
	Medium	1.0	4.1	20.0	43.5	31.4	290	0.7	5.3	26.3	46.6	21.0	281
	Large	0.0	0.9	1.9	6.2	91.1	920	0.0	1.2	3.9	10.8	84.0	739
	Total number	66	920	474	284	982	2 726	2 025	5 357	778	328	731	9 219

Source: General Statistical Office Enterprise Surveys, 2000-2005.

Note: Total number of enterprises.

Table 4 shows performance was better among export-oriented SMMEs than among inward-oriented SMMEs in terms of productivity, as measured by the total revenue per employee per enterprise and total profit per employee per enterprise, but not in terms of profitability as measured by the percentage of profitable firms. The average total revenue per employee per enterprise and total profit per employee per enterprise of export-oriented SMMEs were around 1.6 and 3 times higher than these of inward-oriented SMMEs, respectively, in 2004. In 2004, some 62 per cent of export-oriented SMMEs were profitable while around 69 per cent of inward-oriented SMMEs were profitable. However, the returns to capital difference between export-oriented and inward-oriented SMMEs were not statistically significant at the 10 per cent confidence level in 2003 and 2004.

It is important to note that the productivity and profitability of export-oriented SMMEs in Viet Nam were increasing while the productivity and profitability of inward-oriented SMMEs were declining. It can be seen, therefore, that the inward-oriented SMMEs were more profitable than export-oriented SMMEs in relative terms but not statistically in absolute terms. However, the returns to capital of both export-oriented and inward-oriented SMMEs on average were very low, and much lower than the average market interest rate. This is a major concern.

Table 4. Productivity and profitability of SMMEs in Viet Nam, 2000-2004

(Unit: VND million at current price)

	2000		2003		2004	
	Export-oriented	Inward-oriented	Export-oriented	Inward-oriented	Export-oriented	Inward-oriented
Productivity						
Total revenue per employee per SMME	270.4	198.1	295.6	192.8	340.9	215.8
Total profit per employee per SMME	-1.8	2.0	7.6	2.1	5.3	1.8
Profitability						
Percentage of profitable SMMEs (%)	61.6	75.4	61.8	71.1	62.2	69.3
Percentage of loss-making SMMEs (%)	38.4	24.6	38.3	28.9	37.8	30.7
Rate of return on capital (%)	-1.6	7.7	-5.9	-2.5	0.5	-3.3

Source: General Statistical Office Enterprise Surveys, 2000-2005.

Note: Rate of return on capital per enterprise = mean (total profit/total fixed assets*100).

Among export-oriented SMMEs, the foreign investment enterprises tend to be more productive but less profitable compared with domestic enterprises. In addition, enterprises located in the developed regions (Red River delta and the south-east) are more productive but less profitable compared with enterprises located in other regions. Enterprises located in the mountainous and highland regions (the north-west and the Central Highlands) have the lowest productivity and profitability compared with enterprises located in all other regions (annex 1a and 1b). This implies that the regional gap in terms of development and performance of export-oriented SMMEs is increasing.

It is important to note that the performance of export-oriented SMMEs operating in industries in which Viet Nam has comparative advantages in international markets appears to be no better than that of export-oriented SMMEs operating in other industries. Medium-size,

established enterprises perform best in comparison with small and new enterprises (annex 1a and 1b).

C. Plant and job turnover rate of export-oriented SMMEs

Both entry and exit are crucial elements of the market selection process that leads to the restructuring and evolution of industry. Therefore, the process of entry and exit of firms has long been held to play an important role in the evolution and adaptation of industry to change. Entry and exit are inherent parts of the dynamic competitive process, and which lead to some firms expanding and others declining.

There is evidence that when an economy integrates deeply into the world economy, the exit and entry of SMEs are frequently seen. Those who are able take opportunities to increase their productivity or competitiveness are survivors, and the active entry by SMEs would be a source of dynamism in the manufacturing sector (Bellone and others, 2006; Chin-Hee, 2000; Kawai and Urata, 2001).

Tables 5 and 6 show that enterprise and job turnover rates in Viet Nam between 2001 and 2005 were extremely high compared with other developing and developed countries. However, it is important to note that enterprise and job turnover rates of SMMEs declined rapidly during 2001-2005. In relative terms, the exit and job destruction rates of export-oriented SMMEs were lower than these of inward-oriented SMMEs (tables 1 and 6). This reflects the low costs of entering and exiting the market as a result of removing obstacles for doing business and especially market entry in Viet Nam during the past decade. It also implies that SMME development tends to become more stable, especially in the case of export-oriented SMMEs.

Table 5. Plant and job turnover rates of manufacturing enterprises in developing and developed countries

Country (Period covered)	Plants		Jobs		Minimum plant size covered
	One year	Five years	One year	Five years	
Chile (1979-1986)	8.5	–	26.9	–	10 workers
Colombia (1977-1989)	11.9	–	24.6	–	10 workers
Morocco (1984-90)	9.5	–	30.7	–	10 workers
Republic of Korea (1983-1993)	–	64.2	–	–	5 workers
Taiwan Province of China (1981-1991)	–	67.9	–	–	1 worker
United States of America (1963-1982)	–	26.9	18.9	58.4	5 workers
Canada (1973-1992)	–	–	21.9	–	5 workers

Source: Tybout, 2000.

One interesting finding was that labour productivity and profitability of terminated export-oriented SMMEs between 2004 and 2005 were the lowest (table 7). Thus, performance is a very important indicator for the failure and success of enterprises.

The finding on the exit rate of SMMEs was relatively higher than the finding from a three-wave survey of SMEs in Viet Nam conducted by ILSSA, which found that the exit rate of SMEs was in excess of 15 per cent per year in the early 1990s, declining to less than 10 per cent in recent years (Viet Nam Development Report, 2005). However, SMEs in those surveys were only located in the major cities of Viet Nam and they were not representative of all SMEs. Therefore, in the cities the exit rate may be lower.

The high plant turnover rate in Viet Nam would be consistent with the finding by Goreski (1995) that in a turbulent economic environment company entry and exit rates are both high. Rapid growth provides many opportunities for new firms, while making existing companies obsolete more quickly.

Table 6. Entry and exit rates and job turnover rate of SMMEs in Viet Nam, 2001-2005

	(Unit: Per cent)				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Entry rate	41.1	39.6	32.5	34.7	31.1
Exit rate	29.1	15.3	18.8	16.4	15.3
Share of exit export-oriented SMMEs	12.3	-	-	9.7	11.1
Share of exit inward-oriented SMMEs	87.7	-	-	90.3	88.9
Enterprise turnover rate	35.1	27.5	25.7	25.5	23.2
Job creation rate	48.5	49.6	41.1	41.7	34.7
Job loss rate	32.1	19.6	23.0	22.7	22.9
Share of jobs lost in export-oriented SMMEs	35.5	-	-	30.3	35.3
Share of jobs lost in inward-oriented SMMEs	64.5	-	-	69.7	64.7
Job turnover rate	80.6	69.2	64.1	64.4	57.6

Source: General Statistical Office Enterprise Surveys, 2000-2005.

Note: Let N_t be the number of enterprises observed in year t ; E_t the number of enterprises observed in year t but not $t-1$; and X_t the number of enterprises observed in year $t-1$ but not in year t . Then the entry rate is E_t/N_{t-1} and the exit rate is X_t/N_{t-1} . The enterprise turnover rate is the average of these two statistics. Similarly, the rate of gross job creation is the number of jobs at entering enterprises plus the number of new jobs at expanding enterprises, divided by the initial number of jobs, while the gross job loss rate is the number of jobs that disappear as enterprises contract or exit divided by the initial number of jobs. The sum of these two rates is the job turnover rate (Tybout, 2000). The export-oriented or inward enterprises are defined based on enterprises observed in year $t-1$.

Table 7. Export-oriented SMMEs in Viet Nam by survival and termination, 2004

	(Unit: VND million at current rate, unless otherwise specified)			
	Revenue per employee	Profit per employee	Share of profit- making firms (%)	Rate of return on total assets (%)
Total mean	340.9	5.3	62.2	-0.4
Survival between 2003 and 2005	386.6	10.7	68.7	1.1
Startup between 2003 and 2004, and survival to 2005	170.9	-6.3	44.3	-3.7
Terminated between 2004 and 2005	352.3	-9.8	51.6	-4.1

Source: General Statistical Office Enterprises Surveys, 2000-2005.

II. Determinants of the export participation of SMMEs and performance of export-oriented SMMEs

A. Determinants of export participation by SMMEs

What factors determine why some SMMEs are involved in export activities and others are not? The descriptive analysis in chapter I shows that the share of export-oriented SMMEs has not changed much in relative terms during the past few years. The medium-sized manufacturing enterprises are more likely to be involved in export activities than are small enterprises. Export-oriented SMEs mainly operate in industries in which Viet Nam has comparative advantages in international markets. They are owned by both private domestic and foreign investors, and are mainly located in the south-east and Red River delta regions, which have better infrastructure, port and logistics facilities, easier access to labour, raw materials and other industrial supporting services.

Although the descriptive analysis is useful, it suffers from the limitation of only being able to see the effects of one variable at a time. A more rigorous answer to the question, which would allow one to measure the effect of a variable while holding all other influences constant, calls for the estimation of a logistic model. Here, the dependent variable is set at equal to 1 if an enterprise is involved in export activities in the year of survey, and to zero otherwise.

A range of variables are believed to affect whether or not an SMME exports (annex 3). Those used in this model include:

- (a) Labour productivity;
- (b) Enterprise size (measured with dummy variables for micro, small, small to medium, and medium-size enterprises);
- (c) Ownership (measured with dummy variables for SOE, domestic private and foreign investment enterprises);
- (d) Type of industry (measured with dummy variables for export-oriented, import substituting and non-tradable industry⁷);
- (e) Export participation in the previous year (dummy variable);
- (f) Availability of credit (financial leverage measured in terms of total assets divided by shareholders' equity);
- (g) Business linkages (measured as the logarithm of the number of large enterprises or large export-oriented enterprises in the industry);
- (h) Year that dummies control for macroeconomic environment differences over time;
- (i) Regional dummy variable control for other regional determinants of performance such as access to markets, quality of the local infrastructure or availability of natural resources.

The logit model was estimated by using pooled data and cross-sectional data from the General Statistical Office's Enterprise Surveys of 2000, 2003 and 2004, during which they collected export information. The estimation results are set out in table 8 and annex 4. The more productive and larger enterprises were found to have a higher probability of

⁷ An industry has been defined as export-oriented if its exports are larger than its imports and exports are more than 10 per cent of industry gross output, import-substituting if its imports are larger than its exports and imports are more than 10 per cent of industry gross output, and non-tradeable otherwise.

participating in export activities. These findings complement earlier studies on SMEs, which showed that a very small proportion of private SMMEs participated in exports and that exporters tended to be large in size (Viet Nam Development Report, 2005; Kokko and Sjöholm, 2004).

Foreign investment enterprises were found to have a higher chance of participating in export activities compared with their domestic private and SOE counterparts. Financial constraints did not appear to be influence the determination of export participation by SMMEs.⁸ However, this finding should be interpreted with care because it is widely known that SOEs in Viet Nam still benefited from cheaper credit, and better access to land and government procurement policies (O'Connor 1998; Tenev and others, 2003) while foreign investment enterprises were required to have legal capital of more than 30 per cent of the investment capital prior to July 2006 (the date that the Law on Investment, 2005 became effective).

Regressions (1), (2) and (4) show that the number of large enterprises or export-oriented large enterprises in the industry was important, raising the likelihood of export participation of SMMEs. This implies that there were business linkages between large enterprises and SMEs within the industry. Regression (3) confirms the findings that enterprises were more likely to participate in exporting if they were operating in Viet Nam's export-oriented industries that had comparative advantages in international markets.

Regression (4) shows that being an exporter in the previous year significantly increased the probability remaining an exporter either in 2003 or 2004 or both. The year dummies in table 8 suggest a rather pessimistic finding of a declining trend in export participation by SMMEs⁹ in relative terms. Enterprises located in South East region are more likely while enterprises located in Northern Uplands and Mekong Delta regions are less likely to engage in export activities.

⁸ Annex 1a shows only around 4 per cent of SMMEs were state-owned while 86 per cent and nearly 10 per cent of SMMEs are domestic private and foreign investment, respectively.

⁹ Around 4.5 per cent and some 2.1 per cent of SMMEs became large manufacturing enterprises during 2000-2003 and 2003-2005, respectively.

Table 8. Logistic model of export participation of a manufacturing SME, 2000, 2003 and 2004

Regression with robust standard errors and clusters (industry at the 2-digit level).
Pooling data: 2000, 2003 and 2004.

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)**
	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.
Number of observations	39085	39085	39085	30163
Wald chi2(17)	10282.18	6401.57	7625.45	9974.25
Prob. > chi2	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Pseudo R2	0.3022	0.3152	0.3112	0.3768
Log pseudo-likelihood	-12346.85	-12116.80	-12187.06	-8463.24
Number of clusters (industry)	23	23	23	23
	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.
Ln (annual real revenue per employee)	0.153 ^b	0.036	0.169 ^b	0.028
Small*	1.514 ^b	0.185	1.536 ^b	0.183
Small to medium*	2.820 ^b	0.213	2.819 ^b	0.217
Medium*	3.262 ^b	0.197	3.247 ^b	0.192
Domestic non-SOE*	0.965 ^b	0.208	0.816 ^b	0.155
Foreign investment enterprise*	3.001 ^b	0.224	2.896 ^b	0.168
Financial leverage	0.00015	0.000	0.00013	0.000
Ln (number of large enterprises in industry)	0.438 ^b	0.158		
Ln (number of large export-oriented enterprises in industry)			0.503 ^b	0.113
Import industry*			-0.908 ^b	0.266
Small export-import industry			-1.701 ^b	0.447
Export in previous year*				2.322 ^b
Year 2003*	-0.547 ^b	0.119	-0.402 ^b	0.104
Year 2004*	-0.483 ^b	0.126	-0.509 ^b	0.116
North-east*	-0.646 ^b	0.210	-0.659 ^b	0.198
North-west*	-0.480	0.252	-0.487 ^a	0.218
North-central coast*	-0.141	0.234	-0.110	0.249
South-central coast*	0.254	0.296	0.233	0.287
Central Highlands*	0.586	0.370	0.529	0.374
South-east*	0.967 ^b	0.144	0.950 ^b	0.143
Mekong delta*	-0.900 ^b	0.331	-0.980 ^b	0.327
Intercept	-7.174 ^b	0.796	-7.147 ^b	0.545
			-4.642 ^b	0.478
				-7.293 ^b

Source: General Statistical Office Enterprise Surveys, 2000, 2003 and 2004.

Notes: Coefficients in **bold** are significant at the 10 per cent level; ^a significant at the 5 per cent level; and ^b significant at the 1 per cent level. *: Dummy variables. **: In model (4), Year 2000 dropped.

B. Determinants of performance of export-oriented SMMEs

This section considers the performance of export-oriented SMMEs between 2000 and 2005. Performance is driven by the quantity and quality of labour and capital used as well as other variables used in the logit model, i.e., enterprise characteristics, industry of operation, export experience (X), business linkages, regions and so forth (Z), but excluding enterprise size and availability of credit because of multi-colinearity¹⁰ (annex 3). It is impossible to know *a priori* which factors are the most important for the performance of export-oriented SMMEs and must be investigated.

Let Y be an enterprise performance variable of interest (revenue or revenue/labour growth of enterprise). It is naturally related to various characteristics of the enterprise, denoted as X_1, \dots, X_k or in shorthand (vector) notation as X . If the business climate and infrastructure variables matter, Y is also related to Z_1 through Z_k . Therefore, the model can be demonstrated with the following equation:

$$Y_i = F(X_i, Z_i, u_{yi})$$

where u_{yi} is a random disturbance, capturing unmeasured determinants of, and stochastic influences on enterprise revenue and its growth.

The model is estimated by single-equation regression techniques. These techniques assume that explanatory variables are exogenous; in other words, they are not manipulated in response to enterprise revenue. Yet, according to Glewwe, (1999), within the model simultaneously determined inputs (such as capital and labour) and industries of enterprises are likely to be endogenous. Therefore, the inclusion of these variables in the model can cause a simultaneity bias for OLS estimates. To remedy such a bias, these variables are excluded from the model, and two models are estimated: (a) without inputs and industries, referred to as the “reduced-form specification” and (b) with inputs and industries, referred to as the “structural-form specification”.

Enterprise revenue in year t is measured by annual revenue at current prices. To reduce the impact of outliers and deal with heteroskedasticity,¹¹ this variable is specified in logarithmic fashion and the regressions are estimated with robust standard errors and cluster by industry at the 2-digit ISIC level. This means that slope estimates indicate the proportional impact of a one-unit change in Z on Y . The model is estimated by using cross-sectional data from the General Statistical Office Enterprise Surveys of 2000, 2003 and 2004.

Enterprise revenue growth between year t_1 and year t_0 is the difference in the natural logarithm of enterprise real revenue, which gives the proportional difference in real revenue or, in the other words, the percentage change between year t_0 to year t_1 in real revenue. Similarly, the labour growth of an enterprise between year t_1 and year t_0 is the difference in the natural logarithm of total employees of the enterprise. The real annual revenue is adjusted by the annual producer’s price index of industrial products and expressed in 1995 prices.

The growth regression model is estimated based on the sample of surviving panel enterprises between year t_0 and year t_1 . The independent variables refer to conditions in year

¹⁰ Multi-colinearity is caused by correlation among the explanatory variables, i.e., the correlation between the enterprise size and labour, and the correlation between financial leverage and capital. This reduces the precision of the estimated impact of each one of them.

¹¹ To make sure of the presence of heteroskedasticity in the regressions, the White test and the Breusch-Pagan/Cook-Weisberg test are applied for investigation.

t_0 , so the regression attempts to find determinants of future revenue or labour growth. The model is estimated by using panel data from the General Statistical Office Enterprise Surveys between 2000 and 2001, 2003 and 2004, and 2004 and 2005. The revenue growth regression model is estimated on the sample of export-oriented SMMEs while the labour growth regression model is estimated on the sample of all SMMEs between year t_0 and year t_1 to examine whether or not export-oriented SMMEs are better at generating jobs than inward-oriented SMMEs.

The average values of the proportional difference in real revenue of export-oriented SMMEs between 2000 and 2001, 2003 and 2004, and 2004 and 2005 are 0.18, 0.21 and 0.18, respectively. This means that the annual average revenue growth rate of the surviving export-oriented SMMEs is almost the same as the average growth rate of industrial exports volume of nearly 19.3 per cent per year during 2001-2005. The average values of the proportional difference in total employees of SMMEs between 2000 and 2001, 2003 and 2004, and 2004 and 2005 are 0.05, 0.20 and 0.21, respectively.

The estimated results from the “reduced-form specification” and the “structural-form specification” are almost the same in terms of significant effects of explanatory variables on the performance of export-oriented SMMEs, except the ownership dummy variable in the revenue models in 2000 and 2003 and regional dummy variable in the revenue models in 2000, 2003 and 2004. The estimated results¹² in tables 8 and 9 show that both capital and labour are statistically associated with higher revenue of export-oriented SMMEs but that they lower revenue growth. Relative to SOEs (the omitted ownership dummy), the average revenue of domestic and foreign invested enterprises is significantly lower but the average revenue growth of foreign invested enterprises is significantly higher. Being an exporter in the previous year has statistically significant effects on the increase in revenue but not on revenue growth.

The estimated results of labour growth of SMMEs in table 10 show that relative to inward-oriented SMMEs (the omitted dummy), the average labour growth of export-oriented SMMEs is significantly higher between 2004 and 2005 but not in earlier years. This means that export-oriented SMMEs may have become better than inward-oriented SMMEs at generating jobs. The average labour growth of micro manufacturing enterprises is significantly higher relative to other SMMEs. Relative to SOEs (the omitted ownership dummy), average labour growth of foreign invested enterprises is significantly higher¹³.

Although the number of large manufacturing enterprises in the industry does not appear to have statistically significant effects on the performance of export-oriented SMMEs in all regressions between 2000 and 2005, there is evidence of increasingly fiercer competition in the market between large manufacturing and SMMEs in the same industry. Annexes 5 suggests that the performance of export-oriented SMMEs operating in tradeable industries is no better, statistically, than that of enterprises operating in import-substituting industries or non-tradeable industries. Relative to the Red River delta (the omitted regional dummy), the average enterprise revenue in the south-central coast, south-east and Mekong

¹² The OLS estimates of revenue growth of all surviving enterprises in the panel data do not have much explanatory power; the R^2 -values are between 0.024 and 0.085, and low levels of statistical significance. As might be expected, since the growth rate depends on two noisy measures (e.g., revenue in year t_0 and revenue in year t_1), the models explain only between 2.4 per cent and 8.5 per cent of the variation in the growth rates.

¹³ However, all results on labour growth performance should be interpreted cautiously and would warrant further investigation given the low explanatory power of the overall model.

delta is significantly higher while the average enterprise revenue in the northern uplands is significantly lower. However, the average enterprise revenue growth does not differ significantly among regions.

Table 8. Determinants of revenue of export-oriented SMMEs, 2000-2004

Linear regression OLS estimates in the presence of arbitrary heteroskedasticity and clusters (industry at the 2-digit level)												
Number of observations	1532		1532		2214		2214		2798		2798	
R-squared	0.6150		0.1773		0.6411		0.1590		0.6498		0.1822	
Number of clusters (industry)	23		23		23		23		23		23	
	2000				2003				2004			
	(1)		(2)		(1)		(2)		(1)		(2)	
	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.
Dependent variable: Log (annual current revenue)												
Ln (labour)	0.184^a	0.067			0.302^b	0.055			0.275^b	0.035		
Ln (capital)	0.813^b	0.041			0.767^b	0.050			0.781^b	0.039		
Domestic non-SOEs*	0.035	0.096	-1.377^b	0.165	-0.347	0.309	-1.852^b	0.356	-0.164^a	0.060	-1.937^b	0.178
Foreign investment enterprises*	-0.479^b	0.144	-0.129	0.137	-0.761^a	0.336	-1.026^b	0.304	-0.583^a	0.079	-1.196^b	0.151
Ln (number of large enterprises in industry)	0.010	0.136	-0.098	0.199	-0.068	0.114	-0.204	0.182	-0.130	0.097	-0.303	0.176
Exports in previous year*					0.219^b	0.055	0.745^b	0.068	0.355^a	0.051	0.742^b	0.066
North-east*	-0.230	0.216	-0.339	0.268	-0.107	0.216	-0.020	0.167	-0.555	0.277	-0.335	0.293
North-west*	-0.999^b	0.304	-1.801^a	0.683	-0.798	0.528	-1.477^a	0.525	-0.515^b	0.142	-1.931^b	0.247
North-central coast*	-0.408	0.213	-0.591^a	0.250	-0.122	0.113	-0.125	0.268	-0.039	0.057	0.103	0.136
South-central coast*	0.352	0.217	0.379	0.187	0.202	0.125	0.333^b	0.106	0.341	0.181	0.483^b	0.140
Central Highlands*	-0.162	0.176	0.204	0.212	-0.249^a	0.103	0.043	0.341	-0.187	0.118	-0.014	0.277
South-east*	0.057	0.138	0.336^b	0.111	0.200^a	0.075	0.391^b	0.098	0.222^b	0.055	0.390^b	0.121
Mekong delta*	0.480^a	0.181	0.603^a	0.253	0.456^a	0.186	0.437	0.292	0.350^a	0.153	0.370	0.288
Intercept	0.885	0.637	9.825^b	0.834	1.304	0.685	10.817^b	0.832	1.310^a	0.571	11.343^b	0.882

Source: General Statistical Office Enterprise Surveys, 2000-2005.

Notes: Coefficients in **bold** are significant at the 10 per cent level; ^a significant at the 5 per cent level; and ^b significant at the 1 per cent level.

(*) = Dummy variables.

Regression (1) is structural- form specification; regression (2) is reduced-form specification.

Table 9. Determinants of revenue change of export-oriented SMMEs between 2000 and 2005

Linear regression												
OLS estimates in the presence of arbitrary heteroskedasticity and cluster (industry at the 2-digit level)												
Number of observations	1217		1217		1990		1990		2518		2518	
R-squared	0.0341		0.0236		0.0551		0.0539		0.0848		0.0843	
Number of clusters (industry)	21		21		22		22		23		23	
	2001-2000				2004-2003				2005-2004			
	(1)		(2)		(1)		(2)		(1)		(2)	
	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.
Dependent variable: "Log (Annual real revenue t1) - "Log (Annual real revenue t0)"												
Ln (labour)	-0.069 ^a	0.032			-0.024	0.026			0.019	0.035		
Ln (capital)	-0.023	0.021			0.021	0.021			-0.013	0.013		
Domestic non-SOEs*	0.059	0.079	0.151	0.104	0.055	0.115	0.041	0.100	0.308 ^a	0.069	0.309 ^b	0.055
Foreign investment enterprises*	0.182	0.101	0.202	0.098	0.209	0.124	0.218	0.121	0.596 ^a	0.061	0.587 ^b	0.061
Ln (number of large enterprises in industry)	-0.050	0.036	-0.053	0.043	-0.053	0.030	-0.061 ^a	0.027	-0.007	0.023	-0.002	0.022
Exports in previous year*					-0.264 ^b	0.043	-0.263 ^b	0.039	-0.402 ^a	0.048	-0.401 ^b	0.049
North-east*	0.163	0.210	0.172	0.207	-0.166	0.099	-0.161	0.101	-0.051	0.160	-0.051	0.161
North-west*	-0.214	0.127	-0.174	0.121	0.895	0.483	0.875	0.483	-0.413	0.403	-0.421	0.388
North-central coast*	-0.113	0.238	-0.112	0.232	0.196	0.130	0.186	0.122	-0.087	0.064	-0.078	0.069
South-central coast*	-0.280	0.139	-0.294 ^a	0.136	0.097	0.061	0.091	0.061	0.078	0.097	0.082	0.098
Central Highlands*	-0.288 ^a	0.118	-0.312 ^a	0.136	-0.022	0.114	-0.016	0.116	-0.160 ^a	0.064	-0.164 ^a	0.059
South-east*	-0.031	0.090	-0.040	0.091	0.011	0.049	0.014	0.051	-0.103 ^a	0.041	-0.105 ^a	0.042
Mekong delta*	-0.225 ^a	0.105	-0.218	0.106	-0.049	0.116	-0.049	0.114	-0.049	0.060	-0.050	0.059
Intercept	0.850 ^b	0.267	0.313	0.207	0.327	0.331	0.451	0.219	0.129	0.177	0.074	0.115

Source: General Statistical Office Enterprise Surveys, 2000-2005.

Notes: Coefficients in **bold** are significant at the 10 per cent level; ^a significant at the 5 per cent level; and ^b significant at the 1 per cent level.

*: Dummy variables. Regression (1) is structural- form specification; regression (2) is reduced-form specification.

Table 10. Determinants of labour change of SMMEs between 2000 and 2005

Linear regression						
OLS estimates in the presence of arbitrary heteroskedasticity and cluster (industry at the 2-digit level)						
Number of obs.=	6 297		11 567		13 829	
R-squared =	0.0508		0.0154		0.0313	
Number of clusters (industry) =	22		23		23	
	2001-2000		2004-2003		2005-2004	
	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.
Dependent variable: "Log (total employees t1) - "Log (total employees t0)"						
Export-oriented*	0.048	0.033	-0.041	0.028	0.049^b	0.016
Small*	-0.260^b	0.033	-0.045	0.073	-0.187^b	0.025
Small to medium*	-0.329^b	0.035	-0.065	0.083	-0.267^b	0.034
Medium*	-0.347^b	0.030	-0.105	0.088	-0.260^b	0.042
Domestic non-SOEs*	-0.025	0.021	0.217^b	0.038	0.053	0.039
Foreign investment enterprises*	0.058	0.027	0.454^b	0.046	0.159^b	0.042
Ln (number of large enterprises in industry)	-0.029^b	0.009	-0.056^a	0.021	-0.014^b	0.004
North East*	-0.002	0.043	0.030	0.058	-0.018	0.021
North West *	-0.080	0.039	0.141	0.172	-0.048	0.052
North Central Coast*	-0.032	0.026	0.084	0.080	-0.056	0.034
South Central Coast*	-0.082^a	0.033	0.039	0.036	0.011	0.025
Central Highlands*	-0.047	0.054	0.002	0.059	-0.057	0.042
South East *	-0.024	0.022	-0.012	0.034	-0.036^b	0.011
Mekong Delta *	-0.178^b	0.023	-0.092^a	0.040	-0.054^b	0.011
Intercept	0.455^b	0.068	0.289^b	0.096	0.203^b	0.041

Source: General Statistical Office Enterprise Surveys, 2000-2005.

Notes: Coefficients in **bold** are significant at the 10 per cent level; ^a significant at the 5 per cent level; and ^b significant at the 1 per cent level. *: Dummy variables.

III. Conclusion and policy implications

Liberalization of Viet Nam's business environment together with the increased integration of the country into the world economy has resulted in the rapid expansion of the SME sector, especially since 2000. By the end of 2005, SMEs in Viet Nam accounted for more than 95 per cent of all enterprises, 40.5 per cent of the workforce in the formal enterprise sector and 34 per cent of total assets utilized by all enterprises.

SMEs dominate in service sector. Most SMEs are owned by the domestic private sector while both domestic private and foreign investment enterprises account for the largest proportion of export-oriented SMMEs. SMEs are more concentrated in the developed regions (the Red River delta, the south-east and the Mekong delta) and have opportunities to expand in the underdeveloped regions. However, export-oriented SMMEs are mainly concentrated and expanding in the south-east. Compared with SMEs, the size of export-oriented SMMEs tends to be larger, placing them in the medium-sized category while the majority of SMEs belong to the small enterprise category.

The analysis in this paper demonstrates a number of concerns regarding the performance of the SME sector in Viet Nam: (a) the size of the SME sector is still very small and seems to be decreasing further; (b) stronger competition in the market has resulted in diminishing performance of SMEs, a widening gap between the performance of large and small enterprises, and an increasing number of non-operative enterprises.

The rapid expansion of the SME sector, plus significant improvements in trade policies that moved away from inward-oriented import substitution towards outward-orientation, resulted in a rapid increase in the number of export-oriented SMMEs at CAGR of 16 per cent between 2000 and 2004. Around 17 per cent of SMMEs are involved in export activities. The export-oriented SMMEs accounted for 36 per cent of the workforce of all SMMEs, 45 per cent of total assets utilized by all SMMEs and around 42 per cent of industrial output of all SMMEs. During 2001-2005, these enterprises performed well and achieved an annual average growth rate that equaled the average growth rate of industrial exports. However, the rate of return to capital of SMMEs on average was very low and much less than the average market interest rate; nearly one-third of all SMMEs were operating at a loss.

Although the share of export-oriented SMMEs in the SMME sector showed a declining trend, performance and profitability increased during the past few years. The plant closure and job destruction rates of export-oriented SMMEs were lower than these of inward-oriented SMMEs and showed a declining trend. The analysis presented in this paper confirms that medium-sized manufacturing enterprises were more likely to become exporters. Those SMMEs operating in export-oriented industries, owned by foreign investors, with previous experience as exporters and located in the south-east and Red River delta regions¹⁴ had a higher probability of participating in the export market. More interestingly, the export-oriented SMMEs were more likely to expand their operations, generate more jobs and become large enterprises than were inward-oriented SMMEs.

¹⁴ These regions have better infrastructure, and port and logistics facilities as well as better access to international market information, capital and human resources, stronger business linkages, and networking between SMEs and large enterprises in the industry.

These findings strongly support the self-selection hypothesis, where firms need to be efficient to survive and thrive in the highly-competitive export markets, and the fact that production cost advantages may be gained through economies of scale. Increasingly sustainable development is occurring among the export-oriented SMMEs and that the export-oriented SMME sector is becoming more efficient and highly-productive.

SMMEs benefit from integration and increased trade liberalization through improved performance while the large export-oriented manufacturing enterprises play an important role in boosting direct export participation by SMMEs. Therefore, policies that address this externality by (a) supporting the development of business linkages and networking, and (b) promoting subcontracting arrangements between small and large enterprises, or between domestic enterprises and foreign investment enterprises, will greatly assist SMMEs to improve performance and increase benefits from integration. It is also necessary to support and facilitate efforts by SMMEs to engage in exporting either directly or indirectly through large manufacturing enterprises.

In addition to the traditional factors determining the performance of export-oriented SMMEs, i.e., capital and labour, ownership form, location, previous experience in exporting in other sectors are significant determinants of the performance of export-oriented SMMEs. In addition, foreign investment enterprises tend to grow more rapidly than do domestic enterprises and SOEs.

Earlier studies have explicitly indicated that financial constraints faced by SMEs as well as the practice among banking and financial institutions to favour financing for SOEs and large enterprises. However, the findings detailed in this paper do not appear to support the hypothesis that financial constraints hinder export participation by SMMEs or the performance of export-oriented SMMEs. This may be interpreted as meaning that export-oriented SMMEs (a) are among the most dynamic, efficient and productive SMMEs, (b) are usually large in size, and (c) have the potential to develop. Therefore, these enterprises can be expected to gain access to the financial sources more easily than other SMEs.

Viet Nam has made great efforts during the past decade to remove obstacles to doing business, especially market entry. Yet, to enable SMMEs to continue operating smoothly and effectively, succeed in highly competitive export markets and reduce the regional differences in export participation, substantial investment in infrastructure and industrial support facilities and services (i.e., roads, ports, logistics, facilities and services, and market information) is required in the underdeveloped regions of the country. However, such investment should be prioritized and implemented first in those regions with the highest development potential, i.e., the north-central coast, south-central coast and Mekong delta.

Annexes

1a. SMEs, SMMEs and export-oriented SMMEs in Viet Nam, 2004

(Unit: Per cent, unless otherwise specified)

	SMEs	Manufacturing SMEs	Export-oriented manufacturing SMEs
Enterprises			
Number of enterprises ^a	88 222	16 389	2 810
Percentage of all enterprises	96.2	17.9	3.1
Distribution of enterprises by	100.0	100.0	100.0
Ownership			
SOEs	3.4	3.7	3.3
Domestic non-SOEs	93.9	86.5	57.8
Foreign	2.8	9.8	38.9
Region			
Red River delta	27.4	28.1	17.5
North-east	6.8	5.1	1.7
North-west	1.2	0.6	0.1
North-central coast	5.9	4.2	2.3
South-central coast	6.8	5.4	3.9
Central Highlands	3.1	1.9	2.0
South-east	34.5	38.6	67.6
Mekong delta	14.2	16.0	5.1
Others	0.1	0.2	0.0
Size			
Micro	50.4	23.8	4.1
Small	43.5	60.8	54.3
Small to medium	4.4	10.6	26.5
Medium	1.7	4.8	15.2
Employment			
Employment (person)	2 212 289	788 856	282 851
Percentage of all employees ^b	38.3	13.7	4.9
Percentage of manufacturing SMEs			35.9
Number of persons engaged per enterprise	25.1	48.1	100.7
Assets			
Total assets (billion dong)	701 168.1	172 186.9	76 903.4
Percentage of total assets utilized by all enterprises ^c	32.4	8.0	3.6
Percentage of total assets utilized by manufacturing SME			44.7
Total assets utilized per enterprise (billion dong)	8.0	10.5	27.4
Performance			
Total revenue per employee per enterprise (million dong at current price)	457.3	237.3	340.9
Total profit per employee per enterprise (million dong at current price)	2.1	2.4	5.3

Source: General Statistical Office Enterprise Surveys, 2000-2005.

Notes: ^a Includes formally registered enterprises but excludes household enterprises.

^b Equal to total employees of SMEs (total employees of SMEs and large enterprises).

^c Equal to total assets of SMEs (total assets of SMEs and large enterprises).

1b. Export-oriented SMMEs in 2004

(Unit: Per cent, unless otherwise specified)

	Old export- oriented SMMEs ^a	New export- oriented SMMEs ^b	Startup and new export- oriented SMMEs ^c	Total
Enterprises				
Number of enterprises ^d	612	220	1 331	2 163
Distribution/category of enterprise by:	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Ownership</i>				
SOEs	5.9	9.1	1.7	3.6
Domestic non-SOEs	49.2	64.1	58.4	56.4
Foreign	44.9	26.8	40.0	40.0
<i>Region</i>				
Red River delta	13.9	22.3	17.5	17.0
North-east	1.3	1.8	1.1	1.3
North-west	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1
North-central coast	2.1	2.3	2.6	2.5
South-central coast	4.4	2.7	4.2	4.1
Central Highlands	3.3	1.4	1.7	2.1
South-east	70.1	61.8	67.8	67.9
Mekong delta	4.9	7.7	4.8	5.1
<i>Size</i>				
Micro	1.5	1.4	4.2	3.1
Small	46.7	50.9	56.3	53.0
Small to medium	30.1	31.4	25.5	27.4
Medium	21.7	16.4	14.0	16.4
<i>Employment</i>				
Number of persons engaged per enterprise	123.0	107.2	97.1	105.5
<i>Assets</i>				
Total assets utilized per enterprise (VND billion)	41.6	41.5	21.2	29.0
<i>Performance</i>				
Total revenue per employee per enterprise (VND million)	453.2	536.4	320.6	380.1
Total profit per employee per enterprise (VND million)	17.2	15.3	3.2	8.4

Source: General Statistical Office Enterprise Surveys, 2000-2005.

Notes: ^a Old export-oriented SMMEs are enterprises involved export-activities in 2000.

^b New export-oriented SMMEs are enterprises who went from inward oriented in 2000 to export-oriented in 2004.

^c Startup and new export-oriented SMMEs are enterprises who newly established between 2000 and 2004 and involved in export-activities in 2004.

^d Includes only enterprises in panel data between 2003 and 2004.

Annex 2a. SMEs in Viet Nam, 2000-2005

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Enterprises						
Number of enterprises	39 915	53 920	59 831	68 685	88 222	109 738
Percentage of all enterprises (%)	94.4	95.4	95.1	95.4	96.2	96.8
Employment						
Employment (person)	1 204 190	1 396 442	1 671 073	1 877 181	2 212 289	2 529 488
Percentage of all employees (%)	34.0	35.3	35.9	36.3	38.3	40.5
Persons engaged per enterprise (person)	30.2	25.9	27.9	27.3	25.1	23.1
Asset						
Total assets (VND billion)	293 925.3	348 201.4	433 178.7	524 473.6	701 168.1	911 304.9
Percentage of total assets utilized by all enterprises (%)	26.7	27.8	30.1	30.4	32.4	34.0
Total assets utilized per enterprise (VND billion)	7.4	6.5	7.3	7.6	8.0	8.3
Performance						
Total revenue per employee per enterprise (VND million at current value)	491.5	400.4	438.4	452.6	457.3	473.5
Total profit per employee per enterprise (VND million at current value)	3.9	3.2	4.2	4.3	2.1	1.9

Source: General Statistical Office Enterprise Surveys, 2000-2005.

Annex 2b. Performance of enterprises in Viet Nam, 2005

(Unit: VND million at current price, unless otherwise specified)

	Micro	Small	Small to medium	Medium	Large	Total
Enterprises						
Number of enterprises (enterprise)	58 136	45 803	4 173	1 626	3 614	113 352
Percentage of all enterprises (%)	51.3	40.4	3.7	1.4	3.2	100.0
Employment						
Persons engaged per enterprise (person)	5.2	27.3	138.8	242.3	1027.9	55.1
Employment (person)	303 699	1 252 689	579 048	394 052	3 714 917	6 244 405
Asset						
Total assets utilized per enterprise	2003.7	8868.5	62536.2	79161.9	490538.0	23752.4
Fixed assets utilized per enterprise	415.6	2729.0	20000.1	35368.8	193810.5	9073.9
Performance						
Total revenue per enterprise	2 719.6	10 508.0	63 200.3	84 174.9	319 460.2	19 398.7
Total profit per enterprise	-3.5	198.7	1 503.3	2 308.8	27 593.3	1 046.7
Total revenue per employee per enterprise	528.5	412.7	428.2	345.6	308.3	468.2
Total profit per employee per enterprise	-0.5	3.9	11.1	9.4	13.3	2.3

Source: General Statistical Office Enterprise Survey, 2005.

Notes: Micro enterprises are defined as businesses and production establishments with an average number of annual permanent employees of less than 10; small enterprises – 11 to 100 employees; small to medium-sized enterprises – 101 to 200 employees; medium-sized enterprises – 201 to 300; and large enterprises – more than 301 employees.

Annex 3. Definitions of variables

Variable	Definition
Dependent variable in table 8 and annex 4	Outcome of being an enterprise involves in export activities or not in 2000, 2003 or 2004: exporter (1) and non-exporter (0)
Dependent variable in table 9 and annex 5	Logarithm of annual revenue at current prices in 2000, 2003 or 2004
Dependent variable in table 10 and annex 6	Difference in the natural logarithm of annual real revenue between 2001 and 2000, 2004 and 2003 or 2005 and 2004 (in VND million at 1995 prices)
Dependent variable in table 11	Difference in the natural logarithm of total employees between 2001 and 2000, 2004 and 2003, or 2005 and 2004
Ln (labour)	Natural logarithm of total labour of enterprise
Ln (capital)	Natural logarithm of total asset of enterprise
Ln (annual real revenue per employee)	Natural logarithm of annual real revenue per employee in 2000, 2003 or 2004 (in VND million at 1995 prices)
Export-oriented*	Dummy variable, = 1 if enterprise involves in export activities
Small*	Dummy variable, = 1 if enterprise has an average number of annual permanent employees from 11 to 100
Small to medium*	Dummy variable, = 1 if enterprise has an average number of annual permanent employees from 101 to 200
Medium*	Dummy variable, = 1 if enterprise has an average number of annual permanent employees from 201 to 300
Domestic non-SOE*	Dummy variable, = 1 if enterprise is domestic private
Foreign investment enterprise*	Dummy variable, = 1 if enterprise is foreign investment
Financial leverage	Total assets divided by shareholders' equity
Ln (number of large enterprises in industry)	Natural logarithm of number of large manufacturing enterprises in industry
Ln (number of large export-oriented enterprises in industry)	Natural logarithm of number of large export-oriented manufacturing enterprises in industry
Import industry*	Dummy variable, =1 if enterprise operates in import substituting industry
Small export-import industry*	Dummy variable, =1 if enterprise operates in small export-import industry
Exports in previous year*	Dummy variable, =1 if enterprise was involved in export activities in previous year (2000 or 2003)
Year 2003*	Dummy variable, =1 if EN is in the Enterprise Survey in 2003
Year 2004*	Dummy variable, =1 if EN is in the Enterprise Survey in 2004
North-east*	Dummy variable, =1 if enterprise located in north-east
North-west*	Dummy variable, =1 if enterprise located in north-west
North-central coast*	Dummy variable, =1 if EN located in north-central coast
South-central coast*	Dummy variable, =1 if EN located in south-central coast
Central Highlands*	Dummy variable, =1 if enterprise located in Central Highlands
South-east*	Dummy variable, =1 if enterprise located in south-east
Mekong delta*	Dummy variable, =1 if enterprise located in Mekong delta

Notes: (*) = Dummy variables

Annex 4. Logistics model of export orientation of an SMME in Viet Nam, 2000, 2003 and 2004

Regression with robust standard errors and clusters (industry at the 2-digit level)												
Number of observations	8 922		8 922		13 840		13 816		16 323		16 323	
	2000				2003				2004			
	(1)		(2)		(1)		(2)		(1)		(2)	
	Coef.	Robust S.E.	Coef.	Robust S.E.	Coef.	Robust t S.E.	Coef.	Robust t S.E.	Coef.	Robust t S.E.	Coef.	Robust S.E.
Cross-sectional data: 2000, 2003 and 2004												
Dependent variable: "Outcome of being export or non-export-oriented enterprise"												
Ln (annual real revenue per employee)	0.205^b	0.062	0.207^b	0.037	0.117^b	0.032	0.167^b	0.025	0.049	0.030	0.106^b	0.036
Small*	1.563^b	0.227	1.673^b	0.214	1.325^b	0.267	1.506^b	0.238	1.341^b	0.130	1.483^b	0.143
Small to medium*	3.040^b	0.272	3.147^b	0.261	2.453^b	0.300	2.784^b	0.276	2.273^b	0.122	2.742^b	0.135
Medium*	3.356^b	0.253	3.456^b	0.217	2.792^b	0.294	3.352^b	0.251	2.707^b	0.149	3.212^b	0.145
Domestic non-SOE*	0.904^b	0.280	0.718^b	0.218	3.693^b	0.351	3.245^b	0.440	-0.256	0.250	0.230	0.198
Foreign investment enterprise*	2.535^b	0.288	2.424^b	0.216	5.613^b	0.366	5.335^b	0.444	1.575^b	0.290	2.398^b	0.212
Financial leverage	0.000	0.002	0.000	0.003	0.000	0.002	0.001	0.002	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Ln (number of large enterprises in industry)	0.308	0.174			0.487^b	0.146			0.333^a	0.158		
Import industry*			-1.034^b	0.375			-1.194^b	0.241			-0.627^a	0.324
Small export-import industry*			-1.534^b	0.355							-2.451^b	0.267
Exports in previous year*					2.120^b	0.121			2.607^b	0.252		
North-east*	-0.227	0.251	-0.341	0.250	-0.692^b	0.321	-0.734^a	0.305	-0.696^b	0.244	-0.876^b	0.248
North-west*	0.391	0.457	0.378	0.350	-0.267	0.357	-0.082	0.392	-2.251	1.206	-1.918^a	0.945
North-central coast*	-0.082	0.190	-0.106	0.156	-0.327	0.368	-0.259	0.481	-0.048	0.286	-0.024	0.360
South-central coast*	0.224	0.295	0.082	0.328	0.341	0.284	0.333	0.311	-0.037	0.268	0.152	0.315
Central Highlands*	0.659^a	0.290	0.384	0.463	0.514	0.464	0.484	0.600	0.145	0.379	0.451	0.424
South-east*	0.943^b	0.174	1.015^b	0.183	0.899^b	0.133	1.038^b	0.131	0.800^b	0.178	1.007^b	0.183
Mekong delta*	-1.284^b	0.384	-1.433^b	0.377	-0.973^b	0.241	-0.939^b	0.311	-0.420	0.293	-0.496	0.340
Intercept	-6.757^b	0.837	-4.785^b	0.489	-10.433^b	0.849	-7.386^b	0.381	-5.695^b	0.940	-4.234^b	0.527

Source: General Statistical Office Enterprise Surveys, 2000, 2003 and 2004.

Notes: Coefficients in **bold** are significant at the 10 per cent level; ^a significant at the 5 per cent level; and ^b significant at the 1 per cent level. *: Dummy variables.

Annex 5. Determinants of revenue of export-oriented SMMEs in Viet Nam, 2000-2004

Linear regression and OLS estimates in the presence of arbitrary heteroskedasticity and clusters (industry at 2 digit level)

	2000		2003		2004		2000		2003		2004	
	(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)
	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.	Coef.	Robust Std. Err.
Number of observations		1 532		1 532		2 212		2 211		2 798		2 796
R-squared		0.6159		0.2838		0.6376		0.3125		0.6376		0.3292
Number of clusters (industry)		23		23		22		23		23		23
Dependent variable: Log (annual real revenue)												
Ln (labour)	0.195^a	0.074			0.315^b	0.059			0.283^b	0.032		
Ln (capital)	0.801^b	0.049			0.775^b	0.052			0.803^b	0.037		
Small*			0.874^b	0.305			1.231^b	0.219			1.094^b	0.152
Small to medium*			1.738^b	0.356			2.219^b	0.270			2.111^b	0.194
Medium*			1.986^b	0.357			2.635^b	0.349			2.505^b	0.254
Financial leverage			0.007^a	0.003			0.002	0.001			0.0004^a	0.000
Domestic non-SOE*	0.040	0.085	-0.943^b	0.148	-0.381	0.310	-1.301^b	0.407	-0.017	0.071	-1.224^b	0.120
Foreign investment enterprise*	-0.485^b	0.164	0.113	0.117	-0.792^a	0.333	-0.658	0.358	-0.386^b	0.065	-0.653^b	0.130
Ln (number of LEs in industry)			-0.143	0.243			-0.251	0.215			-0.358	0.205
Import industry*	0.099	0.197			0.106	0.187			0.126	0.184		
Small export-import industry*	-0.056	0.236			dropped				0.023	0.187		
Exports in previous years*							0.507^b	0.052			0.589^b	0.075
North-east*	-0.219	0.189	-0.294	0.320	-0.127	0.212	-0.132	0.217	-0.620^a	0.280	-0.425	0.347
North-west*	-0.981^b	0.273	-1.665^a	0.638	-0.816	0.519	-1.185^a	0.491	-0.507^b	0.171	-1.363^b	0.449
North-central coast*	-0.374	0.212	-0.501	0.270	-0.155	0.105	-0.195	0.206	-0.106	0.066	-0.176	0.117
South-central coast*	0.363	0.201	0.221	0.249	0.203	0.129	0.103	0.139	0.383^a	0.183	0.334	0.224
Central Highlands*	-0.146	0.169	0.117	0.259	-0.217^a	0.102	-0.028	0.208	-0.199	0.133	-0.021	0.194
South-east*	0.054	0.136	0.303^a	0.136	0.195^a	0.088	0.344^b	0.070	0.226^b	0.051	0.363^b	0.096
Mekong delta*	0.477^a	0.190	0.647^a	0.273	0.454^a	0.189	0.452	0.235	0.356^a	0.133	0.384	0.257
Intercept	0.947^b	0.196	8.431^b	0.997	0.903^a	0.356	9.028^b	1.161	0.391^a	0.182	9.565^b	1.040

Source: General Statistical Office Enterprise Surveys, 2000, 2003 and 2004.

Notes: Coefficients in **bold** are significant at the 10 per cent level; ^a significant at the 5 per cent level; and ^b significant at the 1 per cent level. *: Dummy variables.

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