The thesis contributes to the following topics in the field of productivity studies. The first study takes a first pass on the practical question of forecasting aggregate productivity growth. It shows that firm-level data may be useful to infer about aggregate productivity developments. The second study investigates the question in a forecasting framework currently in use. Economic content is given to structural time-series models and it is shown that productivity trend estimates and forecasts are improved by using firm-level information. This in turn, should ultimately lead to better macroeconomic forecasts through updating our understanding of potential output. The third study illustrates the intuition about the main forecasting result. Using a recent model of firm-level heterogeneity, it investigates why firm-level information is helpful. It also contributes to the real business cycle literature and shows that changes in costs of factor adjustment matter for aggregate productivity fluctuations.

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