

Betreff: Paper by Lothar Hake (11/10/99)
Datum: Mon, 22 Nov 1999 09:53:21 +1300
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Dear Lothar

You may remember that at the Voorburg Conference you gave me a couple of pages of handwritten notes containing the progress report for Germany. I have had these typed up for you - see below. Could you please check that these are correct. There was one word in section 2 which we could not read.

Many thanks.

Anne Holwell
Business Statistics Division
----- Forwarded by Anne Holwell/CW/StatisticsNZ/NZ on
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12/10/99 16:05

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Subject: Paper by Lothar Hake (11/10/99)

Progress Report for the Voorburg Group 1999
Germany

1. The general situation and development of service statistics since 1998

The main statistical data on business services result from two administrative sources.

- the VAT - statistics with data on taxable turnover in a 5 digit institutional classification (WZ 93), yearly.
- the individual accounts of manual and nonmanual workers belonging to the social security system from which we get quarterly and yearly figures of employment classified to personal items (eg gender, age, fulltime, parttime) and also the industrial classification of the employer).

A coherent system for statistical purposes alone does not exist, though we have struggled to achieve it for the last 10 years.

- In the last legislative period of our parliament ending in autumn 1998, a statistical law failed because of opposition from the professional organisation of the freelancers. They refused cooperation with the argumentation of too much beaucracy and burden which would not be in line with the official economic policy of deregulation and liberal markets.
- When the new government was elected in 1998, we tried again to set up an annual survey of structural dates (turnover, employment, cost inputs, investment) but today we face severe budget cuts so we do not know if our attempt will be successful.

2. Classification issues

There is some progress in proposals for the field of CPA-items. In a task force together with Austria and recently France, we inspected the traditional industrial services.

- installation
- repair
- maintenance
- fitting out and finishing service within the CPA.

We proposed additional lines whenever a certain need is expressed regardless of the expected importance as well as a split between installation services on the one hand and repair and maintenance services on the other.

Not tackled in these considerations were "modern industrial services" like planning and advising, provision of additional consumer-oriented software, training certification etc.

3. Producer prices for services

At the moment we calculate two indexes for telecommunication services (TK-services) and seafreight rates. The calculation of TK-indexes was more or less unproblematic until 1.1.98 because we received the necessary data for the individual prices for the selected TK-services from the Deutsche Telekom, at that time the only supplier, 100% state owned.

Since 1998 when the market was liberalized, we have had severe problems. We now have not only a lot of new services but also about 40 new suppliers with remarkable market shares, especially in the mobile phone sector.

We could not solve the data problems in total - a statistic on TK-suppliers does not exist - and had to find an interim solution for the TK-services within the CPI. Therefore we only wanted to measure the use of TK services by private households.

With assumptions based on limited information with respect to the use of the two networks (which we received with the help of commercial market research) we now calculate a provisional index. We must also find new ways to adapt the Laspeyres concept to the rapidly changing markets by updating the weighting scheme to a 1998 version instead of using the 1995 (base year weights) which we ought to use.

We are about to transfer these modifications to the calculation of the PPI. For that purpose further data sources on the business use of TK-services by the additional competitors are necessary.