

Voorburg Group 2000

Progress on Services Statistics

Statistics New Zealand

Annual Enterprise Survey

The Annual Enterprise Survey collects financial information about resident enterprises operating in NZ, providing robust financial performance data by industry and financial position data by institutional sector. The Annual Enterprise Survey covers all of the economy except for Residential Property Operators, Foreign Government representation, Religious Organisations, and Private Households Employing Staff. There are over 110 industries measured. The survey uses a mix of administrative and sample survey data.

Sub Annual Business Survey Redevelopment

The only official service industries currently covered by sub-annual economic surveys are retail trade (monthly) and wholesale trade (quarterly). A sub-annual economic survey redevelopment project has just been started and is likely to use tax information for non-complex units to extend the coverage of quarterly surveys to include more service industries.

Business Activity Indicator

An experimental business activity indicator series is being produced using data derived from Goods and Services Tax returns. This provides monthly measures of sales and purchases across the economy including most service industries. A project to incorporate estimates of wage and salary payments based on PAYE data (income tax deductions from income at source) has started.

Price Indexes for Trade in Services

A project to develop price indexes for trade in services has just been completed. The first indexes were released for the June 1999 quarter. They cover Transportation, Travel, Government Services and Other Services (including insurance). The weights were derived from the Balance of Payments and associated data sources. Pricing information used in calculating the indexes is obtained from Statistics New Zealand's Commodity Price Survey. For the import service indexes much of the pricing has come from international price indexes.

Trade in Services

A census of International Trade in Services and a census of English Language Providers were successfully conducted on a BPM5 basis for the year ended 30 June 1999. They provided more comprehensive information on New Zealand's trade in services, including the income earned from the provision of education services to non-resident students. The quarterly balance of payments statistics now include a more detailed breakdown of New Zealand's service activity.

Biotechnology

A survey to measure biotechnology activity has been developed and operated for the first time. Survey results are currently being processed and will be published in October 2000.

Business Practices Survey

A Business Practices Survey is currently being developed in conjunction with the Ministry for Economic Development. This will measure business use of Information Technology and the Internet. The results will be published in June 2001.

Government Surveys

Over the last few years, Government surveys have moved from paper based questionnaire surveys to administrative collections. Most financial information collected from central government is now derived from administrative records. Surveys of our local authority sector are still paper based. However, work has begun to source the required information from the electronic accounting records of individual local authorities. Our aim is to improve the timeliness of source data receipt and expand the range of functional detail available for analytical purposes and publication.

Quarterly Employment Survey

The sample survey has been redesigned. Coverage has been extended to include units with less than three full-time equivalent employees. This will improve coverage of some service industries.