

## **Summary of ABS activities over 2000/2001 of interest to the Voorburg group**

### **Developments in producer price indexes for service industries**

- Architecture (7821) index development completed Services to air transport (6630) index development completed;
- Scientific research (7810) index development completed;
- Legal services (7841) - samples broadened to include WA respondents;
- Plant hiring and leasing (7743), sample coverage increased significantly;
- Data processing services (7831), sample coverage increased;
- Building Industry (other than houses 4112 & 4113) index development complete;
- Development of indexes for Telecommunications (7120), Accommodation services (5710), Pipeline transport (6501) is progressing well.

NB The above numerical codes relate to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industry Classification (ANZSIC). All ABS producer price indexes for service industries are now published in Producer Price Indexes, Australia (ABS cat. no. 6427.0).

### **Classifications and non profit institutions**

ABS has been part of the workgroup developing CPC V1 and CPC 2006. CPCV1 has been adopted as the basis of the 2001 Australian and New Zealand Standard Commodity Classification. CPC 2002 changes are currently being put through to ANZSPC 2001. Many ABS surveys have already adopted CPC V1 with data being available on this basis.

Australian Taxation Reform has provided the ABS with a new and better source for identifying NPIs. It is intended that NPIs will be identified using the Australian Business Register and will provide a comprehensive frame for future work in this area.

### **Information society statistics**

#### **Data releases**

- 1998-99 data on the computer services industries (8669.0, released August 2000).
- 1998-99 data on the whole IT&T industry (8126.0, released October 2000).
- 1998-99 data on farm use of information technology (8150.0, released October 2000).
- April 2000 data on children's use of computers and the Internet (8147.0, released November 2000).
- Quarterly and annual 2000 data on household use of information technology (annual data released May 2001 in 8146.0, quarterly release for November 2000 released February 2001 in 8147.0).
- 1999-2000 data on business use of information technology (8129.0, released December 2000). The survey was much larger than previous collections and included,

for the first time, information on the value of e-commerce, e-business indicators, and web site functions.

- First results from the Internet Activity Survey were released in March 2001 (8153.0). The Internet Activity Survey (IAS) is a quarterly mail out, mail back survey of Internet Service Providers. It collects details of the structure of the ISP industry and the numbers of Australian households and organisations obtaining access to the Internet through ISPs. It also provides measures of movement in the types and amount of infrastructure available for Internet connectivity.

### **IT&T survey developments**

- The quarterly household use of IT survey has ceased and has been incorporated as a module in various annual household surveys.

- The 2001 Population Census conducted on 7 August asked whether each person in the household used a computer at home in the last week and whether they used the Internet, either at home or work, in the past week.

- The 2000-01 business use of information technology has been developed and is in the field. Results are due to be released in December 2001. Changes were made to the concept of Internet commerce income, and two new questions on the impacts of Internet commerce and Internet purchasing were asked.

- The 2000-01 IT&T industry survey has been developed and is in the field. Results are due about the middle of 2001.

- The government use of information technology survey (last conducted in respect of 1999-00) is currently being reviewed.

- Development of a framework for measuring the knowledge economy and society (KBE/S). ABS expects to publish an Information Paper on KBE/S indicators later this year.

- ABS has started examining the methodology for, and feasibility of, compiling an IT&T satellite account.

- ABS hosted a meeting of Asia/Pacific IT&T statisticians in Brisbane in May 2001. The broad aim of the meeting was for IT&T statisticians from Singapore, Japan, Republic of Korea, Hong Kong (SAR of China), New Zealand and Australia to share experiences and work together to better understand the issues and future directions for statistical work in the field of IT&T statistics. A major outcome of the meeting was agreement to compile a range of IT&T statistics on a common basis.

- ABS now has an IT&T theme page on the website <[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)> , where all relevant information can be accessed.

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