



Direction des Statistiques d'Entreprises

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Paris, le 24 août 2001
N° 69/E401

16th Voorburg Group meeting on services statistics 2001 Progress report for France

Classification of service products

The 2002 NACE/CPA revision will be implemented in the business register and in surveys at the beginning of year 2003 : changes are quite limited and relates only on software, call centers and sewage, refuse disposal and sanitation services. Some national break-down will also be revised at the same time, in particular in telecommunication and audio-visual services.

A large general reflection is under way in France for the major 2007 revision, concerning all industries. As far as trade and services are concerned, professionals and statisticians have already met seven times in May and June 2001 : information sector, engineering and real estate services, business management and advisory services, other business services, transport and postal services, hotels and restaurants and services to households, wholesale and retail trade. Another round of discussions will be organized during autumn focusing on the main identified problems. The aim is to come to a broad agreement among users and producers of statistics in France by the end of this year. That will lay the useful foundations for future negotiation on classifications.

Service product prices

The scope of currently prices collection of business services has been enlarged in 2001 : price indexes are now published on a half-year basis for engineering services, and on a quarterly basis for car and construction equipment renting. The share of the turnover of business services for which a corresponding price index is now available is about 23%. The data collection on prices in advertising has started in June 2001. Preparatory work is in progress for temporary worker recruitment and for software. Telecommunications are planned for 2002.

Demand for purchased services

A survey on the demand for services coming from firms acting in trade and services will be launched at the end of this year. Similarly to the 2000 survey covering the manufacturing sector, it aims at identifying the different kinds of services used, and at measuring which part is assumed within the firm and which part is outsourced. In the field of tertiary activities, it outcome that a clear distinction had to be made between outsourcing and sub-contracting.

It must be quoted that this subject is of great interest also at the regional level : professional and local authorities involved in regional development want to know how far the local supply of business services matches with the demand. Several regional directorates of INSEE have launched or will launch surveys including this specific local approach.

Information society

The report of the National Council of Statistical Information on the statistical measurement of ICT development has been adopted and published in March 2001. It lists the works already done and points out some ways of progress.

The first results of the e-commerce survey in retail trade have been released in April 2001. The data collection on EDI use within commercial brand networks is now finished. Questions on purchases and sales on line have been added to the SBS surveys in trade and services activities. First results should outcome at the turn of the year.

Concerning the households, a specific and detailed survey will be launched in October 2001 : it will cover the usage of different ICT appliances, especially PCs, the Internet and mobile phones. A new multi-annual budget survey will be conducted this year. It will give a first opportunity to value the purchases made through the Internet.

Cable and satellite TV have been taken into account in the consumer price index since this year. Preliminary studies are in progress for mobile phone communications.

Non-profit institutions

The identified way of improvement on this subject is a better description of these institutions in the business register. A co-operation is under way with the Ministry of Internal Affairs in order to derive the necessary information from the initial registration by local administrations.

Other topics :

Innovation in service activities

The 2001 survey on innovation in service activities has been prepared during the first half on the year : it will be launched in October. On the field of services to enterprises and wholesale trade, the questionnaire has been derived from the general CIS3 questionnaire, which is intended also for manufacturing industry. A specific questionnaire has been built for services to households and retail trade, in order to better take into account the specific characteristics of innovative processes in the services activities : weaker importance of the equipment technology to the benefit of know-how, close link between innovation of product and innovation of process.

Monitoring brand networks

In retail trade especially, enterprises are more and more getting involved in close relations between each other, with combination of several legal forms : affiliation, licensing or franchising agreement, partnership, etc. For a number of economic topics, the relevant observation unit appears to be nor the legal unit (enterprise) nor the group, but a more complex set of entities. After several exploratory studies, a survey on all brand networks in retail trade has been conducted at the beginning of 2001, in order to better understand the relations between partners within a network. Some specific questions will then be added to the regular SBS survey in retail trade.



