

Progress report

Price indices

Since last year's Voorburg Group meeting Statistics Finland has made some progress in the area of Producer Prices for Services. We have started data collection in the following service industries; Laundry and dry cleaning (9301), Accounting, book-keeping and auditing activities (7412) and Telecommunications (6420). So far there are no publications on any service industry.

We are currently also working together with the CPI and other programs on the following activities (ISIC Rev. 3):

502	Maintenance and repair of motor vehicles
551	Hotels
552	Restaurants
601	Train transportation
70	Real estate activities (rents of non-residential buildings)

In the next phase we will widen the Business activities area with an attempt to cover Legal services, Technical services, Labour recruitment and Industrial cleaning. Computer services, which has been on hold for some time, is to become under construction again.

E-commerce in enterprises

Statistics Finland launched the third survey on the use of Information and communication technologies in enterprises with a special focus on the use the Internet and electronic commerce. The approach follows closely the Eurostat pilot survey. The questionnaire was sent to 5,000 enterprises with the number of employees more than 5. The response rate rose to 56 per cent, which, for a voluntary inquiry, is not modest at all. The report was published on 22 August 2001.

The results show well the penetration on ICT and the Internet in enterprises, the purposes for which the Internet is used or the barriers for wider use of the Internet. For the first time also the amount of e-commerce and EDI-commerce were published. It is considered important to survey also small, or mini-, enterprises also in the future as their entry to the networked economy differs considerably from bigger enterprises. The survey is part of regular program in Statistics Finland; i.e. will be conducted in January-February year 2002.

Consumer e-commerce

Additional questions on electronic consumer commerce have been tested in November 2000 and May 2001 annexed to the regular Consumer Survey. The patten of e-shoppers seems to come closer to the breakdown of total population. The number of orders via the net is still modest but the number of window-shoppers is considerably high, 40% of population aged 15-74. The order of the most popular products and services follow close to the international pattern. In 2002, depending on the Eurostat pilot survey on the Internet and e-commerce in households/individuals, the survey would probably be part of that survey.

Telecommunications statistics

Ministry of Transport and Communications ordered the compiling of the yearly telecommunications statistics publication. The publication describing the infrastructure for fixed and mobile communications, the market structure etc was published in August 2001 by the Ministry of Transport and Communications. Future plans for outsourcing the compiling permanently to Statistics Finland.

On the Road to the Finnish Information Society III

The third volume on the publication will be ready in October 2001, describing the change towards the information Society using different statistical indicators i.e. infrastructure, employment in the ICT sector and the Information sector, foreign trade, education, use of PC and the Internet etc... Web-pages for Information Society Statistics have been opened in August 2001.

Productivity measures

Statistics Finland has been producing national accounts based labour productivity measures since the late 1970ies and multi-factor productivity figures since the mid 1990ies. The MFP calculations are being revised in concordance with the OECD Productivity Manual's recommendations and ongoing international research. To facilitate this, Statistics Finland is a member of the European KLEMS-network (the letters stand for capital, labour, energy, materials and services). As the OECD Manual puts it: "...KLEMS-MFP is the most appropriate tool to measure technical change by industry".

Ongoing work on implementing supply- and use-tables as a basis for Finnish national accounts is of paramount importance. Firstly, it improves the quality of the national account estimates. Secondly, it enables more detailed productivity- and growth accounting exercises, which e.g. can be used to measure the impact of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) on economic growth.

Business services

In the area of business services, Statistics Finland is involved in Eurostat development project. The main focus is to improve data collection on products and clients in selected business services activities. This year the survey was carried out on computer services and we are currently testing the questionnaire for some other activities including e.g. advertising and technical consultancy. The plan is to extend data collection to these activities in 2002.

A Pilot on Distributive Trade Statistics

In February 2001 Statistics Finland started a pilot project in order to produce distributive trade statistics for Eurostat and National Accounts. A pilot survey is conducted in the beginning of September 2001 concerning Divisions 50, 51 and 52 in Section G of NACE Rev.1, i.e. wholesale trade, retail trade and motor trade.

The project emphasis is on producing essential knowledge on the markets of different products, the channels for distribution of goods and the degree of mixed activities in enterprises. Thus in the questionnaire information is requested about distribution of business turnover by product according to diverse levels of CPA classification and types of both suppliers and clients.

In addition to applying the SBS Regulation Statistics Finland has decided to include a question about business turnover from e-commerce, which is in the questionnaire defined to consist of Internet and XML-EDI or EDI.

A stratified sampling was carried out and 220 enterprises were selected to receive the questionnaire at the beginning of September. The samples are comprised of 200 enterprises classified to Division 50 (motor trade) and 10 enterprises classified to Division 51 (wholesale trade) and 52 (retail trade) each.

The enterprises are encouraged to participate in further development of the survey in order to attenuate the response burden of the recipients. An intermediate report summarising the preliminary experiences is due later this year.