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Voorburg Group 2004

Progress report 2004 Germany

Main achievements of the country for the recent period 2003-2004:

1. Producer Price Index (PPI) for services

In 2003 the pilot phase for the development of the ppi for legal activity, tax consulting, auditing services as well as telecommunication services started.

Legal activity, tax consulting, auditing services (NACE 74.11/12)

So far the weighting pattern has been developed according to the various activity fields and turnover figures (base is Laspeyre).

Furthermore charge-out rates for the legal activity services sector were inquired directly by a written/online questionnaire in May. Regarding the auditing and tax consultancy services the inquiry is still in progress.

In October first results of a ppi will be calculated so that the pilot phase will be terminated by the end of this year.

In 2005 the ppis will be published on a regular base (quarterly).

Telecommunication services (NACE 64.2)

This sector is an oligopoly market with few market players. So far it has been very difficult to receive any profound data which would be important to develop the weighting pattern for this sector. Of course the respondents are afraid of competitive disadvantages if they reveal any detailed price information.

Another difficulty is the rapid changing of the sector's products and services. So the weighting has to be revised often. Here the main activity fields are fixed line, mobile phone telephony, internet services and cable TV differentiated by business and private customers.

Due to the negative response behaviour of the market participants the current price observation is conducted via desk and internet research with information that is publicly available anyway.

The price index will be regularly published from 2005 on (on a quarterly basis).

2. Classification of service activities and products

Involvement in the international works for the 2007 revision of CPA, CPC and ISIC.

3. Information Society Statistics

Use of Information Technology in Enterprises

- Survey 2003
 - additional NACE section has been surveyed: NACE F
 - raised sample size: 35 000 units
- Survey 2004
 - additional NACE sections have been surveyed: NACE E, 92, 93
 - a new information technology survey was adopted in the financial sector
- A new web-page concerning information society statistics activities of the Federal Statistical Office has been created.
(http://www.destatis.de/themen/d/thm_infogesell.php)

Publications

Publication of some studies/inquiries (in German language), i.e.:

- press brochure: “Informationstechnologie in Unternehmen – Ergebnisse für das Jahr 2003” (text and table volume)
- article in “Wirtschaft und Statistik”: Information technology in enterprises

4. Ad Hoc issues

- survey “Product attended services in service branches 2002”
 - sample size 5 000 units
 - one-time voluntarily survey
 - results can be obtained at our statistic-shop (www-ec.destatis.de)
- feasibility study “New indicators and improved timeliness in the short term service statistics”
 - sample size 10 000 units
 - one-time voluntarily survey
 - questions concerning the feasibility of possible new indicators “hours worked” and “paid wages and salaries”
 - questions concerning the feasibility of a reduction of the survey periods from quarterly to monthly
 - questions concerning the feasibility of improving timeliness
- short term statistics in service sector
 - regularly mandatory survey was introduced in the first Quarter of 2003
 - first annual changing rates have been calculated
 - tests if a use of administrative data can fulfill the requirements of a short term service statistics started in 2004

Main issues and challenges facing our organization

Producer Price Index (PPI) for services

The new projects which the Federal Statistical Office of Germany will conduct are:

- advertising services (NACE 74.3)
- consulting (NACE 74.14)
- market research (NACE 74.13)
- goods traffic (NACE 60.24, 63.1, 61.2)

- postal courier (NACE 64.11/12)
- The projects are due to start in December 2004 and the pilot phase is supposed to be terminated by the end of 2005. The publication of ppi is planned from 2006 on.

Information Society Statistics

An established and widespread survey for the use of information technology in enterprises exists in Germany. At the moment it is announced as a test survey without own legal status. The main task during the next year will be to put it on a final legal status that has a maximum of flexibility to allow reactions on possible improvements in the information technology area.

Short term service statistics

The main emphasis of work during the next year will be the improvement of timeliness and the ongoing test activities in preparation for using administrative data if and where possible in the short term service statistics.

Ad Hoc Surveys

A new one-time voluntarily survey concerning the breakdown of turnover by product and customers by type and location is in preparation. It might be possible that (parts of) the tested variables will be part of our regularly service structure statistics in the nearer future.

Future topics which are of interest for inclusion in the next program

Germany suggests to include the following topics in the 2005 to 2007 program:

- Treatment of enterprises in the NACE area 74.15
- Non-Profit organizations