

Ideas on feasibility and gains of improving services statistics

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Topics

- Finnish services statistics - current situation
- Development needs
 - Prioritisation
 - Co-operation
- Specific user needs
 - How to solve them
 - Discussions with the users
- Suggestions

Service statistics in Finland

- National accounts
 - Yearly, quarterly + monthly indicator of output
- Business register
 - Entire service sector, establishments
 - Enterprise groups
 - Business demography
- Financial statement statistics, SBS
- Structural statistics on wages and salaries

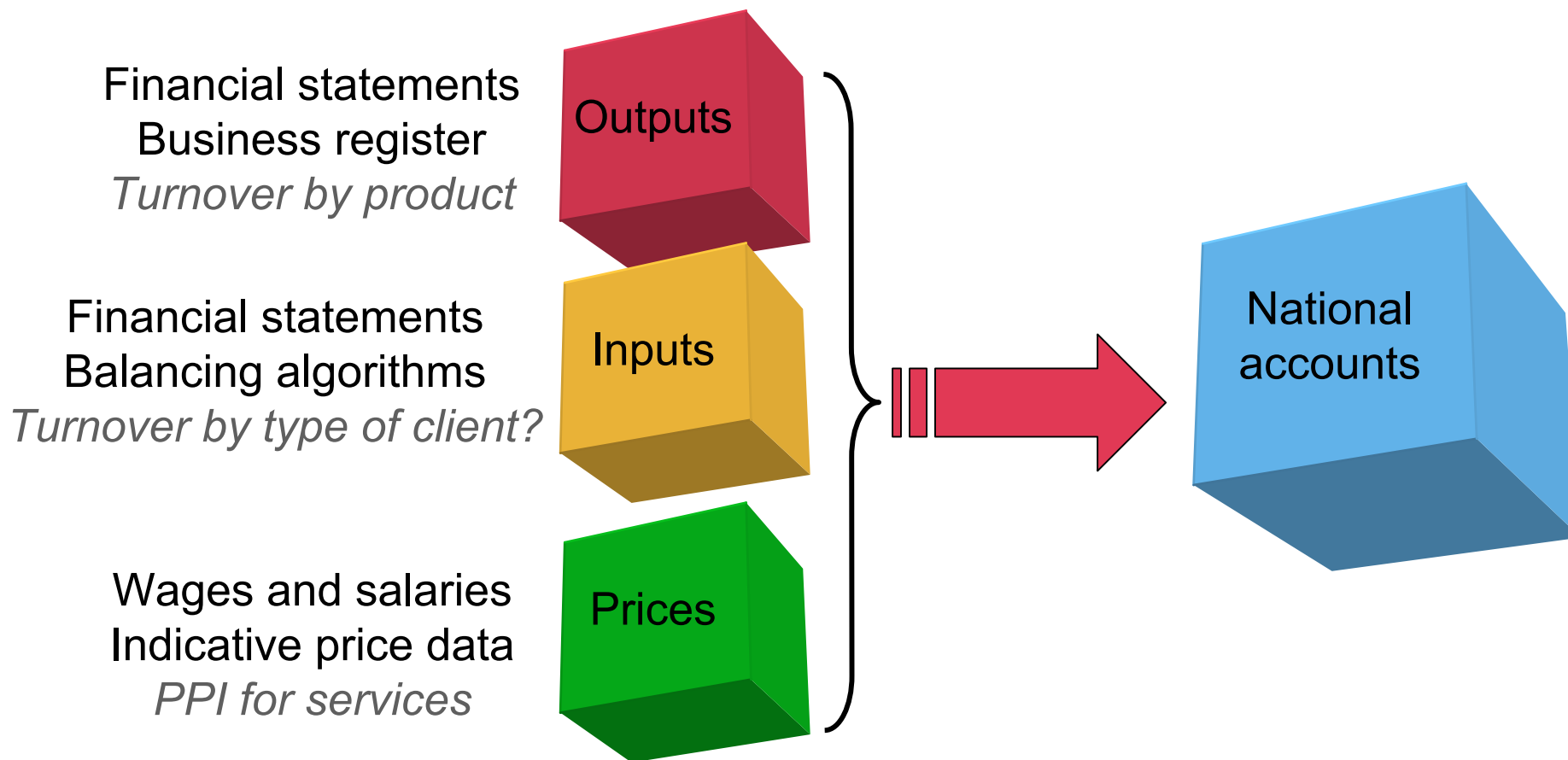
Service statistics in Finland

- Foreign trade in services
- Short term statistics
 - Producer prices
 - Monthly turnover and wage sum
- Specialised statistics
 - Ground transport, accommodation, telecommunications, innovations, trade in the internet, universities, foreign trade in high tech, patents, R&D statistics etc...
- Ad hoc surveys and research

Improving service statistics

- Much information already available. What do the users need?
 - A general picture of the whole economy
 - Lots of specific needs
- National accounts are very important
- Some specific request can be met. But:
 - How to balance between demands for more data vs. respondent burden?
 - How to deal with conflicting interest?

Measurement of services in national accounts



Co-operation between turnover by product, PPI:s and national accounts

- Turnover by product, producer price indices for services and national accounting are all interrelated
 - Co-operative planning needed in sampling design, data collection, classifications
 - Focus to developing the portrayal of services as a part of the economy
 - ... not only to developing individual statistics!

Satisfying specific user needs

- Users must be served equally and data providers must be respected
 - National vs. international users
 - Need for information vs. respondent burden
- Escalations of data collection must be aimed to basic data such as PPI and turnover by product
- Existing data must be used more

Satisfying specific user needs

- Examples:
 - Administrative data has not been fully exploited
 - Possibilities for combining different data are unexplored
 - Data can be classified in more ways
- Compilation of customer funded statistics can be increased
- Other forms of co-operation such as research can be practised

Experiences from user meeting

- An informal afternoon-meeting was held earlier in September with prepared comments from commerce organisations
 - Open and truly enthusiastic discussion
- Some points
 - Service production in high tech manufacturing industry
 - Volume indicator of services for forecasting
 - International enterprise groups a problem in foreign trade in services statistics
 - More data needed on new and smaller firms in services

Summary and suggestions

- Look at the services sector and services statistics as whole entities
- Improvement of national accounting is the biggest motivation for developing individual statistics
- Focus on co-operation between interrelated statistics
- Use existing data more