Voorburg Group 1999
Progress on Services Statistics
Statistics New Zealand

Business Activity Indicator
An experimental business activity indicator series has been developed using data derived from Goods and Services Tax returns. This provides monthly measures of sales and purchases across the economy including most service industries. A project to incorporate estimates of wage and salary payments based on PAYE data (income tax deductions from income at source) is underway.

Price Indexes for Trade in Services
A project to develop price indexes for trade in services has just been completed. The first indexes were released for the June 1999 quarter. They cover Transportation, Travel, Government Services and Other Services (including insurance). The weights were derived from the Balance of Payments and associated data sources. Pricing information used in calculating the indexes is obtained from Statistics New Zealand's Commodity Price Survey. For the import service indexes much of the pricing has come from international price indexes.

Annual Enterprise Survey
The Annual Enterprise Survey collects financial information about resident enterprises operating in NZ, providing robust financial performance data by industry and financial position data by institutional sector. There are over 110 industries measured. The Annual Enterprise Survey has been redeveloped in the last year and now covers all of the economy except for Residential Property Operators, Foreign Government representation, Religious Organisations, and Private Households Employing Staff.

Sub Annual Business Survey Redevelopment
The only official service industries currently covered by sub-annual economic surveys are retail trade (monthly) and wholesale trade (quarterly). The BAI does provide GST based monthly estimates for most service industries but this series has yet to be developed to receive official status. A sub-annual economic survey redevelopment project has just been started and is likely to draw upon this information for non-complex units to extend the coverage of quarterly surveys to include more service industries.

Census of Services for Balance of Payments
In June 1999, a census of International Trade in Services and Royalties was run to expand the coverage of BOP services. Using the census population, a new quarterly sample was drawn and the census results were used to update the non-sampled estimates for the quarterly survey. The results from census will be released on Friday 22nd October 1999

BPM5

With the release of the BOP statistics for the June quarter 1999, SNZ introduced the bulk of the changes required to meet BPM5 guidelines in respect of the current and capital accounts. The changes introduced in the June 1999 quarter included:

Expanding the classification of services
Introducing BPM5 changes to the compilation of services.

Tourism Satellite Account

In response to demand for improved tourism statistics, funding was secured to compile a pilot Tourism Satellite Account for the year ended March 1995.The TSA divides tourism spending into that made by overseas, domestic and business travellers. It is designed to calculate the total contribution of tourism to GDP.

Government Surveys

Over the last few years, Government surveys have moved from paper based questionnaire surveys to administrative collections. Most financial information collected from central government is now derived from administrative records. Surveys of our local authority sector are still paper based. However, work has begun to source the required information from the electronic accounting records of individual local authorities. Our aim is to improve the timeliness of source data receipt and expand the range of functional detail available for analytical purposes and publication.

Quarterly Employment Survey

The sample survey is being redesigned. The February 2000 will be extended to cover units with less than three full-time equivalent employees. This will improve coverage of some service industries.