

Direction des Statistiques d'Entreprises

Département des Activités tertiaires

Dossier suivi par :
Magali DEMOTES-MAINARD
Tél. : 01.41.17.51.18
Fax : 01.41.17.64.51
Messagerie : magali.demotes-mainard@insee.fr

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Classification of service activities and products

products

Statistics on services in France use, as a matter of fact, beside the national version of the CPA (CPF), a list of products derived from the SBS survey, since enterprises have to split up their turnover by detailed service sold. This overall list of products is much more detailed than the CPC, and its permanent updating can largely impact CPF and CPC, especially in areas of rapid changes such as telecommunications.

activities

Short surveys have been launched in the activity sectors concerned by the 2002 NACE/CPA revision in order to check the precise activity of enterprises and establishments, and thus to impute the new codification in the business register and in surveys at the beginning of next year.

Regarding the major 2007 revision, statisticians and professionals were consulted in a first round of discussions. Among the problems raised dealing with the trade and services sectors, one can notice:

- the definition of wholesale and retail trade,
- the treatment of "trade" of services",
- the distinction to be made between ICT services and contents.

For the last two points at least, a common position has been defined among French specialists, which has now to be compared with the propositions of international fora.

Service product prices

The scope of prices collection of business services is continuously expanding. At the end of 2002, price indices will be available for engineering services, advertising, accounting services, business-cleaning services, car renting, construction equipment renting, investigation and security services, and computer services. The corresponding sectors represent together a little more than 40% of the output of business services.

The developments which are under way should allow the implementation of indices for telecommunication services in 2003. Reflections on business consultancy and temporary work recruitment will also be engaged, so that about 60 % of the field of business services could then be covered.

Demand for purchased services

The individual results of the survey on the demand for services coming from firms acting in trade and services, launched at the end of 2001, are now available and ready to be studied. First publications are foreseen for the end of the year 2002.

More generally, the monitoring of the "outsourcing" of ancillary activities appears to be a major concern in the study of the economic development of services: in this context, it is also important to know if this outsourcing occurs within a group or not.

Non profit institutions

The identified way of improvement on this subject is a better description of these institutions in the business register. The business register currently integrates all institutions paying taxes, employing people or receiving subsidies. 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.

ICT - 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 listed 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 results on EDI use within commercial brand networks were published in April 2002. They show that 60% of brand networks use these systems to disseminate information among their members. For the moment, the data transmitted deal mostly with the description of products and the price lists; but the development of electronic bills and of delivery forecasts is expected.

Questions on purchases and sales on line have been added to the SBS surveys in trade and services activities for the year 2000. The results show that the number and the amounts of these transactions remain limited, except in some sectors like computer services and retail sales via mail orders, as well as travel agencies, hotels and secretarial and translation services. But some enterprises appears to be very specialised in electronic sales: in that case, a large part of their turnover is sold on line.

First results of the specific and detailed survey on ICT usage by households were published in June 2002, showing that half of the people aged of 15 years or more used a PC, and one third the Internet.

Cable and satellite TV have been taken into account in the consumer price index since 2001 and mobile phone communications in 2002.

International trade and services

A survey has been launched in 2000 on the share of intra group transactions in external trade. The focus is put on manufacturing groups and their wholesalers : indeed most groups acting across borders have a wholesale branch in the foreign countries they penetrate or they want to. First results of this survey have been published during last spring.



Short term indicators

In order to fulfil the BCE's demand for a timely index for retail trade, a method is currently tested to calculate such an index, using available information and without upsetting the current procedure based on the VAT declarations.

In the meantime, another experience is conducted in order to calculate specific indicators for the small enterprises (with 10 employees or less) of the retail trade sector.

Other topics :**Innovation in service activities**

The results of the 2001 survey on innovation in service activities are now quite available, and publications will occur during the autumn. In 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.

Partnership between enterprises

A survey on inter-enterprises relationships is under preparation, covering trade and services activities as well as manufacturing industry and construction: it will be launched at the beginning of 2003. This survey aims at describing the different kinds of relations. In particular, it could give a better view of the links between trading and manufacturing activities, which could help for the future NACE revision.

