

Future Deliverables for the Voorburg Group:
*Steps for Expanding and Aligning Work on
Services Classifications and the Measurement
of Output and Prices*

20th Meeting of the Voorburg Group

Mark E. Wallace
Chief, Service Sector Statistics Division
U.S. Census Bureau

Introduction

- The United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) has confirmed the Voorburg Group's (VG's) mandate to establish internationally comparable concepts and methods for measuring the service sector in constant prices.
- VG's scope covers work on service sector classifications, input and output measures, and prices, including:
 - Coordinating, reviewing, and disseminating the work of national statistical offices and regional efforts that have developed concepts, methods, and best practices.
 - Maintaining and adjusting concepts, methods, and best practices.
 - Transferring knowledge on concepts, methods, and best practices.

Voorburg Group Accomplishments to Date

(as of the close of the 19th VG Meeting)

	<i>Classification</i>	<i>Output Measures</i>	<i>Price Indices</i>
Development	Central Product Classification ^a	Model surveys ^a	Collected papers ^b
Maintenance	Statistics Division technical subgroup ^c	Reviews of model Surveys ^c	Ongoing review of best practices ^d
Dissemination/ knowledge transfer	Statistics Division ^c	United Nations technical paper Voorburg Group ^d	Manual, workshops Voorburg Group

a Work completed.

b In development.

c Work almost completed.

d Work to be done.

New Strategy

- Emphasize parallel development output measures, price indices, and classifications
- Produce concrete, coordinated, measurable, and easy-to-publicize deliverables
(with more emphasis on “outputs with timetable”)

Three Steps for Producing VG Deliverables

- Assign task force to develop (by December 2005) a skeleton quality assessment framework for PPI/quality adjustment, output and classifications
- Select service sector/industry areas on which to focus in future meetings (also by December 2005)
- VG meetings should collectively address classifications, outputs, and prices (no longer have separate tracks for classifications, outputs, and prices) -- 'sector papers' to be co-authored by prices and outputs experts



**Questions?
Comments?
Discussion**