Statistics Sweden

Draft classifications for service statistics
Revised proposals from Sweden concerning:

- COMPUTER AND RELATED ACTIVITIES   (Ref ISIC)
- SOFTWARE AND OTHER COMPUTER SERVICES   (Ref CPC)

1.   Comments

The Swedish proposal regarding computer related activities (Memo
July 1987) was distributed without consideration being taken to
the Japanese comments, as these were not available at the time.
What follows is a reconsideration of our original proposal after
having read the Japanese comments and also some rethinking of our
own.

First we would like to suggest a more specified class instead of
8502 Software supply. This class could be named "Noncustomized
software creation" and should include the creation of non-custo-
mized software programs, that is operating systems, utilities and
application programs. As a consequence the creation of customized
software services should be classified in class 8501.

In our July Memo we suggested that "Data bank activities" should
be transferred to division 96 "Recreational, cultural and sport-
ing activities", (according to the UN draft of the revised ISIC),
which should be renamed "Information supply, cultural and sport-
ing activities". Our Japanese colleaques disagree to this and
want data bank activities to be classified with computer related
information service activities. The reason for this is that these
activities include as a main element the provision of data which
are organized and stored in a certain order or sequence using
computers and related OA equipment.

The reason for our own suggestion is that we look upon data bank
services as a means to provide information, and that the informa-
tion content of this activity thus is more important than the
technology used.

As far as maintenance and repair of computer systems is concerned we thought that such a class would be appropriate in a world level classification. However, we have learned that the situation in Japan is about the same as in Sweden; there are very few establishements whose speciality or main economic activity is the maintenance and repair of computers. Therefore, we would like to reformulate our July suggestion and join the Japanese proposal that no such class should be established. If it is necessary to do so in view of other countries, it would be appropriate to classify those activities in section 2 "Manufacture of metal products, machinery and equipment" or section 6 "Wholesale and retail trade".

The situation in Japan as in Sweden is such that maintenance and repair is carried out by enterprises producing, reselling and/or leasing those computers.

Japan also suggest that a new class, not considered in our July proposal nor in the UN draft, should be established for other computer activities not mentioned before. New services may then be covered when they come into existence.

Our suggestions are listed below.

2.   List of suggested subdivisions

626x   Wholesale of computers, computer equipment and software products (incl. commission trade)

    a   Wholesale of computers, computer equipment and electronic components

    b   Wholesale of software

    Remarks: Should electronic products (i.e. computers etc, electronic components and related services; see also CPC 252 and 271 in the part of transportable goods) generally be separated in the classifications according to their primary field of application: (i) Administrative data processing; (ii) Data processing in engineering and manufacturing and other technical processing (e.g. such as in automatic traffic systems)?

8501   Computer and software consultancy
         (Information system development services)

         Description: This class includes designing, developing
         and establishing information systems by combining infor-
         mation equipment, software and communication equipment
         upon request of clients.

         Exclusions: Similar services made by computer producing
         or selling units as an integrated part of the equipment
         delivery contract.

         a   Computer and software consultancy services (incl.
              computers, cables, networks, software products, con-
              sulting and training).

8502   Non-customized software

         Description: This class includes the creation of non-
         customized software programs (operating systems, utili-
         ties and application programs).

         Exclusions: Similar services made as an integrated part
         of the reselling of software and hardware (operating
         systems). Creation of customized software services is
         classified in class 8501.

         a   Non-customized software

         b   Non-customized software application services (for
              instance creation and/or revision of documentation
              related to the software such as users' manuals).

8503   Data processing services

         Description: This class includes the processing or tabu-
         lation of all types of data as a separate technical faci-
         lity service.

         This may consist of the complete processing and prepara-
         tion of reports from data supplied by the customer. It
         may also be specialized, i.e. key-punching or other input
         preparations, conversion such as card to tape etc, opti-
         cal character recognition and others.

The services may be supplied either over-the-counter or via remote access terminals and may employ either the customer's or the producer's program.

a   Batch data processing services

b   Remote data processing facility services

c   Computer facilities management services

d   Backup facilities services

96XX   Database service activities (moved to ISIC division 96, see comments above)

Description: This class includes the providing of information from structured data bases through electronic means.

Exclusions: Electronic information services provided interactively where the user may add to or change items in the data bases, such as videotex, teletex and electronic mail are classified elsewhere. Also, credit checking data base services are classified elsewhere (?).

8509   Other computer related information service activities.