31ˢᵗ Voorburg Group Meeting

Zagreb - Croatia

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Summary of Discussion concerning Poster Presentation:

Using alternative data for German turnover indicators in the service sector

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Summary

The poster described the advantages and the challenges of the multiple-source mixed mode method used in Germany to produce turnover indices in the service sector.

All five discussions of the poster session were very lively. The participants were interested in a lot of very different questions, main issues being:

- Matching issues:
  By the help of the business register a lot of these issues can be solved. This also concerns restructuring processes like mergers and acquisitions. However, there often is a time-lag when integrating this kind of information in the system. Some units always remain "unmatched" and are therefore not integrated in the on-going data delivery.

- Different NACE codes for one unit in different data sources:
  This issue is solved by a precedence rule. NACE coding from (any) statistical survey (recorded in the business register) takes precedence over coding stemming from the administrative data sources. Codes allocated by the agency of employment take precedence over codes allocated by the financial authorities.

- Revisions of administrative data:
  Administrative data for turnover tax prepayment notices is updated every month (in t+55) in the tax data base of Destatis. Missing data are delivered and tax estimates are corrected (also retrospectively). The revised data is part of the regular revisions and is processed with the next quarter data delivery and the one after that.

- Quality control:
  Concerning administrative data sources and mixed mode methods there is an unfortunate lack of quality indicators. The traditional way of measuring the data quality is only adequate for the "survey part". At the moment the focus when controlling the quality of the multiple-source mixed mode method therefore lies on the performance of the output indicators and their consistency to other sources.
  In particular a direct comparison between the former survey (2003-2007) and the mixed mode method (ever since) is difficult. This is due to the fact that the revision 2 of the NACE in 2008 resulted in significant classification changes for the service sector data series.