

Mini-presentation on Turnover and Output for Business support service activities n.e.c (ISIC 82.9) in Sweden

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1. Descriptions and characteristics of the industry

1.1 Definition of the industry

The UN classification, ISIC Rev.4, and the European classification, NACE Rev 2, share the same structure for *Business support services activities n.e.c. (82.9)* as a part of section N and division 82. The Swedish national classification, SNI2007, share the same structure as NACE on 4-digit level, but has in addition a 5th digit for a more detailed structure.

Table 1. Industrial classification by activity for Business support service activities n.e.c in ISIC, NACE and SNI

ISIC	NACE Rev.2	SNI2007	Description
829	82.9	82.9	Business service activities n.e.c
8291	82.91	82.910	Activities of collection agencies and credit bureaus
8292	82.92	82.920	Packaging activities
8299	82.99	82.990	Other business support service activities

However, for the classes in group 82.9, no further details have been added in SNI2007 compared with NACE Rev 2, and the SNI codes only adds a zero (0) for a complete 5-digit structure. All three classifications thus share the same composition down to class-level as shown in table 1.

In UN's classification for products, CPC, the product division 85 corresponds to a big part of section N in ISIC. In table 2a below, the products connected to ISIC group 829 is shown. Notable is that the product connected to ISIC class 8292 is the only product not in CPC group 859.

Table 2a. Classification of products for ISIC 829 Business support service activities in CPC 2.1

ISIC/NACE/SNI	CPC	CPC Description
82		
829		
8291	85910	Credit reporting services
	85920	Collection agency services
8292	85400	Packaging services

ISIC/NACE/SNI	CPC	CPC Description
8299	85952	Mailing list compilation services
	85999	Other support services n.e.c.

Differences between the different product classifications is mostly evident for products connected to ISIC 8299, where both CPA and SPIN has more, and other, details than CPC.

The Swedish product classification SPIN2015 is in most parts equal with the CPA classification (CPA Ver. 2.1.). The code structure is slightly different; the first four digits are always the same in SPIN and CPA, but the fifth digit and onwards differ slightly (see table 2b). The first four digits are also identical in CPA and the Swedish classification SNI (compare table 1 and table 2b).

Table 2b. Classification of products for ISIC 829 Business support service activities n.e.c in CPA Ver 2.1 and SPIN2015

ISIC/NACE/SNI	CPA	SPIN	CPA and SPIN Description
82			
829			
8291			
	82.91.1		Collection agency and credit bureau services
	82.91.11	82.910.01	Credit reporting services
	82.91.12	82.910.02	Collection agency services
8292	82.92.10	82.920.00	Packaging services
8299			
	82.99.1		Other business support services n.e.c.
	82.99.11	82.990.01	Verbatim reporting and stenotype recording services
	82.99.12	82.990.02	Telephone based support services
	82.99.19	82.990.03	Other miscellaneous services n.e.c.

The remaining part of this paper will focus only on ISIC 829 and the products in 82.9 according to CPA/SPIN.

1.2 Market conditions and constraints

Section N *Administrative and support service activities* accounted for 3.8 percent of number of enterprises, 3.0 percent of net turnover, 5.2 percent of value added and 8.7 percent of employees in the Swedish business sector in 2023. The business sector is defined as SNI sections A-S, excl. K and O.

Section N consists of Rental and leasing activities (NACE 77), Employment activities (NACE 78), Travel agency, tour operator and other reservation service and related activities (NACE 79), Security and investigation activities (NACE 80), Services to buildings and landscape activities (NACE 81), and Office administrative, office support and other business support activities (NACE 82).

NACE division 82 had 10.5 percent of all enterprises in section N in 2023, 8.5 percent of net turnover, and 8.7 percent of employees.

Tables 3a and 3b shows some basic information from Structural Business Statistics for reference year 2023 comparing NACE group 82.9 *Business support services activities n.e.c.* with division 82.

Table 3a. Number of enterprises and employees (FTE) in NACE 82.9 compared with NACE 82 2023

Variable	NACE 82.9	NACE 82
Number of enterprises	1 147	4 256
Number of employees (FTE)	26 783	39 560

Source: Statistics Sweden, Structural Business Statistics 2023, Statistical unit Enterprise

Table 3b. Net turnover, value added and total assets in NACE 82.9 compared with NACE 82, SEK and Euro million 2023

Variable	NACE 82.9	NACE 82.9	NACE 82	NACE 82
	MSEK	MEUR	MSEK	MEUR
Net turnover	14 026	1 223	31 518	2 747
Value added	13 301	1 159	20 559	1 792
Total assets	42 720	3 850	68 074	6 135

Source: Statistics Sweden, Structural Business Statistics 2023, Statistical unit Enterprise

NACE 82.9 *Business support services activities n.e.c.* consisted of approximately 1 150 enterprises or 27 percent of all enterprises within NACE 82 in 2023. The net turnover for these enterprises amounted to approximately SEK 14 000 million or 1 200 MEUR, and value added amounted to SEK 13 300 million (1 100 MEUR). Balance sheet total, or total assets, amounted to approximately SEK 42 700 million (3 800 MEUR) in 2023. Enterprises within 82.9 employed approximately 26 800 persons, or 67.7 percent of all employees in division 82.

Table 4 below shows number of enterprises, employees and net turnover divided by size classes in 2023 for NACE division 82 compared with the business sector in total. Due to confidentiality issues, size class data cannot be disseminated on a finer level than 2-digit NACE.

Table 4. Number of enterprises, employees (FTE) and net turnover by size class in NACE 82 and the business sector 2023

Size class (number of employees)	Number of enterprises		Number of employees (FTE)		Net turnover (SEK million)	
	NACE 82	Business sector	NACE 82	Business sector	NACE 82	Business sector
0-9	4 040	1 022 183	2 014	562 766	5 819	1 904 388
10-19	94	17 636	1 309	236 559	2 057	675 998
20-49	62	10 274	1 987	308 762	4 556	1 028 528
50-249	51	5 334	5 229	538 199	9 758	2 236 901
250+	9	1 379	29 021	1 395 468	9 329	6 611 289
Total	4 256	1 056 806	39 560	3 041 754	31 518	12 457 104

Source: Statistics Sweden, Structural Business Statistics 2023, Statistical unit Enterprise

Most of the enterprises in Sweden are small, 96.7 percent of the enterprises are micro-enterprises with less than 9 employees, and only 0.1 percent of all enterprises have more than 250 employees. NACE division 82, and consequently group 82.9, is a very small part of the Swedish business sector, as shown in table 4. However, the division follows the same pattern as the business sector in total, with most enterprises in the smallest size class (0-9 employees). These 4 040 enterprises employed just over 2 000 persons in 2023 and had a net turnover of approximately SEK 5 820 million (500 million Euro).

Only 9 enterprises in division 82 had more than 250 employees. They however employed more than 29 000 persons in 2023. Net turnover for this size class amounted to approximately SEK 9 320 million (810 million Euro). The medium-sized enterprises with between 50 and 249 employees employed approximately 5 200 persons and had a net turnover of SEK 9 760 million (850 million Euro) in 2023.

In the Swedish SBS survey, net turnover is broken down on products. Table 5 shows the variables that are used to distribute net turnover on products. Shown here are the variables connected to SPIN-codes within 82.9.

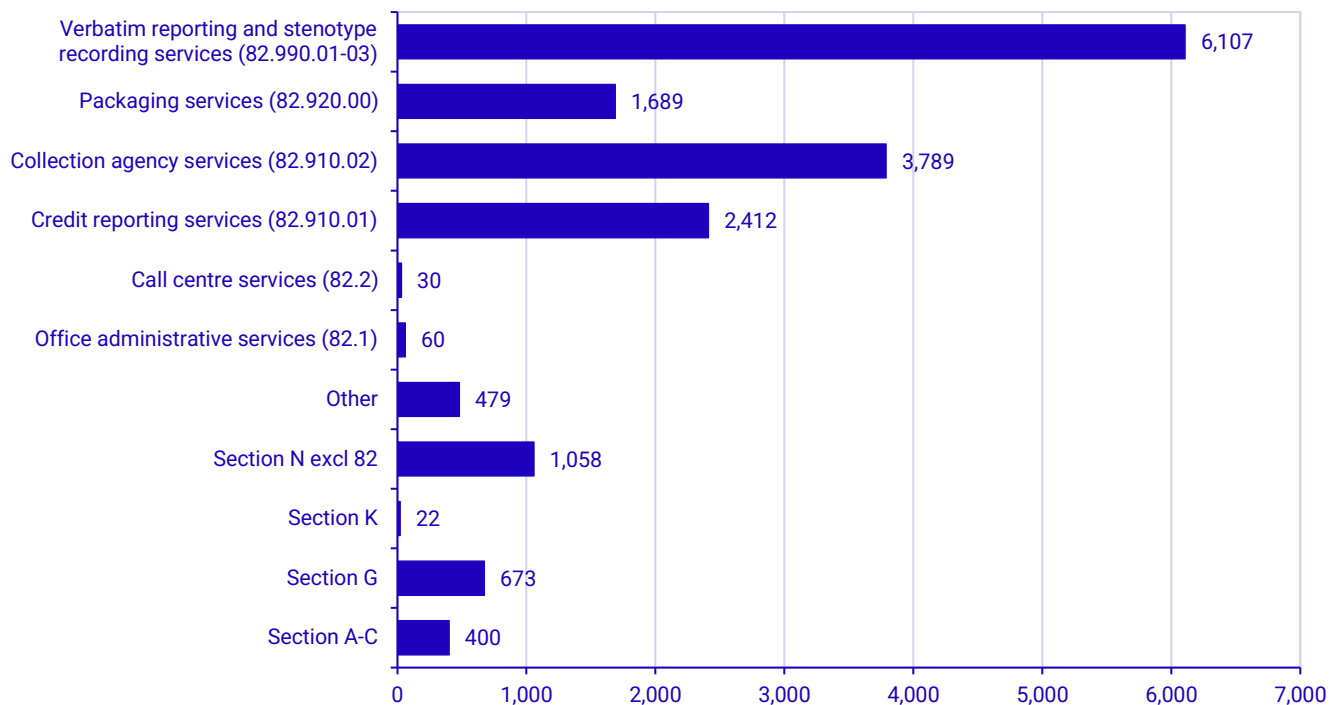
Table 5. Variables in Swedish SBS survey for NACE 82.9 Business support service activities n.e.c.

SBS Variable	Description	SPIN2015
v2387	Credit reporting services	82.910.01
v2391	Collection agency services	82.910.02
v2367	Packaging services	82.920.00
v2368	Verbatim reporting and stenotype recording services	82.990.01-03

Source: Statistics Sweden, Structural Business Statistics 2023

The Swedish SBS survey to companies¹ within *Business support service activities* has in total 4 variables directly connected to SPIN2015. However, the companies answering the survey has the option of using other variables as well, both connected to other SPIN codes in division 82, and in other areas as well. In figure 1 below the variables outside of division 82 have been grouped together to get the total net turnover without displaying all disperse activities/products used by enterprises within NACE group 82.9.

Figure 1. Net turnover by product (SPIN2015) in 2023 for NACE 82.9, SEK million (current prices)



Source: Statistics Sweden, Structural Business Statistics 2023. Statistical unit: Kind-of-activity-unit (KAU)

Even though there is a lot of activities performed by companies in NACE 82.9 that is outside of the variables connected to 82.9 according to

¹ Companies refers here to Legal units. SBS is calculated on statistical units Enterprise and Kind-of-activity unit. Product level data is calculated on Kind-of-activity unit.

SPIN2015, most net turnover stems from the four variables that belong to 82.9.

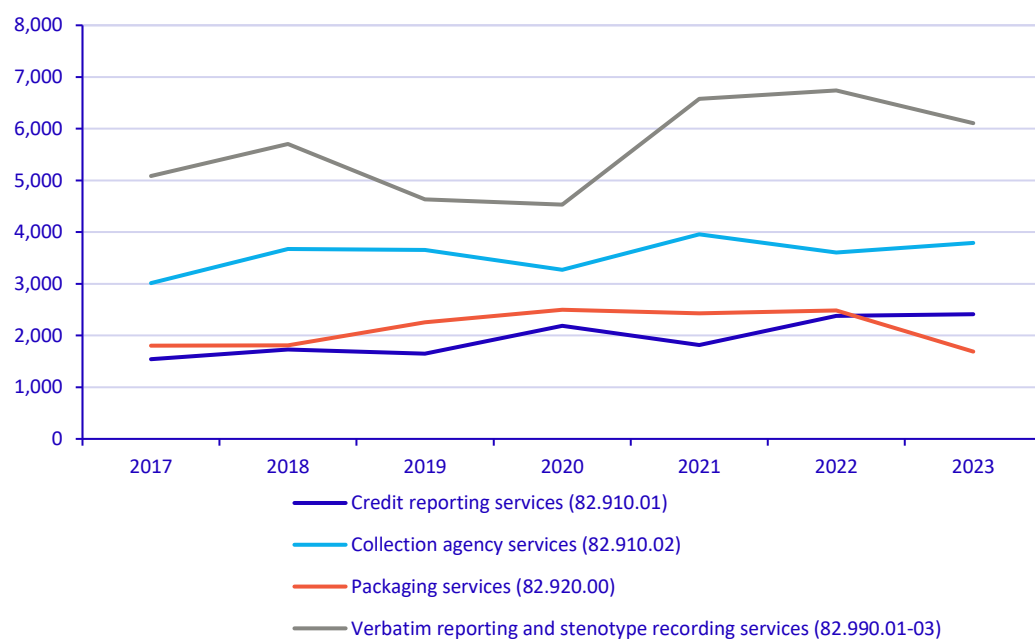
The largest part of net turnover derives from *Verbatim reporting and stenotype recording* activities. This product also includes all other business services not else covered. Total net turnover for this product amounted to SEK 6 107 million, or 36.5 percent of turnover in the industry. Second largest were *Collection agency services* with a net turnover of SEK 3 789 million, or 22.7 percent of total turnover.

Third largest were *Credit reporting services* with SEK 2 412 million or 14.4 percent of turnover, and forth largest were the last product connected to SPIN 82.9, *Packaging services*, with SEK 1 689 million, or 10.1 percent of net turnover.

Notable on the product level is that products connected to other parts of section N amounted for SEK 1 089 million, or 6.3 percent of total turnover, indicating that these companies were engaged in more than one activity in 2023. Both products in Section G (Trade) and Sections A-C (Agriculture, forestry, fishing, Mining and quarrying, and Manufacturing) had shares of total turnover of 4 and 2.4 percent respectively.

In figure 2 below, a time series for the four main variables in 82.9 are shown.

Figure 2. Net turnover for product groups for enterprises in NACE 82.9, 2017-2023, SEK million (current prices)



Source: Statistics Sweden, Structural Business Statistics 2023. Statistical unit: Kind-of-activity-unit (KAU)

The time series in figure 2 represents the variables/product groups connected directly to NACE 82.9 via SPIN2015 for a period of 7 years. For the entire time series, the variable *Verbatim reporting and stenotype services* has been the largest, while the groups for *Packaging services* and *Credit reporting services* have taken turns to hold third and fourth places over the years, both lingering around the SEK 2 000 million line.

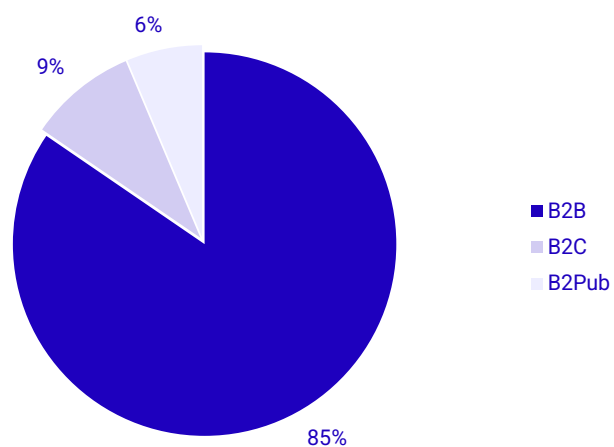
For all but one product, the time series displays some fluctuations over the years. The only product with a consistent level is *Packaging services* whose only significant variations were in 2019, with an increase of almost 27 percent and a decrease with almost 32 percent in 2023.

The largest change, and the most volatile product during the time series was *Verbatim reporting [...]* with a decrease of almost 19 percent in 2019, and then an increase with 45 percent in 2021. This increase can be led directly to a change in a single enterprise groups structure, and how they have divided their activities between different legal units.

1.3 Specific characteristics of the industry

In addition to dividing net turnover by product, all companies in the sample for SBS will have to divide net turnover by type of customer. The survey has 11 variables for this purpose, for example Sales to Swedish group companies, Sales to households and individuals within Sweden, Sales to county councils within Sweden and 8 others. In figure 3 these 11 variables have been grouped based on whether the customer is a business (B2B), a consumer (B2C) or within the public sector (B2Pub). B2B consists of all sales to other companies, B2C consists of households, individuals and households' non-profit organisations, and B2Pub consists of the public sector including municipalities and county councils.

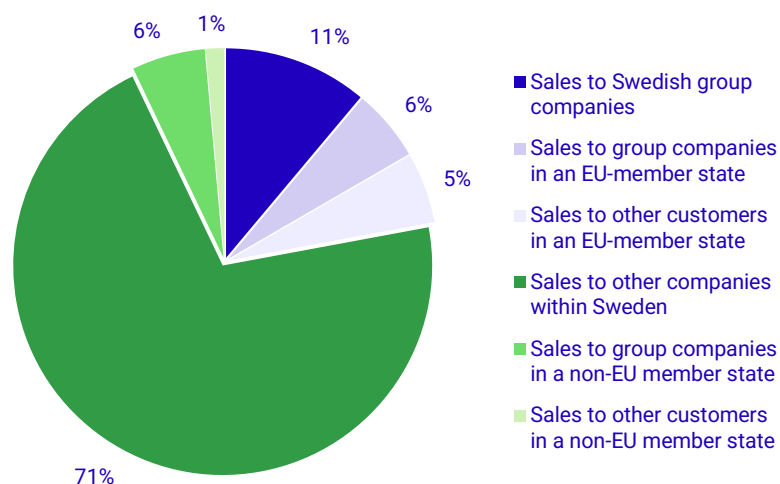
Figure 3. Net turnover by type of customer in NACE 82.9, 2023, percent



Source: Statistics Sweden, Structural Business Statistics 2023. Statistical unit: Kind-of-activity-unit (KAU)

Figure 3 shows that 85 percent of net turnover from the companies in NACE 82.9 derives from other companies (B2B, and only 6 percent are from consumers (B2C) and 9 percent from the public sector (B2Pub). This indicates that the services offered within this NACE group is more aimed towards other companies, and not to the public sector or private consumers.

Figure 4. Net turnover B2B in NACE 82.9 divided by type of company



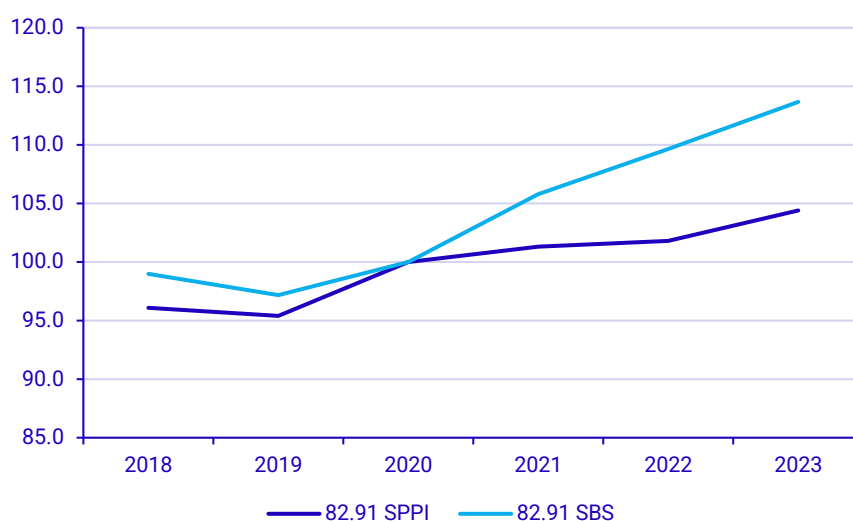
Source: Statistics Sweden, Structural Business Statistics 2023. Statistical unit: Kind-of-activity-unit (KAU)

With a further division of net turnover for B2B, figure 4 shows that 82 percent of all net turnover derived from B2B-customers are from other companies within Sweden. Abroad customers only generated 18 percent of net turnover, which also suggests that this kind of services is more aimed for the home-market than abroad-markets.

SPPI and SBS

To deeper understand NACE 82.9, figures 5a-5c illustrates the development measured in net turnover by SBS and the development of SPPI for products 82.91, 82.92 and 82.99 (SPIN2015). SPPI surveys prices during the reference year (monthly/quarterly), and SBS measures net turnover per product annually during the year after the reference year.

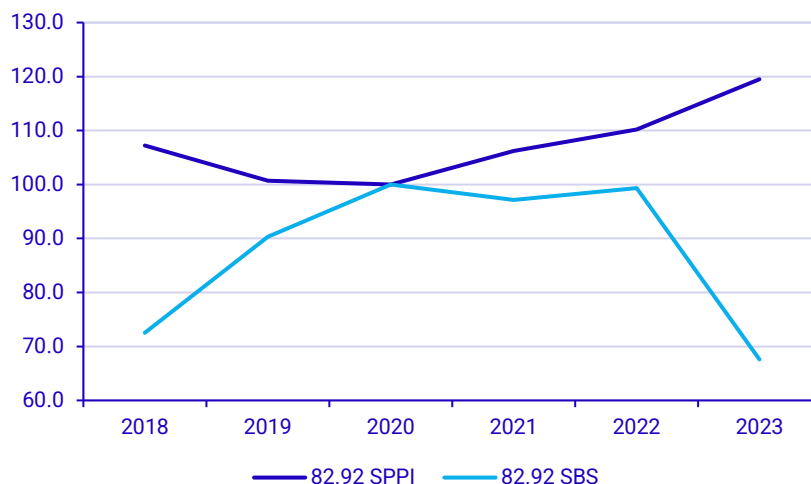
Figure 5a. SPPI and SBS 2018-2023, 2020=100, SPIN2015, 82.91



Source: Statistics Sweden, Structural Business Statistics and Producer Price Index for Services (SPPI)

The development of net turnover in SBS for product 82.91 follows the development of producer prices, although at a higher level as shown in figure 5a. The pattern however is consistent between prices and net turnover. Indicating a market where the slight increases in prices have not impacted the turnover in a negative way.

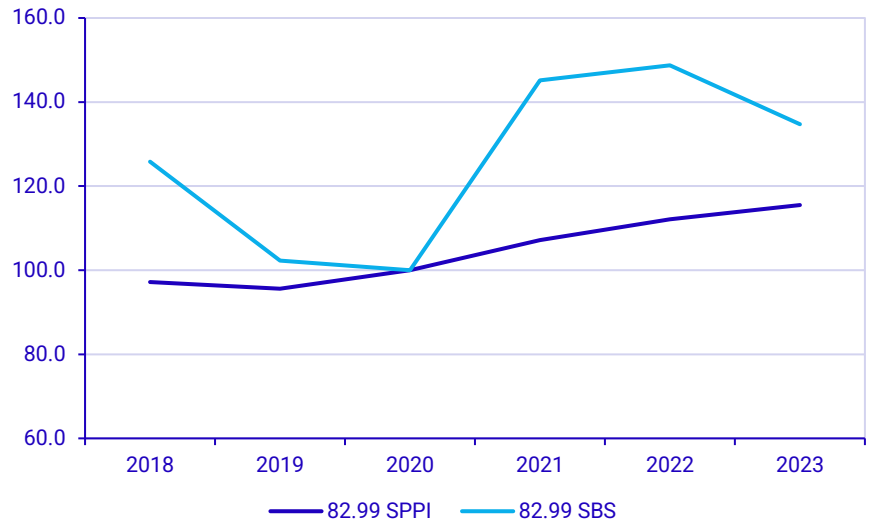
Figure 5b. SPPI and SBS 2018-2023, 2020=100, SPIN2015, 82.92



Source: Statistics Sweden, Structural Business Statistics and Producer Price Index for Services (SPPI)

Figure 5b displays how the patterns for SBS and SPPI are reversed for product 82.92. An increase in net turnover in SBS matches the decrease in prices in 2018-2019, and the other way around in 2022-2023 where prices increased, and net turnover decreased. This could indicate a price sensitive market where volumes lessens when prices rise.

Figure 5c. SPPI and SBS 2018-2023, 2020=100, SPIN2015, 82.99



Source: Statistics Sweden, Structural Business Statistics and Producer Price Index for Services (SPPI)

SPPI for product 82.99 follows a rather consistent development curve, with a small increase each year after 2020 as shown in figure 5c. In the SBS data, the sharp increase in 2021 is clear and a result of how single companies can influence the aggregate on both product and NACE level.

2. Turnover/Output measurement

2.1 General framework

Short-Term Statistics (STS)

Turnover in the service sector falls under the European Business Statistics Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 aiming to measure market activities in the business sector. The statistical unit as well as the unit of collection in STS is the kind-of-activity unit (KAU). The sections covered when measuring output in STS are B-D (excl. D353), F, H, I, J, L, M (excl. M701, M72 and M75) and N. The observation variable varies depending on NACE code. For enterprises in NACE 82 the observation variable is domestic turnover excluding VAT. National Accounts (NA) use the STS in the calculations of private consumption and Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Quarterly Economic Statistics

Statistics Sweden introduced for reference year 2022 a new quarterly survey to measure profitability, value of output, consumption and ultimately value added to better support the quarterly GDP. This survey is a merger of the previous existing surveys regarding investments and inventories with the new part regarding income statements. This quarterly statistic is not under any European regulation and covers the business sector (NACE sectors A-S, excl. K, O) on the unit KAU.

Structural Business Statistics (SBS)

The European Business Statistics Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 also comprises the Structural Business Statistics from reference year 2021 and forwards. The statistical unit in the regulations is enterprise but the Swedish SBS also includes the unit KAU for NA purposes. The SBS survey is carried out annually. Detailed results (much more detailed than demanded in the above-mentioned regulation) of the survey are delivered to the National Accounts. The SBS has been produced in its current format since 2003, with an in part new design from reference year 2022. Read more about the new design in chapter 4 below.

2.2 Measurement issues

Short-Term Statistics

The base for the STS is Administrative VAT data, combined with a sample survey. The sample survey is conducted monthly and aims to have 90% coverage of turnover in each strata. The total number of enterprises surveyed in the service sector lies around 7 500. The un-weighted response rate is approximately 85 percent while the weighted response rate is approximately 90 percent.

Quarterly Economic Statistics

For the quarterly statistics, the base is administrative data (VAT) combined with a sample survey to secure values over the entire population. The sample survey for income statement is sent to approximately 400 KAU and is conducted quarterly with an aim to cover 30 percent of value added.

Structural Business Statistics

Information is collected on legal unit level for the entire non-financial business sector. A legal unit can consist of several KAU-units and are then collected on KAU-level instead of legal unit. Most legal units in Sweden however consists only of one KAU.

The survey is based on administrative data, more precisely on income statements and balance sheets from the Swedish Tax Authority. The administrative data is, at least in theory, available for the entire population of around 1 200 000 enterprises. Non-response in administrative data (6 percent un-weighted, and approx. 3 percent weighted) are dealt with through mean value imputations based on industry and size class. This material is used for what is called the common variables within the income statement and balance sheet, such as turnover, other operating income, depreciation costs, personnel costs and total assets.

In addition to the administrative data, two separate sample surveys (specification of income statement and specification of investments in tangible assets) are carried out to provide information in more detail.

The survey regarding specification of income statement consists of pre-printed values from the administrative data that the respondents have to distribute in specifications of turnover by product, detailed costs and personnel costs. A sample of approximately 15 400 legal units is used for this part of the survey, allocated in 300 strata based on the demands of NA. The sample method used is π ps, i.e. probability proportional to size. The response rate in this survey was in 2023 around 82 percent un-weighted and 88 percent weighted. The survey regarding specification of investments is like the specification of the income statement but is less detailed and thus demand lower sample sizes. Approximately 2 000 legal units received the investment questionnaire.

Approximately 2 500 legal units are surveyed independently of the tax data. These enterprises are, like the sample-surveyed, asked to complete a questionnaire consisting of detailed income statement (turnover by customer and product, detailed costs). Around 400 of these enterprises, among these are the legal units consisting of more than one KAU, have a high importance in the business sector (around one-third of value added) and have in addition to the income statement, the questionnaire of investments. Response rate for this part of the survey was for 2023 around 85 % un-weighted and 89 % weighted.

2.3 Description of methods for measurement

Short-Term Statistics

The Swedish STS survey is collected monthly on the kind-of-activity (KAU) level. Monthly VAT-data is used for the service production index and quarterly data for the production value index. Turnover in the service sector is published monthly in Sweden. The results are presented as development indices both in current and constant prices (calendar adjusted and seasonally adjusted). Results are published 35 days after the end of the reference period.

Quarterly Economic Statistics

The Quarterly economic statistics is conducted for each quarter on KAU. First results for the income statement part of the survey were used by NA for the first quarter of 2023. Articles with data were published for Q1 2023 and disseminated data regarding Q1 2024 and Q1-4 2022-23 were published in the online database in 2024. The results are published both in current and fixed prices.

Structural Business Statistics

The Swedish SBS survey is collected annually on KAU level. In addition to the survey, administrative data is used to achieve enterprise level statistics as well. Preliminary results are compared with STS and other short-term indicators for consistency. Preliminary results are transmitted to Eurostat 10 months and definitive results 18 months after the end of the reference period. Detailed results are transmitted to NA 13 months after the end of the reference year. Preliminary and definitive results are also published in online databases, 11 months and 16 months after the end of the reference year respectively. Results are published on enterprise (institutional) level as well as KAU (functional) level and for some variables local KAU (regional) level. The regional information is produced via a model-based approach. No data on product level is published and is only for use by NA and other significant users.

2.4 Evaluation of comparability of Output data with Price data

Structural Business Statistics

Besides being an important input to the NA calculations, the collection of net turnover by product is also an important input to the Business Register and to Prices. The detailed information makes it possible to detect any change in activity within the enterprises, and thus keep the Business Register as updated and correct as possible. Prices use the turnover by product as input in the sampling of enterprises for the SPPI survey.

4. Evaluation of measurement

For reference year 2022 a new design for the Swedish SBS was implemented. A new design was needed due to changes in the Business register for how statistical units are constructed and used. Among other changes in the business register there was a new method to determine which enterprises should be included in the active business population. This method requires administrative data sources that arrive as late as t+8 months but is a help to more accurately determine the status of each enterprise. With this new method, an annual frame has been implemented, reducing over-coverage. With the annual frame the non-response in administrative data has been reduced, since the non-response earlier mainly consisted of over-coverage.

Improvements for respondents and more efficient calculations have been implemented with the new design. For all surveyed legal units, administrative data is added to the surveyed data to form complete income statements and balance sheets.

The new design has made the infrastructure ready for several new data sources in addition to the existing use of administrative and surveyed data. For reference year 2023 a couple of new data sources have been implemented, the use of data from digitalized annual reports from The Swedish Companies Registration Office, and employment and salary information from the Tax Authority (Pay-as-you-earn, PAYE).

As a part of the new design, deflated data for value of output and value added is now calculated and published on KAU 16 months after the reference year. SBS uses the same deflators as NA, and those are based on prices from PPI. In the future there is a possibility to deflate turnover on a product level as well.

Statistics Sweden has for the recent years worked intensely to find new data sources to reduce response burden and use more administrative registers in the production process. For SBS the use of more detailed accounting data in a machine-to-machine-form, and the use of data from bank transactions and electronic invoices, can be a useful source for turnover by product in the future.