The Statistical Measurement of Services:
Recent Achievements and Remaining Challenges?

Bill Cave
OECD Statistics Directorate
Developments in 2005

- SNA decisions
  - Capitalise R&D
  - Originals and copies inc software
  - Goods for processing
- SNA to decide in Jan 2006
  - Leases and licenses
  - Asset boundary
  - Merchanting
  - Financial services
  - SNA aggregations of ISIC 4
- ISIC 4 finalised
- CPC 2 consultation on detailed structure
- BPM coordinating with SNA
  - BOPS classification being developed
Other developments

- Services PPI OECD-Eurostat guide
- Short-term indicators OECD manual
- Trade in services
  - Consultation document on updating Manual spring 2006
  - Include review of EBOPS
  - Increase in technical cooperation UN/IMF
  - UN database and website development
- Globalisation
  - OECD Handbook published
- Business statistics
  - UN and OECD new expert groups
  - Eurostat SBS Regulation
- Others???
Combined OECD-VG Report to UNSC 2005

- SNA/BPM5/ISIC/CPC revisions provide an impetus for progress on services
- Request to clarify VG mandate
- How to develop ‘global standards’ in services?
- Development work on prices and volumes is fundamental to measurement of growth and should continue
- How to engage more countries in services development work
  - Interagency coordination on technical cooperation
  - Improve dissemination of methodological developments
  - Involve more countries in expert groups

- Promote and monitor implementation of standards (possible scorecard to be considered)
- Review data collection and dissemination IOs
- National strategies to improve services statistics (Focus on underlying statistical infrastructure)
- International comparability is far from satisfactory – need more precise recommended practices
- VG strategy document focusing on core mandate
UN Statistical Commission
2005 response

- Recognised conceptual work of VG
- VG continue to develop internationally comparable concepts and methods for services outputs, prices and classifications
- Reiterated role of VG to submit to UNSC work completed on concepts and methods
- OECD continue to coordinate international work on services statistics and submit annual report
- Recommended creation of ISWG services statistics
Proposed ISWG services

- Identify Division of Labour among IOs regarding maintenance and update of recommendations, such as those arising from VG
- Knowledge transfer in area of services statistics
- Promote use of best practices
Creating the ISWG?

- OECD letter in July 2005 to IOs regarding possible ISWG pros and cons and inviting participation
  - Responses Yes: UNSD, ILO, Eurostat, CISStat, ECB*
    - No: UNCTAD, UNECE, WTO
    - No but maybe in 2/3 years IMF, WB
    - Need to clarify TOR to avoid duplication
    - Start as virtual group
  - Most noes support concept
  - CCSA discussion by DGs
  - Voorburg Group consultation
  - OECD to propose first draft TOR for ISWG
Other next steps

- OECD progress report to UNSC 2006
- ISWG report to UNSC?
- Voorburg Group report to UNSC
- All combined into one report
  - When by end November 2005???
Question to Voorburg Group

- Do you agree ISWG should focus on transfer of knowledge and maintenance of standards?
  - To complement work of VG
  - Oversee coordination of international service statistics activities
  - Identify gaps, priorities and avoid duplication
  - Promote best practice
  - What specific areas of work should be considered for action?
  - Any other comments or suggestions on role of ISWG?