Ideas on feasibility and gains of improving services statistics

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Topics

- Finnish services statistics - current situation
- Development needs
  - Prioritisation
  - Co-operation
- Specific user needs
  - How to solve them
  - Discussions with the users
- Suggestions
Service statistics in Finland

- National accounts
  - Yearly, quarterly + monthly indicator of output
- Business register
  - Entire service sector, establishments
  - Enterprise groups
  - Business demography
- Financial statement statistics, SBS
- Structural statistics on wages and salaries
Service statistics in Finland

- Foreign trade in services
- Short term statistics
  - Producer prices
  - Monthly turnover and wage sum
- Specialised statistics
  - Ground transport, accommodation, telecommunications, innovations, trade in the internet, universities, foreign trade in high tech, patents, R&D statistics etc…
- Ad hoc surveys and research
Improving service statistics

- Much information already available. What do the users need?
  - A general picture of the whole economy
  - Lots of specific needs
- National accounts are very important
- Some specific request can be met. But:
  - How to balance between demands for more data vs. respondent burden?
  - How to deal with conflicting interest?
Measurement of services in national accounts

Financial statements
Business register
*Turnover by product*

Financial statements
Balancing algorithms
*Turnover by type of client?*

Wages and salaries
Indicative price data
*PPI for services*

Outputs

Inputs

Prices

National accounts
Co-operation between turnover by product, PPI:s and national accounts

- Turnover by product, producer price indices for services and national accounting are all interrelated
  - Co-operative planning needed in sampling design, data collection, classifications
  - Focus to developing the portrayal of services as a part of the economy
  - … not only to developing individual statistics!
Satisfying specific user needs

- Users must be served equally and data providers must be respected
  - National vs. international users
  - Need for information vs. respondent burden

- Escalations of data collection must be aimed to basic data such as PPI and turnover by product

⇒ Existing data must be used more
Satisfying specific user needs

Examples:
- Administrative data has not been fully exploited
- Possibilities for combining different data are unexplored
- Data can be classified in more ways
- Compilation of customer funded statistics can be increased
- Other forms of co-operation such as research can be practised
Experiences from user meeting

- An informal afternoon-meeting was held earlier in September with prepared comments from commerce organisations
  - Open and truly enthusiastic discussion
- Some points
  - Service production in high tech manufacturing industry
  - Volume indicator of services for forecasting
  - International enterprise groups a problem in foreign trade in services statistics
  - More data needed on new and smaller firms in services
Summary and suggestions

- Look at the services sector and services statistics as whole entities
- Improvement of national accounting is the biggest motivation for developing individual statistics
- Focus on co-operation between interrelated statistics
- Use existing data more