



Progress report of Statistics Netherlands for the 19th meeting of the Voorburg group

1 Main achievements 2003-2004

1.1 Producer Price Index (PPI) for services

Pilots run for the following industries:

- Advertisement
- IT-services (focus on service per hour, PPI will be based on hourly rates)
- Industrial cleaning

A pilot study for a specific industry is carried out prior to production and publication. A pilot contains the following steps:

- * Preliminary desk research
- * Visits to industry or professionals' organizations
- * Per industry between 10 and 20 firms are contacted for an interview. The central questions during the interviews are: 1) What products do you market? 2) How are prices fixed? 3) What relevant price information can Statistics Netherlands measure quarterly?
- * This limited group of firms is requested to try out all survey methods that have the potential to become the standard. This pilot survey lasts two quarters.
- * The results are evaluated and discussed. The most important aspect is the choice for the type of price information to be surveyed.

After a pilot, a panel for regular surveying is recruited and quarterly price collection starts. In 2003-2004, production of PPI's for the following industries has started:

- Courier services (separate from road haulage)
- Lawyers' services
- Public law notaries' services
- Accountancy

Preparations for the development of PPI's for the following industries took place (mostly leading to a pilot study):

- Security services
- Air transport
- Economic advisory services
- Market research
- Architects' services
- Post

Production continued of:

- Engineering services
- Motor vehicle lease
- Road Haulage
- Telecommunication

A short paper, 'The Dutch strategy for realizing PPI's and volume measures for the service sector', was prepared for the Conference of European Statisticians. It can be found at <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/ces/2004/26.e.pdf>



1.2 Information society statistics

- Statistics Netherlands published a third descriptive publication on the digital economy. An English summary is available on our website (<http://www.cbs.nl>). The focus in this publication is on the actual use of ICT within the society. Clear measurement of the impact of ICT on processes within the society is still weak. This is partly because of a lack of well defined indicators, partly because of a lack of data.
- Statistics Netherlands finished a pilot survey on eGovernment at the level of municipalities. We are willing to share this experience and to participate in the discussion to develop a set of international harmonised indicators (and surveys) in the field of eGovernment.
- Statistics Netherlands is at the moment conducting a pilot-survey on ebusiness in the Wholesale sector and the Travel agency's. Results will be published in 2005. The aim is to come to more questions in the field of ebusiness in the regular ICT-survey.
- There is an alliance between Statistics Netherlands and the University of Amsterdam (VU) with the aim to define a (scientific) business architecture which is also a basis for more advanced and relevant questions on ICT-supported business-processes (ebusiness) in the regular ICT-survey. The first papers on this subject are already available

1.3 Classification of service Activities and products

Statistics Netherlands has used the Classification Server (C-server) for almost 5 years now as tool for coordination. Presently, the C-server and the website publication 'system' StatLine are separated. The C-server has to be used as unique source for classifications in the publication process. A closer relationship between the C-server and StatLine is presently being built. In the next version of StatLine, StatWeb 4.0, the C-server will be incorporated. The same will be done for a server containing concepts and definitions, aiming for coordination of that Meta too. In the end, all Meta should be included in StatWeb resulting in as much coordination as possible.

2. Main challenges

2.1 Producer Price Index (PPI) for services

The main challenges of services PPI are the difficulty to compile index numbers that are corrected for quality changes, and index number compilation on the basis of unique services. Response rates are low in certain industries, partly because of the complexity of the surveyed figures. New legislation (effective January 2nd 2004) obliges companies to co-operate.

2.2 Information society statistics

- Define more indicators concerning the impact of ICT on processes within society (and produce the actual statistics).
- Spend resources on micro-analysis to shed light on the relation between ICT, innovation and productivity. This means combining different statistical sources e.g. the Innovation survey, the ICT-survey and Structural Business Statistics.



3 Future topics which are of interest to the Voorburg Group for inclusion in the next program, covering years 2005-2007.

Statistics Netherlands is interested in keeping the Voorburg Group agenda unchanged. This means that PPI for Services remains a key topic, along with Classifications and Information Society statistics.

Statistics Netherlands plans the following **future topics** regarding **Information Society statistics**:

- Try to define a framework for the integration of developments in the field of ICT-usage and fields like innovation, knowledge and economic performance. We are more and more focussed on the actual impact of ICT on for instance innovation. This brings these topics more or less automatically together. An example of this work is already given by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.
- Off shoring and/or outsourcing of activities is a political issue at the moment. We feel we have to define a restricted number of indicators in this field to show the size of this phenomenon.