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PROGRESS REPORT OF NORWAY

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Producer Price Index for Services (Kalko, Wethal)

Introduction

In 2004, the development work concerning the establishment of price indices for services has mainly been concentrated to two main areas - road goods transport and renting of automobiles. There has been a relatively good progress in this work. Initial work has also started within other branches - legal activities, industrial cleaning and telecommunications. The international work in the area have been studied, there has been contact with other statistical institutes, branch organizations and large companies. Product analyses have also been carried out.

Main achievements of year 2004

Freight transport by road (NACE 60.24)

We are currently working to establish a price index for freight transport by road (NACE 60.24). Most of the development work is finished, and the data collection will start as from 4th quarter 2004.

Telecommunications (NACE 64.20)

The development work for telecommunications started in the 1st quarter this year. The plan is to start data collection during 2005.

Sea and coastal water transport (NACE 61.1) and scheduled air transport (NACE 62.1)

During 2004, Statistics Norway is conducting a feasibility study for sea and coastal water transport and scheduled air transport, in order to prepare the implementation of an output price index for these areas. The study shall be finished within 15th of December 2004.

Renting of Automobiles (NACE 71.1)

Statistics Norway started to collect data in the fall of 2003. We still have problems to get all the car rental chains to cooperate. The board of directors in the car rental association is now involved and the board will take a decision on behalf of the rental chains. We will hopefully be informed about their decision very soon. If their response is positive we can probably start collecting new and detailed data shortly.

Legal activities (NACE 74.11)

The development work of this index started early in 2004. In an initial phase of the process we searched for international documentation and information about the market situation in Norway. We studied the documentation from other countries where a price index for legal services was already established. Especially the documentation and experiences from Sweden was helpful for our work. We have received grants from Eurostat to conduct a feasibility study in this field. The study is due to be finished within February 15th 2005.

Industrial cleaning (74.70)

The work on this index started approximately at the same time as for legal activities. Also here, in the initial phase, we focused on international experiences in the field. We found that there is less international experience making price indices in this field. However, some international documentation was found. In addition to this we tried to get an overview of the market in Norway.

In the beginning of May 2004 a meeting was held with the branch organisation (SBL). The meeting confirmed the impression that NACE 74.70 is very diverse. This makes it even more challenging to measure the prices in an accurate way. After the meeting we started to evaluate which possibilities we had regarding choice of method.

As for legal activities Statistics Norway has received grants from Eurostat, that makes it possible to make a feasibility study. The study is due to be finished within February 15th 2005.

Information Society Statistics (Pilskog)

Information Sector

For the first time, statistics for the whole Information Sector made up by the ICT Sector and Content Sector were published at the end of 2003. Since an international delimitation of the Content Sector does

not exist, the statistics for the Content Sector was based on a national delimitation. The basis for the definitions are, however, copied from documents published by UN and OECD. The statistics comprise figures from several sources:

- Employment, turnover and value added from the structural business statistics.
- Accounting figures and computed key figures for non-financial joint-stock companies.
- Enterprises established and bankruptcy proceedings.
- External trade in ICT goods.
- Wage statistics for full time employees.

Use of ICT

Since 1999, Statistics Norway has been carrying out an annual survey of the use of ICT in enterprises. Since 2003 an annual survey on ICT usage in households and by individuals. In 2002 statistics based on a quarterly survey of Internet Service Providers were published for the first time. In July 2003 new statistics about use of ICT in municipalities were published for the first time (figures for 2002). This is an annual survey and updated figures for 2003 were published in June this year. In 2004, a survey on the use of ICT in governmental institutions was carried out, and the results will be published during this year.

Other activities

In 2004 a joint Nordic methodological project about measuring ICT expenditure and investment was carried out. The documentations report will be published in October.