



**Voorburg Group Meeting:**

- [Welcome](#)

- [Programme](#)
- [Practical arrangements](#)
- [Participants](#)
- [Documents](#)
- [Previous meetings](#)
- [Voorburg Group presentation](#)
- [Contact information](#)
- [Finland and Helsinki](#)
- [Group photo](#)

---

## Short agenda (preliminary)

### Monday, September 26

08.45 - 09.45 Registration, refreshments

09.45 - 10.00 Welcome Remarks (Ms Heli Jeskanen-Sundström, Director General)

10.00 - 10.15 Opening Remarks (Kaija Hovi)

10.15 - 10.30 The Vision Paper (Louis Marc Ducharme)

10.30 - 12.10 [Session of Producer Prices for Services](#)

A round table discussion

12.10 - 12.30 Group Photo

12.30 - 14.00 Lunch break

14.00 - 15.30 PPI: The principal paper session.

15.30 - 15.50 Coffee

15.50 - 17.30 PPI: The principal paper session (cont.).

18.00 - 20.00 Welcome Reception at Statistics Finland, Restaurant, 1st floor. Statistics Finland will host a welcoming cocktail reception. All participants and partners are invited to attend.

### Tuesday, September 27

09.00 - 10.30 PPI: Issues involved in surveying a number of different industries.

10.30 - 10.50 Coffee

10.50 - 12.30 PPI: Issues involved in surveying a number of different industries (cont.).

12.30 - 14.00 Lunch break

14.00 - 15.30 PPI: Quality adjustment and fitness for use issues.

15.30 - 15.50 Coffee

15.50 - 17.30 PPI: The services concepts manual drafted under the auspices of Eurostat and the OECD. Update on OECD-Eurostat Inquiry on National Collection of Services Producer Prices.

## Wednesday, September 28

09.00 - 10.20 Host day: presentations (Statistics Finland, Auditorium, 1st floor)

10.20 - 10.40 Coffee

10.40 - 11.30 Host day: presentations (cont.)

11.30 - 12.30 Lunch

12.45 - 17.00 Sight seeing tour in Helsinki, incl. visit to Arabia, a factory "for manufacture of porcelain, earthenware and other types of pottery" (<http://www.arabia.fi> and <http://www.arabiamuseum.fi>).

## Thursday, September 29

09.00 - 10.30 [Turnover by products](#), reports on country accomplishments in the measurement of turnover by detailed products, identifying issues and problems encountered.

10.30 - 10.50 Coffee

10.50 - 12.30 [Turnover by products](#), reports on country accomplishments in the measurement of turnover by detailed products, identifying issues and problems encountered (cont.).

12.30 - 14.00 Lunch break

14.00 - 15.30 Plans for the measurement of turnover by detailed product in future surveys.

15.30 - 15.50 Coffee

15.50 - 17.30 [Standard Classifications session](#)

19.30 - Conference dinner at Restaurant Tervasaaren aitta (<http://www.tervasaarenaitta.com/english.htm>) All participants and partners are invited to attend.

Friday, September 30

09.00 - 10.30 [Strategy Session](#)

10.30 - 10.50 Coffee

10.50 - 12.30 Future Agenda

12.30 - 13.00 Closing Remarks

## PRELIMINARY AGENDA

20<sup>th</sup> Voorburg Group Meeting on  
Service Statistics  
26-30 September 2005  
Helsinki, Finland

### Session of Producer Prices for Services

The focus of the Producer Price Index sessions for the Voorburg Conference has been on exploring pricing methodologies and practices employed by participating countries. The goal of the PPI activities is to provide insight into service sector price measurement issues to assist both price practitioners and data users, especially national income accountants.

The PPI portion of the conference is composed of five sessions. The first is a round table discussion of alternative proposals for adding a quality dimension to the "principal paper" documentation process. The second session is the principal paper session focusing on detailed papers recounting methodologies employed in surveying results for labor recruitment and courier services. The third session focuses on quality adjustment and fitness for use issues. Highlighted this year is a discussion of the treatment of rental and leasing services. The fourth session presents issues involved in surveying a number of different industries. The fifth session is devoted to a discussion of the services concepts manual drafted under the auspices of Eurostat and the OECD.

Paper commitments should be communicated to the PPI coordinator, Irwin Gerduk of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics at [Gerduk\\_I@bls.gov](mailto:Gerduk_I@bls.gov). Appendices for the principal papers on courier services and labor recruitment essentially are the only remaining topics that had not been earlier announced and had commitments made. The paper commitments and other specifics concerning the principal papers session can be communicated directly with Jari Harjunpää at [jari.harjunpaa@stat.fi](mailto:jari.harjunpaa@stat.fi). Benoit Buisson at [benoit.buisson@insee.fr](mailto:benoit.buisson@insee.fr) is chairing the mini-presentation session. Papers should be submitted to Statistics Finland, the appropriate session chair and the PPI coordinator. The deadline for paper submissions is August 15, 2005.

[back](#)

## Sessions on Turnover by products

An understanding of the role of services in the economy starts with the measurement of the production of services. A first step towards this goal is the measurement of turnover by detailed service products. This calls for the use of an appropriate survey instrument and a standard classification of services. Over the years, the Voorburg Group has developed the Model Survey and the Central Product Classification to fulfil these requirements. In the session on Turnover by products, papers are invited that report on country accomplishments in the measurement of turnover by detailed products, identifying issues and problems encountered. Papers are also sought for the afternoon session regarding plans for the measurement of turnover by detailed product in future surveys.

Paper commitments should be communicated to Paul Johanis of Statistics Canada at paul.johanis@statcan.ca or Benjamin Camus of INSEE, France at benjamin.camus@insee.fr. The deadline for paper submissions is August 31, 2005.

[back](#)

## Standard Classifications session

Standard classifications provide the framework for collecting and publishing comparable data across programs, countries, and regions of the world. The International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) and the Central Product Classification (CPC) are in the final stages of revision. Changes to the standards will directly impact the collection of service data for many countries. This session will provide an overview of changes to service industries in ISIC, changes to service products in the CPC, and present a list of ICT goods and services based on the CPC.

Service products are of particular importance to the Voorburg Group. The Technical Subgroup of the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications will make final recommendations on the CPC service products in October 2005. The Voorburg Group played a central role in the initial development of the CPC. Feedback from the Group will provide useful guidance and support to the Technical Subgroup in the revision process.

Paper commitments should be communicated to John B. Murphy of the U.S. Bureau of the Census at John.Burns.Murphy@census.gov. The deadline for paper submissions is August 31, 2005.

[back](#)

## Strategy Session - Parallel Work Plan for Service Classifications, Input and Output Measures, and Prices

In the Report of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on service statistics to the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) (March 2005), the Bureau of the Voorburg Group asked the UNSC to clarify the VG's mandate and future scope of its work. In response, the UNSC provided the VG with a strong confirmation that the VG retains the mandate to establish internationally comparable methods for the proper measurement of the service sector of the economy in constant prices. Further, the UNSC confirmed that the scope of the VG's work should include:

- Coordinating, reviewing, and disseminating the work of national statistical offices and regional efforts that have developed concepts, methods, and best practices in the areas of classifications, input and output measures, and price indices
- Maintaining and adjusting concepts, methods, and best practices in the areas of classifications, input and output measures, and price indices
- Transferring knowledge on concepts, methods, and best practices in the areas of classifications, input and output measures, and price indices

With this mandate and scope clarified, this year's strategy session will focus on gathering proposals for how we might proceed with a work plan of concrete deliverables for the upcoming years of the Voorburg Program. Unlike past strategies and work plans that have focused on the separate development of service classifications, input and output measures, and price indices, principal papers will include recommended approaches for how VG members might best proceed in future years with the coordinated and parallel development of the in-scope work in these areas.

Accordingly, this session will include proposals for how best to build upon past VG achievements in the areas of classifications, input and output measures, and prices, advancing a VG work plan that would first inventory these separate achievements, and then consolidate, coordinate, augment, and continuously update the VG body of work. Building upon past efforts to develop the model survey approach, it is hoped that future work plans might yield concrete, measurable, and easy-to-publicize deliverables, perhaps in the form of international standards for simultaneously expanding and aligning in-scope work in the production of real value added statistics for key service industries. Over time, these VG standards would be iteratively improved through continuous feedback loops as VG participants gain experience in using them in coordinating and implementing in-scope work on an industry-by-industry or sector-by-sector basis.

Paper commitments should be communicated to Mark E. Wallace of the U.S. Bureau of the Census at mark.e.

wallace@census.gov. The deadline for paper submissions is August 31, 2005.

[back](#)

---

Last updated 14.9.2005