

Improving the Nation's Economic Statistics

2006 ASSA Meeting

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U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

Improving Economic Statistics

- Implemented e-business statistics initiative
- Implemented improved service industry measures
- Additional improvements funded internally
- Improvements requiring additional funding

E-Business Program

3/2000 - first official estimates of quarterly retail e-commerce sales

2001 - first annual estimates of e-commerce activity for manufacturing, wholesale, and service industries

2005 - published first annual data for 2003 on business non capitalized expenditures: on computers, communication & hi tech medical equipment; and purchased software, licenses and maintenance
- 2003 Information, Communication, and Technology Survey

2005 - 2003 Annual Wholesale Trade included first time annual coverage of Manufacturers Sales Branches and Offices (\$1.4 trillion in sales and \$42.5 billion in inventories)

2006 - 2004 Annual Wholesale Trade Survey will include electronic markets, agents, and brokers for the first time (\$483 billion sales)

Overview of Service Statistics Program Frequency and Coverage

Program	Frequency	Coverage			% of GDP
		Sectors	Number of Industries	Revenues	
Economic Census	5 years	13	390 (5/6)	\$8.0 trillion (2002)	55%
Services Annual Survey	Annually	7 complete 3 partial	203 (5/6)	\$5.2 trillion (2004)	30%
Quarterly Services Survey	Quarterly	3 complete 1 partial	4 (5/6)	\$3.2 trillion Annualized (2005)	19.6% ¹

¹ Food Services information published monthly in Monthly Retail Trade Report and annually in Annual Retail Trade Survey

Service Statistics Improvements

What We Have Done

- Established new Quarterly Services Indicator
- Developed North American Product Classification System for products of service industries
- Expanded detail on service products and purchased services

Improving Frequency of Service Statistics Accomplishments and Future Plans

- Established new Quarterly Services Indicator
 - Sept. 2004 - first release covered sectors 51, 54 & 56
 - June 2005 - added Hospitals (622) & Nursing & Residential Care (623)
 - June 2007 - add remainder of Health Care & Social Assistance; Arts, Recreation & Entertainment; and Other Services
 - June 2009 - add Rental & Leasing

Service Industry Products Data Expanded

- Service products lists developed by U.S. (Census, BEA, and BLS), Canada and Mexico (NAPCS)
- 2001 SAS - products published for Information Sector
- 2002 EC - collected data on 900 products in 86 industries
- 2007 EC - will collect data for 2200 products covering all service industries

Expanded Data on Purchased Services and Expenses

- 2002 Business Expenses Survey - collected additional detailed categories; covered retail, wholesale and service industries
- 2003 & 2004 SAS - published industry data for following purchased services and expenses
 - custom coded software
 - consulting services
 - communication services
 - data processing services
 - lease & rental payments
 - materials & supplies
 - electricity
 - fuels
 - contract labor
- 2005 SAS - first time collection of employer contributions for pensions and health care
- 2007 EC - plan to add pension and health care questions to Business Expenses Survey and mining, construction, and manufacturing forms

Additional Improvements Funded Internally

- Finish Business Register Comparison Project with BLS
- Expand QSS coverage to match SAS by 2009
- Facilitate reporting by expanding electronic reporting & provide improved web assistance tools
- Ensure data requests align with business accounting & record keeping practices
- Improve access to economic statistics
- Expand LEHD Program
- **Fund through streamlining and terminating low priority programs**

Future Priorities Not Funded

- Expand SAS coverage to match 2007 EC coverage
 - Add finance, insurance, real estate, utilities, and missing transportation industries
 - Would add \$3 trillion in revenue
 - Accounts for 22% of GDP
- Expand QSS coverage to match Economic Census coverage
- Beginning with survey year 2008, incrementally expand product data collected in SAS
- Begin collecting merchandise line & commodity line detail for selected retail & wholesale trade industries

* Price tag \$6-8 million in new funding*