Coverage of services in short-term statistics

Brian Newson
Eurostat
History

- Short-term statistics focus on industry
- Services 70% of economy (possibly most dynamic)
- During preparations for EMU calls to develop statistics of “cyclically sensitive service industries”.
- Today regular quarterly series turnover and employment.
Process

- Eliminate non-market services (government administration, education, health)
- Eliminate housing (actual rent and owner-occupiers)
- Eliminate financial intermediation (output and prices are conventions in national accounts)
- Which leaves →
Retail trade
Wholesale trade
Hotels and restaurants
Transport
• land,
• water,
• air,
• auxiliary services of transport (incl travel agencies)
Post and telecommunications
Computer and related activities
Business activities
• Legal, accounting, market research, management consultancy
• Architectural and engineering activities
• Technical testing and analysis
• Advertising
• Investigation and security services
• Labour recruitment and provision of personnel
• Industrial cleaning
• Miscellaneous (photography, packaging, translation, etc)
Computer activities

Graph showing trends in computer activities from 2000q04 to 2005q04 for different countries:
- eu25
- de
- fr
- uk
Conclusions

- Series clearly respond to economic conditions.
- Possibly reflecting the environment of that industry
- But which are “cyclically sensitive”?
- Recommend economists further study this data set.
- Eurostat happy to assist.