The service sector survey in Slovakia

The sector of services including miscellaneous activities represents already also a significant share in GDP production in the Slovak Republic. In 1995 this share comprised 45 %, in 2006 it increased to 51,4 % and in the 1st half of 2007 it increased to 59 % by preliminary results.

Services as dynamically developing sector shared also largely in international GDP increases. While in 1995 their share in a year-on-year rise of GDP comprised 36,3 %, in 2000 it was 39,8 %, in 2005 their share was up to 50,6 % and in 2006 it reached 68,9 %. The share of total employment of SR in the year 2006 is reached 25,5 %.

In the statistical register, to the end of 2006, there were 93 411 enterprises and 364 185 tradesmen. From registered enterprises, 35 519 carried on business in the field of services, of which small enterprises employing fewer than 19 people comprised 83,7 %.
Physical persons in the sector of services (105 thousands) carry on business particularly in the field of real estates, renting and business activities, in hotels and restaurants, in transport (13.6%) and in other services. Also activities of posts and telecommunications (by 0.3%) arisen gradually.

Harmonized business tendency survey in services is conducted from 2002. In 2007, representative sample included 580 enterprises representing 59% of employment and 47% of production measured by turnovers or revenues.

In the structure of economic subjects sample in production of services, a financial sector (banks and financial intermediation), insurance companies, posts and
telecommunications, other business activities and transport prevail. In the structure of enterprises of services by employment, transport, posts and telecommunications, other business activities and financial intermediation are at first place.

Respondents of survey in the field of financial services represent relatively a significant component and mostly bank institutions and insurance companies require a special approach.
Harmonized content of questionnaires is for these organizations less understandable and therefore they often resist responding monthly on questions about production and employment, but also about expectations for further period. They often consider these questions to be an encroachment into business secret and they fill out questionnaires unwillingly and irregularly. In this field, it would be convenient to modify wordings of questions and to adjust them to a „glossary“ of bank terms.

The Statistical Office of the SR negotiated also with the National Bank of Slovakia, which has eminent an interest in using of results of business tendency surveys and also an interest in cooperation to ensure further activities, mostly formulating of 2 – 3 additional questions aimed at bank institutions. In this respect, we would like to cooperate with institutions that solve similar problems and have experiences (Technical University in Zürich).

Currently we prepare new sample for all business tendency surveys. Current sample of respondents was re-evaluated by our research institute (INFOSTAT) and in cooperation with experts of the Institute, we will try to create better sample also in connection to prepared second version of NACE that, as we expect, will largely set existing business registers in motion.

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