Capacity utilisation in the services sector: results from the July and October surveys

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Launch of a task force in 2008

- The task force confirmed that a question on capacity utilisation would be relevant for the service sector.
- All the services sectors currently surveyed should be included.
- The formulation of the initial question (in the manufacturing sector) needed revision.
“If the demand expanded, could you increase your volume of activity with your present resources? Yes – No

If so, by how much? …%”

- if a firm answers “no”, its capacity utilisation rate is 100%
- if a firm answers “yes”, the capacity utilisation rate (CU) is calculated as follow:

$$CU = \frac{1}{1 + \text{percentage of increase}}$$
Question

- Quarterly question (to be asked in January/April/July and October)
- Included in our quarterly questionnaire from July 2011

First results based on 2 observations:
July and October 2011
Results

- 79% of the institutes sent us the results in July and October
  - 3 institutes (5 in October) however sent them in a wrong format

Aggregated results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Jul-11</th>
<th>Oct-11</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EA</td>
<td>79.9%</td>
<td>82.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>82.5%</td>
<td>83.5%</td>
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Results

Capacity Utilisation in the Services sector

July 2011  October 2011

% 100

AT  BE  BG  CY  CZ  DE  DK  EE  EL  ES  FI  FR  HU  IT  LT  LV  MT  PT  RO  SK  TR  UK  EA  EU

July 2011

October 2011
Results

Capacity utilisation (%) - July 2011

\[ R^2 = 0.0049 \]
Results

Capacity utilisation (%) - October 2011

$R^2 = 0.0149$
Conclusions

- Encouraging first results: sensible findings
- Bilateral contacts to correct a few transmission errors
- No major problems about the formulation of the question
- It fits user needs
Thanks for your attention... and... Feedbacks are welcome!!!