

Leading Indicators and Tendency Surveys

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Business Tendency and Consumer Opinion Surveys

Purpose

To collect and disseminate business tendency and consumer opinion survey data for OECD member countries and selected non-member economies. To promote wider use of business tendency and consumer opinion surveys in OECD member countries and selected non-member economies.

To develop international statistical standards and to encourage scientific research in this field of statistics.

Objectives and outputs

This activity involves the ongoing collection and publication of an extensive range of business tendency and consumer opinion survey data and related metadata from OECD member countries and large emerging NMEs + Indonesia.

The survey data are published in the OECD's monthly Main Economic Indicators (MEI). Data collection is coordinated with the European Commission, with the OECD taking primary responsibility for data collection from national sources only for non-EU OECD member countries and the large emerging NMEs + Indonesia.

During the year further work was undertaken on the portal which has been developed to provide a focus / hub for information relating to business tendency and consumer opinion surveys. The website includes links to existing international guidelines and recommendations, questionnaires used by national institutes, summary metadata describing key elements of national surveys, selected country data, selected best practice, key terminology.

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Russian Federation, South Africa

Databases

MEI_BTS_COS

Main Developments for 2009

General aspects:

Implementation of the work plan arising out of the joint European Commission OECD workshop on business tendency and consumer opinion surveys and composite indicators held in Brussels in November 2007. The plan entails developments in a number of specific areas, namely: the evolution of standards to promote greater harmonisation of outputs produced by different countries; development of standards for the presentation of metadata resulting in greater transparency; procedures for improving response rates; expansion of survey coverage into the service sector; etc.

Work in 2009 will entail continued collection and dissemination of metadata from non-EU and BRICS + Indonesian national institutes which will complement similar methodological information collected by the European Commission for EU countries. Publication of non-seasonally adjusted series.

The development of normalised business and consumer confidence indicators and regional/zone aggregates for sectors outside manufacturing will be continued in 2009.