

Stopping Metalworking Machine Tools and Engineering Turnover and Orders releases and improving the timeliness of the Distributive and Services Trades Release

Response to Consultation

ONS published a consultation document in respect of stopping the Metalworking Machine tools and Engineering Turnover and Orders Releases and improving the timeliness of the Distributive and Services Trades First Release. Users were invited to share their views on the proposals and to provide information on their specific use of the data published.

ONS advertised the consultation document on the National Statistics web-site, in the publications affected and in all associated publications such as the Index of Production and the Index of Services. Users known to ONS were notified personally.

Responses

A total of 5 responses were received.

Production proposals

The responses confirmed that there was use of the non-seasonally adjusted data but mainly accessed through the data series on the website rather than from the releases themselves. Those users that required seasonally adjusted indices and detailed briefing on industries use the Index of Production.

The only concern in moving to 3-digit level for publication was that the Metalworking Machine Tools industry would not be identified and this would not meet the needs of one trade association.

Responses sought clarification on a number of issues and ONS can confirm that:

- those users who currently receive tailored extracts will still do so;
- there will be no change to data collected without further consultation;
- non-seasonally adjusted turnover, orders on hand and new orders for total, home and export at current prices will still be available and any changes would be subject to further consultation.

There was no objection to the proposed timing of publication.

Services proposals

The responses confirmed that any move to improve the timeliness of statistics is welcomed.

Summary

ONS is grateful to all those who responded. The responses were on the whole favourable to the proposals.

As a result of this consultation, ONS plan to implement changes in line with the proposals.

Production: phased changes to publications

The Metalworking Machine Tools and Engineering Turnover and Orders Releases will cease to present seasonally adjusted indices commencing in December 2006 with the publication of data from October 2006 reference period. At the same time, the releases will become web-only data releases on the National Statistics web-site with no associated commentary.

ONS will review in Spring 2007 the proposal to publish information at 3-digit industry level for all the production industries collected (SIC Section D) where adequate levels of quality and disclosure control permits. Any changes will be preannounced.

Services: improving timeliness

The frequency of the Distributive and Services Trades release changed from quarterly to monthly in October 2006 reflecting information up to and including July 2006. Both monthly and quarterly data are shown. This release is a web-only data release on the National Statistics web-site and is no longer a First Release. This new monthly release is available within a week of the Index of Services release.