

## **The challenges of measuring the UK Service Sector**

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Statistical systems around the world generally measure the production and manufacturing industries well via established and proven surveys and methods. During the last 15 years there have been efforts to rebalance many of these systems to reflect the relentless increase in the importance of the services industries. This presentation will describe the approach taken by the Office for National Statistics (the UK's National Statistical Institute) in the short-term measurement of the services industries. The session will include the challenges faced and overcome to develop, produce and publish a monthly index of services and will then describe what happened next: the user reaction, the highs and lows as we continue to try to keep the index up to date and how we are facing new pressures that include meeting new European statistical legislation.

**Key Words:** services, index of services, short-term measurement, monthly, UK, Office for National Statistics, ONS, services industries, service sector.