

## **Abstract for “Measuring the ‘On the Move’ Retail Trade with Automotive Fuels”**

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It has become increasingly difficult to obtain accurate measures of the output and production of the retail trade of gas stations due to the complexity of the sector. A recent survey by Eurostat indicates that statistical practices across NSIs differ (Kaumann, 2010). There are rapid changes to the way retail activities are being organised, ranging from unmanned service stations to full service stations, and from independent service stations that take title of the fuels to franchise owners that are paid a service fee per litre sold. These problems not only impact the measurement of output in the short term business statistics but also impact the accuracy of the retail margins in the National accounts.

In this paper we analyse these issues in greater detail, by investigating the population of gas stations in this economic activity. Second, we will test the classification by organizational form that was proposed by Kaumann (2010) which distinguishes between: Company Owned Company Operated; Company Owned Dealer Operated; Dealer Owned Dealer Operated; and, Independent Stations. Third we will reassess production and output values in order to improve current estimates. Finally, suggestions will be made on how short term and annual production surveys may be improved to better capture these differences in organisational form.

### **Reference**

Kaumann, S., 2010. Problems of measuring retail trade due to the impact of different ways of organising distribution. Paper presented at the Voorburg Group Meeting, Eurostat.