of classification. Commodities are tangible and they can be identified, transported, stored, bought, sold and used in different states of processing or assembling, i.e. as crude materials, processed materials or end products. In the form of crude or processed materials the nature or type of material is usually apparent and for tariff and other purposes goods at these stages are usually grouped on that basis, e.g. as wood products, metal products, chemical products, etc. When commodities are at the stage of end products, however, and are ready for final consumption or for use as capital equipment, process supplies, office supplies, etc., the component material is usually unimportant and the commodities can be grouped most effectively on the basis of purpose or use, e.g. as food products, household equipment, transport equipment, industrial machinery, etc. Services, on the other hand, being intangible cannot be transported or stored but must be provided to the user as they are being produced, e.g. as a theatrical performance, sporting event, rental service, surgical operation, building maintenance service, transport service, etc. or provided over a period, e.g. storage service, manufacturing service, education service, consulting service, etc. Thus, services are all end products or the products of intermediaries, and can be grouped effectively only on the basis of purpose or end use.

Because industries are usually defined and often named in terms of their principal products (commodities or services), e.g. clothing industries, agricultural implement industry, advertising services, etc., industries and the goods or services that constitute their principal products are often taken to be identical. This is a mistake because most industries produce a variety of products, i.e., a range of commodities, a range of services, or a mix of commodities and services. For example, many manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers offer delivery services and repair services to their customers, some transportation services include meals and/or berths but others do not; some banks offer investment services, trustee services, and storage services for valuables in addition to their main banking services. When collecting data on international trade or analysing such data it is important to distinguish between data based on an industrial classification and those assembled on the basis of a classification of commodities or services. Industrial data providing revenue or expenditures under a particular heading usually refer to results that apply to the manufacture, sale, shipment or production of an array of commodities or services rather than a homogenous group of commodities or services. To obtain data on homogenous groups of services for example, requires the use of a classification of services as such.

Other Classifications of Services

Few classifications of services exist and this is the first such classification known to have been designed especially for the collection and analysis of data on trade in services. A "Standard Classification of Services" was developed in the