

Another reason for designing this classification as a complete system for services has to do with the desirable quality mentioned above, that is the quality of general applicability. It is important for analysis of statistical data that compatible information be obtained from different sources on the same events or units (e.g., services in surveys of production, trade, consumption or use, prices, etc.). The development of standard classification structures to attain this objective requires the use of a complete and consistent system in each application but not necessarily the same degree of detail in each case.

### The classification structure

The classification structure is hierarchical having three levels. Its first level consists of eight sections each of which contains a broad range of related services from the viewpoint of purpose or use. This criterion is applied because services, being produced for immediate consumption or use, can be categorized or typed most universally and effectively on the basis of purpose. The sequence used for the Sections has been chosen as follows: Sections 1 and 2 consist of services for living things, i.e. for people, plants and animals; Section 3 contains services related to other natural things, i.e. land, water, air and minerals; Section 4 is for services related to buildings and other fixed structures; Section 5 consists of services related to the manufacture and marketing of transportable goods except transportation services; Section 6 contains transportation services; Section 7 services related to records and information and Section 9 is the residual.

The second level consists of forty-four Divisions arranged within the Sections. These are narrower groupings representing related sets of services from the viewpoint of their application. For example, Section 1 contains seven Divisions: Health services for people; Education services; cultural and recreational services; food and accommodation services for people; correctional services; employment services; and the residual, other services directly related to people.

The third level consists of one hundred fifteen Groups arranged within the Divisions. These are the most detailed groupings in the classification at present and each group is defined to provide information on its intended scope. An alphabetical index of even more detailed service categories is also provided to assist users of the classification system and the codes to ascertain the coverage of categories at all levels. The codes provided are of the decimal type, providing the means to use the system at any desired level and to add additional levels, if necessary, as outlined below.