

## **Performances measurement in the field of education**

This document presents a work undertaken within the framework of the preparation of the new series of French national accounts. The purpose of it is to take into account a direct measurement of the evolution in volume terms of the non-market service of education, based on indicators of quantity and quality of the provided service.

A first approach, purely quantitative, makes it possible to calculate a synthetic indicator of the quantity of teaching, defined as an average of the evolutions of the pupil numbers in the various sections of teaching, weighted by the costs of these sections. The series of indicators thus calculated over the 1990-2001 period shows an evolution in volume terms appreciably lower than the one in the current series of accounts at constant prices, which was established using a factor cost index as price index of production.

In the second time we sought if it were legitimate and feasible to introduce a corrective term in order to take account of possible evolutions of the quality of the service. Among the approaches made, we explored more particularly that one consisting in using as indicator not the number of pupils present (a stock variable), but the annual number of pupils moving up, or reaching certain levels of education (a flow variable).

The calculation carried out over the same period 1990-2001 shows an evolution a little higher, about 0.2 to 0.3 points as an average, than in the first approach. However this difference appears mainly due to specific evolutions in this period, characterized by a noticeable trend to the shortening in duration of the school course. Thus it is not sure that such a difference could remain in the future.