Presentation to seminar


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Business Register principles and practices
  Why a Business Register
  What principles should be constructed and maintained
  How it should be used
Conceptual framework for Economic Statistics
  Intro
  economic production, institutional units and enterprises
  enterprise registration requirements
  classification of enterprises for data collection and analytical purposes
  Units model
  Informal sector
Diagram to be considered

- Business Register
- Survey Sampling Frames
- National Accounts
- Survey 1
- Survey 2
- Survey 3
- Survey n
A. Economic data collection by list-based enterprise surveys - background
B. Need for a statistical business register
C. Business register construction and maintenance
D. Statistical Business Register
E. Operational framework
Economic data collection by list-based enterprise surveys

- User requirements – national accounts compilation
- Which variables or data items?
  - basic outputs of the economic statistics program
- Two basic methods of data collection
  - Administrative source
  - Surveys
- (Both methods uses information which originated from accounting records of businesses)
- Administrative source – less costly but **not** designed with statistical data requirements in mind, thus, survey collections are inevitable.........
Sampling and survey management

Frames – list and area

- List – initial sample from a pre-existing list of units
- Area – initial sample from geographical areas

Reasons for list frame

- more efficient from sampling perspective – smaller sample size for same precision
- maintenance is cheaper - quality of the statistical register is important
- area based frame – inappropriate for large or medium sized businesses operating in several locations
Co-ordination of individual surveys – common conceptual framework

Up-to-date frame - best achieved through single statistical business register

Why a Business Register (BR)?

1. Survey frames independently created and maintained – no means of guaranteeing co-ordination
2. Practical application of a standard framework of units and their classifications
3. More efficient if a single unit in the NSO is responsible for frame maintenance than individual subject matters

To note: the only units that need not to be based on the BR are those where the sampling frame can be constructed from a well defined regulatory body or process e.g. banking industry
1. Administrative registers

Start from scratch - do a full enumeration of all businesses in the country – expensive and impossible

Start evaluating different administrative registers (regulations) to which the NSO has access through legislation

Ideal administrative register - complete; up to date coverage of all businesses within the SNA production boundary; no duplication and provide all the frame data (sampling and data collection)

......no perfect source in practice!
2. Coverage

Varies from country to country – depending on regulations

Most likely that the statistical Business Register will be built on an administrative register maintained for a different or other purpose e.g. value added tax - inherently more deficient in coverage and content (legislation)

No one administrative register is complete in coverage and content

Improvement – a combination of administrative registers through a common identifier

“Cost” in combining various administrative registers e.g. poor quality
3. Profiling of large enterprises

Administrative registers deals with legal entities.

No breakdown of the business into smaller groups/economic activity as per units model, therefore, the staff in the Business Register section have to do it.

Process is referred to as **PROFILING**

**What is PROFILING**

- identify units as identified per Units model; usually **LARGE** businesses
- personal visits –
- to gather info - expensive and resource intensive
4. Content

Usually deficiencies other than coverage – all required frame data items (variables) may not be available or out of date or wrong.

BR improvement surveys or BR Quality Improvement Surveys

Clarify or supplement the administrative data.
5. Maintenance – dealing with enterprise dynamics

Large number of businesses – automate the maintenance

Businesses change over time – merge; amalgamate; split, change kind of activity, move physical location,

New businesses are created; ceased

All changes to be recorded

Sources of changes:
- administrative source on which the statistical business register is based (examples)
- survey area feedback
- register improvement surveys

Develop rules
Functions of a Statistical Business Register

1. Provision of survey frames
   Primary and most important function
   Based on specifications of the statistical units in scope

2. Sample selection and sample overlap control
   Sample rotation – small businesses not included in a large number of different surveys (random number)

3. Respondent burden monitoring
   Monitor – list surveys in which business has to report in a specific period

4. Production of (snapshot) statistics
   Counts of units at a specific point in time
Statistical business register functions

5. Production of statistics on business dynamics
Producing data on business demographics - births, deaths and other life cycle changes

6. Production of inter-corporate ownership and control data
Ownership tress - if ownership and control is stored in business register

7. List of enterprises for external surveys
Requests received – government agencies, academic institutions and private organisations
Legislation governs this – clause “confidentiality of statistical information”
Administrative source - own restriction on distribution
Operational framework

Organisational structure of NSO
Role of the Business Register – economic statistics program designed
Quality of the Business Register impacts on the economic statistics program
No “right” organisational structure for a Business Register

Procedures and systems
Document and document
Ideally a single database – all users have access to it and updates from your own desktop
No “right system” – depends on circumstances and environment and skills

Quality management framework
Important to define quality measures and put them in place
Thank you