INTRODUCTION TO STATISTICAL BUSINESS REGISTER (SBR)

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Introduction

• The demand for economic statistics is growing in all countries as well as at international level.

• To a large extent this is the result of the fact that economies have become more complex, with increasing division of labour both at national and at global level.

• To remain relevant and to meet user needs, economic statistics should, therefore, cover new areas and should provide more detailed information about activities and variables.

• There is also a general need to improve timeliness, coherence and reliability at both national and international level.

Source: Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers
What is an SBR?

An SBR is a regularly updated, structured database of economic units in a territorial area, maintained by an NSI, and used for statistical purposes.

Source: Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers
An important purpose of the SBR is to provide sets of units referred to as *frames* to surveys.

A survey frame is a list of units together with the characteristics of these units required in conducting the survey.

By providing frames for all relevant surveys from a central source, the SBR is also acting as a coordinating instrument.

As the SBR units and their characteristics are updated on a continuous basis, survey frames derived from the SBR can be similarly updated.

Updating centrally in the SBR is also much more efficient than if updates of survey frames were done by the different survey areas themselves.

Thus, a single SBR is a good solution not only for harmonised statistics but also for cost efficiency.

Moreover, the SBR can do more than simply provide frames. It can also be used to combine data from different sources to improve coverage.

Source: Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers
Use of an SBR

- Variations in the coverage, content and quality of SBRs across countries make comparison of economic statistics more difficult.
- Therefore the coverage and content of SBRs should be harmonised as much as possible and international concepts and definitions should be used to the maximum extent possible.

- Using administrative data more extensively for statistical purposes is an important strategic goal for NSIs in their efforts to keep up with ever growing demands for economic data by governments, international bodies and researchers, in particular data for microeconomic analysis of small areas, and for specific sectors of activity aggregates.

Source: Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers
Use of administrative data also increases the range of tasks that can be achieved by an SBR.

- It becomes not only a database providing frames for survey purposes but also a powerful database that can be used for the direct production of statistics.

- New developments in the production of economic statistics will extend the role and use of the SBR.

- Globalisation, increase in the use of administrative data, industrialisation, and upcoming new data sources (for example big data, Internet) are some of the developments that have to be taken into account when looking at the future use of the SBR.

Source: Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers
# Roles of SBR

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 SBR live register</td>
<td>Provide the gateway between data from various input sources and statistical units</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 SBR register snapshot and frozen frame</td>
<td>Provide populations of statistical (and possibly administrative) units at fixed points in time</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 SBR survey frame</td>
<td>Provide a set of statistical units for a survey, valid for a specified reference period, with all characteristics required.</td>
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<td>4 SBR survey support</td>
<td>Monitor survey response and measure and control response burden</td>
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<td>5 SBR statistics</td>
<td>Produce statistics based directly on the SBR</td>
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<td>6 SBR information source</td>
<td>Provide lists of enterprises and their locations and possibly other characteristics</td>
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<td>7 SBR international data exchange</td>
<td>Facilitate coherence in international statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 SBR in modernisation of statistical production and services</td>
<td>Promote integration of SBR within the production processes for economic statistics</td>
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Source: Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers
Coverage of SBR

In principle, an SBR should record all institutional units in the national economy that are engaged in productive economic activities, i.e., activities contributing to the gross domestic product (GDP).

In accordance with the 2008 System of National Accounts (2008 SNA: 1.40), the term “economic production” is understood as referring to “a process carried out under the control and responsibility of an institutional unit that uses labour, capital, goods and services to produce outputs of goods and services”, and institutional units engaged in production are referred to as enterprises.

Source: Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers
Coverage of SBR

The three key aspects of SBR coverage:

Completeness is the extent to which the SBR includes all institutional units within the 2008 SNA production boundary.

Coverage is the proportion of total national economic production that the units represent.

Content is the set of characteristics (e.g., institutional sector, size, location and registration status) of the units contained in the SBR.

Source: Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers
Coverage of SBR

An SBR can be said to provide complete coverage and content if it includes all units producing goods and services together with all their required characteristics.

During any period units commence and cease operations. Thus SBRs should be regularly updated, new units created, and units that have ceased economic activities deactivated.

The SBR provides frozen frames, each of which contains all units in the live register for a given reference period. Frames for economic surveys are derived from frozen frames.

Source: Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers
Data Source for the SBR

Different data sources may be used in combination to construct and maintain an SBR with good coverage and content.

The data sources must also provide information about changes in units to keep coverage and content up-to-date.

Unless the SBR is maintained on a regular basis, it quickly loses its value by becoming out-dated and ceasing to adequately reflect economic activity in the real world.

Source: Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers
Data Source for the SBR

Data sources may be grouped into three categories:

1. **Administrative sources**
2. **Statistical sources**, including feedback from economic surveys, profiling and SBR improvement surveys
3. **Other sources**, for example data from private data suppliers, telephone directories and the Internet

Source: Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers
“A country’s economy is constantly changing new businesses are formed, existing businesses merge, change production activities or location, go bankrupt, etc.

To ensure that enterprises (and other standard statistical units) in the SBR remain aligned with and representative of legal units and their productive activities, these changes have to be detected and the SBR has to be correspondingly updated.

This process is referred to as **SBR maintenance**

Source: Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers
Maintenance of the SBR

Maintenance implies constant updating of the SBR in terms of coverage and content.

New statistical units have to be identified and recorded without over coverage, undercoverage, or duplication.

Changes in the values of the characteristics of existing statistical units have to be identified and recorded.

The dates of changes should be known and recorded. Ideally, the Information should be collected just once.

Source: Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers
The maintenance strategy should take into account the following aspects:

**The time dimension** - timing of the updates, the need for continuity and stability rules, and use of the historical register.

The maintenance groups into which statistical units in the SBR are divided for efficiency and cost effectiveness of maintenance procedures.

The sources of information - administrative sources, feedback from surveys and SBR improvement surveys and rules for dealing with conflicting information.

Source: Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers
Quality may be defined as the degree to which a set of inherent characteristics fulfils requirement, and thought of in general terms as fitness for purpose. The SBR purposes are to provide:

01 Information that enables identification of statistical units.

02 Populations of statistical units for survey frames and sampling.

03 Statistics on the structure of the economy – in terms of units and their economic classifications.

04 Tools for using administrative data for statistical purposes.

05 Data for business demography analysis.

Source: Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers
TERIMA KASIH & THANK YOU