

ECONOMIC STATISTICS AND BUSINESS REGISTERS MALAYSIA

ABSTRACT

Economic statistics play a significant role in enabling policy planners to draw up plans to chart the country's development process while at the same time such statistics are capable of monitoring and evaluating the targets outlined. The collection of economic statistics in Malaysia, either through surveys or censuses, date as far back as 1950's. The surveys provide key source data for GDP, productivity measures and other indicators of economic performance. Economic censuses, which are conducted at regular intervals of every five years covering a wide spectrum of industries, provide data for benchmarks of basic economic statistics, I-O Tables and rebase for Index of Industrial Production, Producer Price Index and GDP.

The concepts and definitions adhere to international classifications and standards such as ISIC Rev. 4, SNA 1993, to enable comparability of data, either internationally or regionally.

The Central Register System (SIDAP) in Malaysia was established in the early 1990's to centralize the registers which had been maintained separately in accordance with the needs of individual surveys. The dynamic updating and maintenance work undertaken on SIDAP based on results of economic censuses and regular surveys, information obtained through the branch offices of Department of Statistics (DOSM) and regular access to administrative records of statutory bodies and other government agencies will be elaborated. This paper also reviews the measures identified under DOSM's strengthening plans in using administrative data in the survey approach as well as sources of business register.