Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers - International Roundtable on Business Survey Frames

Country progress report 2015 and future plans

Country:

> **United Kingdom**

Reporter:

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Institution:

> Office for National Statistics

I. Organisation, Population and Usage of the Statistical Business Register

1. Name of the register

> Inter-departmental Business Register

2. Name of the organisation responsible for holding the register

> Office For National Statistics

3. Position of the register unit in the organisation

> Within Data Collection Directorate

4. Number of employees in the register unit (Headcount employees)

> 75

5. Primary goal and use of the register

> Sampling frame for all business surveys

6. Year of establishment of the register

> 1994

7. Year(s) of the main re-engineering(s) of the register

> n/a

8. Number of active enterprises* in the register at the end of 2015
   *If it is difficult to use Enterprises, you can use Legal units instead.

Enterprises: 2453466	Legal units:2497078

II. Progress and Developments in the Past Year

Please list main achievements (maximum 3) in the past year (2015) or the problems you have tackled.

1. Short title of work which was done

> Global Legal identifier added

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

> Changes were made to hold and regularly update the GLEI unit on the IDBR. While there are relatively few businesses holding this identifier in the UK , there is considerable interest in the potential of the identifier from National Accounts users.

2. Short title of work which was done

> Increased coverage of Register

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

> Around 100,000 businesses that were previously thought to be a duplication risk were added to the survey universe population. This followed a lengthy project to investigate these businesses. Working in collaboration with the Revenue department, it was possible to determine that their duplication risk was low. A project was then set up to manage the implementation and the discontinuity that would have to be managed by survey users.

3. Short title of work which was done

> Improvements to financial sector businesses

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

> Working with National Accounts colleagues who were implementing the new European System of Accounts, a number of small improvements were made to the register. Mostly these were data improvements , such as improving the industrial classification of financial sector businesses , but also some rules were changed in the management of holding companies and head offices.

III. Future plans

Please list themes/projects (maximum 3) which you plan to tackle in the current (2016) and following year(s).

1. Short title of work planned

> Redevelopment of the Business Register

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

> A full redevelopment of the UK business register will start in 2016. The current business register has been in place since 1994 , and has been amended and improved regularly during this time. However, ONS is now undergoing a major transformation and this will include a redevelopment of the business register. The project is in two parts . The first is the development of a complete uniquely identified list of businesses in the UK for wider policy purposes - this will be legal unit based. Then this list will be used as an input into a new statistical business register. As a result there will be no further development of the existing IDBR.

2. Short title of work planned

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Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

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3. Short title of work planned

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Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

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IV. Main challenges

Please list main challenges (maximum 3) with respect to development, maintenance and use of your statistical business register.

1. Main challenge 1

> Transformation of Business Register

Description of the challenge

> As mentioned in section 3 , the UK will redevelop the business register. This is a major challenge, not just the technical development challenge, but also the challenge of transition to the new register and the transition required by survey users. The new register is likely to have a larger population due to access to new administrative data sources , so a careful transition plan will be required.

2. Main challenge 2

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Description of the challenge

3. Main challenge 3

Description of the challenge