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*Name of author(s) Haag Olivier
Organization INSEE
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Role of Business Register

The French business registers system : How to improve the quality of the statistics by combining different statistical units

Abstract

The French business registers system is composed of four business registers:

- Three authentic sources; one for each type of statistical unit mentioned above: Sirene is the French administrative business register for the legal units, LIFI is the French statistical group register for the enterprise groups and BCE is the French register for the enterprise.
- One with all the links between them: the French statistical business register called SIRUS.

The French statistical business register (SIRUS) contains different statistical units and the links between them. These information are needed to calculate the most relevant statistics on enterprises. In France, the most useful statistical units are:

- The legal unit which is the best data collection unit and the backbone of the system. Its identifier is shared by all the French administrations.
- The enterprise which is the best statistical unit for the economic analyses. The enterprise is defined by the European regulation as the smallest combination of legal units that is an organizational unit producing goods or services, which benefits from a certain degree of autonomy in decision-making. The use of this statistical unit as reporting unit has become compulsory due to economy globalization. Since 2008 a manual profiling program has been launched in France. At the moment about 55 enterprise groups, that are located in France, are manually profiled and more than 100 profiled enterprises are registered in the French statistical business register. A second program of automatic profiling is on going and would create about 80 000 new profiled enterprise by 2017.
- The enterprise groups are used for financial issues.

First, this article presents briefly these different business registers and focus on the links between them. It then presents some examples showing the interest of these different types of statistical units for economic analyses. In a third part this article will focus on the interest and the difficulties of using a data collection unit different than the statistical unit to obtain the more relevant statistics as possible. Finally it presents the new statistical characteristics, calculated for each type of statistical unit and stored in SIRUS which improve the quality of the survey's frame and the measure and the management of the statistical burden.