

**MALAYSIA'S ECONOMIC CENSUS 2011  
AND THE STRENGTHENING OF THE BUSINESS REGISTER  
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**ABSTRACT**

To enhance the nation's progress, the Government and its citizens need information to measure and monitor the performance of development policies and programmes. In Malaysia, the Government has set a new economic vision towards a high-growth and high income nation by 2020. A number of programmes have been formulated such as Economic Transforming Programmes (ETP) and National Key Economic Area (NKEA).

Comprehensive and timely statistics are thus needed by policy makers at large to chart the country's development process. The role of the national statistics office as the compiler of official statistics has become more important to ensure the availability, reliability and on-time social and economic statistics for policy makers and users.

In line with the aspiration of the government, the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) conducted the Economic Census (EC) 2011. It covers all economic activities in Malaysia and also incorporates a

Census on Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs). The Census provides comprehensive information on the growth and profile of businesses, as a benchmark for the compilation of national accounts and Input-Output Tables, rebasing of various indices and updating the database on SMEs. In addition, it also plays an important role as the pivotal source to update the national frame for future surveys/censuses.

The Business Register which known as Establishment Enterprise (EE) Frame comprises establishments/enterprises operating in Malaysia and is the backbone to the successful implementation of censuses/surveys. Information in the BR besides the operating status includes the name, address, activity, legal status, sales value, number of employment and enterprise structure. In 2010, DOSM restructured the approach of the EE Frame from 'silos' to 'integrated' system through the National Enterprise-Wide Statistical System. The source of updating EE Frame relies on information from the economic census and regular surveys, information obtained through the branch offices of DOSM and regular access to administrative records of statutory bodies, government agencies, and associations. This paper will discuss the role of the Economic Census 2011 in strengthening the EE Frame and the approach undertaken.