

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

Country progress report 2015 and future plans

Country:

South Africa

Reporter:

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Institution:

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

1. Name of the register

Statistical Business Register (SBR) - previously referred to as the "Business Sampling Frame".

2. Name of the organisation responsible for holding the register

Statistics South Africa

3. Position of the register unit in the organisation

Cluster: Methodology, Standards and Research

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

75

5. Primary goal and use of the register

Drawing of annual economic statistics samples, production of the Business Register-based Statistics Report and other reports related to quality.

6. Year of establishment of the register

The current Statistical Business Register was established in 1999 with the use of the Value Added Tax (VAT) data. Prior to 1999, the "Business Address Register" units were based on lists from municipalities, medical council, departments and associations, etc., that were collected and updated manually to the database.

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

Re-engineering started in 2013 and implementation started in 2015 and is planned for completion in 2016.

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: 1 462 068

Legal units:

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

Continued with the updating of the Province and Municipal Name at the GEO statistical unit.

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

The project improved the municipality code at geo level in order to pave-way for the production of the regional statistics in future. By the end Nov 2015, 94,31% of the GEO statistical units were updated.

2. Short title of work which was done

Commenced research to improve quality of the SBR.

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

Apart from quarterly analysis of the SBR and reporting on quality issues, **research** has commenced in the Quality Management Framework, Units model and coverage of the SBR.

3. Short title of work which was done

Automation of the Snapshot.

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

This function can now be performed by the statisticians from SBR, rather than the programmers from a division outside of the SBR. The old Business Sampling Frame was written in Centura programming language. The continuous improvement requirements to the system could not take place due to lack of skills in Centura. The re-engineered SBR is written in SQL which will allow for the necessary changes/revisions/improvements to take place. This will improve the functionality and the additions of the necessary new functions.

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

Maintenance of the Statistical Business Register

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

Profiling and delineation of large and complex enterprises - to decrease the turnaround time.

2. Short title of work planned

Continue with quality improvement

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

Continuation of research topics as outlined in the previous section. These efforts are spread over 3 years.

3. Short title of work planned

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

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

Non implementation of ISIC4 and poor quality of administrative source data

Description of the challenge

No budget to implement ISIC 4 at this stage. The administrative source started implementing ISIC 4 on Income Tax (not the maintenance source of the SBR). In addition, poor quality economic activity codes as well as contact details are received from the VAT database.

2. Main challenge 2

SBR is not providing sampling frames for employment statistics according to stakeholder needs.

Description of the challenge

VAT is the maintenance source of the SBR. No unique identifier between the various tax types as well as the quality of the administrative source information which is a concern. A task team is investigating the options.

3. Main challenge 3

Classification of small units

Description of the challenge

Due to limited resources, a top down approach is followed for maintenance of the SBR. The economic activity classification (as received from the administrative source) of small units is a concern. Various options are considered for improvement.