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*Hanna Heljala*  
*Statistics Finland*  
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*Role of Business Registers*

***Business Register within an Integrated Business Statistics Production System***

**Abstract**

At Statistics Finland, the Business Register has long served as an important data source and a sampling frame to all business and economic statistics as well as to a variety of population and social statistics. In addition, Business Register data – on aggregated and micro level – is regularly delivered outside the institute to various users and interest groups.

Since 2013, the central role of the Business Register was further strengthened as an integrated business statistics production system with Business Register as its core was implemented. Within an extensive revision project since 2010, the whole production process of business statistics from data collection to data publishing was renewed. Revisions included harmonization of methods and practices as well as elimination of overlapping work phases within and between different statistical domains.

The integrated system consists of a production database and a common data warehouse, where all the relevant business statistics are connected. The statistics covered include Business Register, Structural Business and Financial Statement Statistics, Regional Statistics, International Trade in Services, FATS statistics, Commodity (PRODCOM) Statistics and parts of Short Term Statistics. Data warehouse also serves as an input for several other statistics as well as National Accounts.

The system provides all the statistics with the same data content in order to produce consistent business statistics. Unit structures, as well as classifications and concepts used in several statistics were further harmonized during the revision project. One main idea of the integrated system is not to allow parallel unit structures, classifications and characteristics data within different business statistics, creating also the need for corrections in one place only.

The paper will present the integrated business statistics production system and Business Register's role within it. The most significant changes in the Business Register working practices, methods and data content are studied. Additionally, the main advantages as well as challenges of having a common, integrated business statistics production system are discussed from the point of view of the Business Register.