

Country Profile on Economic Census

1. Name of Country: South Africa

2. Name of Agency Responsible for Economic Census: Statistics South Africa

3. Description of Economic Census Objectives:

- a) To measure the contribution of the sector to the national economy,
- b) To benchmark national accounts aggregates, e.g. the gross domestic product (GDP),
- c) To develop, monitor and evaluate government plans and policies,
- d) To analyse the economy or industry and conduct research.

4. Legal Mandate or Regulations for Conducting Economic Census:

The Statistics Act, 1999 (Act No. 6 of 1999) is used to conduct the large sample surveys. It covers the following:

- a) The provision of the information sought is compulsory (section 16),
- b) The provided information remains confidential to Stats SA (section 17), and
- c) Failure to provide the information or to keep the provided information can result in a fine not exceeding R20 000.00 or imprisonment for a maximum period of six months.

5. Coverage

5.1 Statistical unit

The statistical unit is an enterprise. An **enterprise** is defined as a legal entity or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its production activities.

5.2 Coverage

All public and private enterprises (with or without employees) that are registered for tax and are mainly involved in the following activities:

Industry
Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing
Mining and quarrying
Manufacturing
Electricity, gas and water supply
Construction
Wholesale and retail; repair of motor vehicles, motor cycles and personal and household goods; hotels and restaurants
Transport, post and communication
Financial intermediation, insurance, real estate and business services
Community, social and personal services

6. Content

6.1 Key data variables:

1. General information
 - 1.1 Physical location
 - 1.2 Type of ownership
 - 1.3 Financial year period
 - 1.4 Main activity of enterprise
2. Employment
 - 2.1 Employment by gender
 - 2.2 Full-time or part-time employment
3. Income items
 - 3.1 Sales of goods
 - 3.2 Services rendered
 - 3.3 Rental and leasing of land, buildings and other structures
 - 3.4 Operational leasing and hiring of plant, machinery and equipment
 - 3.5 Operational leasing and hiring of motor vehicles and other transport equipment
 - 3.6 Interest received
 - 3.7 Dividends received
 - 3.8 Royalties, franchise fees, copyright, trade names and patent rights received
 - 3.9 Subsidies and incentives received from government
 - 3.10 Other income

4. Expenditure items
 - 4.1 Purchases
 - 4.2 Gross salaries and wages
 - 4.3 Interest paid
 - 4.4 Rental of buildings, land and other structures
 - 4.5 Depreciation
 - 4.6 Repairs and maintenance
 - 4.7 Other expenditure

5. Inventories
 - 5.1 Opening stocks
 - 5.2 Closing stocks

6. Assets and liabilities

7. Book value of assets and capital expenditure on fixed assets and intangible assets

8. Details of purchases

9. Details of sales (quantity and currency values)

The content of the questionnaires remain more or less the same for all the industries.

6.2 Number of questionnaires

In most of the surveys we use one questionnaire, but in 'manufacturing' we use 49 questionnaires for various products. The 2005 retail and wholesale survey will have a maximum of 50 different questionnaires.

7. Frequency

The large sample surveys every three years will be conducted every three years according to the following program:

Industry	Year				
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing					X
Mining			X		
Manufacturing				X	
Electricity and Water					X
Construction			X		
Trade					
Motor Trade	X				X
Wholesale and retail trade				X	
Accommodation			X		
Transport	X				
Communication	X				
Real estate and business services		X			X
Other community, social & personal services			X		

Note: The schedule aims to cover all the economic sectors every three years to enable the benchmarking of National Accounts every three years.

8. Methods

8.1 Collection

- The questionnaires are first dispatched by mail.
- Follow-ups are made by phone, fax and e-mail.
- Visits are made to assist enterprises with the completion of questionnaires.

8.2 Sample or Census

- A sample (not the whole population) is enumerated.
- 'Large' enterprises are completely enumerated.
- Value-added tax (VAT) or income tax (IT) is used as a measure of size.

Note: A 'large' enterprise is defined using tax turnover and guidelines by the Department of Trade and Industry.

8.3 Quality assurance

The figures are compared with:

- annual figures,
- short-term (monthly and quarterly), and
- any relevant external sources.

The figures are also sent to the agency's 'Methods and standards' division for comment.

9. Data products

9.1 Publication

Figures are published at national level in a statistical release. For some of the surveys, products are published in a report.

9.2 Online availability

The publications are available online on Stats SA's website: www.statssa.gov.za

10. Uses and users of Economic Census data

Users	Use
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- National Accounts' and other divisions within Stats SA,- South African Reserve Bank (SARB) (central bank)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- As source data to compile National Accounts aggregates, e.g. GDP- To benchmark national accounts and other indices- Quality assurance
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Government (National, provincial and local)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- To develop, monitor and evaluate government policies, programs and projects
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- To analyse the economy or industry and conduct research
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Business sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- To conduct comparative analysis

