
Integrated systems for economic systems – learning from the past

UN workshop on Economic Census 28 July 2005

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UK Office for National Statistics

CENSUS OF PRODUCTION.

Part 3.

FINAL REPORT

ON THE

FIRST CENSUS OF PRODUCTION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM (1907).

WITH TABLES.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.



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Early Censuses of Production

Censuses of Production

Pre 2WW: 1907; 1912; 1924; 1930; 1935

Post 2WW: 1948; 1951; 1954; 1958; 1963; 1968

Full censuses every 5 years with small surveys in annually

Censuses of Distribution 1951; 1961; 1971

Annual 'business unit' surveys from the mid 1950s

New system of industrial statistics from 1972

1980s and 1990s: cuts and reviews

- **Reductions in sample sizes**
- **Expansion of service statistics**
- **Establishment of the IDBR; Separation of collection**
- **Introduction of common methodology and processing**

Annual Business Inquiry

- **Comprehensive across industries**
- **Common methodologies, definitions and standards**

Supported by organisational change

- **Formation of ONS in 1996**
- **Establishment of Sources Directorate in 2003**

Some common themes

Over the 100 years of development:

- Concern about compliance costs
- Greater use of sampling
- More comprehensive coverage of services
- Greater integration
- Improved timeliness

Drivers and pressures

Strategic developments

- World class methods and tools
- Modernisation – systems, organisation
- Relocation and efficiency

Supplier pressures

- Deregulation and compliance
- Fragmentation from devolution
- E-collection expectations
- Disclosure issues
- Out of date legislation

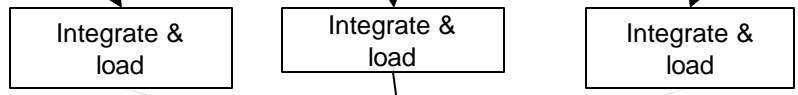
Customer drivers

- Regions and services
- More relevant and more possible data linking
- Europe focus
- New policies – public sector performance, pensions
- Complexity of the economy
- Transparency of methods

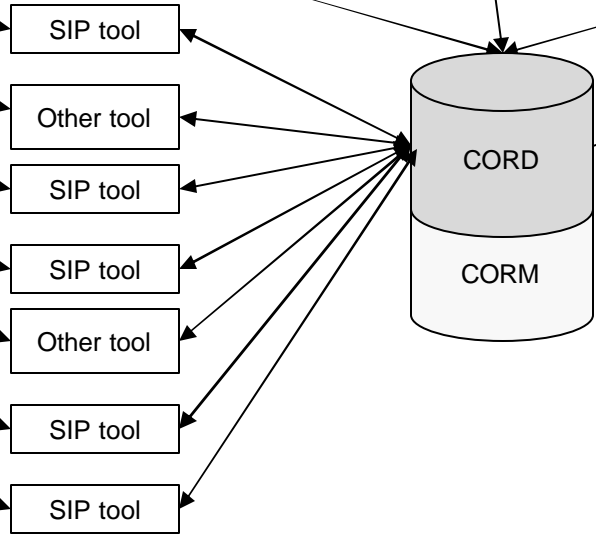
Statistical Modernisation Programme (SMP)

To deliver a world class statistical infrastructure for ONS using:

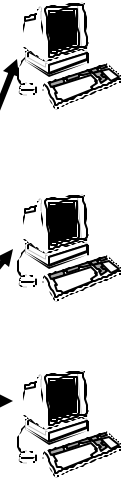
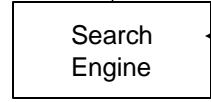
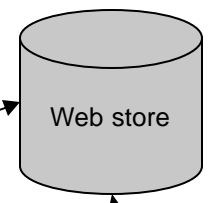
- A corporate database system (CORD)
- Re-engineered key statistical systems
- A set of standard tools
- Standardised and systematised processing and presentation of statistical outputs



Systematised Process



Outputs Infrastructure



Workflow management

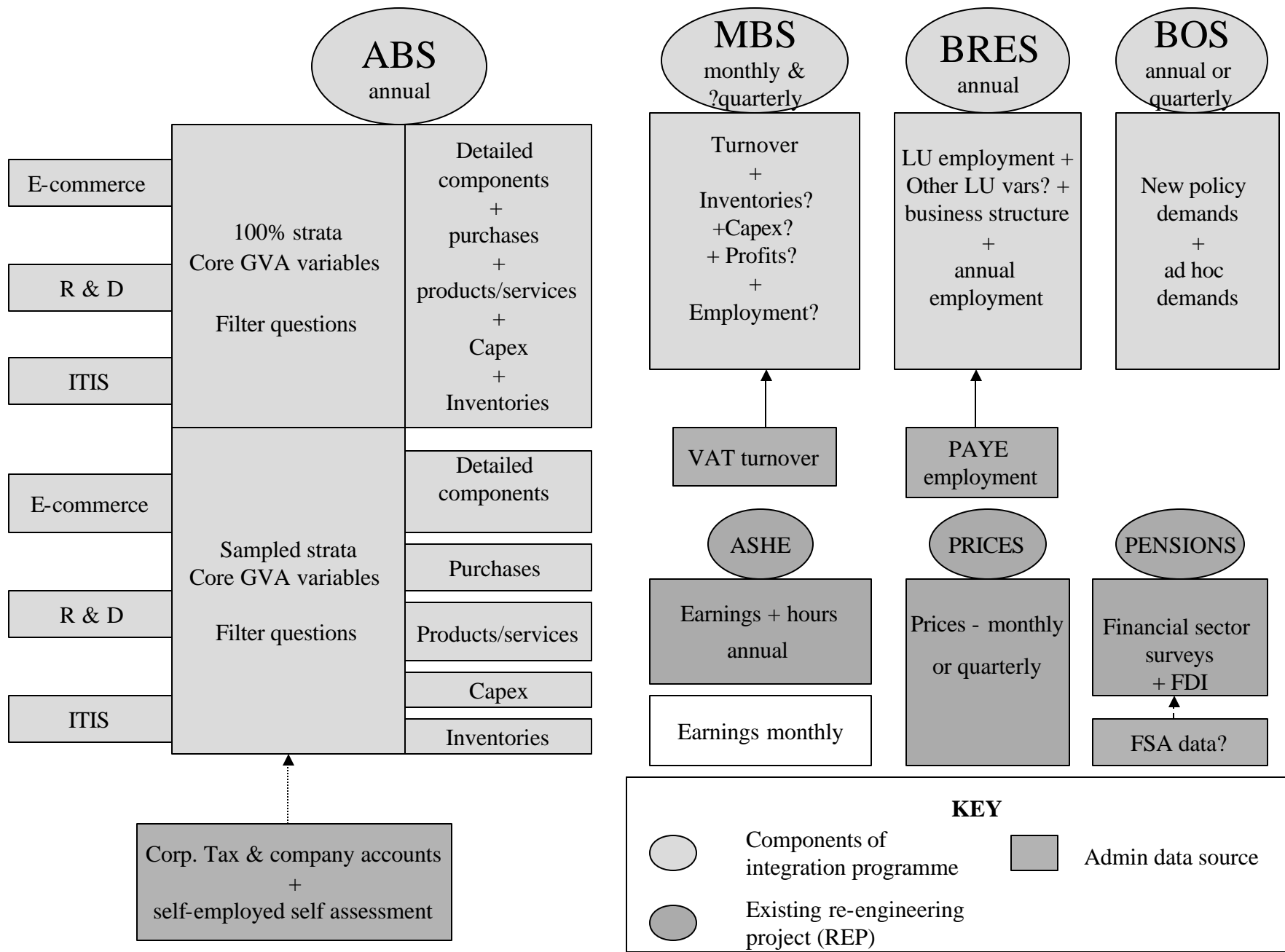
Statistical Data Processing System

Achieving the benefits of modernisation

Two major projects proposed to realise these additional gains for business surveys:

- Re-engineering the Inter-Departmental Business Register
- A Business Surveys Integration Project (BSIP) - a redesigned and integrated portfolio of business surveys

Future long-term vision of business data sources



The new Annual Business Survey

The new ABS would have the following features:

- Core questions - focusing on value added
- Filter questions - to identifying rare variables - R&D, IT IS etc.
- Modular questions: some businesses asked one set, others another
- Large businesses - provide all information
- Middle size businesses - provide information for the modules
- Smaller businesses – will use tax data.