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Background document
Available in English only

Report on the 2025 Global Assessment of Statistical Business Registers

Prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division

Report on the 2025 Global Assessment of Statistical Business Registers

I. Introduction

1. This report summarizes the key findings of the Global Assessment of Statistical Business Registers, which was conducted by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) under the auspices of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics (UNCEBTS)[1]. The assessment evaluates the status of implementation of the statistical business register (SBR) across countries and identifies priority areas for technical assistance and methodological guidance development in the future.

2. The United Nations Statistical Commission at its fifty-third session in 2022 endorsed the launching of a regular global assessment of the status of implementation of SBR in countries and encouraged close coordination with the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers and other relevant groups (decision 53/119 E/2022/24-E/CN.3/2022/41)[2].

3. This global assessment was conducted between 11 April and 16 May 2025 through a questionnaire distributed to national statistical offices. The questionnaire was developed by the Task Team on Statistical Business Registers (TT-SBR) under UNCEBTS in close collaboration with the Wiesbaden Group. It is based on the self-assessment questionnaire of the Manual on the Maturity Model for Statistical Business Registers[3] and the Country Progress Report. The list of responding countries and the questionnaire are available in Annex I and III, respectively.

4. This report is organized as follows: Section II presents an executive summary; Section III presents an overall summary of the results of the Global Assessment; Section IV provides the next steps based on the assessment results.

II. Key Findings

5. This section presents a summary of the key findings derived from the 2025 assessment.

- **Response rate:** A total of 105 responses were received from 104 countries or areas in 2025, representing a significant increase in total response compared to the last two Wiesbaden Group meetings.
- **Establishment and Maintenance**: 98 responses from 97 countries or areas reported the year their SBR was established. Of these, 72 indicated that their maintenance and update procedures are well established and regularly reviewed.

[1] https://unstats.un.org/unsd/business-stat/UNCEBTS.cshtml
[2] https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/53rd-session/documents/2022-41-FinalReport-E.pdf#page=28
[3] https://unstats.un.org/unsd/business-stat/UNCEBTS/Documents/Manual_on_the_MM_for_SBR_final_Web.pdf

- **Data sources:** Over 90% of respondents indicated the use of administrative data, censuses or surveys as data sources for the SBR. Survey-based data source (86 respondents), together with administrative sources from "Business registers (Company registration data)" (86 respondents) and "Taxation data" (85 respondents), are the most utilized data sources, underscoring the critical roles these datasets play in SBR maintenance.
- **Statistical units and size:** The most common statistical unit identified was enterprises, cited by 89 responses. A key trend observed period from 2023 to 2025 is the notable emergence of smaller-sized registers, with approximately half of the respondents (46 respondents) reported having 500,000 or fewer active enterprises in their SBR.
- **Coverage**: Coverage of both non-financial corporations and financial corporations is relatively high in the SBR, where nearly 90% of respondents indicated they have either complete or partial coverage of these sectors. In contrast, the households sector shows significantly lower coverage, reported by only about 50% of respondents.
- **Geospatial information**: Geospatial information is included by 77 respondents with "Area code / Postal code / Geographical location code" being the most frequently used type.
- **Survey Frames**: Almost all respondents (97%) reported using SBR to create consistent frames for business surveys, confirming the crucial role of SBR as the foundational infrastructure for these surveys.
- **Development plan**: The most common cited focus area of development in 2024 and future plans are "Maintenance and update of the SBR", "Data sources for the SBR" and "IT Environment".
- **Challenges: "**Data sources for the SBR" was identified as the main challenge for the development and maintenance of SBR, in addition to "Maintenance and update of the SBR" and "IT Environment". "Legal and institutional framework" received a notably higher number of responses compared to the progress and planning sections, implying this area remains a significant structure hurdle for many respondents
- **Maturity assessment:** In the self-assessment of SBR maturity, Dimension 1(Legal and institutional framework) received the highest number of "Advanced Stage" responses. In contrast, Dimension 4 (Coverage of the SBR) and Dimension 7 (Interoperability) were most frequently categorized as "Preliminary Stage".

III. Summary of Results

6. The global assessment integrates questions from two key sources: 1) the Country Progress Report and 2) the self-assessment based on the Manual on the Maturity Model for Statistical Business Registers.

7. The Country Progress Report has long been used by the Wiesbaden Group to survey the development status of SBR and identify emerging activities for future meetings. The self-assessment questionnaire (from the Manual on the Maturity Model for Statistical Business Registers) is a multi-dimensional tool designed to assist National Statistical Offices in evaluating their SBR development across seven dimensions that characterize an SBR.

8. This section is organized into the three sub-sections: Sub-section III-I presents a summary of the geographic coverage of the respondent information; Sub-section III-II presents the results pertaining to questions related to the Country Progress Report, and Subsection III-III presents the results pertaining to questions related to self-assessment of the Manual on the Maturity Model for Statistical Business Registers. The complete questionnaire is available in Annex III. Percentages reported in this section are calculated based on the number of respondents for each question.

III-I. Geographical Coverage of the Responses

9. A total of **105** responses were received from **104** countries or areas. As shown in Table 1, the 2025 assessment saw a significant increase in total responses compared to the number of responses of the Country Progress Report from 2021 and 2023.

10. Table 1 and 2, along with Figure 1, show the geographical distribution of the total responses. Europe accounts for the largest share (33%, 35 responses), followed by Asia (30%, 31 responses), the Americas (18%, 19 responses), Africa (15%, 16 responses), and Oceania (4%, 4 responses).

Table 1. Number of Respondents by Geographic Region[4]

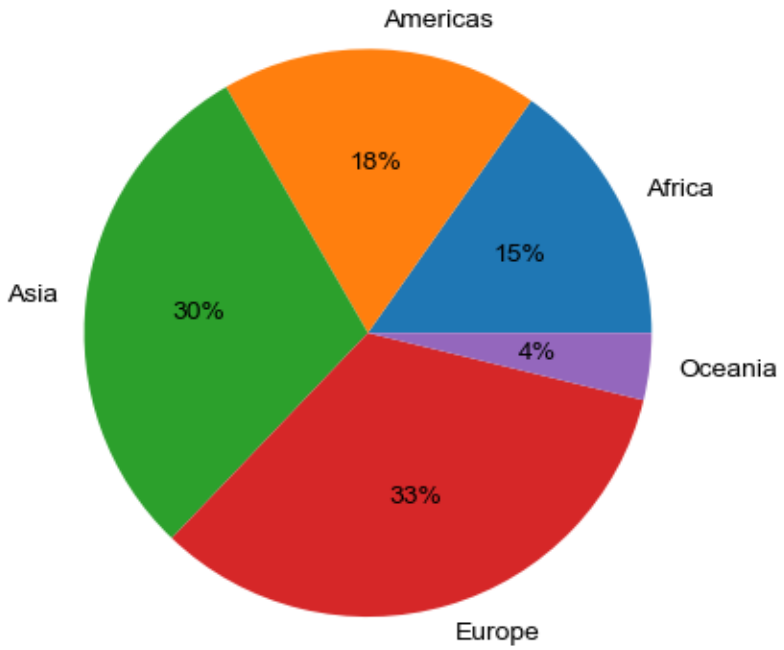
Region	2021	2023	2025
Africa	**3**	**5**	**16**
Americas	**20**	**10**	**19**
Asia	**5**	**11**	**31**
Europe	**22**	**31**	**35**
Oceania	**2**	**3**	**4**
Total	**52**	**60**	**105**

[4] The assignment of countries or areas to specific groupings is for statistical convenience and does not imply any assumption regarding political or other affiliation of countries or territories by the United Nations.

Table 2. Percentage of Responding Countries or Areas by Geographic Region[5]

Region	2021	2023	2025
Africa	**6%**	**9%**	**30%**
Americas	**57%**	**29%**	**51%**
Asia	**10%**	**23%**	**65%**
Europe	**51%**	**72%**	**81%**
Oceania	**14%**	**21%**	**29%**
Total	**27%**	**31%**	**54%**

Figure 1. Regional Share of Respondents

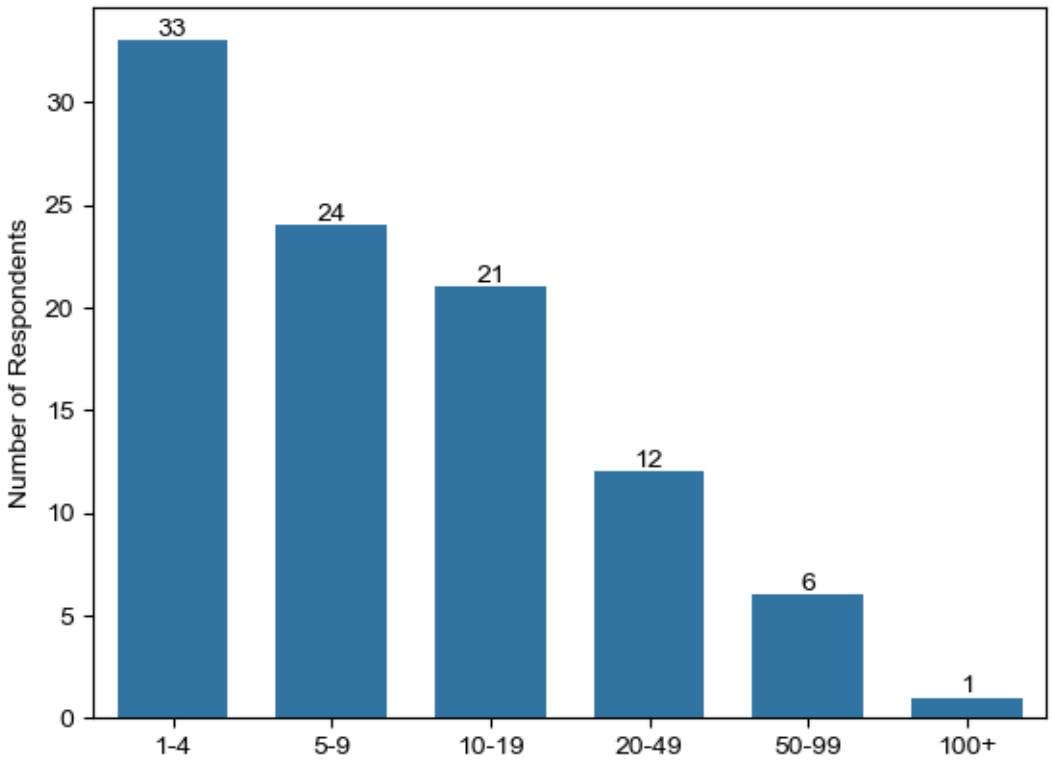


[5] The assignment of countries or areas to specific groupings is for statistical convenience and does not imply any assumption regarding political or other affiliation of countries or territories by the United Nations. Also, in this table, the percentage is calculated by counting the two different responses submitted by one country as a single entry.

III-II. Country Progress Reports

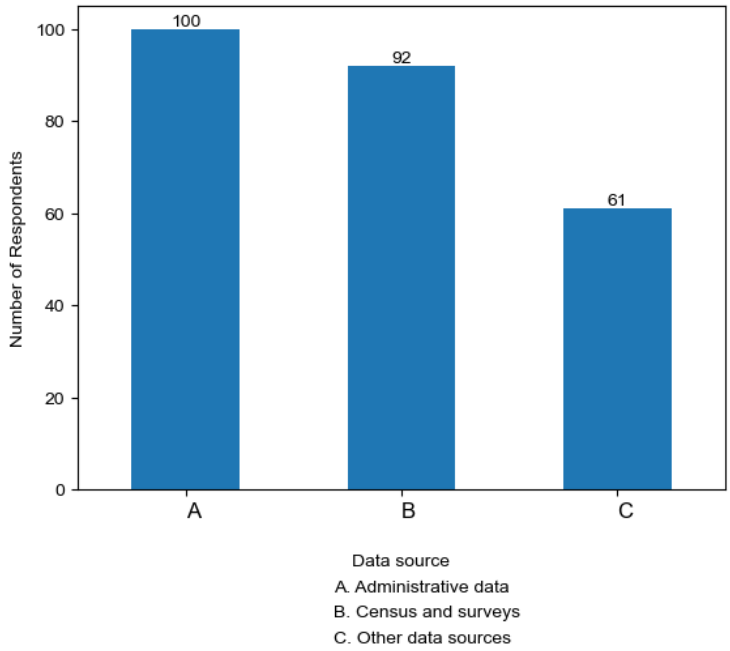
11. The assessment asked respondents to indicate the number of employees in their register unit has. As shown in Figure 2, the most common size of the register unit is small, with 33 respondents reported having 1-4 employees, followed by "5-9" (24 respondents), "10-19" (21 respondents) and "20-49" (12 respondents). Larger units were less common, with 6 reported "50-99" employees and just one reported "100+".

Figure 2. Number of Total Employees in the Register Unit (Headcount Employees)



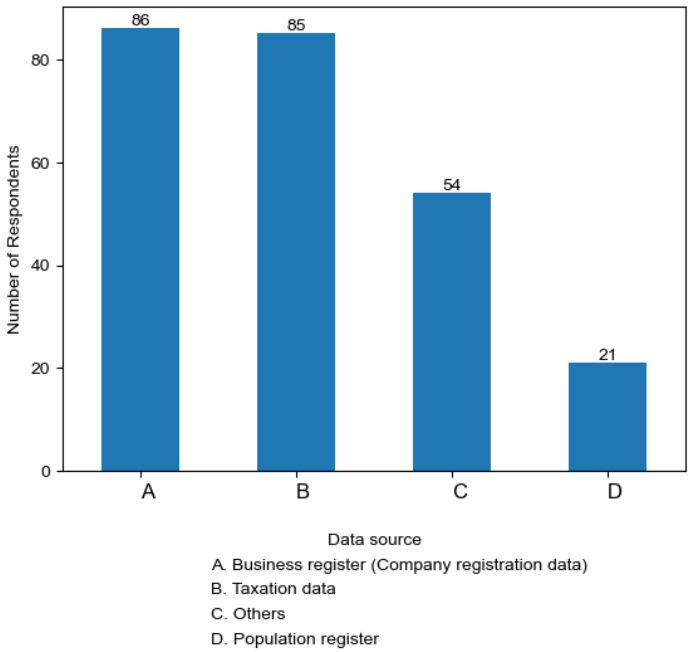
12. Respondents were asked to identify the data sources for their SBR. According to Figure 3, administrative data, censuses and surveys remain the primary data sources of SBR, utilized by more than 90% of respondents.

Figure 3. Types of Data Sources Used in SBR



13. Regarding specific administrative data sources, Figure 4 shows that the most utilized administrative sources are “Business registers (Company registration data)” (86 respondents) and “Taxation data” (85 respondents), underscoring the critical roles of these datasets play in SBR maintenance.

Figure 4. Types of Data Sources among Administrative Data



14. When asked how frequently respondents use specific administrative data sources for SBR update, the most common reporting frequency for "Business register (company registration data)" was "Less than one month" (31%), followed by "Monthly" (23%) and "Annually" (22%). For "Taxation data", the most frequent response was "Annually" (32%), with another 29% reporting monthly update (see Figure 5 and Figure 6).

Figure 5. Update Frequency from Business Register (Company Registration Data)

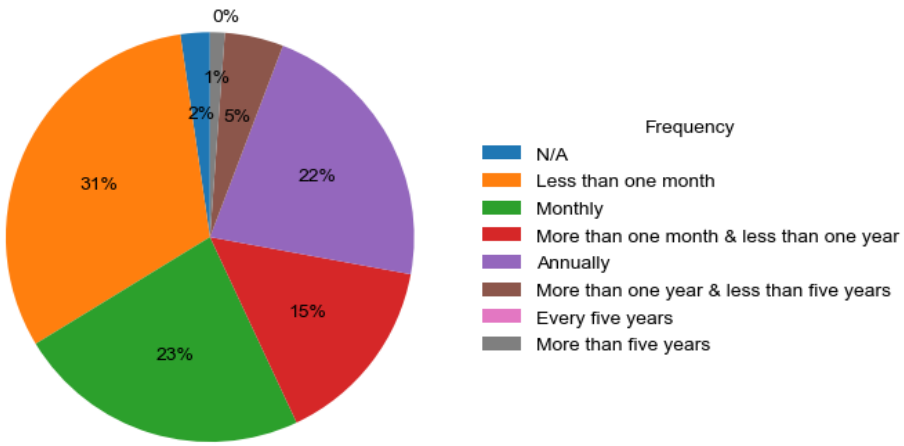
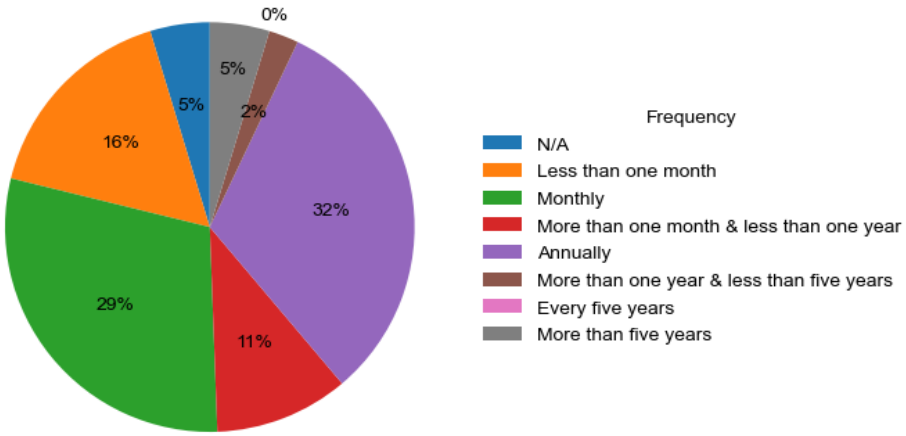
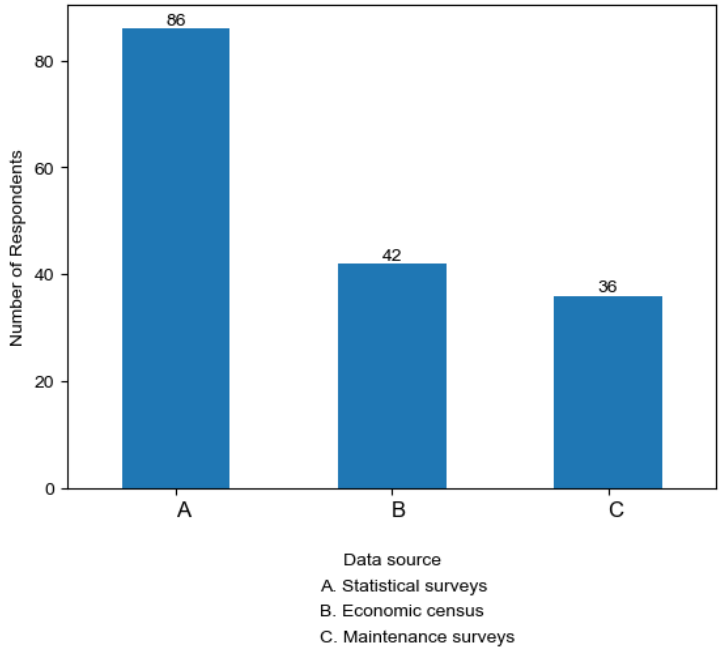


Figure 6. Update Frequency from Taxation Data



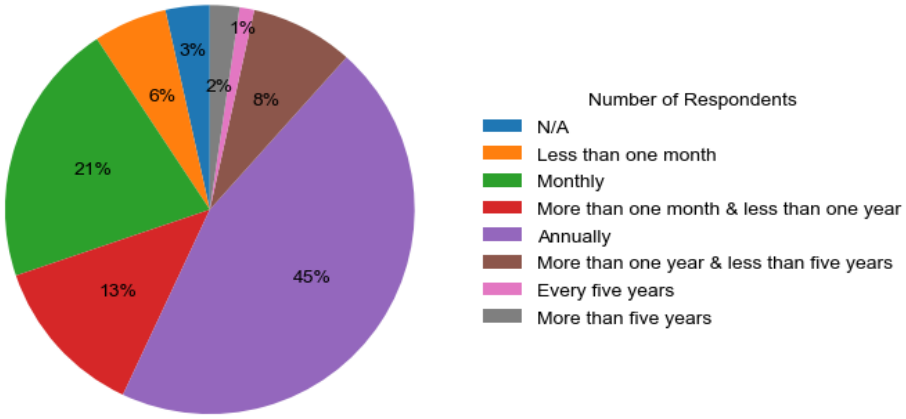
15. Figure 7 details the use of censuses and survey-based data as the data sources for SBR: 86 respondents reported using "Statistical surveys", whereas 42 cite the "Economic census" as a source.

Figure 7. Types of Data Sources among Censuses and Surveys



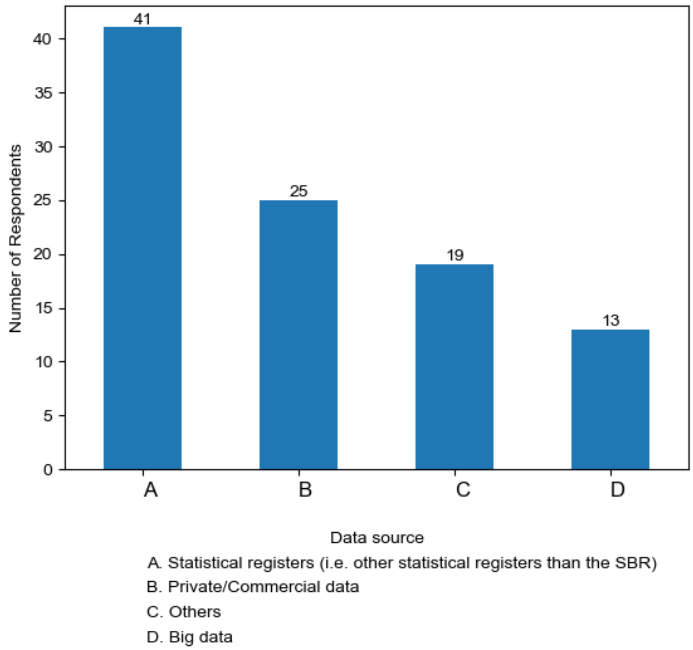
16. When asked how frequently respondent use survey-based data for the SBR update, the primary update frequency is “Annually” (45%), while 21% reported updating “Monthly” (Figure 8).

Figure 8. Update Frequency from Statistical Surveys



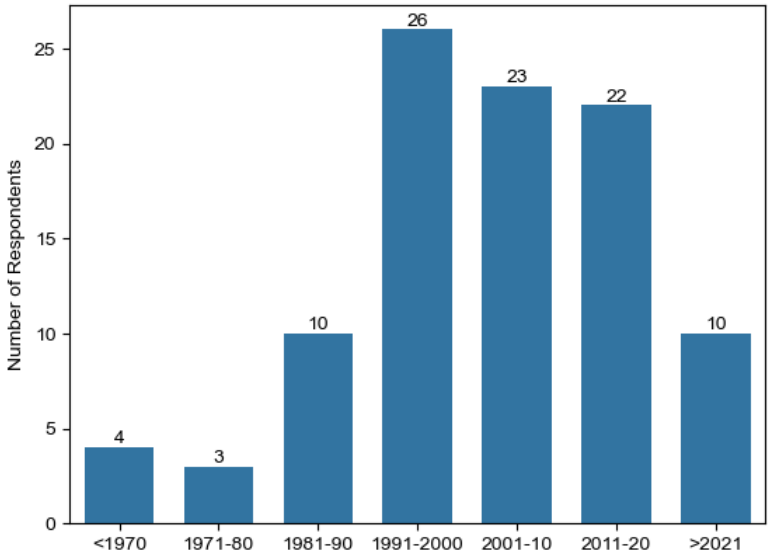
17. Use of alternative data sources is less common. Figure 9 shows that fewer respondents rely on other data sources. “Statistical registers” were cited by 41 respondents, followed by “Private/commercial data” (25), “Others” (19), and “Big data” (13).

Figure 9. Types of Data Sources among Other Data Sources



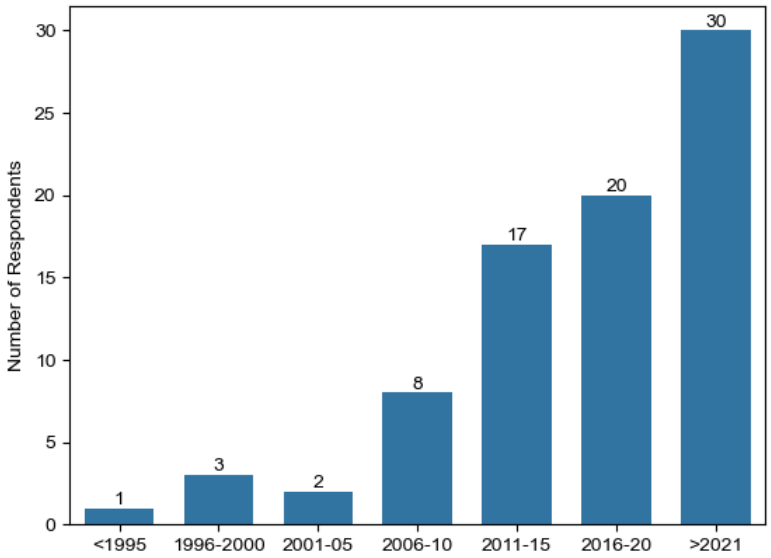
18. The assessment asked when the SBR was established. A total of 98 responses from 97 countries or areas confirmed that an SBR has been established in their institutions. As shown in Figure 10, the highest activity for SBR establishment was between 1991 and 2000 (26 respondents), followed by 2001-2010 (23 respondents) and 2011-2020 (18 respondents).

Figure 10. Year of Establishment of the Register



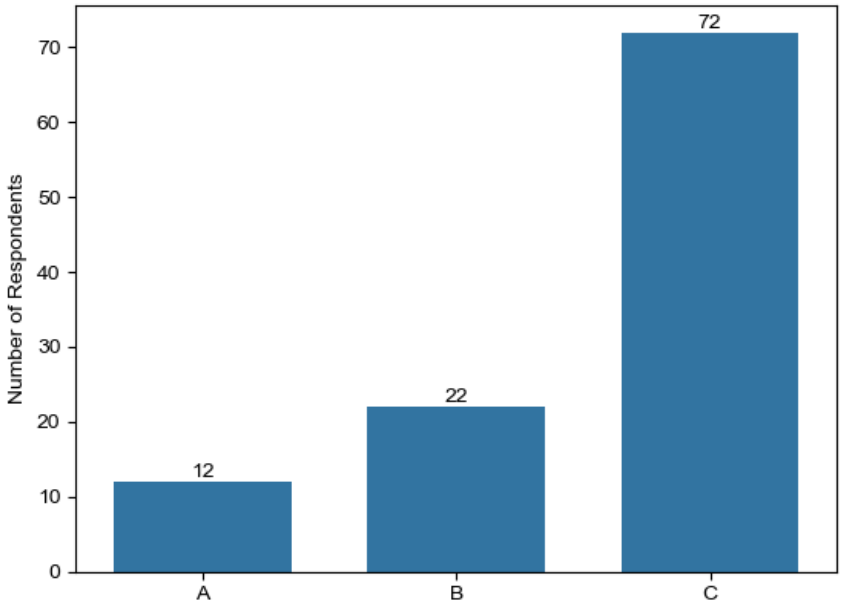
19. The assessment also asked about the timing of the most recent reengineering. Figure 11 shows that majority of recent updates occurred in 2021 or later (30 respondents), followed by the period 2016-2020 (20 respondents) and 2011-15 (17 respondents).

Figure 11. Year of the Latest Reengineering of the Register



20. Of the 98 respondents who reported their SBR establishment year, 72 respondents indicated their procedures are well established (option C) as shown in Figure 12. Meanwhile, 22 respondents indicated they are still in the process of developing procedures (Option B/combinations), and 12 noted irregular updates (Option A). Five respondents provided no selection.

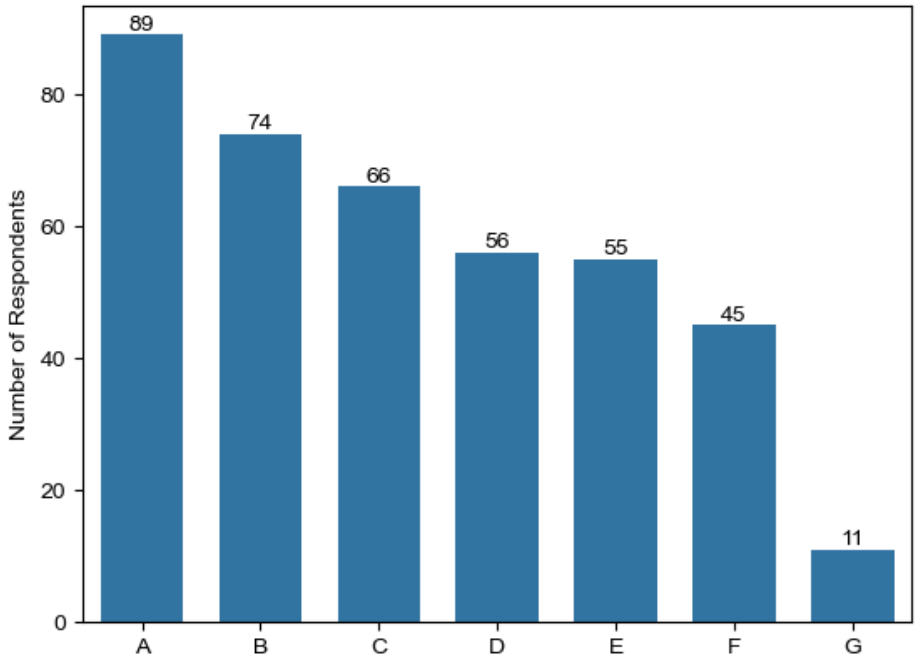
Figure 12. Maintenance and update procedures



A. The SBR is updated irregularly with no agreed procedures or schedule.
B. Maintenance and updating procedures are not well established and continuously reviewed, but under development.
C. The maintenance and update procedures are well established and regularly reviewed.

21. The assessment asked which statistical units can be identified in the SBR, either directly or via linking the SBR with another data source. Figure 13 illustrates that “Enterprises” were the most common unit (89 respondents), followed by “Legal units” (74), “Local units" (66), “Enterprise groups” (56), “Kind-of-activity Units” (55), and “Establishments (Local Kind-of-activity Units)” (45).

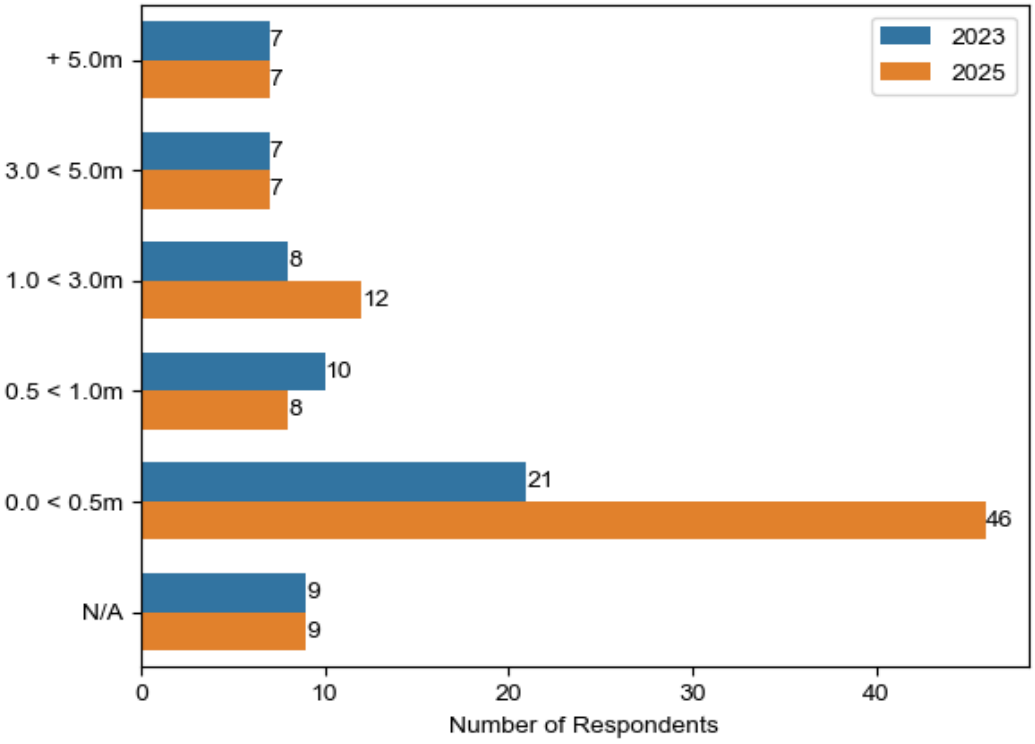
Figure 13. Statistical Units Which Can be Identified in the SBR or by Linking the SBR with Another Data Source



A. Enterprises
B. Legal units
C. Local Units
D. Enterprise groups
E. Kind-of-activity Units
F. Establishments(Local Kind-of-activity Units)
G. Others

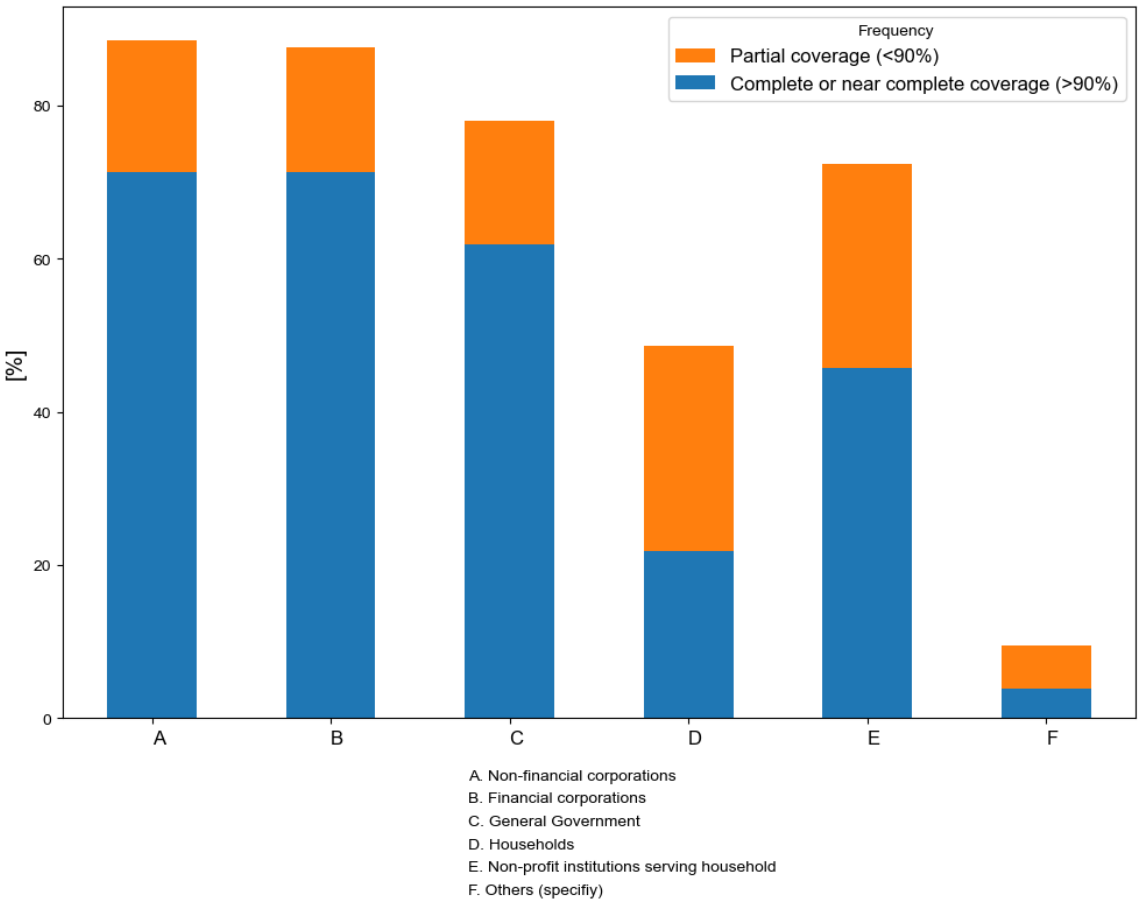
22. Regarding the size of the SBR, 46 reported having fewer than 500,000 active units (see Figure 14). This reflects a key trend observed during the period from 2023 to 2025: the notable emergence of smaller-sized registers.

Figure 14. Change in the Size of the SBR from 2023 to 2025, in Millions of Active Units (Enterprises)



23. The assessment inquired about the extent of SBR coverage. Figure 15 illustrates that coverage for both "non-financial corporations" and "financial corporations" is extensive, with nearly 90% of respondents reporting complete or partial coverage. In contrast, the "households" sector shows significant lower coverage, reported by only about 50% of respondents.

Figure 15. SBR Coverage



24. Figure 16 shows that 77 respondents include geospatial information in the SBR. Figure 17 details the specific methods: the most common is "Area code / Postal code / Geographical location code" (66 respondents), followed by "x-y coordinates" (38). Additionally, 29 respondents rely on links with other registers that have geospatial coordinates.

Figure 16. Types of Information Included in the SBR

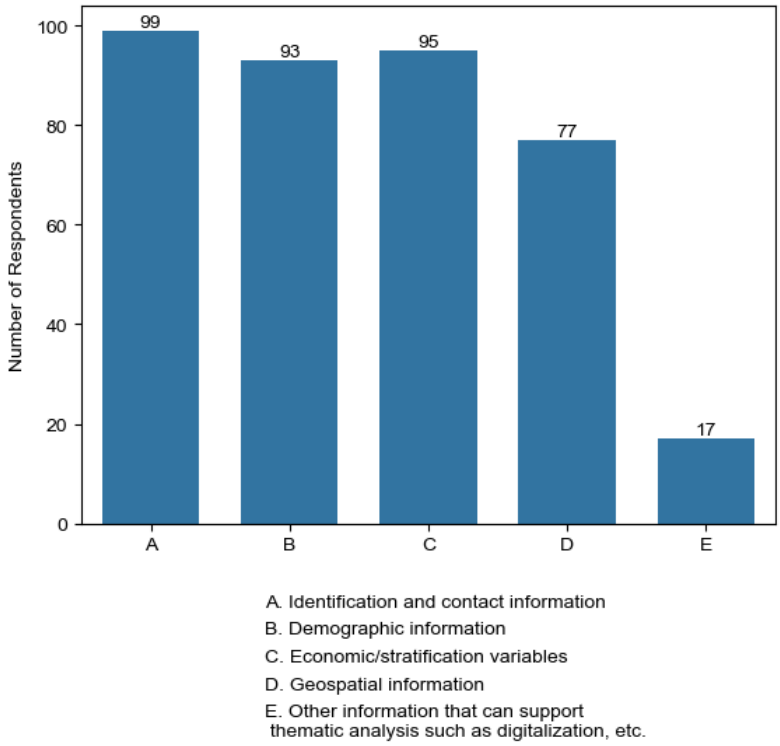
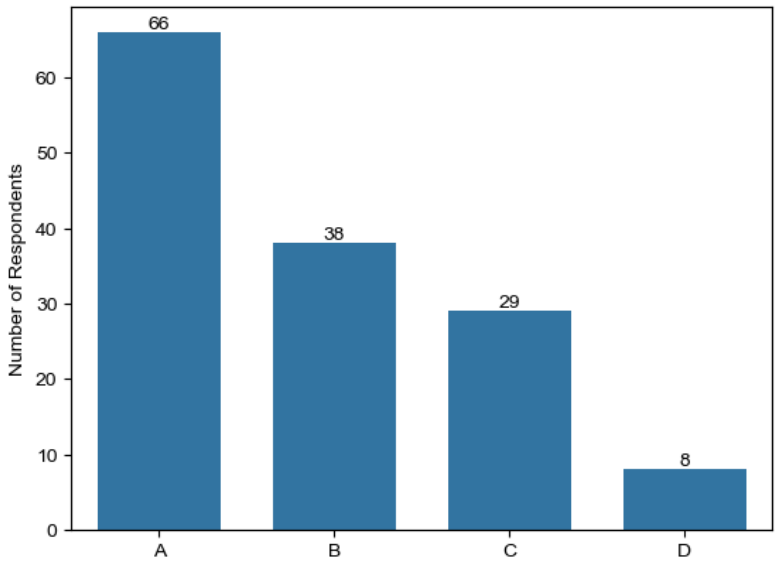


Figure 17. Types of Information Included in the SBR among "Geospatial Information"



A. Area code / Postal code / Geographical location code

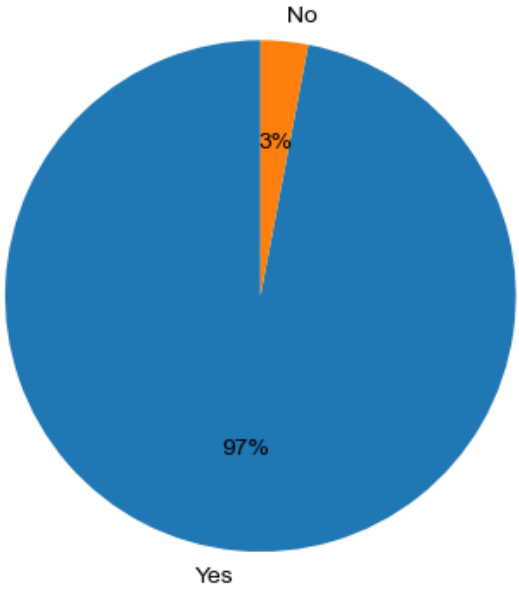
B. x-y coordinates

C. Link(s) with other registers (e.g. address register, etc.) that have geospatial coordinates (or from which the geospatial coordinates of each unit can be established)

D. Others

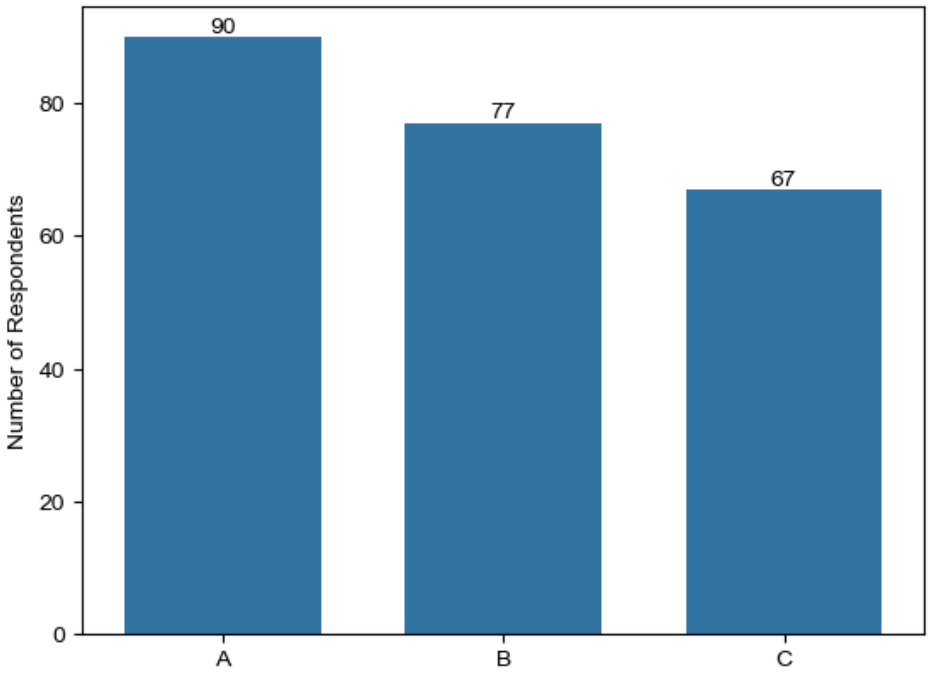
25. The assessment asked whether the SBR is used to create consistent frames for business surveys. Figure 18 shows that 97% respondents answered “Yes”, confirming that the SBR serves as the foundational infrastructure for business surveys.

Figure 18. Is the SBR used to create consistent frames for some business surveys?



26. Figure 19 highlights other critical functions of the SBR, 90 respondents indicated using SBR to create the frozen frame (snapshots) from which most economic surveys, including register-based census frames are drawn. Additionally, 77 respondents reported that business demography is compiled based on the SBR, and 67 respondents reported that the SBR is used to link to administrative data.

Figure 19. Are the following descriptions true for your country's SBR? (Select all that are applicable)



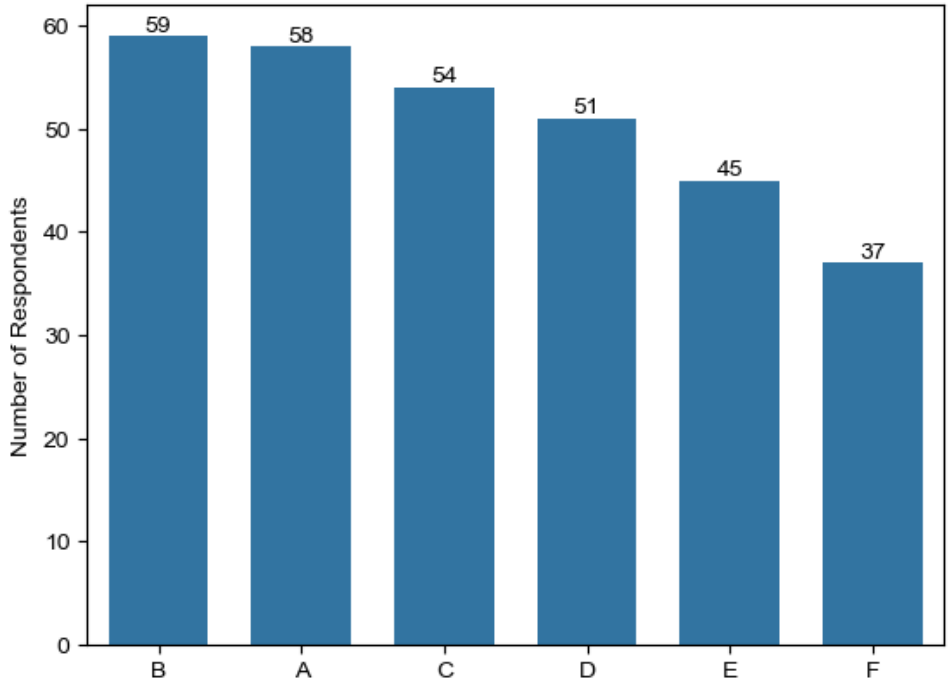
A. The SBR is used to create a snapshot/frozen frame from which most economic survey including register-based census frames are drawn

B. Business demography is compiled based on the SBR.

C. The SBR is used to link to administrative data.

27. The assessment also explored advanced uses of the SBR. Figure 20 illustrates that 59 respondents provide SBR access to researchers in line with legislation and the confidentiality principles of official statistics. 58 respondents reported the use of SBR as a tool for data exchange for statistical producers of official statistics. 54 indicated that SBR is used for microdata linking with other registers. However, 37 respondents reported their SBR contributes to the development of international or regional group registers, suggesting that cross-border utilization of SBR data remains limited.

Figure 20. Are the following descriptions true for your country's SBR? (Select all that are applicable)



A. The SBR (or part of the SBR) is released to researchers in line with legislation and the confidentiality principles of official statistics

B. The SBR is used as a tool for data exchange for statistical purposes among producers of official statistics

C. The SBR is used for microdata linking with other registers

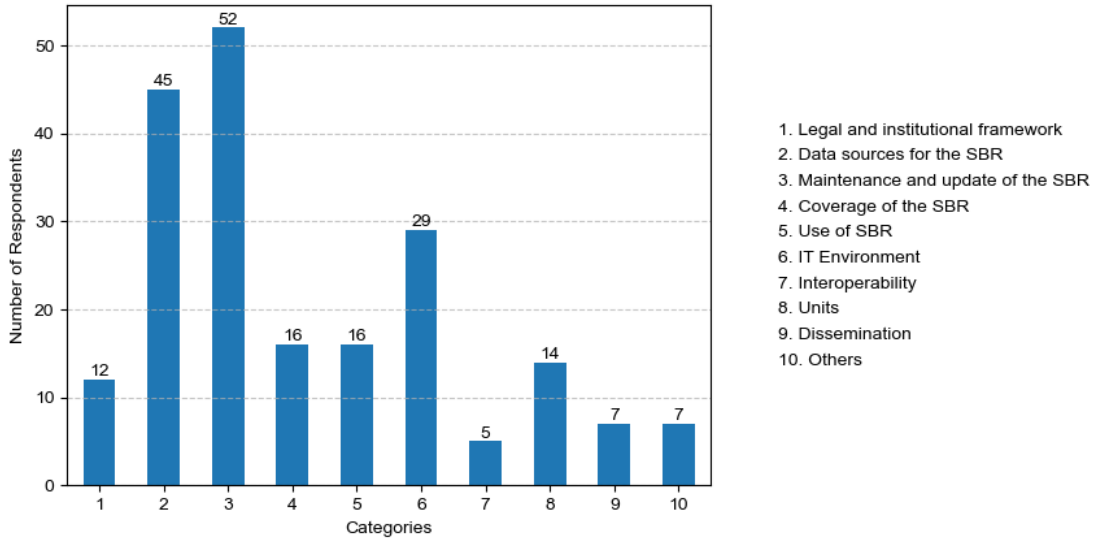
D. User feedback is regularly sought and incorporated into SBR improvement plans

E. The SBR (or part of the SBR) is publicly disseminated in line with legislation and the confidentiality principles of official statistics

F. The SBR contributes to the development of international or regional group registers

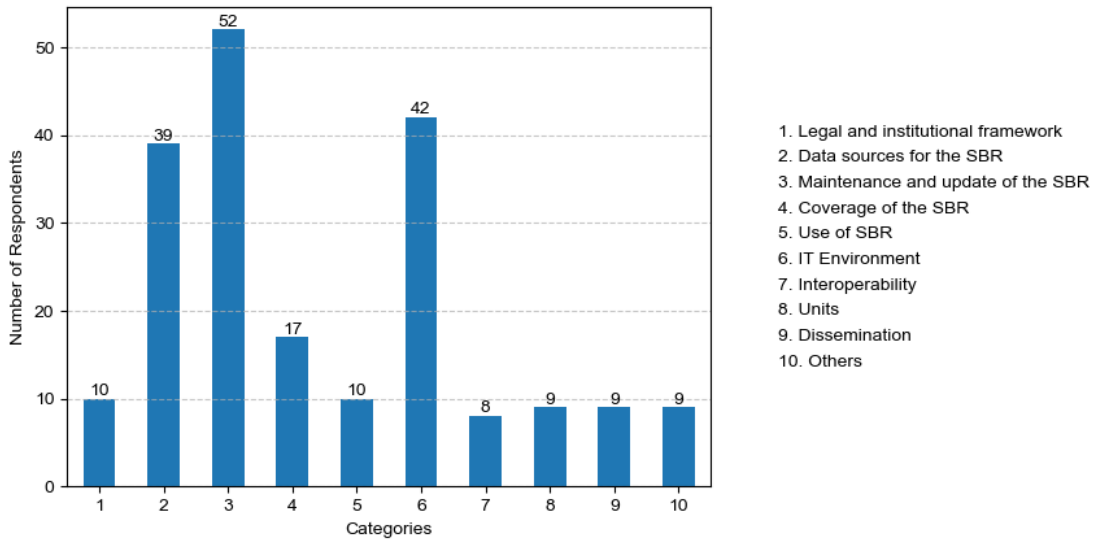
28. The assessment inquired about progress and development in 2024. 91 respondents reported progress and development in their SBR. As shown in Figure 21, the most common area of focus was “Maintenance and update of the SBR” (52 responses), followed by “Data sources for the SBR” (45) and “IT Environment” (29). In contrast, fewer activities were reported in “Interoperability”, “Dissemination” and “Legal and institutional framework”.

Figure 21. Progress and Development in 2024



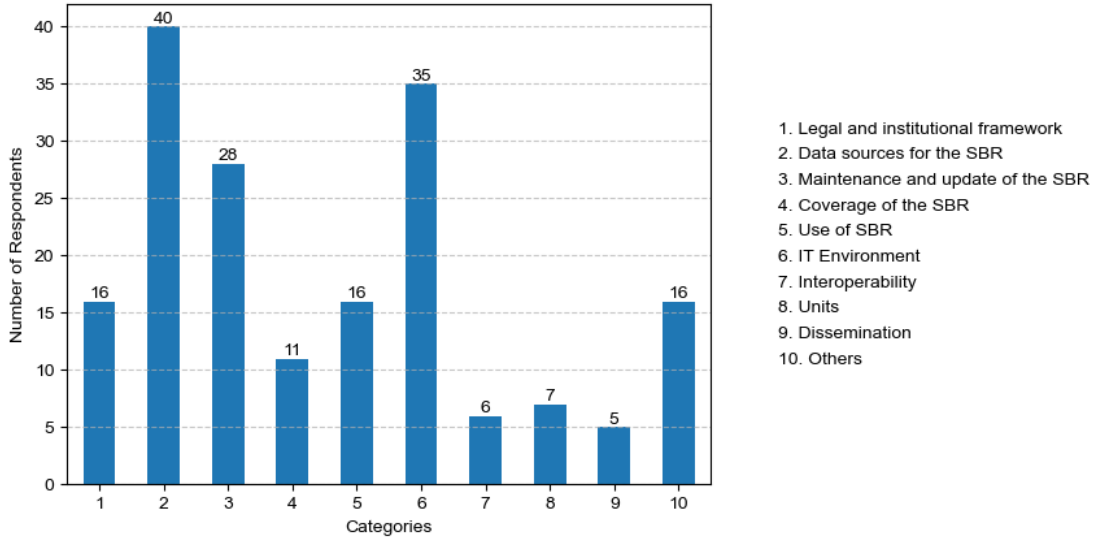
29. Regarding future plans for 2025, Figure 22 shows that the top 3 priority areas remain consistent with 2024, with “IT Environment” has moved up to become the second most common focus area.

Figure 22. Future Plans



30. Regarding the main challenges, Figure 23 shows that the top three concerns mirror those of the previous section, though the order differs: “Data sources for the SBR” ranks as the most common. Furthermore, “Legal and institutional framework” received a notably higher number of responses compared to the progress and planning sections, implying this area remains a significant structure hurdle for many respondents.

Figure 23. Main challenges



III-III. Outcome of Self-Assessment

31. Of the 105 responses received, 97 completed all relevant questions concerning the self-assessment on SBR development. These completed responses are therefore evaluated within the framework of the SBR Maturity Model based on the seven dimensions that characterize an SBR, namely:

- Dimension 1: Legal and institutional framework
- Dimension 2: Data sources for the SBR
- Dimension 3: Maintenance and update of the SBR
- Dimension 4: Coverage of the SBR
- Dimension 5: Use of SBR
- Dimension 6: IT environment
- Dimension 7: Interoperability

32. Table 3 presents the distribution of responses by maturity stage for each dimension. Dimension 1 recorded the highest number of "Advanced" stage with 74 responses, indicating strong progress in that area. In contrast, Dimension 4 and 7 showed higher levels of "Preliminary" stage responses compared to other dimensions, suggesting a need for further development and potential technical support in these areas.

Table 3. Number of Responses by Each Dimension and Each Stage

	Preliminary Stage	Early Stage	Mature Stage	Advanced Stage	N/A	Total
Dimension 1	5	23	0	74	3	105
Dimension 2	0	13	32	56	4	
Dimension 3	7	49	0	42	7	
Dimension 4	43	27	0	31	4	
Dimension 5	6	35	1	58	5	
Dimension 6	18	28	31	23	5	
Dimension 7	37	19	13	33	3	

33. To demonstrate the self-assessment process, UNSD conducted a case study using a response from an anonymized country ("Country A"). The analysis, included in Annex II, illustrates the status of SBR development in a real world context.

34. It is important to note that the self-assessment process is designed to be open and accessible. All steps and assessment criteria are detailed in the Manual on the Maturity Model for Statistical Business Registers. As such, Annex II serves as a practical template for practitioners to conduct case study on their own SBR.

IV. Next Steps

35. A draft of this report was presented at the 29th Wiesbaden Group meeting, where the results of the Global Assessment were received favorably. Consequently, this final report will be submitted as a background document to the UN Statistical Commission at its 57th session in March 2026.

36. The SBR Global Assessment will be administered on a biennial basis by UNSD, under the auspices of the UNCEBTS in close collaboration with the Wiesbaden group. This ongoing assessment aims to gain a detailed understanding of global SBR implementation. Discussions are underway to assess the feasibility of translating the questionnaire in multiple languages to encourage responses.

37. Countries are encouraged to conduct a self-assessment on SBR development and report their findings, using the case study in Annex II as a documentation guide. Furthermore, countries are invited to share their experiences and best practices with each other and with UNSD for dissemination via the Global Repository of Practices for Business and Trade Statistics[6].

38. In line with past practices regarding the release of Country Progress Report responses, and subject to respondents' permission, UNSD will explore options to disseminate all individual responses on its website[7], ensuring proper anonymization procedures are followed.

[6] https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/UNCEBTS-global-repository-of-practices
[7] https://unstats.un.org/wiesbadengroup/cpr

Annex I. List of Responding Countries or Areas[8]

Algeria
Argentina
Armenia
Australia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bahamas
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belarus
Belgium
Belize
Bhutan
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Botswana
Brazil
Bulgaria
Cameroon
Canada
Chile
Colombia
Comoros
Croatia
Cyprus
Czechia
Dominican Republic
Egypt
Equatorial Guinea
Estonia
Fiji
Finland
France
Georgia
Germany
Greece
Honduras
Hungary
Iceland
India
Indonesia
Iraq
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Japan
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Kuwait
Latvia
Lebanon
Lesotho
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malawi
Malaysia
Malta
Mauritius
Mexico
Mongolia
Montenegro
Mozambique
Myanmar
Namibia
Nepal
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)
New Zealand
Nigeria
North Macedonia
Norway
Oman
Pakistan
Paraguay
Peru
Poland
Qatar
Republic of Korea
Republic of Moldova
Russian Federation
Samoa
Saudi Arabia
Serbia
Singapore
Slovenia
Somalia
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
State of Palestine
Suriname
Sweden
Switzerland
Thailand
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Türkiye
Ukraine
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America (Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Census Bureau)
Uruguay
Uzbekistan

[8] Two responses were received from the United States of America.

Annex II. Case Study on Country A

I. Introduction

This note draws on an actual response received by UNSD during the SBR global assessment conducted from April to May 2025. It examines the status of SBR development in a country, using the SBR Maturity Model. The name of the country has been omitted to maintain confidentiality.

From the complete responses received, UNSD randomly selected one developing country to serve as a case study. The goal is to demonstrate the practical use of the SBR Maturity Model in identifying areas for improvement. Other countries are encouraged to adopt a similar self-assessment approach to form the basis of their own national SBR development strategy.

This note is organized into six sections. Part I introduces the background, followed by an overview of the Country A's SBR status in Part II. Part III evaluates the self-assessment results across the seven dimensions of the SBR Maturity Model. Part IV outlines challenges Country A faces. Part V provides actionable recommendations to help Country A reach the mature stage in all dimensions. Part VI documents Country A's future SBR development plan.

II. Current Status of the SBR

Brief Description

The statistical business register of Country A was established in 2005 and has not yet undergone a major reengineering of the register. The register unit is currently staffed by 10 employees.

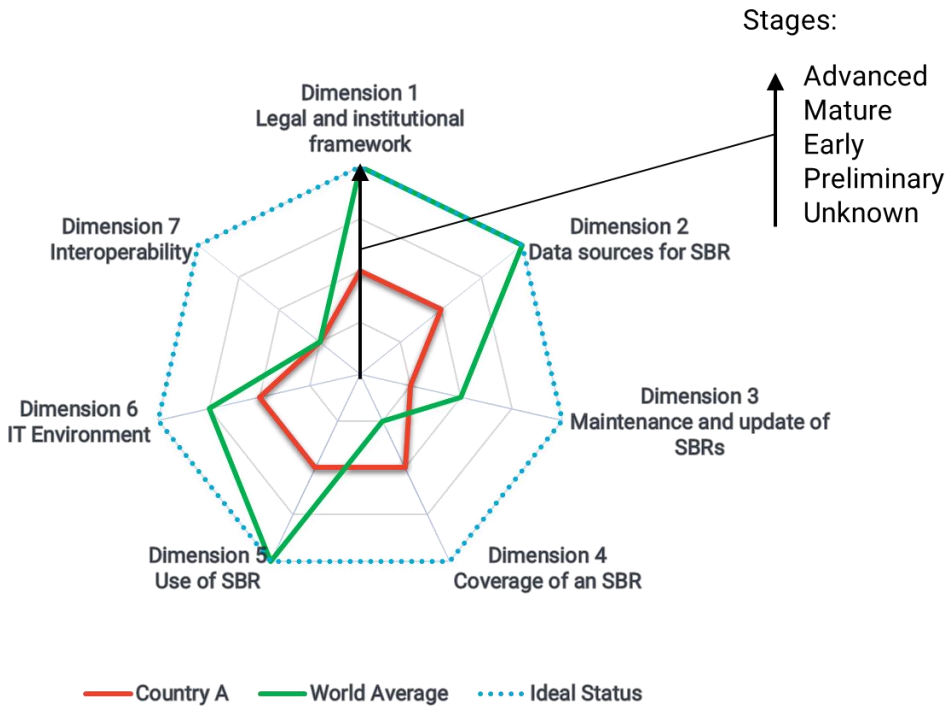
Recent Developments

Country A is assessing the feasibility of integrating secondary data sources, specifically administrative records, into the SBR. Multiple administrative data sources are available across government departments. The business register unit is targeting access to key datasets such as companies' data and tax data held by other institutions.

III. Outcome of the Self-Assessment

Overview

Figure 1 Visualized SBR Status



- [Dim 1, 5] Country A demonstrates a relatively proactive approach to data provision, facilitating user access to aggregated data and anonymized unit-record data from the SBR.
- [Dim 2, 3] Economic Census is the only data source for the SBR in Country A, which is conducted at seven-to-eight years intervals.
- [Dim 4] While overall SBR coverage has room for improvement, specific data elements – particularly geospatial information – are rated as "Advanced" in Country A.
- [Dim 6] Although a foundational database structure is in place for Country A's SBR, there is potential for functional enhancement.
- [Dim 1, 2, 5, 7] Country A's SBR currently lacks the necessarily interoperability to effectively integrate with administrative registers and other external data sources.

Dim 1 Legal and institutional framework: Early

- Country A has a provision in the statistical law or a MOU that mandates the NSO to collect SBR-relevant data. The statistical law authorizes the NSO to establish and maintain an SBR. [Q1.1, 1.2]
- SBR is based on the Economic Census data, which provides a directory of establishments across the country.

- Despite the establishment of the legal mandate, Country's A SBR remains at an "Early" maturity stage because the register unit does not have access to administrative data. [Q1.2]
- Conversely, statistical law has the provision that allows the dissemination of aggregate data or anonymized unit record data (microdata) from the SBR while protecting confidentiality. Hence, Country A meets the criteria for the "Advanced" stage in this specific area. [Q1.3]

Dim 2 Data sources for SBR: Early

- Country A's SBR is assessed at the "Early" stage due to its exclusive reliance on the Economic Census and its lack of a mechanism for regular and comprehensive update by other data sources between the Census year. [Q2.1]
- While disaggregated administrative registers are maintained by various institutions, they remain siloed and have not yet been aggregated into a centralized SBR.

Dim 3 Maintenance and update of SBR: Preliminary

- Country A's SBR is currently assessed at the "Preliminary" stage due to irregular updates and a lack of agreed procedures or schedules. However, while maintenance and updating procedures are not well established, they are currently under review and development. Hence the system is transitioning toward an "Early" maturity level. [Q3.3]
- The SBR is primarily updated through the Economic Census. The update frequency is tied to the seven-to-eight years Economic Census cycle, restricting the SBR's ability to reflect current market dynamics.

Dim 4 Coverage of an SBR: Early

- Country A is assessed as the "Early" stage regarding coverage. While some coverage evaluation exists, but the SBR currently excludes "non-financial corporations" and only contains a limited type of statistical units. [Q4.1, 4.2]
- Conversely, the SBR incorporates informal sector and geospatial information. These components are elements of an "Advanced" stage and represent a significant strength in the granularity of the register. [Q4.3, 4.4]

Dim 5 Use of SBR: Early

- Country A's SBR is assessed as the "Early" stage. While it provides consistent sampling frames for selected business surveys, it is not yet utilized to compile business demography or for linking administrative data. [Q5.2, 5.3]
- Conversely, the SBR exhibits "Advanced" stage characteristics regarding data accessibility, as it is disseminated to the public and made available for academic research while protecting confidentiality. [Q5.4]

Dim 6 IT Environment: Early

- While Country A has established a foundational database structure for its SBR, the system is assessed as the "Early" stage. Current infrastructure is limited in its ability to support concurrent tasks and complex user requirements, and the maintenance environment is underdeveloped. [Q6.2, 6.3]

Dim 7 Interoperability: Preliminary

- Country A's SBR is assessed as the "Preliminary" stage due to a lack of interoperability with external systems, administrative registers and administrative data sources. [Q7.1]
- While the SBR is compatible with international standards and classifications, it has not yet implemented a system of unique identifiers, preventing Country A's SBR from reaching higher maturity levels in data linking. [Q7.2]

IV. Challenges

Country A faces significant challenges in accessing administrative data and identifying a common unique identifier for record linkage across the various institutional datasets. These hurdles are compounded by a divergent definition of statistical terms across data sources. Because different organizations define similar parameters differently, ensuring uniformity across datasets remains a major technical and institutional challenge.

V. Recommendations

Dimension 1: To support Country A transition from the current stage of "Early" to the "Mature" stage, the following steps can be taken:

1. Establish a legal framework that guarantees NSO timely and continuous access to administrative data sources. This ensures the SBR will be updated dynamically through the use of these sources.
2. Country A can share their best practices with other countries in their existing legal framework for data access, which has the provision that allows the dissemination of aggregated data or anonymized unit record data (microdata) from the SBR while protecting confidentiality.

Dimension 2: To support Country A transition from the current stage of "Early" to the "Mature" stage, the following steps can be taken:

1. Develop a mechanism for regular and comprehensive update by administrative data sources and other data sources between the Census year.

2. Develop a system of Integrated Official Business Statistics to enhance the efficiency, accuracy, and timeliness of official business statistics.

Dimension 3: To support Country A transition from the current stage of "Preliminary" to the "Mature" stage, the following steps can be taken:

1. Develop the maintenance and update procedures for the SBR and review them on a regular interval.
2. Conduct validation on a regular basis.
3. Periodically evaluate the quality of the SBR against a set of defined objectives pertaining to coverage of units and variables, accuracy and timeliness of source data, the effectiveness of validation and maintenance procedures, and the extent to which SBR outputs meet user needs.
4. Introduce unique national business identifiers in the government institutions for the SBR maintenance and update.

Dimension 4: To support Country A transition from the current stage of "Early" to the "Mature" stage, the following steps can be taken:

1. Expand the SBR coverage by increasing the types of statistical units and incorporating "non-financial corporations".
2. Country A can share their best practices with other countries on incorporating informal sector and geospatial information in their SBR format.

Dimension 5: To support Country A transition from the current stage of "Early" to the "Mature" stage, the following steps can be taken:

1. Use the SBR not only to create a snapshot/frozen frame from which most economic surveys including register-based census frames are drawn, but also to link to administrative data.
2. Compile business demography statistics based on the SBR.
3. Country A can share their best practices with other countries in their data provision, which allows the public dissemination or release to researchers in line with legislation and the confidentiality principles of official statistics.
4. Ensure consistency in definitions of terms across available institutional datasets.

Dimension 6: To support Country A transition from the current stage of "Early" to the "Mature" stage, the following steps can be taken:

1. Establish an IT environment where the IT infrastructure supports concurrent tasks and complex user requirements related to SBR, which will be supported by continuous maintenance procedures and dedicated staff.

Dimension 7: To support Country A transition from the current stage of "Preliminary" to the "Mature" stage, the following steps can be taken:

1. Make the SBR interoperable with other systems or registers including administrative sources.
2. Introduce unique identifiers across the available data with different organizations.

VI. Future Plans

To enhance the efficiency, accuracy, and timeliness of official business statistics, Country A envisages developing a system of Integrated Official Business Statistics, which presents a snapshot of key business statistics on a single platform. Country A is planning to establish a national statistical business register that can initially be updated quarterly, and in the future on a rolling basis by compiling administrative data available from various government organizations. The format of SBR has been drafted.

References:

- Manual of the SBR Maturity Model, available on the UNSD website at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/business-stat/UNCEBTS/Documents/Manual_on_the_MM_for_SBR_Draft_publication_31Oct24.pdf
- UN Guidelines on SBR, available on the UNSD website at: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/business-stat/SBR/Documents/UN_Guidelines_on_SBR.pdf

Annex III. Questionnaire of Global Assessment on Statistical Business Registers 2025

Part 1: General Questions

Data of the SBR manager

First Name:	
Last Name:	
Gender:	
Country	
Institution:	
Position or Title:	
E-mail:	

Organization and Employees of the Statistical Business Register

1. Name of the register	
2. Name of the organization responsible for holding the register	
3. Position of the register unit in the organization	
4. Number of total employees in the register unit (Headcount employees)	
5. Number of full-time equivalent employees in the register unit	

Part 2: Assessment Questions regarding Dimensions of the Maturity Model for SBRs

Dimension 1: Legal and institutional framework

1.1 Is there a provision in the statistical law or a MOU (Memorandum of understanding) that mandates or allows the NSO (National Statistical Organization) to collect data that are relevant for SBR? (This includes, for example, conducting of economic censuses and surveys, or access to an administrative business register.)

☐YES

☐NO

1.2 Are the following descriptions true for your country's SBR? (Select all that are applicable)

☐A. The statistical law allows the NSO to establish and maintain an SBR.

☐B. The statistical law gives the NSO regular access to relevant administrative data.

☐C. The statistical law or MOU has the provision that all providers of administrative data should provide the NSO with access to their data, and at the level of detail necessary for SBR.

1.3 Are the following descriptions true for your country's SBR? (Select all that are applicable)

☐A. Within the fundamental principle of data confidentiality, the statistical law has the provision that allows the dissemination of aggregate data or anonymized unit record data (microdata) from the SBR.

☐B. The statistical law has the provision that allows microdata sharing from the SBR with statistical authorities of other countries or international/regional organizations when complying with the principle of confidentiality.

☐C. The statistical law or MOU contains the provision that the providers of administrative data shall consult with NSO before carrying out major changes in their data collection or processing that may affect the data provided.

☐D. There are formal agreements to allow some data sharing between the national SBR and the SBRs of other countries.

☐E. There is an inter-institutional committee or other coordinating mechanism with the aim of cooperating in the collection and/or promoting the quality of the administrative data.

1.4 If you have any comments/information about this dimension, please enter below.

Dimension 2: Data sources for SBR

2.1. Please note the specific types of data sources used. Also, if data sources are used regularly, please note the frequency.

Administrative data (could be public, private or semi-public/semi-private)

	(Y/N)	Specify	Frequency (e.g., annually, monthly)
Taxation data			
Business register (Company registration data)			
Population register			
Others (specify)			

(If you selected any of administrative data sources listed above):
Is administrative data the primary* data source for the maintenance of the SBR? (if economic census is conducted, other than the year in which the economic census is conducted) *Most of the new units are included and the variables are updated

☐Yes

☐No

Censuses and surveys

Economic census			
Statistical surveys			
Maintenance surveys			

(If you select Economic census) Is it possible to update regularly and comprehensively during the inter-census by other data sources which enable the addition of new units and update variables?

☐Yes

☐No

Statistical registers (i.e. other statistical registers than the SBR)			
Big data(specify)			
Private/Commercial data(specify)			
Others (specify)			

2.2 If you have any comments/information about this dimension, please enter below.

Dimension 3: Maintenance and update of SBRs

3.1 Year of establishment of the register

3.2 Year(s) of the main reengineering(s) of the register

3.3 Are the following descriptions true for your country's SBR? (Select all that apply)

☐A. The SBR is updated irregularly with no agreed procedures or schedule.

☐B. Maintenance and updating procedures are not well established and continuously reviewed, but under development.

☐C. The maintenance and update procedures are well established and regularly reviewed.

3.4 Are the following descriptions true for your country's SBR? (Select all that apply)

☐A. Validation is conducted on a regular basis.

☐B. The SBR is updated regularly:

	(Y/N)	Specify
Once a year		
several times in a year (e.g. on a quarterly basis)		
continuous basis throughout the year		
Others (specify)		

☐C. The quality of the SBR is periodically evaluated against a set of defined objectives pertaining to coverage of units and variables, accuracy and timeliness of source data, the effectiveness of validation and maintenance procedures, and the extent to which SBR outputs meet user needs

☐D. Unique identifiers are available in the government institutions and are used for maintenance and update of the SBR.

3.5 Are the following descriptions true for your country's SBR? (Select all that apply)

☐A. The maintenance and update of the SBR (live register) are conducted at a higher frequency (more than once in every year) on a regular basis or in line with the updates from the administrative data sources

☐B. The SBR maintenance supports SBR outputs, including frozen frames and publication of data from the SBR, and the schedule indicates to users the likely variations in SBR coverage and content over time.

☐C. There is a large case unit to profile the largest, most complex or significant companies in the country.

3.6 If you have any comments/information about this dimension, please enter below.

Dimension 4: Coverage of an SBR

4.1 Statistical units which can be identified in the SBR or by linking the SBR with another data source

	(Y/N)	Number of active units
Enterprise groups		
Enterprises		
Local Units		
Establishments (Local Kind-of-activity Units)		
Kind-of-activity Units		
Legal units		
Others (specify)		

4.2 SBR coverage

Non-financial corporations	
Financial corporations	
General Government	
Households	
Non-profit institutions serving household	
Others (specify)	

4.3 Formal/Informal Select all that apply for your country's SBR

☐The coverage of the units in the SBR is comprehensive* for the formal sector.

*All (or almost all) active economic units in the formal economy that are engaged in economic activities contributing to the gross domestic product

☐The SBR includes the informal sector in the SBR if it is relevant in the country.

4.4 Evaluation Select all that apply for your country's SBR

☐There is some evaluation of how complete the coverage of the SBR is

☐Coverage issues are monitored on a regular basis (and the cases which cause the issues are clearly identified)

☐Dedicated efforts are in place to keep coverage adequate at all times (e.g. monitoring by a special team such as the chain management team)

4.5 Does your country's SBR include the following information? (Select all that apply)

	(Y/N)
Identification and contact information	
Demographic information	
Economic/stratification variables	
Geospatial information	

If yes, which information is included in SBR? (Select all that apply)

☐x-y coordinates

☐Area code / Postal code / Geographical location code

☐Link(s) with other registers (e.g. address register, etc.) that have geospatial coordinates (or from which the geospatial coordinates of each unit can be established)

☐Others (Please specify:)

Other information that can support thematic analysis such as digitalization, etc. (Please specify:)	

4.6. If you have any comments/information about this dimension, please enter below.

Dimension 5: Use of SBR

5.1. Please describe the primary goal and use of the SBR

Also please answer below about the use of your SBR

5.2 Is the SBR used to create consistent frames for some business surveys?

☐YES

☐NO

5.3 Are the following descriptions true for your country's SBR? (Select all that are applicable)

☐A. The SBR is used to create a snapshot/frozen frame from which most economic survey including register-based census frames are drawn

☐B. Business demography is compiled based on the SBR.

☐C. The SBR is used to link to administrative data.

5.4 Are the following descriptions true for your country's SBR? (Select all that are applicable)

☐A. The SBR is used for microdata linking with other registers

☐B. The SBR is used as a tool for data exchange for statistical purposes among producers of official statistics

☐C. The SBR contributes to the development of international or regional group registers

☐D. The SBR (or part of the SBR) is publicly disseminated in line with legislation and the confidentiality principles of official statistics

☐E. The SBR (or part of the SBR) is released to researchers in line with legislation and the confidentiality principles of official statistics

☐F. User feedback is regularly sought and incorporated into SBR improvement plans

5.5 If you have any comments/information about this dimension, please enter below.

Dimension 6: IT Environment

6.1 Which system or tool do you use to maintain the SBR?

☐Custom system with software components that are hosted on site

☐Custom system that stores all data in the cloud
☐Based on a generic SBR project developed externally
☐The SBR software is managed by an external IT service provider

6.2 Does the IT infrastructure for the SBR consist of a database structure (not, for example, an Excel spreadsheet)?
☐YES
☐NO

6.3 Are the following descriptions true for your country's SBR? (Select all that apply)
☐A. The IT infrastructure supports multiple tasks and user requirements related to SBRs, such as the updating of records, the validation of records and the importing of data from administrative sources.
☐B. The IT infrastructure is supported by continuous maintenance procedures and dedicated staff.

6.4 Are the following descriptions true for your country's SBR? (Select all that are applicable)
☐A. The IT infrastructure incorporates elements such as dealing with big data, web scraping, datamining, or cloud environments.
☐B. There is a dedicated portal for businesses to enter and edit their information (either directly, or via an application programming interface, or via the organization that administrative data is sourced from).

6.5 Do you have business continuity plan for your IT infrastructure (IT-BCP)?
☐A. Yes
☐B. No

6.6 If you have any comments/information about this dimension, please enter below.

Dimension 7: Interoperability

7.1 Is the SBR interoperable with other systems or registers including administrative sources?
☐A. Yes
☐B. No

7.2 Are the following descriptions true for your country's SBR? (Select all that apply)
☐A. Unique identifiers for businesses are available across national administrative sources
If A is selected, please specify below

Category	Name of ID (e.g. Corporation number, Taxpayer ID)	Name of Issuer of ID

☐B. Where relevant, variables within the SBR are compatible with international standards and classifications, such as ISIC.

7.3 Are the following descriptions true for your country's SBR? (Select all that are applicable)
☐A. The SBR contains other regional or global identifiers where available.
If A is selected, please specify below

	Category	Name of ID (e.g. Corporation number, Taxpayer ID)	Name of Issuer of ID
1			
2			
3			

☐B. The SBR is part of an integrated system of registers including population registers, housing registers and address registers.

7.4 If you have any comments/information about this dimension, please enter below.

Part 3: Detailed Questions

Progress and Developments in 2024

Please list main achievements or problems you have tackled in 2024 (maximum 3). Also, please classify your answers according to the categories in each drop-down list.

1 Short title of work carried out | (Category)

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

2 Short title of work carried out | (Category)

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

3 Short title of work carried out | (Category)

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

Future plans

Please list issues/projects (maximum 3) which you plan to tackle in 2025 onwards. Please classify them according to the categories in the drop-down list.

1 Short title of work planned | (Category)

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

2 Short title of work planned | (Category)

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

3 Short title of work planned | (Category)

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

Main challenges

Please list main challenges (maximum 3) with respect to development, maintenance and use of your statistical business register. Please classify them according to the categories in the drop-down list.

1 Main challenge 1 | (Category)

Description of the challenge

2 Main challenge 2 | (Category)

Description of the challenge

3 Main challenge 3 | (Category)

Description of the challenge