Possible development of the UN Manual on Business Statistics

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Context

❑ The outcome of the 6th meeting of the UN Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics (UNCEBTS) in September 2023 called for the development of a proposal to explore the need to develop a handbook of business statistics to address the emerging needs.

❑ The subsequent discussion at the UNCEBTS bureau meeting recommended a concept note to be developed to review the business case for developing such a manual and brought forward to the 7th meeting of the Committee in September 2024 for discussion and recommendations.

Scope of business statistics

❑ Current methodological documents that define/describe the scope of business statistics (not an exhaustive list)

- UNCEBTS mandate

- European Business Statistics Manual 2021

- Forthcoming Handbook on Integrating Business and Trade Statistics

- Classification of Statistical Activities, Version 2.0

❑ Variations noted across , partly reflecting emerging development and priority as times evolves.

Statistical domains under CSA 2.0 relevant to business statistics

CSA 2.0 2-digit level code	CSA 2.0 3-digit level code	Statistical areas
202		Business Statistics
	20201	Short term business statistics
	20202	Structure business statistics
	20203	Business demography and business dynamics
	20204	Entrepreneurship
	20205	Multinational enterprise statistics
	20299	Business statistics, n.e.c.
603		Statistical registers
	60301	Statistical business registers
604		Data sources
	60402	Business and agricultural census
	60404	Business and agriculture surveys
	60405	Administrative sources
	60499	Data sources, n.e.c.

Assessment on the status on the international methodological manual on business statistics (to be developed)

Elements	Description
Statistical domain (s)	The domains in which the standard is used according to the Classification of Statistical activities Ver.2
Name of the publication	Full official name of the standard, plus any alternative names and acronyms
Publication year	Date on which the standard was adopted (or published)
Maintenance organization	The organization or group responsible for approving and maintaining the standard
Reference	Reference and links to the methodological documents

CSA 2.0	Statistical Domain(s)	Manual	Valid from	Maintenance organization	Reference
202	Business Statistics				
20201	Short term business statistics	International Recommendations for the Index of Industrial Production 2010	2010	UNSD	https://unstats.un.org/unsd/industry/Docs/F107_edited.pdf
20201	Short term business statistics	Handbook on Data Template and Metadata for Short-Term Statistics	2018	UNSD	https://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/docs/Data_Template_Metadata_STS.pdf
20201	Short term business statistics	Methodology of short-term business statistics Interpretation and guidelines	2006	Eurostat	https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3859598/5895945/KS-BG-06-001-EN.PDF.pdf/609c47c3-220a-48b4-874f-d9c589bf302c?t=1414781295000
20201	Short term business statistics	European business statistics methodological manual for short-term business statistics	2021	Eurostat	https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3859598/13927551/KS-GQ-21-018-EN-N.pdf/a971106a-6884-9350-38b1-3b095601bb64?t=1638976676048
20201	Short term business statistics	European business statistics compilers' manual for short-term business statistics	2021	Eurostat	https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3859598/13927670/KS-GQ-21-017-EN-N.pdf/e9001d0b-4bf0-7d89-de1c-4e690d8e86b7?t=1638975990481
20202	Structure business statistics	Methodological manual on European Structural Business Statistics	2021	Eurostat	https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3859598/5854781/CA-24-99-897-EN.PDF.pdf/c13e6549-ff0c-495b-b0c8-776a86d9359c?t=1414780379000
20203	Business demography and business dynamics	Guidelines on the use of statistical business registers for business demography and entrepreneurship statistics	2019	UNECE	https://unece.org/DAM/stats/publications/2018/ECECESSTAT20185.pdf
20203	Business demography and business dynamics	Eurostat-OECD Manual on Business Demography Statistics	2007	OECD, Eurostat	https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3859598/5901585/KS-RA-07-010-EN.PDF.pdf/290a71ec-7a71-43be-909b-08ea6bcdc521?t=1414781381000
20204	Entrepreneurship	Guidelines on the use of statistical business registers for business demography and entrepreneurship statistics	2019	UNECE	https://unece.org/DAM/stats/publications/2018/ECECESSTAT20185.pdf

Business cases

❑The possible development of the UN Manual on Business Statistics could be seen as part of the work by the Committee to:
  - facilitate the vertical and horizontal integration of business statistics,
  - strengthen the adopted production and output framework based on common registers, the use of common definitions and classifications, the integration of survey and administrative and other data sources, and integration of business statistics with other statistical domains.

❑The results of an initial assessment show that while there are existing guidance in addressing certain thematic areas under the business statistics, an overarching international framework on business statistics (as a standalone statistical domain) is yet remained to be developed.

Business cases

❑New priority areas call for the identification and development of cross-cutting activities to address emerging needs for business statistics.

❑Methodological works have been embarked by Committee on these emerging topics, such as the global initiative on unique identifiers, integration of business and trade statistics with the environment domains, entrepreneurship, digitalization, multinational enterprises, entrepreneurship and measurement of adoption, investment in automation technologies, gender mainstreaming into business and trade statistics and the integration of geospatial information into the statistical business registers.

❑The development of the Manual could be seen as an instrument to synthesize the current methodological works undertaken by the Committee and the advance the research agenda.

❑It can also serve as the compendium of existing manual and best practices

Business cases

❑ Addressing problems faced by developing and the least developed countries, in particular guidance on dealing with all the components of the informal sector, is an existing gap that remain to be addressed.

❑ More emphasize is being placed on using administrative data and new data sources for the compilation of business statistics, but for many countries economic census and survey are still the main data sources to construct their statistical business registers and compile business statistics. There is current a lack of up-to-date international guidance in these areas, in particular on economic census and the methods for cleaning and converting administrative data into statistical sources.

Preliminary discussions

❑The preliminary discussions pointed to the validity of business cases on developing such manual, noting that careful consideration should be taken in the light of the resource constraint encountered by the national statistics offices and international organization. Concern about the timing on launching the work was also raised

❑There was suggestion that the emphasis could focus on the implementation aspects of the existing international guidelines.

❑It was also suggested to embark on global consultation exercise to assess the priority needs in the field of business statistics from the national statistical offices of both developed and developing countries to ensure the relevant and utility of such work.

❑Considering the business statistics domain is broad, effort is recommended to leverage on existing methodology work by other related domains to avoid duplication of work.

Way forward

❑ The Committee is invited to consider the following discussion points:

- Is there a sufficient use case for the Manual?
- If there is a sufficient use case, what are the appropriate means (such as the establishment of a task team) and timeline in advancing the work?
- Any alternative approach could be explored to advance the work?

Thank you