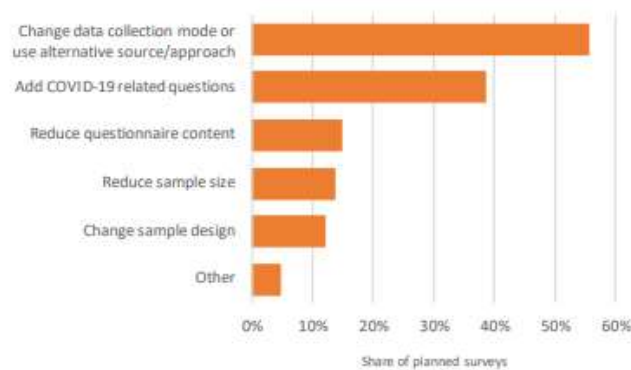


Data Solutions

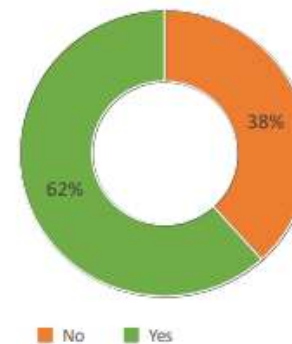
Special Meeting of the UN Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics on the Impact of COVID-19 on Business and Trade Statistics - 16-18 June 2020

NSOs are adapting and responding to the new data needs and demands of the COVID-19 pandemic

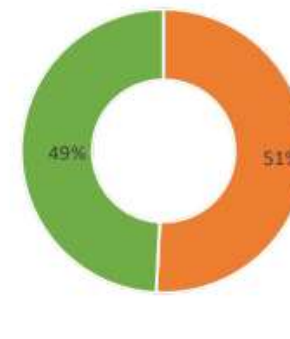
If you had to alter a planned survey because of the COVID-19 pandemic, which changes did / will you introduce?



Has your institution planned any survey on COVID-19 and its impacts?



Are you currently setting up or planning to set up any national platform to respond to data needs of the government/ public?

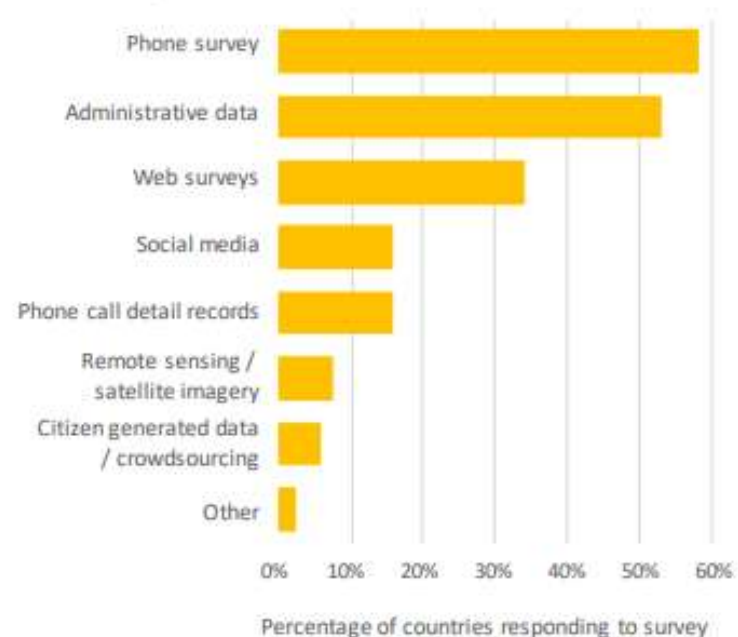


From the UNSD and WB Global COVID -19 survey of National Statistical Offices

<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/covid19-response/covid19-nso-survey-report.pdf>

In monitoring the impacts of COVID-19, statistical agencies are using alternative data sources

Is your institution using alternative/nontraditional data sources/approaches to analyze or monitor aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic?



From the UNSD and WB Global COVID -19 survey of National Statistical Offices
<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/covid19-response/covid19-nso-survey-report.pdf>

Review of (traditional and alternative) data sources and methods

- Statistical business registers (SBRs) play a fundamental role in the compilation of statistics, and this is confirmed during a period of crisis
- NSOs had to review alternative data sources that could complement traditional sources and provide timely information
- Several NSOs put in place new surveys to estimate the impact of COVID-19 on businesses or added questions to existing surveys
- NSOs also had to review the methods for estimation and modelling, to produce business and trade statistics on a regular basis in the absence of regular data sources
- Experimental statistics, whose methodologies are subject to continuous development and are not part of the official statistics production, can be of great value when users demand fast, innovative and reliable measures of new business realities

Developing new partnerships

- To assist with their responses to new data requests arising from the emergency crisis, NSOs have developed new public and private sector partnerships, in order to obtain access to new administrative and big data sources, to collaborate for new surveys, and for IT support

New business statistics on emerging issues

- Some NSOs have developed new and timely online business surveys, with the aim of finding out how the different business sectors are affected by the crisis. These may cover future business tendencies and expectations, as well as current business developments
- In some more developed countries, Large Case Unit (LCU) sections at NSOs have made the best use of their relationships with multinational enterprise groups to obtain commentary on the effect of COVID-19 on supply chains etc.
- Other NSOs have employed web scraping and other Big Data techniques to provide very fast indicators of the impact of COVID-19 on businesses

New dissemination formats to meet the users' needs

- NSOs have quickly reacted to the need for comprehensive information on COVID-19 by developing data hubs. Access to trusted data has been particularly important during this crisis and NSOs have leveraged and used open data in the global response to the COVID-19 outbreak, to ensure all users have had access to trusted data
- New dissemination formats were developed whereby real-time virus tracking data was disseminated and integrated with geospatial information, economic statistics, health infrastructure etc.
- International organizations have also quickly developed special data dashboards to encourage the sharing of data, practices and methods



Questions for discussion

- What new data sources have NSOs utilized for business and trade statistics when other (traditional) data sources were not available or not timely? And which new data sources have the most long-term promise to be used by NSOs in the future?
- Which are the challenges faced by most NSOs while using new data sources in business statistics, as well as the use of new methods for collecting information during the pandemic situation?
- What strategies and tools can be recommended to NSOs where the SBRs are not as up-to-date and complete?
- How can international organizations assist countries to sustain the data solutions for business and trade statistics in a post COVID era?
- Can the use of new data solutions be formalized in legal frameworks and cooperation agreements?