

Report on global status of statistical business register programmes

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Abstract

The first part of this Report provides an overview of the role of Statistical Business Register programmes in supporting an integrated approach to the compilation of official economic statistics, and an introduction to some of the main recommendations and good practices for the development, maintenance and use of SBRs. Its second part contrasts these recommendations and good practices with the results of a Global Survey conducted by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), with the objective of assessing the current status of SBR programmes across countries in different regions of the world and with different degrees of economic development.

A. Introduction

1. *Role of Statistical Business Registers in official economic statistics.* Statistical Business Registers (SBRs) are an essential part of a country's statistical infrastructure required for the compilation of official economic statistics, along with economic censuses, which are conducted approximately every five to ten years, and regular economic surveys, which are conducted more frequently. The development and maintenance of SBRs are directly related to the implementation of the recommendations for the System of National Accounts 2008 (SNA 2008)¹, the International Recommendations for Industrial Statistics 2008 (IRIS 2008),² and the Guidelines on Integrated Economic Statistics adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its forty-second session in 2011.³

2. *Importance of the SBR to improve survey coordination and reduction of survey-response burden.* An SBR constitutes a crucial resource for the adequate planning, conduction and coordination of statistical surveys of enterprises and other economic units. An up-to-date business survey frame is required for the efficient selection of samples, and provides an efficient way for managing and coordinating surveys which are applied at different points

¹ Available from <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/sna2008.asp>

² Available from <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/EconStatKB/Attachment387.aspx>

³ See <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/ies/>

in time or across different domains or geographic areas. This is particularly true in the case of sub-annual surveys, where the need to ensure an overlap of sampled units from period to period needs to be balanced against the need to avoid imposing an excessive response burden on individual economic units.

3. *Increasing need for multi-dimensional and detailed information about economic units.* National statistical systems are increasingly asked to provide information about the relationship between the economic activity in a country or region and the characteristics of its economic units. For example, users are often interested in the analysis of issues such as business demographics, international trade flows by enterprise characteristics, the industrial organization and internationalization of supply chains, and the impact of evolving relationships of ownership and control on the concentration of production factors. In this connection, SBRs are increasingly viewed not only as providing a sample framework and a tool for survey design and coordination, but as a source of business demographic and structural information in their own right.

4. *International harmonization of statistical business registers.* To produce official economic statistics which are consistent and comparable both across countries and across statistical domains, it is necessary to develop a common framework for the harmonization of national statistical business registers, so as to ensure the use of standard classifications, definitions and processes to the maximum extent possible. The development and standardization of SBRs can thus make a significant contribution for the improvement of the quality of statistical outputs. Further, one of the main aims of the harmonization of SBRs across countries is to enable the creation of regional or global registers of multinational enterprise groups (such as the EuroGroups Register for the European Union). The harmonization of SBR definitions refers to both the statistical units and of their characteristics. Similarly, the harmonization of SBR updating and maintenance processes and rules includes such procedures as those employed for creating or modifying individual records for new and existing statistical units, for establishing the relationships between different units, and for ensuring the quality of the SBR.

5. *Need to adapt to the specific situation of the statistical infrastructure in different countries.* A central, general-purpose business register provides a uniquely identified list of statistical units to which all statistical processes or products make reference. To ensure, among other things, the standardization of data collections in terms of coverage, definition and classification of statistical units, the frame for all enterprise surveys used in the compilation of official economic statistics should ideally be derived from a central SBR. In practice, however, many countries do not have such a central SBR as part of their basic statistical infrastructure, and rely instead on ad-hoc or stand-alone listings of enterprises for their different statistical compilations. In this connection, the most pressing issues faced by many developed countries in the development and maintenance of SBRs are often very different from those of more developed countries. Therefore, in the development of international guidelines and standards for business registers it is important to address the specific needs of less developed countries.

6. *Characteristics of statistical units.* Regardless of the level of complexity and sophistication of a country's SBR programme, at a minimum it must maintain up-to-date and sufficient contact information (e.g., name, postal address, telephone number and e-mail address), and keep track of additional information that allows for the classification of economic units according to their institutional sector, economic activity, and size (e.g., in terms of employment).

7. *Coverage of SBR.* One of the main criteria to assess the quality of a SBR is the comprehensiveness of its coverage. Ideally, a country's SBR should record all the enterprises (and their associated legal units and local units), as well as the domestic component of enterprise groups that contribute to the generation of GDP. However, it is impossible to maintain an SBR that reflects the exact population of all the economic units that contribute to the GDP at any given point in time. Notwithstanding, the agencies responsible for the development and maintenance of SBRs should continuously assess whether the omission of any specific group of units is significant and whether it is admissible in light of its relative economic or analytic importance.

8. For instance, some economies may have a large number of households engaged in production agricultural products other than for own consumption, making it necessary to conduct special area surveys and studies in order to ensure an adequate coverage of the household sector within of the SBR. Similarly, access to specific administrative records may need to be developed in order to cover units of the government sector in the SBR, so as to ensure that the statistics on the economic activity of government units are consistent with other those of other sectors in terms of classifications, definitions, and coverage.

9. *Confidentiality issues.* Often, the identifiers used in business registers are not purely random numbers, as they usually contain some embedded information that can be interpreted by anyone familiar with the identification system. However, seemingly inconsequential information included in an identifier can sometimes be used to discover confidential information about individual units. Therefore, the safest identifiers are random character strings containing no information whatsoever. De-identification is the process of removing "name-linking information", i.e., information from a data record that can potentially be used to link the record to the public name of the record's unit. The most obvious items to be removed in the de-identification process are the unit's legal or commercial name, its address (which could be linked to the name), and date of birth (in case of natural persons acting as economic units).

10. *Management of an SBR programmes.* Managing an SBR programmes is a complex endeavors that requires a substantive initial investment in order to develop the necessary set of skills and infrastructure. For instance, registration of new statistical units needs to be carried out by trained specialists well versed in the registration policies and who have enough background knowledge as to be able to authenticate the identity of the units being registered. Also, the SBR programme must be supported by an information system that allows to manage the characteristics and interrelationships of the units being registered.

B. Global assessment report

B.1. Introduction

11. *Timeframe and geographic coverage of the Global Assessment Survey questionnaire.* This section presents the results of a Global Assessment Survey on the current status of Statistical Business Register programmes, conducted between May and July 2013 by the United Nations Statistics Division. This Global Survey was oriented to all countries, regardless of their position along the spectrum of SBR development, from those that rely on ad-hoc lists of enterprises to those that have a highly sophisticated SBR at the core of their national statistical systems. While the survey was addressed directly to the National Statistical Offices of more than 200 countries and areas, respondents were encouraged to consult with other agencies of their respective National Statistical Systems when producing their answers. A total of 116 countries and areas responded to the questionnaire, as detailed in Table 1.⁴

Table 1: *Number of respondents to the questionnaire, by region*

Region	No. of respondents
<i>Developed countries</i>	39
<i>Developing countries</i>	77
Africa	23
CIS	8
Eastern, South-Eastern, Southern Asia	17
Latin America and the Caribbean	18
Oceania	1
South-Eastern Europe	5
Western Asia	5
<i>Non-OECD</i>	84
<i>OECD</i>	32
Total	116

12. *Topics covered by the Global Assessment Survey questionnaire.* Countries were able to respond to the Global Assessment Survey through an on-line version of the questionnaire or by submitting their responses via e-mail. The questionnaire, which was identical in both versions, is included in Annex 2 of this report. It addressed the following topics:

- Coverage of the different industrial sectors
- Types of statistical units included in the SBR

⁴See Appendix 1 for the composition of geographic and economic groups used in this report for analytic purposes.

- Classification of economic activities used in the SBR
- Coverage of public sector, private sector, and self-employed units
- Coverage in terms of minimum number of employees and other cut-off points
- Data sources used for different unit characteristics
- Frequency of updates for different unit characteristics
- Availability of cross-references among units of the SBR
- Time gap between register updates and sample selection
- Documentation of error handling
- Availability of an identity number
- Linking of SBR records with external sources
- Aspects of the maintenance and updating of the SBR mandated by a legal act
- Continuity rules
- Compilation of business demographics
- SBR documentation
- Access of SBR data to external users

13. *Current regional initiatives for the development of SBRs.* The Global Assessment Survey was conducted at a time when various regional initiatives on the development of SBRs are coming to fruition. These include, among others:

- (1) The development of Guidelines for Building Statistical Business Registers in Africa, commissioned by the African Development Bank within the framework of its Statistical Capacity Building Program.
- (2) The creation of a UNECE Task Force, within the frame of the Conference of European Statisticians, to produce a set of international guidelines and recommendations of good practices on statistical business registers with the aim of helping countries develop and maintain their registers and improve their international comparability.⁵
- (3) A multi-year project, funded by the Inter-American Development Bank under the auspices of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, in which 11 Latin American countries took part with the aim of defining a regional strategy for the design, implementation and management of Statistical Business Registers, as well as a regional action plan for the execution of this strategy.⁶
- (4) The endorsement by UNESCAP Committee on Statistics of the Regional programme for the improvement of economic statistics in Asia and the Pacific and the Implementation plan for the regional programme at its sessions in 2010 and 2012 respectively,

⁵See <http://www.unece.org/statshome/areas-of-work/statsarchiveact02e/statsarchive0210be/task-force-business-registers.html>

⁶See <http://www.eclac.cl/deype/noticias/documentosdetrabajo/7/51327/LCL3707i.pdf>

which recognize the need to establish and improve SBRs in Asia and the Pacific as a top regional priority for statistical development.⁷

B.2. Legal framework and institutional arrangements

14. *Importance of the legal and institutional framework.* The legal framework and institutional arrangements facilitate the effective development, maintenance and use of a statistical business register. All aspects the SBR programme depend upon them—from determining which data sources are available for its construction and maintenance, to establishing the range of valid users and uses of the information derived from it.

15. *Aspects of the legal framework investigated in the Global Assessment Survey.* The Global Assessment Survey questionnaire asked national statistical offices whether a legal act mandates four specific aspects of the maintenance and updating of the SBR: (1) the establishment and maintenance of a list, (2) the use of the list by other agencies for statistical purposes, (3) the protection of confidentiality, (4) the access to administrative data sources, as well as an open question on any other relevant aspects covered by a legal act. The responses are summarized in Table 2 and Figure 1.

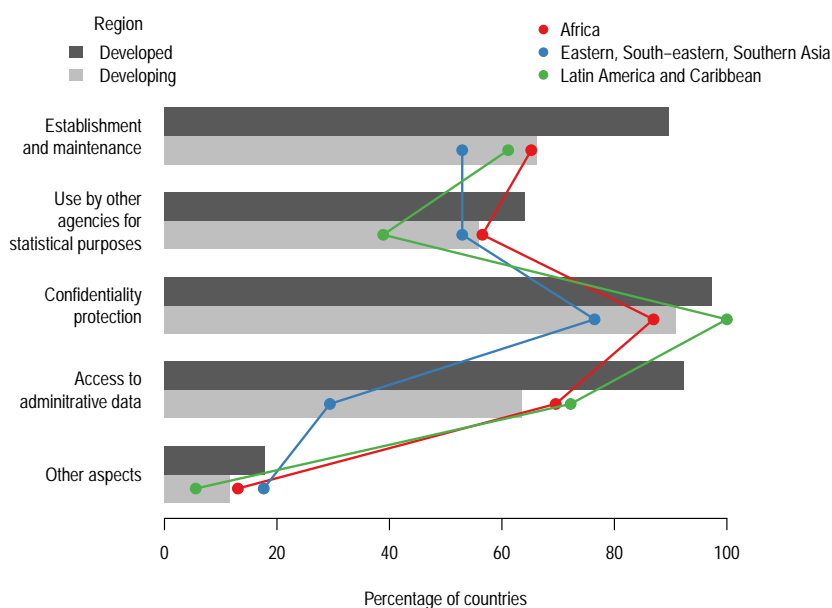


Figure 1: Percentage of countries that have a legal act covering different aspects of the maintenance and updating of the Business Register

⁷In this context, the Asian Development Bank launched in December 2013 a project on “Statistical Business Registers for Improved Information on Small, Medium-Sized, and Large Enterprises”, aimed at supporting its Developing Member Countries in establishing and improving their SBRs.

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	Establishment and maintenance	Use by other agencies for statistical purposes	Confidentiality protection	Access to administrative data	Other aspects
<i>Developed</i>	89.7	64.1	97.4	92.3	17.9
<i>Developing</i>	66.2	55.8	90.9	63.6	11.7
Africa	65.2	56.5	87.0	69.6	13.0
Eastern, South-eastern, Southern Asia	52.9	52.9	76.5	29.4	17.6
Latin America and Caribbean	61.1	38.9	100.0	72.2	5.6
Other developing	84.2	73.7	100.0	78.9	10.5
CIS	87.5	87.5	100.0	100.0	12.5
Oceania	0.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
South-Eastern Europe	100.0	40.0	100.0	80.0	0.0
Western Asia	80.0	80.0	100.0	40.0	0.0
<i>Non-OECD</i>	65.5	57.1	91.7	65.5	11.9
<i>OECD</i>	96.9	62.5	96.9	93.8	18.8
Total	74.1	58.6	93.1	73.3	13.8

Table 2: *Percentage of countries that have a legal act covering different aspects of the maintenance and updating of the Business Register*

16. *In general terms, the proportion of countries that report having a legal framework to support their SBR programmes is larger among developed than among developing countries. This is particularly true for the presence of a legal mandates to establish and maintain an SBR and to enable the access to administrative data, where the difference between the two groups of countries is considerable. However, the contrast between developed and developing countries is not as strong for the protection of confidentiality and regarding the use of SBR data by other agencies for statistical purposes.*

17. *Many developing countries lack an explicit legal mandate for the establishment and maintenance of an SBR. Although 74.1 percent of all respondents reported having a legal mandate to establish and maintain an SBR, the difference between developed and developing countries is substantial. While most developed countries (89.7 percent) have this mandate, only 66.2 percent of developing countries do. In particular, the developing countries or areas in Eastern, South-Eastern, and Southern Asia, in Latin America and the Caribbean, and in Africa, are the least likely to have a legal mandate to establish and maintain an*

SBR (with 52.9 percent, 61.1 percent, and 65.2 percent, respectively). This is in contrast to other developing countries from South-Eastern Europe, Western Asia, and the CIS region (of which 84.2 percent report a positive answer). It is also worth noting that only one OECD member lacks a legal mandate for the establishment and maintenance of the SBR.

18. *A substantial number of developing countries lack the legal mandate to access administrative data sources to maintain and update their SBRs.* This is particularly true for countries in Eastern, South-eastern and Southern Asia, and in Western Asia, where only 29 percent and 40 percent, respectively, provided a positive answer. This situation may be to multiple factors, including the fact that in many developing countries administrative information systems are less widespread.

19. *A large proportion of countries lack a legal framework regulating the use of SBR data by other agencies.* Among all respondents, only 58.6 percent of countries have a legal framework allowing the use of SBR data by other agencies for statistical purposes. Nevertheless, while the proportion of developed countries that allowed this (64.1 percent) was higher than in the case of developing countries (55.8 percent), the gap between developed and developing countries was not as large as in the other aspects discussed in the preceding two paragraphs. The regions that had the lowest proportion of countries with a legal framework allowing the use of SBR data by other agencies were Latin America and Caribbean (38.9 percent), South-Eastern Europe (40.0 percent), and the Eastern, South Eastern and South Asia region (52.9 percent)

20. *The vast majority of countries have a legal framework for the protection of confidentiality confidentiality.* As shown by the responses to the Global Assessment Survey, there is a high level of awareness among most countries, both developed and developing, with respect to the protection of confidentiality, with 97.4 percent of developed countries and 90.0 percent of developing countries declaring to have a legal mandate in this regard. Nevertheless, there are a few countries still lagging in this dimension. In particular, the legal protection of confidentiality is less common in Eastern, South Eastern and Southern Asia (with only 76 percent of countries of this region providing a positive response to this question).

21. *Some of the legal rules related to the maintenance and updating of the SBR might have conflicting objectives.* For instance, allowing for the exchange of data between agencies for statistical purposes may be in contradiction with the need to protect confidentiality. The responses to the Global Survey reveal this difficulty, and highlight the need to explore ways, technical or otherwise, in which the access of SBR data can be extended while simultaneously protecting confidentiality. Also, the results underscore the need to explore further the hierarchy of the legal instruments that have an impact on the SBR programmes against the priorities of set forth by the National Statistical System for the compilation of official economic statistics.

22. *Different aspects of the legal framework are closely interrelated.* For instance, countries that have legal mandates for the establishment and maintenance of a list are also more likely

to have legal mandates for accessing administrative data sources for the maintenance of the SBR, as well as for the use of SBR data by other agencies for statistical purposes. Similarly, countries that have legal acts for protection of confidentiality are also likely to have legal provisions for use by other agencies and access to administrative data. These legal provisions, therefore, seem to come together in a “bundle”—having one makes it likely to have another.

23. *Most countries have a legal framework covering at least some aspects of the maintenance and updating of an SBR.* Of a total of 116 countries, only four—Morocco, Ethiopia, Bhutan, India, and Maldives—responded that they do not have a legal framework in place for any of the four aspects included in the Global Survey. However, even countries that do not have any specific legislation mandating the establishment of a business register (for instance, Bhutan) may have some regulatory framework in place enabling the creation and maintenance of business registers (e.g., in the form of broad executive orders to compile national accounts statistics, conduct sectorial surveys, etc.) Open-ended responses also suggest that most countries have a multitude of legal instruments in place, ranging from specific Business Register acts to broader instruments such as legal acts on the compilation of National Accounts, income tax laws, and cooperation agreements on data transfer, which provide the basis for maintaining and running an SBR programme.

B.3. Classification of economic activities

24. *Importance of using a standard industrial classification in the SBR.* The use of a standard industrial classification is indispensable to describe in a comparable and consistent manner the kind of economic activities carried out by the statistical units included in the SBR. The classification of economic activities is not only important as a stratification variable for the adequate selection of samples from the SBR (in its role as a statistical framework for economic surveys), but crucially enables the SBR to become a powerful instrument in the statistical infrastructure of a country for the integration of economic statistics, including within the framework of the System of National Accounts.

25. *The International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC) as the preferred classification for economic units in the SBR.* The System of National Accounts (SNA 2008) recommends the use of the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC) in the compilation of the production account and the generation of income accounts by industry. The fourth and most recent revision, ISIC, Rev.4, is the outcome of a review process that spanned several years and involved contributions from many classifications experts and users around the world. The economic activities in ISIC are subdivided in a hierarchical, four-level structure of mutually exclusive categories. The categories at the highest level are called sections, which are alphabetically coded categories intended to facilitate economic analysis. The sections subdivide the entire spectrum of productive activities into broad groupings, such as “Agriculture, forestry and

fishing” (section A), “Manufacturing” (section C) and “Information and communication” (section J). The classification is then organized into successively more detailed categories, which are numerically coded: two-digit divisions; three-digit groups; and, at the greatest level of detail, four-digit classes.

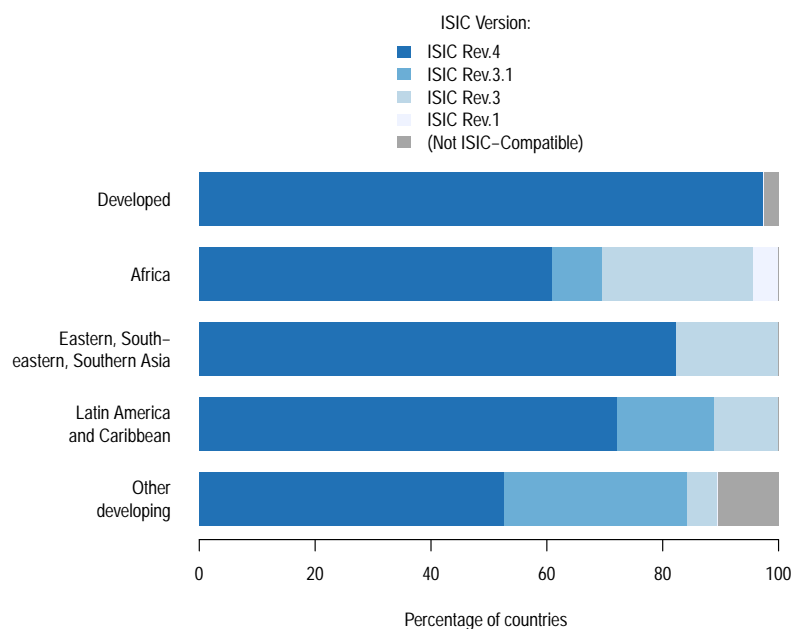


Figure 2: Percentage of countries that use the different versions of the ISIC classification in their Statistical Business Register

26. Most countries use in their SBRs industrial classifications which are national adaptations of ISIC. For instance, the use of the Statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community (NACE), which is in use by all EU member States, and the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), which has been adopted by Canada, Mexico and the United States of America, are, for the most part, aligned with ISIC Rev. 4. Moreover the industrial classifications used in the SBRs in most countries are consistent with ISIC, while providing additional layers of detail to better reflect the structure of their respective economies. Only three countries reported in the Global Assessment Survey the use of an industrial classification in their SBRs that is not compatible with ISIC.

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	Not ISIC- compatible classification	ISIC Rev.1	ISIC Rev.3	ISIC Rev.3.1	ISIC Rev.4
<i>Developed</i>	2.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	97.4
<i>Developing</i>	2.6	1.3	15.6	14.3	66.2
Africa	0.0	4.3	26.1	8.7	60.9
CIS	12.5	0.0	12.5	37.5	37.5
Eastern, South- eastern, Southern Asia	0.0	0.0	17.6	0.0	82.4
Latin America and Caribbean	0.0	0.0	11.1	16.7	72.2
Oceania	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
South-Eastern Europe	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	80.0
Western Asia	0.0	0.0	0.0	40.0	60.0
<i>Non-OECD</i>	2.4	1.2	14.3	13.1	69.0
<i>OECD</i>	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	96.9
Total	2.6	0.9	10.3	9.5	76.7

Table 3: *Percentage of countries that use the different versions of the ISIC classification in their Statistical Business Register*

27. While ISIC Rev.4 has been adopted by most developed countries, one third of developing countries still use an earlier version. Thirty eight out of the thirty nine developed countries included in the survey reported using in their SBR a classification of economics activities that is compatible with the most recent version of ISIC (ISIC Rev. 4). Of these countries, ten use the NACE or NAICS classification. In contrast, among developing countries only 66.2 per cent use a classification which compatible with ISIC Rev. 4, with 14.3 and 15.6 percent using ISIC Rev. 3.1, and and ISIC Rev. 3, respectively. Four non-OECD countries are using the NACE classification. Figure 2 shows the proportion of countries or areas that has adopted each of the different ISIC revisions in their statistical business registers.

28. The classification of units in the SBR by economic activity is usually detailed at least at the 4-digit level of ISIC. Among the countries that participated in the Global Assessment Survey, the most frequent level of detail in the classification of economic activities is at four digits, with only ten countries classifying the economic activity of statistical units at the Section, Division or Group levels (see Table 4). Western Asia and Oceania are the only two regions where the average level of detail was less than that global mode (3-digits), while in Latin America and the Caribbean the average level of detail was 5 digits.

Region	Finest	Average*	Most frequent
<i>Developed</i>	6	4	4
<i>Developing</i>	7	4	4
Africa	6	4	4
Eastern, South-eastern, Southern Asia	6	4	4
Western Asia	4	3	4
CIS	5	4	NA
South-Eastern Europe	4	4	4
Latin America and Caribbean	7	5	4
Oceania	3	3	3
<i>OECD</i>	6	5	4
<i>Non-OECD</i>	7	4	4
Total	7	4	4

* Rounded to the nearest integer value

Table 4: Level of detail (number of digits) of the industrial classifications used in the Statistical Business Register

B.4. Definition of statistical units

29. *Criteria for the definition of statistical units.* Statistical units may be defined following many criteria, namely: legal, accounting or organizational criteria; geographical criteria; and economic criteria. The relative importance of these criteria depends on the type of unit concerned.

30. *Need to define and identify sufficiently homogeneous statistical units for the collection of basic statistics.* When considering the economic activity of a unit, a distinction is normally made between principal, secondary, and ancillary activities. The principal activity determines the classification of the units in the SBR, although secondary and ancillary activities may also be recorded. Ideally, the classification of units by economic activity should be made at the level of detail in which individual units are sufficiently homogeneous—thus, classification by economic activity is ideally carried out at the level of establishment and/or kind-of-activity unit.

31. *Need to define and identify statistical units to compile economic statistics in the framework of the System of National Accounts.* The systematic description of the economy, as represented by SNA, analyses two interrelated types of transactors and transactions that require two levels of statistical units. The establishment, in combination with ISIC and CPC, is used for

the analysis of transactions in goods and services and for compilation of the production account. The enterprise is used as the statistical unit for compilation of income accounts, accumulation accounts and balance sheet accounts, as well as in the institutional sector classification of economic entities.

Box 1: *Definition of different statistical units*

Enterprise

An institutional unit in its capacity as a producer of goods and services is known as an enterprise. An enterprise is an economic transactor with autonomy in respect of financial and investment decision-making, as well as authority and responsibility for allocating resources for the production of goods and services. It may be engaged in one or more productive activities.

Establishment

SNA describes the statistical unit to be defined and delineated for industrial or production statistics as the establishment. The establishment is defined as an enterprise or part of an enterprise that is situated in a single location and in which only a single (non-ancillary) productive activity is carried out or in which the principal productive activity accounts for most of the value added.

Kind-of-activity unit

A kind-of-activity unit is an enterprise or part of an enterprise that engages in only one kind of productive activity or in which the principal productive activity accounts for most of the value added. Compared with the establishment, in the case of such a unit, there is no restriction on the geographic area in which the activity is carried out but it is characterized by homogeneity of activity.

Local unit

Enterprises often engage in productive activity at more than one location, and for some purposes it may be useful to partition them accordingly. Thus, a local unit is defined as an enterprise or a part of an enterprise (for example, a workshop, factory, warehouse, office, mine or depot) which engages in productive activity at or from one location. The definition has only one dimension, in that it does not refer to the kind of activity that is carried out.

32. *The enterprise as the most frequently used statistical unit in the SBR.* According to the responses to the Global Survey, the most frequent statistical unit used in the SBRs is the "enterprise" (as Table 5 shows, 80 per cent of all countries report using this type of unit). There are noticeable differences, however, between developed and developing countries. More concretely, 94.4 percent of developed countries report the use "enterprise" in their SBRs, while this figure is 72.7 per cent among developing countries.

33. *The use of establishment as a statistical unit is more widespread among developing countries.* Interestingly, the reported rate of use of “establishment” is much lower among developed countries than among developing countries. In fact, the most used statistical unit in the business registers among developing countries is the “establishment”, which according to the responses to the Global Survey is used by 76.6 per cent of countries in this group.

34. *Enterprise group is very common in the SBRs of developed countries, but very rare among developing countries.* In contrast to the preceding paragraph, 71.8 percent of the developed countries that responded to the Global Assessment Survey maintain data at the level of “enterprise groups” in their SBRs, while only 16.9 percent of developing countries do. In particular, “enterprise group” has a very low rate of use among Latin America and Caribbean countries, as well as in Eastern, South-eastern, and Southern Asia.

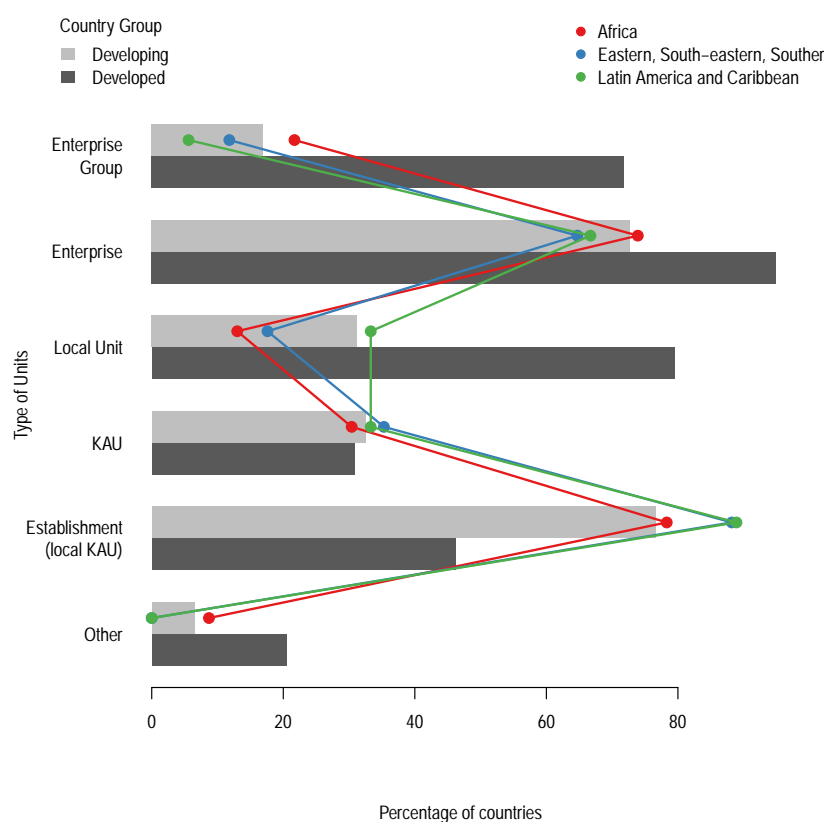


Figure 3: Percentage of countries that cover the different types of statistical units in the Statistical Business Register

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Group	Enterprise Group	Enterprise	Local Unit	K.A.U.	Establishment (local K.A.U.)	Other*
<i>Developed</i>	71.8	94.9	79.5	30.8	46.2	20.5
<i>Developing</i>	16.9	72.7	31.2	32.5	76.6	6.5
Africa	21.7	73.9	13.0	30.4	78.3	8.7
Eastern, South-eastern, Southern Asia	11.8	64.7	17.6	35.3	88.2	0.0
Western Asia	20.0	40.0	0.0	40.0	100.0	0.0
CIS	37.5	100.0	87.5	37.5	50.0	37.5
South-Eastern Europe	20.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	20.0	0.0
Latin America and Caribbean	5.6	66.7	33.3	33.3	88.9	0.0
Oceania	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Non-OECD</i>	22.6	76.2	39.3	36.9	77.4	7.1
<i>OECD</i>	68.8	90.6	68.8	18.8	37.5	21.9
All Countries	35.3	80.2	47.4	31.9	66.4	11.2

*Seven out of eight developed countries that reported having "other" types of units in their SBR made reference to *legal unit*

Table 5: *Percentage of countries that cover different types of statistical units in the Statistical Business Register*

35. *Potential issues with the interpretation of reported use of "enterprise" and "establishment" in developing countries.* There is some evidence indicating the existence of possible ambiguities in the use of the terms "enterprise" and "establishment" in some developing countries:⁸

- (1) First, it is important to note that many developing countries that report the use of "enterprise" as statistical unit in their SBRs may be actually referring to the concept of "legal unit", which corresponds to entities legally recognized for administrative purposes and not to any of the statistical entities defined in Box 1. An indication to support the suspicion of the existence of such conceptual ambiguity in the use of the term "enterprise" is the fact that the all the seven countries that explicitly report the use of "legal unit" are developed countries, with no developing country reporting the use of "legal unit."
- (2) Similarly, there appears to be some degree of ambivalence in some developing countries with respect to the use of the terms "establishment / local KAU" and "local unit". Indeed, as Figure 4 shows, it is noteworthy that a large proportion of

⁸These underlines the need to strengthen the use of standard concepts and definitions, especially to ensure the comparability of economic statistics at the international level.

developing countries that report the use of “establishment” as a statistical unit in their SBRs do not also report the use of “local units”. Given the establishment was defined as equivalent to local kind-of-activity units in this Global Survey, it seems implausible that a country that is able to identify establishments would not, at the same time, be able to identify the more general concept of local units.

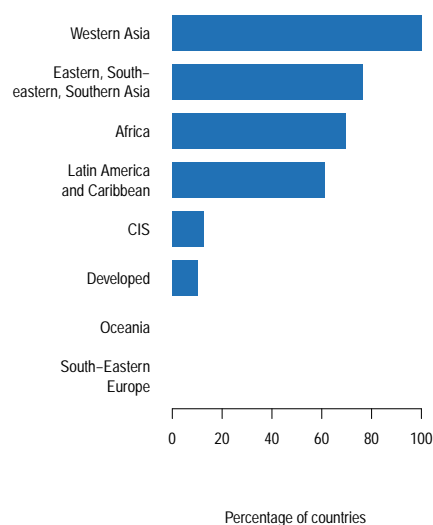


Figure 4: Incidence of cases reporting that the SBR covers establishments but not local units

B.5. Coverage of public, private and self-employed sectors

36. While private sector units are universally covered, public sector and self-employed economic units are often not included in the SBRs of developing countries. All developed countries cover public and private sectors, as well as self-employed businesses in their SBRs,⁹ Similarly, coverage of the private sector is also almost universal among the group of developing countries, with the exception of only two countries, one in South-Eastern Europe and the other in Western Asia. However, between 20 and 30 percent of developing countries are lagging behind in terms of coverage of the public sector and self-employed units. In particular, less than two thirds of countries in Latin American and the Caribbean and Western Asia have low coverage of the public sector units, while a similar proportion of countries in Africa and CIS have a low coverage of self-employed businesses.

37. Need for further research and methodological development on the coverage of the informal sector in developing countries. In many developing countries, the informal sector accounts for as much as half of economic activity and employment. The role of informal sector

⁹In fact, only one OECD country in the sample does not cover self-employed businesses.

Region	Public Sector	Private Sector	Self-employed
<i>Developed</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Developing</i>	77.9	97.4	70.1
Africa	82.6	100.0	60.9
Eastern, South- eastern, Southern Asia	94.1	100.0	82.4
Latin America and Caribbean	61.1	100.0	72.2
Other developing	83.3	94.4	75.0
CIS	75.0	100.0	62.5
Oceania	100.0	100.0	0.0
South-Eastern Europe	80.0	80.0	80.0
Western Asia	60.0	80.0	80.0
<i>Non-OECD</i>	79.8	97.6	73.8
<i>OECD</i>	100.0	100.0	96.9
Total	85.3	98.3	80.2

Table 6: *Percentage of countries that cover the public, private and self-employed sectors in their Statistical Business Register*

in the business register is therefore an interesting issue that should be further studied. Capturing the informal sector in a business register would appear difficult in many countries; however there are countries such as Dominica which also include the informal sector in their SBR.

B.6. Coverage of economic activities in the SBR

38. *Almost all countries include statistical units dedicated to industrial activities in their SBR, especially manufacturing.* As shown in Figure 6 (and detailed in Table 7) the responses to the Global Assessment Survey reveal that SBRs cover the industrial sector in the majority of countries, as defined by IRIS 2008.¹⁰ However, while the manufacturing sector (sect. C of ISIC, Rev. 4) is almost universally represented in the SBRs of both developing and developed countries, the remaining industrial activities (sections B, D, and E of ISIC, Rev. 4) are not covered in approximately 8 to 9 percent of all developing countries. Moreover,

¹⁰The *International Recommendations for Industrial Statistics 2008* define the scope and structure of the industrial sector to include the following economic activities:

- Mining and quarrying (sect. B of ISIC, Rev.4);
- Manufacturing (sect. C of ISIC, Rev.4);
- Electricity, gas, steam and air-conditioning supply (sect. D of ISIC, Rev.4); and
- Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (sect. E of ISIC, Rev.4).

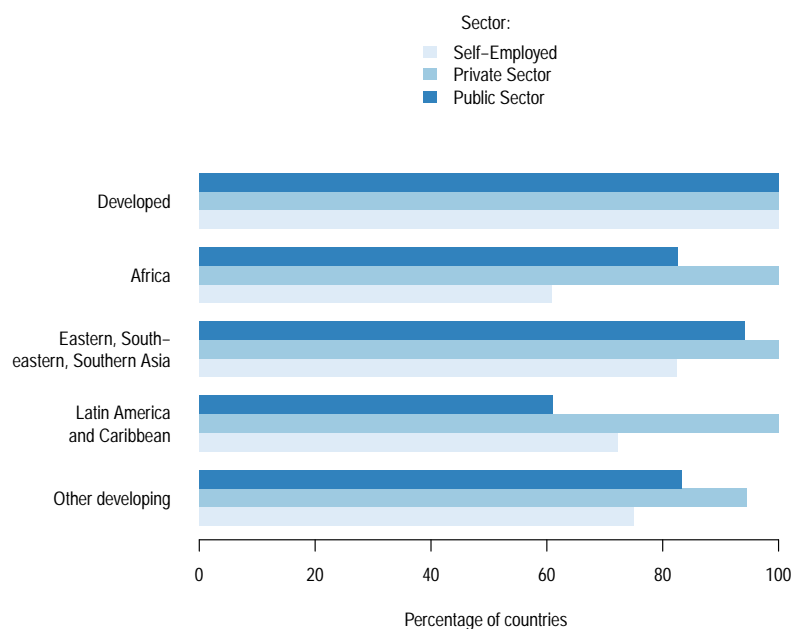


Figure 5: Percentage of countries that cover the public, private and self-employed sectors in their Statistical Business Register

between 12 and 20 percent of the developing countries in both Eastern, South-eastern, and Southern Asia and in Western Asia, lack coverage of units engaged in mining activities or the supply of electricity, gas, etc. (sections B and E of ISIC, Rev. 4). The latter activities (sect. E) are not represented in around 17 percent of African countries.

39. *SBR coverage of units in the agriculture and government sectors is less frequent in developing countries.* Two sectors which are not included or under-represented in the SBRs of many developing countries are agriculture, forestry and fishing (sect. A of ISIC, Rev.4) and public administration and defence and compulsory social security (sect. O of ISIC Rev.4). In particular, approximately 25 percent of developing countries do not include statistical units from the agricultural sector in their SBRs, while 35 percent do not include public administration, defence and compulsory social security.

40. *Productive activities of household units and extraterritorial organizations are in general not covered by the SBR.* Not surprisingly, the SBRs in most countries, both developing and developed, do not cover units whose main economic activity corresponds to the activities of households as employers or to undifferentiated productive activities of households for own use (sect. T of ISIC, Rev.4), or to the activities of extraterritorial organizations and bodies (sect. U of ISIC, Rev.4). While ideally the SBR should cover all the economic units that contribute to the GDP of a country, these two sectors are generally considered to have lower priority in the development and maintenance of the SBR.

41. *Need to develop more accurate metrics of SBR coverage of the different economic activities.* It is important to note that the above figures regarding the extent to which SBRs cover different economic activities are based on the responses to a set of binary “yes”/“no” questions of the Global Survey. Therefore, “coverage” and “lack of coverage” rates should be interpreted here as lower and upper limits, respectively, of the actual status of SBR programmes. In particular, it is important to look at these figures in the context of any sector-specific thresholds of minimum unit size.

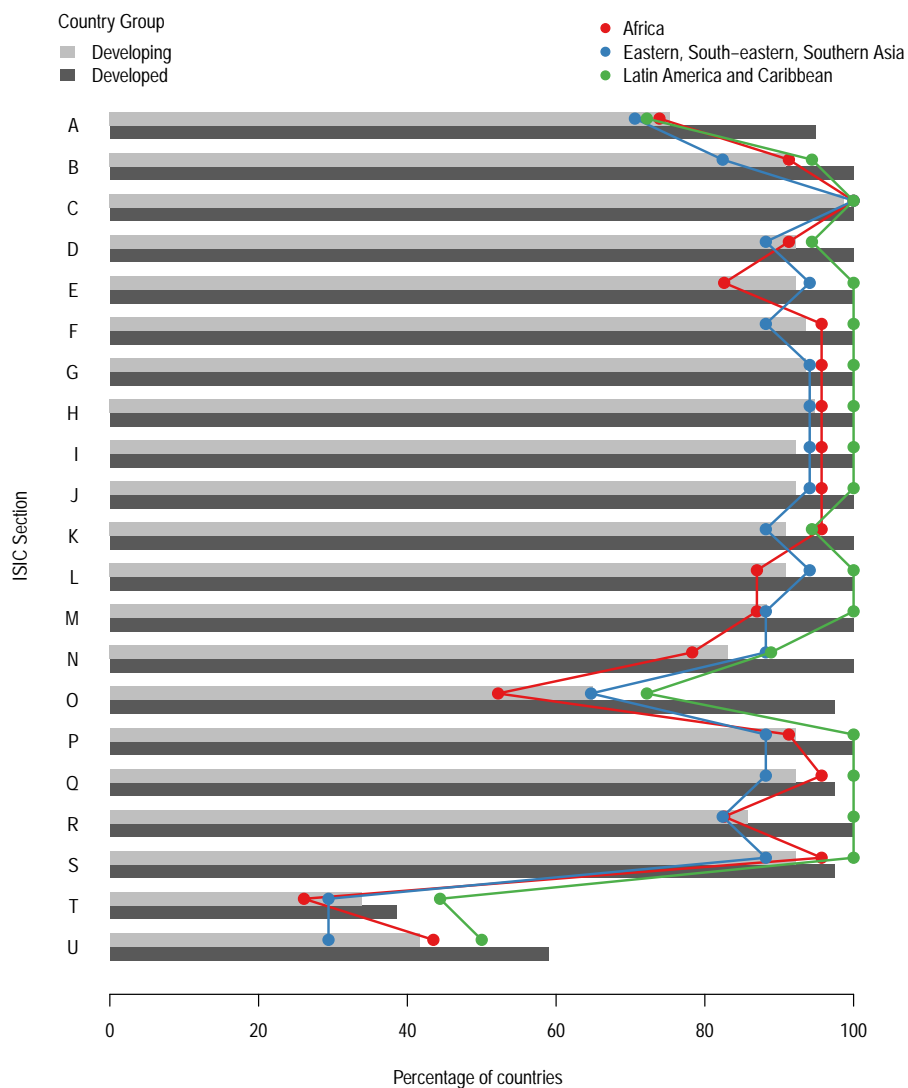


Figure 6: Percentage of countries that cover the various ISIC sections in the Statistical Business Register

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42. *Small statistical units are often left out of the SBR in many developing countries*. Table 8 provides an overview of how minimum-employment thresholds are applied in different groups of countries. It is worth noting that approximately 60 percent of developing countries (and almost 80 percent of African countries) implement a minimum employment threshold of some kind to determine which statistical units are included in the SBR.

Group	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
<i>Developed</i>	94.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100
<i>Developing</i>	75.3	90.9	98.7	92.2	92.2	93.5	93.5	94.8	92.2	92.2	90.9
Africa	73.9	91.3	100.0	91.3	82.6	95.7	95.7	95.7	95.7	95.7	95.7
Eastern, South-eastern, Southern Asia	70.6	82.4	100.0	88.2	94.1	88.2	94.1	94.1	94.1	94.1	88.2
Western Asia	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	100.0	100.0	80.0	100.0	60.0	60.0	100
CIS	87.5	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	87.5	87.5	87.5	87.5	87.5	75.0
South-Eastern Europe	80.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	80
Latin America and Caribbean	72.2	94.4	100.0	94.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	94.4
Oceania	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100
<i>Non-OECD</i>	78.6	91.7	98.8	92.9	92.9	94.0	94.0	95.2	92.9	92.9	91.7
<i>OECD</i>	90.6	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100
All Countries	81.9	94	99.1	94.8	94.8	95.7	95.7	96.6	94.8	94.8	94
	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	
<i>Developed</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0	97.4	100.0	97.4	100.0	97.4	38.5	59	
<i>Developing</i>	90.9	88.3	83.1	64.9	92.2	92.2	85.7	92.2	33.8	41.6	
Africa	87.0	87.0	78.3	52.2	91.3	95.7	82.6	95.7	26.1	43.5	
Eastern, South-eastern, Southern Asia	94.1	88.2	88.2	64.7	88.2	88.2	82.4	88.2	29.4	29.4	
Western Asia	80.0	60.0	60.0	40.0	100.0	80.0	60.0	80.0	20.0	20.0	
CIS	87.5	87.5	87.5	87.5	87.5	87.5	87.5	87.5	37.5	37.5	
South-Eastern Europe	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	60.0	60.0	
Latin America and Caribbean	100.0	100.0	88.9	72.2	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	44.4	50.0	
Oceania	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	0	100.0	
<i>Non-OECD</i>	91.7	89.3	84.5	69	92.9	92.9	86.9	92.9	34.5	44.0	
<i>OECD</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0	93.8	100.0	96.9	100.0	96.9	37.5	56.2	
All Countries	94.0	92.2	88.8	75.9	94.8	94.0	90.5	94.0	35.3	47.4	

Table 7: *Percentage of countries that cover ISIC sections in the Statistical Business Register*

Region	Public-sector thresholds			Private-sector thresholds		
	Incidence (per-cent)	Most frequent	Average	Incidence (per-cent)	Most frequent	Average
<i>Developed</i>	28.2	1	1.0	25.6	1	1.0
<i>Developing</i>	60.0	1	3.2	62.7	1	2.2
Africa	78.9	1	2.2	78.3	1	3.2
Eastern, South-eastern, Southern Asia	56.2	1	6.8	58.8	1	2.7
Latin America and Caribbean	36.4	1	1.0	50.0	1	1.0
Other developing	57.1	1	2.1	58.8	1	1.0
CIS	50.0	1	1.0	37.5	1	1.0
South-Eastern Europe	50.0	1	1.0	75.0	1	1.0
Western Asia	66.7	1	5.5	75.0	1	1.0
<i>Non-OECD</i>	55.2	1	3.1	57.3	1	2.2
<i>OECD</i>	31.2	1	1.0	31.2	1	1.0
Total	47.5	1	2.7	50.0	1	2.0

Table 8: Use of minimum-employment thresholds in the Statistical Business Register

B.7. Cross references among different types of statistical units within the SBR

43. *Almost half of developing countries lack a system to identify relationships between different statistical units.* Cross-references among units within the SBR are essential to keep track, for instance, of which establishments and/or local units belong to the same enterprise, and which enterprises are part of the same enterprise-group. In practice, these cross-references take the form of parent-child hierarchical relationships that need to be established and maintained within a relational database environment. Being of such central importance for the appropriate integration and analysis of business statistics at different levels of aggregation, the fact that only two-thirds of the countries in the sample report having a system in place to keep track of cross-references between different statistical units is a legitimate source of concern (see Table 9 for further details). Moreover, as shown in Figure 7, there is a clear disparity between developed and developing countries in this regard. Whereas 87 percent of developed countries maintain cross-references between statistical units in their SBRs, almost half of the developing countries across all subregions do so. This highlights the need to specifically address the issue of enterprise profiling supported by an adequate relational database architecture in statistical capacity building initiatives.

	Frequency of cross-references
<i>Developed</i>	87.2
<i>Developing</i>	55.8
Africa	56.5
Eastern, South-eastern, Southern Asia	58.8
Latin America and Caribbean	55.6
Other developing	52.6
CIS	62.5
Oceania	0.0
South-Eastern Europe	60.0
Western Asia	40.0
<i>Non-OECD</i>	60.7
<i>OECD</i>	81.2
Total	66.4

Table 9: Percentage of countries that maintain cross-references between statistical units in the SBR

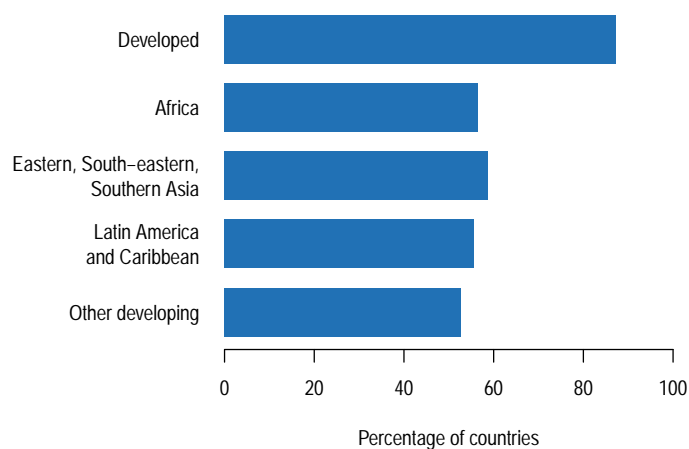


Figure 7: Percentage of countries that maintain cross-references among statistical units in their SBR

B.8. Linking of SBR records with external sources

44. Almost half of developing countries are unable to link their SBR with external sources by matching ID numbers. Every SBR requires an adequate system of record identifiers and ID mappings in order to match, merge, and cross-validate data from different sources that pertain to the same same unit. The proportion of countries where it is possible to cross-link the identity number used in the SBR for the statistical units with external

identity numbers used in other sources is, overall, 61 percent. However, this is an aspect in which the gap between developed and developing countries is significant: whereas more than 80 percent of the developed countries are able to link data from the SBR with external sources using their identification numbers, only half of the developing countries are in a position to do so (see Table 10 for further details).

45. *In Africa, only 26 percent of the countries have the opportunity to cross-link the identity number for statistical units with external identify numbers.* Having to rely on the use of quasi-identifiers, such as the legal or commercial name in combination with other unit characteristics, in order to link to other sources, often leads to lower matching rates, whereby the probability of obtaining both false positives and false negatives is far from negligible. In Zambia for example, information on economic activity is combined with other identifiers such as geo-codes and physical location to link SBR data with other sources, and it is estimated that this strategy yields matching rate below 75 percent.

	Frequency
<i>Developed</i>	82.1
<i>Developing</i>	50.6
Africa	26.1
Eastern, South-eastern, Southern Asia	58.8
Latin America and Caribbean	55.6
Other developing	68.4
CIS	75.0
Oceania	0.0
South-Eastern Europe	80.0
Western Asia	60.0
<i>Non-OECD</i>	54.8
<i>OECD</i>	78.1
Total	61.2

Table 10: *Percentage of countries that can cross-link the identity number for statistical units with external identity numbers used in other sources*

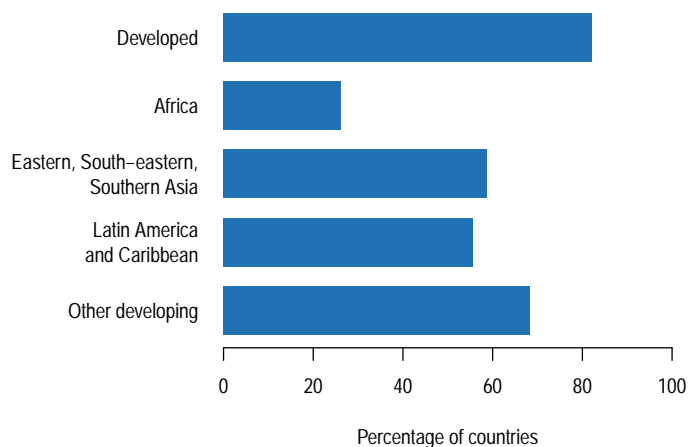


Figure 8: *Percentage of countries that can cross-link the identity number for statistical units with external identity numbers used in other sources*

B.9. Data sources and update protocols

46. *Most countries employ multiple sources to update the information of the SBR.* Business registers capture a variety of information on businesses, and it is important to understand where all this information is derived from. The results from the Global Assessment Survey suggest that countries use different types of sources to collect data on different business characteristics. However, while some sources are more used than others for certain characteristics, countries usually combine the use multiple sources to maximize data coverage and allow for data quality checking through cross-validation. The relative use of various data sources to update the information on characteristics of the SBR units is shown in Figure 9.

47. *Surveys conducted by the National Statistical Office are the most frequently used source of data for SBR maintenance.* Both in developed and developing countries, NSO surveys are the most common data source for SBR updates, although this trait is slightly more marked amongst the latter. As shown in Table 11, this type of data source is mainly used to update the contact information of the statistical units, to classify them according to their main economic activity, and (especially in the case of developing countries) to collect data on the number of employees. The use of surveys, however, may present certain shortcomings which should be addressed in order to design an optimal SBR maintenance strategy. For instance, it is important to take into account the budget and logistic constraints involved in conducting and processing statistical surveys, as well as the burden they impose on respondents. Indeed, the extent to which surveys impose a heavy response burden may negatively impact the reliability of the data derived from them. In this regard, the offices responsible for developing and operating SBR programmes should consider the possibility

of expanding the use of administrative records to supplement, and in some cases replace, the use of statistical surveys.

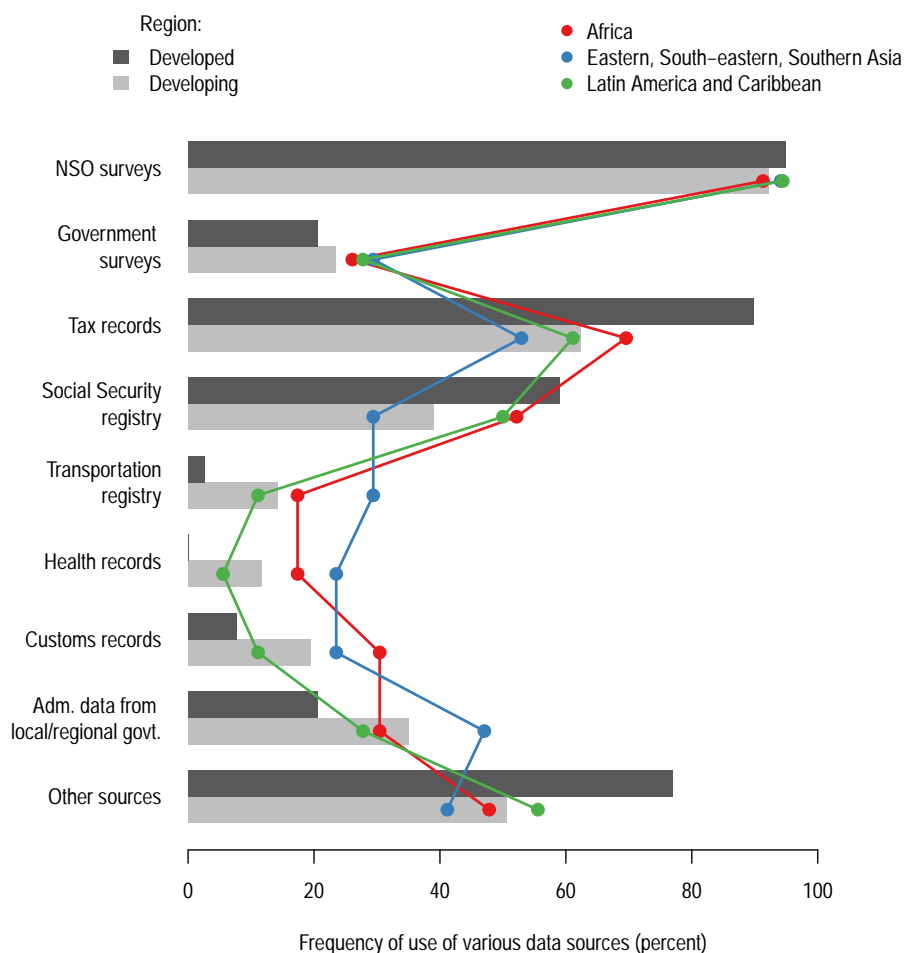


Figure 9: Data sources used to maintain the SBR

48. *Tax records are the second most-frequent data source for SBR maintenance.* As Table 13) shows, 89.7 percent of developed countries and 62.3 percent of developing countries make use of tax records to update their SBRs. Of all the countries that rely on this source use, 73.5 percent use it to collect data on turnover or revenue; and 68.7 percent use it to identify, update and/or validate contact information of the statistical units. Tax records also are frequently used to update the active/non-active status of economic units, as this characteristic is often a function of having reported taxable revenue or not during a particular period.

49. *Need to strengthen access to tax records for SBR maintenance.* The fact that fewer developing countries make use of tax records to update and maintain their SBRs, is often attributed to the lack of adequate legal framework and/or institutional arrangements granting access to such source for statistical purposes. Given that the use of administrative records, and in particular tax records are usually more reliable than surveys to collect accurate revenue information, it is important to support national statistical authorities in their efforts to gain adequate access to this source for the maintenance of the SBR. However, even in the case of developed countries, it is necessary to take into account the fact that tax records are usually obtained with a lag, which may result in sub-optimal data quality in terms of timeliness.

50. *The third most-frequently used source are records from Social Security administrations.* Overall, about 45 percent of all countries make use of this records from the Social Security administration to update and maintain their SBRs. In particular, almost 60 percent of all developed countries, and slightly more than 50 percent of African and Latin American and Caribbean countries rely on this source to update and maintain their SBRs. While this source is mostly used to collect data on the number of employees of the statistical units (see Table 14), it also if frequently used to identify and update their contact information.

51. *Developing countries rely on a wider variety of administrative sources, mostly to update the contact information and validate ID numbers of the SBR units.* One interesting insight that can be drawn from Figure 9 is the fact that other administrative records, such as those from the transportation registry, health records, custom records, and administrative data from local governments, are used more often by developing than by developed countries. In particular, their rate of use in developing countries ranges from 11 percent (health records) to 35 percent (local government records), while in developed countries their rate of use is between zero (health records) to 20 percent (local government records). Among the countries that use the transportation register or health or customs records as sources for their SBRs, the primary purpose is to collect contact information of the statistical units (see Tables 15 to 17)). However, it is also worth noting that customs records are often used to obtain and/or validate the identification numbers of statistical or legal units. On the other hand, while administrative records from local governments are also used to update contact information, they typically constitute a more rich source of information, from which a wide range of characteristics such as enterprise type, industrial classification, date of birth and closure, as well as active/inactive status, can be obtained (see Table 18).

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	Overall use	Registration number	ID number	Contact information	Enterprise type	Industrial classification
<i>Developed</i>	94.9	21.6	21.6	81.1	37.8	91.9
<i>Developing</i>	92.2	36.6	53.5	85.9	73.2	88.7
Africa	91.3	33.3	57.1	85.7	81.0	95.2
Eastern, South-eastern, Southern Asia	94.1	56.2	56.2	93.8	75.0	100.0
Latin America and Caribbean	94.4	29.4	58.8	94.1	88.2	88.2
Other developing	89.5	29.4	41.2	70.6	47.1	70.6
CIS	100.0	12.5	37.5	62.5	50.0	50.0
Oceania	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
South-Eastern Europe	80.0	0.0	0.0	75.0	0.0	75.0
Western Asia	80.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Non-OECD</i>	91.7	35.1	48.1	83.1	68.8	89.6
<i>OECD</i>	96.9	22.6	29.0	87.1	41.9	90.3
Total	93.1	31.5	42.6	84.3	61.1	89.8

	No. of employees	Date of birth/closure	Active status	Type of control	Turnover	Net fixed assets
<i>Developed</i>	70.3	43.2	73.0	54.1	59.5	29.7
<i>Developing</i>	91.5	66.2	69.0	46.5	64.8	39.4
Africa	95.2	81.0	66.7	71.4	76.2	57.1
Eastern, South-eastern, Southern Asia	100.0	62.5	68.8	37.5	75.0	56.2
Latin America and Caribbean	82.4	64.7	58.8	23.5	41.2	5.9
Other developing	88.2	52.9	82.4	47.1	64.7	35.3
CIS	100.0	12.5	75.0	50.0	100.0	50.0
Oceania	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	100.0
South-Eastern Europe	50.0	75.0	100.0	50.0	25.0	0.0
Western Asia	100.0	100.0	75.0	50.0	25.0	25.0
<i>Non-OECD</i>	90.9	64.9	72.7	50.6	64.9	40.3
<i>OECD</i>	67.7	41.9	64.5	45.2	58.1	25.8
Total	84.3	58.3	70.4	49.1	63.0	36.1

Table 11: Use of NSO surveys as a source for various SBR characteristics

Report on global status of statistical business register programmes

	Overall use	Registration number	ID number	Contact information	Enterprise type	Industrial classification
<i>Developed</i>	20.5	12.5	37.5	37.5	37.5	50.0
<i>Developing</i>	23.4	33.3	33.3	72.2	44.4	61.1
Africa	26.1	33.3	16.7	83.3	50.0	66.7
Eastern, South-eastern, Southern Asia	29.4	20.0	40.0	60.0	20.0	60.0
Latin America and Caribbean	27.8	20.0	20.0	60.0	40.0	40.0
Other developing	10.5	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
CIS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Oceania	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
South-Eastern Europe	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Western Asia	40.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Non-OECD</i>	22.6	31.6	31.6	68.4	42.1	57.9
<i>OECD</i>	21.9	14.3	42.9	42.9	42.9	57.1
Total	22.4	26.9	34.6	61.5	42.3	57.7

	No. of employees	Date of birth/closure	Active status	Type of control	Turnover	Net fixed assets
<i>Developed</i>	50.0	25.0	50.0	50.0	37.5	0.0
<i>Developing</i>	66.7	33.3	33.3	16.7	22.2	16.7
Africa	66.7	50.0	33.3	16.7	16.7	0.0
Eastern, South-eastern, Southern Asia	80.0	20.0	40.0	20.0	40.0	40.0
Latin America and Caribbean	40.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other developing	100.0	100.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0
CIS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Oceania	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
South-Eastern Europe	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Western Asia	100.0	100.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0
<i>Non-OECD</i>	68.4	31.6	36.8	15.8	26.3	15.8
<i>OECD</i>	42.9	28.6	42.9	57.1	28.6	0.0
Total	61.5	30.8	38.5	26.9	26.9	11.5

Table 12: Use of other government surveys as a source for various SBR characteristics

Report on global status of statistical business register programmes

	Overall use	Registration number	ID number	Contact information	Enterprise type	Industrial classification
<i>Developed</i>	89.7	42.9	40.0	62.9	45.7	57.1
<i>Developing</i>	62.3	56.2	52.1	72.9	58.3	54.2
Africa	69.6	50.0	75.0	75.0	56.2	56.2
Eastern, South-eastern, Southern Asia	52.9	66.7	33.3	77.8	77.8	33.3
Latin America and Caribbean	61.1	54.5	63.6	72.7	63.6	63.6
Other developing	63.2	58.3	25.0	66.7	41.7	58.3
CIS	87.5	42.9	28.6	71.4	42.9	57.1
Oceania	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
South-Eastern Europe	80.0	100.0	25.0	75.0	50.0	75.0
Western Asia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Non-OECD</i>	63.1	52.8	47.2	67.9	50.9	50.9
<i>OECD</i>	93.8	46.7	46.7	70.0	56.7	63.3
Total	71.6	50.6	47.0	68.7	53.0	55.4

	No. of employees	Date of birth/closure	Active status	Type of control	Turnover	Net fixed assets
<i>Developed</i>	48.6	51.4	65.7	28.6	91.4	25.7
<i>Developing</i>	33.3	58.3	58.3	33.3	60.4	18.8
Africa	56.2	68.8	68.8	50.0	75.0	31.2
Eastern, South-eastern, Southern Asia	22.2	77.8	77.8	44.4	55.6	22.2
Latin America and Caribbean	9.1	36.4	27.3	9.1	45.5	0.0
Other developing	33.3	50.0	58.3	25.0	58.3	16.7
CIS	28.6	42.9	57.1	14.3	42.9	14.3
Oceania	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
South-Eastern Europe	50.0	75.0	75.0	50.0	75.0	25.0
Western Asia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Non-OECD</i>	35.8	56.6	56.6	28.3	62.3	18.9
<i>OECD</i>	46.7	53.3	70.0	36.7	93.3	26.7
Total	39.8	55.4	61.4	31.3	73.5	21.7

Table 13: Use of tax records as a source for various SBR characteristics

Report on global status of statistical business register programmes

	Overall use	Registration number	ID number	Contact information	Enterprise type	Industrial classification
<i>Developed</i>	59.0	26.1	39.1	52.2	30.4	34.8
<i>Developing</i>	39.0	20.0	43.3	66.7	30.0	26.7
Africa	52.2	25.0	41.7	75.0	33.3	16.7
Eastern, South-eastern, Southern Asia	29.4	20.0	20.0	80.0	40.0	20.0
Latin America and Caribbean	50.0	22.2	55.6	77.8	33.3	55.6
Other developing	21.1	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CIS	25.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Oceania	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
South-Eastern Europe	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Western Asia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Non-OECD</i>	41.7	22.9	45.7	65.7	34.3	28.6
<i>OECD</i>	56.2	22.2	33.3	50.0	22.2	33.3
Total	45.7	22.6	41.5	60.4	30.2	30.2

	No. of employees	Date of birth/closure	Active status	Type of control	Turnover	Net fixed assets
<i>Developed</i>	87.0	30.4	47.8	0.0	4.3	0.0
<i>Developing</i>	80.0	26.7	33.3	6.7	0.0	0.0
Africa	83.3	33.3	33.3	8.3	0.0	0.0
Eastern, South-eastern, Southern Asia	40.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	0.0	0.0
Latin America and Caribbean	100.0	33.3	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other developing	75.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CIS	50.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Oceania	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
South-Eastern Europe	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Western Asia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Non-OECD</i>	80.0	31.4	28.6	5.7	0.0	0.0
<i>OECD</i>	88.9	22.2	61.1	0.0	5.6	0.0
Total	83.0	28.3	39.6	3.8	1.9	0.0

Table 14: Use of social security register as a source for various SBR characteristics

Report on global status of statistical business register programmes

	Overall use	Registration number	ID number	Contact information	Enterprise type	Industrial classification
<i>Developed</i>	2.6	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Developing</i>	14.3	27.3	27.3	81.8	18.2	36.4
Africa	17.4	25.0	0.0	75.0	25.0	50.0
Eastern, South-eastern, Southern Asia	29.4	20.0	40.0	100.0	20.0	40.0
Latin America and Caribbean	11.1	50.0	50.0	50.0	0.0	0.0
Other developing	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CIS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Oceania	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
South-Eastern Europe	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Western Asia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Non-OECD</i>	14.3	25.0	25.0	83.3	16.7	33.3
<i>OECD</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	10.3	25.0	25.0	83.3	16.7	33.3

	No. of employees	Date of birth/closure	Active status	Type of control	Turnover	Net fixed assets
<i>Developed</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Developing</i>	18.2	9.1	36.4	18.2	0.0	0.0
Africa	0.0	0.0	25.0	25.0	0.0	0.0
Eastern, South-eastern, Southern Asia	20.0	20.0	40.0	20.0	0.0	0.0
Latin America and Caribbean	50.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other developing	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CIS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Oceania	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
South-Eastern Europe	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Western Asia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Non-OECD</i>	16.7	8.3	33.3	16.7	0.0	0.0
<i>OECD</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	16.7	8.3	33.3	16.7	0.0	0.0

Table 15: Use of transportation register as a source for various SBR characteristics

Report on global status of statistical business register programmes

	Overall use	Registration number	ID number	Contact information	Enterprise type	Industrial classification
<i>Developed</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Developing</i>	11.7	11.1	11.1	77.8	11.1	0.0
Africa	17.4	0.0	0.0	100.0	25.0	0.0
Eastern, South-eastern, Southern Asia	23.5	0.0	25.0	75.0	0.0	0.0
Latin America and Caribbean	5.6	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other developing	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CIS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Oceania	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
South-Eastern Europe	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Western Asia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Non-OECD</i>	10.7	11.1	11.1	77.8	11.1	0.0
<i>OECD</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	7.8	11.1	11.1	77.8	11.1	0.0

	No. of employees	Date of birth/closure	Active status	Type of control	Turnover	Net fixed assets
<i>Developed</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Developing</i>	11.1	11.1	0.0	22.2	0.0	0.0
Africa	25.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0
Eastern, South-eastern, Southern Asia	0.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Latin America and Caribbean	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other developing	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CIS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Oceania	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
South-Eastern Europe	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Western Asia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Non-OECD</i>	11.1	11.1	0.0	22.2	0.0	0.0
<i>OECD</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	11.1	11.1	0.0	22.2	0.0	0.0

Table 16: Use of health records as a source for various SBR characteristics

Report on global status of statistical business register programmes

	Overall use	Registration number	ID number	Contact information	Enterprise type	Industrial classification
<i>Developed</i>	7.7	66.7	33.3	33.3	33.3	0.0
<i>Developing</i>	19.5	40.0	53.3	73.3	40.0	46.7
Africa	30.4	42.9	57.1	71.4	57.1	57.1
Eastern, South-eastern, Southern Asia	23.5	25.0	50.0	100.0	25.0	50.0
Latin America and Caribbean	11.1	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	0.0
Other developing	10.5	50.0	50.0	50.0	0.0	50.0
CIS	12.5	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0
Oceania	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
South-Eastern Europe	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Western Asia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Non-OECD</i>	17.9	40.0	53.3	73.3	40.0	46.7
<i>OECD</i>	9.4	66.7	33.3	33.3	33.3	0.0
Total	15.5	44.4	50.0	66.7	38.9	38.9

	No. of employees	Date of birth/closure	Active status	Type of control	Turnover	Net fixed assets
<i>Developed</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	0.0
<i>Developing</i>	6.7	13.3	13.3	13.3	13.3	0.0
Africa	14.3	14.3	14.3	28.6	14.3	0.0
Eastern, South-eastern, Southern Asia	0.0	25.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Latin America and Caribbean	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other developing	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	0.0
CIS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
Oceania	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
South-Eastern Europe	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Western Asia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Non-OECD</i>	6.7	13.3	13.3	13.3	13.3	0.0
<i>OECD</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	0.0
Total	5.6	11.1	11.1	11.1	16.7	0.0

Table 17: Use of customs records as a source for various SBR characteristics

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	Overall use	Registration number	ID number	Contact information	Enterprise type	Industrial classification
<i>Developed</i>	20.5	62.5	50.0	100.0	62.5	62.5
<i>Developing</i>	35.1	59.3	48.1	77.8	66.7	59.3
Africa	30.4	42.9	14.3	71.4	57.1	71.4
Eastern, South-eastern, Southern Asia	47.1	50.0	75.0	87.5	62.5	62.5
Latin America and Caribbean	27.8	80.0	40.0	80.0	80.0	40.0
Other developing	36.8	71.4	57.1	71.4	71.4	57.1
CIS	37.5	66.7	66.7	66.7	66.7	66.7
Oceania	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	0.0
South-Eastern Europe	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Western Asia	40.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Non-OECD</i>	33.3	60.7	46.4	78.6	67.9	60.7
<i>OECD</i>	21.9	57.1	57.1	100.0	57.1	57.1
Total	30.2	60.0	48.6	82.9	65.7	60.0

	No. of employees	Date of birth/closure	Active status	Type of control	Turnover	Net fixed assets
<i>Developed</i>	37.5	62.5	50.0	37.5	37.5	37.5
<i>Developing</i>	40.7	70.4	55.6	29.6	22.2	22.2
Africa	28.6	85.7	57.1	14.3	0.0	0.0
Eastern, South-eastern, Southern Asia	50.0	75.0	75.0	37.5	37.5	37.5
Latin America and Caribbean	40.0	60.0	60.0	20.0	20.0	20.0
Other developing	42.9	57.1	28.6	42.9	28.6	28.6
CIS	0.0	66.7	33.3	66.7	0.0	0.0
Oceania	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
South-Eastern Europe	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0
Western Asia	100.0	100.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0
<i>Non-OECD</i>	39.3	71.4	53.6	28.6	21.4	21.4
<i>OECD</i>	42.9	57.1	57.1	42.9	42.9	42.9
Total	40.0	68.6	54.3	31.4	25.7	25.7

Table 18: Use of administrative data from regional/local government as a source for various SBR characteristics

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	Overall use	Registration number	ID number	Contact information	Enterprise type	Industrial classification
<i>Developed</i>	76.9	63.3	53.3	80.0	66.7	46.7
<i>Developing</i>	50.6	56.4	56.4	79.5	48.7	43.6
Africa	47.8	45.5	54.5	72.7	45.5	45.5
Eastern, South-eastern, Southern Asia	41.2	42.9	42.9	71.4	42.9	42.9
Latin America and Caribbean	55.6	40.0	50.0	80.0	30.0	30.0
Other developing	57.9	90.9	72.7	90.9	72.7	54.5
CIS	75.0	83.3	66.7	83.3	66.7	33.3
Oceania	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
South-Eastern Europe	60.0	100.0	66.7	100.0	66.7	66.7
Western Asia	40.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Non-OECD</i>	53.6	60.0	55.6	77.8	53.3	42.2
<i>OECD</i>	75.0	58.3	54.2	83.3	62.5	50.0
Total	59.5	59.4	55.1	79.7	56.5	44.9

	No. of employees	Date of birth/closure	Active status	Type of control	Turnover	Net fixed assets
<i>Developed</i>	16.7	63.3	43.3	63.3	10.0	10.0
<i>Developing</i>	23.1	53.8	35.9	30.8	23.1	10.3
Africa	18.2	45.5	36.4	27.3	18.2	0.0
Eastern, South-eastern, Southern Asia	14.3	57.1	28.6	42.9	28.6	14.3
Latin America and Caribbean	30.0	40.0	30.0	10.0	30.0	10.0
Other developing	27.3	72.7	45.5	45.5	18.2	18.2
CIS	0.0	50.0	33.3	50.0	0.0	16.7
Oceania	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
South-Eastern Europe	33.3	100.0	66.7	33.3	33.3	0.0
Western Asia	100.0	100.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0
<i>Non-OECD</i>	17.8	55.6	37.8	35.6	20.0	6.7
<i>OECD</i>	25.0	62.5	41.7	62.5	12.5	16.7
Total	20.3	58.0	39.1	44.9	17.4	10.1

Table 19: Use of other sources for various SBR characteristics

B.10. Updates to the register

52. *Number of employees is the most frequently updated characteristic in SBRs.* Table 20 shows the percentage of countries in different geographical groupings that update various characteristics at least once a year for at least some of the units in their SBRs. Overall, the most frequently updated characteristic, both among developed and developing countries, is the number of employees. Other data elements that are usually updated at least every year for some units are: (1) contact information, (2) enterprise type, and (3) active status. Among developed countries, turnover is also a very frequently updated, although not so often in some developing countries. It is important to note that all these information elements are relatively easy to obtain from NSO surveys, tax records, and social security records, which are the data sources most likely to be used in the majority of countries (see, e.g., Table 21).

53. *The least frequently updated characteristics are control type and net fixed assets.* This may be due to these information elements being more difficult to obtain from the usual sources, and by the fact that only a few countries include this type of information in their SBRs.

Region	Contact Information	Enterprise Type	Industrial Classif.	No. of Employees	Date of Birth/Closure	Active Status	Control Type	Turn-over	Net Fixed Assets
<i>Developed</i>	94.9	94.9	92.3	100.0	87.2	97.4	79.5	94.9	51.3
<i>Developing</i>	77.9	71.4	75.3	79.2	71.4	75.3	58.4	64.9	33.8
Africa	78.3	69.6	69.6	78.3	60.9	73.9	65.2	69.6	26.1
Eastern, South-eastern, Southern Asia	82.4	82.4	82.4	82.4	76.5	82.4	52.9	70.6	47.1
Latin America and Caribbean	77.8	72.2	77.8	72.2	72.2	61.1	44.4	44.4	11.1
Other developing	73.7	63.2	73.7	84.2	78.9	84.2	68.4	73.7	52.6
CIS	87.5	75.0	75.0	100.0	75.0	100.0	75.0	100.0	62.5
Oceania	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
South-Eastern Europe	80.0	60.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	80.0	80.0	60.0
Western Asia	40.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	40.0	40.0	20.0	20.0
<i>Non-OECD</i>	78.6	73.8	76.2	82.1	73.8	77.4	61.9	67.9	36.9
<i>OECD</i>	96.9	93.8	93.8	96.9	84.4	96.9	75.0	93.8	46.9
Total	83.6	79.3	81.0	86.2	76.7	82.8	65.5	75.0	39.7

Table 20: *Percentage of countries that update each characteristic at least yearly for at least some of the units in the SBR*

Characteristic	Most frequently reported data source	Second most-frequently reported data source
Contact	NSO Survey (84 percent)	Tax Records (66 percent)
Enterprise Type	Tax Records (53 percent)	Other Sources (47 percent)
Industrial Classification	NSO Survey (80 percent)	Tax Records (59 percent)
Number of Employees	NSO Survey (66 percent)	Soc. Sec. Registry (50 percent)
Date of Birth/Closure	Tax Records (50 percent)	Other Sources (47 percent)
Active Status	Tax Records (66 percent)	NSO Survey (63 percent)
Turnover	Tax Records (88 percent)	NSO Survey (56 percent)

Table 21: *Characteristics that 70 percent or more countries indicated were updated “continuously or regularly for all units”*

B.11. Time gap between register updates and sample selection

54. *The time gap between the last update of the SBR and its use in the selection can be longer than one year in a significant number of developing countries. While the time gap between SBR update and sample selection is no longer than than one year for 92.3 percent of all developed countries (with 56 percent having a time gap of three months or less), about 72.6 percent of developing countries use the SBR for sample selection one year or less after its most recent update (and only 22.1 percent have a time gap of three months or less). Among the developing regions, Western Asia has some of the the longest gaps between SBR update and its use for sample selection, followed by Eastern, South-eastern and Southern Asia.*

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	Less than 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 12 months	1 to 3 years	More than 3 years	n.a.
<i>Developed</i>	56.4	10.3	25.6	7.7	0.0	0.0
<i>Developing</i>	22.1	7.8	40.3	13.0	11.7	5.2
Africa	21.7	8.7	52.2	8.7	8.7	0.0
Eastern, South-eastern, Southern Asia	17.6	11.8	35.3	17.6	17.6	0.0
Latin America and Caribbean	16.7	11.1	33.3	11.1	16.7	11.1
Other developing	31.6	0.0	36.8	15.8	5.3	10.5
CIS	50.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Oceania	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
South-Eastern Europe	40.0	0.0	40.0	0.0	0.0	20.0
Western Asia	0.0	0.0	20.0	60.0	20.0	0.0
<i>Non-OECD</i>	26.2	8.3	39.3	11.9	10.7	3.6
<i>OECD</i>	53.1	9.4	25.0	9.4	0.0	3.1
Total	33.6	8.6	35.3	11.2	7.8	3.4

Table 22: Distribution of longest time gap between last update and the use of the Business Register for sample survey selection

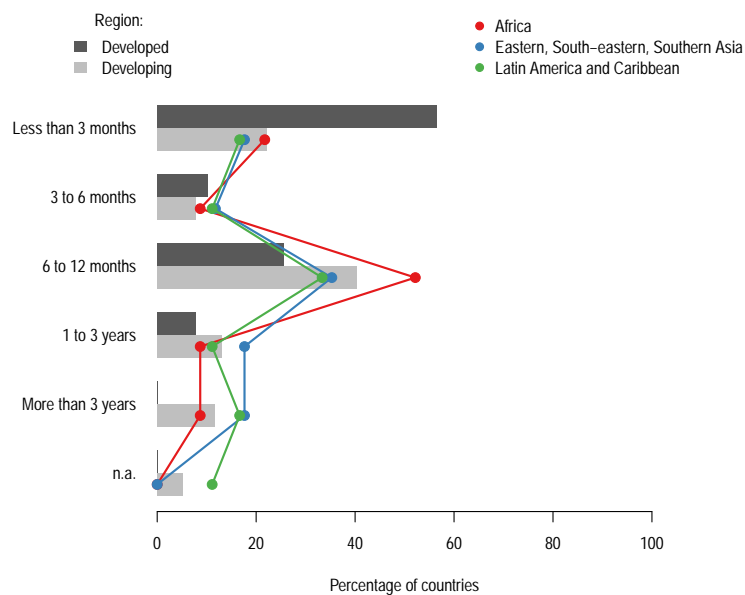


Figure 10: Distribution of longest time gap between last update and the use of the Business Register for sample survey selection

B.12. Continuity rules

55. *Continuity rules are not well implemented in many developing countries, particularly in Africa.* Continuity rules are important to ascertain the identity of an enterprise or other statistical unit, even in case of a change of name and/or address, a change of principal activity, or a change of control, thus avoiding duplication in the SBR. Continuity rules are available for statistical units in 66 percent of the countries (82.1 percent of developed and 57.1 of developing countries). Only 47.8 percent of countries in Africa reported having continuity rules available, a much lower rate than in other developing regions.

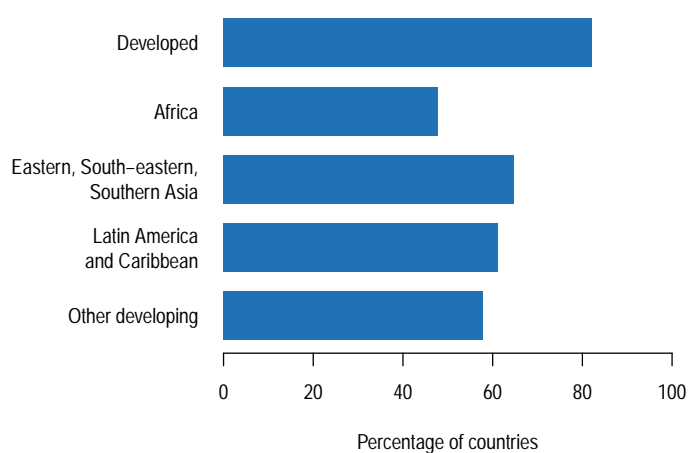


Figure 11: Percentage of countries that have continuity rules for statistical units

	Frequency
<i>Developed</i>	82.1
<i>Developing</i>	57.1
Africa	47.8
Eastern, South-eastern, Southern Asia	64.7
Latin America and Caribbean	61.1
Other developing	57.9
CIS	62.5
Oceania	0.0
South-Eastern Europe	60.0
Western Asia	60.0
<i>Non-OECD</i>	58.3
<i>OECD</i>	84.4
Total	65.5

Table 23: Percentage of countries that have continuity rules for statistical units

B.13. SBR data verification and validation

56. *Sources of errors in SBR records.* Statistical business registers are large databases holding records of units and their characteristics, relationships and history. In theory, they could provide a perfect image of the outside world. They would contain no errors, as these would be corrected the moment they occur. In reality, however, it is impossible to avoid errors and incorrect information in a business register. There are various reasons for the differences between this image and the real world. The sources of information used to maintain and update the register will generally contain irregularities of some sort. The register may be subject to certain lags in the recording of real world events or it may have gaps due to the lack of adequate sources for certain types of information. A number of different error may arise, including errors in existence, identification characteristics, economic/stratification characteristics, unit type, links and relationship characteristics, etc.

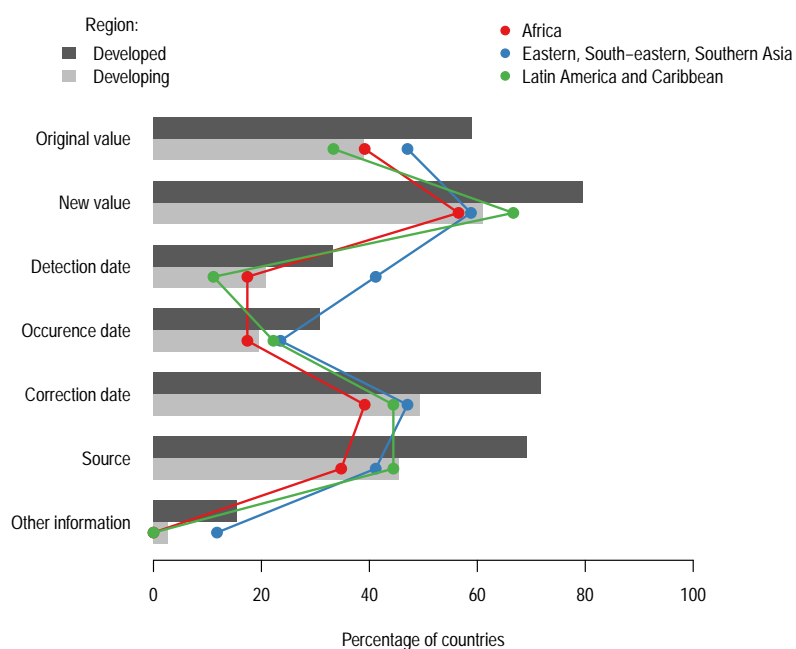


Figure 12: Frequency with which specific data elements are recorded when handling errors

57. *The majority of countries keep records to document how errors are handled in the maintenance of the SBR.* Among developed countries, around 70 percent keep records of the correction date and the data source along the new value. This figure is much lower for developing countries, as less than 50 percent keep records on the correction date and the data source. Some countries record additional information such as the date from which the new

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	Original value	New value	Detection date	Occurrence date	Correction date	Source	Other information
<i>Developed</i>	59.0	79.5	33.3	30.8	71.8	69.2	15.4
<i>Developing</i>	39.0	61.0	20.8	19.5	49.4	45.5	2.6
Africa	39.1	56.5	17.4	17.4	39.1	34.8	0.0
Eastern, South-eastern, Southern Asia	47.1	58.8	41.2	23.5	47.1	41.2	11.8
Latin America and Caribbean	33.3	66.7	11.1	22.2	44.4	44.4	0.0
Other developing	36.8	63.2	15.8	15.8	68.4	63.2	0.0
CIS	50.0	62.5	12.5	12.5	62.5	50.0	0.0
Oceania	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	0.0
South-Eastern Europe	20.0	60.0	0.0	0.0	80.0	60.0	0.0
Western Asia	20.0	60.0	40.0	40.0	60.0	80.0	0.0
<i>Non-OECD</i>	38.1	61.9	21.4	19.0	52.4	47.6	1.2
<i>OECD</i>	65.6	81.2	34.4	34.4	68.8	68.8	21.9
Total	45.7	67.2	25.0	23.3	56.9	53.4	6.9

Table 24: Frequency with which specific data elements are recorded when handling errors (percent)

information was valid in reality and the name of the person (user of the BR) in case if data was corrected manually.

58. *Towards a more systematic recording and management of error detection in SBRs.* One approach to more systematically handle errors is to set up a specific database to record these details. The structure and functionality of such a database should depend on the procedures agreed for handling errors. For example, Republic of Korea are planning to construct the error management system from 2013.

B.14. Dissemination

59. *Dissemination of SBR data to external users is less restricted in developing countries.* Table ?? shows that, while almost two thirds of the developed countries (64.1 percent) do not allow any kind of access to external users, half of the developing countries (50.6 percent) that responded to the survey do. Full access is granted only in 2 OECD and 2 non-OECD countries. In most cases, dissemination of SBR data to external users is restricted to certain variables and for specific purposes. In those countries where access to SBR data is allowed, users include universities and research institutions, academic researchers, and other government entities such as the central bank.

	No access	Partial Access	Full Access
<i>Developed</i>	64.1	30.8	5.1
<i>Developing</i>	49.4	48.1	2.6
Africa	30.4	65.2	4.3
Eastern, South-eastern, Southern Asia	70.6	23.5	5.9
Latin America and Caribbean	38.9	61.1	0.0
Other developing	63.2	36.8	0.0
CIS	37.5	62.5	0.0
Oceania	100.0	0.0	0.0
South-Eastern Europe	60.0	40.0	0.0
Western Asia	100.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Non-OECD</i>	52.4	45.2	2.4
<i>OECD</i>	59.4	34.4	6.2
Total	54.3	42.2	3.4

Table 25: Percentage of countries that provide external users with access to SBR data

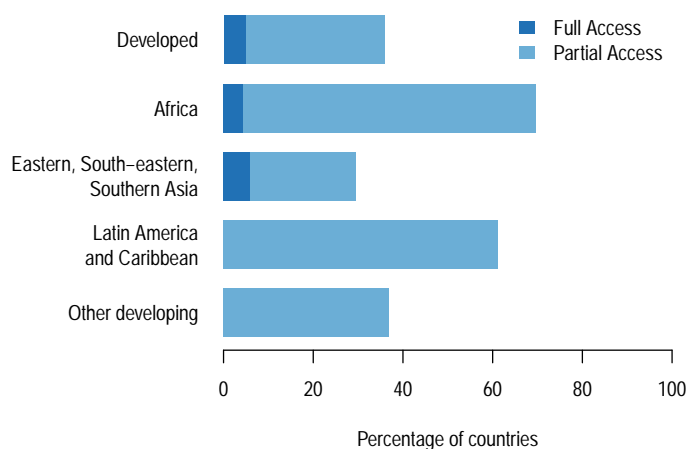


Figure 13: Percentage of countries that provide external users with access to SBR data

60. Need to investigate in more detail the need content and nature the legal framework for confidentiality protection in each country. One would assume that having laws protecting confidentiality would encourage dissemination (as there would be legal deterrence against violation). However, the responses suggest that covering this particular aspect in the country's legal framework does not, in itself, have much of an impact: Actually, slightly more than half countries with laws protecting confidentiality provide no access to external

users. This may have to do with the fact that confidentiality protection is covered in the legal framework of almost every country, and suggest the need to qualitatively examine the content of confidentiality laws. For instance, it would be important to elucidate which types of confidentiality-protection rules encourage the dissemination and use of SBR data by establishing appropriate mechanisms for ensuring trust and accountability, and which rules produce the opposite effect, protecting confidentiality at the risk of making the SBR data less useful.

61. *Relationship between legal framework and SBR data dissemination policy.* Table 26 reveals the existence of a general a positive relationship between the availability of a legal framework regulating the various aspects of SBR compilation and dissemination, and the provision of access of SBR data to external users. For instance, all the countries that provide full access to external users have a legal framework covering the four dimensions of legal framework covered in the Global Survey. In contrast, countries that do not provide any kind of access to external users are less likely to have a legal framework in place for each of the dimensions covered in the Global Survey. An important insight from Table 26 is that although countries in Africa, CIS, Latin America and the Caribbean countries, provide, on average, more access to external users (see Figure 25), the underlying reasons for this vary from one country to another.

Groups of countries by extent of access to external users	Share of countries in each row that cover this aspect in their legal framework (percent)			
	Establishment and maintenance of SBR	Use of SBR data by other agencies	Confidentiality protection	Access to administrative sources
Full (4 countries)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Partial (49 countries)	81.6	65.3	98.0	77.6
No access (63 countries)	66.7	50.8	88.9	68.3

Table 26: Relationship between legal framework and access to external users

B.15. Business demographics

62. *The SBR is used as a data source in its own right for the compilation of Business Demographic statistics in most developed countries.* There is a growing demand for information on the structure and demography of the business population, including the number and characteristics of business starts and closings over time. While in most countries the SBR is primarily a tool for preparing and coordinating statistical surveys, in n several countries it is also one of the sources (and often the main source) of data for preparing Business Demographics statistics. In 87.2 percent of developed countries, business demographics

are compiled from SBR, while in the case of developing countries this proportion is only 48.1 percent. In particular, only very few countries in Western Asia and Eastern, South-eastern, and Southern Asia compile business demographics from business registers (20 and 41.2 percent, respectively).

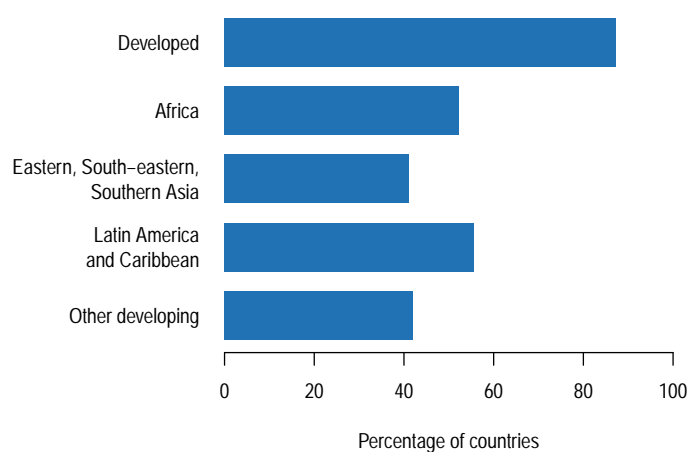


Figure 14: Percentage of countries that compile Business Demographics or similar statistics using the Business Register

	Frequency
<i>Developed</i>	87.2
<i>Developing</i>	48.1
Africa	52.2
Eastern, South-eastern, Southern Asia	41.2
Latin America and Caribbean	55.6
Other developing	42.1
CIS	50.0
Oceania	0.0
South-Eastern Europe	60.0
Western Asia	20.0
<i>Non-OECD</i>	52.4
<i>OECD</i>	84.4
Total	61.2

Table 27: Percentage of countries that compile Business Demographics or similar statistics using the Business Register

B.16. SBR documentation

63. *Documentation on SBR processes and outputs is not available in approximately one third of the developing countries.* While overall the majority of respondents (61 percent) state that documentation on SBR is available to enable ease of interpretation by staff, there are marked differences between developed and developing countries. More specifically, the availability of documentation was reported by 84.6 percent of developed countries, whereas it was reported by only 67.5 percent of developing countries.

64. *Importance of the documentation of SBR processes and outputs.* The availability of high-quality documentation of SBR processes is a requirement to maximize the use of the SBR in the compilation of analytical products such as business demographics. For instance, among the countries with available documentation, 2 out of 3 countries also use the SBR for the production of business demographics.

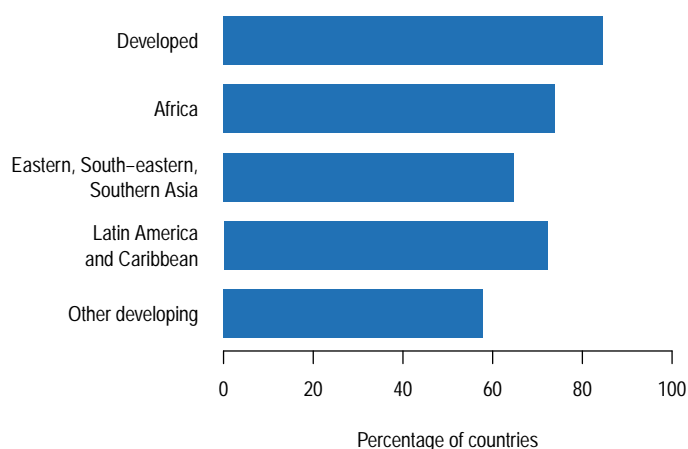


Figure 15: *Percentage of countries that have documentation available to facilitate interpretation of Business Register information*

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	Frequency
<i>Developed</i>	84.6
<i>Developing</i>	67.5
Africa	73.9
Eastern, South-eastern, Southern Asia	64.7
Latin America and Caribbean	72.2
Other developing	57.9
CIS	62.5
Oceania	0.0
South-Eastern Europe	100.0
Western Asia	20.0
<i>Non-OECD</i>	69.0
<i>OECD</i>	84.4
Total	73.3

Table 28: *Percentage of countries that have documentation available to facilitate interpretation of Business Register information*

Business demographics	Documentation available		Grand Total
	No	Yes	
No	16	29	45
Yes	15	56	71
Grand Total	31	85	116

Table 29: *Relationship between availability of SBR documentation and business demographics*

Appendix 1 - List of survey respondents

Region	List of Respondents
	<i>Developed countries:</i>
All regions (39)	Australia; Japan; New Zealand; ÅĖland Islands; Austria; Belgium; Croatia; Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Iceland; Ireland; Italy; Latvia; Liechtenstein; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Malta; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Bermuda; Canada; United States of America; Bulgaria; Romania; Cyprus; Israel
	<i>Developing and emerging countries:</i>
Africa (23)	Egypt; Morocco; Tunisia; Angola; Botswana; Burundi; Cameroon; Cape Verde; Djibouti; Ethiopia; Ghana; Kenya; Liberia; Madagascar; Mauritius; Mozambique; Nigeria; Rwanda; South Africa; Uganda; United Republic of Tanzania; Zambia; Zimbabwe
Eastern, South-eastern, Southern Asia (17)	China; China, Hong Kong SAR; China, Macao SAR; Mongolia; Republic of Korea; Bangladesh; Bhutan; India; Maldives; Sri Lanka; Cambodia; Indonesia; Malaysia; Philippines; Singapore; Thailand; Viet Nam
Western Asia (5)	Bahrain; Jordan; Oman; State of Palestine; United Arab Emirates
CIS (8)	Armenia; Azerbaijan; Georgia; Tajikistan; Belarus; Republic of Moldova; Russian Federation; Ukraine
South-Eastern Europe (5)	Albania; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Montenegro; Serbia; The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Latin America and Caribbean (18)	Aruba; Bahamas; Cayman Islands; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Montserrat; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Trinidad and Tobago; Brazil; Chile; Colombia; Costa Rica; El Salvador; Honduras; Mexico; Panama; Peru; Uruguay
Oceania (1)	Solomon Islands

Table 30: List of respondents to the SBR Global Survey, by development status and geographic region

Appendix 2 - Suvery Questionnaire

Organizational Information

- Name of organization: _____
- Country: _____
- Point of contact:
 - Name: _____
 - Position: _____
 - E-mail: _____

Coverage

- What is the coverage of the industrial sectors in the Business Register? (Mark all that apply)
 - A: Agriculture, forestry and fishing
 - B: Mining and quarrying
 - C: Manufacturing
 - D: Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply
 - E: Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities
 - F: Construction
 - G: Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles
 - H: Transportation and storage
 - I: Accommodation and food service activities
 - J: Information and communication
 - K: Financial and insurance activities
 - L: Real estate activities
 - M: Professional, scientific and technical activities
 - N: Administrative and support service activities
 - O: Public administration and defence, compulsory social security
 - P: Education
 - Q: Human health and social work activities
 - R: Arts, entertainment and recreation
 - S: Other service activities
 - T: Activities of households as employers, undifferentiated goods and Services producing activities of households for own use
 - U: Activities of extraterritorial organizations and bodies

Statistical units

- What are the statistical units in the Business Register? (Mark all that apply)
 - Enterprise group
 - Enterprise
 - Establishment
 - Kind-of-Activity unit (KAU)
 - Local unit
 - Other (please specify) _____

Classification of economic activities

- Is the classification by industry, which is used in the Business Register, consistent with ISIC (International Standard Industrial Classification)?
 - Yes
 - No

ISIC version and level of detail

- Which version of ISIC is used?
 - ISIC Rev. 4
 - ISIC Rev. 3.1
 - ISIC Rev. 3
 - ISIC Rev. 2
 - ISIC Rev. 1
 - Additional comments: _____
- What is the most detailed level of the industrial classification for which units are coded?
 - Section level (A,B,...)
 - Division (2-digit level)
 - Group (3-digit level)
 - Class (4-digit level)
 - Other (please specify):

ISIC implementation plans

- Is there a plan to develop a classification consistent with ISIC? (please explain)
-

Types of units covered and minimum number of employees

The following four questions refer to the types of units included in the Business Register. For every type of unit in which your answer is "Yes", please also specify any cutoff point (in terms of minimum number of employees). For instance, if only businesses with 5 employees or more are considered, the cutoff point is 5.

- Are public sector enterprises/establishments included in the Business Register?
 - No
 - Yes. Please specify the cut-off point: _____
- Are private sector enterprises/establishments included in the Business Register?
 - No
 - Yes. Please specify the cut-off point: _____
- Are self-employed businesses included in the Business Register?
 - No
 - Yes. Please specify the cut-off point: _____
- Please specify any other thresholds applied to other types of businesses: _____

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Data sources

- Which data sources are used for which characteristics? (Check all that apply)

	Survey(s) conducted by National Statistical Office	Survey(s) conducted by other government agencies	Tax Records	Social Security Register	Trasport Registers	Health Records	Customs Records	Admin. data from Regional/ Local Government	Other data sources*
Registration Number (Admin. code)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Identification Number	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name / Address / Telephone no.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Enterprise type**	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial classification	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Number of employees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Date of Birth/Closure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Code whether unit is active or not	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Type of control***	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Turnover/ Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Net fixed assets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

* Other data sources (e.g., other administrative records maintained by the NSO or other national government agencies, or data from chambers of commerce and other associations) - Please specify:

** Specifically:

- incorporated enterprise except cooperative and limited liability partnerships, and nonprofit institutions
- cooperative and limited liability partnerships
- nonprofit institution, and
- unincorporated enterprise

*** National private controlled sector, public sector controlled sector, or foreign controlled sector

Frequency of updates

- With which frequency are the following characteristics updated in the business register?

	Continuously or regularly for all units - at least yearly	Continuously or regularly for at least part of the units - at least yearly	Occasionally - less frequently than yearly	Never - no change has been made to the list since it was established	Not applicable (characteristic is not available in business register)
Registration Number (Admin. code)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Identification Number	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name / Address / Telephone no.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Enterprise type	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial classification	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Number of employees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Date of Birth / Closure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Code whether unit is active or not	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Type of control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Turnover / Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Net fixed assets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Relationships between units

- Does your country have cross-references* among units within the Business Register?
 - No
 - Yes, please specify: _____

Time gap between register updates and sample selection

- What is the longest time gap between last update and the use of Business Register for sample survey selection?

- Less than 3 months
- Between 3 months and 6 months
- Between 6 months and a year
- Between a year and 3 years
- More than 3 years

Additional comments:_____

Error handling

- Does your country record the handling of errors* which were detected during updating?

- No
- Yes

* An error in this case is only relevant for the classification variables, namely Industrial classification, Size class (number of employees), Date of birth/death, Whether unit is active or not, Whether unit is private, public or foreign controlled. An error in a SBR is a difference in the information presented in the register and the actual situation, e.g. units are recorded as economically active, but actually are no longer active. Please disregard for this question errors in name, address and telephone numbers

- Please indicate what kinds of information are recorded when handling errors? (Mark all that apply)

- The original value (the wrong one)
- The new value (the correct one)
- The date of detection
- The date of occurrence
- The date of correction
- The source of the corrected value
- Other (please specify)_____

Identity number

- Is there an identity number (IN)* for statistical units?

- Yes
- No

* An identity number must be independent of other characteristics and not be changed throughout the life of the unit.

Data linking

- Is it possible to cross-link the identity number for statistical units with external identity numbers used in other sources?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Additional comments: _____
- Please explain how to link the data from different sources (e.g., using legal name): _____

Legal framework

- Are the following aspects of the maintenance and updating of the Business Register mandated by a legal act?
 - Establishment and maintenance of a list
 - Yes
 - No
 - Use of list by other agencies for statistical purposes
 - Yes
 - No
 - Protection/Safeguard of confidentiality of the data
 - Yes
 - No
 - Access to administrative data
 - Yes
 - No
- Please specify any other aspects which are mandated by a legal act or official statistical framework in relation to the maintenance and updating of the Business Register: _____

Continuity rules

- Does your country have any continuity rules* for a statistical unit?
 - No
 - Yes (please specify): _____

* Continuity rules to keep the same enterprise, even in case of a change of name and/or address, a change of principal activity, or a change of control.

Business demographics

- Does your country compile Business Demographics or similar statistics using the Business Register?
 - Yes
 - No
- If you compile the BDS using other source, please specify: _____
- Please provide details about the Business Demographics or similar statistics that are compiled in your country using the Business Register:
 - Name of Statistics: _____
 - Point of Contact: _____
 - Date of first compilation: _____

Documentation

- Is documentation available on the Business Register to enable ease of interpretation of register information by staff working in the area?
 - No
 - Yes
- If you answered yes, and this documentation is available on-line, please provide the link information: _____

Users

- To what kind of users is the Business Register available?
 - Internal* users only
 - External users also
- * Internal use refers to use by the national statistical system only
- Who are the major external users/customers of the Business Register?
 - What is the scope of access* for external users?
 - Full
 - Partial
- Additional comments _____

* Even if access is granted for external use, it is possible that due to confidentiality considerations some of the variables cannot be provided