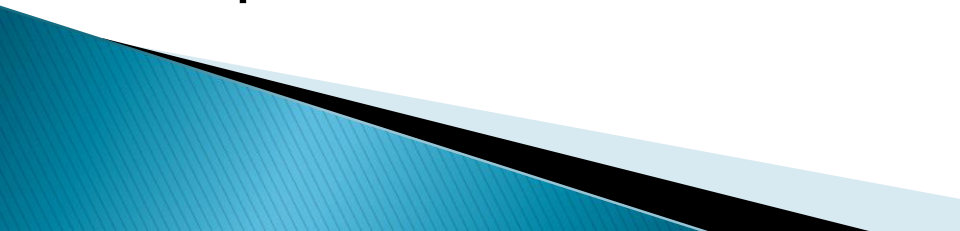


Towards Better Information Systems for the 2030 Agenda –Use of Administrative Records in Business Registers

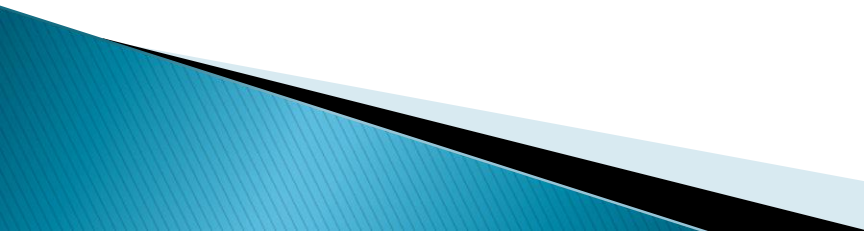
*Carol Coy: Statistical Institute of Jamaica
UN Statistical Commission
March 4, 2016*



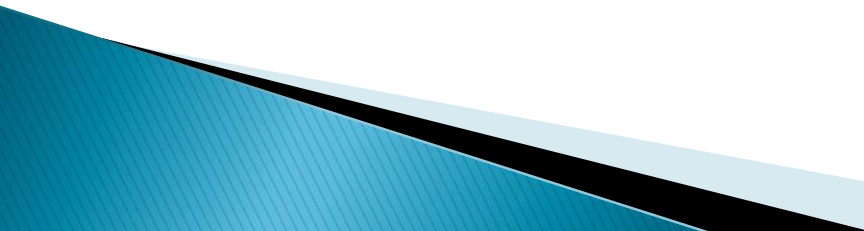
Introduction

- ❑ Monitoring of the SDGs will place additional burden on the resources of the National Statistical Systems especially those in developing countries
 - ❑ It is essential that NSOs seek to develop a wider range of data sources and be more efficient in their production processes
 - ❑ This presentation will highlight the process used by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) to incorporate the use of administrative records to update and maintain its Business Register
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The Business Register

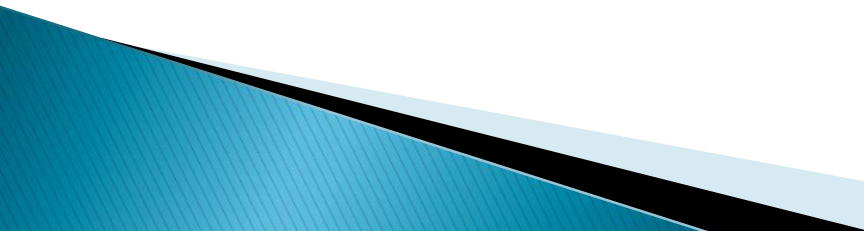
- ❑ The Jamaican Business Register is a structured list of establishments operating in Jamaica.
 - ❑ Establishments are organized by industry and assigned an activity code based on the Jamaica Industrial Classification.
 - ❑ Establishments engaged in agriculture fall outside the scope of the Business Register.
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Purpose of the Business Register

- ❑ The Business Register exists primarily for the purpose of supplying a framework for all economic surveys
 - ❑ Serves as a frame for the selection of establishment surveys
 - ❑ Consistently classifies statistical reporting units i.e. establishments
 - ❑ Serves as a data source for compiling demographic information about businesses
 - ❑ Used to monitor response rates
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Data Sources

Register is updated and maintained through

1. On-going surveys
 2. Administrative sources
 - Tax databases
 - National Housing Trust (*government agency mandated to provide affordable housing. Generates funding through a payroll tax*)
 - Regulatory agencies
 - Professional bodies
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Data Sources: Surveys

Data Source	Data Captured	Periodicity
Survey – Central Register of Economic Units (CREU)	Business identification such as legal & trading name, geographic location, contact details	On-going
	Demographics – main activity, year of commencement, employment details, type of ownership, legal form	

Data Sources: Surveys

Advantages	Disadvantages
Control over the content, concepts and definitions	Expensive and resource intensive – to ensure coverage and be current
Good coverage if a census is undertaken	Inability to track births and deaths in a timely manner especially small sized establishments
	Response burden is high especially in small economies such as Jamaica: high non-response rate

Data Sources: Administrative Records

Data Source	Data Captured	Periodicity
VAT Database	Business Identification Address,	Monthly
	Economic Activity	
	Sales, Expenses, VAT	
National Housing Trust	Business Identification Address, Number of employees Wages	Annual

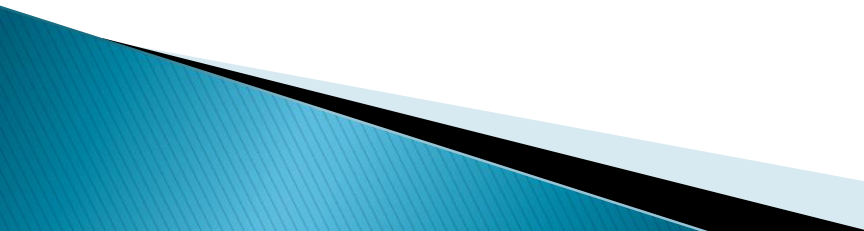
Administrative Data Sources

Data Source	Data Captured	Periodicity
Companies Office of Jamaica	Business Identification Address Contact details	Monthly
	Type of Organization	
	Economic Activity	
Regulatory Agencies	Business Identification Address	Annual
	Economic Activities	
	Financial Information	

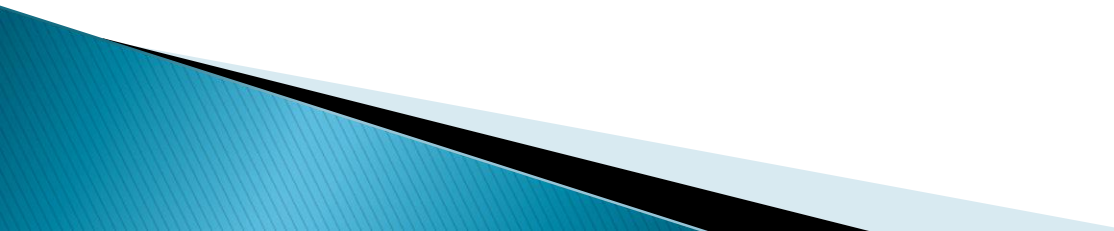
Administrative Data Sources

Advantages	Disadvantages
Inexpensive	Quality is not guaranteed so data may require significant editing before use
Updating & maintenance is much easier	Need a common identifier to be able to link the various sources of data
Does not result in response burden	Limited control over the content, concepts and definitions
Some sources allow for improvement in coverage especially among some population	Variety of sources have to be explored to develop a robust register
Allows for longitudinal assessment of data	

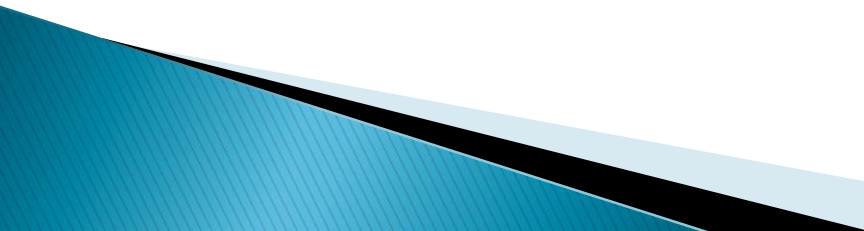
Challenges in using Administrative Records

- ❑ Linking of the various data sources is possible through Tax Payer Registration Number (TRN)
 - ❑ No consistency in allocation of TRN as in some cases it is assigned to establishment and in other to enterprises or to the individual who owns the business
 - ❑ No common industrial classification among the agencies
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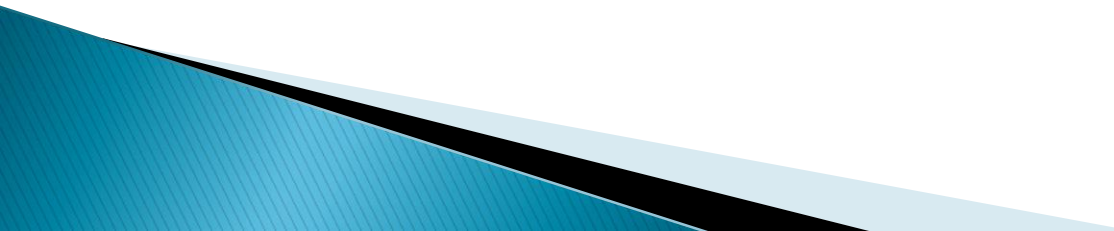
Challenges in using Administrative Records

- ❑ Structure of databases and data dictionary differ across organizations
 - ❑ Quality of information is not guaranteed, as the data are not always compiled for statistical purposes
 - ❑ Unwillingness to share information among agencies
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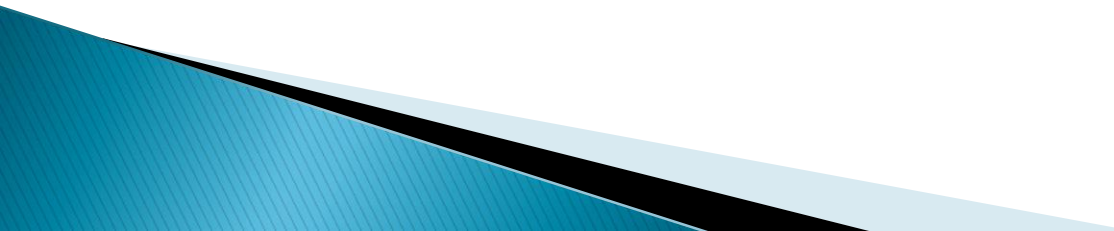
Access & Use of Administrative Records

- The process to incorporate the use of administrative records was facilitated by
 - The legal framework of STATIN
 - The development of partnerships with owners of the data and hosts of the databases
 - STATIN being proactive in identifying possible data sources
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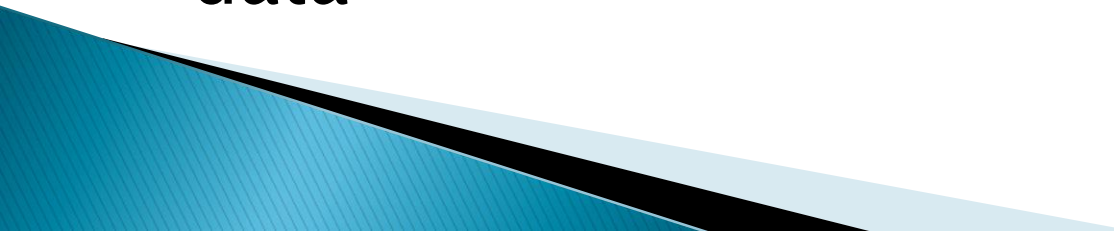
Legal Framework

- ❑ The Statistics Act facilitates the process of access to Administrative data. Section 3 (2) addresses access to data from public agencies.
 - ❑ The Act also guarantees the confidentiality of the data
 - ❑ There has been some resistance from a few agencies with regard to the supremacy of the Statistics Act
 - ❑ This is now being addressed with proposed amendments to the Statistics Act to give supremacy on issues of statistics
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Development of Partnerships

- ❑ Development of partnerships was critical in accessing administrative data
 - ❑ Buy in from Heads/CEO of agencies. This is critical when there is a change in leadership
 - ❑ Develop MOUs to allow for a consistent working relationship. In some instances the owner of the data and the host of the database are different agencies
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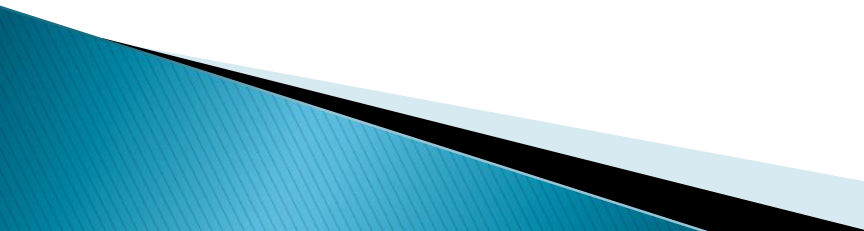
Development of Partnerships

- ❑ Regular meetings at technical level to develop feedback, keep abreast of changes and to address any issues that may arise
 - ❑ These meetings have made STATIN aware of additional data sources – monthly payroll data
 - ❑ Require consistent interaction with the data providers to ensure that the NSO is aware of changes to the content and structure of the data
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Development of Partnerships

- ❑ Where possible encourage use of common classification systems to allow for comparability
 - ❑ STATIN was proactive during the development of the VAT database. As a result companies were classified using Jamaica Industrial Classification. Also influenced the structure of the database and the periodicity of the data supply
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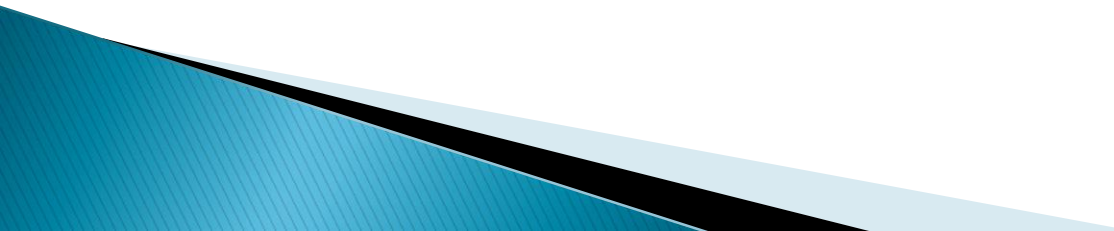
Proactive in Identifying Data Sources

- ❑ NSO is proactive in identifying possible administrative data sources
 - ❑ Need to assess the potential of these sources early in the process
 - ❑ Social Security data, although wealth of data was not in state that would allow for use.
 - ❑ Alternate source with similar data base; National Housing Trust was targeted instead.
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Benefits for STATIN

- ❑ Administrative records are a rich source of data. Information is also used in compiling various statistics.
 - ❑ More cost effective, improve timeliness of the statistics as well as opportunities to develop new series
 - ❑ VAT data used for BR as well as compilation of GDP and possible complementary source for Production Volume Index as well as for the development of a retail sales index
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Benefits for STATIN

- ❑ Monthly payroll used for BR as well as compilation of employment and earnings. This will allow for monthly wage index compared to the annual index now being compiled
 - ❑ Build relationships with a variety of agencies which is critical if we are to be successful in monitoring the SDGs
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International Collaboration

- ❑ Jamaica has been receiving technical assistance from international partners to expand the use of administrative records
 - ❑ Statistics Canada through its Project for the Advancement of Statistics in the Caribbean (PRASC) provided training in the use of administrative records
 - ❑ Caribbean Training Centre (CARTAC) assisted STATIN to collaborate with agencies in an effort to improve the quality of the data which is advantageous to both agency and the NSO.
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Way Forward

- ❑ Process has highlighted the need for Jamaica to prioritise the development of the NSS
 - ❑ Continue to identify administrative data sources and foster working relationships
 - ❑ Use these relationships to standardize the quality of data received from these sources
 - ❑ Provide regular feedback to data providers to maintain relationships and foster consistency
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Conclusion

- ❑ The process to incorporate administrative data in updating and maintaining the Business Register can be duplicated in sourcing additional data for the monitoring of SDGs.