



International Workshop on the Statistical Business Register, the Economic Census and Integrated Economic Statistics
INEGI and UNSD
Aguascalientes, Mexico
29 September – 1 October 2015

Background

Integrated economic statistics provide researchers, academics, government and the general public reliable information needed for sound decision-making. The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) encourages national statistical offices to create integrated economic statistics programmes, as well as an integrated survey programme, based on sources such as administrative data, the Economic Census, and the Statistical Business Register (SBR). Within this context, UNSD and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI) jointly organize an international workshop to discuss the advantages, opportunities and challenges of creating an Integrated Economic Statistics Programme, based on source data from sources including the Economic Census; the SBR; and administrative data. UNSD and INEGI invite national statistical offices in the region to participate in the International Workshop on the Statistical Business Register, the Economic Census and Integrated Economic Statistics, to be held at the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI) in Aguascalientes, 29 September to 1 October 2015.

The Statistical Business Register (SBR), maintained and updated from administrative data and other information, is not only an essential part of the statistical infrastructure for a country's economic statistics programme, but can also serve as a cost-effective sample frame and be an important tool for stratification, imputation and editing of basic source data. In addition, SBRs can serve as a single frame for integrated survey design and thereby reduce response burden. The SBR is therefore essential for integrated economic statistics. Integration of data from different sources provides new information that would not otherwise exist. For example, an increasing number of countries have undertaken projects to link trade statistics to the SBR at the micro level. Such integrated datasets can, for instance, indicate which firms, characterized by industry, size class, foreign ownership, and geographic location, are engaged in international trade as part of global value chains, and the importance of those firms for the overall economy.

The fundamental goal of running an Economic Census, meanwhile, is to obtain basic statistical information on all establishments producing goods, marketers of goods, and service providers for a given year in order to generate economic indicators with highly detailed geographic, sectoral and thematic information. It allows for basic statistical information to feed into the System of National Accounts; serves as a source of data for analysis and updating of the Input-Output base

year; supports the determination of gross domestic product; and provides the necessary information for imputation of the Producer Price Index, among others.

The Economic Census serves the information needs demanded by society, researchers and policy-makers. During the periods between censuses, the demand for information is satisfied by periodic economic surveys in some countries. The sampling frame for economic surveys may be formed from information from the Economic Census; but for cases in which major structural economic changes occur in a short time, the sampling frame derived from the Economic Census may become obsolete. Therefore, linking the Economic Census to the SBR, to administrative data, and to other sources such as surveys, can help maintain the quality and timeliness of economic statistics and lead overall to a more integrated economic statistics programme.

Objective

The objective of the workshop is for participating countries to share experience and knowledge in maintaining and linking the SBR to economic statistics for creating an integrated economic statistics programme, in running an Economic Census, and using administrative data.

In addition, certain challenges and obstacles and solutions will be discussed, including the revision of laws relating to the access of information on individual establishments for statistical purposes; aligning statistical concepts and definitions to the administrative units available; standardizing and linking information from the SBR to external data sources; replacing questionnaires with information available from the economic census, and/or the SBR.

Means of Implementation

The workshop will allow for discussion and sharing of examples, knowledge and best practices on the following themes:

- Advantages, areas of opportunity and challenges of the Economic Census
- Major innovations in attracting/collecting census information
- The economic census and registration of businesses, as inputs to the System of National Accounts
- Implementation of new technologies for dissemination of census results
- Design, implementation and updating of the SBR
- Challenges of SBRs

In particular, the three-day workshop will address the following areas:

- 29 September 2015: the Economic Census and the SBR
- 30 September 2015: the importance of creating a programme of integrated economic statistics;
- 30 September 2015: using the Economic Census and the SBR to optimize economic surveys
- 1 October 2015: linking the SBR to international trade statistics and other statistics
- 1 October 2015: the SBR and economic globalization

Participants

The participants will include statisticians from the national statistical offices of 18 countries in Central and South America. The participants will have expertise in the economic census or the SBR and will be able to share experiences, knowledge and best practices.

Organizers

This workshop is jointly organized by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and INEGI and will be hosted by INEGI at their facilities in Aguascalientes.