Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers

United Nations Statistics Division
A. UN Family and Statistical Business Registers
B. Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers
C. Coverage of SBR
D. Roles of SBR
E. Trade by Enterprise Characteristics (TEC)
F. Research Agenda
UN Family and SBRs

- **UN Secretariat** (incl. UNCTAD, UNODC, UN Habitat)
  - UN – New York
    - **UN Statistical Commission** ➔ international standards
    - Wiesbaden group on Business Registers
  - UNECE – Europe
    - Conference of European Statisticians
    - UNECE Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers
  - UNESCWA – Western Asia (and Northern Africa)
    - Statistics Committee of ESCWA
  - UNECA – Africa
    - Statistical Commission of Africa
    - AfDB Guidelines on Business Registers
  - UNECLAC – Latin America and Caribbean
    - Statistical Conference of the Americas
    - Improvement program of Business Registers (2010-2013)
  - UNESCAP – Asia and the Pacific
    - Statistics Committee of ESCAP
UN Family and SBRs

- **UN System** (incl. ILO, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR)
  - UN Secretariat
    - UN Statistical Commission ➔ international standards
    - Wiesbaden group on Business Registers
  - UNIDO – Vienna
    - Industry statistics
    - Business Registers ➔ Focus on manufacturing
  - FAO - Rome
    - Agriculture, forestry and fishery statistics
    - Business Registers ➔ Focus on agriculture
  - UNESCO - Montreal
    - Education, Cultural and Science statistics
    - Business Registers ➔ Focus on schools, universities, research, museum
  - WHO - Geneva
    - Health statistics
    - Business Registers ➔ Focus on hospitals, pharmacies, medical research
UN Family and SBRs

- **CCSA -** Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities

  - UN System
    - [UN Statistical Commission](#) international standards
    - Wiesbaden group on Business Registers
  - IMF – Washington DC
    - Balance of Payments and Financial statistics
    - Business Registers ➔ Focus on financial institutions
  - WTO - Geneva
    - International Trade Statistics
    - Business Registers ➔ Focus on businesses which trade
  - Eurostat – Luxembourg
    - Statistical Office of the European Union
    - Business Registers ➔ EU Guidelines
  - ECB - Frankfurt
    - European Central Bank
    - Business Registers ➔ Focus on financial institutions
UNSD and SBRs

- UNSD promotes creation and maintenance of national Statistical Business Registers as a core element in the implementation of the 2008 SNA and integrated economic statistics.

- UNSD actively participates in various fora related to business register, such as Wiesbaden group or UNECE Task Force on SBR.

- UNSD contributes to initiatives on SBRs in all regions, including:
  - Africa – AfDB Guidelines on Business Registers
  - Europe – CES Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers
  - Western Asia and Asia/Pacific – SBR development is part of the 2008 SNA implementation program and improvement of economic statistics in general.

- UNSD supports improvement of business registers at country level (i.e., Costa Rica, Malaysia and Jordan).
Contents

- Chp 1 - Introduction
- Chp 2 - Roles of SBR
- Chp 3 - Coverage of SBR
- Chp 4 - Units of SBR
- Chp 5 - Characteristics of units
- Chp 6 - Data sources for SBR
- Chp 7 - Maintenance of SBR
- Chp 8 - Survey frame methodology
- Chp 9 - Dissemination
- Chp 10 – Quality of SBR
- Chp 11 - Key considerations in establishing SBR
- Chp 12 - Topics for further work and research
- Annexes A – E: unit characteristics, unit classifications, SBR country examples, quality examples, additional concepts
- Glossary
Target coverage of SBR

- In principle all units in the national economy that contribute to GDP
- Target for SBR coverage is the **2008 SNA production boundary** (2008 SNA: 6.26)
  - Production activities of all institutional units that have economic production
  - Excludes household activities for production of services for own use, except services provided by owner-occupied dwellings and services produced by employed domestic staff
  - Include both market and non-market producers (Government units and NPISH)
Non-observed economy (NOE)

- Economic units in the NOE may be informal or illegal
- Their production should be included in national accounts
- Difficult for SBR to maintain units in the NOE because they are not registered by administrative sources used to maintain the SBR
- Thus usually defined to be outside the scope of SBR
- Measurement of their production is via household surveys or other sources
Coverage

Informal sector

• Non-financial and financial corporations not registered
• Household incorporated enterprises selling some (ILO) or most or all (SNA) output
• Should be included if suitable administrative sources available

Special cases

• The Guidelines gives more detailed recommendations on the treatment of government units, corporations, NPIs, self-employed persons, agricultural households/holdings, illegal activities and extraterritorial organisations
## Roles of SBR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 SBR Live Register</td>
<td>The gateway between (different) source(s) and the statistical units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 SBR Backbone</td>
<td>Coordinate populations of statistical and administrative units in space &amp; time through register snapshots and frozen frames</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 SBR Survey Frame</td>
<td>Provide set of administrative units valid for the reference period with all attributes to draw a sample</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 SBR Survey support</td>
<td>Control administrative burden and monitor survey response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 SBR based statistics</td>
<td>Business demography statistics, business dynamics based on register snapshots, and integration with external trade register</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 SBR Information Source</td>
<td>Support market investigation performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 SBR International data exchange</td>
<td>Coherence in global statistics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter 2 - Roles of the SBR

The 8 roles of the SBR

1. Live register
2. Register snapshot and frozen frame
3. Survey frame
4. Survey support
5. Production of statistics based directly on SBR
6. Information source
7. International data exchange
8. Modernisation of statistical production and services
Chapter 2 - Roles of the SBR

1. Live register

Register that is continuously updated with new information from various sources, resulting in:
- Creating new units, deactivating existing units
- Updating unit characteristics

Provides basis for generating snapshots, frozen frames, and survey frames
Chapter 2 - Roles of the SBR

3. **Survey frame**
   - Set of statistical units in scope for the survey (subset of the frozen frame)
   - Characteristics of the units needed for stratification, sampling and contact

4. **Survey support**
   - Data collection
     - defining observation units and reporting units
     - coordination of surveys
   - Survey registration
     - Recording reporting unit’s preferred response mode
   - Survey control
     - Monitoring and measuring response burden
Chapter 2 - Roles of the SBR

6. SBR as information source

Provision of micro data as open data
- List of enterprises for government agencies or private companies
- Geographical location information
- Ownership and control information
- Information about particular sectors or activities to support government programs

Confidentiality and national legislation should be adhered to!
Chapter 2 - Roles of the SBR

8. Modernisation of statistical production and services by

- Integration of statistical production
- Coordinating and linking units from different sources
- Making better use of administrative registers
- Combining data from traditional sources (surveys) with data from administrative registers
- Providing data warehouse offering integrated data
Chapter 12 - Topics for further work and research

• Statistical units and profiling
• SBR as the backbone of economic statistics
• Use of administrative sources
• Use of new data sources
• International trade and economic development
• Development of new statistics
• Methodological developments
• International comparability
Integration of Economic Statistics and Linking of Business Register to Trade and Investment Statistics
The guidelines on Integrated Economic Statistics (IES) were published in 2012. The advantages of IES are:

- **Use of harmonized terminology, definitions, concepts, & classifications**
- **Consistency** in measuring economic activity across sectors and regions and global consistency of key economic indicators
- **Greater accuracy** by reconciling discrepancies among data sources
- Use SBRs to provide **central sampling frame** for all business surveys
- **Standardize surveys**, including survey design and sample frame
- **Link and integrate data across various statistical domains**, including linking the information about enterprises from the SBR to other data sources
- **Reduction of collection and reporting burden** by using the same information for different purposes
How an SBR can be used to link data from different sources

• By linking the SBR to economic statistics and other data sources (e.g., administrative data or survey responses), new information can be compiled that would not otherwise exist.

• One effective and proven application is linking the SBR to trade statistics to compile trade by enterprise characteristics (TEC), which can be compiled for merchandise trade, trade in services, & foreign direct investment.

• TEC data aim to describe trade flows from the view point of enterprises:
  - Impact of international trade on employment, growth and income (by kind of industry, size of enterprise and other characteristics)
  - Effectiveness of trade policies (e.g., export-promotion, effects on 2-way traders and foreign affiliates)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main activity</th>
<th>All Business Register</th>
<th></th>
<th>Exporting enterprise</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. of firms</td>
<td>No. of employees</td>
<td>No. of firms</td>
<td>No. of employees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>A Agriculture, forestry and fishing</strong></td>
<td>3,791</td>
<td>87,982</td>
<td>294</td>
<td>40,283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01 Crop and animal production</td>
<td>3,608</td>
<td>85,069</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>38,698</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02 Forestry and logging</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>1,567</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>C Manufacturing</strong></td>
<td>4,257</td>
<td>144,706</td>
<td>598</td>
<td>106,429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Manufacture of food products</td>
<td>1,078</td>
<td>48,328</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>34,661</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Manufacture of wearing apparel</td>
<td>559</td>
<td>7,949</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>5,022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 Manufacture of fabricated metal products</td>
<td>441</td>
<td>6,043</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>2,497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Manufacture of computer, electronics</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>6,531</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>6,369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 Manufacture of electrical equipment</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>4,477</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4,204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>G+H Transport, warehousing, and support activities</strong></td>
<td>18,668</td>
<td>201,935</td>
<td>739</td>
<td>55,190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46 Wholesale trade, except motor vehicles</td>
<td>2,471</td>
<td>58,966</td>
<td>591</td>
<td>30,086</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47 Retail trade, except of motor vehicles</td>
<td>11,663</td>
<td>88,411</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>17,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other activities</strong></td>
<td>19,277</td>
<td>318,907</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>33,792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel and Restaurants</td>
<td>4,892</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional and scientific services</td>
<td>2,472</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social and Health services</td>
<td>1,871</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown activity</td>
<td>2,988</td>
<td>15,771</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-matches</td>
<td>131,689,763</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>48,981</td>
<td>769,301</td>
<td>1,894</td>
<td>236,794</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank you