Chapter 9 Administrative records

Chapter 9 describes the main advantages and limitations of administrative records as a source of data needed for measuring the international supply of services. Advantages include the reduction of costs and in the reporting burden for companies, the filling of data gaps and improvement in statistical business registers. Typical limitations include restrictions on access to information owing to the demands of confidentiality, divergence in methodology from statistical standards and issues of consistency and timeliness and other quality concerns. The chapter also presents good practices in the use of administrative records, which demonstrate that when their limitations are well understood and effectively addressed, such records can be a valuable data source in statistical compilation. The chapter contains the following sections: a summary of good practices (section A); a general description of administrative records (section B); examples of administrative records for use in statistics on the international supply of services (section C); and country practices (section D).

In this chapter:

- A. A summary of good practices (Chapter 9)
- B. General purpose and description of administrative records
- C. Examples of administrative records
  - C.1. Tax records
  - C.2. Customs records for estimating the value of resident/non-resident trade and related transport and insurance services
  - C.3. Immigration records and entry/departure cards
  - C.4. Work permits
  - C.5. Population records
- D. Country experiences (Chapter 9)
  - Country experience: China: compilation of mode 4 person numbers
  - Country experience: Philippines: customs data for compiling freight and insurance services
  - Country experience: New Zealand: tax records