



# Use of the business register in social statistics in Finland

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for Social and Demographic Statistics

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## The business register

- a basic statistical register
- maintain the data on enterprises, and on their establishments and activity
- since 1999 the scope of the register has also extended to the public sector, i.e. central and local government units
- to a large extent the business register is maintained and updated today by utilising data from diverse administrative registers
- a prerequisite for being able to do this is that the different registers use the same, unique identifiers



## Data sources

- The most important administrative data sources are:
  - Diverse data registers of the Tax Administration, e.g. customer database, business taxation data files, VAT and PAYE data (monthly), data on annual wages (annual PAYE register)
  - Data of the Bank of Finland
  - Data of the National Board of Customs
  - Data of the National Board of Patents and Registration
  - Register of Buildings and Dwellings
  - Data of the State Treasury
  - Data of the Local Government Pension Institution
  - Data of Finland Post Ltd



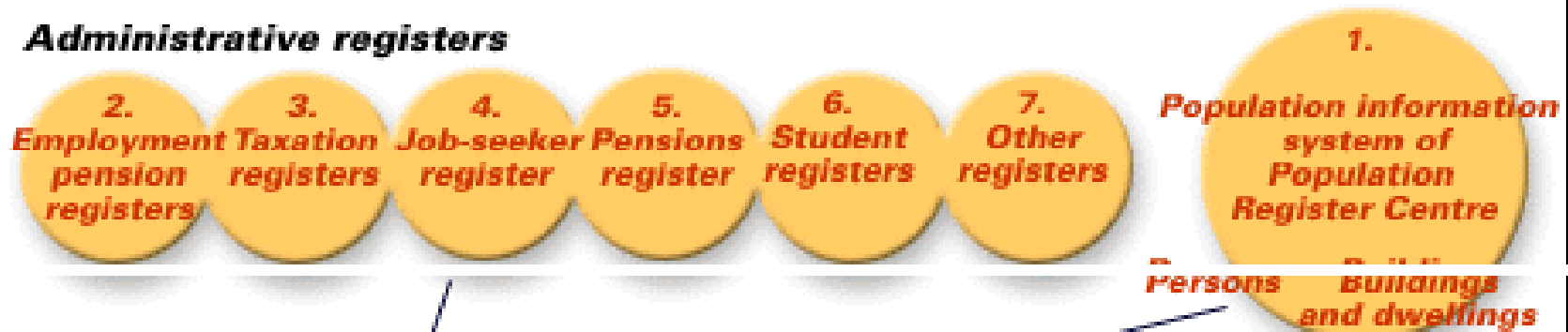
## Data sources

- Besides administrative data, data obtained from diverse inquiries are also utilised in the updating of the business register. Inquiries are sent to
  - all multiple establishment enterprises
  - a sample of single establishment enterprises
  - new enterprises having started operations
  - central government agencies
- the business register's own inquiries => maintain establishment level data on business structures and changes

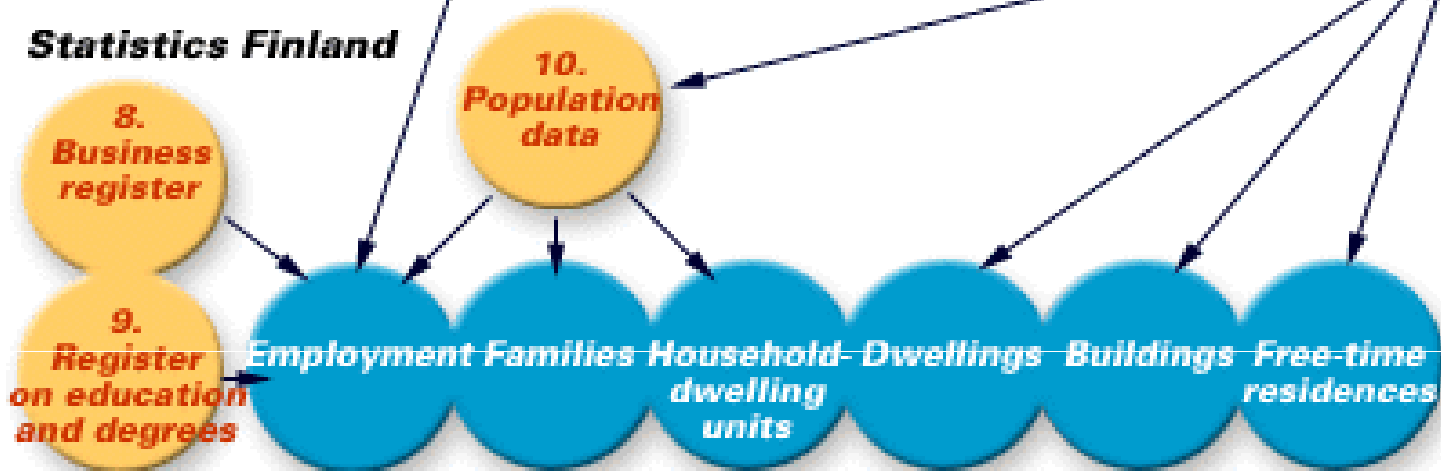


## Sources of Population Census 2000

### Administrative registers



### Statistics Finland



### 2000 Population Census





## **The Business register in the register-based population census system**

- The business register is exploited in the production process of employment statistics at two different stages:
  - in the collection of data
  - as a data source in the actual production of the statistics
- Information about a person's employment relationship and employer is obtained from employment pension insurance data files
  - enterprise level data concerning the private sector
  - an enterprise with only one establishment => a person's establishment is that establishment.

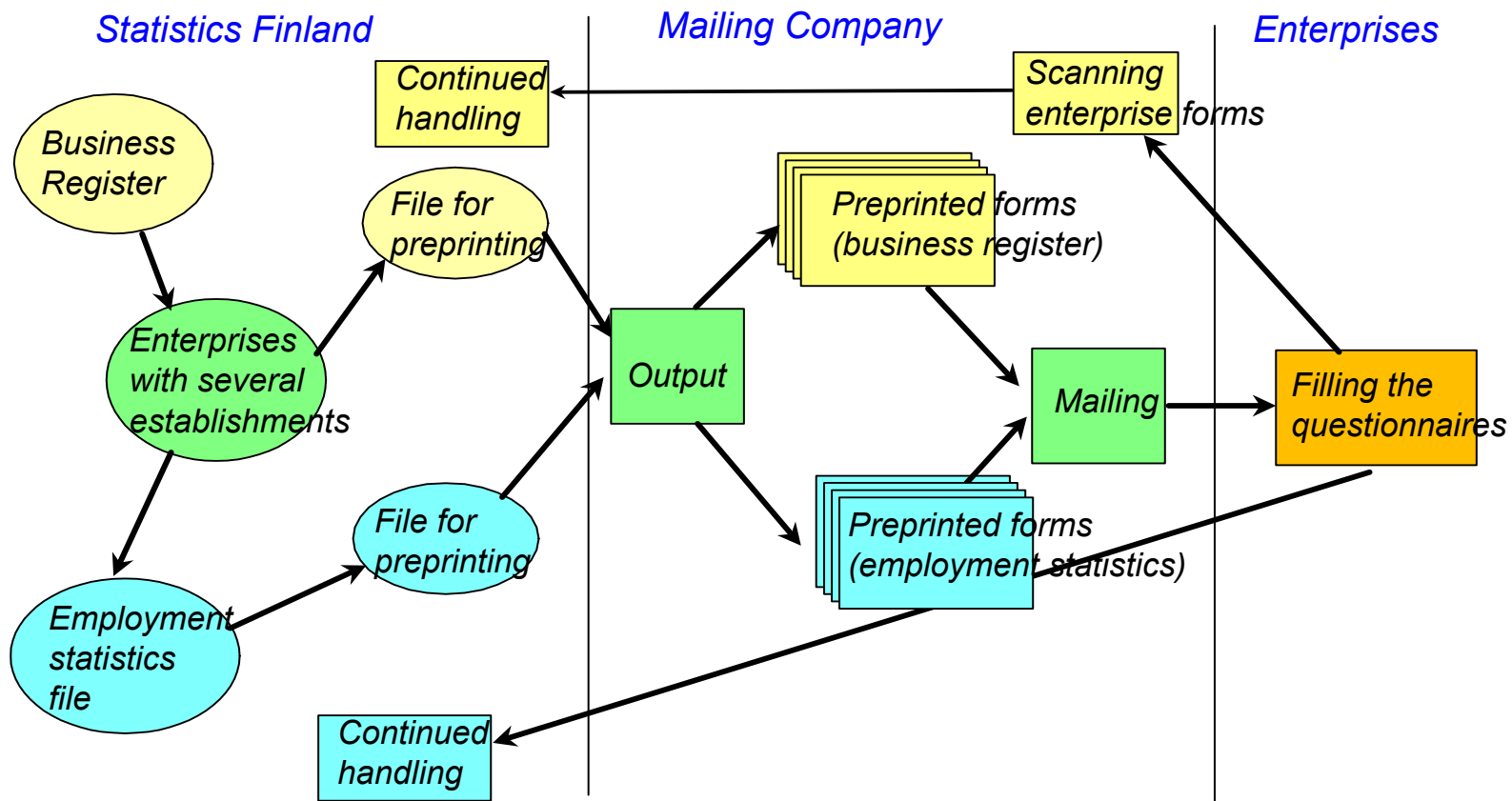


## **The Business register in the register-based population census system**

- the enterprise with more than one establishment is in question we don't know in which establishment she or he works =>
- we send an inquiry for multiple establishment enterprises
- the inquiry is conducted in collaboration with the business register.
- the inquiry sample is drawn from the business register
- all enterprises with more than 10 employed and have two or more establishments.
- the size of the annual sample is approximately 4,500 enterprises



# Joint inquiry of employment statistics and business register





## **The Business register in the register-based population census system**

- the employed persons get the information on his/her workplace (establishment code) from
  - the same data file as the information of employment (in the public sector)
  - from the inquiry (enterprises with more than one establishments)
  - persons working in an enterprise with only one establishment, get this establishments to his/her workplace
- after every employed have been assigned the Business ID and establishment codes of his/her workplace, the codes are used to draw data concerning that person's workplace, from the business register



## **Advantages and problems in the use of the business register**

- data concerning on e.g. industry and location of workplace is more uniform when it is obtained from business register than coded according to the person's own report
  
- Problems:
  - an error in a specific data item generally affects a larger number of persons in register-based statistics
  - large national enterprises with regional organisations (cleaning or labour rental activities)
  - mobile work
  - small and casual employers that are missing from the business register



## Conclusions

- the business register has been exploited in population censuses for a couple of decades now
- the data obtained from the business register are more unified than those obtained with questionnaires. In questionnaire censuses, even persons working at the same establishment could give the information concerning their workplace in very different ways.
- Although exploitation of the business register poses certain problems from the perspective of e.g. regional statistics, the benefit gained from its utilisation far outweighs these.
- The production of annual regional employment statistics would be impossible without a well functioning and continuously updated business register