



Meeting of the Group of Experts on Business Registers Online, 26 – 29 September 2022

CALL FOR PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

The Meeting of the Group of Experts on Business Registers will discuss the following topics for which contributions are invited:

1. Classifications and identifiers in the statistical business register (SBR)
2. The use of administrative data, big data and other data sources
3. Modernization of the SBR
4. Using the SBR to produce business statistics
5. Globalisation and multinational enterprise groups
6. The digital economy and the SBR
7. SBR and the Covid-19 pandemic

Examples of issues that could be addressed are provided in the following pages.

Submission of abstracts

Authors who would like to submit a paper or a presentation to the meeting should send a brief abstract (200-300 words) via email to economic.stats@un.org by **12 May 2022**. Based on the received abstracts the organisers of the meeting will select contributions for presentation.

Submission of papers and presentations

Papers and presentations of accepted abstracts should be sent to economic.stats@un.org by **31 August 2022**. Papers may be submitted in any of the official UNECE languages (English, French and Russian). However, only papers received by 12 July 2022 will be translated into the other official languages.

Examples of issues that could be addressed in papers and presentations

1. Classifications and identifiers in the SBR

This topic aims to discuss the identification and classification of statistical units in the SBR, principles and methods and practical experiences. Papers and presentations on this topic may discuss the challenges with the identification and classification of statistical units, in particular those that pose measurement challenges, e.g., special purpose entities, factoryless goods producers and others. businesses. The session will include a progress report of the UN Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications to inform about the update of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC), Revision 4. Thus, sharing of plans and strategies for the implementation of the revised economic classification (ISIC and NACE), including the use of new technologies and methods for automatic classification would also be welcome.

2. Use of administrative data, big data and other data sources

Administrative registers give access to detailed information that can be used to improve the coverage and quality of the SBR and reduce response burden. The challenges in using administrative data include issues with coverage and definitions, which may not be in line with the statistical requirements, timeliness and in some instances confidentiality. Papers and presentations on this topic could share experiences on using administrative data sources, including on how to establish good cooperation with the owners of administrative data; how to derive statistical units based on administrative/legal units; how to match and link information across registers/data sources; how to deal with conflicting information and assess the quality of administrative data for statistical purposes; metadata management; and legal and confidentiality issues.

While there is still little practical experience in using big data for the SBR, big data in the future may reveal opportunities for developing additional sources for the SBR. In addition to getting access, structuring and editing the data may require substantial investment but be worthwhile if accompanied by improvements in terms of quality, coverage or timeliness. Papers and presentations that share experiences or plans of using big data including, e.g., web pages, telecommunication data, satellite images and social media data are welcome. Issues to discuss could include experiences on the use of new data sources to replace or supplement existing data sources; methods and technologies (e.g. web scraping) to utilise new electronic data sources; coverage of big data; and the use of big data to validate the information from other data sources or derive new statistical products.

3. Modernization of the SBR

As a backbone for the production of economic statistics, the SBR is crucial for the modernisation of the statistical production; for the coordination and integration of data from different data sources, for the development of efficient statistical production processes and ensuring coherence across statistical outputs. Issues that could be addressed under this topic would include experiences from countries on the development of integrated production of statistics, including challenges with using the SBR for analysis and data integration; the development of business architecture to improve production efficiency and coherence of statistical products; examples of quality management frameworks; micro data sharing within and between statistical offices; sharing of good practices on linking of micro data; technical and statistical standardisation for SBRs; cost/benefit analyses; and integration of SBR into data warehouse systems.

4. Using the SBR to produce business statistics

Business demography and entrepreneurship statistics can be produced directly from the SBR or by combining information from the SBR with information from other sources, e.g. administrative registers, survey data or other statistical registers. Key to this type of work is the availability of suitable identifiers across data sources and longitudinal information. Presentations of interest for this topic would include practical experiences on producing business demography based on the SBR; practical approaches to identify the characteristics and the demographic changes of statistical units. Linking methods in the absence of a common identifier; what is required from the SBR to produce high quality business demography statistics? How to develop a longitudinal version of the SBR that can be used for producing business demography? Analysis of the effects of using different statistical units in business demography; examples of producing entrepreneurship statistics by combining information from the SBR with social and/or population data and combining SBR data with trade or foreign direct investment data.

5. Globalisation and multinational enterprise groups

Economic globalisation is a major challenge for economic statistics. It is accompanied by the development of global production arrangements and increasingly complex enterprise group structures, where the challenge of the SBR is to collect and provide coherent and relevant information in a continuously changing world. Papers and presentations for this topic are invited to discuss issues such as the requirements for the SBR to deal with economic globalisation; are the current statistical units adequate for measuring still more global production arrangements and globalisation effects; linkages of enterprises across borders and their foreign affiliates; the recording of MNEs in SBRs; profiling of multinational enterprise groups; alignment with the international statistical standards (eg., National Accounts and Balance of Payments); introducing new variables on globalization and deriving indicators on the economic impact of globalization.

6. The digital economy and the SBR

The continuing digitalisation impacts the way work and production is organised and measuring the digital economy is one of the priority areas in the updating of the 2008 SNA. New terms such as, e.g., platform work, telework and the gig economy have been coined to catch different aspects of the digitalisation, and there is a growing interest by policymakers in statistics on the digital economy. Contributions for this topic are invited to discuss conceptual issues and measurement challenges, e.g., how to identify and record digital economy business units in the SBR; and how the SBR can help to get a better grasp of the digital economy.

7. SBR and the Covid-19 pandemic

The lockdown that followed the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 posed unprecedented challenges to producing official statistics. In many countries, different sectors of the economy were temporarily closed, data collection disrupted or severely hampered and, in some instances, staff in statistical offices were not able or allowed to work or were asked to work remotely. This made it difficult to maintain the regular production of statistics, including the SBR. In many cases, the usual statistical operations could not be carried out and the lack of data raised methodological and conceptual challenges in the calculation of the statistics and made it necessary to implement new procedures and data sources. Contributions to this topic could present experiences learnt during the pandemic in maintaining the production of the SBR, utilizing alternative data sources, meeting user needs, and good practices in building more resilient SBR production systems.