



Statistical Business Registers: Underlying Concepts and Methods

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This paper describes statistical business register (SBR) concepts and methods as background for the following papers. It explains why construction and use of an SBR at a national statistical organization (NSO) is vital in harmonizing the business survey program and ensuring surveys have good coverage. It outlines how the System of National Accounts 2008 (SNA2008) provides a conceptual framework by defining what is meant by economic production and the institutional units and enterprises that are involved. It details the various types of units – legal, administrative statistical - that are important to the SBR and the classifications of these units, in particular the Standard International Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC). It discusses the elements of an economic statistics program, and the need for and use of survey frames and it explains the primary function of the SBR in providing these frames, and the additional provisions that need to be made to measure the informal economy. In addition to the SNA2008 and ISIC the paper draws material from the (draft) International Guidelines on Statistical Business Registers recently developed by the UNECE Task Force, the various European Commission regulations on business registers and Business Register Recommendations Manual developed by Eurostat to assist member states in interpreting and building on the regulations.