



## Synthetic Longitudinal Business Databases for International Comparisons

Jörg Drechsler\*

Institute for Employment Research, Nuremberg, Germany - joerg.drechsler@iab.de

Lars Vilhuber

Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA, lars.vilhuber@cornell.edu

International comparison studies on economic activity are often hampered by the fact that access to business microdata is very limited on an international level. A recently launched project tries to overcome these limitations by improving access to Business Censuses from multiple countries based on synthetic data. Starting from the synthetic version of the longitudinally edited version of the U.S. Business Register (the Longitudinal Business Database, LBD), the idea is to create similar data products in other countries by applying the synthesis methodology developed for the LBD to generate synthetic replicates that could be distributed without confidentiality concerns. In this talk we present some first results of this project based on German business data collected at the Institute for Employment Research.

**Keywords:** business data; confidentiality; international comparison; synthetic.