



Emerging applications of tax administrative data in South Africa

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The emerging applications of tax administration data in South Africa and challenges associated with this are covered by this paper. A shift from the monitoring of government programmes towards assessing the impact of policy and government programmes necessitates a wider range of data and more detailed statistics. The increased demand for evidence bases for decision-making and policy formulation, together with the modernisation of administration resulting in the availability of digital data of improved quality, drives the increased use of administrative data beyond its primary record keeping purpose. Tax administration data may be used to complement official statistics. Examples include developing an understanding of labour market dynamics relevant to equality, evaluation of the impact of tax based incentives at both aggregate and firm-level and the use of address data in tax records. Challenges that arise include safeguarding confidentiality of data if research is to be undertaken by institutions or individuals who are not the originators of the data, the preparation of databases suitable for analysis from transactional records and the interpretation and analysis of data for which documentation oriented towards analysis is inadequate. Lessons learned from dealing with these challenges will be shared.

Keywords: policy-relevant research; impact evaluation; firm-level research; planning.