



OECD SHORT-TERM ECONOMIC STATISTICS WORKING PARTY
(STESWP)

*Country comments on OECD paper:
Administrative Data Framework.*

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Submitted to the Working Party under item 2 of the draft agenda

Meeting:
25-27 June 2007

Franqueville Room
OECD Headquarters, La Muette, Paris
Starting at 09.30 a.m. on the first day

STESWP 2007 – Country comments on OECD paper: Administrative Data Framework

STESWP delegates are asked to provide written feedback on the three following issues:

- a. A final endorsement of the OECD Administrative Data Web-based Framework as presented above, in particular, with regards to the layout, content and the general feeling of the Framework.
- b. Endorsement of the new framework for new users of administrative data, and the structure of this new framework. Delegates are also encouraged to suggest a working name for the homepage.
- c. Agreement on the proposed promotion methods outlined above and suggestions of any other means by which the Framework could be promoted. Such activities will commence in September 2007.

Austria

The OECD initiatives in the field of administrative data use are appreciated. The information provided is helpful for MS. The structure of the presentation and the grouping of categories as well as the layout of the framework are clear and concise. Also the new framework for new users of administrative data outlines the most important steps for using administrative data in his categories. Proposed name: Milestones for using administrative data. The proposed promotion methods could be supported.

Bank of Belgium

The National Bank of Belgium (NBB) gives his approval for the 3 propositions:

- i) the OECD administrative data web-based framework;
- ii) the new framework for new users and his structure;
- iii) the proposed promotion methods of the framework.

Bank of Italy

The way the Framework is eventually organized proves very satisfactory and effectively receives the comments addressed in the last STEWSWP meeting. As for the layout, it proves a good improvement the development of a distinct framework dedicated to new users, who may need different assistance and motivation in moving towards a larger use of administrative data.

As for the contents, I also appreciate very much that, in comparison with an early version, contributions now included in the current user Framework come from an enlarged set of countries, pointing to a pro-active role successfully played by the Task Force in disseminating interest on written reports on the part of the current users and so enriching the bulk of experience available to new comers. The general feeling is very positive, even if I would signal that somewhere a reference could be made that cooperation with Administrative Authorities could extend to the way final users may gain some access to the data set once it is used for statistical purposes, as well as they now do in case of survey data.

In perspective, an enlarged use of administrative data, likely in substitution for more costly (but easy accessible from the outside) surveys, risks to limit the transparency and accountability of statistical data in the view of the final users if they do not have any clue about the core development of the underlying data.

I support the endorsement of the new users Framework, with a particular stress on the valuable provision of interactive tables driving the new comers through the most relevant papers (and, even more, part of them) that tackle a specific issue of interest.

I fully agree to enlarge the promotion of the Framework by seeking for a more intense link of the administrative data webpage within the most common research facilities in the web, in addition to strengthen a direct contact with non-member NSO's.

Canada

The idea of two administrative data web-based frameworks is excellent. STC feels the Framework of administrative papers by broad category will help the challenge national statistical agencies are facing in integrating administrative data. The issue of administrative data and the concept of integrated economic statistics were discussed extensively at a recent meeting of the Friends of the Chair Group. The Framework proposed reflect well many aspects the Group intend to emphasize in its concept paper that will be presented to the Statistical Commission in March 2008. STC feels documentation discussing the issue of mapping administrative data with NSO needs would be very useful - business accounting and national accounting for example.

An interactive web-based Framework of administrative papers focusing on new users is also excellent. However, the use and the integration of administrative data into statistical systems remain relatively new. The scope of this tool should not only focus on new users, especially when dealing with the issue of cooperation with administrative data authorities. This section is quite important. The role of departments providing administrative data is becoming increasingly important in statistical systems. Efforts by these departments to improve the quality of the data or to link them with the needs of NSO should be recognized. The portal provides such an opportunity. Senior managers should be made aware of this portal. At the same time, the portal should contain information helping these managers understand the role their department plays in the overall statistical system.

Czech Republic

- (i) The way of using administrative data has been developing in CZSO and still there are a lot to do. The exchange of international experience can give good picture of the state in various countries. We appreciate the work of OECD in the field of preparing web – based database of materials concerning administrative data in statistical work.
- (ii) The answer above
- (iii) We suppose that current form of Internet presentation is well structured and covers the most important areas of using administrative data in statistics.

Finland

- i) A final endorsement of the OECD Administrative Data Web-based Framework as presented above, in particular, with regards to layout, content and the general feeling of the Framework. OK. We would also like to see papers sorted by topic of statistics concerned.
- ii) Endorsement of the new framework for new users of administrative data, and the structure of the new framework. Delegates are also encouraged to suggest a working name for the homepage. The results of a seminar held in Finland on 21-23 May 2007 “Seminar on Registers in Statistics - methodology and quality” could be partly included into the framework.

iii) Agreement on the proposed promotion methods outlined above and suggestions of any other means by which the Framework could be promoted. Such activities will commence in September 2007.

As a part of the MEETS (Modernisation of European Enterprise and Trade Statistics) there will be a seminar held in Lisbon 11-12 October 2007. The framework could be presented there in session 2 "Impact of administrative data on Business Statistics".

Germany

In general, we agree to the publication of the OECD Administrative Web-based Framework. It is a very useful tool for NSO's and users who want to become more familiar with this important topic and furthermore to get some incitement to introduce administrative data source for official statistics. So far, we think it is a very good work done. We have just a small suggestion for the updating procedure of this framework. As we can not see that this topic is mentioned in the paper it might be a good idea to implement an updating procedure equivalent to the updating of the Timeliness Framework, means to make a survey every year/second year and ask the NSO's for new papers/work done at this topic.

Korea

Interactive frame work for new users of administrative data:

The new revised statistics law in the Korea National Statistical Office (KNSO) includes the clause on the use of administrative data and it will take effect at the end of 2007. The clause on the use of administrative data says that for reduced reporting burden and coverage, the chief of the public institute can not deny requests of administrative data offer without valid reasons when the administrative agencies demand administrative data. We make the Monthly Service Activity Index by using some administrative data such as health insurance data, education data etc.

Promotion

The studies and discussions on the use of administrative data in making statistics are in progress actively in KNSO.

Feedback required from STESWP and future work.

- (i) We think the content, layout of the framework is well designed and organized.
- (ii) We agree the new framework for new users and the structure of the new framework and suggest the name of the homepage - FUAD (Framework of Using Administrative Data)
- (iii) We are in general agreement with the proposed promotion method in this report.

Luxembourg

The two administrative data web-based frameworks contain some very interesting and useful papers on administrative data issues in the short term economic statistics area and other statistical domains.

The framework on broad administrative data categories is easy to navigate and the distinction between seven categories makes sense. The breaking of these categories into two groups, STES relevant and not, seems not to be necessary.

The framework for new users of administrative data offers a precious help to those statistical organizations that begin compiling statistics using administrative data. The five sections are well chosen.

A regular call for papers should help to update and enlarge the web-based frameworks that have a clear layout and an interesting content not only for statisticians working in the field of short term economic statistics.

Concerning the promotion methods, it is necessary that the STESWP delegates promote it inside of their statistical organizations.

For practical reasons and to ensure a complete and simple download of all the documents, the OECD should also put on the web a ZIP file containing a collection of all the documents in pdf-format.

Netherlands

We endorse the framework as presented.

We endorse the new framework for new users.

We agree with the proposed promotion methods.

Norway

The overall impression of the framework is good. The lay-out is well arranged. At the front page it is easy to see what kind of information you can gather from this website. It is also easy to navigate between the pages.

When it comes to the content we will repeat the two suggestions we made last year:

- Implementing a simple search engine, making it possible to search between year, country, title, author, etc. An example of a search engine like this can be found at <http://www4.statcan.ca/english/voorborg/>.
- It would be very useful if all the papers had a short summary, making it easier and time saving for users to find relevant papers.

The new framework for new users of administrative data is structured very well. We especially approve that within each document connected with each section, there is a reference to the relevant part of the paper. We will suggest to rearrange the sequence of the sections – putting the sections which include general information about administrative data and some of the problems by using these on top – and ending with the sections concerning Legal framework and cooperation with Administrative Data Authorities. This will be a more logic sequence if one considers a working process, deciding whether to use administrative data or not.

When it comes to the promotion of the Administrative Data Framework it might be an idea to leave an Email addresses on the web-site to a couple of experts which could be contacted. This could encourage NSOs to actively use the framework.

Poland

OECD Administrative Data Web-based Framework consists of two administrative data web-based frameworks. Each of them contains the set of papers on the use of administrative data: the first framework - papers on the use of administrative data for the short-term economic statistics purposes; the second one - papers focusing on new users of administrative data.

These sets of papers are presented in a transparent and easy accessible way. Due to continuous updating, they are an important source of information on many aspects of the use of administrative data sources, including good practices.

Methodological and preparatory works concerning the use of administrative data in short-term statistics in Polish official statistics are conducted. Therefore a very important matter to CSO, taken into consideration in this document, is a future promotion of OECD Administrative Data Web-based Framework via the

“Statistical Portal” on the OECD website and with the use of other ways, including direct contact with NSIs.

Spain

With regard to the OECD Administrative Data Web-based Framework, Spain supports its layout and content. We think it is very useful to have documentation available on how countries use administrative data. In particular the section addressed to new users is specially important. In our country, the information currently available coming from administrative registers does not allow a wide use of it for short-term statistics.

Concerning the proposed methods of promotion of the Administrative data framework, we welcome the advertising on the OECD website and the direct contact with NSOs.

Slovenia

The idea of having a website for sharing experiences about using administrative sources is very welcome and the Framework is well designed, so many different kinds of administrative data users can search and reach available documents. New potential users of administrative data can find useful information on this field in comparison with regular statistical surveys with questionnaires. Such a site needs a good promotion strategy and the mentioned promotion methods could be sufficient. It should be proposed the framework to be promoted at every meeting with adequate topic(s) where OECD members are present, (Labour Force Statistics Department).

- (i) The presented OECD Administrative Data Web-Base Framework is a good one (layout, contents and the general feeling).
- (ii) The suggested framework for new users of administrative data is good. The structure should be divided into chapters as presented in the document. The working name for the homepage could perhaps be: New users of administrative data.
- (iii) We agree with the proposed promotion methods, (Structural Business Statistics Department).

The current and new Framework have a good structure of the relevant topics in the field of administrative sources where experienced and new users of administrative data can find a variety of applicable information, handbooks, guidelines, best practices, etc. As regards the promotion of the Framework, we propose to be promoted also as a link on the BRNet (Eurostat's Business Register network), (Statistical Businesses Register Dept.).

- i) The arrangement is reasonable according to the contents. We agree that the methodology is meant like a direction for the new user and a warning about significant matters.
- ii) Transfer of knowledge to the new users: by the OECD and Eurostat network.
- iii) Working name for the homepage: Administrative Data Promoter (ADDA Promoter), (Services Statistics Department).

Currently, our statistical office already uses the following administrative data:

- The business register – to create the sampling frame, etc.;
- The value added data from the Tax Authorities – to compute the monthly moving of turnover;
- The registration form data of the retail trade shops, gathered by the administrative units and the Ministry of the Economy – namely, all traders have to report working hours of their stores to the authorised administrative unit; the data are additionally used by the Statistical Office to carry out the sales capacity census in retail trade;

- For STS indicator 210 (Number of persons employed) in Slovenia the source is the Statistical Register of Employment, which is based on administrative data;
- For variable 220 (Hours worked) at the moment data from the Monthly Wage Survey are used, but it is planned to produce data on hours worked from various administrative sources;
- For variable 230 (Wages and salaries) data from the Monthly Wage Survey are used, (Services Statistics Dept., Labour Force Dept.).

Statistics Italy

Comments about the issues submitted to STESWP participants:

(i) Istat endorses the proposed version of the OECD Administrative Data Web-based Framework, considering that the current layout and content are a very useful starting point to promote its utilisation and to plan a gradual development.

(ii) Istat endorses the creation of a partition of the Administrative Data Web-based Framework devoted to provide the main elements needed by NSOs looking to use administrative data as source of statistical information, but considers that details of the proposed layout of the framework can be discussed in the STESWG meeting. A specific comment on the new framework concerns the lack of focus of short-term statistics, in particular in the final section on compilation methods: while the second part of the section - devoted to case studies – does include material strictly related to STES indicators, the first part does not offer a clear outline of issues specific to this very domain.

(iii) There are not suggestions on the promotion methods proposed in the document, that we agree upon.

Sweden

As a general comment the work of the TF looks very good. A web-based framework where a lot of information, guidelines and best practice are gathered on the same place should facilitate both for new users of administrative data and for “old” users that need to update their methods.

The framework seems adequate with its five different sections. The specific heading with general case studies also seems very useful. The general feeling is very positive!

When it comes to the proposed promotion methods we have no specific comments. We agree with the suggestions to promote it via the “Statistical Portal” together with contacts with non-OECD members.

United States – Census

(i) The U.S. endorses the recommendations of the administrative data taskforce embodied in the web-based Administrative Data Use Framework. We find the site to be easily navigable and the structure helpful in locating relevant documents. We believe it would be helpful to strengthen the links between this framework and the Short-term Economic Statistics (STES) Timeliness Framework. While we note a link from the Administrative Data Framework to the STES Timeliness Framework, a similar link does not exist from the timeliness to the administrative framework. In addition, papers on the use of administrative data are currently accessible in the Timeliness Framework under the broad category “Frame selection and administrative data use.” We suggest splitting this category and creating a separate category of administrative data use that links directly to the Administrative Data Use Framework.

(ii) We also endorse the structure and content of the proposed framework for new users of administrative data.

(iii) We agree with the proposals for promoting the use of these frameworks. We believe strengthening the links between these sites and the Timeliness Framework and other relevant content on the OECD site will help promote their use.