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Country: TURKEY

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1. Organisation and Population of the Business Registers

Business Registers Group have been activating under the Department of Industry and Business Statistics in TURKSTAT since 2001. According to the 2007 business register data nearly 3,175,000 enterprises and nearly 3,535,000 local units belonging to these enterprises are registered in the registers. Since 2003, instead of the establishment concept, the enterprise and local unit definition which are the unit definitions of EU have been employed in the forming of registers. In this respect, this frame is used in the studies of Business Statistics.

2. Progress and Developments in the Past Year

At the current time, business registers are kept in database and updated by procedures written by BR staff. The variables on enterprise, local unit and legal unit can be derived and sampling can be done for related field applications. The links are established within years so the BR tables allow us to check the previous situations.

Within the scope of Upgrading Statistical System of Turkey II Programme (USST II), it is intended to make studies for producing data as to Enterprise Group (EG) and Business Demography (BD).

By the new Business Register Regulation, information on EGs is compulsory to be kept in national BR's. In this respect, we investigated administrative sources and endeavored to match and analyze them as an inventory study. Then we prepared a questionnaire aiming to acquire necessary information on organizational structure of enterprise groups operating in Turkey. Approximately 900 units were determined which are resident in Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir. The field study has been finished recently. According to the results of the study, we have just started to produce some statistical figures and make analysis in terms of types of EGs, number of employment, activity codes, complexity of EGs, the control relationships, share information and like that.

In line with BD study, there were some introductory studies already started on the issues by first examining the administrative sources and discussing with administrative bodies. Up to now, in BD studies we firstly started with the analysis of our existing records and sources. We gathered the records for the years 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007. We put all the active enterprises with the basis of activity status with respect to its reference year. We took into consideration the legal name, location and activity code for determining BD events. However, the problem that we faced while working on demography was that our registers are not in a condition to identify the demographic events. According to our sources it is not possible now. For this reason, we need more accurate and complete data.

As regards the general condition of BR system, the BR data is on Oracle database which are kept in tables currently. All administrative data and the ones derived from administrative sources (MoF) are kept in tables to constitute the compulsory units and their variables in compliance with EU norms. However, it is not a software application. The information on enterprise, local unit, and legal unit is prepared by using SQL queries and manually coding by BR staff on yearly base. Main updating source is Ministry of Finance records. All changes of MoF are taken on yearly basis to create reference year's business registers frame. The annual BR frame data is then updated according to the SBS survey results. Although it is one of the components of USST I Programme there is not a complete BR system for the time being. In order to finish the deficient parts of the system, IT Department of TurkStat has been still working on it. By this reason, components planned to be done within the USST II Programme was generally turned out to methodological studies. All energy at the moment is used to finalize the BR system.

Furthermore, the transition studies of NACE codes taking place in Business Registers have been made. Through forming NACE 2 transition key of approximately 3800 sub codes belonging to NACE Rev 1.1, the assignment of NACE 2 codes was realized for the 90% of the existing records taking place in the Ministry of Finance records which is used as a main source for Business. It is planned to carry out common study by close cooperation with Ministry of Finance concerning the coding of not assigned codes for NACE Rev 2.0. On legal unit basis as monthly and quarterly period, the transfer of turnover and number of employee information from Ministry of Finance records including the data of 2006 to Business Registers is started as monthly and quarterly period.

3. Issues solved, problems and future plans

After the completion of the first version of Business Registers software, within the scope of Upgrading Statistical System of Turkey II Programme (USST II), it is intended to make studies for producing data as to Business Demography and Enterprise Group and ensure the new software modules to be added to the existing software which is not finished at the moment.

In the EGs concept, according to new BR Regulation the Member States will not share any information on Enterprise Groups with the candidate countries. Unfortunately, Turkey as a candidate country will not be able to get data on micro level to compare its own data with the EU member states. After all studies we are carrying out on EGs, our EGs data will be limited on national base. On the other hand, EGs study first of which was held already will be carried out annually in the future.

In line with the BD study, the studies will be processed in order to produce accurate BD data for Harmonized Data Collection and Employer Demography. Ministry of Finance records will be an input for this study.

The completion of Nace Rev 2.0 transition is planned to be complete soon and the 2008 BR is aimed to include Nace Rev.2.0. The dual coding period is still under discussion due to the nature of administrative source.