

21th Meeting of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers - International Roundtable on Business Survey Frames

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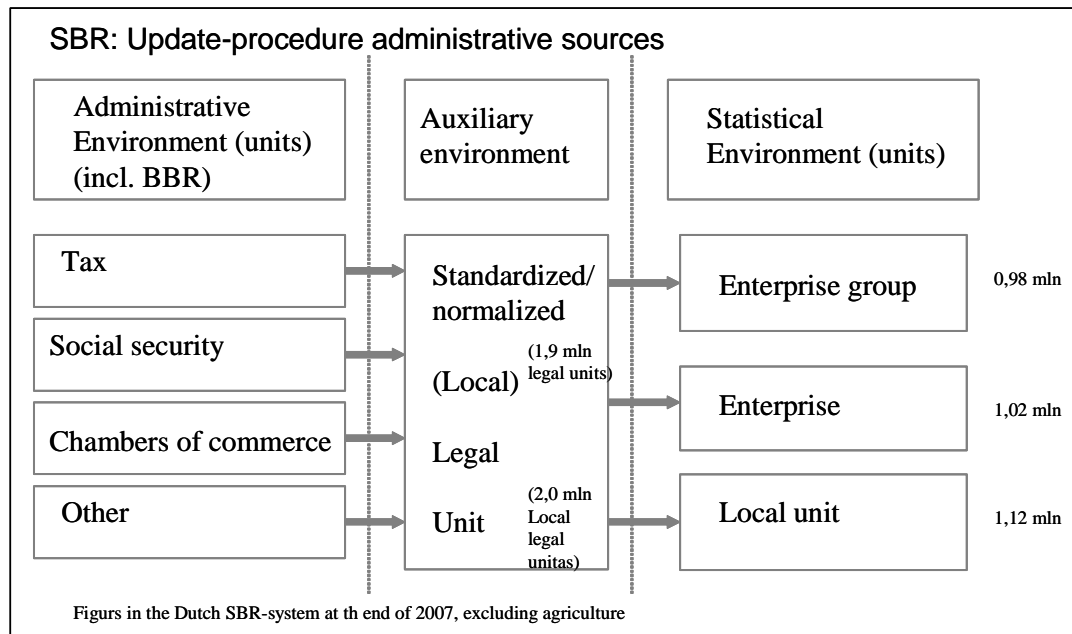
Country progress report 2008

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1. Organisation and Population of the Business Registers

The Business Register (BR) is part of the Business Economic Statistics Division at Statistics Netherlands (SN). It is maintained centrally by the BR department. The goal is to have a high quality list of statistical units (Enterprise Groups, Enterprises and Local Units) and their statistical characteristics, which list SN uses as the reference for its business statistics. Maintenance and updating are done efficiently by combining information from different administrative sources. The main sources are the trade register, the taxation registers and the social security registers. If the frame signals problems, manual intervention follows. Additionally, staff of SN mainly deals with big enterprises and large enterprise groups in individual and regular profiling. Business register staff size is about 45 persons. The content, the model and the update procedure are summarised in the beneath scheme.



To the business register system also belongs a system with deviating information for data collection and a system for providing coordinated population figures estimated at specified levels of the SIC classification. The latter two systems are maintained outside the BR department, although there are very close links. As reported at the 20th meeting of the Wiesbaden group, a new business register system was introduced at Statistics Netherlands in the middle of 2006. This started with only the main core functionalities.

Broad, coherent programs have started in relation with a main ICT-oriented master plan for the intermediate future. The master plan foresees the development of general and standard IT tools and procedures for the various stages in the statistical process (data collection, editing, analysis and publication). A central Data Service Center is part of this.

Large programs which are progressing are the redesigning of the chain of economic statistics

describing the production processes (short-term statistics (STS) and yearly statistics (SBS) resulting in the national accounts) and the implementation of an agreed strategy on data collection, among which the use of administrative registers and electronic data reporting. Many of these programs have a strong relationship with the BR and will also influence the uses and role of it. An adapted look at operationalising of concepts and of definitions is foreseen. Focus is on optimisation of use of data in administrative registers by optimising matching results. In this the BR has an important role. The main goals of the programs are improving quality of statistical outputs (e.g. improving consistency of figures) and reaching increase of efficiency, also because of budget cuts. Processes are changing rapidly at SN in this context.

2. Progress and Developments in the Past Year

Automation processing has physically been outplaced in 2008. This is centralised in the cadaster office now. This operation was successfully finished, except some initial problems of performance.

The register with deviating information for data collection (the CWR) is being integrated in a recently introduced Customer Relationship Management system (CRM), which will be used as a standard in all primary data collection with enterprises and with persons and households as well. The choice was made for the Siebel system.

The CONGO project (consistent figures of Large Enterprises) became part of the big redesign program. In a first pilot data of about 100 enterprise groups, including the data of the belonging enterprises, are collected and stored in a consistency matrix. The groups were selected according the developed CSI-factor (factor for complexity of statistical impact). It is foreseen to extent the number of the enterprise groups for this approach in the near future. The Congo-approach is much related to the introduced top down profiling of large enterprises in BR updating procedures. Structures of about 250 Enterprise Groups have been updated according the reference year 2007. Selection of the groups was also using the CSI-factor, assigned to the enterprise groups.

Some important additional BR functionalities came available. One of these is the link with units who report foreign trade. Herewith foreign trade figures can be presented according BR characteristics of enterprises. Integration of foreign trade figures in the system of co-ordinated statistics becomes possible and this will benefit globalisation analysis.

The procedures for the introduction of the revised NACE are agreed with the chambers of commerce, who will take care for recoding. For this Statistics Netherlands developed an automated coding module that will be used at the Chambers. NACE-code assignment by the Chambers will be according SN methodology from now.

3. Issues solved, problems and future plans

Most issues solved are described above and many problems to be solved are part of the large redesigning programs (chain of economic statistics and data collection), which also include future plans. In these also globalisation issues are in focus. SN is strongly involved in the development of the Euro Groups Register. The horizon for these programs and plans is 2012.

In 2008 the acts on the new Trade Register (NHR) came in force. The real introduction for users will be in 2010. Before this, the coverage of the NHR must be completed and procedures for data exchange with the official national administrations must be developed.

The introduction of the revised NACE will be done using an automated generated transition code (using as detailed information as possible), in anticipation of the real recoding in the trade register at the Chambers of Commerce.

Finally, time series distortion and discontinuities because of the new BR system still have attention, e.g. in economic demography figures.