

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

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Country progress report 2008

Country: Norway

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1. Organisation

The Division for Business Register manages the Norwegian Central Register of Establishments and Enterprises (CRE). It currently has 34 staff, including several part-timers, and is organised in four groups:

- Register updating, tools and development
- Public sector
- Register based statistics and dissemination of data
- Ground parcel, Address and Building Register

The Division is part of the Department for Industry Statistics, which has also the responsibility for Income and wage statistics, Primary industry statistics, Transport and tourism statistics and Construction and service statistics.

The main source for updating the CRE is the Central Coordinating Register of Legal Entities (CCRLE). This is an administrative register that coordinates registers concerning VAT, corporate taxation, employers/employees, trusts and foundations and corporations by the use of a common identifier. All other governmental registers are obliged to use this common identifier and its use is mandatory on invoices and when opening bank accounts. Statistics Norway (SN) also contributes to updating CCRLE as responsible for the public sector, the establishment units and activity- and institutional sector codes for all units.

The register of employers and employees is the main source for local unit employment and location details. Activity classifications are based upon the description of activities registered by the CCRLE and additional information received from statistical surveys, feedback from employers or direct contact with units.

Register based statistics on enterprises are produced quarterly and are available on our web-site www.ssb.no/english under StatBank item 10.01 Structure, business register. Users can produce their own tables according to variables like county or two-digit NACE code.

The CRE cover all sectors of the economy, including agriculture and public administration. The CRE has got 890 000 legal units. The direct link to the CCRLE results in a large number of dormant units. Only 450 000 of these units are considered to be active enterprises. We have 500 000 local kind-of-activity units.

2. Progress and developments during the past year

Revision of NACE

The plan was that all units would be recoded at the beginning of 2008. Due to some problem areas the finishing date were postponed to October 2008.

Methods:

- Automatic recoding 52%
- Manual recoding 44%
 - Special survey 12%
 - Questions in regular survey 0%
 - Manual checking by various methods 32%
- Probabilistic models 4%

Norway applies dual coding from 01/11/2007 - 30/04/2009, and for events that effect statistic year 2007/2008, we apply dual coding to the end of 2009.

We had to recode all legal units in Norway. Dormant legal units are not in the figures above and were recoded automatically or from probabilistic models. In manual coding methods we included the use of electronic administrative sources and therefore the actual recoding were automatic for a lot of these units.

Quality work on NACE

Quality check of the recoding done in 2007/2008: We expected that the special surveys would reveal mistakes in our old SIC. Therefore we check the quality of our new SIC on some of the units that were automatic recoded. We do not yet have the results and the work will be continued in 2009.

Enterprise groups and globalisation – We now have our third year of a full coverage Enterprise Group Register based upon the register of Shareholders for 2007. We still do not cover all the Norwegian owned enterprises abroad and information on the ultimate foreign owner in multinational enterprise groups.

Employees attached to the LKAU – The BR is enlarged with information on the actual employees employed in the different LKAUs. Statistical officers with authorisation are now able to see personal identification number, name and address for each employee. We can use this information for detecting possible errors in the administrative source.

3. Future plans

New organisation for the Division for Business Register

The Division for Business Register will be moved from the Department for Industry Statistics to a new Department for Data Capture from next year. The proposal is that we at the same time will be responsible for the Central Population Register and then we will be handling all three basic registers (including the register for Ground parcels, Addresses and Buildings). The production of register based statistics will probably be moved to an other Department.

Enterprise groups - The Shareholders register does not contain foreign subsidiaries of Norwegian EGs. We have to improve the coverage in our EG register with complementary sources. SN will participate in the work on launching the EGR and this will be an important source for our largest EGs.

We have just started up a project in SN on systematically use of our EG register for updating different statistical frames on Balance of payments, FATS and FDI.

LKAU and employees – Business statistics within SN use register data on employment from the register of employers and employees (NIA) because they use the establishment for register employees. A common project on improving data quality on enterprises with more than one LKAU is launched in May 2009.

FDI units and registration of minority investments - The Shareholders register gives us relevant information about Norwegian enterprises with foreign minority owners. We will have to find ways of systematising this information and use it in statistics on FDI.