

Meeting document 9

STATISTICS DIRECTORATE

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Agenda Item 7 : Unlocking the potential of Micro data

item 7(c):

**Analysis of answers to the OECD'S pilot questionnaire to Non-EU Countries on
Linking Business and Trade Statistics**

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STATISTICS DIRECTORATE

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**ANALYSIS OF ANSWERS TO OECD'S PILOT QUESTIONNAIRE TO NON-EU COUNTRIES ON
LINKING BUSINESS AND TRADE STATISTICS**

**6th OECD INTERNATIONAL TRADE STATISTICS EXPERT MEETING (ITS) & OECD-EUROSTAT
MEETING OF EXPERTS IN TRADE-IN-SERVICES STATISTICS (TIS)
Tour Europe, Salle des Nations, 12-15 September 2005**

*This document has been prepared by Mr. Andreas Lindner, OECD, for discussion and decision under point b. of
item 8 : Linkages of Structural Business Statistics and Trade Statistics.*

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ANALYSIS OF ANSWERS TO OECD'S PILOT QUESTIONNAIRE TO NON-EU COUNTRIES ON LINKING BUSINESS AND TRADE STATISTICS

Introduction

In increasingly interconnected, global economies the question gains ground “who is trading and what are the characteristics of trade operators?” To answer this question requires establishing a direct relation between foreign trade and industrial statistics. But these two statistical domains are based upon different concepts (products versus economic activities) and use different classifications (SITC, HS, ISIC, CPC).

But a better comparability between trade and business statistics could allow to measure the contribution of real economic sectors to trading. Similarly, trade by size of enterprise broken down by sector of activity, by export markets, and by location (e.g. region) would not only allow analyzing trade effects on employment and value added, but also to “map” performances.

The central issue is to try to classify trade operators according to enterprise characteristics and the feasibility of doing so largely depends on – inter alia – the possibility to develop or use common identifiers between the trade register and the business register.

The purpose of this questionnaire was to gather first views from Non-EU OECD countries if such an approach could be envisaged. To avoid duplication and to ensure consistency across OECD countries the OECD pilot questionnaire draws extensively on similar work done by Eurostat since 2002¹.

Initially, the OECD intended to ask 14 questions, including question requiring more research. After internal consultation, this longer questionnaire has been shortened to 8 key questions given the tight deadline for replies.

With 8 out of 11 countries, the response rate was very good and OECD wishes to thank all these countries which replied for their efforts.

The eight countries were:

- Australia
- Canada
- Iceland
- Korea
- Norway

1. OECD gratefully acknowledges the co-operation from Eurostat (Unit F2).

- Switzerland
- Turkey
- United States

Their responses are given in the second part of this document.

Countries which did not respond were: Japan, Mexico and New Zealand

1. Summary Analysis

It seems that some Non-EU countries of OECD could very well work together with OECD on a more detailed follow up which would allow the development of selected key indicators.

In the following, the country replies will be summarised question by question to highlight common patterns and differences across countries. For key questions and interesting country features, more detail will be given.

QUESTION 1: EXISTENCE OF A TRADE REGISTER

A) Do you hold a register of traders?

- Yes XXXXXX
 No XX go to part C)

...Six countries hold a trade register, while two countries do not...

B) If yes, does the above register consist of:

- A formal register? X
 A data base? XXXX
 A set of files? XX

...In most countries this trade register is a data base and not a formal register.

C) If no, can you please describe how traders are identified in customs forms if no such register exists consist of

	YES	NO
Business Register identification code	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> XX
Tax registration number	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> XX
Other numeric code(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> X	<input type="checkbox"/> X
(If 'yes', please specify below):		

Australia: The Australian Customs Service (ACS) maintains a register of importers and exporters for their administrative purposes. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) does not access this register for statistical purposes, nor does the ABS maintain its own register of traders. However, the ABS obtains from the ACS some information about traders including their Australian Business Number (ABN) (if applicable)

and name. The ABN is allocated to businesses which register to the Australian Business Register which is maintained by the Australian Taxation Office.

By the name of the company XXX
 By the address of the company XXX
 (If 'yes', please specify the information elements of the address)

QUESTION 2: SOURCES OF DATA FOR UPDATING THE REGISTER OF TRADERS

A) What sources of data do you use to update the register of traders?

Customs declarations XXXXXX
 Contacts with enterprises
 Data from fiscal authorities XX
 Business register XXXX
 Other survey(s)
 Other register(s)
 Other source(s) X

Please specify below these other surveys, other registers (e.g. administrative registers) and other sources

Turkey: Turkish Exporters Union has a data base consisting on all their members. And they send new member list as a file every 3 months period

...Customs declarations provide the basis. In half of the responses there is a link to the Business Register and data from fiscal authorities is used as well.

B) Could you please describe the updating procedure for each of the different data sources identified above, in particular with respect to the frequency and quality of this update?

See details in country reports.

QUESTION 3: CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE UNIT(S) OF REFERENCE OF THE TRADE AND BUSINESS REGISTERS

A) Which is/are the unit(s) of reference in the trade register(s):

Customs forms/register of traders

The legal unit XX
 The enterprise XXX
 The establishment XXX
 The local unit X
 The fiscal unit
 Other(s) (Please specify below) X

Australia: Although the ABS does not maintain a register of traders, businesses engaged in import and export activity ie those businesses who submit customs declarations, can be matched to the ABS Business Register via the ABN.

Enterprises and establishments constitute together with legal units the reference units used.

B) Is there at least one common unit of reference between the business register and customs forms/register?

- Yes XXXXXXXX
 No X (Switzerland)

...Clearly, the link is at least possible in a “minimalist” way.

QUESTION 4: CURRENT OR POTENTIAL LINK(S) FROM THE BUSINESS REGISTER TO CUSTOMS FORMS/REGISTER

A) Is the basic statistical unit of the business register linked/Can the basic statistical unit of the business register be linked to customs forms/ register of traders?

- Yes XXXXXXXX
 No XX (Korea and Switzerland)

The Swiss Customs form does not contain a link to the Business register.

Almost all countries can link the basic statistical unit to customs forms/trade registers .

B) Is the business register linked/Can the business register technically be linked to customs forms/the register of traders (if applicable) through:

	YES	NO
Tax registration number	<input type="checkbox"/> XXXX	<input type="checkbox"/> XXX
Name of the company	<input type="checkbox"/> XXXX	<input type="checkbox"/> XXX
Address of the company	<input type="checkbox"/> XXX	<input type="checkbox"/> XXX
Other way(s) and/or code(s) (If ‘yes’ please specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/> XX	<input type="checkbox"/> XXX

Iceland: Business register identification code.

C) If you have answered ‘yes’ to at least one of the items listed under question 4B, please describe in detail how the above link(s) is being established/can be established and the main problems encountered/to be encountered

Australia: The Australian Customs Service (ACS) maintains a register of importers and exporters for their administrative purposes. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) does not access this register for statistical purposes, nor does the ABS maintain its own register of traders. However, the ABS obtains from the ACS some information about traders including their Australian Business Number (ABN) (if applicable) and name. The ABN is allocated to businesses which register to the Australian Business Register which is maintained by the Australian Taxation Office.

The ABS is developing an input data warehouse which will store unit record information about businesses including both survey and administrative by-product data collected by the ABS. The ABN will be a key identifier on the input data warehouse which will facilitate the comparison of trade and business data.

Other numeric identifiers (dummy registration numbers) are assigned by ACS to those exporters and importers who do not have a current ABN. These may be exporters and importers with a low volume of trading transactions who are not obliged to register for an ABN, newly established businesses, or overseas based businesses.

Canada: Names and addresses from the Business Register could technically be linked to customs forms however, since the Business Register is significantly larger than the Exporter/Importer Registers, the customs declarations are matched to the Business Register. (See question 5c for a description of this process)

Iceland: The link is established by using the Business register identification code.(shared database).

Norway: As from 2003 the exporters/importers (eg companies) have to use the business register code as their identification on the customs declarations. If the business code is used the link can be established. For some goods Statistics Norway collect information separately.

Turkey: although at present no direct link exists, we could match the data by using the tax register number.

United States: The export data are compiled with an Employer Identification Number (EIN). We use this EIN to link to establishments and enterprises in the Business Register. The main problem we encounter is that some companies do not report payroll under the same EIN that is used for exporting. The different EINs of the same enterprise, or parent company, are not linked in all cases. Therefore, there is a possibility of double counting due to a limitation in the register.

D) If you have answered ‘no’ to question 4A and to all the items listed under question 4B, please explain why the business register cannot technically be linked to customs forms/the register of traders (if applicable)

Switzerland: high costs and need for a fundamental re-design of the process.

Although linkages exist well, different reporting systems in countries inhibit to some extends linkages. The risk of double-counting is acknowledged and the problematic measurement of multi-nationals highlighted.

QUESTION 5: CURRENT OR POTENTIAL LINK(S) FROM CUSTOMS FORMS/ TRADE REGISTERS TO THE BUSINESS REGISTER

A) Are customs forms/trade registers traders (if applicable)/Can customs forms/registers of traders (if applicable) technically be linked to the business register through:

	YES	NO
Business Register identification code	<input type="checkbox"/> XXXX	<input type="checkbox"/> XXXX
Tax registration number	<input type="checkbox"/> XXXX	<input type="checkbox"/> XXX
Name of the company	<input type="checkbox"/> XXX	<input type="checkbox"/> XXX
Address of the company	<input type="checkbox"/> XXX	<input type="checkbox"/> XXX
Other way(s) and/or code(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> XX	<input type="checkbox"/> XXX

(If 'yes' please specify below)

B) If you have answered 'yes' to at least one of the items listed under question 5A, please describe in detail how the above link(s) is being established/can be established and the main problems encountered/to be encountered

Australia: Please see responses under 1 (c) As to problems encountered the following issues with the use of the ABN were identified as skewing industry and regional (Australian State) estimates of exporters.

- trade shipments recorded against the *reporting ABN* (customs agents, marketing authorities and goods transporters) rather than the *owner* of the goods
- marketing boards attributing their transactions to the primary producer sector
- in large and complex businesses, import and export activity may incorrectly be attributed to the corporate head office administration unit and/or marketing sector rather than the producing (manufacturing/wholesale/research and development) unit

State identification issues

- The business register State dimension is a different concept to that used in the compilation of international trade statistics which complicates the mapping process. Australian Business Register State identifiers reflect either the state of head office of the core taxation identity, or the state in which the business is located. Customs declarations record state(s) of loading and departure. International trade and national accounts compilers focus is on the state of origin and state of final destination. Some of these state characteristics may not be readily extracted via a business register to customs declaration "matching".

Canada:

Importer Register: Tax registration numbers (Business numbers) are required on import declarations and are linked to the Business Register. However, the business number is associated with an enterprise. Once the business number is linked to the statistical enterprise, then the importer name and address from the import declaration is matched to the establishment names and addressed within the matched enterprise to determine the importing establishment.

Exporter Register: Exporter names and addresses are reported on export declarations and are matched to the Business Register name and address fields (both enterprise and establishment level). Export declarations for Canadian exports to the United States are collected by the U.S. Bureau of the Census whereas export declarations for Canadian exports to outside of the U.S. are collected by the Canada Border Services Agency. Because the export data is collected by two different sources, there are two separate data processing activities. Also, customs declarations are completed in either English or French. This poses some additional challenges in matching the exporter names and addresses from the customs declarations to the Business Register files.

For both the Importer and Exporter Registers, a probabilistic matching program is used. This matching program, considers the name and addresses of the importers and exporters (The two groups are processed separately) from the customs declaration files and matches them to the name and address fields on the Business Register files. For a given record, if the name and address fields on both files (customs declaration file, Business Register file) are sufficiently similar then the record is considered to be matched. All of the records that are not matched in this way are investigated manually. This is a labour-intensive and time consuming process.

Iceland: Linking is performed using the Business register Identification Code (joint database)

Norway: see answers under 4 (c)

Turkey: No direct link at present, but data matching possible using the tax register number

United states: see answer to question 4 (c), possibility of double counting.

C) If you have answered ‘no’ to all the items listed under question 5A, please explain why the customs forms/trade register (if applicable) cannot technically be linked to the business register

See Details in Annex.

QUESTION 6: STATISTICAL MATCHING EXERCISES BETWEEN THE TRADE AND BUSINESS REGISTERS

A) Has your country carried out any statistical matching exercise(s) between the trade register(s) and the business register?

Yes XXX (Go to part B)

No XXXXX (Move to question 7)

B) What percentage of the trade operators could be matched in the business register?

Canada: 90% for exporters and 75 % for importers.

C) What were the main problems encountered during matching?

United States: Not being able to confirm an accurate match to an establishment or enterprise due to the issue described earlier. The other main problem to increasing the match rate is due to the data exchange we have with Canada. For the data exchange, we use Canada’s import data for exports. Because of this, neither country has the needed EIN number. We are left to use only the name of the company to match to the business register. In addition, the names of similar or identical companies are not standardized and are spelled differently. The process of trying to match these records is very time consuming and problematic.

D) Please provide some comments on the quality of the results

Canada: Importers: almost 20% of the Business Numbers found on import declarations are associated with non-Canadian companies. These companies however do export to Canada and in these cases it is the responsibility of the non-Canadian company to complete the customs declarations. Hence the non-Canadian company would require a Canadian Business Number for customs purposes. Despite having a Canadian Business number, these companies are not listed on the Statistics Canada Business Register (since the companies in question do not reside in Canada)

Norway: Good quality in general due to the use of both business codes and personal identity codes.

United States: Overall, the quality of the results is very good when compared to previous editions of the profile. Each year we perform a quality review to see where we can improve the process

QUESTION 7: OTHER EXPERIMENTAL WORK AND/OR ANALYSES ALREADY PERFORMED BY THE COUNTRY

A) Has your country carried out any trials and/or analyses in linking the trade register(s) to the business register and/or vice-versa?

Yes XXXXX (Go to part B)

No XXX (Move to question 8)

B) What were the main problems encountered when linking the above registers?

Australia: Those listed at question 5(B)

approximately 25% of the export declarations were completed by, and classified to, the customs agent rather than to the owner of the goods

- almost all of one particular commodity was assigned to the transport agent and thus the transportation industry
- many shipments were attributed to corporate head offices and marketing units instead of the production activity units
- as this analysis was undertaken when ABN reporting on customs declarations was not compulsory, it was necessary to impute State, commodity, and industry detail for almost 40% of the trading population
- due to the low level of ABN compliance by smaller traders it was not possible to distinguish exporters by business size (number of employees/trading turnover thresholds)

C) Please provide some comments on the quality of the study results

Australia: Note that since this analysis, it has become compulsory for exporters to quote their ABN (if they have one) on their customs entries – and this will soon apply to importers.

Current audits suggest a data matching success rate approaching 98% for the 2004-2005 reference year, and this will remove some of the problems listed above

Canada: Over 90% of exporters and 75% of importers are linked to the Business Register. This covers over 95% of the value of exports and 90% of the value of imports.

QUESTION 8: SELECTION OF PILOT STUDY (IES)

A) In the context of testing the feasibility of linking the registers of trade operators to the business register, would your country be interested to undertake pilot studies which would involve cross-referencing the variables of the different registers? Would you be willing to co-operate with OECD in this area? Please specify which pilot study (ies) you would be interested in carrying out based on the proposed alternatives listed below:

Please tick the relevant box(es)

Cross-references between sectors of activities, product traded and main partner countries involved in trade to provide some indication on the real economic activities of trade operators

XX (Canada, Iceland)

External balance by sector of activities or groups of undertakings to provide some results on the competitiveness of various sectors of activities

XX (Canada, Iceland)

Cross-references between trade and employment variables to assess the impact of external trade on employment by sector of activity

X (Canada)

Other pilot study (ies)
(Please specify below)

X (Canada)

Canada: Linking Exporter/Importer registers from several countries. This would enable more detailed analysis in the areas of **intra-firm trade** and the micro-economic application of various macroeconomic models (gravity model and national differentiation models, among others)

Turkey: We would like to participate as much as possible that kind of studies by finishing the setting up studies of Business Registers System.

Norway: Will respond to this question later.

Conclusions

In sum, the answers to this questionnaire and, in particular, the different studies undertaken and linkage exercises carried out allow to draw as provisional conclusion the following conclusions:

- Countries (not surprisingly) widely differ in their ability to link trade and business statistics
- It seems that virtually all recognize the validity of such an undertaking for analytical purposes
- The Eurostat experience shows that international stimulus and coordination is needed to advance in this area and to have an increasing number of countries participate
- A well-defined, limited set of indicators could be developed in a well orchestrated and co-ordinated manner, allowing cross-country comparisons

Proposal: Based upon these encouraging first results, OECD proposes to

1. Work together with Non-EU OECD countries to identify the scope and timetable for development of selected “trade and production indicators” which would be useful for international economic analysis.
2. Set up, together with those countries having expressed the willingness to be part of this scoping exercise, a small *Steering Group* for designing the roadmap and deliverables.
3. Report progress made to the OECD Committee for Statistics, the CES, UNSD and other bodies.
4. Find a convenient solution for data sharing amongst authorized participants
5. Liaise very closely with Eurostat in this field for the mutual benefit. The basic idea is to coordinate and exchange data and findings across OECD countries with Eurostat being responsible for the EU states and OECD for those of its member countries outside the EU.

Delegates are invited to express their opinion.

In case of written comments, please address these to:

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2. Country responses to the OECD Pilot Questionnaire

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QUESTION 1: EXISTENCE OF A TRADE REGISTER

A) Do you hold a register of traders?

Please tick one box only

Yes

No

B) If yes, does the above register consist of :

Please tick one box only

A formal register?

A data base?

A set of files?

C) If no, can you please describe traders are identified in customs forms if no such register exists consist of

Please tick one box only in each row

	YES	NO
Business Register identification code	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tax registration number	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other numeric code(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(If 'yes', please specify below):

The Australian Customs Service (ACS) maintains a register of importers and exporters for their administrative purposes. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) does not access this register for statistical purposes, nor does the ABS maintain its own register of traders. However, the ABS obtains from the ACS some information about traders including their Australian Business Number (ABN) (if applicable)

and name. The ABN is allocated to businesses which register to the Australian Business Register which is maintained by the Australian Taxation Office.

The ABS is developing an input data warehouse which will store unit record information about businesses including both survey and administrative by-product data collected by the ABS. The ABN will be a key identifier on the input data warehouse which will facilitate the comparison of trade and business data.

Other numeric identifiers (dummy registration numbers) are assigned by ACS to those exporters and importers who do not have a current ABN. These may be exporters and importers with a low volume of trading transactions who are not obliged to register for an ABN, newly established businesses, or overseas based businesses.

By the name of the company
By the address of the company

(If 'yes', please specify the information elements of the address)

Legal entity names for both the reporting party ie the customs agent or transport booking operator, and the goods owner, are collected by ACS on export and import declaration forms. These details are electronically transferred to the ABS for statistical processing

QUESTION 2: SOURCES OF DATA FOR UPDATING THE REGISTER OF TRADERS

A) What sources of data do you use to update the register of traders?

Please tick the relevant boxes

- Customs declarations
- Contacts with enterprises
- Data from fiscal authorities
- Business register
- Other survey(s)
- Other register(s)
- Other source(s)

Please specify below these other surveys, other registers (e.g. administrative registers) and other sources

B) Could you please describe the updating procedure for each of the different data sources identified above, in particular with respect to the frequency and quality of this update?

Please refer to question 1 (C). The ABS does not maintain a register of traders.

QUESTION 3: CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE UNIT(S) OF REFERENCE OF THE TRADE AND BUSINESS REGISTERS

A) Which is/are the unit(s) of reference in the trade register(s):

Please tick the relevant box(s) in each column

Customs forms only

The legal unit	<input type="checkbox"/>
The enterprise	<input type="checkbox"/>
The establishment	<input type="checkbox"/>
The local unit	<input type="checkbox"/>
The fiscal unit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other(s) (Please specify below)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

B) Is there at least one common unit of reference between the Australian Bureau of Statistics business register and customs forms?
Please tick one box only

Yes
No

Although the ABS does not maintain a register of traders, businesses engaged in import and export activity ie those businesses who submit customs declarations, can be matched to the ABS Business Register via the ABN.

QUESTION 4: CURRENT OR POTENTIAL LINK(S) FROM THE BUSINESS REGISTER TO CUSTOMS FORMS/REGISTER

A) Is the basic statistical unit of the business register linked/Can the basic statistical unit of the business register be linked to customs forms/ register of traders?
Please tick one box only

Yes
No
(If 'no', please explain below why such a link cannot be established)

ABS datasets cannot be returned to source, in this instance to an external agency, but data received from the Australian Customs Service (ACS) can be linked to the ABS Business Register for use within the ABS by matching ABN and company name details recorded on customs declarations.

The ABN is the statistical unit for the majority of businesses which have a simple structure. For more complex businesses a type of activity unit is used which cannot be as readily linked via the ABN.

B) Is the business register linked/Can the business register technically be linked to customs forms/the register of traders (if applicable) through:
Please tick one box only in each row

	YES	NO
Tax registration number	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Name of the company	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Address of the company	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other way(s) and/or code(s) (If 'yes' please specify below)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

C) If you have answered ‘yes’ to at least one of the items listed under question 4B, please describe in detail how the above link(s) is being established/can be established and the main problems encountered/to be encountered

Please refer to question 1 (C).

D) If you have answered ‘no’ to question 4A and to all the items listed under question 4B, please explain why the business register cannot technically be linked to customs forms/the register of traders (if applicable)

QUESTION 5: CURRENT OR POTENTIAL LINK(S) FROM CUSTOMS FORMS/ TRADE REGISTERS TO THE BUSINESS REGISTER

A) Are customs forms/trade registers traders (if applicable)/Can customs forms/registers of traders (if applicable) technically be linked to the business register through:

	YES	NO
Business Register identification code	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tax registration number	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Name of the company	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Address of the company	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other way(s) and/or code(s) (If ‘yes’ please specify below)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

B) If you have answered ‘yes’ to at least one of the items listed under question 5A, please describe in detail how the above link(s) is being established/can be established and the main problems encountered/to be encountered

Please refer to question 1 (C)

Problems encountered

In an investigation undertaken in 2002-2003 the following issues with the use of the ABN were identified as skewing industry and regional (Australian State) estimates of exporters.

- trade shipments recorded against the *reporting ABN* (customs agents, marketing authorities and goods transporters) rather than the *owner* of the goods
- marketing boards attributing their transactions to the primary producer sector
- in large and complex businesses, import and export activity may incorrectly be attributed to the corporate head office administration unit and/or marketing sector rather than the producing (manufacturing/wholesale/research and development) unit

State identification issues.

- the business register State dimension is a different concept to that used in the compilation of international trade statistics which complicates the mapping process. Australian Business Register State identifiers reflect either the state of head office of the core taxation identity, or the state in which the business is located. Customs declarations record state(s) of loading and departure. International trade and

national accounts compilers focus is on the state of origin and state of final destination. Some of these state characteristics may not be readily extracted via a business register to customs declaration “matching”.

Customs declarations *with invalid ABNs*.

- small volume and value transactors are relatively insignificant (<1%) contributors and are clerically imputed for total aggregates only

- maintenance strategies may result in up to three months delay in the uploading of new business ABNs to the ABS business register. These timing delays may impact on the quality of commodity, business size, industry, and regional data disseminated if clerical imputations do not reflect real trading patterns.

C) If you have answered ‘no’ to all the items listed under question 5A, please explain why the customs forms/trade register (if applicable) cannot technically be linked to the business register

QUESTION 6: STATISTICAL MATCHING EXERCISES BETWEEN THE TRADE AND BUSINESS REGISTERS

A) Has your country carried out any statistical matching exercise(s) between the trade register(s) and the business register?

Please tick one box only

Yes (Go to part B)

No (Move to question 7)

As previously advised ABS does not maintain a trade register.

B) What percentage of the trade operators could be matched in the business register?

C) What were the main problems encountered during matching?

D) Please provide some comments on the quality of the results

QUESTION 7: OTHER EXPERIMENTAL WORK AND/OR ANALYSES ALREADY PERFORMED BY THE COUNTRY

A) Has your country carried out any trials and/or analyses in linking the trade register(s) to the business register and/or vice-versa?

Please tick one box only

Yes (Go to part B)

No (Move to question 8)

(If ‘yes’, please specify below the types of trials and/or analyses already conducted)

Analysis of exporter numbers to satisfy external user demand, for reference year 2002-2003.

B) What were the main problems encountered when linking the above registers?

Those listed at question 5(B)

- approximately 25% of the export declarations were completed by, and classified to, the customs agent rather than to the owner of the goods
- almost all of one particular commodity was assigned to the transport agent and thus the transportation industry
- many shipments were attributed to corporate head offices and marketing units instead of the production activity units
- as this analysis was undertaken when ABN reporting on customs declarations was not compulsory, it was necessary to impute State, commodity, and industry detail for almost 40% of the trading population
- due to the low level of ABN compliance by smaller traders it was not possible to distinguish exporters by business size (number of employees/**trading turnover thresholds**)

C) Please provide some comments on the quality of the study results

Note that since this analysis, it has become compulsory for exporters to quote their ABN (if they have one) on their customs entries – and this will soon apply to importers.

Current audits suggest a data matching success rate approaching 98% for the 2004-2005 reference year, and this will remove some of the problems listed above.

QUESTION 8: SELECTION OF PILOT STUDY (IES)

A) In the context of testing the feasibility of linking the registers of trade operators to the business register, would your country be interested to undertake pilot studies which would involve cross-referencing the variables of the different registers? Would you be willing to co-operate with OECD in this area? Please specify which pilot study (ies) you would be interested in carrying out based on the proposed alternatives listed below:

Please tick the relevant box(es)

Cross-references between sectors of activities, product traded and main partner countries involved in trade to provide some indication on the real economic activities of trade operators

External balance by sector of activities or groups of undertakings to provide some results on the competitiveness of various sectors of activities

Cross-references between trade and employment variables to assess the impact of external trade on employment by sector of activity

Other pilot study (ies)
(Please specify below)

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E-mail address philip.armstrong@statcan.ca

QUESTION 1: EXISTENCE OF A TRADE REGISTER

A) Do you hold a register of traders?

Please tick one box only

Yes

No (go to part C)

B) If yes, does the above register consist of :

Please tick one box only

A formal register?

A data base?

A set of files?

C) If no, can you please describe traders are identified in customs forms if no such register exists consist of

Please tick one box only in each row

	YES	NO
Business Register identification code	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tax registration number	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other numeric code(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(If 'yes', please specify below):		
.....		
By the name of the company	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
By the address of the company	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(If 'yes', please specify the information elements of the address)		
.....		

QUESTION 2: SOURCES OF DATA FOR UPDATING THE REGISTER OF TRADERS

A) What sources of data do you use to update the register of traders?

Please tick the relevant boxes

- Customs declarations
- Contacts with enterprises
- Data from fiscal authorities
- Business register
- Other survey(s)
- Other register(s)

- Other source(s)

Please specify below these other surveys, other registers (e.g. administrative registers) and other sources

.....

B) Could you please describe the updating procedure for each of the different data sources identified above, in particular with respect to the frequency and quality of this update?

Customs declarations are received monthly and compiled into an annual summary file for linking purposes.

Data from fiscal authorities is received semi-annually.

Business register files used in this project are updated annually.

QUESTION 3: CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE UNIT(S) OF REFERENCE OF THE TRADE AND BUSINESS REGISTERS

A) Which is/are the unit(s) of reference in the trade register(s):

Please tick the relevant box(s) in each column

Customs forms/register of traders

- The legal unit
 - The enterprise
 - The establishment
 - The local unit
 - The fiscal unit
 - Other(s) (Please specify below)
-

B) Is there at least one common unit of reference between the business register and customs forms/register?

Please tick one box only

- Yes
- No

QUESTION 4: CURRENT OR POTENTIAL LINK(S) FROM THE BUSINESS REGISTER TO CUSTOMS FORMS/REGISTER

A) Is the basic statistical unit of the business register linked/Can the basic statistical unit of the business register be linked to customs forms/ register of traders?

Please tick one box only

Yes
 No

(If 'no', please explain below why such a link cannot be established)

B) Is the business register linked/Can the business register technically be linked to customs forms/the register of traders (if applicable) through:

Please tick one box only in each row

	YES	NO
Tax registration number	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name of the company	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Address of the company	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other way(s) and/or code(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(If 'yes' please specify below)

C) If you have answered 'yes' to at least one of the items listed under question 4B, please describe in detail how the above link(s) is being established/can be established and the main problems encountered/to be encountered

Names and addresses from the Business Register could technically be linked to customs forms however, since the Business Register is significantly larger than the Exporter/Importer Registers, the customs declarations are matched to the Business Register. (See question 5c for a description of this process)

D) If you have answered 'no' to question 4A and to all the items listed under question 4B, please explain why the business register cannot technically be linked to customs forms/the register of traders (if applicable)

QUESTION 5: CURRENT OR POTENTIAL LINK(S) FROM CUSTOMS FORMS/ TRADE REGISTERS TO THE BUSINESS REGISTER

A) Are customs forms/trade registers traders (if applicable)/Can customs forms/registers of traders (if applicable) technically be linked to the business register through:

	YES	NO
Business Register identification code	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tax registration number	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name of the company	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Address of the company	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other way(s) and/or code(s) (If 'yes' please specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
.....		
B) If you have answered 'yes' to at least one of the items listed under question 5A, please describe in detail how the above link(s) is being established/can be established and the main problems encountered/to be encountered		
<p>Importer Register: Tax registration numbers (Business numbers) are required on import declarations and are linked to the Business Register. However, the business number is associated with an enterprise. Once the business number is linked to the statistical enterprise, then the importer name and address from the import declaration is matched to the establishment names and addressed within the matched enterprise to determine the importing establishment.</p> <p>Exporter Register: Exporter names and addresses are reported on export declarations and are matched to the Business Register name and address fields (both enterprise and establishment level). Export declarations for Canadian exports to the United States are collected by the U.S. Bureau of the Census whereas export declarations for Canadian exports to outside of the U.S. are collected by the Canada Border Services Agency. Because the export data is collected by two different sources, there are two separate data processing activities. Also, customs declarations are completed in either English or French. This poses some additional challenges in matching the exporter names and addresses from the customs declarations to the Business Register files.</p> <p>For both the Importer and Exporter Registers, a probabilistic matching program is used. This matching program, considers the name and addresses of the importers and exporters (The two groups are processed separately) from the customs declaration files and matches them to the name and address fields on the Business Register files. For a given record, if the name and address fields on both files (customs declaration file, Business Register file) are sufficiently similar then the record is considered to be matched. All of the records that are not matched in this way are investigated manually. This is a labour-intensive and time consuming process.</p>		
C) If you have answered 'no' to all the items listed under question 5A, please explain why the customs forms/trade register (if applicable) cannot technically be linked to the business register		
.....		

QUESTION 6: STATISTICAL MATCHING EXERCISES BETWEEN THE TRADE AND BUSINESS REGISTERS

A) Has your country carried out any statistical matching exercise(s) between the trade register(s) and the business register?

Please tick one box only

- Yes (Go to part B)
 No (Move to question 7)

B) What percentage of the trade operators could be matched in the business register?

- 90% for exporters
 75% for importers

C) What were the main problems encountered during matching?

See question 5c

D) Please provide some comments on the quality of the results

Importers: almost 20% of the Business Numbers found on import declarations are associated with non-Canadian companies. These companies however do export to Canada and in these cases it is the responsibility of the non-Canadian company to complete the customs declarations. Hence the non-Canadian company would require a Canadian Business Number for customs purposes. Despite having a Canadian Business number, these companies are not listed on the Statistics Canada Business Register (since the companies in question do not reside in Canada)

QUESTION 7: OTHER EXPERIMENTAL WORK AND/OR ANALYSES ALREADY PERFORMED BY THE COUNTRY

A) Has your country carried out any trials and/or analyses in linking the trade register(s) to the business register and/or vice-versa?

Please tick one box only

Yes (Go to part B)

No (Move to question 8)

(If 'yes', please specify below the types of trials and/or analyses already conducted)

.....
Exporter Register data is linked to the Business Register for the years 1993 to 2003. Data for subsequent years is available 13 months after the end of the reference period. (Data for 2004 will be available in January 2006 etc...)

.....
Importer Register data is available for 2002. Data for 2003 and 2004 will be available in December 2005. Data for subsequent years will be available 9 months after the reference period.

B) What were the main problems encountered when linking the above registers?

See question 5c.....

C) Please provide some comments on the quality of the study results

Over 90% of exporters and 75% of importers are linked to the Business Register. This covers over 95% of the value of exports and 90% of the value of imports.

QUESTION 8: SELECTION OF PILOT STUDY (IES)

A) In the context of testing the feasibility of linking the registers of trade operators to the business register, would your country be interested to undertake pilot studies which would involve cross-referencing the variables of the different registers? Would you be willing to co-operate with OECD in this area? Please specify which pilot study (ies) you would be interested in carrying out based on the proposed alternatives listed below:

Please tick the relevant box(es)

Cross-references between sectors of activities, product traded and main partner countries involved in trade to provide some indication on the real economic activities of trade operators

External balance by sector of activities or groups of undertakings to provide some results on the competitiveness of various sectors of activities

Cross-references between trade and employment variables to assess the impact of external trade on employment by sector of activity

Other pilot study (ies)
(Please specify below)

Linking Exporter/Importer registers from several countries. This would enable more detailed analysis in the areas of intra-firm trade and the micro-economic application of various macroeconomic models (gravity model and national differentiation models, among others)

COUNTRY: Iceland**Title: Ms SURNAME: Svavarsdóttir FIRST NAME: Auður Ólína****Department/Division: External Trade Department****Organisation: Statistics Iceland****Street: Borgartún 21 A****Postal code: 110 Country: Iceland****Telephone: Area Code (354) Number (528 1151)****Telefax: Area Code (354)Number (528 1299)****E-mail address: audur.svavarsdottir@hagstofa.is****QUESTION 1: EXISTENCE OF A TRADE REGISTER****A) Do you hold a register of traders?**

Please tick one box only

Yes X
 No (go to part C)

B) If yes, does the above register consist of :

Please tick one box only

A formal register?
 A data base? X
 A set of files?

C) If no, can you please describe traders are identified in customs forms if no such register exists consist of

Please tick one box only in each row

	YES	NO
Business Register identification code	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tax registration number	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other numeric code(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(If 'yes', please specify below):

.....

By the name of the company

By the address of the company

(If 'yes', please specify the information elements of the address)

.....

QUESTION 2: SOURCES OF DATA FOR UPDATING THE REGISTER OF TRADERS

A) What sources of data do you use to update the register of traders?

Please tick the relevant boxes

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Customs declarations | X |
| Contacts with enterprises | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Data from fiscal authorities | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Business register | X |
| Other survey(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other register(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other source(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please specify below these other surveys, other registers (e.g. administrative registers) and other sources

.....

B) Could you please describe the updating procedure for each of the different data sources identified above, in particular with respect to the frequency and quality of this update?

Statistics Iceland receives customs declarations from Customs Authorities monthly, including information of traders (Business Register identification codes, i.e. companies id-number) for each month in question. This data is tested against the Business Register in order to identify and correct wrong Business Register identification codes in the Customs declarations.

QUESTION 3: CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE UNIT(S) OF REFERENCE OF THE TRADE AND BUSINESS REGISTERS

A) Which is/are the unit(s) of reference in the trade register(s):

Please tick the relevant box(s) in each column

Customs forms/register of traders

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| The legal unit | X |
| The enterprise | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The establishment | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The local unit | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The fiscal unit | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other(s) (Please specify below) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
-

B) Is there at least one common unit of reference between the business register and customs forms/register?

Please tick one box only

- | | |
|-----|--------------------------|
| Yes | X |
| No | <input type="checkbox"/> |

QUESTION 4: CURRENT OR POTENTIAL LINK(S) FROM THE BUSINESS REGISTER TO CUSTOMS FORMS/REGISTER

A) Is the basic statistical unit of the business register linked/Can the basic statistical unit of the business register be linked to customs forms/ register of traders?

Please tick one box only

Yes X
 No

(If 'no', please explain below why such a link cannot be established)

B) Is the business register linked/Can the business register technically be linked to customs forms/the register of traders (if applicable) through:

Please tick one box only in each row

	YES	NO
Tax registration number	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Name of the company	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Address of the company	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Other way(s) and/or code(s)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>

(If 'yes' please specify below)
 Business register identification code

C) If you have answered 'yes' to at least one of the items listed under question 4B, please describe in detail how the above link(s) is being established/can be established and the main problems encountered/to be encountered

The link is being established by using data base join on the Business Register identification code.

D) If you have answered 'no' to question 4A and to all the items listed under question 4B, please explain why the business register cannot technically be linked to customs forms/the register of traders (if applicable)

QUESTION 5: CURRENT OR POTENTIAL LINK(S) FROM CUSTOMS FORMS/ TRADE REGISTERS TO THE BUSINESS REGISTER

A) Are customs forms/trade registers traders (if applicable)/Can customs forms/registers of traders (if applicable) technically be linked to the business register through:

	YES	NO
Business Register identification code	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tax registration number	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Name of the company	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Address of the company	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Other way(s) and/or code(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

(If 'yes' please specify below)

B) If you have answered 'yes' to at least one of the items listed under question 5A, please describe in detail how the above link(s) is being established/can be established and the main problems encountered/to be encountered

The link is being established by using data base join on the Business Register identification code.

C) If you have answered 'no' to all the items listed under question 5A, please explain why the customs forms/trade register (if applicable) cannot technically be linked to the business register

QUESTION 6: STATISTICAL MATCHING EXERCISES BETWEEN THE TRADE AND BUSINESS REGISTERS

A) Has your country carried out any statistical matching exercise(s) between the trade register(s) and the business register?

Please tick one box only

Yes (Go to part B)

No (Move to question 7), See answers to questions 2 and 7

B) What percentage of the trade operators could be matched in the business register?

C) What were the main problems encountered during matching?

D) Please provide some comments on the quality of the results

QUESTION 7: OTHER EXPERIMENTAL WORK AND/OR ANALYSES ALREADY PERFORMED BY THE COUNTRY

A) Has your country carried out any trials and/or analyses in linking the trade register(s) to the business register and/or vice-versa?

Please tick one box only

Yes (Go to part B)

No (Move to question 8)

(If 'yes', please specify below the types of trials and/or analyses already conducted)

Research is being performed aiming at linking the Business Register, The Settlement System, VAT, External Trade, Direct Foreign Investment and Pay-as-you-earn register in order to find the sample for survey of service.

B) What were the main problems encountered when linking the above registers?

C) Please provide some comments on the quality of the study results

No results are available yet.

QUESTION 8: SELECTION OF PILOT STUDY (IES)

A) In the context of testing the feasibility of linking the registers of trade operators to the business register, would your country be interested to undertake pilot studies which would involve cross-referencing the variables of the different registers? Would you be willing to co-operate with OECD in this area? Please specify which pilot study (ies) you would be interested in carrying out based on the proposed alternatives listed below:

Please tick the relevant box(es)

Cross-references between sectors of activities, product traded and main partner countries involved in trade to provide some indication on the real economic activities of trade operators

External balance by sector of activities or groups of undertakings to provide some results on the competitiveness of various sectors of activities

Cross-references between trade and employment variables to assess the impact of external trade on employment by sector of activity

Other pilot study (ies)
(Please specify below)

.....

COUNTRY: The Republic of Korea

Title: Mr SURNAME: Park FIRST NAME: No – Myung

Department/Division: Clearance Planning Division

Organisation: Korea Customs Service

Street: 920, Dunsan-Dong, Seo-Gu, Daejeon

Postal code: 302-701 Country: The republic of Korea

Telephone: Area Code (8242) Number (481 - 7847)

Telefax: Area Code (8242) Number (481 - 7819)

E-mail address: paromy@customs.go.kr

QUESTION 1: EXISTENCE OF A TRADE REGISTER

A) Do you hold a register of traders?

Please tick one box only

Yes

No

(go to part C)

B) If yes, does the above register consist of :

Please tick one box only

A formal register?

A data base?

A set of files?

C) If no, can you please describe traders are identified in customs forms if no such register exists consist of

Please tick one box only in each row

	YES	NO
Business Register identification code	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tax registration number	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other numeric code(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(If 'yes', please specify below):		

By the name of the company

By the address of the company

(If 'yes', please specify the information elements of the address)

All of the address without zip-code

QUESTION 2: SOURCES OF DATA FOR UPDATING THE REGISTER OF TRADERS

A) What sources of data do you use to update the register of traders?

Please tick the relevant boxes

- Customs declarations
- Contacts with enterprises
- Data from fiscal authorities
- Business register
- Other survey(s)
- Other register(s)

- Other source(s)

Please specify below these other surveys, other registers (e.g. administrative registers) and other sources

.....

B) Could you please describe the updating procedure for each of the different data sources identified above, in particular with respect to the frequency and quality of this update?

.....If enterprise isn't using the register of traders for 2 years , Customs delete it.

.....In this case, the enterprise must re-register a new one.

QUESTION 3: CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE UNIT(S) OF REFERENCE OF THE TRADE AND BUSINESS REGISTERS

A) Which is/are the unit(s) of reference in the trade register(s):

Please tick the relevant box(s) in each column

Customs forms/register of traders

- The legal unit
- The enterprise
- The establishment
- The local unit
- The fiscal unit
- Other(s) (Please specify below)

.....

B) Is there at least one common unit of reference between the business register and customs forms/register?

Please tick one box only

- Yes
- No

QUESTION 4: CURRENT OR POTENTIAL LINK(S) FROM THE BUSINESS REGISTER TO CUSTOMS FORMS/REGISTER

A) Is the basic statistical unit of the business register linked/Can the basic statistical unit of the business register be linked to customs forms/ register of traders?

Please tick one box only

Yes

No

(If 'no', please explain below why such a link cannot be established)

.....

B) Is the business register linked/Can the business register technically be linked to customs forms/the register of traders (if applicable) through:

Please tick one box only in each row

	YES	NO
Tax registration number	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name of the company	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Address of the company	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other way(s) and/or code(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(If 'yes' please specify below)

.....

C) If you have answered 'yes' to at least one of the items listed under question 4B, please describe in detail how the above link(s) is being established/can be established and the main problems encountered/to be encountered

.....

D) If you have answered 'no' to question 4A and to all the items listed under question 4B, please explain why the business register cannot technically be linked to customs forms/the register of traders (if applicable)

.....

QUESTION 5: CURRENT OR POTENTIAL LINK(S) FROM CUSTOMS FORMS/ TRADE REGISTERS TO THE BUSINESS REGISTER

A) Are customs forms/trade registers traders (if applicable)/Can customs forms/register of traders (if applicable) technically be linked to the business register through:

	YES	NO
Business Register identification code	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tax registration number	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name of the company	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Address of the company	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other way(s) and/or code(s)
 (If 'yes' please specify below)

B) If you have answered 'yes' to at least one of the items listed under question 5A, please describe in detail how the above link(s) is being established/can be established and the main problems encountered/to be encountered

C) If you have answered 'no' to all the items listed under question 5A, please explain why the customs forms/trade register (if applicable) cannot technically be linked to the business register

QUESTION 6: STATISTICAL MATCHING EXERCISES BETWEEN THE TRADE AND BUSINESS REGISTERS

A) Has your country carried out any statistical matching exercise(s) between the trade register(s) and the business register?
 Please tick one box only
 Yes (Go to part B)
 No (Move to question 7)

B) What percentage of the trade operators could be matched in the business register?

C) What were the main problems encountered during matching?

D) Please provide some comments on the quality of the results

QUESTION 7: OTHER EXPERIMENTAL WORK AND/OR ANALYSES ALREADY PERFORMED BY THE COUNTRY

A) Has your country carried out any trials and/or analyses in linking the trade register(s) to the business register and/or vice-versa?
 Please tick one box only
 Yes (Go to part B)
 No (Move to question 8)
 (If 'yes', please specify below the types of trials and/or analyses already conducted)

B) What were the main problems encountered when linking the above registers?

C) Please provide some comments on the quality of the study results

QUESTION 8: SELECTION OF PILOT STUDY (IES)

A) In the context of testing the feasibility of linking the registers of trade operators to the business register, would your country be interested to undertake pilot studies which would involve cross-referencing the variables of the different registers? Would you be willing to co-operate with OECD in this area? Please specify which pilot study (ies) you would be interested in carrying out based on the proposed alternatives listed below:

Please tick the relevant box(es)

Cross-references between sectors of activities, product traded and main partner countries involved in trade to provide some indication on the real economic activities of trade operators

External balance by sector of activities or groups of undertakings to provide some results on the competitiveness of various sectors of activities

Cross-references between trade and employment variables to assess the impact of external trade on employment by sector of activity

Other pilot study (ies)
(Please specify below)

.....

COUNTRY:NORWAY**Title:Adviser SURNAME: Hagen FIRST NAME: Øyvind****Department/Division: External Trade****Organisation: Statistics Norway****Street: Kongens gate 6****Postal code:0033 Oslo Country: Norway****Telephone: Area Code (47) Number (21 09 47 26)****Telefax: Area Code (47)Number (21 09 00 20)****E-mail address: oyvind.hagen@ssb.no****QUESTION 1: EXISTENCE OF A TRADE REGISTER****A) Do you hold a register of traders?**

Please tick one box only

Yes No (go to part C)**B) If yes, does the above register consist of :**

Please tick one box only

A formal register? A data base?

A set of files?

C) If no, can you please describe traders are identified in customs forms if no such register exists consist of

Please tick one box only in each row

	YES	NO
Business Register identification code	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tax registration number	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other numeric code(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(If 'yes', please specify below):

.....

By the name of the company

By the address of the company

(If 'yes', please specify the information elements of the address)

.....

QUESTION 2: SOURCES OF DATA FOR UPDATING THE REGISTER OF TRADERS

A) What sources of data do you use to update the register of traders?

Please tick the relevant boxes

- Customs declarations x
- Contacts with enterprises
- Data from fiscal authorities
- Business register
- Other survey(s)
- Other register(s)

- Other source(s)

Please specify below these other surveys, other registers (e.g. administrative registers) and other sources

B) Could you please describe the updating procedure for each of the different data sources identified above, in particular with respect to the frequency and quality of this update?

The register is updated monthly.

The identification used is eighter codes used in the business register of person identity codes.

Only valid business codes are used so the quality should be quite good.

QUESTION 3: CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE UNIT(S) OF REFERENCE OF THE TRADE AND BUSINESS REGISTERS

A) Which is/are the unit(s) of reference in the trade register(s):

Please tick the relevant box(s) in each column

Customs forms/register of traders

- The legal unit x
- The enterprise
- The establishment
- The local unit x
- The fiscal unit
- Other(s) (Please specify below)

B) Is there at least one common unit of reference between the business register and customs forms/register?

Please tick one box only

- Yes x
- No

QUESTION 4: CURRENT OR POTENTIAL LINK(S) FROM THE BUSINESS REGISTER TO CUSTOMS FORMS/REGISTER

A) Is the basic statistical unit of the business register linked/Can the basic statistical unit of the business register be linked to customs forms/ register of traders?

Please tick one box only

Yes

No

(If 'no', please explain below why such a link cannot be established)

The customs forms

.....

B) Is the business register linked/Can the business register technically be linked to customs forms/the register of traders (if applicable) through:

Please tick one box only in each row

	YES	NO
Tax registration number	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name of the company	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Address of the company	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other way(s) and/or code(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(If 'yes' please specify below)

.....

C) If you have answered 'yes' to at least one of the items listed under question 4B, please describe in detail how the above link(s) is being established/can be established and the main problems encountered/to be encountered

As from 2003 the exporters/importers (e.g. companies) have to use the business register code as their identification on the customs declarations. If the business code is used the link can be established. For some goods Statistics Norway collect information separately. Exports of crude oil and natural gas by pipeline are such goods and these goods amount for large values. For these goods and some others we do not register business code because of plural ownership

D) If you have answered 'no' to question 4A and to all the items listed under question 4B, please explain why the business register cannot technically be linked to customs forms/the register of traders (if applicable)

.....

QUESTION 5: CURRENT OR POTENTIAL LINK(S) FROM CUSTOMS FORMS/ TRADE REGISTERS TO THE BUSINESS REGISTER

A) Are customs forms/trade registers traders (if applicable)/Can customs forms/registers of traders (if applicable) technically be linked to the business register through:

YES	NO
-----	----

Business Register identification code	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tax registration number		<input type="checkbox"/>
Name of the company	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Address of the company	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other way(s) and/or code(s) (If 'yes' please specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
.....		
<p>B) If you have answered 'yes' to at least one of the items listed under question 5A, please describe in detail how the above link(s) is being established/can be established and the main problems encountered/to be encountered See comment regarding 4.c</p>		
<p>C) If you have answered 'no' to all the items listed under question 5A, please explain why the customs forms/trade register (if applicable) cannot technically be linked to the business register</p>		

QUESTION 6: STATISTICAL MATCHING EXERCISES BETWEEN THE TRADE AND BUSINESS REGISTERS

A) Has your country carried out any statistical matching exercise(s) between the trade register(s) and the business register?
Please tick one box only

Yes x (Go to part B)
No (Move to question 7)

B) What percentage of the trade operators could be matched in the business register?

imports 98
exports 44

C) What were the main problems encountered during matching?
See comment on 4.c

D) Please provide some comments on the quality of the results

The current register is quite good as we use valid business codes in the register, besides personal identity codes

QUESTION 7: OTHER EXPERIMENTAL WORK AND/OR ANALYSES ALREADY PERFORMED BY THE COUNTRY

A) Has your country carried out any trials and/or analyses in linking the trade register(s) to the business register and/or vice-versa?

Please tick one box only

Yes (Go to part B)

No (Move to question 8)

(If 'yes', please specify below the types of trials and/or analyses already conducted)

We have taken part in the Eurostat study combining presentation of external trade and business register statistics. We have delivered all the tables asked for in the Doc. Met no 801

B) What were the main problems encountered when linking the above registers?

See comment on 4.c

C) Please provide some comments on the quality of the study results

As this study was done on 2002 data we experienced some problems with "old" business codes.

This will not be the case as from 2003. We were not able to disclose the cases where one firm was making declarations for several other firms.

QUESTION 8: SELECTION OF PILOT STUDY (IES)

A) In the context of testing the feasibility of linking the registers of trade operators to the business register, would your country be interested to undertake pilot studies which would involve cross-referencing the variables of the different registers? Would you be willing to co-operate with OECD in this area? Please specify which pilot study (ies) you would be interested in carrying out based on the proposed alternatives listed below:

Please tick the relevant box(es)

Cross-references between sectors of activities, product traded and main partner countries involved in trade to provide some indication on the real economic activities of trade operators

External balance by sector of activities or groups of undertakings to provide some results on the competitiveness of various sectors of activities

Cross-references between trade and employment variables to assess the impact of external trade on employment by sector of activity

Other pilot study (ies)
(Please specify below)

COUNTRY: SWITZERLAND

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Department/Division: Directorate General of Swiss Customs

Organisation: Section Statistics

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QUESTION 1: EXISTENCE OF A TRADE REGISTER

A) Do you hold a register of traders?

Please tick one box only

Yes

No (go to part C)

B) If yes, does the above register consist of :

Please tick one box only

A formal register?

A data base?

A set of files?

C) If no, can you please describe traders are identified in customs forms if no such register exists consist of

Please tick one box only in each row

	YES	NO
Business Register identification code	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
Tax registration number	<input type="checkbox"/>	x (not mandatory)
Other numeric code(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	x

(If 'yes', please specify below):

Tax registration number is mostly declared, but not always as this is not mandatory

By the name of the company	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
By the address of the company	x	<input type="checkbox"/>

(If 'yes', please specify the information elements of the address)

Name, Street, Post Code, City of the importer / exporter or of the consignee / sender

Note: the consignee / sender can also be a private individual

QUESTION 2: SOURCES OF DATA FOR UPDATING THE REGISTER OF TRADERS

A) What sources of data do you use to update the register of traders?

Please tick the relevant boxes

- Customs declarations
- Contacts with enterprises
- Data from fiscal authorities
- Business register
- Other survey(s)
- Other register(s)

- Other source(s)

Please specify below these other surveys, other registers (e.g. administrative registers) and other sources

B) Could you please describe the updating procedure for each of the different data sources identified above, in particular with respect to the frequency and quality of this update?

The Swiss Customs administrates the customs law, but does not keep any specific register

QUESTION 3: CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE UNIT(S) OF REFERENCE OF THE TRADE AND BUSINESS REGISTERS

A) Which is/are the unit(s) of reference in the trade register(s):

Please tick the relevant box(s) in each column

Customs forms/register of traders

- The legal unit
- The enterprise
- The establishment
- The local unit
- The fiscal unit
- Other(s) (Please specify below)

B) Is there at least one common unit of reference between the business register and customs forms/register?

Please tick one box only

- Yes
- No

QUESTION 4: CURRENT OR POTENTIAL LINK(S) FROM THE BUSINESS REGISTER TO CUSTOMS FORMS/REGISTER

A) Is the basic statistical unit of the business register linked/Can the basic statistical unit of the business register be linked to customs forms/ register of traders?

Please tick one box only

Yes
 No

(If 'no', please explain below why such a link cannot be established)
there are no such obligation fields designed in the customs forms

B) Is the business register linked/Can the business register technically be linked to customs forms/the register of traders (if applicable) through:

Please tick one box only in each row

	YES	NO
Tax registration number	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
Name of the company	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
Address of the company	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
Other way(s) and/or code(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	x

(If 'yes' please specify below)

C) If you have answered 'yes' to at least one of the items listed under question 4B, please describe in detail how the above link(s) is being established/can be established and the main problems encountered/to be encountered

D) If you have answered 'no' to question 4A and to all the items listed under question 4B, please explain why the business register cannot technically be linked to customs forms/the register of traders (if applicable)

not technical reasons are grounds for it; it is the absence of appropriate "political" support because of the high costs and the necessity of a fundamental adaptation procedure

QUESTION 5: CURRENT OR POTENTIAL LINK(S) FROM CUSTOMS FORMS/ TRADE REGISTERS TO THE BUSINESS REGISTER

A) Are customs forms/trade registers traders (if applicable)/Can customs forms/registers of traders (if applicable) technically be linked to the business register through:

	YES	NO
Business Register identification code	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
Tax registration number	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
Name of the company	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
Address of the company	<input type="checkbox"/>	x

Other way(s) and/or code(s) (If 'yes' please specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
.....		
B) If you have answered 'yes' to at least one of the items listed under question 5A, please describe in detail how the above link(s) is being established/can be established and the main problems encountered/to be encountered		
.....		
C) If you have answered 'no' to all the items listed under question 5A, please explain why the customs forms/trade register (if applicable) cannot technically be linked to the business register <i>all necessities for the required adaptation procedure are outside of our sphere of competence;</i> <i>furthermore there is no legal base for this adaptation;</i> <i>please note that our statistics section is only a small unit of the customs department;</i> <i>in such a big organization the statistics subjects do not take the highest priority;</i>		

QUESTION 6: STATISTICAL MATCHING EXERCISES BETWEEN THE TRADE AND BUSINESS REGISTERS
A) Has your country carried out any statistical matching exercise(s) between the trade register(s) and the business register? Please tick one box only
Yes <input type="checkbox"/> (Go to part B) No x (Move to question 7)
B) What percentage of the trade operators could be matched in the business register?
C) What were the main problems encountered during matching?
D) Please provide some comments on the quality of the results

QUESTION 7: OTHER EXPERIMENTAL WORK AND/OR ANALYSES ALREADY PERFORMED BY THE COUNTRY
A) Has your country carried out any trials and/or analyses in linking the trade register(s) to the business register and/or vice-versa? Please tick one box only
Yes <input type="checkbox"/> (Go to part B) No x (Move to question 8) (If 'yes', please specify below the types of trials and/or analyses already conducted)
.....
B) What were the main problems encountered when linking the above registers?

C) Please provide some comments on the quality of the study results

.....

QUESTION 8: SELECTION OF PILOT STUDY (IES)

A) In the context of testing the feasibility of linking the registers of trade operators to the business register, would your country be interested to undertake pilot studies which would involve cross-referencing the variables of the different registers? Would you be willing to co-operate with OECD in this area? Please specify which pilot study (ies) you would be interested in carrying out based on the proposed alternatives listed below:

Please tick the relevant box(es)

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Cross-references between sectors of activities, product traded and main partner countries involved in trade to provide some indication on the real economic activities of trade operators | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| External balance by sector of activities or groups of undertakings to provide some results on the competitiveness of various sectors of activities | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cross-references between trade and employment variables to assess the impact of external trade on employment by sector of activity | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other pilot study (ies)
(Please specify below)
<i>Regrettably there are no ones</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

COUNTRY: TURKEY**Title: Mr SURNAME: TUNGUL FIRST NAME: BULENT****Department/Division: Foreign Trade Division****Organisation: State Institute of Statistics****Street: Necatibey C. No:114 Bakanliklar/ANKARA****Postal code: 06100 Country: TURKEY****Telephone: Area Code (312) Number (410 05 35)****Telefax: Area Code (312) Number (418 21 29)****E-mail address: bulent.tungul@die.gov.tr****QUESTION 1: EXISTENCE OF A TRADE REGISTER****A) Do you hold a register of traders?**

Please tick one box only

Yes
 No (go to part C)

B) If yes, does the above register consist of :

Please tick one box only

A formal register?
 A data base?
 A set of files? (We have started to build a database from different sources apart from Customs Declarations)

C) If no, can you please describe traders are identified in customs forms if no such register exists consist of

Please tick one box only in each row

	YES	NO
Business Register identification code	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tax registration number	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other numeric code(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(If 'yes', please specify below):

.....
 By the name of the company
 By the address of the company
 (If 'yes', please specify the information elements of the address)

QUESTION 2: SOURCES OF DATA FOR UPDATING THE REGISTER OF TRADERS

A) What sources of data do you use to update the register of traders?

Please tick the relevant boxes

- Customs declarations
- Contacts with enterprises
- Data from fiscal authorities
- Business register
- Other survey(s)
- Other register(s)

- Other source(s)

Please specify below these other surveys, other registers (e.g. administrative registers) and other sources

Turkish Exporters Union has a data base consisting on all their members. And they send new member list as a file every 3 months period

B) Could you please describe the updating procedure for each of the different data sources identified above, in particular with respect to the frequency and quality of this update?

Setting up of Business Registers System is an ongoing project which is realised due to European Norms. Ministry of Finance records are the main administrative source that has sufficient and continuously improved quality. (It was checked during the General Census of Businesses, 2002) At the current time, the periodicity of updates is not fixed since the studies are still continued. It is planned to update data quarterly in the near future. It is assumed as there is one to one relationship between legal unit and enterprise.

Concerning on trade register, new trade operators are appended to the file. And also, if some fields are null we find them from other sources, for example address, telephone, city etc.

QUESTION 3: CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE UNIT(S) OF REFERENCE OF THE TRADE AND BUSINESS REGISTERS

A) Which is/are the unit(s) of reference in the trade register(s):

Please tick the relevant box(s) in each column

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | Customs forms/register of traders |
| The legal unit | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The enterprise | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| The establishment | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The local unit | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The fiscal unit | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other(s) (Please specify below) | <input type="checkbox"/> |

B) Is there at least one common unit of reference between the business register and customs forms/register?

Please tick one box only

- Yes
- No

QUESTION 4: CURRENT OR POTENTIAL LINK(S) FROM THE BUSINESS REGISTER TO CUSTOMS FORMS/REGISTER

A) Is the basic statistical unit of the business register linked/Can the basic statistical unit of the business register be linked to customs forms/ register of traders?

Please tick one box only

Yes
 No

(If 'no', please explain below why such a link cannot be established)

B) Is the business register linked/Can the business register technically be linked to customs forms/the register of traders (if applicable) through:

Please tick one box only in each row

	YES	NO
Tax registration number	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name of the company	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Address of the company	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other way(s) and/or code(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

(If 'yes' please specify below)

C) If you have answered 'yes' to at least one of the items listed under question 4B, please describe in detail how the above link(s) is being established/can be established and the main problems encountered/to be encountered

At the current time, there is no link directly, but we can match the data by using tax register number

D) If you have answered 'no' to question 4A and to all the items listed under question 4B, please explain why the business register cannot technically be linked to customs forms/the register of traders (if applicable)

QUESTION 5: CURRENT OR POTENTIAL LINK(S) FROM CUSTOMS FORMS/ TRADE REGISTERS TO THE BUSINESS REGISTER

A) Are customs forms/trade registers traders (if applicable)/Can customs forms/registers of traders (if applicable) technically be linked to the business register through:

	YES	NO
Business Register identification code	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tax registration number	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name of the company	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Address of the company	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other way(s) and/or code(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

(If 'yes' please specify below)

B) If you have answered 'yes' to at least one of the items listed under question 5A, please describe in detail how the above link(s) is being established/can be established and the main problems encountered/to be encountered

At the current time, there is no link directly, but we can match the data by using tax register number

C) If you have answered 'no' to all the items listed under question 5A, please explain why the customs forms/trade register (if applicable) cannot technically be linked to the business register

QUESTION 6: STATISTICAL MATCHING EXERCISES BETWEEN THE TRADE AND BUSINESS REGISTERS

A) Has your country carried out any statistical matching exercise(s) between the trade register(s) and the business register?
 Please tick one box only

Yes (Go to part B)
 No (Move to question 7)

B) What percentage of the trade operators could be matched in the business register?

C) What were the main problems encountered during matching?

D) Please provide some comments on the quality of the results

QUESTION 7: OTHER EXPERIMENTAL WORK AND/OR ANALYSES ALREADY PERFORMED BY THE COUNTRY

A) Has your country carried out any trials and/or analyses in linking the trade register(s) to the business register and/or vice-versa?
 Please tick one box only

Yes (Go to part B)
 No (Move to question 8)

(If 'yes', please specify below the types of trials and/or analyses already conducted)

B) What were the main problems encountered when linking the above registers?

C) Please provide some comments on the quality of the study results

QUESTION 8: SELECTION OF PILOT STUDY (IES)

A) In the context of testing the feasibility of linking the registers of trade operators to the business register, would your country be interested to undertake pilot studies which would involve cross-referencing the variables of the different registers? Would you be willing to co-operate with OECD in this area? Please specify which pilot study (ies) you would be interested in carrying out based on the proposed alternatives listed below:

Please tick the relevant box(es)

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Cross-references between sectors of activities, product traded and main partner countries involved in trade to provide some indication on the real economic activities of trade operators | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| External balance by sector of activities or groups of undertakings to provide some results on the competitiveness of various sectors of activities | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cross-references between trade and employment variables to assess the impact of external trade on employment by sector of activity | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other pilot study (ies)
(Please specify below) | <input type="checkbox"/> |

NOTE: We would like to participate as much as possible that kind of studies by finishing the setting up studies of Business Registers System.

COUNTRY: United States

Title: Mr. SURNAME: Dickerson FIRST NAME: David

Department/Division: Foreign Trade Division

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QUESTION 1: EXISTENCE OF A TRADE REGISTER

A) Do you hold a register of traders?

Please tick one box only

Yes

No (go to part C)

B) If yes, does the above register consist of :

Please tick one box only

A formal register?

A data base?

A set of files?

C) If no, can you please describe traders are identified in customs forms if no such register exists consist of

Please tick one box only in each row

	YES	NO
Business Register identification code	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tax registration number	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other numeric code(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(If 'yes', please specify below):		
.....		
By the name of the company	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
By the address of the company	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(If 'yes', please specify the information elements of the address)		
.....		

QUESTION 2: SOURCES OF DATA FOR UPDATING THE REGISTER OF TRADERS

A) What sources of data do you use to update the register of traders?

Please tick the relevant boxes

- Customs declarations
- Contacts with enterprises
- Data from fiscal authorities
- Business register
- Other survey(s)
- Other register(s)

- Other source(s)

Please specify below these other surveys, other registers (e.g. administrative registers) and other sources

.....

B) Could you please describe the updating procedure for each of the different data sources identified above, in particular with respect to the frequency and quality of this update?

Customs declarations – The register of traders exists for exports only, and covers one calendar year of transactions reported on Customs declarations. These transactions are edited for completeness and accuracy. The register of traders is generated after the statistical year has been completed and all final corrections/changes have been applied.

Business Register – The register is updated continuously on a monthly basis. As additional surveys or Internal Revenue Service business tax forms are filed, the information is entered into the business register for that company. For the creation of our profile, we use the latest information available to us via the business register.

QUESTION 3: CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE UNIT(S) OF REFERENCE OF THE TRADE AND BUSINESS REGISTERS

A) Which is/are the unit(s) of reference in the trade register(s):

Please tick the relevant box(es) in each column

Customs forms/register of traders

- The legal unit
 - The enterprise
 - The establishment
 - The local unit
 - The fiscal unit
 - Other(s) (Please specify below)
-

B) Is there at least one common unit of reference between the business register and customs forms/register?

Please tick one box only

- Yes
- No

QUESTION 4: CURRENT OR POTENTIAL LINK(S) FROM THE BUSINESS REGISTER TO CUSTOMS FORMS/REGISTER

A) Is the basic statistical unit of the business register linked/Can the basic statistical unit of the business register be linked to customs forms/ register of traders?

Please tick one box only

Yes
 No

(If 'no', please explain below why such a link cannot be established)

B) Is the business register linked/Can the business register technically be linked to customs forms/the register of traders (if applicable) through:

Please tick one box only in each row

	YES	NO
Tax registration number	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name of the company	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Address of the company	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other way(s) and/or code(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

(If 'yes' please specify below)

C) If you have answered 'yes' to at least one of the items listed under question 4B, please describe in detail how the above link(s) is being established/can be established and the main problems encountered/to be encountered

The export data are compiled with an Employer Identification Number (EIN). We use this EIN to link to establishments and enterprises in the Business Register. The main problem we encounter is that some companies do not report payroll under the same EIN that is used for exporting. The different EINs of the same enterprise, or parent company, are not linked in all cases. Therefore, there is a possibility of double counting due to a limitation in the register.

D) If you have answered 'no' to question 4A and to all the items listed under question 4B, please explain why the business register cannot technically be linked to customs forms/the register of traders (if applicable)

QUESTION 5: CURRENT OR POTENTIAL LINK(S) FROM CUSTOMS FORMS/ TRADE REGISTERS TO THE BUSINESS REGISTER

A) Are customs forms/trade registers traders (if applicable)/Can customs forms/registers of traders (if applicable) technically be linked to the business register through:

	YES	NO
Business Register identification code	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Tax registration number	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name of the company	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Address of the company	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other way(s) and/or code(s) (If 'yes' please specify below)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Yes. Require that all companies report the EIN of the parent or enterprise company if they are a subsidiary organization.

B) If you have answered 'yes' to at least one of the items listed under question 5A, please describe in detail how the above link(s) is being established/can be established and the main problems encountered/to be encountered

As I stated in the last question, require that all companies report the EIN of the parent or enterprise company if they are a subsidiary organization

.....

C) If you have answered 'no' to all the items listed under question 5A, please explain why the customs forms/trade register (if applicable) cannot technically be linked to the business register

.....

QUESTION 6: STATISTICAL MATCHING EXERCISES BETWEEN THE TRADE AND BUSINESS REGISTERS

A) Has your country carried out any statistical matching exercise(s) between the trade register(s) and the business register?
Please tick one box only

Yes (Go to part B)
No (Move to question 7)

B) What percentage of the trade operators could be matched in the business register?

About 87%.

C) What were the main problems encountered during matching?

Not being able to confirm an accurate match to an establishment or enterprise due to the issue described earlier. The other main problem to increasing the match rate is due to the data exchange we have with Canada. For the data exchange, we use Canada's import data for exports. Because of this, neither country has the needed EIN number. We are left to use only the name of the company to match to the business register. In addition, the names of similar or identical companies are not standardized and are spelled differently. The process of trying to match these records is very time consuming and problematic.

D) Please provide some comments on the quality of the results

Overall , the quality of the results is very good when compared to previous editions of the profile. Each year we perform a quality review to see where we can improve the process.

QUESTION 7: OTHER EXPERIMENTAL WORK AND/OR ANALYSES ALREADY PERFORMED BY THE COUNTRY

A) Has your country carried out any trials and/or analyses in linking the trade register(s) to the business register and/or vice-versa?

Please tick one box only

Yes (Go to part B)

No (Move to question 8)

(If 'yes', please specify below the types of trials and/or analyses already conducted)

In addition to the exporter database that we have produced since the early 1990s, we are in the process of exploring an Importer Database. We are currently working with our Customs agency to obtain additional statistical information and working with the Internal Revenue Service to obtain approval to use the data for this purpose.

B) What were the main problems encountered when linking the above registers?

There are no problems to report at this time.

C) Please provide some comments on the quality of the study results

QUESTION 8: SELECTION OF PILOT STUDY (IES)

A) In the context of testing the feasibility of linking the registers of trade operators to the business register, would your country be interested to undertake pilot studies which would involve cross-referencing the variables of the different registers? Would you be willing to co-operate with OECD in this area? Please specify which pilot study (ies) you would be interested in carrying out based on the proposed alternatives listed below:

Please tick the relevant box(es)

Cross-references between sectors of activities, product traded and main partner countries involved in trade to provide some indication on the real economic activities of trade operators

External balance by sector of activities or groups of undertakings to provide some results on the competitiveness of various sectors of activities

Cross-references between trade and employment variables to assess the impact of external trade on employment by sector of activity

Other pilot study (ies)
(Please specify below)

.....