

# Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers

## Country progress report 2017 and future plans

**Country:**

Canada

**Reporter:**

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**Institution:**

Statistics Canada

### I. Organisation, Population and Usage of the Statistical Business Register

1. Name of the register

Statistical Business Register

2. Name of the organisation responsible for holding the register

Statistics Canada

3. Position of the register unit in the organisation

Statistical Registers and Geography Division under the Statistical Infrastructure Branch

4. Number of employees in the register unit (Headcount employees)

170 employees in the Division with 75 dedicated employees to the Business Register

5. Primary goal and use of the register

The Business Register is used by the economic programs as a frame to determine the in-scope population, to select a sample, to support collection activities, to monitor and control response burden and to support business demographics analysis.

6. Year of establishment of the register

1987

7. Year(s) of the main re-engineering(s) of the register

2006-2008

8. Number of active enterprises\* in the register at the end of 2017

\*If it is difficult to use Enterprises, you can use Legal units instead.

Enterprises:  (Legal units: )

9. Does the register have geographical coordinates assigned to every address or could they be obtained through other registers linked to it?

Yes

### II. Progress and Developments in the Past Year

Please list main achievements (maximum 3) in the past year (2016) or the problems you have tackled. Also, please classify them according to the categories within each drop-down list.

1. Short title of work which was done

Building register development

(Category)

1. Roles of the SBR

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

We continued to progress towards an integrated platform of core registers, including the business and social registers. The focus is currently the development of a Building Register that will provide the basis for identifying places of business and residence in the system. A beta version of the Building Register was completed this past year and is being assessed. Much work has also taken place to evaluate various data sources for identifying buildings and maintaining their register attributes.

2. Short title of work which was done

Longitudinal Business Register

(Category)

1. Roles of the SBR

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

Our project to provide a longitudinal Business Register also continued to progress. We have secured funding for the project and development is slated to begin in the in 2018. As part of this, we are in the process of defining the continuity rules. International guidelines are proving very useful for this exercise.

3. Short title of work which was done

Improving sectoring

(Category)

2. Coverage

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

The Business Register has integrated a new classification. The Canadian Classification of Institutional Units and Sectors (CCIOUS) was added to the BR. This classification scheme is replacing the System of National Account Sector (SNA) codes on the SBR. This ensures the BR can continue to play a central role in the compilation of National Accounting Data.

### III. Future plans

Please list themes/projects (maximum 3) which you plan to tackle in the current (2018) and following year(s). Also, please classify them according to the categories within each drop-down list.

1. Short title of work planned

Development of a registers matching engine

(Category)

1. Roles of the SBR

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

Over the coming year, we will be developing a tool that will facilitate matching of data records against the statistical registers. As we move towards a less survey-focused statistical system that seeks to more fully leverage administrative and secondary data sources, the step of reconciling to the statistical identifiers on the registers using names, addresses or other attributes becomes very critical. The tool we will develop will ensure that this can be done efficiently and according to standardized procedures. It is a key part of the statistical registers integration project.

2. Short title of work planned

New data collection methods

(Category)

4. Data sources

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

The SBR team is currently investigating alternative approaches to gather information for maintaining and updating the SBR. While administrative data sources will remain the main and major input to the SBR, this data lack some essential information that need to be collected by other means. For example, business profiles -linking operating units to legal entities- are maintained through direct contact with respondent during survey collection or routinely through phone calls. The SBR team will be consulting with clients, GoC partners, and other NSO, among others, to determine what alternative methods can be identified. We are also planning the development of an "outward-facing portal" that will permit businesses to create and adjust their enterprise profiles, and also a centralized portal for businesses to determine their industry codes.

3. Short title of work planned

Continued work on longitudinality and integrated registers

(Category)

1. Roles of the SBR

Description of work (max 4-5 sentences)

For the coming year, building the longitudinal BR is a main focus. As part of this we will be determining how to integrate it into the platform of Statistics Canada's core registers. More generally, the manner in which the platform itself will interact with the larger statistical system is being defined. This includes development of a plan to have a strategic data management model with the core registers (building register, population register and business registers) being central to a "data lake"

#### IV. Main challenges

Please list main challenges (maximum 3) with respect to development, maintenance and use of your statistical business register. Also, please classify them according to the categories within each drop-down list.

1. Main challenge 1 (Category)

##### Description of the challenge

The Government of Canada and Statistics Canada have set goals to modernize their activities. A long list of projects and ideas have been put forward, including plans to modernize the Business register. Projects and programs will be competing to secure resources. Our challenge is to ensure we present viable and convincing business cases for our projects.

2. Main challenge 2 (Category)

##### Description of the challenge

Statistics Canada is modernizing. The role of the Business Register is expanding as more programs are turning to the BR as a source of information to produce their statistics for detailed industries and local areas. This heightens the need to have listings of business operating entities that are up-to-date with reliable industry coding and employee/revenue sizing.

3. Main challenge 3 (Category)

##### Description of the challenge

There is new information coming into Statistics Canada from non-survey sources, such as administrative data (public and private), web and open sources and through partnership and data sharing agreement with private organizations. This information is only useful to economic programs if linked to the registers (Business, Building, Population). As the statistical system becomes increasingly based on these alternative sources, we must ensure that the central registers play their key functions of defining coverage, facilitating record linkage and data de-