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Session 2 Innovation in statistical business registers
Managing the transition to a new Statistical Business Register.

Abstract

The ONS is currently developing a new Statistical Business Register (SBR), which will replace a system initially introduced around 25-years ago. The business register is used in the production of most business statistics in the UK, and used by a range of external government customers for wider economic analysis. The new SBR is being built in a new technology stack and will also include methodology improvements, which will change the way many variables are calculated. The new SBR will also include extra administrative sources and hence have a full, but bigger population.

In parallel to the IT system build, we have started to plan how to make the transition from the old system (IDBR) to the new SBR. This will lead to many challenges for the user community and we need to work with them to manage the transition.

This paper will set out the key considerations and outline some of the proposals to enable the smooth transition to the new system.

The transition plan will cover a range of activities including, dual running, organisational change and user acceptance of the new product. From a customer point of view the main issue is migration of surveys from the old to new system, and managing discontinuities arising from the new bigger business population. Before decommissioning the old system, the Business Register operations team and the survey customers will need to be fully confident that the new system can accurately deliver all their required functions.

The aim of the paper is to identify the key considerations and share these with the Wiesbaden community. We would very much welcome advice and suggestions from members of the group who have experience of this type of transition.