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**Updating and monitoring the NACE code of single-establishment enterprises in the Swiss
business register**

Abstract

The NACE code is an important variable for all units included in the Swiss business register. It describes the main economic activity of an establishment and is used in several statistical processes: sampling frames, sampling designs, domain extrapolation, etc. Multi-establishment enterprises are controlled by an ongoing process. For the majority of single-establishment enterprises, the control of NACE codes should be planned consistently to ensure that their NACE code in the register is as up-to-date as possible.

We will describe a system to control the NACE code for these single-establishment enterprises from the Swiss business register. Every quarter a stratified sample, where the strata are defined by the establishments' sizes, will be controlled. There are two restrictions for this quarterly sample: sample size and length of the cycles in which all establishments of a size category should be controlled. For example, all the big establishments with at least hundred employees should be controlled within two years.

To handle the control process, we assign to each establishment a permanent random number uniformly distributed in $[0;1]$. Respecting the dynamic changes in the register, we split the $[0;1]$ -interval for each size category into a number of parts so that we can reach the demanded cycle length. Consequently, each quarterly sample will contain all the establishments of the random number subinterval belonging to this quarter and size category. The super small establishments (< 0.5 full time equivalent) are neglected because the two restrictions could not be held with these establishments. Knowing the permanent random number of an establishment, we can note when the NACE code of the establishment has been controlled for the last time or when the next control will take place.

Keywords: NACE code, single-establishment enterprises, permanent random numbers