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Daliute Kavaliauskiene
Statistics Lithuania

Quality and Coverage of Statistical Business Registers

Statistical businesses register as a bridge between statisticians and respondents

Abstract

The modern SBR is not only a continuously-maintained central data base on businesses and institutions providing frame for business surveys. It has evolved into an essential part of official business statistics (which is reasonably called backbone) providing an infrastructure for data integration from statistical and administrative sources and playing a key role in frame coordination and spreading the samples optimally among respondents.

In Statistics Lithuania the whole system of controlling and reduction of statistical response burden was integrated into SBR. Providing business statisticians with the common frame SBR takes at the same time responsibility for coordination of samples. The list of businesses selected for statistical surveys is generated in the SBR and becomes a starting point in the work with respondents. Having up-to-date contact information SBR is able to inform businesses about their participation in statistical surveys, to receive the feedback and distribute it among business statisticians. All changes in statistical accountancy and in parameters of businesses (e.g. activity codes, cessation of activity, e.t.c.) can be effectively managed and information shared between statisticians and respondents.

Statistical business Register has a function of single contact point with administrative data owners. Administrative data coming to SBR on a daily base allow quick reaction in fixing changes having impact to statistical production.

As a result, SBR started playing a very important role of a bridge between Statistical Office and data providers. The new functions and responsibilities increased burden on Business Register team, but the permanent contacts with businesses give a better understanding of data providers and encourages cooperation which results in high response rate and quality of statistics at the end. On the other hand the coordinated approach to sampling frame and sample selection gives positive effect on consistency and comparability of statistical data. The complex and centralized system of reduction, measurement and control of statistical response burden helps to implement the Principle 9 of European Statistics Code of Practice – Non excessive burden on respondents.

Keywords: survey frame, response burden, coordination of samples, administrative data.