Using Administrative Data for Statistical purposes - Statistics Portugal Experience
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Abstract
Although having a survey oriented production, Statistics Portugal has experience using Administrative Data for Statistical Purposes. One example is the Simplified Business Information (IES) system. Started in 2005 this nation-wide Statistics Business Reporting solution enables system-to-system financial reporting between businesses and government organisations, as a result of cooperation among Bank of Portugal and Ministry of Justice, which allowed eliminating the duplication of reporting and an Annual Business Survey.

Nowadays, Statistics Portugal begins a new wave of the use of Administrative Data for Statistical Purposes. The recent Portuguese Simplification Administrative Program, promoted by Portuguese Government, evolves one measure known as “Single Information at Statistics Portugal”, with aim to eliminate the double report from the companies to the official agencies, as Statistics Portugal, Tax Authorities and Social Security Services. This program give Statistics Portugal broad opportunities to access tax and social security data in order to substitute survey data, and it will also result the elimination of the Renting House Survey, as well as simplifying other surveying, such as Labour Costs Survey and Monthly Turnover and Employment Survey.

However these initiatives are also huge challenges and some questions arise:
• How to manage the data quality issues?
• How to manage missing values in the administrative data?
• How to suppress the confidentiality questions?
• How to manage with different data concepts?

This paper will describe the Statistics Portugal experience and how to cope with major issues related with the use of administrative sources.

Key words: administrative sources, official statistics, quality, business reporting.