Towards improved coherence of economic statistics
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Outline

- Key challenges for development of economic statistics
- Framework to tackle issues
- A few measures implemented/underway at Statistics Finland
- Conclusions
Key challenges

- Globalisation
  - New operating models of enterprises and lengthened value chains of production
- E-business in full scale
- Technological changes
- Fragmentary statistics
- Mismatch of statistical and business concepts
Strategy for development of economic statistics
2008-2012: Main objectives of economic statistics

- Economic statistics will meet the needs of the users of statistics (relevance)
  1. Economic statistics will be developed in international co-operation
  2. Coverage and quality of statistics will be improved
  3. Accessibility of statistics, and communication and co-operation with users will be improved

- Coherent economic statistics will be produced efficiently and with uniform procedures (coherence)
  1. Statistical production processes will be standardised and unified
  2. Reliability and compatibility of statistics will be developed
  3. Co-operation and wide-ranging competence in economic statistics will be strengthened

Measures already implemented/underway

- Electronic reporting – well advanced
- A uniform web-based platform for enterprise respondents
- A special team for handling data from the largest enterprises
- Various actions have been executed to develop compatibility of price and volume measures, treatment of effects from globalisation of economy etc.
- Use of administrative data further intensified
- A new information system for the National Accounts
- A uniform information system for the business register and all enterprise statistics
Central role of VAT data in the production of economic statistics

Goals of the modernisation project of the NA

- Effective use of modern IT tools (abandonment of APL, less dependency on Excel)
- Standardised and transparent calculation processes
- Comprehensive documentation of processes
- Securing of processes (e.g. creation of a substitute system for personnel)
- Improved coherence of economic statistics
- Improved quality of figures and processes (more weight on the processing of data crucial to quality)
Overview of the renewal project of business register and business statistics

- Started in 2009, will continue until 2014
- Defining phase revealed several problems
- Project affects
  - business register
  - financial statement statistics, regional and industrial statistics, international trade in services, FATS, industrial output statistics, STS
- Information systems will be completely modernised
Conclusions

- Integrated and coherent economic statistics – a long term vision
- Harmonisation of statistical units, concepts and classifications in various economic statistics
- Standardisation of the processes – development of working culture, change of division of labour and modernation of information systems
- Challenges ahead: Globalisation, deliniation of e-business, measurement of intangibles
- International standards, guidelines and shared experiences needed