Business register as a basis for survey frames

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**BR: Definition and Purpose**

**Definition**

The Swiss Business Register (BR) contains **all enterprises and all establishments** that generate an economic activity in Switzerland. The main information is updated permanently through different sources.

**Purpose**

The BR is used by FSO as an address register for statistical surveys (survey frame, extrapolation basis). Other governmental agencies and cantons in Switzerland use BR for **statistical or administrative** purposes.
BR: Legal Bases

** Federal Statistics Act of 9 October 1992
** Federal Act of 19 June 1992 on Data Protection (FADP)
** Ordinance of 30 June 1993 regarding the Register of Enterprises and Establishments
** Ordinance of 25 June 2003 on emoluments and indemnities received for statistical services by administrative entities of the Swiss Confederation
** Regulation (EC) No 177/2008 establishing a common framework for business registers for statistical purposes
BR: Data Model

Legal Unit

controls

Operates an

Enterprise

Performs its activity in its

Local Unit
Business register as a basis for survey frames

Natalia Dorontsova

Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA
Federal Statistical Office FSO

BR: Enterprise Structure

One Local Unit Enterprise or multi-establishments enterprise

Legal Unit

Enterprise

Local Unit

Main Legal Unit or Local Legal Unit

Legal Unit

Secondary Local Legal Unit

Legal Unit

Geographical Local Unit

CH-ID / EHRAID

ENTID

BURNR
**BR: Sources**

**Administrative Sources**
- ZEFIX (Register of commerce)
- VAT
- Social Security
- Other Tax Adm.
- RFE/ZEMIS

**Private Database**
- UID
- Employment agency system
- CANTONS

**Statistical Sources**
- Profiling light
- QS-NACE Survey
- ERST: a newly created enterprises Survey
- Employment Statistics Survey
- Other Surveys

**Profiling**
Information about multi-establishments enterprises (large and complex)

**Other tools:** swissfirms, ETV, SLB

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**Business register as a basis for survey frames**
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REE: Coverage (1)

** Primary, secondary and tertiary sectors of activity

** Private sector

- Local units, Enterprise units
- Sources: SHAB (1’000/day), VAT (500/day), PLASTA (30/day), Profiling, Cantons (30/day), surveys (STATEM, ERST)

** Public sector

- Local units, Institutional units
- Sources: cantons, municipalities, Profiling, surveys (STATEM)
BR: Coverage (2)

- Administrative Units = 100%

- Statistical Units from 2011
  - Total annual revenue above 2’300.- Sfr/year
  - This limit allows to take into account all micro-enterprises in the statistics

- Statistical Units before 2011
  - Minimum employment of 0.5 Full-time equivalent employment or 20h/week
BR: Contents

**Descriptive Data:**
- Name and address of the Enterprise / Establishment
- Activity status
- Legal form
- Institutional sector
- Economic activity
- Geographical location
- Enterprise size measures (employment, turnover)

**Demographic Data:**
- Date of creation of the enterprise
- Date when the enterprise started operations
- Other dates of recent changes of activity status or economic activity or enterprise structure

**Linkage Data:**
- Various identifiers enabling the links between units (enterprise, legal, local, group of enterprises)
** Key figures **

On 15 July 2013, the BR contains 691'032 active local units (establishments).

** Number of units of the BR :**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Active</th>
<th>Inactive</th>
<th>Radiée</th>
<th>Inconnue</th>
<th>Fictive</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unité légale</td>
<td>1'022'275</td>
<td>22'272</td>
<td>747'351</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>1'791'898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unité légale (Succursale)</td>
<td>10'144</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10'136</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>20'281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entreprise</td>
<td>608'159</td>
<td>199'323</td>
<td>747'350</td>
<td>161'900</td>
<td>75'167</td>
<td>1'791'899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unité locale</td>
<td>691'032</td>
<td>227'068</td>
<td>913'898</td>
<td>167'108</td>
<td>759'434</td>
<td>2'758'540</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Maintenance strategy of the BR (1)

The maintenance strategy takes into account the following aspects:

- Use of administrative sources (Social Security is the main one)
- Use of feedbacks from surveys
- Needs of the users
- Enterprises are partitioned into various maintenance groups by size and potential impact on public statistics
- Planning of the updates
- Historical register
- Rules for dealing with conflicting information
Maintenance strategy of the BR (2)

For maintenance purposes, the enterprises are divided into three groups:

🌟 Multi-establishments enterprises subject to Profiling:
- Enterprises > 10 local units or > 100 employees
- Quarterly collection (enterprise structure, employment and NACE per local unit)

🌟 Multi-establishments enterprises subject to Profiling Light:
- Enterprises < 10 local units or < 100 employees
- Annual survey (enterprise structure, employment and NACE per local unit)
Maintenance strategy of the BR (3)

** All enterprises with only one local unit:

- ERST (quarterly survey on newly created enterprises) \(\rightarrow\) structure, reason of creation, employment and NACE per local unit
- QS-NACE \(\rightarrow\) annual control survey of the economic activity covering all units over 5 years
- Administrative sources (Social Security) \(\rightarrow\) employment per enterprise
## Some figures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>ent_%</th>
<th>loc_%</th>
<th>betot_%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One Local Unit (LOC)</td>
<td>97.72%</td>
<td>90.23%</td>
<td>58.66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profiling Light (2-10 LOC)</td>
<td>2.19%</td>
<td>6.18%</td>
<td>23.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profiling (&gt;10 LOC)</td>
<td>0.08%</td>
<td>3.60%</td>
<td>18.31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Survey Frame System

Continuous update of the structure:
- New entries
- Changes
- Cessations

Year A

Year A - 2

Structural Statistics

Survey Frame

Year A - 1

Continuous update of statistical information:
- Employment data
- Turnover
- Export/import data

Turnover (VAT)

Employment (Social security)
BR: Basis of the survey frame (1)

** The economical statistical surveys are based on the business register;

** The enterprise is the central statistical unit;

** At the moment, FSO uses only one survey frame for all economical statistical surveys;

** Each year a new survey frame is provided containing all metadata;

** The coordination of the drawing-samples must be insured. The burden on enterprises can be reduced by using this system;

** The business register is continuously updated during the year; the structural data and all statistical information are integrated (profiling, profiling light, others surveys);
BR: Basis of the survey frame (2)

** Each year the available statistical information (from administrative sources) is also integrated: employment and turnover;

** The NACE code is updated on a regular basis;

** All information has its own reference period (time stamp);

** Survey Frame ≠ Structural Statistics (STATENT);

Survey Frame = Structure of the statistical units at the year A, enhanced with statistical information from year A or A-1 or A-2 according to the update schedule;

** Structural Statistics = Structure and statistical information corresponding to the same reference period of year A-2.
Managing the Survey Frame (1)

→ A quarterly report provides the observed changes during year A (new entries, changes, cessations)
→ All rules of continuity are used to explain the changes

→ Monitor the survey frame!
→ Describe changes in the population!
→ Help/support extrapolation methods!
→ Build quality indicators!
Managing the Survey Frame (2)

** During the year when the survey frame is used, quarterly reports provide the main changes in the survey frame (new entries, cessations or others changes).

** These changes can be used to describe the modifications in the population of the survey and to help or support the extrapolation methods.

** Checks in the population can also be performed in order to provide additional information on structural changes.

** Each year a new survey frame is prepared as an update of the previous frame containing all the information gathered throughout the year.

** All the rules of continuity are used. The purpose of this practice is to determine what information of the last frame may be transmitted to units of the new frame and under what circumstances.
## Managing the Survey Frame (3)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Typ</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Cumulative Freq.</th>
<th>Cumulative Pct.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ent with no changes</td>
<td>533795</td>
<td>87.31</td>
<td>533795</td>
<td>87.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Ent no changes (no predecessors/no successor)</td>
<td>12306</td>
<td>2.01</td>
<td>546101</td>
<td>89.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Ent with successors</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>546129</td>
<td>89.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Ent inactive</td>
<td>48911</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>595040</td>
<td>97.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Ent with predecessor have no past</td>
<td>792</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>595832</td>
<td>97.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Ent, predecessor remain in the frame</td>
<td>821</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>596653</td>
<td>97.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ent with constant identifiers</td>
<td>6987</td>
<td>1.14</td>
<td>603640</td>
<td>98.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only 1 predecessor (this pred. has only this succ.)</td>
<td>7558</td>
<td>1.24</td>
<td>611198</td>
<td>99.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Many predecessors, but all pred. have only this succ.</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>611279</td>
<td>99.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Many predecessors with many successors</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>611397</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The changes are detected and treated following the rules that are explained in the «Manual of coordinated survey system for enterprises – SVS».
References


** Qualité, L. (2009), Unequal probability sampling and repeated surveys. Thèse de doctorat, Université de Neuchâtel, Neuchâtel, Suisse. https://libra.unine.ch/Publications/Personne/Q/Lionel_QualitE/12431
