

USE OF ADMINISTRATIVE DATA FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS IN STATISTICS ESTONIA

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The use of administrative data for producing statistics is increased over the last 5-8 years in Statistics Estonia. The Official Statistics Act of Estonia (2010) foresees that Statistics Estonia shall primary use data collected in administrative databases, if such data allow the production of official statistics complying with the quality criteria of official statistics. Several projects has started for developing methodology for more effective use of administrative data.

Estonia plans to conduct the next population and housing census (PHC) completely register-based. The preparations for the register-based PHC began in 2010 with the methodology project to check the quality and interoperability of state registers. The small-scale pilot census was conducted in 2014 using three registers and PHC 2011 data, two pilot censuses are planned in 2016 and 2018. Seventeen administrative data registers will be directly used for compiling PHC variables and some additional registers will be used for quality checks. One key problem of register-based PHC is the quality of place of residence in administrative sources. Special project for determining permanent residency status based on representation of persons in ten administrative registers has carried out.

The project for using electronic annual report (AR) data started in 2009 including technical and methodological preparation for receiving and using AR data. Statistics Estonia collects data from economic units (enterprises, institutions, organisations etc.) with monthly, quarterly and annual questionnaires. Some of these questionnaires include indicators that economic units can also submit in their annual report which data are submitted electronically to the Commercial Register. Since the AR does not include all necessary variables for compiling annual statistics the AR data is used in two ways: pre-filling of statistical questionnaires (starting from 2012) and cut-off sampling of small enterprises together with modelling missing variables (2014). As a result, the response burden of respondents has decreased.

The project for development of a methodological and statistical basis for a new indicator of services production was started in 2014. The main aim is to develop of collection and estimation methods for the production of monthly service turnover and volume indicator with a minimum increase in the reporting burden on enterprises. The idea is to use monthly VAT data and quarterly statistical survey data to predict monthly turnover and produce monthly indicators.

The use of administrative data for producing official statistics has advantages and problems compared to traditional surveys. The comprehensive methodological work is needed for solving problems: missing variables and values, differences in definitions, coverage problems etc. Nevertheless Statistics Estonia continues the work with better use of administrative data.

References

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