

The German Business Register

- Overview
- Internal and external users
- Dataflow
- Cooperation with data providers
- Quality checks of administrative data sources
- Functionalities

Overview (1)

Role of the business register

Infrastructure for economic statistics

- >>> Basis for planning, realisation and preparation of surveys
- >> Reduction of response burden
 - >> Replacement of censuses and specific surveys
 - >>> Use of administrative data in short-term statistics
 - >>> Steering of survey participation

Basis for analyses and evaluations

Federal Statistical Office (Destatis)

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Overview (2)

National characteristics

Germany: federal state

- >> 15 statistical offices
 - >> Federal Statistical Office
 - >> 14 independent statistical offices of the Länder (federal states)

Maintenance of the business register

- >> Central data base
- >> Methodology and coordination

Federal Statistical Office (Destatis)

>> Continuous updating of the data



Overview (3)

Data Sources

- >> Monthly data of the Federal Employment Agency
- >> Monthly data of the financial administration (turnover)
- >> Data of the Federal Central Tax Office (on tax groups)
- >> Data of the Chamber of Crafts
- >> Information from the trade register
- >> Commercial data provider for the maintenance of enterprise groups
- Feberatation dine (Esses Groups Register (EGR)

Overview (4)

Units and characteristics



- Name, address and geographical code information
- Identification variables (IDs)
- >> Regional code, economic activity code, legal form
- >> Institutional sector according to ESA, public enterprise,
- >> Information on size (employees, turnover)
- >> Demographic information

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Information on ownership and control (enterprise groups)
24.07.2023

Overview (5)

Some figures

- >> 3.2 million legal units
 - >>> Very small businesses (e.g. no employees, no advance turnover tax return) are not covered
- >> 3.7 million local units
- >> 212,000 enterprise groups

Overview (6)

Challenges

- >> No unique identifier across administrations in Germany (so far)
 - In certain cases, data matching has to be carried out on the basis of name, address, economic activity code, etc.
- >> Administrative versus statistical units
 - >> Concepts are not always the same
- >> No data source for enterprises as defined by official statistics
 - >> Profiling needed

⁵ Federal Statistical Office (Destatis)</sup> structure of large and complex enterprise groups

Internal an external users of BR



Data flow (1)

Structure of the business register



Data flow (2)

Data flow in AdminSat



Data flow (3)

Process of monthly updating



Data flow (4)

Modes of processing

- >> Automatic
 - >> Automatic transfer of all changes/automatic establishment of a link in all cases (which meet certain criteria)
- >> Dialogue
 - Single-case decision (split screen)
- >> Export
 - >> External analysis/processing and import of the results

Data flow (5)

Example: split screen

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Cooperation with data providers

Data deliveries defined by law

Legal basis

- >> Law on the Use of Administrative Data for statistical purposes
- >>> Statistics Register Law
- >> Federal Statistics Law
- Specific agreements
- >> Fixed contact persons
- >> Regular meetings
- Rederal Statistical Office (Destatis)
- » Reporting of general anomalies

Quality checks of administrative data sources (1)

General guidelines for the use of administrative data

- Learn about the concepts and definitions of units and characteristics of the source and \rightarrow document the findings
- Involve data owners in use of their data, so that they understand the use of their data \rightarrow
- Hold regular meetings and establish a good communication channel \rightarrow
- \rightarrow Form agreements concerning data format, metadata, delivery terms, contact persons
- Check timeliness, punctuality of delivery, completeness and comprehensiveness, occurrence of \rightarrow duplicates, and compliance with the agreed standards for every data delivery
- Provide feedback on the quality of the data on a regular basis and work towards improving data \rightarrow quality Federal Statistical Office (Destatis)

Quality checks of administrative data sources (2)

Quality assurance in the German Business Register

- Setablishing the connection from legal unit (data of the tax administration) to local unit (data of the Federal Employment Agency)
- >> Controlling heads of tax groups without data delivery from tax administration
- >> Controlling of high turnover values without data delivery from Federal Employment Agency
- >> Controlling data from Federal Employment Agency without data delivery from tax administration
- >> Estimation of turnover of entities belonging to tax groups
- >> Correction of extreme values, that are a result of input errors
- >> Controlling for identifier from trade registry that must be available for certain legal forms

Federal Statistical Office (Destatis)
 Checking and, if necessary, correction of characteristics (address, branch of economic activity,

Functionalities

- >> Communication system for reconciliation of changes with surveys
- >> Split screen to show data source and destination
- >> Annual frozen frame to be used by survey for sampling
- >> Measurement and steering of response burden
- >> Flexible search tools which enable users to find a specific unit or to find all units that meet certain criteria
- >> Import/export functionalities
- Possibility to specify requirements data has to meet in order to be allowed into the database (on the level of characteristics)
- Mathematical Creation of informative log files, especially for monitoring the mass processing of data



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