Regional Course on Integrated Economic Statistics to Support 2008 SNA Implementation

A review of Economic Censuses and their role in national economic statistics

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Outline

* Concept of Economic Census
* Survey of country practices
* Country Examples
* Conclusion and Key lessons

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Concept of Economic Census

Concept of Economic Census

* A statistical survey conducted on the full set of economic units belonging to a given population or universe

* "census" implies that each unit is enumerated separately and that the characteristics thereof are separately recorded

Concept of Economic Census

* Reliable and detailed data on the number and distribution of economic units by various categories

* Primary source of these basic benchmark statistics

* Presents analytical statistics on economic units and for a wide variety of geographical units, ranging from the country as a whole to individual small localities

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Why they are important?

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Information needs of the general public, government, research etc

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Survey of Country Practices

* Based on UNSD survey across countries

* Economic census is still an important statistical activity

* Economic census vary significantly among countries and show a lack of unified approach

Survey of Country Practices

* Two principal methods are most often used by countries

  * Economy -wide census;
  * Individual economic sectors/activities only (manufacturing, construction, distributive trade etc.)
* Census definition
  * Broad and narrow definitions
  * Complete enumeration vs "enumeration of strata"

Survey of Country Practices

General Information on Economic Censuses

	Number of countries that responded to the Questionnaire	Number of countries conducting Economic Census	Percentage of countries conducting Economic census	Number of countries with plans to conduct Economic Census	In %
	(2)	(4)	(5)=(4)/(2)	(6)	(7)=(6)/(2)
All Countries and Territories	114	39	34.2	55	48.2
Economic Grouping:					
Developed	34	6	17.6	6	17.6
Transition economies	17	2	11.8	7	41.2
Developing	63	31	49.2	42	66.7
Geographical Grouping:					
Africa	17	6	35.3	13	76.5
Northern America	3	1	33.3	1	33.3
Latin America and the Caribbean	17	7	41.2	11	64.7
Central, Eastern, South-Eastern and Southern Asia	19	11	57.9	13	68.4
Western Asia	9	5	55.6	3	33.3
Europe	39	6	15.4	9	23.1
Oceania	10	3	30.0	5	50.0

Survey of Country Practices

* **Periodicity**
  * Recommended standard is every 5 years
  * Most countries conduct every 5 years except Latin America
* **Scope**
  * 2 out of three countries conducting economic census do not include units from agriculture and public administration
  * Agriculture often captured in other collections
* **Coverage**
  * Mostly all units but thresholds are quite common
  * Africa applies more thresholds than rest of the regions

Survey of Country Practices

	Periodicity					Coverage			
	Percentage of countries conducting Economic census:				Percentage of countries applying a threshold	Percentage of countries by different approaches of covering units below the threshold			
	Each year (*as take all strata of annual surveys*)	Every 5 years	Every 10 years	Less frequently		Sample Surveys	Population Census	Administrative data sources	Other
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
All Countries and Territories	**12.8**	**56.4**	**25.6**	**5.1**	**46.2**	**44.4**	**16.7**	**22.2**	**22.2**
Economic Grouping:									
Developed	33.3	50.0	16.7	…	66.7	25.0	…	25.0	25.0
Transition economies	50.0	50.0	…	…	…	…	…	…	…
Developing	6.5	58.1	29.0	6.5	45.2	50.0	21.4	21.4	21.4
Geographical Grouping:									
Africa	…	33.3	33.3	33.3	83.3	40.0	20.0	20.0	40.0
Northern America	…	100.0	…	…	100.0	…	…	100.0	…
Latin America and the Caribbean	14.3	28.6	57.1	…	57.1	75.0	25.0	25.0	25.0
Central, Eastern, South-Eastern and Southern Asia	9.1	81.1	9.1	…	36.4	50.0	…	…	…
Western Asia	…	60.0	40.0	…	…	…	…	…	…
Europe	50.0	33.3	16.7	…	50.0	33.3	…	…	33.3
Oceania	…	100.0	…	…	33.3	…	100.0	100.0	…

Other approaches for compilation of basic economic statistics

* **Two distinct groups of countries with regard to the compilation of basic economic statistics**

  * Economic census as a main tool for compiling the economic statistics

  * Combination of register based information from annual and more frequent surveys and administrative data sources

Other approaches for compilation of basic economic statistics

* Two third use other approaches for compilation of basic economic statistics that differ from traditional economic census

* Developed & transition economies tend to use more of register based survey/administrative data

* Business registers are indispensable for economy wide surveys

Country Example-China

* Respondents in national economic census include corporate units, establishments and self-employed persons of the secondary and tertiary industries in China

* Covers 19 national economic sectors except agriculture, which are classified into 90 major groups, 378 groups and 875 small groups.

* The national economic census employs the method of complete enumeration of units

Country Examples-China

* Covers the basic characteristics of units
    * number and composition of employees,
    * assets and other financial data,
    * business data, produced output,
    * main raw materials and energy consumed and other technical activities

* The respondents' rate of the census questionnaires is almost as high as 100%.

Country Examples-India

* Indian Economy predominantly consists of vast unorganized and informal sectors

* National Sample Survey Organiation (NSSO) of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is mandated for conducting large scale sample surveys

Country Examples-India

* All economic activities except those involved in crop production and plantation, related to production and/or distribution of goods and/or services other than for the sole purpose of own consumption were covered

* National committees and working groups

* Intelligent Character Recognition (ICR) technology

* Training of trainers and field personnel

Country Examples-Philippines

Economic Census Key Uses

* Constructing national and regional income accounts of the Philippine economy;

* Formulating and monitoring plans/policies in the attainment of national and regional economic goals;

* Determining and comparing regional economic structure and performances;

* Providing updates for the frame of establishments;
  Conducting market research and feasibility studies

Country Examples-Philippines

* Covers the 14 sectors of the Philippine economy

* Restricted to the formal economy

* Establishment as unit of enumeration

Country Examples-Philippines

* An establishment is categorized by its economic organization, legal organization, employment size, industrial classification and geographic classifications
* Four types of questionnaires utilized

* NSO maintains a List of Establishments from where a frame for census and or surveys of establishments are taken
* 57,355 sample establishments

Country Examples-Philippines

Response Rates

Sector	Total	2006 CPBI ATE less than 20	ATE 20 and over	
Total	92.1	91.3	92.9	
Agriculture, Hunting and Forestry	89.9	91.2	88.5	
Fishing	96.5	94.8	98.2	
Mining and Quarrying	92.7	97.8	87.6	
Manufacturing	91.1	91.0	91.2	
Electricity, Gas and Water	90.7	88.1	93.3	
Construction	93.7	94.2	93.2	
Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair Services	93.0	94.6	91.4	
Hotel and Restaurant	84.2	74.8	93.6	
Transport, Storage and Communication	94.6	93.4	95.8	
Financial Intermediation	93.7	91.6	95.8	
Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities	93.9	93.1	94.7	
Education	91.5	90.5	92.5	
Health and Social Work	92.3	91.6	93.9	
Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities	91.3	91.5	91.1	

Country Examples-Philippines

Technological Innovations for Reducing Costs

* An **e-questionnaire or electronic copy** of forms for the 2006 CPBI was developed for respondents to submit their responses via the NSO Web

* An **Electronic Imputation Program**

* The **ITSD Monitoring and Tracking System (ITSD-MTS)**, a computerized monitoring system, developed to manage the distribution, collection and processing of surveys

Country Examples-Thailand

* Establishments engaged in manufacturing, wholesale, retail and some services sectors of the International Standard Industrial Classification, ISIC, Rev.3.
* Reporting units are consistent with the ISIC

* Two kinds of questionnaire forms
    * Listing form-admin/location
    * Enumeration form- in depth data, sales, expenses etc

* Done every 10 years

Conclusion & Key Lessons

* Range of collected economic variables vary from country to country depending on their specific needs and priorities

* Collection of additional economic variables provides basis for a more comprehensive analysis of the structure of an economy (macro, micro, regional, activity etc. levels) and for benchmarking purposes

Conclusion & Key Lessons

* Content of an economic census should be user needs driven and public awareness of its relevance should be maintained, in particular to ensure a high response rate;
* Increased use of IT technologies (e.g., ICR , PDA's /CAPI etc.) and electronic data collection/reporting should be promoted
* Importance of dissemination