

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
STATISTICAL INSTITUTE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON BUSINESS AND TRADE STATISTICS

UNITED NATIONS, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS,
STATISTICS DIVISION

Webinars on Indicators on business performance related to well-being and sustainability

26 April, 31 May and 28 June 2023

Concept Note

I. Background

Historically business statistics have focused very much in measuring the economic performance and competitiveness of businesses. However, businesses play a very important role toward sustainability and wellbeing. Since its establishment in 2018, the UN Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics (UN CEBTS) recognized the need to measure the role of businesses toward sustainability and wellbeing and thus created a dedicated task team to address the measurement challenges. The Task team identified a set of 18 reference indicators related to the measurement of the business sector's impact on well-being and sustainability. These indicators were based on the review of the indicators of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the core indicators for entity reporting on contribution towards implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in order to provide a bridge between the information available at business level with business statistics and ultimately with relevant SDG indicators.

The *Manual on Principal Indicators for Business and Trade Statistics, vol 1*. contains a reference list of business statistics indicators related to three priority areas: business demography, business dynamics, and entrepreneurship; globalization and digitalization; and well-being and sustainability which were developed by the task teams on the UN CEBTS. Methodological sheets were prepared for each indicator based on existing international guidance in order to support their implementation

in countries. In addition, relevant breakdowns were identified to provide additional granularity to the indicators. The set of business indicators related to selected aspects of well-being and sustainability indicators is not comprehensive. It is rather a consolidated set of indicators that are generally more readily available and for which guidance is available. The webinars will also provide an opportunity to collect feedback on the list of indicators based on the challenges and opportunities in their implementation.

This webinar series will focus on the set of indicators related to wellbeing and sustainability and is organized to (1) provide an overview of the importance of measuring impact of businesses on well-being and sustainability; (2) review data sources including, for example non-financial reporting; and (3) share country experiences on challenges and opportunities in the compilation of these indicators.

II. Target audience and main objectives

The target audience for these webinars are government / official statisticians experienced in either SDG reporting, environmental statistics or business statistics, including labour statistics. Staff responsible for new statistical products may also benefit from the first webinar where the concept is introduced.

The main objectives of the webinars are:

1. To introduce the importance of compiling indicators on the businesses' impact on well-being and sustainability.
2. To share information on data sources and compilation methods.
3. To discuss challenges and opportunities in the compilation of these indicators.
4. To strengthen technical capacity to compile the proposed business indicators on well-being and sustainability.

III. Structure and dates of webinars

The three webinars will be organized on 26 April, 31 May and 28 June. Each webinar will last for two hours, beginning with substantive presentations of the topics by experts followed by discussion sessions. The webinars will be conducted in English without interpretation. Background materials regarding the compilation will also be prepared in English. Participants will have an opportunity to interact with the presenters orally.

Webinar 1 (26 April): Introduction to the importance of measuring the impact of businesses on wellbeing and sustainability.

Description:

This webinar will provide an introduction to the importance of measuring the impact of businesses on selected aspects of wellbeing and sustainability, the rationale and purpose of the suggested business statistics indicators, their link to the SDGs indicators and the role of non-financial reporting in producing these indicators. Examples of compiling and dissemination on selected indicators will be presented.

Time (UTC)	Agenda
7:00-7:15	Welcome remarks (Organizers)
7:15-8:00	Introduction to indicators on business impact on well-being and sustainability – Q&A and discussion
8:00-8:10	Stretch Break
8:10-9:00	Examples of compiling and dissemination

Webinar 2 (31 May): Compiling business statistics indicators related to selected aspects of environmental sustainability.

Description:

This webinar will focus on business indicators related to selected aspects of environmental sustainability (e.g. indicator related to water, energy, emission etc.). It will cover a review of data sources and data compilation. It will also provide as a forum to share country experiences and identifying areas of further work.

Time (UTC)	Agenda
7:00-7:15	Welcome remarks (Organizers)
7:15-8:00	Introduction of business statistics indicators related to the environment Presentation of country example
8:00-8:10	Stretch Break
8:10-9:00	Round table on challenges and opportunities in the compilation of these indicators (chaired by presenters)

Webinar 3 (28 June): Compiling of indicators of business performance related to selected social aspects of well-being and sustainability.

Description:

This webinar will focus on business indicators related to selected social aspects e.g gender, employment, productivity etc. It will cover a review of data sources and data compilation. It will also provide as a forum to share country experiences and identifying areas of further work.

Time (UTC)	Agenda
7:00-7:15	Welcome remarks (Organizers)
7:15-8:00	Introduction of business statistics indicators related to selected social aspects of wellbeing and sustainability Presentation of country example
8:00-8:10	Stretch Break
8:10-8:55	Round table on challenges and opportunities in the compilation of these indicators (chaired by presenters)
8:55-9:00	Closing Remarks

IV. Access to the webinar presentations

Webinars will be recorded. Recordings and presentations will be shared on SIAP website after each webinar.