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BUSINESS REGISTER

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Brief History

- FBoS first Business Register was known as **Business Directory** comprised of cards the sizes of postcards.
- Around 1984, a computerized Joint User Register of Information System, popularly known as the **JURIS** was setup.
- Around 1998 through the AusAID funded Institutional Strengthening program, New Zealand Statistics set up a new **Business Register (BR)**. This system was based on Sybase and was maintained by the Coordination and Development Unit.
- The current system is Microsoft Access based and is maintained by the Business Register Unit which is part of the Economic Statistics Division. This system was upgraded lately and effective from 23rd October 2013.



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Definition & Role

- FBOS' BR is a **CONFIDENTIAL** computerised register of each known establishment that is legally registered or licensed to operate in Fiji. It is maintained under the provisions of the Statistics Act (Cap 71). This Act protects the confidentiality of the information contained in the BR.
- The primary role is to provide a comprehensive source of business unit name and addresses for economic/business surveys and census selection frames
- Therefore, the Business Register is a Centralized mechanism for storing, updating and retrieving information for the purpose of conducting economic and business surveys



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Need for a Business Register

- The BR exists primarily for the purpose of supplying frames for all business collections :
- It provides a means of:
 - Coordinating the coverage of business surveys
 - Achieving consistency in classifying statistical reporting units.
 - It also serves as the main source of business demography: business creations; closures; structural changes brought about by mergers, takeovers etc...



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Users



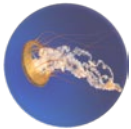
Establishment Survey Unit



Employment Unit (Wages & Salaries)



Tourism and Migration Unit



Balance of Payments Unit



International Trade Unit



Consumer Price Index Unit



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Data Sources

Telephone Business Directory (Yellow Pages)

Town & City Councils

Offices of the Divisional Commissioners & District Officers

Investment Fiji

FBoS Staff

Fiji Registrar of Companies (RoC)

Fiji Revenue & Customs Authority (FRCA)

Registrar of Money Lenders

Registrar of Hotels

Fiji National Provident Fund

News Papers/Other News Medium

Business Register





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The work of the BR Unit.

- Overall updating and maintenance of the BR
- Assign BN & ESTN numbers
- Ensure no duplicate entries are made.
- Calling businesses, calling source people, Visiting businesses and dispatching questionnaires for information.
- Update via update forms received from business units in Bureau.
- Keeping in touch with all sources



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Questionnaires & Update Forms

- Business Register Up- Date Form – Used by Surveying officers for amendments
- Questionnaire on Business Operations – Sent by BR Unit to new companies.



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Data Fields in the BR

- The Variables in the BR can be grouped into 3 distinct categories:
- Identification Variables
 - BN
 - Tax #
 - Name of Business
 - Name of branches/contact person
 - Name of owner
 - Phone/fax and email contacts
 - Postal address
 - Type of Legal Organisation



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Data Fields Cont'd

- Stratification Variables:
 - Economic Activity
 - Geographic Location
 - Employment numbers
 - Turnover
- Demographic Variables like the:
 - Births
 - Deaths
 - Change in Economic Activity



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Outputs

Reports To Senior Management

Quarterly Snapshot

Quarterly Updates



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Challenges

- ❑ Develop good relation & networking with our data sources.
- ❑ To develop awareness on the importance of the BR system within FBoS.
- ❑ Ensure that all BR variables are updated efficiently thus having an up to date system.
- ❑ Create more checks on the ground for companies that have closed or are dormant.
- ❑ Given the pace of change in the business world, managing the maintenance and update of the BR is a challenge for FBOS, which it does effectively by combining the use of information from administrative sources, establishment surveys and the questionnaire on business operations.
- ❑ However identifying ceased establishments remains a challenge
- ❑ When there's no proper location /contact details provided for the establishments, this becomes a challenge for the unit.



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Developments

- Attaching a Geographical code against all businesses enabling each establishment's profile to be linked to our Geographical Information System (GIS). Once this is done, data collection will be performed in a more systematic manner.
- The above will facilitate the provision of useful information to users such as our Disaster Management Office and Investors
- Networking with the Regional Offices being strengthen as they will be collecting data for FBoS statistical processing.



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Thanks !!!

Questions ??