

Key considerations in selecting data sources for Hong Kong's Statistical Business Register (SBR)



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Topics

- ✚ **Central Register of Establishments (CRE)**
- ✚ **Sources of information for updating the CRE system**

Central Register of Establishments (CRE)

CRE – Background Information

- A computerised sampling frame of business establishments maintained by C&SD, containing :
 - Registered name, address, telephone number, operating status, industry (HSIC 6-digit), employment size, etc.
- Currently: around 420,000 active establishments (undertakings engaging 1 or more workers), comprising
 - ✓Commercial undertakings
 - ✓Semi-government organisations
 - ✓Non-profit making bodies

Hong Kong Standard Industrial Classification (HSIC)

Background

- Introduced in 1990 with regular reviews thereafter
- A classification framework for classifying economic units into industry classes
- A framework of basic stratification for sample selection work
- Current version HSIC V2.0 released in Oct 2008
- Modelled on the United Nations' International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) Revision 4 to reflect structure of local economy
- Enhance comparability of official statistics

Industry Coverage

➤ Basically covers most establishments engaged in major economic activities classified under HSIC V2.0

- An establishment is classified to an industry class based on its economic activity

➤ Exceptions due to operational constraints :

- Full listing
- Partial listing

Sources of information for updating the CRE system

- ❑ Commercial undertakings
- ❑ Semi-government organisations
- ❑ Non-profit making bodies

Key consideration for selecting sources

- Coverage and data quality
- Availability and characteristics of specific industries
- Costs and efficiency of data collection
- Maintaining reasonable updatedness of the database

CRE – Updating Sources

Three major sources of data for updating the CRE :

- Administrative records from government departments
- Feedback from various surveys of the C&SD
- Regulatory listings of licensed / registered establishments obtained from various government/public bodies' websites

Business Registration Ordinance

#The Business Registration Ordinance requires every person who carries on a business in Hong Kong to **apply for business registration within 1 month from the date of commencement of the business**, and to display a valid Business Registration Certificate at the place of business. If the registered particulars of the business have changed, the business operator has to **notify the Inland Revenue Department in writing within 1 month of the change**

Administrative Records from BRO (1)

➤ **Business Registration Office (BRO) of Inland Revenue Department**

- ✓ Primary updating source of the CRE
- ✓ Provides basic information : Business Registration Number, business name and address, on new business registrations to the C&SD on a weekly basis

➤ **Sent questionnaires to collect data**

- ✓ Type of business, employment size, telephone number, contact person, etc.

➤ **Late and non-response cases are followed up by field visits**

Administrative Records from BRO (2)

- New establishments which are confirmed active (in respect of having engaged workers) after data collection are then inserted into the CRE.

- The BRO also supplies amendment and deletion records of business registrations to the C&SD on a regular basis. The information is used to update the basic particulars (e.g. name and address amendment) and the operating status (e.g. closure cases) of the existing establishments in the CRE.

Supplementary information from other government administrative records

Examples:

- List of schools from the Education Bureau
- List of welfare institutions from Social Welfare Department
- Vehicle license records such as taxi, public light buses etc. from the Transport Department
- Dormant companies records from the Companies Registry

Survey Feedback from various surveys of C&SD

- **Feedback from various establishment-type surveys conducted by different sections within C&SD**
 - ✓ Provide feedback for updating the existing records in the CRE, such as type of business, employment size and operating status of individual establishments

- **Among these surveys : the Quarterly Survey of Employment and Vacancies (SEV) is the major vehicle for updating the CRE**
 - ✓ A sample size of about 27 000 per quarter
 - ✓ The CRE records are enumerated and updated at least once in every five years

Other sources from the Internet

- **Explore regulatory listings of licensed / registered establishments by searching the Internet for websites relating to the major industries**
 - ✓ Financial services, Tourism, Professional services, Environmental industries

- **Cross-check the lists obtained from various government/public bodies' websites with records in the Central Register of Establishments (CRE) master**
 - ✓ Government departments responsible for regulations by issuing licences / permits (e.g. Department of Health, Home Affairs Department, etc.)
 - ✓ Statutory bodies responsible for registration / regulations (e.g. Securities and Futures Commission etc.)

Thank You

