Abstract

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) introduced a revised Economic Units Model in 2013. The most significant change in the new model was the introduction of a direct link between the Legal Entity statistical unit (ABNs) and the Production Unit (Type of Activity Units: TAU) in the ABS Economic Units Model and Enterprise Group (EG). Prior to the revision of the Economic Units Model in 2013, there was no direct link between the ABNs and the TAUs. Consequently ABN level administrative data could not be accurately aggregated and used at the TAU level.

Through profiling, relational data was sought to populate metadata about the relationship between the ABN and TAU statistical units for each profiled group on the Business Register. This metadata will be regularly maintained through profiling and quality assurance processes. The introduction of ABN-TAU metadata was a significant conceptual and operational change which introduced a number of challenges. The population of the ABN-TAU metadata or mapping is now complete for approximately 99% of the profiled groups on the ABS Business Register.

An important feature of the ABN-TAU metadata or mapping functionality is that it improves the ABS’ understanding of complex business structures. By enabling profilers to map Legal Entities to Production Units, and represent these relationships on the ABS Business Register, the ABS is enriching the understanding of the most significant businesses operating in Australia. In addition, we are able to extract this data and use it for new and exciting possibilities, including the aggregation of ABN level taxation and geospatial data to the TAU level.
Due to an increasing availability of administrative data, the facility to map ABNs to TAUs is becoming more important. Investment in the ABS Business Register to revise the Economic Units Model and implement ABN-TAU mapping means that the ABS is now well positioned to utilise and explore new statistical possibilities of economic administrative data.

This paper outlines (1) the conceptual framework for the ABN-TAU mapping, (2) the mapping implementation process, (3) profiling implications and (4) the outcomes and expected opportunities.

(300 – 500 words)