Abstract

As many statistical offices, Insee is faced to the question of the statistical burden.

The first point is to get an objective view of it, through concrete measures. To assure this goal, Insee decided, a few years ago, to make the inclusion of a question about the time needed to answer each statistical questionnaire mandatory. This information is then centralized in the new statistical business register SIRUS: so, it is now possible to produce statistics about the burden considering different criteria (size of the enterprise, sector, etc.).

A second aim is to lessen the burden. Different possibilities do exist, that have given rise to some evolutions of the French device of production of business statistics: use, as much as possible, of administrative data, methodological work on the sampling methods. Concerning the use of administrative data, an important work has been done during the last years, to replace statistical surveys by the use of tax data for the production of the structural business statistics, as much as possible. If there remains a part of the information collected through statistical surveys, since it is not available in the administrative sources, the new device led to a very notable reduction of the burden for enterprises. This use of administrative files by statisticians is made easier because of the id-number SIRENE (the French inter-administrative business register), which is used by all administrations, and particularly the tax authorities.

From the methodological point of view, work has also been done, and a new method of coordination of the samples of enterprises is being implemented in Insee, that takes in a better way than before the cumulated burden of every enterprise (that is known thanks to SIRUS). First results of this method will be presented, as the choices that were made to deal with the questions raised by the coexistence of different statistical units (enterprises, legal units, local units).