Abstract

In 2011 Statistics New Zealand initiated a project to replace the Business Frame which had been the statistical business register since 1995, but had legacy software components that were going to be unsupported in the next few years. This was one project within a 10 year programme of work called Statistics 2020 Te Kāpehu Whetū: Achieving the statistics system of the future.

Rather than build a standalone system as previous registers had been, it was decided to develop the new Business Register on the Micro-Economic Platform, also being developed as part of Statistics 2020.

A key objective of Statistics 2020 is to make maximum use of administrative data while continuing to produce economic statistics that are fit for use, with an aim for administrative data to be the first source of data for statistical outputs. This key principle of the new statistical architecture has been a driver for developing the new economic statistics platform.

The platform introduced two major innovations that are critical to the implementation of the new statistical architecture - it is designed for analysis, and has flexible data storage.

The decision to develop the Business Register on the platform meant that there had to be a different approach how some functions were implemented, but this was more than offset by the development of extra functionality to support the Business Register, which was then made available to economic collections using the platform.

The Business Register went live on the new platform on 5 May this year, realising the vision of seamless integration between economic data collected from administrative sources, direct surveying, and a statistical business register holding the classifications and size measures used to transform that data into coherent and relevant statistics.

In this paper we will describe the development of the Business Register, with particular attention to the aspects that relate to building it on the Micro-Economic Platform, and the benefits we expect to gain from having a single platform supporting our economic collections.