Abstract

The Tunisian Business Register (RNE) is created pursuant to the 94-780 decree of 4 April 1994. The Tunisian National Institute of Statistics (INS) manages the TBR:

- Attribute a national identifier for each enterprise.
- Codify economic activity using the Tunisian National Activity Classification (NAT).

The Tunisian Business Register was created primarily based on administrative sources. The first source is the Finance Ministry. Their files cover all legal and local units, whereas it represents the most exhaustive source allowing the detection of firms in Tunisia. The second source is the Social Security Fund. Their files cover three kinds of units: employers, one person units and salaries.

The main goals of the TBR creation are:

- Collecting and updating data regarding companies: identification, location, activities, size...
- Harmonization and standardization of variables according to standards and statistical concepts: activity, address, size...
- Preparation and dissemination of statistics on enterprises
- Monitoring of business demography
- Using the register as a sampling and estimation frame for business surveys.

The most important problems in managing the TBR are:
Absence of unique or identifier
Multiple classifications (economic activity, legal form…)
Diversification on writings (person name, company name, label activity…)

To resolve these problems, a statistical methodology is developed in the INS: An automatic procedure of normalization and standardization of writing, an automatic procedure of matching files and modes to estimate activity status, localization, economic activity and size.