Main source for update of business register in Georgia is data received from administrative sources, namely from National Agency of Public Registry and from Revenue Service (Tax Office);

The use of data from administrative sources is an obvious alternative to data collection from respondents. The access to data from administrative sources for statistical purposes is granted to the Geostat by law "On Official Statistics" and by special government decrees which oblige other public institutions to cooperate with the Geostat.

From Public Registry Geostat receives information about newly registered and liquidated (closed) companies, also information on changes. From Revenue Service (Tax Office) Geostat receives information on active taxpayers.

Update procedures are automated. The information is received from administrative sources monthly, using automatic interfaces that the Geostat has with the databases of these institutions. The received data is cleansed and structured. The statuses for the companies are identified.

The received information from administrative sources is automatically reflected in BR.
Administrative data are very important for update of business register, as in business register Geostat collects approximately 25 variables and 80% of which comes from administrative sources;

High quality of statistical products in most cases are received by combining administrative and survey data.

Therefore, another source for update of register is also various business statistics surveys. Quarterly and annual sample business surveys provide information on contact details and kind of economic activities of the surveyed entities.

In database received from administrative sources, actual address and kind of economic activities are indicated only for limited number of enterprises. Sometimes indicated information on economic activities are incorrect, which is huge problem for business register and hence for all business survey.

That’s why Geostat conducts every month computer assisted telephone interviews (CATI) for the companies in the business register to update information about status, kind of economic activities and actual addresses by each local units of the companies.

Besides update of business register, administrative sources are used for production of demographic statistics, transport statistics, construction statistics, external trade and Foreign Direct Investments statistics, education and social protection statistics etc.

Business register covers approximately 581 000 entities and includes about 25 variables by each entity. Information about kind of economic activity is available for 44,7 % of registered entities; Information about actual address is available for 60%; data on turnover or income - for 41.3%; data on number of persons employed is available for 18.1 % of registered entities.

Maintenance strategy takes into account the following aspects:

Use of administrative sources
Use of survey results
Needs of the users
Planning of the updates
And rules for dealing with BR information

Suitable documentation is also really essential for the users of the business registers and part of the overall quality of the service that the business register provide.

Geostat cooperates with various international organizations and statistical offices.
Cooperation with Statistics Sweden.

Cooperation agreement between GEOSTAT and Statistics Sweden was signed on June 2011. The project is financed by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and it covers a period of four years.

One of the components and goals of this cooperation is to improve and development business registers in Georgia.

Main outcomes of mentioned cooperation in the sphere of business register are following:

- New database and structure;
- New software for business register;
- Complete metadata document on business register;
- New procedures for updating of business register;

In cooperating with experts from statistics Sweden, Geostat created metadata for business register, which contains all information about business register and briefly description on variables, production and update procedures, maintenance etc.

Other progress and developments

Improved access on administrative sources

According to the resolution of government, which was approved in February 2011 and then revised in July, Revenue Service (tax office) is obliged for submit to GEOSTAT quarterly data on active tax payers (enterprises), which includes also data on turnover and number of employees for limited number of active enterprises.

Geostat has direct access with administrative sources and updated procedures are automated.

New surveys for update of BR (CATI).

since January, 2013 Geostat has established monthly surveys for update of BR, using computer assisted telephone interviews. This survey is only for active companies to update information about status, kind of economic activities, actual addresses etc by each local unit.
To the other progress and developments belongs also business register quality assessment survey, improved quality of business register and improved cooperation with administrative authorities, which are owners of administrative sources.

Existing problems and possible solutions

- Quality of administrative data:
  - Accuracy of data (activity, actual address, phone number etc)
  - Incomplete data (kind of economic activity, actual address etc)

- Methodology (definition, if enterprise is active or non-active). Geostat created methodology but sometimes it doesn't work properly.

- Non response (business register update survey - CATI)

- Lack of legislation
  - According to the law on Official Statistics, enterprises are not obliged to submit questionnaires or cooperate with Geostat. It is voluntary process and that's why additional efforts need to be undertaking from Geostat.

- Not sufficient financial recourses (economic census)
  - Economic census has never been carried out in Georgia, because of not sufficient financial recourses.

- Not enough experts
  - 7 persons are working on BR, however I think it’s necessary to enlarge number of statisticians, who will work on maintenance of BR and for improve it’s quality.

Geostat’s future plans related business register

- Implementation of international recommendations related business register (local unit, enterprise unit, local kind of activity unit);
- Active cooperation with administrative institutions and working with administrative sources;
- Active cooperation with international organizations and experts;
- Improve quality of business register using various administrative sources and surveys;
- Share experience of other country;
- Increase knowledge of staff (training: MS SQL, Crystal report).