The statistical uses of the French business register SIRUS

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Outlines of the presentation

1. Standard uses of the business register
2. Specific questions raised by the introduction of the concept of enterprise
1.1. Traditional uses of the business register for statistical needs

- 1. Use as a sampling frame: no problem of under-coverage, need to update characteristics for some units
- 2. Use as a « backbone » for business statistics, especially when using administrative data
1.2. The new possibilities available with SIRUS used as a frame

• Reducing the statistical burden by taking into account the cumulated burden (see other presentation in this meeting) when drawing the samples of the statistical surveys

• Sharing information for statistical treatments:
  – Having the same way, for all business statisticians, of dealing with non responses or missing data : by using all available information (for example VAT declarations)
  – Introduction, within SIRUS, of a statistical variable calculated by taking into account administrative files and survey returns
  – Idea for the future : work on the calculation of a probability of being active, for each unit of the register
1.3. The use of administrative data

• Long tradition of use of the administrative data of French enterprises …

• … Since the id-number of SIRENE is used by all French administrations

• This has been the case for the use of the VAT files (calculation of a monthly turnover index), or of the employer’s annual social security returns, used for the wages statistics

• But is is even more interesting when combining different sources (see after: the production of structural business statistics)
1.4. ESANE, the production of the French Structural Business Statistics (1)

- Business register
- Tax data
- Employment data
- Statistical survey

Statistical results
1.4. ESANE, the production of the French Structural Business Statistics (2)

- The business register SIRUS is the backbone of the system (particularly for the NACE code)
- But the statistical aspects are more complex than in case of just one source (estimators to use, dealing with missing data)
2.1. The use of the concept of enterprise: consequences for SIRUS

- Taking into account the concept of enterprise makes statistics more relevant.

- Then, it needs to introduce, within the statistical business register, different units that do co-exist:
  - legal units, and local units, as before in SIRENE
  - enterprises
  - groups

- When using profiled enterprises, be sure to have neutralized the legal units belonging to it.
2.2. Scope issues for business statistics

- The scope of business statistics is, from a practical point of view, complex to implement, even if it seems theoretically easy to define.
- First, using administrative data helped statisticians to clarify some choices, by comparing the use of some codes of the register with the « reality » of administrative files.
- An example: societies created by large groups to locate their assets (even when generally having no production).
- Taking into account enterprises, instead of legal units, will certainly improve the way of defining the scope of business statistics.
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Thank you for your attention!