Tunisian Business Register: Management and update
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Legal Framework

**Decree 94-780 of April 4, 1994**

- The BR is created and managed by the NSI.
- NSI attributes a national identifier for each legal or local unit in the BR (not applied).
- NSI codify the economic activity using the Tunisian Classification of Activities (aligned with international classifications).
02 Goals

1. Collecting and updating data regarding enterprises

2. Harmonization and standardization of variables according to standards and statistical concepts

3. Dissemination of statistics on enterprises, employment and business demography

4. Using the register as a sampling and estimation frame for business surveys.
Legal units
- Identifying information
- Localization information
- Demographic information
- Economic information

Local units
- Identification, localization, activity...
- No size information

Employees
- Employee identification
- Wages
- Employer identification
Sources and problems

Finance Ministry

Business Register

Social Security

Problems?

No common identifier

Delay or absence of update

Diverse classifications

No standard writings

Lack of detail on declarations
• Development of automatic program for data matching

• Diversification of sources of update (adding other administrative sources and using the results of surveys)

• Development of statistical methodologies (deterministic and probabilistic models) for the estimation of key variables (status of activity, economic activity, address, number of employees, turnover...)

Solutions
Quality improvement: Status of activity

- Gap between real cessation and its registration
- Delay on the update of the BR
- False actives

Solutions

- Deterministic method based on signals of activity
- Probabilistic method
Quality improvement: Address, Activity

Which address, activity??

More frequent code in different sources + Priority order between sources

- Finance ministry
- Social security
- Foreign trade
- Surveys results
Total Employment in the BR

Wage Employment
Source: Social Security

Self Employment
Source: Finance Ministry

Comparaison With Total employment (formal + informal)

BR covers around 70% of all employment in private sector excluding agriculture

BR covers 90% of total employment in private sector excluding construction
Two methodologies are used to estimate Turnover

**Deterministic methods**: using additional information available that usually represents a fixed share of the turnover (wages, benefits, taxes, value of exports...).

**Probabilistic methods**: using a predictive model based on the history of enterprises, or using a regression model based on neighborhood information.
08 Conclusion

In order to improve the BR quality, statistical methodology is developed to control and estimate key variables (status of activity, localization, economic activity, size, turnover)

Planned activities:

- Diversify sources of update in order to improve the quality of the Business Register.
- Create a legislation requiring that all administrations have to use the identifier of the Finance Ministry as a common identifier.
- Convince all the partners to use the official classifications (principally for activity)
- Create a Business Register for local units in order to establish regional accounts
THANK YOU

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