Abstract

Business Register (BR) is a prerequisite for the modern world economy. Keeping in view the usefulness, reliability, coverage and availability of the statistics produced within the Official Statistics System, it is imperative to have Business Register in Pakistan. PBS has been working on development of Business Register since 2010. The primary purpose of BR is to provide frames for different business activities. Once BR is activated, the industry statistics can be produced on the basis of surveys instead of more costly censuses. From inside out, it provides business frames, data collection support, monitoring response burden and from outside in, it serves as linking tool with administrative sources. It serves as a base for national accounts development and provides information on the structure of the economy and monitoring targets. It ensures fully updated and classified business frames concurrent to international standard. PBS has to ensure, that these establishments which are part of the sample frame are active and functional.

BR is being developed mainly from different administrative sources. The development of Business Register is cumbersome due to the volatile changing of the enterprises’ set-up and due to the increasing habit of outsourcing entrepreneurial functions in form of segregating or creating different legal entities of their own for these functions. In Pakistan, the BR depends upon censored data sources, where different sources have weak linkages of sharing and coordination.

Administrative data is not maintained appropriately by respective departments in Pakistan. As such the main data sources are reluctant to share administrative data with PBS. The main problems are weak implementation of law, non-response of the establishments, inconsistency in the establishment’s activities and regular changes in their location of registration. Furthermore, the working capacity of the administrative departments is very weak and usually not fully equipped with modern tools of processing information and data management.