The use of SBRs: Business Demography Statistics

Marko Javorsek
ESCAP
What are BDS?

• Provide information on:
  – Population of enterprises, births and deaths
  – Survival rates and growth rates
  – Historical data

• Structured according to activity, size, legal form, region, etc.

• BDS help to understand business dynamics and analyze entrepreneurship performance:
  – Assess the impact of policy initiatives on enterprise births and survival rates
BDS aim to answer questions like:

• How many enterprises were created (destroyed)?
• How many enterprises survived the first 1/5 years and how much did they grow?
• How many jobs were created by the newly established enterprises?
• Which industries/areas are growing more rapidly?
• Which industries have the highest numbers of high-growth enterprises?
Data sources

• Statistical Business Registers (main source)
  – Pros: coverage, speed, low burden on respondents
  – Cons: potential discrepancy in date of appearing in the SBR and the start of activity, thresholds for inclusion

• Economic census
  – Good coverage, but low periodicity and high cost

• Surveys
  – Issues with survey errors and sample size
  – Difficult to identify business births/deaths
Compilation of Business Demography Statistics from SBR in Asia-Pacific, by subregion

SBR Global Assessment (UNSD), 2013
Percentage of respondents with established methods for identifying births and deaths, by subregion

- East and North-East Asia
- South-East Asia
- South and South-West Asia
- North and Central Asia
- Pacific
- Asia-Pacific

Births
- East and North-East Asia: 100%
- South-East Asia: 90%
- South and South-West Asia: 60%
- North and Central Asia: 80%
- Pacific: 60%
- Asia-Pacific: 70%

Deaths
- East and North-East Asia: 80%
- South-East Asia: 90%
- South and South-West Asia: 60%
- North and Central Asia: 80%
- Pacific: 60%
- Asia-Pacific: 70%
Examples from the region

- **Australia: Counts of Australian Businesses**
  - Indicators: Number of actively trading businesses, Number (and rates) of entries and exits, Survival rates
  - Disaggregated by: State/territory, industry, institutional sector, type of legal organization, employment size, turnover

- **Republic of Korea**
  - Number of enterprises (active/births/deaths) by industry, gender/age of representatives, workers, region
  - Number of workers by gender
  - Survival rates by industry and region
  - High-growth enterprises by industry and region
THANK YOU!