

# ADMINISTRATIVE/REGISTER BASED CENSUS

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# Outline

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# 1. Background

The concept of producing census-like results based on registers developed in the 2000 round of censuses.

Several countries succeeded in using this approach to generate census data in the 1990 round of censuses.

The philosophy is to take **advantage of existing administrative sources** (registers on individuals, households and dwellings).

The registers are linked at the individual record level (tax, education, employment and other relevant registers).

Theoretically, it is possible to link records on the basis of the name and other unique details of the individuals.

The unique identification number for each individual, household and dwelling allows a much more effective and reliable linkage of records from different registers.

## 2. Definition

A register is defined as systematic collection of unit-level data organized in such a way that updating is possible.

- Updating is the processing of identifiable information with the purpose of establishing, updating, correcting or extending the register.

Administrative registers are registers primarily used in an administrative information system.

- This means that the registers are used in the production of goods and services in public or private institutions or companies, or that the information is a result of such production.

## 2. Definition (2)

Administrative base registers are kept as a basic resource for public administration.

- The function is to keep stock of the population and to maintain identification information.

Specialized registers are registers that, unlike base registers, serve one specific purpose or a clearly defined group of purposes.

- Specialized registers often receive information on the population and some basic data from a base register, but supply other data themselves (such as the register of vehicles).

Statistical registers are created by processing data from administrative registers for statistical purposes.

- A statistical register could be based on one or several administrative registers.

# Registers and administrative sources

- (a) Population register (base – usually covers births, deaths, marriage and migration)
- (b) Buildings and dwelling or address register (base)
- (c) Business register (base)
- (d) Taxation register
- (e) Employment register
- (f) Pension register
- (g) Social welfare register
- (h) Jobseeker register
- (i) Student register

# 3. Necessary conditions

The essential preconditions to conduct a register-based census are:

- A national legislation for creating population register and permission to use the data for statistical purposes;
- An established central population register;
- High-quality data in the population register;
- Comprehensive geographic coverage in the register;
- An effective system of continuous updating population register.

# 3. Necessary conditions (2)

With regard to other administrative registers used, the following are essential:

- **Access** to data should be allowed through **legislation**;
- The **concepts and definitions** should be **harmonized**;
- A universal personal identification (**unique identity**) system to facilitate proper linking of data;
- **Quality and consistency checks** should be conducted.



# 4. Advantages and disadvantages

## Advantages:

- Reducing cost

- Census using the same data as annual statistics.
- Specific census costs rather low  
No need to hire and train a census staff every tenth year
- Register-based statistics not totally “free of charge”

- Greater frequency of data.

- Reducing response burden.

# 4. Advantages and disadvantages (2)

## Disdvantages:

- ⦿ Limitation on statistical topics, definitions and depend on the information compiled from the available registers. Example on definitions of registered place of residence not usual place of residence.
- ⦿ Legislation to restrict or prevent the use of administrative registers for other purposes, including for statistical purposes.
- ⦿ New or updated information is not always registered immediately. Thus the register information does not accurately reflect real circumstances.

# References

Adopted from:

1. Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 3. United Nations, 2015.

*THANK YOU*