Accessing the Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR)

Standard Analysis from the IDBR - Local Authorities (Disclosive Data)

This note is to advise local authorities on the availability of a data source that may assist them in their planning functions.

Should you wish for further information or a quote please contact Paul Wetherill at the Office for National Statistics on 01633 813429, alternatively e-mail paul.wetherill@ons.gov.uk

Introduction

The Inter Departmental Business Register (IDBR) is a structured list of UK businesses. The two main sources of input are the Value Added Tax (VAT) system from Customs & Excise and Pay As You Earn (PAYE) from Inland Revenue. Additional input comes from Companies House, Dun and Bradstreet and NS business inquiries. This information goes to make up a statistical register comprising 2 million businesses, representing nearly 99% of economic activity. Analyses that are produced as part of this service are at the same level at which the business statistical surveys are conducted.

Data available

Data for local authorities is based at two levels:

Business level
Local unit (site) level

Variables available are:

Reference
Name
Address
Postcode
Legal Status
Employees
Employment
Classification (sic92)
Main county district ward

Note: on the local unit file male/female, full-time/part-time split is provided where available.

Legal Issues

Local authorities within the meaning of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 can have the following for planning and training purposes:

- information protected by Statistics of Trade Act 1947 - disclosure permitted by Employment and Training Act 1973, as amended by Employment Act 1988
- information protected by Finance Act 1969 - disclosure permitted by Finance Act (No 2) 1987.

Planning authorities requesting data can request all the above information relating to local units plus all other businesses based on PAYE.

Each GB local/planning authority can have data relating to its purposes: this may be its own area, or another area, or GB or UK. It would have to be necessary for their purposes. They would have to explain, in some cases due to the nature of the work they are planning, that they may need data for surrounding areas and/or their area.

Disclosive data can only be released to authorised outside bodies (for further details please ask). Also, contractors working for government departments can have access to confidential data via the Deregulation and Contracting Out Act 1994.

Disclosive data can only be released to authorised outside bodies and contractors working for government departments.

A form must be signed which confirms that:

- the data will only be used for the purpose agreed with NS
- the data will be kept secure
- the data will not be disclosed to any third party without NS's permission
- legal sanctions against unlawful disclosure will be imposed.

Charges

Current NS charges are £140 per district (plus vat if required electronically).

Timeliness of data

Data are provided from the live IDBR at the time of request.

Release of data

Data can be sent on disk or CD. Disclosive data cannot be sent by email or fax because of confidentiality issues. Once data has been passed from NS, it becomes the responsibility of the recipient. If confidential data is being passed to a third party under contract, then NS wishes to see all legal contracts before releasing the data.

Despatch of data

We aim to despatch the standard analysis within 4 weeks from confirmation of job.