Using the Economic Census and Business Register

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Outline

• Economic Census (1997 example)
• Business Register (1997 example)
• Record Structure
• Identifiers
• Creating Establishment Analysis Files
• Creating Company (Alpha) Files
• Using Bridges to Other Data
Economic Census (EC) 1997

• Target population:
  – Employer and non-employer establishments in covered industries (essentially everything except agriculture and government)

• Methods:
  – Large employers and a sample of small employers covered by mail questionnaire
  – Remaining establishments estimated from administrative records (mostly tax returns)
Employer Business Register (BR) 1997

• Target Population:
  – Employer establishments in the same industries as are covered by the Economic Census

• Methods:
  – Continuously updated database of establishments divided into multi-unit and single-unit businesses
Record Structure

• Economic Census
  – All establishments whether from mail questionnaire or administrative record
  – Separate files for Construction, Manufactures, Mining, Retail Trade, Services, (Transportation, Communications, and Utilities), Wholesale Trade
  – Example files are from Census of Manufactures
Record Structure

• Employer Business Register Single-units (SU)
  – One record for each single unit establishment
  – One record, called a submaster, for each multiunit company

• Employer Business Register Multi-units (MU)
  – One record for each establishment for each multi-unit
Identifiers

• Entity Identifiers
  – Census File Number (CFN)
  – Employer Identification Number (EC: EI; BR: EIN)
  – Permanent Plant Number (PPN)
  – Census Alpha (EC: EIALPHA; BR: derived)
Census File Number (CFN)

- Used for both the EC and BR as the sort order and main index for the file
- Always Character 10 ($10.)
- For Single-units
  - First character “0”
  - Last 9 characters Federal Employer Identification Number (EIN)
- For Multi-units
  - First character nonzero
  - First six characters Census Alpha
  - Last four characters establishment ID

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Employer Identification Number

- Taxable (legal) entity identifier
- Always Character 9 ($9.)
- For SUs, equivalent to CFN and unique
- For MUs, applies to the owning entity
  - An Alpha (see below) may be associated with multiple EINs
Permanent Plant Number

- Longitudinal link based on CFN
- Always Character 10 ($10.)
- Quality improves since inception in 1982
- Longitudinal links in Longitudinal Business Database are preferable
Census Alpha

• Identifies the business that owns (50% or greater interest) the establishment for MUs
• EC and BR-SU
  – Character 6 ($6.$) and never has a leading 0
  – Called EIALPHA
• BR-MU
  – Character 10 ($10.)
  – Called ALPHA
• Used to construct enterprise-level entities

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Identifiers

• Geography Identifiers
  – State identifiers
  – County identifiers
  – City identifiers
  – Full Census geography (BR only)

• Activity Identifiers
  – Industry Codes
  – Product Codes
Geography Identifiers

• EC and BR
  – State (Census and FIPS)
  – County (Census and FIPS)
  – Consolidate Metropolitan Statistical Area (FIPS)

• BR only
  – Census Block
  – Zip
  – County Business Patterns Geography
Activity Identifiers

• NAICS
  – Full U.S. Industry code (Char 6)
  – Derived industry codes
• SIC
  – Full 1987 SIC (6-digits to product class code)
• NAICS to SIC bridge codes

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Finding Active Entities

- **EC**
  - Use sample weight (WT>0)

- **BR-SU**
  - Exclude submasters (PDIV='M')
  - Payroll or employment positive (see example)

- **BR-MU**
  - Exclude ghosts (ACT='G')
  - Payroll or employment positive (see example)
Creating Custom Entities

• Establishment-level files
  – EC: natural organization
  – BR-SU: exclude submaster records
  – BR-MU: exclude ghosts

• Company-level files
  – EC: use EIALPHA to find related establishments
  – BR: create compatible ALPHA10 in SU to get information on submasters to link to establishments on MU

• Pseudo-establishments
  – Combine establishments based on EIN, geography and activity
Examples

• Processing the Census of Manufactures
• Processing the BR SU and MU files