

In addition to a suite of designed sample surveys at any moment, Corporate returns from tax authority, legal information from commerce chambers, transaction data from financial institutes or monitoring agency, Big Data from the Web, etc. are all useful sources that increasingly are being harnessed for improving the production efficiency and the product quality of business statistics. Integration of such extensive and often large-scale multiple datasets for statistical purposes typically require resources and solutions, as well as having implications and benefits, which are beyond the reach or scope of a specific statistical domain or programme.

For instance, two notable challenges in the multi-source business data are the progressiveness of administrative or other routinely collected data, and the complex and dynamic structure of various business units (or entities). It is often felt that little can be achieved in practice if the effort is limited to within a certain process and/or a certain statistical domain. For instance, a unit may “change” its structure and activity between the time the sampling frame is constructed and that when the structural business statistics are to be tabulated, for various reasons. On the one hand, the reconciliation on the unit level can take up a lot of time and resource for the one who is processing the data; on the other hand, it is not always the case that results are proofed and logged so that they may be reused for others.

Based on a discussion of such issues we proceed to outline a *layered-approach* to business statistics that aims to integrate sampling, editing and estimation (I-SEE) *across* the traditional division of statistical domains, and some implications of the organisation of the statistical agency, the production process as well as the corporate system of data and metadata.