

Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia has launched the project Measuring Response Burden for Business Surveys. The duration of the project was 18 months, from October 2014 until March 2016.

The purposes of the project were to measure the actual and perceived response burden in a standardised way; to set up the database for response burden indicators; to set up the threshold for the actual response burden for businesses of different size; to identify unfairly burdened businesses (in terms of number of surveys and number of hours spent yearly on preparing data and filling-out the statistical questionnaires); database indicators will also serve as a starting point to improve the methodology for a coordinated sample design; and set-up of standardised reports and outputs for different purposes (for management, for subject-matter methodologists, etc.).

The actual response burden indicators are calculated at different levels: level of NSI – the burden the NSI is imposing on businesses; level of the individual survey – how much burden an individual survey contributes to the overall NSI burden; level of the enterprise – how much burden is imposed on each enterprise with all the surveys that are obliged or supposed to provide responses to the questionnaire; level of the observation unit (local unit or establishment) – how much burden is imposed to each individual observation unit (for all the surveys that are selected).

Several databases were linked to set-up the response burden indicators database. The prototype of the database will be presented and some examples of the standardised outputs.