



**SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISE (SME)  
STATISTICS FOR THE UK AND REGIONS, 2008**

**METHODOLOGY AND ACCURACY**

**TECHNICAL NOTE**

**PUBLISHED BY THE ENTERPRISE DIRECTORATE OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR  
BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS (BIS)**

**PUBLISHED 14/10/2009**

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## Introduction

1. *Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Statistics for the UK and Regions* is an annual publication produced by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS).
2. No single source is able to estimate the total number of enterprises in the UK. The official register of enterprises, the Inter Departmental Business Register (IDBR), holds records of over 2 million enterprises but its coverage is known to be incomplete among the very smallest enterprises. Therefore these *SME Statistics* include an estimate of the number of unregistered enterprises, their employment and turnover.
3. *SME Statistics* is a National Statistics publication. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the *Code of Practice for Official Statistics*. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference. Further information on National Statistics can be found here:  
<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/national-statistician/types-of-official-statistics/index.html>
4. In line with the *Principle on Frankness and Accessibility* from the *Code of Practice for Official Statistics* this document provides guidance for users on classifications and methods. It describes how to interpret the data in *SME Statistics* and details the methodology used to produce it. Users will also find information on the ways in which the publication is likely to change over the next few years.
5. *SME Statistics* publications for the years 1994 to 2008 can be downloaded from <http://stats.bis.gov.uk/ed/sme> For further information or to give feedback on the *SME Statistics* publication please contact [enterprise.statistics@bis.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:enterprise.statistics@bis.gsi.gov.uk)

# Section 1 - Definitions and Coverage

## Definitions used in *SME Statistics*

### Enterprises

6. There is no single definition of an enterprise, or of a firm or business, which are often used to mean the same thing. Generally it means a legal unit, person or group of people producing goods or services under their own control and with their own legal identity. A branch or office of a larger organisation is not in itself a business.

### Size of enterprise

7. This refers to the number of employees. There is no universally accepted definition of a small, medium or large enterprise. The revised European Union definition, used for EU statistical comparisons, defines a small enterprise as one with employment less than 50, and a medium enterprise as one with employment of at least 50 but less than 250<sup>1</sup>. Large enterprises have 250 or more staff. BIS uses the above definitions but applies them to employees, not employment (which includes employees and the self-employed).

### Employment

8. This refers to the number of employees plus the number of self-employed people that run the enterprise. Individuals with two jobs and self-employed people running two enterprises will be counted twice.

9. Both full-time and part-time employees are counted. Each part-time employee will be counted as one whole employee associated with the enterprise. For example an enterprise with five part-time employees and five full-time employees would be presented as having 10 employees in the *SME Statistics*.

10. The ONS publishes official estimates of "workforce jobs", which totalled 31.6 million in the first quarter of 2008<sup>2</sup>. The estimate shown in most tables in this publication (23.1 million) differs in that it excludes employment in central and local government, charities and other non-profit organisations, HM Forces and participants on government training programmes who do not have a contract of employment. The "Whole Economy" table shows total employment of 30.2 million at the start of 2008, compared to 29.7 million at the start of 2007.

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<sup>1</sup> The full EU definition additionally includes criteria on turnover and balance sheet totals. The full definition is available here:

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise\\_policy/sme\\_definition/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise_policy/sme_definition/index_en.htm)

<sup>2</sup> Source: ONS Economic and Labour Market Review October 2009 Table 2.05, [http://www.statistics.gov.uk/elmr/10\\_09/2.asp](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/elmr/10_09/2.asp)

## Turnover

11. This refers to the value of sales, work done and services rendered. It excludes VAT. Turnover data for registered enterprises comes from the IDBR. Where there is an enterprise group, turnover for all the VAT enterprises within the group may be notified (to HMRC) by a reporting or 'standard' unit. If this is not updated from other sources the IDBR record will hold an unusually high turnover for the reporting enterprise and other enterprises within the group will hold an estimated turnover.

## The time period covered

12. The *SME Statistics* are a snapshot at the start of each calendar year. A count of IDBR enterprises that were "live" at the start of the year is achieved by referring to each enterprise's recorded start date and, where appropriate, its closure date. The reporting of these dates is subject to a number of time delays. For example when an enterprise closes there may be a delay before HMRC, who collect VAT, are informed. Closure of the VAT record may then be delayed until all liabilities are settled. There may also be lags in recording PAYE data. These lags introduce a delay of about a year and a half into the production of the snapshot estimate.

## Coverage

13. With the exception of the Whole Economy table, the *SME Statistics* cover the market sector. This includes all private sector enterprises<sup>3</sup>, even if they sell their products exclusively to the Government. This excludes central and local government, charities and other non-profit organisations.

14. There is no lower boundary for inclusion in the *SME Statistics*. Even a small amount of enterprise activity counts. It must be remembered that many size class zero businesses are labour-only subcontractors; that is, self-employed people trading in their own skills or professional knowledge. They might work for just one customer. Many are genuine entrepreneurs or at least think of themselves as separate from the organisation to which they sell their skills. Others probably do not - for example people whose employers have simply shifted their job from employee to self-employed status. The *SME Statistics* includes both these types of self-employed person.

15. Approximately 109,445 enterprises are excluded from the registered enterprise counts in *SME Statistics 2008*. The majority of these (around 103,820) are Composite and Managed Services Companies. A further 5,625 enterprises, registered at the address of an Official Receiver's Office, are also excluded. In both cases the address does not represent the location of the activities of these enterprises and they have been excluded to avoid giving a false impression of growth in these locations. Further details on Composite and Managed Services

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<sup>3</sup> The private sector includes a small number of public corporations and nationalised bodies.

Companies can be found on the HM Revenue & Customs website <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/bulletins/tbissue74.htm#d>.

## Standard Industrial Classification 2003 (SIC 2003)

16. The industrial classification used in this publication is the Revised Standard Industrial Classification 2003 (SIC2003). Private households and extra-territorial bodies (sections P and Q) are not included, as they are outside the scope of this National Statistics publication. SIC 745 (Labour recruitment and provision of labour personnel) is also excluded to avoid possible double counting of employees.

17. Enterprises may change their industrial classification and these changes are reflected on the IDBR when they are notified. Work also continues to improve the quality of the classification of data on the IDBR.

## Types of enterprise

18. Apart from Table 1, which also includes Government and non-profit enterprises, the *SME Statistics* are comprised of enterprises from three types of legal status. These are *sole proprietorships*, run by one self-employed person; *partnerships*, run by two or more people; and *companies* (including public corporations and nationalised bodies) in which the working directors are counted as employees. The first two categories will make up the vast majority of unregistered enterprises. The estimates exclude companies that are not on the IDBR because they are inactive.

19. Since the publication of *SME Statistics 2000* single employee companies have been excluded from the 1 employee category, and instead are included in with the zero employees category. This was done to ensure that incorporations by individuals operating alone did not distort the overall numbers of enterprises with employees. If the reallocation of companies from the 1 to the zero employee band had not been undertaken then the distribution of companies across the various employee size bands would have been as shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Companies (including public corporations and nationalised bodies): number of enterprises, employment and turnover by number of employees, UK, start 2008

	Number		
	Enterprises	Employment ( / 1,000)	Turnover <sup>1</sup> ( / £million)
All enterprises	1,296,905	17,119	2,692,895
All employers	1,278,290	17,113	2,686,954
With no employees	18,615	6	5,941
1	523,375	524	91,956
2+	754,915	16,589	2,594,998

1. "All Industries" turnover figures exclude Section J (financial intermediation) where turnover is not available on a comparable basis.

20. As seen in Table 1 almost 19 thousand companies have zero employees. Companies without employees can be holding companies, investment trusts or pension funds and most of these will have no associated employment. In addition a small number are companies where for technical reasons employee directors are treated as working proprietors.

## Section 2 – Current Methodology

### The Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR)

21. The IDBR is an enterprise register administered by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). It holds records of all enterprises registered for Value Added Tax (VAT) and all enterprises operating a Pay As You Earn (PAYE) scheme. Careful monitoring of the Register by the ONS minimises double counting. The IDBR records each enterprise's employment (and hence size), turnover and industry.

22. The main administrative source for the IDBR is HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) for VAT information (passed to the ONS under the Value Added Tax Act 1994) and PAYE information (transferred under the Finance Act 1969). Other information is added to the register if required for ONS statistical purposes, for example information from Dun and Bradstreet on company structure and information from Companies House.

23. Employment was originally taken from the biennial Census of Employment, an ONS inquiry. From 1995-1998 the main source was the Annual Employment Survey, which has now been replaced by the Business Register Survey (BRS). The employment information currently on the IDBR is drawn mainly from the 2007 BRS. Because this is based on a sample of enterprises, estimates from previous surveys and from other ONS surveys have also been used. For the smallest units, either PAYE jobs or employment imputed from VAT turnover is used.

24. Turnover provided to the ONS for the majority of enterprises is based on VAT returns for a 12 month period ending in December 2007, or January / February 2008, according to the reporting pattern of the enterprise. For other records, in particular members of VAT group registrations, turnover may relate to an earlier period. For enterprises who have registered more recently, turnover represents the estimate made by enterprises at the time of registration. For the small number of PAYE only records for which there are no data, turnover is imputed from employment.

25. The IDBR is being continuously updated as new data from surveys are received and enterprises open and close. In addition a variety of checks on individual records improve the quality of the register on an ongoing basis. Thus there will be differences in results taken at different times from the register as new data are added and other data revised.

26. The ONS undertakes numerous and continuous checks on the quality of the data held on the IDBR. Regular VAT and PAYE updates are received from HMRC and these updates are checked with the new VAT and PAYE registrations being matched. Many of the PAYE-based enterprises will have no VAT registration; some units may be waiting to be matched to existing VAT records on the IDBR. This will cause a small number of records to be duplicated on the IDBR.

## **Unregistered enterprises**

27. Small enterprises are not completely covered by the IDBR. Enterprises that are neither registered for VAT, nor operate a PAYE scheme are excluded from the IDBR.

28. The threshold for compulsory VAT registration for 2007/2008 was an annual turnover of £64,000. Below that some enterprises will register voluntarily.

29. On the other hand, enterprises with a turnover above the threshold are not required to register if they trade exclusively in exempt goods.

30. If an enterprise has no employees or only low paid (perhaps part-time) employees, then it is unlikely to operate a PAYE scheme.

## **Estimating Unregistered Enterprises**

### **Self-employment estimates from the Labour Force Survey (LFS)**

31. An estimate of self-employment for *SME Statistics 2008* was around 4.0 million. This has been calculated by combining data from the Q4 2007 and the Q1 2008 LFS files. Pooling two quarters of the LFS was introduced for the first time for the *SME Statistics 2008*, as part of an ongoing methodology review.

32. This is made up of 3.7 million people describing themselves as self-employed in their main job, and 0.3 million (in some cases the same people) who had a second job with self-employed status.

### **Overlap of the IDBR and LFS self-employment count**

33. Simply adding the self-employment estimate from the LFS and the IDBR count would lead to over-counting.

34. First, not all self-employed people run enterprises on their own - some are in a partnership. Second, some of them run enterprises that are VAT and/or PAYE registered and so appear on the IDBR. The LFS does not record whether the self-employed are in partnership, or whether their enterprises are VAT or PAYE registered, so some estimation is needed.

### **Self-employed on the IDBR**

35. The first step is to estimate how many self-employed people are registered for VAT or PAYE with HMRC, and are therefore on the IDBR.

36. The IDBR records employment via survey forms. For the smallest enterprises it is not collected directly, but assumed to be one per sole proprietorship, and two per partnership (evidence from HMRC Tax Self-Assessment suggests it is slightly more than two).

37. At the start of 2008 there were about 903,000 sole proprietorships and partnerships within the scope of the *SME Statistics* on the IDBR run by 1.25 million self-employed people (see Table 2).

38. For some industry divisions, the IDBR shows more registered self-employed people than there are unregistered and registered self-employed people according to the LFS. For these divisions, we assume that the IDBR is correct, and our best estimate of the number of unregistered self-employed people is zero.

### **Self-employed not on the IDBR**

39. The second step is to estimate how many enterprises are run by the remaining 2.8 million self-employed<sup>4</sup>.

40. HMRC's Survey of Personal Incomes (SPI) is a further source of self-employment data. We use this data to estimate the proportion of unregistered self-employed people working either as a sole proprietor or a partner. The 2006/07 SPI (the latest data available) estimated that the proportion of self-employed people who were in partnership, rather than acting alone, was around a quarter. However, this varied from industry to industry and in the *SME Statistics* specific ratios are applied for each industry division (2 digit SIC).

41. Each sole-proprietorship is assumed to have only one working proprietor (self-employed person). Therefore the number of unregistered sole-proprietors is assumed to equal the number of unregistered sole proprietorships.

42. Partnerships are assumed to have two or more working proprietors. Using information sourced from the 2007/08 HMRC self assessment data, BIS calculate that the average number of working proprietors (self-employed partners) in each partnership was 2.46 (for businesses below the 2007/8 VAT registration threshold of £64,000 and with zero employment costs). This ratio is then used to calculate the number of unregistered partnerships.

43. The results showed that amongst unregistered enterprises, sole proprietorships were much more common than partnerships, making up 94 per cent of unregistered enterprises at the start of 2008 (see Table 2).

44. Amongst IDBR registered enterprises at the start of 2008, sole proprietorships represented 27 per cent of all enterprises, partnerships 14 per cent and companies 59 per cent (see Table 2).

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<sup>4</sup> In a few cases, the Labour Force Survey self-employment total for a particular industry is less than the working proprietors total on the IDBR for that industry, resulting in a negative unregistered self-employment figure. In these cases, the unregistered self-employment figure is revised upwards to zero.

Table 2: Enterprises and self-employment on and off the IDBR, UK, millions  
(private sector; excludes Standard Industrial Classification, 745, P and Q)

	On the IDBR		Not on the IDBR, unregistered	
	Number of Enterprises	Self- employed people	Number of Enterprises	Self- employed people
Sole proprietorships	0.593	0.59	2.43	2.43
Partnerships	0.310	0.65	0.15	0.37
Companies	1.30	- <sup>5</sup>	-	-
All	2.20	1.25	2.58	2.80

### Economic contribution

45. Unregistered enterprises are clearly very small. It is assumed that they are all in the smallest size class (no employees), and are all self-employed people working alone or in partnership. Some may generate employment, but it is likely to be transitory or low paid, otherwise a PAYE scheme would be in operation.

46. Turnover in unregistered enterprises will generally be lower than that of registered businesses of the same size, as turnover in the former would usually be below the VAT threshold.

47. Turnover for unregistered enterprises was imputed by calculating the average turnover for size class zero enterprises, and then scaled down by a factor of a half.

48. For three 2-digit industry divisions, this still left average annual turnover per unregistered enterprise above the VAT threshold. In these cases, the unregistered turnover total was adjusted until turnover per enterprise was equal to the 2007/2008 VAT threshold of £64,000.

49. The addition to total turnover from unregistered enterprises at the start of 2008 was about £98 billion (only 3.3 per cent of the overall figure).

### Statistical disclosure control

50. The disclosure of data relating to individual undertakings without consent is prohibited under the Statistics of Trade Act 1947, the Value Added Tax Act 1994 and the Finance Act 1969.

<sup>5</sup> On the IDBR there are around 520,000 companies with one employee. In the SME Statistics publication, we class these one-employee enterprises as having no employees and one working proprietor. However, these working proprietors do not count as being self-employed in the methodology as they are still officially employees of the company

51. Counts of enterprises based only on IDBR data have been rounded to avoid disclosure using controlled rounding to base 5. Controlled rounding means that cells are rounded up or down to the adjacent multiples of 5 in a way that retains the additivity of tables. For example, an original value of 23 will be rounded to either 20 or 25, and rounded values in a row or column always add up to the rounded row/column total. Original cell values of zero or multiples of the base are unchanged. Values may be rounded down to zero and so all zeros are not necessarily true zeros<sup>6</sup>.

52. In a few cases the addition of estimates of unregistered businesses to the IDBR data means totals do not equal the sum of the data in columns. In addition, percentages may not always add to 100.

53. Employment and turnover information has to be suppressed where the count is deemed to be disclosive. To avoid disclosure by deduction additional values have been removed.

54. The 'no employees' size class estimates rely heavily on the Labour Force Survey, which is a sample survey of around 53,000 households in the UK every three months. In the *SME Statistics 2002 to 2004*, any enterprise estimates using an LFS estimate of less than 10,000 self-employed in the industry were suppressed, along with additional values to avoid disclosure by deduction. This was consistent with the publication guidelines used by ONS at the time to advise users which estimates met a certain level of reliability.

55. In April 2004, the Statistical Policy Committee expressed a strong preference for publishing data rather than suppressing data for reasons of quality. Following this discussion, the threshold of 10,000 has been removed from labour market outputs where possible. Therefore since the publication of *SME Statistics 2005*, such estimates are no longer suppressed, although footnote 3 in the tables advises users about their reliability.

56. The exception to this is where estimates are based on fewer than three cases. These could potentially be disclosive, so they are still suppressed in the *SME Statistics 2008*, along with additional values to avoid disclosure by deduction.

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<sup>6</sup> Controlled rounding is performed using Tau Argus software.

## Section 3 – Methodology Changes

### Discontinuities

57. In *SME Statistics 2002*, and earlier releases, primary care trusts and National Health Service trusts were classified as public corporations / nationalised bodies, and therefore included with the figures for companies and the private sector.

58. In 2003, the ONS correctly reclassified these trusts, resulting in 275 enterprises, with employment of 990,000 and turnover of £41 billion, being moved out of the figures for companies and private sector, and into the figures for Central Government. So for *SME Statistics* before 2003, private sector figures will appear larger and Government figures will appear smaller than they really were. This will also affect, for private sector employment and turnover, the proportion that is in small and medium-sized enterprises.

59. In April 2004, ONS brought the LFS micro data into line with the results of the 2001 population census, taking into account the February – March 2003 population estimates. The effect of the new population data impacted across the LFS and showed that earlier estimates of self-employment were lower than they should have been.

60. This affected the *SME Statistics* published 2002. The *SME Statistics 2003*, 2004, 2005 and 2006 are all consistent, but as mentioned in the *SME Statistics 2003* statistical press release, the number of unregistered enterprises in *SME Statistics 2002* should have been about 70,000 higher. Earlier estimates of unregistered enterprises should also have been higher, but by increasingly smaller amounts as you go back in time.

61. A National Statistics Quality Review (report number 34 “Strategic Review of Farming and Food Statistics”) has led to an improvement in the quality of agricultural statistics from January 2006, by aligning information on the IDBR and the DEFRA Farm Survey System. This has impacted on SIC’s 011 – 013 and resulted in approximately a 7 per cent increase in the number of units registered in the *SME Statistics 2006*, at the 2-digit level (for SIC 01). However at the 3-digit level (where any IDBR changes will be more pronounced due to our methodology) this change will have more variable impact.

62. A change in the way schools can return their PAYE records means that they could either continue to be recorded against their local authority’s PAYE report or, from *SME Statistics 2006* onwards, may appear as a completely separate enterprise. This has led to a small increase in the number of enterprises in Education between 2005 and 2006, but it will not have an impact on the Whole Economy data.

63. In August 2007, ONS published mid-year population estimates for 2006 and revised population estimates for 2002-2005. In October 2007 ONS published 2006-based national population projections. In June 2008 ONS brought the LFS micro data into line with the results of the 2006-based population estimates. The effect

of the new population data impacted across the LFS and showed that earlier estimates of self-employment were lower than they should have been.

64. The impact of this was that the number of unregistered enterprises in *SME Statistics 2006* should have been about 50,000 higher. Earlier estimates of unregistered businesses should also have been higher, but by increasingly smaller amounts as you go back in time. We therefore advise caution when comparing the 2007 figures with those in earlier publications.

65. The spring 2006 Labour Force Survey was the final dataset made available by ONS for micro-data analysis on a seasonal quarter basis. Since then all data sets have been released on a calendar quarter basis only. *SME Statistics 2007* therefore uses quarter four (October to December) LFS data for the first time, instead of the usual autumn quarter (September to November) data. The effect of this change was likely to be small, but cannot be accurately estimated for the *SME Statistics 2007*. However this change is an improvement to the quality of the *SME Statistics 2007* as it brings the end point of the period covered by the LFS data up to the reference point for the IDBR extract, which is the 31 December.

66. In *SME Statistics 2008* a further improvement was made by combining self-employment data from LFS quarter four and LFS quarter one. Previously only the final quarter of the preceding year had been used, for example the quarter four 2006 LFS for *SME Statistics 2007*. The main advantage of combining data from two quarters is that an average set of figures can be produced (thus boosting sample sizes and therefore the reliability of the estimates). Investigation of the LFS data by BIS showed that there were no substantial seasonal effects on the levels of self employment by industrial sector.

67. In addition for *SME Statistics 2008*, BIS has been able to estimate more accurately the number of unregistered partnerships. Previously the average number of partners in each partnership had been assumed to be two. Using information sourced from the 2007/08 HMRC self-assessment data, BIS have calculated an average ratio of partners to partnerships of 2.46 (for businesses below the 2007/8 VAT registration threshold of £64,000 and with zero employment costs). This new ratio has been used in *SME Statistics 2008*. The impact of this is that the total number of enterprises in *SME Statistics 2008* is approximately 35,000 (0.7 per cent) lower than it would have been had BIS not made this improvement.

## Methodology Review

68. In December 2008, BIS launched a public consultation on *SME Statistics* to get the views of users on the usefulness of the publication and obtain suggestions for improvements. The consultation closed in March 2009 and was followed by the release of a government response document in June 2009. This document outlined a planned schedule of changes to the publication, impacting on *SME Statistics 2008* and future editions of the publication. Both the consultation document and the government response document are available here:

[http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/enterprise\\_old/enterprisesmes/page49415.html](http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/enterprise_old/enterprisesmes/page49415.html)

69. The response document proposed a number of formatting and methodological changes which were to be implemented in *SME Statistics 2008*. These have now been implemented and including the following:

#### **Methodological changes in *SME Statistics 2008*:**

- Combined self-employment data from the quarter four 2007 and the quarter one 2008 Labour Force Survey. This boosted the sample size of the number of self employed and increased the reliability of the figures used in the estimates.
- Improve the assumption applied about the average number of partners in a partnership for unregistered businesses, using HMRC self-assessment data.

#### **Presentational changes in *SME Statistics 2008*:**

- Split out the 1 employee and 2-4 employee bands from the 1-4 employees bands in tables one to six.
- A new set of regional summaries for the English regions and for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, within the statistical press release.
- More one digit SIC data presented in the tables for the regions and countries. For example in each region splitting out Manufacturing (Section D) from Mining and Quarrying; Electricity, Gas and Water Supply (Sections C and E), which were previously presented together.
- A commitment to produce regular annual breakdowns for each UK country and English region, starting with *SME Statistics 2008*. Data below UK level had previously only been produced every two years.

#### **Ongoing methodology review**

70. BIS is currently undertaking further work in reviewing how the estimates could be improved. BIS aims to minimise the disruption caused by discontinuities to the *SME Statistics* series by applying as many of the main methodological changes as possible at the same time. This is currently expected to happen in *SME Statistics 2010*.

71. For further information on the ongoing methodology review please see the Future Steps section of *Government Response to Consultation on Small and Medium Enterprise Statistics for the UK and Regions*, available here: <http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file51821.pdf>

#### **Timeliness of the publication**

72. *SME Statistics* is usually published in July or August. However *SME Statistics 2008* was published in October to allow time for improvements to be made to the publication. Despite this change in timing there has been no change to the underlying IDBR data extract used to produce *SME Statistics 2008*.

73. The SME Statistics uses an extract from the IDBR taken in March (15 months after the reference point). Criteria are applied to this extract so that it only contains enterprises active at the reference point (for example start of year 2008).

74. BIS are working with the ONS to investigate whether an extract file from the IDBR can be generated with just a three month lag and still provide a high level of accuracy in terms of the counts of enterprises, employment and turnover.

75. Depending on how the investigations into this progress, BIS may be able to bring forward future editions of the publication by as much as nine months.

### **Standard Industrial Classification 2007 (SIC 2007)**

76. This *SME Statistics 2008* publication uses SIC 2003 as a way of classifying the activities of enterprises. A major revision of the UK Standard Industrial Classification of Economic Activities was completed in 2007. The revised classifications in SIC 2007 reflect the growing importance of service activities in the economy over the last fifteen years, mainly due to the developments in information and communication technologies (ICT). BIS plans to apply the SIC 2007 classification to the 2009 edition of Small and Medium Enterprise Statistics, which will be released in 2010. Further background information on SIC 2007 can be found provided below:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14012>

## Section 4 - Sources of Enterprise Information

### Small and Medium Enterprise Statistics for the UK and Regions

For more information on the SME Statistics please contact the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS), Enterprise Directorate, Analytical Unit.

- Contact BIS: 0114 2794344
- E-mail: [enterprise.statistics@bis.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:enterprise.statistics@bis.gsi.gov.uk)
- Website: <http://stats.bis.gov.uk/ed/sme>

### Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR)

The IDBR is managed by the Office for National Statistics. 'The Inter Departmental Business Register' John Perry, Economic Trends, November 1995 gives more details on the IDBR.

- Contact IDBR Helpdesk: 01633 455200
- E-mail: [idbr.helpdesk@ons.gov.uk](mailto:idbr.helpdesk@ons.gov.uk)
- Website: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/idbr>

### UK Business: Activity, Size and Location

This annual publication is compiled from the IDBR. The publication contains detailed information on VAT registered and/or PAYE registered enterprises in the UK including size, classification (to 4-digit SIC), business age and location. Previously this was known as the PA1003.

- Contact ONS: 01633 459602
- Email: [idbrdas@ons.gov.uk](mailto:idbrdas@ons.gov.uk)
- Website: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=933>

### Business Demography

This annual publication provides the best official guide to the pattern of enterprise births and deaths. The figures include all businesses registered for either VAT and/or PAYE.

- Contact ONS: 01633 459602
- Email: [idbrdas@ons.gov.uk](mailto:idbrdas@ons.gov.uk)
- Website: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=15186>

### Labour Force Survey

A wide range of statistics on self-employment data is available from the **Labour Force Survey**, which is run by the Office for National Statistics.

- Contact ONS: 0845 601 3034
- Email: [labour.market@ons.gov.uk](mailto:labour.market@ons.gov.uk)
- Website: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/>

## Census 2001

The **Census 2001** asked questions about self-employment. Data are already available by gender, ethnic group, location, and main industry group.

- Contact ONS Census Customer Services: 01329 444972
- Email: [census.customerservices@ons.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:census.customerservices@ons.gsi.gov.uk)
- Website: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001>