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Using Administrative Data at Statistics Canada

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Outline

- Brief history of the use of administrative data at Statistics Canada
- Vision
- Administrative Data Secretariat
- Accomplishments
- Administrative Data Division



History

- For the statistical community, administrative data are seen more and more as data collected by sources external to statistical offices (not restricted to data from government programs)
 - Alternative (or secondary) data sources
- The authority of Statistics Canada to obtain administrative data is governed by the *Statistics Act*



History

Statistics Canada has been using administrative data for a long time

- as a stand-alone source to produce national statistics, e.g.,
 - provincial and territorial vital statistics (since 1921)
 - customs' import and export data for international trade (since 1938)
- to support surveys, e.g.,
 - creating and maintaining the Business Register using Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) data (since 1988)
 - creating and maintaining the Address Register using files from CRA, the Canada Housing and Mortgage Corporation, selected telephone and cellphone companies, Info-direct, Canada Post Corporation, etc. (since 1991)



History

- to partially replace survey data, e.g.,
 - Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours (since 1994): using number of employees and gross payrolls from CRA payroll deduction accounts
 - business surveys: using CRA income tax in annual surveys (since 1997) and goods and services tax sales in monthlies (since 2004)
 - In 2010/2011: 22% of business surveys used administrative data, representing over 300,000 fewer records to collect from respondents
 - for revenues in household surveys (since 1995): Using CRA income tax
- to provide new analytical opportunities, e.g.,
 - Longitudinal Immigration Database (built in 2001): using Citizenship and Immigration Canada data (landed immigrants since 1980) and CRA income tax data (since 1982) to study the economic behaviour of the immigrant taxfiler population



Vision

Driving forces:

- Statistics Canada is mandated by the *Statistics Act* to promote the avoidance of duplication in the information collected by government
- Statistics Canada is committed to reduce response burden imposed by its surveys
 - Government-wide initiatives to reduce burden on businesses
 - Difficulty in reaching household survey respondents has been identified as one of the six corporate risks for Statistics Canada



Vision

Driving forces (continued):

- Statistics Canada has been using administrative data for a long time. Previous committees concluded that to increase the use of administrative data even more, better coordination is needed.
- Statistics Canada's Tax Data Division provides the coordination role for data received from the Canada Revenue Agency and used by many of its statistical programs. There is no equivalent organizational unit for other administrative data.



Vision

Use administrative data in statistical programs when it leads to a better outcome — that is, a better balance between relevance, quality, costs and respondent burden.



Administrative Data Secretariat

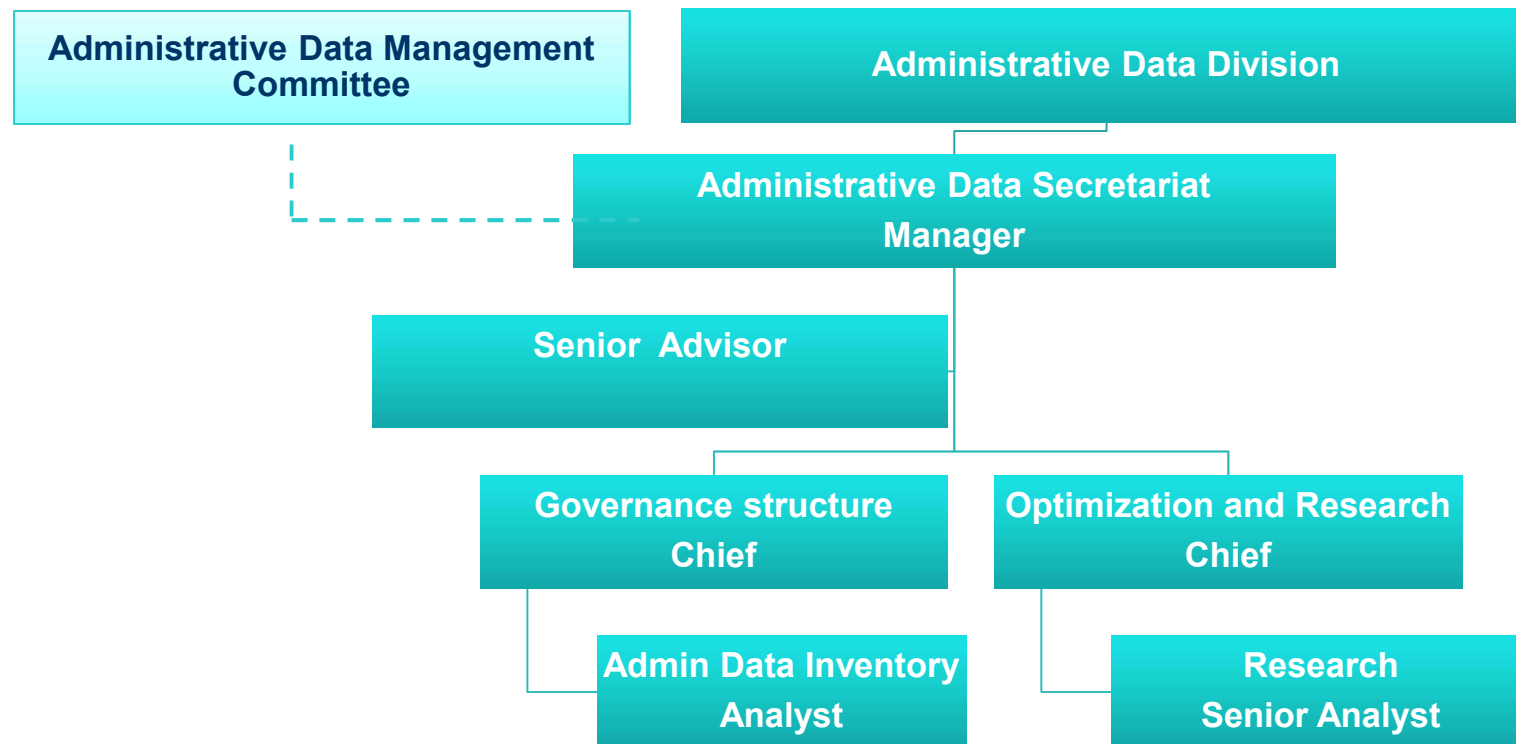
Created in September 2012 to develop and implement a corporate approach to increasing the use of administrative data by:

- Putting in place a **governance structure** that supports statistical programs in the efficient acquisition, management and use of administrative data
- Launching initiatives targeting **optimization** of methods and processes surrounding administrative data
- Supporting statistical programs' **research** of new data sources and methods and facilitates the sharing of information and practices



Administrative Data Secretariat

Governance





Accomplishments

- First Administrative Data Inventory (March 2013) completed

Source of File	#	Usage by Statistical Program				
		Economic & Environ.	Socio-economic	Censuses	Statistical Infrastruct.	Cost-recovery
Federal	187	148	51	3	37	2
Prov./Terr./Mun.	135	97	14	2	22	0
Private	166	140	1	2	18	5
Foreign	11	11	0	0	0	0
Others	13	2	6	2	3	0
Total	512	398	72	9	80	7



Accomplishments

Governance

- Report on recommendations on governing principles based on an international review
- Report on the acquisition of private data sources
- Pilot project with the provincial and territorial statistical focal points to leverage provincial and territorial administrative data to produce new national and comparable data series

Optimization

- Opportunities to further centralize processing of individual income tax reports and tax data for agricultural sector



Accomplishments

Research and Development

- Big Data
 - 21st century phenomenon characterized by the 3 Vs (volume, velocity, variety)
 - A Community of Practices on Big Data created at Statistics Canada
 - Participation in international working groups
- Canadian Statistical Demographic Database



Administrative Data Division

- Created April 1, 2014
- Based on recommendations from the reports produced by the Administrative Data Secretariat

Mandate:

- a) Acquisitions of administrative data
 - Tax data from the Canada Revenue Agency
 - Other administrative data sources that have a broad scope
 - Support statistical programs in their acquisition by providing them with a corporate approach and common tools
 - Maintain an Administrative Data Inventory of files obtained or, in the process of being obtained, by Statistics Canada



Administrative Data Division

Mandate:

b) Methods and processes related to administrative data

- Maintain a list of projects that deal with methods or processes related to administrative data
- Review projects to ensure they respect “the corporate approach”

c) Administrative databases

- Develop and maintain databases of processed tax data and others that are broadly used at Statistics Canada

d) Confidentiality and security of administrative data

e) External collaboration related to administrative data



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