

# FIFTH INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON BUSINESS DATA COLLECTION METHODOLOGY

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## Response Burden Measurement Project in Statistics Finland

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### Abstract

Statistics Finland monitors the response burden of enterprise surveys regularly. The follow-up is made at the level of individual survey: the burden is calculated based on the average responding time, survey rounds per year and the sample size. The results are converted into staff-years and monetary costs. The level of response burden that consists of all the surveys that are directed to certain enterprise within a certain time period is also followed.

This paper focuses on the perceived response burden (PRB) measurement. The aim is to describe the implementation of a response burden measurement project and the challenges met in data collection. In addition, some preliminary results are presented.

A comprehensive perceived response burden measurement that covered most of Statistics Finland's direct enterprise data collections was last carried out in 2008-2009. To update the measurements, during 2018 the PRB questionnaire is attached to all our enterprise data collections in web. The data is gathered by a voluntary feedback survey where the respondent is directed after filling the actual inquiry. The respondents are asked to estimate the time spent on collecting the needed information and to fill in the questionnaire, and how burdensome or easy they regard responding. In addition, there is an open question for other feedback.

The information provided voluntarily by the respondents is at the core of perceived response burden measurement. Within the project, challenges have been faced in getting enough data. Better results were pursued by changing the way the respondents are directed to the response burden questionnaire and using an email invitation.

Preliminary results suggest that in most of the data collections the proportion of respondents that perceive responding quite or very burdensome has increased compared with 2009. Yet there is a lot of variation between surveys and also opposite results appear.