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Using administrative data for statistical purposes

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Sets out the main issues from the point of view of an ONS statistics producer.

This article sets out, from the perspective of the Office for National Statistics, thoughts on the use of administrative data for statistics purposes from the point of view of a statistics producer. Recent legislation gives us wider opportunities to access tax data to substitute for survey data. In deciding how to pursue this advantage, important questions arise about data quality, cost and perceptions of confidentiality. The article has four main sections. The first gives a general overview of the main types of sources for statistics. Further sections set out the ONS experience with administrative data, current plans and some of the challenges. In June 2007, a version of this paper was presented to the Third International Conference on Establishment Surveys in Montreal, Canada.

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The Full Text of this article can be found on the National Statistics website (http://www.statistics.gov.uk/elmr/10_07/downloads/elmr_oct07_penneck.pdf).