bres_2015_revised_inq6" data file.

The below information was provided to us by the BRES team and applies to the "bres_2015_revised_inq6" file.

If you have any questions, email research.support@ons.gov.uk and we will do our best to answer but will pass anything we cannot answer onto the relevant business area.

Secure Research Service Support Team, Office for National Statistics

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In 2015, Office for National Statistics (ONS) made a strategic decision to include business units with a single Pay As You Earn (PAYE) code for which no Value Added Tax (VAT) data are available. Prior to 2015, such units were excluded from the sampling frame and therefore not estimated for in ONS outputs.

So from January 2016, the coverage of the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Standard Business Survey Population was extended to include a population of solely Pay As You Earn (PAYE)-based businesses. This improvement in coverage is estimated to have increased the business survey population by around 100,000 businesses, with a total of around 300,000 employment and 200,000 employees between December 2015 and January 2016. The increase in business population has led to an increase in the estimate of employment and employees for the 2015 dataset. The level of the revision, with regional and industrial breakdowns, can be found in our statistical bulletin. This increase in coverage makes comparisons of figures prior to 2015 with figures from 2015 onwards more difficult, since the employment estimates prior to 2015 do not include PAYE-only businesses.

https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/bulletins/businessregisterandemploymentsurveybresprovisionalresults/provisionalresults2016revisedresults2015

So in a nutshell 2015r inquiry stop 6 (bres_2015_revised_inq6_restricted) will include businesses that have never been present in BRES before but will be going forward.

So you can't really compare 2016p (bres_2016_provisional_restricted) to 2015r (bres_2015_revised_restricted) (or earlier) because of this.

You can only really compare 2016p (bres_2016_provisional_restricted) to 2015 inquiry stop 6 (bres_2015_revised_inq6_restricted) as both datasets have these solely Pay As You Earn (PAYE)-based businesses in them.

ONS BRES TEAM

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