Business Register and Employment Survey: F.A.Q.

Why are the sample sizes different in the data files and the Quality and Methodology Information Paper 2013? One says 80,000; the other says 60,000 enterprises and 400,000 local units.

This is the difference between the selected and achieved samples.

What is the difference between 'response_type' and 'type' variables?

The 'type' variable relates to the status of the parent ruref. *Fullyenum* means it has been selected for the BRES sample and is in a fully enumerated cell (so a cell where all the rurefs within it have been included in the sample making a sampling rate of 1 in 1). Sample means the ruref is in a cell that is NOT fully enumerated and so may or may not have been selected in the BRES sample.

If you look at the associated 'response_type' variable, this is based on the status of response. Here you have R = *responded* and E = *estimated*. For example, a company may have been sent a BRES form but not responded. This would give them a 'type' of *fullyenum* and a 'response_type' of E.

Essentially, 'type' details whether the company was liable to be sent a BRES form and 'response_type' details whether data was returned.

There are four possible senarios':

1. Type = fullyenum and Response_type = R. Ruref selected for BRES and responded
2. Type = fullyenum and Response_type = E. Ruref selected for BRES, did not respond and had its value estimated.
3. Type = sample and Response_type = R. Ruref liable to be selected for BRES and responded
4. Type = sample and Response_type = E. Ruref liable to be selected for BRES, either was not selected or did not respond and had its value estimated.

EXCEPTION: On occasion there are companies that have sample in the 'type' variable, that was actually not selected for BRES, but which has a R in the 'response_type' variable. This is due to overlap with other ONS surveys and we have obtained their details without having to send out a BRES form to the company. Note: it is not possible to identify these companies from the VML BRES dataset.

EXCEPTION: If a company sends only partial data back they will have both an R and E in 'response_type', depending on what lurefs they have provided data for and which they haven't. In this case the lurefs associated with the company will have a mixture of both R and E 'response_types'.

So if you want to know if a local unit (LU) has responded to BRES or not you are best served by using the 'response_types' variable.

Why do the employment and employees variables have negative values?

The weighted_totempee value represents the local unit estimate we aggregate up to produce our published results. This is considered to be the "true" estimated value. The unweighted_totempee can be different and in some cases contain negative values. This occurs when the returned value for the sample is greater than the estimate for the domain. As local units can obviously not have negative employees, a secondary process in the BRES system recalculates this weighted_totempee value.

For this reason, we recommend users use the weighted_totempee value. If unweighted values are used, any analysis would not match official published BRES estimates.

The variable 'marker' which is labelled 'local unit birth, death and restructure marker' has values of b, B and R. What do these values stand for?

Both b and B stands for birth. There is no difference, just a quirk of the BRES results system coding. R = restructure.

Can I match the BRES and the ABS?

No, it is important for users to note that there will be a poor match rate between these two surveys. BRES is collected at LU level whereas ABS is RU level so difficult to create a successful match.