Improving Economic Statistics By Maximizing the use of Administrative Data at the Saint Lucia Central Statistics Office (CSO)

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Introduction and Background

Saint Lucia is located in the Eastern Caribbean (Map of Saint Lucia):

Saint Lucia has a population of 170,000 persons

Main Industry is Tourism/Financial Services with Some Agriculture

Introduction and Background

- Let me acknowledge the support of the Government of Canada through Statistics Canada in inspiring and subsequently supporting this development process at the Saint Lucia Central Statistics Office

Introduction and Background

- Saint Lucia is located in the Eastern Caribbean (Map of Saint Lucia):

  - Statistical System is decentralized with many administrative datasets located within many other agencies of government.
- Business Surveys conducted in Saint Lucia
  - Annual National Accounts Survey
  - Balance of Payment survey in collaboration with the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank

- Reason for Strengthening Linkage to Administrative Data Sources
  - Low response rate for business surveys of 30% or less overall

Introduction and Background

- Administrative Datasets Available from **Government Entities**
  - Inland Revenue Department
    - Monthly Value Added Tax Data
    - Annual Corporation Tax Data
  - National Insurance Corporation
    - Data on Employers – employment size, value of wages and salaries up to threshold where the NIC deduction from employees pay is applicable
    - Data on Employees by Occupation
  - National Registry of Companies
    - Company registrations
    - Data on Ownership Structure (Shareholding of Companies)
    - Annual Company Re-registrations
  - Ministry of Commerce
    - Issuance of Trade Licenses

Introduction and Background

- Administrative Datasets Available from **Private Sector Entities**
  - Saint Lucia Small Enterprise Development Unit (SEDU)
  - Saint Lucia Small Business Association (SLSBA)
  - Saint Lucia Chamber of Commerce
  - Employers Federation

Introduction and Background - Problem

- A dis-organized business register supported by updates from a variety of sources internal to the CSO
  - Sources
    - Census 2010
    - Enterprise Survey 2009
    - Personal visits and telephone calls
  - Issues
    - National Accounts and other Business Surveys Lacked a proper and solid survey base
    - Lack of Use of Available Administrative data sources
    - Lack of clear business rules for updating business register
    - Need to improve this process to create a better foundation for Economic Statistics in particular the national accounts

Strategy and Action Plan Implementation

- May 2013 we held a discussion with Statistics Canada about how we might go about solving this problem.

- Main Points in this Strategy
  - Sign <u>Memorandums of Understanding</u> with main Administrative Data Sources
    - Ensure access to company specific data, in particular, sales turnover, employment size, company structure etc
  - Once this was in effect, hold a stakeholders meeting to discuss the modalities of the data sharing agreements
    - Meetings with the Heads of these agencies and the Head of the CSO
    - One on One meetings with National Accounts Statisticians and the IT Unit of the CSO and Inland Revenue Department and National Insurance Cooperation's, two of the main data providers

Strategy and Action Plan Implementation

- Main Points in this Strategy
  - Statistics Canada also participated in a meeting with all of our custodians of Administrative Data where we discussed the specifics of how each agency could contribute to the process of development of a comprehensive, well constituted business register for Saint Lucia

  - The Saint Lucia CSO has obtained Administrative Datasets and is receiving and continues to receive a stream of administrative data from the two main data providers, that is the Inland Revenue Department and the National Insurance Cooperation.

Strategy and Action Plan Implementation

Some Completed Processes

I) Mapping and standardizing data from various sources to the BR

II) Rules for automated updates

III) Process of using administrative data to identify births and deaths of Businesses

IV) Consistency checks of incoming data

V) Transforming data to meet the BR needs

VI) If same variable available from different sources, how will it be handled? Will only 1 value be kept available? How will the value to be retained be determined? If 2 values arrive at same time, which one will be selected? Etc.
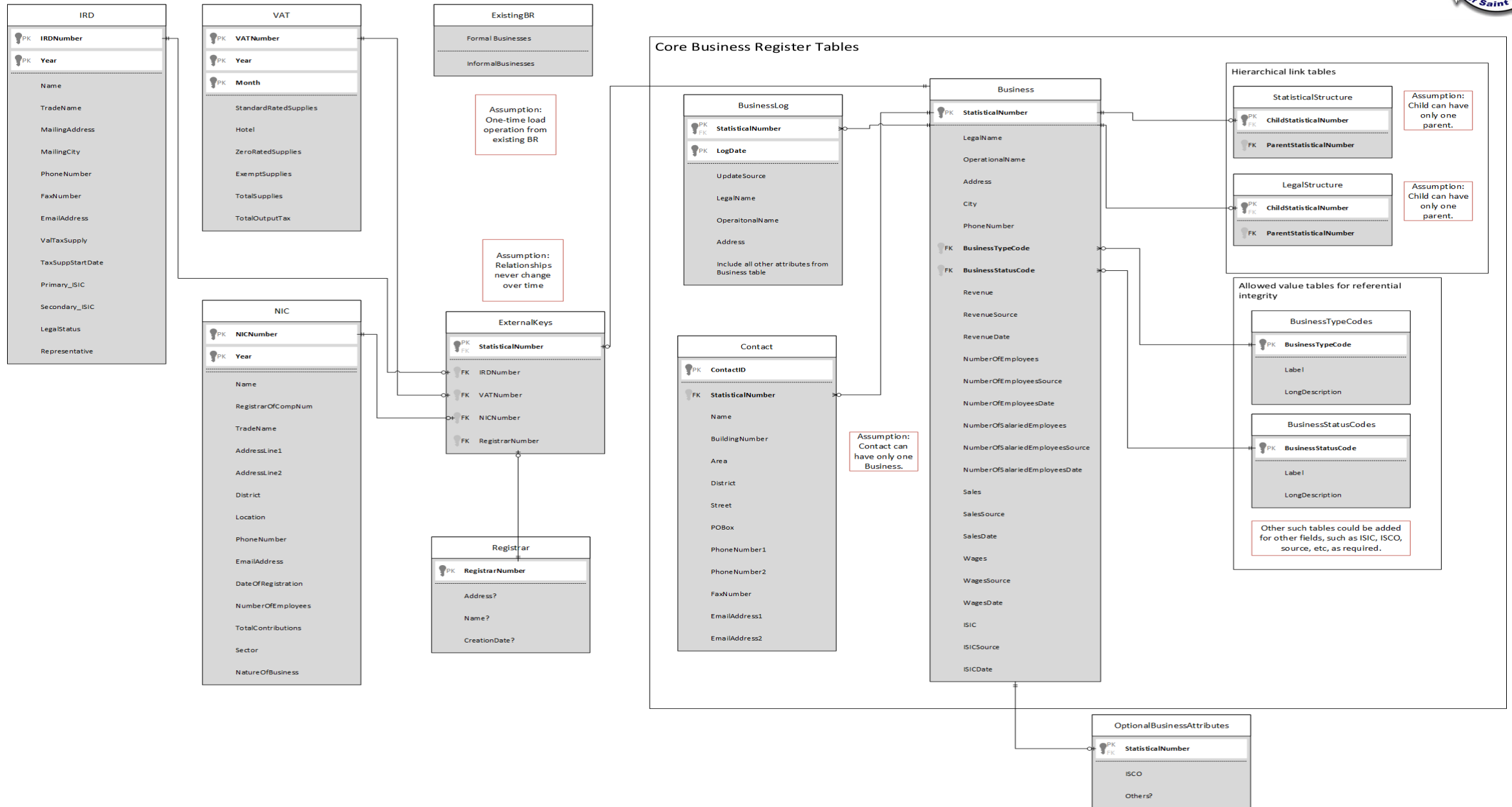
Strategy and Action Plan Implementation

Some Completed Processes

- Business rules for validating and loading administrative data

- Technology Review – IT Software, Methods and Processes to be used

- Process of Creating the BR Frame

- BR Lite presentation By Statistics Canada

- Interface Design

- File management and archiving

Proposed Business Register Data Model

Strategy and Action Plan Implementation

- Project for the Regional Advancement Of Statistics in the Caribbean (PRASC) has now taken over to see this project to completion

- Visit to Statistics Canada By the Systems Analyst from the Saint Lucia CSO to finalize the process towards the final implementation of this Project

- Technology exchange

- Discuss the Way forward to completion of the project

Way forward with Support of PRASC

A. Create/Update Business process rules for staff

B. Develop rules for manual updates, in particular updating business structures

C. Handling of Industry Coding By the CSO and the Administrative Data Provider

D. Geo coding

E. a.User interface b. Design document c. User's guide

F. An initial Business Register in the first semester of 2017

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