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Some issues involved in updating of business registers
in transition countries

Paper submitted by the State Department of Statistics of Georgia

1. The development of new approaches to the collection of market information is one of the priority tasks in the reform of Georgia's statistical system.
2. In Georgia, as in many of the countries in transition, statistical methodology is at a formative stage and involves the use of universal standards and methods which are recommended or mandatory. These include the statistical units appearing in the Unified State Statistical Register - the Business Register - for sample surveys and other statistical purposes.
3. Under Georgia's Private Business Act, all natural and juridical persons engaged in economic activity from 1995 onwards must undergo registration or re-registration in people's courts. At the same time, they are registered in the Unified State Statistical Register.
4. In the countries in transition there may be inaccuracies, errors and distortions of various kinds in the Register.
5. The paper reviews a dozen or so types of shortcomings which are typical in the Georgian case and suggests way and means of eliminating them.
