

Data Linkage

Financial Analysis Made Easy and Workplace Employment Relations Survey

FAME (Financial Analysis Made Easy) is a database that provides financial and descriptive information on companies in the UK and Ireland. Published by Bureau van Dijk Electronic Publishing (BvDEP), FAME includes a range of financial data such as information on turnover, profit and loss accounts, balance sheets and cash flow statements, for up to ten years, where available. Further information regarding FAME is available from the BvDEP website at <http://www.bvdep.com/en/fame.html>

The ONS have made available links from the Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR) to company reference numbers (CRN) used within the 2004 FAME database. These CRNs are available for around 1,300 establishments in the 2004 Workplace Employment Relations Survey (WERS), providing users with the mechanism to link WERS to FAME data for these workplaces. It is noted that the link between CRNs and WERS workplaces are made at the level of the enterprise through enterprise reference numbers. Therefore, workplaces in WERS that belong to the same enterprise will each be linked to the same CRN.

In total, 59% (n=1266) of the 2166 establishments in WERS have been matched with FAME CRNs for 2004 (see Table 1)¹. Approximately a quarter of WERS establishments (n=568) can be directly mapped to a single CRN, i.e. just one FAME CRN is allocated to a WERS workplace. However, it can be seen that for almost a third of WERS workplaces (n=698), a WERS workplace may match to more than a single CRN, i.e. links can be made between a WERS workplace and multiple CRNs. These multiple matches probably reflect the way in which ONS simplifies company structures for the purpose of conducting business surveys, especially within large organizations. This is an important issue for users to be aware of, as it is not possible to know which company the WERS workplace belongs to. It can be seen in table 1 that 8% (n=167) of WERS workplaces can be linked to 20 or more CRNs.

Table 1: Number of FAME company reference numbers matched with WERS enterprise numbers

Number of CRNs per ENTREF	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative
0	900	41.6	41.6
1	568	26.2	67.8
2-5	330	15.2	83.0
6-19	201	9.3	92.3
20+	167	7.7	100.0
Total	2,166	100.00	

Table 2 shows the matches made between WERS workplaces and CRNs by industry sector. It can be seen that the number of matches made between CRNs and workplaces within Public Authorities², Education and Health are relatively small. For example, of the 128 WERS workplaces classified as being within the Public Authorities sector, only 7% of these workplaces could be matched to a CRN. The relatively low incidence of matches in these sectors is to be expected given that FAME is a database consisting of information on companies operating within the commercial sector. The highest incidence of matches occurs within the Transport and Wholesale & Retail sectors. Aside from Hotels and Restaurants, the rate of matching is approximately 80% within the trading sectors.

In terms of the number of CRNs matched to particular workplaces, it can be seen that unique matches are most likely to be made within the manufacturing and construction sectors. Within the manufacturing sector, 60% of matched workplaces are linked to a single CRN. This rate

¹ 2166 of the 2295 workplaces that participated in the WERS 2004 Cross-Section Survey gave consent for their data to be linked to other sources.

² Public administration

increases to 66% within the construction sector. Multiple matches most commonly occur within the financial sector, where 57% of workplaces in WERS match to 20 or more CRNs. It is expected that these differences in the incidence of unique matches reflect the complexity of company structures in different industries, with unique matches being more likely to be achieved in industries characterized by single plant organizations.

Table 2: Number of CRNs Matched to Enterprise Reference Numbers: by Industry (row %)

Industry	% Workplaces Matched	Number of CRNs per Workplace (as a % of matched workplaces)				Total Workplaces
		1	2-5	6-19	20+	
Manufacturing	81.6	59.6	28.5	7.2	4.7	288
Electricity, gas & water supply	79.5	8.6	11.4	28.6	51.4	44
Construction	80.7	65.9	11.4	8.0	14.8	109
Wholesale and retail trade	82.8	36.7	24.7	29.9	8.8	303
Hotels and restaurants	61.5	34.4	28.1	20.3	17.2	104
Transport	83.8	29.4	42.0	21.0	7.6	142
Financial services	80.8	9.3	15.5	17.5	57.7	120
Other business services	70.7	51.4	29.0	14.2	5.5	259
Public authorities	7.0	77.8	11.1	0.0	11.1	128
Education	21.3	67.4	32.6	0.0	0.0	202
Health	21.9	60.3	24.7	2.7	12.3	334
Other companies	51.9	50.7	26.1	13.0	10.1	133
Total	58.4	44.9	26.1	15.9	13.2	2,166

Prospective users of the VML should note that FAME is a commercial dataset and a general-use version of the FAME dataset is not available at the VML. Instead, users wishing to analyze linked data from WERS and FAME would need to bring their own FAME dataset to the VML, where it could be linked to the WERS data, using the link variable provided.

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