

Estimating from mixed sources with incomplete coverage

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For policymakers and alike, it is crucial to distinguish between socio-economic trends in official statistics and noise caused by various sources of error in the statistical process. This has become more difficult as official statistics are increasingly based on a mix of sources that typically do not involve probability sampling. We apply a resampling method to assess the sensitivity of mixed-source statistics to source-specific non-sampling errors. The method can be used to compare industries and releases, and can assist in deciding how to allocate resources in the statistical process. The example suggests that shifting classification resources from small and medium enterprises to large enterprises has virtually no net effect on accuracy, because the gain in precision is offset by the creation of bias.

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