

Statistics department targets 943,000 companies in census

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PUTRAJAYA: The Department of Statistics Malaysia has targeted 943,000 companies from various sectors to participate in the Economic Census 2011.

Its chief statistician Dr Abdul Rahman Hasan said the services sector has the largest coverage with 73.1 per cent or 990,000 companies being surveyed to measure their performances and growth.

"In the services sector only, we covered 30.6 per cent of the food and beverages industry (F&B) like restaurants. It is the largest coverage that we made in the services sector."

He said the services sector alone contributed around 58 per cent to the economy last year.

The Department of Statistics has completed collecting information only on F&B sector in June where they had surveyed 145,000 outlets, having received 85 per cent response.

The other sectors that are being covered by the census are construction (12 per cent), manufacturing (8.7 per cent), mining and quarrying (0.2 per cent), and agriculture (6 per cent).

Abdul Rahman said the census for other sectors are still ongoing and will be completed by December this



The services sector has the largest coverage, says chief statistician Dr Abdul Rahman Hasan

year.

The only sector that was not included in the census is wholesale retail as it had been undertaken previously in August 2009.

Meanwhile, the department will publish 20 publications on economic activities and one publication on small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

The publications will be released in June 2012.

Abdul Rahman said the publications can be used to study the industry, business markets and eval-

uate investment opportunities.

"The publications can be used by the government in the formulation and monitoring of national plans, SME Master Plan and economic policies, as well as research by academicians, researchers and businesses. The data obtained can be compared across international bodies," he added.

There are 270 types of questionnaires used in the census where each questionnaire is tailored to a particular industry or group of industries.

Under Section 5 of the Statistics Act 1965 (Revised 1989), confidentiality of all respondents is assured and no individual information would be released.

Abdul Rahman said generally the information that was collected is on the company profile, assets, human resource, income or turnover, expenditures, and other information such as access to financing, marketing and promotion, use of information and communications technology (ICT) and expenditure on environment compliance, to name a few.

He added that information on the census is obtained through mail, interview and fieldwork and it has started since May this year.

The economic census is held every five years. The last census conducted in 2006 was with the reference to the year 2005.