

Progress Report From Japan

Statistical Standards Department,
Statistics Bureau,
Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs,
Posts and Telecommunications,
JAPAN

1. Classification of service activities and products

< Main achievements >

- The eleventh revision of the Standard Industrial Classification for Japan(hereafter referred to as the “JSIC”) was implemented in March 2002. After that, we disseminated the above new JSIC for the public as follows.
 - i) Publication of the JSIC including general rules, structure, explanations and example of establishments, on the website of the Statistics Bureau (September 2002)
 - ii) Publication of the English version of the JSIC including general rules, structure and explanation (for 1 and 2 digit levels only), on the website of the Statistics Bureau (November 2002)
- In addition, we produced the following tools for the staff of the governmental statistical organizations.
 - i) Retrieval system by keywords or type of business on the LAN shared with governmental organizations (March 2003)
 - ii) Correspondence table of JSIC (11th revision) and ISIC (3rd revision) (March 2003)

2. Information Society statistics

< Main achievements and issues >

- In order to respond the industrial and social changes caused by information technology (IT), in 2002, the “e-Japan Priority Plan-2002” was formulated, and a specialized review committee was established to study what the IT strategies should be in the future.
- In the governmental statistical services, there is a strong need to accurately respond to the systematic development of these IT-related statistics, and to develop such statistics that will serve as indicators for the measurement and evaluation of the state of progress in the development of IT. Reflecting this, there has been progress on the development of statistics that cover the IT providers and statistics that are related to the status of progress in the development of an IT infrastructure. However, it has been pointed out that there are some fields in which necessary basic data are lacking: data for an in-depth grasp of the actual state of IT-oriented development and IT-based electronic commerce (including

cross-border trading), and data on the analysis of the effects of IT-oriented development on the national life, society and economy.

- Furthermore, to strengthen the industrial competitiveness of our country, it is necessary to reinforce the policy on intellectual property rights. Consequently in the “Intellectual Property Policy Outline” (Strategic Council on Intellectual Property-July 2002), it has recently been noted that, in order to develop policies that respond promptly and accurately to users’ diverse intellectual property-related activities, statistical surveys related to intellectual property, which are the basis of the planning and designing of policies on intellectual property, shall be developed during fiscal 2002.

As a result, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) has been implementing the survey on intellectual property activities since 2002 as a full-dress statistical survey on intellectual property.

< Priorities and concrete measures >

- In order to gain the basic data on the analysis of the effects of IT-oriented developments on the economy, in the area describes below, the Cabinet Office and ministries shall, on clarifying the shared role of the various statistical surveys, develop and strengthen existing statistical surveys, implement new surveys as necessary, and endeavor to ascertain the actual state of these areas:
 - i) The actual state of services associated with the Internet, and services for creating and providing contents
 - ii) Data for measuring capital services and the input of labor on a user basis (lease, dispatching workers, outsourcing, etc.)
 - iii) The actual state of changes in human capital and corporate organizations
- In the area, in particular, of individuals and households using IT, the MPHPT shall develop and strengthen statistics in respect of security measures under the existing statistical surveys.

3. Statistics on non-profit activities

< Main achievements and issues >

The activities of private non-profit organizations (NPOs) and of volunteer groups will have an increased importance in the economic activities in the future, and the development of statistics on these groups will become necessary. At present, the Cabinet Office maintains information on private non-profit activities on an annual basis through the Survey on the Private Non-Profit Institutions. However, because this survey relies on the name list of the Establishment and Enterprise Census to obtain population information, such bodies that have no establishments are not covered by this survey.

< Priorities and concrete measures >

With regard to the name list of the Establishment and Enterprise Census, which includes information of population for the “Survey on the Private Non-profit Institutions”, in order to develop and strengthen statistics on private non-profit activities or NPOs, the MPHPT shall, from fiscal 2003, develop information of population on private non-profit bodies such as NPOs, by utilizing administrative information concerning NPO.

4. Statistics on services

< Main achievements and issues >

- There are relatively many types of annual or periodic statistics, but as far as specific items (for example, gross output, etc) are concerned, some provide adequate coverage while others need refining, on the type of industry. Additionally, in monthly or quarterly statistics, few items have been measured, except in the Current Survey of Selected Industries (annual statistics are lacking in amount-based statistics in such areas as eating and drinking places, hotels, machine repair shops, etc. Furthermore, in monthly supply-side statistics, there are some areas not covered, such as broadcasting, waste disposal business, real estate brokerage, and lessons).
- Each local government holds data on public services (water and sewage, waste disposal, etc) for use in their own work, but when they are tabulated on the national basis, they are presented as an annual base and come out only at later date compared with other statistics.
- With regard to statistics for services, survey items related to the activity level (in amount-based and quantity-based items) are lacking in uniformity, thus often creating difficulty when making inter-industrial comparisons.
- Given the current situation characterized by the widespread emergence of service activities that arisen out of business diversification, it is important to measure economic activities in services on an activity basis (by type of activity). Statistical surveys that are implemented at present from these standpoints include the Survey on Services Industries and the Survey of Selected Services Industries. These surveys measure the percentage of sales from other businesses than those providing the main services aiming to measure the state of the services diversifications.

< Priorities and concrete measures >

- The supply-side statistics focusing on the Survey of Selected Service Industries, and the Current Survey of Selected Service Industries shall be developed and strengthened.
- With regard to public services, the Cabinet Office and ministries concerned shall make an effort to release annual statistics earlier, and shall study the further development of statistics taking into account the state of progress in computer processing of their work.
- With regard to basic statistical surveys, the Cabinet Office and ministries concerned shall

look into setting up common survey items (number of employees, sales, revenues, etc.).

5. Short term indicators

< Main achievements and issues >

Since the first preliminary report for the April-June 2002 period was released on August 30, 2002, the preliminary report of the quarterly GDP (QE) has been shifted to a new method of estimation. Under the new method of estimation, which aims for a quick assessment of the economy, the release of the first preliminary report of QE has been accelerated by slightly less than one month. As a result, the first QE is released in the second month of the following quarter, with the second preliminary report of QE to be released in the following month. Furthermore, the basic statistics have been largely strengthened focusing on supply-side statistics in addition to the demand-side statistics that were used in the past.

< Priorities and concrete measures >

With regard to the basic statistics used for the QE estimation, the Cabinet Office and ministries concerned shall endeavor to release these statistics earlier from fiscal 2003 by continuously improving the way in which the work is carried out, while considering the need to ensure the accuracy of statistics.