PREFACE

This is the fifty-second edition of "Statistical Notes of Japan," a series of which has been briefing statistical activities in Japan by highlighting recent topics of common interests among statisticians of all over the world.

The present edition includes "New Directions in the Development of Government Statistical Services", which was decided as an official agreement of the Meeting of the Heads of the Statistical Departments of the Cabinet Office and Ministries in June 2003. The "New Directions" is a guideline for the development of government statistical services in Japan for coming 5 to 10 years.

We will be pleased if this publication is of any help to the readers' future activities and the promotion of international cooperation in statistical areas.

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Inquiries or requests should be addressed to:

International Statistical Affairs Division, Statistical Standards Department, Statistics Bureau, Management and Coordination Agency, Government of Japan

Address: 19-1, Wakamatsu-cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, 162-8668 Japan

E-mail: internat@stat.go.jp
Homepage: http://www.stat.go.jp