

Master Plan Concerning the Development of Official Statistics

March 13, 2009 Cabinet decision

Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

About the Master Plan Concerning the Development of Official Statistics

March 13, 2009
Cabinet decision

The government shall, as provided in the attachment, establish a Master Plan concerning the development of official statistics based on the provision of Article 4 (1) of the Statistics Act (Act No. 53 of 2007).

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Introduction

The Statistics Act, which has supported economic development, etc. in Japan by serving as a legal infrastructure for statistical administration through providing the statistics necessary for policy decisions by the national government, was completely revised and promulgated in May 2007.

In the revised Statistics Act (Act No. 53 of 2007; hereinafter referred to as “Statistics Act”), official statistics (statistics produced by administrative organs of the national government, local public entities, or incorporated administrative agencies) are oriented as critical information that serves as the infrastructure in order to carry out decision-making that is rational from the public’s perspective. In addition, the Statistics Act also prescribes the establishment of a Master Plan Concerning the Development of Official Statistics by the national government (hereinafter referred to as “Master Plan”) in order to comprehensively and systematically promote measures concerning the development of official statistics.

In overcoming the various issues surrounding official statistics and for the national government to be responsible in providing statistics that are suitable as an information infrastructure for society, it is essential for the national government to make continual progress with approaches as a whole, taking into consideration the purpose and principles of the Statistics Act.

The Master Plan is established here, based on the provisions of Article 4 of the Statistics Act. In the future, the national government will steadily and systematically promote the contents that are incorporated into this Plan.

1. Concrete Policy Regarding Measures Related to the Development of Official Statistics

1 Role that official statistics should fulfill

In Article 1 of the Statistics Act, official statistics are oriented as being “critical information for the citizens in their reasonable decision making”. The purpose behind this is that above all, official statistics are important indicators for companies and individuals that support rational decision-making in economic activities and in involvement with society, as represented by medium-and-long-term business plans, lifestyle designs, procurement of funds, investments, and consumption and savings. Secondly, from the perspective of involvement with the public through policy management, official statistics are used as fundamental materials for making decisions regarding policies, such as by being used as information for guaranteeing rationality and objectivity in planning administrative measures and evaluating policy effects. Thirdly, official statistics support the seeking of truth through their use in various analyses in academic research, from both macro and micro perspectives, and contribute to making society more abundant. Fourth of all, as official statistics are characterized by superior objectivity and easiness in making mutual comparisons, they are essential even from the perspective of promoting mutual understanding in international society and the development of the economy and society in various sectors.

Official statistics in Japan have been developed under, what we call, decentralized statistical system and in accordance with the respective affairs under the jurisdiction of each office and ministry, and are considered as being advantageous for expeditious responses to individual administrative objectives as well as the accumulation of specialized knowledge. However, when compared to the orientation of official statistics in the Statistics Act, it is necessary to keep in mind in the future when developing official statistics that they should be developed as an information infrastructure that can be used broadly and effectively by various major entities, rather than solely being used for individual administrative objectives.

In addition to efforts by the national government, it is also essential to obtain the public’s understanding and cooperation when developing statistics. Many statistics are produced based on statistical surveys, and without cooperation from the public regarding these statistical surveys, it would be impossible to produce reliable statistics. More than anything, the ultimate purpose of official statistics is to contribute to improvements in the lives of citizens and to the healthy development of the nation’s economy, and it is necessary for the national government to recognize this role of official statistics and to work on the public for understanding.

2 Current state of and issues surrounding official statistics

Currently, there are various issues surrounding official statistics, and the following are considered as issues that are particularly critical.

The first issue is that there is an increasing demand for “evidence-based policy making” in administration. Although it is needless to say that it is necessary for the planning of important policies to be implemented rationally based on objective evidence, including statistics, this concept, which has been

gaining focus in recent years in international society, is steadily becoming established in Japan as well, and it is expected for the demand levels for official statistics to increase both in terms of quality and quantity in the future, such as through demands for timely provision of high-quality statistics and reexamination of survey items, etc. Official statistics must be able to meet such demands in an appropriate manner.

The second issue is that the needs regarding production and provision of official statistics are changing and diversifying in accordance with various environmental changes in the economy and society. Statistics for fields in which past statistics had not necessarily been applicable in a sufficient manner are becoming sought after, in accordance with globalization of economic activities, changes in industrial structures, and the advancement of an aging society with fewer children, etc.

The third issue is changes, etc. in the survey environments and in the consciousness of respondents. It is becoming difficult to obtain cooperation towards statistical surveys due to an increased consciousness of information management by companies and of information protection by individuals, and further business establishments such as SOHO (small office/home office) that are difficult to comprehend from the outside are increasing. In order to maintain the accuracy of statistical surveys, various innovations are becoming necessary.

The fourth issue is the diversification of needs for using statistics in accordance with the development of information and communications technology. There has been an increase in the needs of researchers, etc. who want to carry out unique research and analysis by obtaining information that cannot be obtained through ready-made tables through questionnaire information instead.

The fifth issue is that in order for official statistics to ensure a certain level of accuracy despite of limitations to the budget and personnel in producing and providing official statistics under harsh administrative and fiscal circumstances (hereinafter referred to as “statistical resources”), and for official statistics to fulfill their role, the securing and effective utilization of necessary statistical resources becomes important.

3 Basic perspectives in expanding measures

Under such circumstances where official statistics are directly faced with various issues, it is not easy for official statistics to sufficiently fulfill their role of being oriented as critical information for the public. There is no question as to the importance of the necessity of relevant administrative organs cooperating and expanding various measures in the future. When doing so, it is vital to establish how to ensure the usefulness of official statistics for the public, or in other words, how to adequately develop statistics that respond to needs, as the basic perspective, and for the relevant administrative organs to be aware of this in common. Even if exhaustive statistics are produced in a swift manner, such statistics would be of no value unless they are actually used. In this sense, ensuring the usefulness of statistics is, in and of itself, an important goal in the development of statistics.

In order to improve the usefulness of statistics, it is important to enable various kinds of information that cannot be obtained simply through ready-made tables to be used, by (1) systematically developing statistics such as by increasing the consistency and international comparability of statistics, with a focus

on Fundamental Statistics that are based on the Statistics Act, (2) adequately responding to changes in social and policy needs that are associated with environmental changes in the economy and society, and by (3) promoting advanced use of questionnaire information. At the same time, when achieving the above, it is necessary to take aware of efficiently producing statistics while ensuring accuracy, as well as securing and effectively using the necessary statistical resources, taking into consideration conditions such as changes in the harsh administrative and fiscal circumstances and the survey environments.

(1) Systematic development of statistics

In order to apprehend the economy and society from various perspectives, it is necessary to organically use a variety of statistics. In this sense, it is extremely important to systematically develop official statistics while being aware of the orientation of each statistic as part of statistics as a whole and of the mutual connection between different kinds of statistics in ensuring the usefulness of statistics.

From this kind of perspective, it is necessary to first develop “Fundamental Statistics” as statistics that serve as the foundation of statistical systems. After doing so, it is also necessary to ensure mutual consistency of statistics, through establishing various statistical standards that provide a common infrastructure for statistics as well as through linkages between statistics, including processed statistics. Based on these kinds of approaches, an improvement in the accuracy of statistics through mutual and comparative verifications of statistics can be expected.

In addition, in order to fulfill our responsibility in international society, or for the purpose of confirming Japan's stance based on relative comparisons with various foreign countries, it is also necessary to increase the possibility of international comparisons, taking various international standards sufficiently into consideration.

(2) Approaches toward environmental changes in the economy and society

The second perspective for increasing the usefulness of statistics consists of approaches toward environmental changes in the economy and society. To enable statistics to continue to be highly useful even amidst changes in social and policy needs that are associated with changes in the economic environment and social environment, it is necessary to accurately comprehend such changes in needs, and to reexamine the ideals for statistics accordingly.

At the same time, if taking the fact that statistical resources are severely restricted into consideration, it is undeniable that existing statistics in fields in which needs have declined must be reexamined in order to respond to new needs. As a result, from the perspectives of necessity and efficiency, it is necessary to objectively evaluate existing statistics and to concurrently conduct reexaminations of such statistics.

(3) Promotion of effective use of statistical data

The third perspective is to increase usefulness by increasing the amount of information that can be used.

Up until now, questionnaire information that had been collected through statistical surveys was offered for use, in principle, based on the producer tabulating the information in statistical tables that had been specified beforehand and publishing the information. However, as the needs for statistics became diversified and advanced, it has become impossible to sufficiently respond to the needs of users solely through this kind of usage pattern. As a result, further effective use of statistical data based on producing statistics through entrustment, in which tables are produced in a manner that corresponds to the demands of users, which was newly institutionalized in the Statistics Act (hereinafter referred to as “tailor-made tabulation”), and based on providing anonymized data using questionnaire information that has been processed so that individual survey subjects cannot be distinguished has been strongly sought after from various directions.

In addition, it is also necessary to develop a statistical data archive¹ as an infrastructure that accumulates useful data such as anonymized data and that promotes the convenience of using anonymized data, etc. for the purpose of academic researches, etc.

(4) Efficient production of statistics, and securing and making effective use of statistical resources

When improving the usefulness of statistics, it is necessary to take heed, above all, of the fact that as official statistics are produced at the burden of the public, they must be produced as efficiently as possible.

As a result, it is necessary to further actively explore possibilities of the use of administrative record information, etc.² when producing statistics. With regard to the use of administrative record information, etc., there are expectations for the maintenance and improvement of the accuracy of statistics through the development of population information and data supplement of statistical surveys, etc., as well as for a decrease in administrative costs and the burden of respondents, etc., amidst circumstances where the environment surrounding statistical surveys is becoming increasingly harsh due to increased consciousness of information management by companies and of information protection by individuals, and the cost-effectiveness of statistical surveys is declining relatively. In addition, from the perspective of efficiently implementing statistical surveys, it is necessary to actively use the know-how possessed by private businesses in their respective business fields, as well as to review the development of an environment for the purpose of using such know-how appropriately and effectively.

Secondly, in order for the national government to be responsible in providing statistics that are appropriate as an information infrastructure for society, it is necessary to keep in mind that the promotion of securing and making effective use of statistical resources is required. To respond to new needs and international demands related to statistics while promoting rationalization and effectiveness of operations, as well as ensuring the quality of statistics under harsh administrative and fiscal circumstances where there are limits to statistical resources, it is necessary to further promote the

1 Refers to an agency that collects, organizes, and stores anonymized data, etc. produced from questionnaire information from statistical surveys (may also include questionnaire information from statistical surveys), and provides anonymized data, etc. for the purpose of academic research, etc.

2 Various administrative record information that the national administrative organs possess, and work record information that local public entities possess

securing and effective use of statistical resources, and to cultivate and secure core personnel who possess specialized knowledge, as part of the operation of human affairs in each office and ministry.

In developing and providing statistics, it is also important to maintain the functions of the on-site survey system (full-time statistics personnel, etc. of prefectures) and for the national government and local public entities make approaches by cooperating with each other.

2. Measures Concerning the Development of Official Statistics That Should Be Comprehensively and Systematically Established

From among the matters described in Section 1 under “3 Basic perspectives in expanding measures,” the concrete measures that are to be comprehensively and systematically established for “systematically developing statistics” and “responding to environmental changes in the economy and society” are as follows.

The main text of this Master Plan describes the current state of and issues surrounding the measures, and the orientation of approaches, etc.; further concrete measures and policies that are to be established over a 5-year period starting in FY2009, the office or ministry in charge, the implementation period, etc. are listed in the appendix. (This arrangement between the main text and appendix also applies to Sections 3 and 4.)

1 Development of “Fundamental Statistics” that serve as the core of statistical systems

(1) Basic concept concerning the designation of Fundamental Statistics

From among the statistics that are produced by administrative organs of the national government, those with particularly high importance that play a critical role in national economy, living standards, and policy decisions by the national government and that serve as the core of the system of official statistics are considered as being Fundamental Statistics in the Statistics Act.

Concretely, in addition to the Population Census and National Accounts that are specified by law, it is also possible to specify as Fundamental Statistics those that are prescribed in the Statistics Act as being produced by administrative organs and designated by the Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications as falling under any of the following, and that are produced by methods other than statistical surveys.

- 1) Statistics that are particularly important for planning national policies and implementing them;
- 2) Statistics that are expected to be widely utilized for decision-making or research activities in the private sector;
- 3) Statistics that are required to be produced base on international treaties or plans established by international organizations or that are particularly important in view of international comparability.

In designating Fundamental Statistics, it is necessary to make judgments in view of individual and concrete case examples, since it is difficult to find a common scale that applies to all applicable areas and establish fixed judgment standards.

The following kinds of perspectives can be considered as examples of general judgment parameters for when making individual judgments.

- 1) Critical structure statistics or dynamic statistics related to citizens' living standards
- 2) Statistics used in monthly economic reports
- 3) Statistics for which the use of results is specified by law

- 4) Statistics from which the international flow of people and goods can be apprehended at a glance
- 5) Statistics that directly serve as basic data for National Accounts and critical processed statistics
- 6) Statistics that can be used broadly even by local public entities
- 7) Major statistics that serve as the source of data that is listed in the system of social and demographic statistics organized by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications based on the System of Social and Demographic Statistics (SSDS) proposed by the United Nations
- 8) Statistics that are required to be produced based on international treaties, etc. relating to economic statistics
- 9) Statistics for which the utilization of results covers a broad scope, and is not limited to parts of survey/tabulation items

In making individual judgments, it is also necessary to make sure that mandatory reporting is imposed on Fundamental Statistical Surveys, and that processed statistics that represent the overall picture of each field are also highly convenient for users and contribute to the systematic development of statistics. At the same time, with regard to statistics derived from administrative records, considerations must be made so that such statistics do not interfere with requirements for usual administrative procedures or smooth implementation of such procedures. When designating business statistics as Fundamental Statistics and managing such statistics after they are designated, it is necessary to make judgments by taking these kinds of basic attributes of business statistics sufficiently into consideration.

(2) Orientation concerning the development of Fundamental Statistics

After organizing the statistics that are to be developed as Fundamental Statistics, the statistics from among those that were designated based on the old Statistics Act before revised all provision of the Act and are to be converted to Fundamental Statistics, the statistics that are to be newly developed as Fundamental Statistics, and the statistics that are to be reviewed regarding the possibility of making them into Fundamental Statistics in the future are as shown in Appendix.

The development of statistics that are to be promoted as Fundamental Statistics will be carried out from the perspective of development statistics that users can use even more easily, based on the above concept and on the philosophy of the Statistics Act that official statistics are critical information that serves as an infrastructure for citizens in their reasonable decision making. For example, reviews, etc. will be conducted on the construction of comprehensive statistics related to corporate activities and to the unification of statistics relating to production dynamics of the manufacturing industry, which each office and ministry is currently developing separately.

(3) Importance of the Population Census, National Accounts, and economic structure statistics

In the Statistics Act, the Population Census and National Accounts are specified as Fundamental Statistics, in view of their high importance.

The Population Census is the most basic statistic for clarifying the conditions of the population and households in Japan. It is essential in the development of rational statistical systems, as it is used as population information for various sampling surveys conducted on individuals and households, and also provides information such as the population during the intervals between when the Population Census is conducted, the basic values for estimating the future population and number of households, as well as

information that makes up the foundation for democracy, such as the grounds for calculating the quorum for Diet seats, and the distribution of tax revenues/subsidies to local governments.

Since it has become difficult in recent years to smoothly implement the Population Census, which is conducted on all residents in Japan and that serves as the basis for population statistics, due to changes, etc. in the environment surrounding statistical surveys, it is necessary to continue making further efforts toward smooth implementation of the Population Census and increasing the accuracy of survey results, such as by broadly seeking the public's understanding regarding the significance of the Population Census.

As basic statistics related to the economy and society, National Accounts make up the backbone of official statistics. They are oriented as being important in international comparisons and also serve as basic materials for when planning and deciding on basic national policies.

As those two types of Fundamental Statistics described above, the economic structure statistics³ is considered to be as equivalently important statistics. The economic structure statistics, which is produced based on economic censuses that are applicable to all business establishments, are the most basic statistics that make up the foundation for the systematic development of industry-related statistics, as they clarify the actual state of economic activities carried out by the establishments and enterprises in all of the industries in Japan, and is also necessary in enhancing population information that contributes to increased accuracy of various statistical surveys that are conducted on establishments and enterprises.

In addition, by enabling for exhaustive comprehension of economic activities in all industries at the same point in time, economic structure statistics also improve the accuracy of various statistics, including National Accounts, and provide useful information in various policy decisions as well as in decision-making carried out by the public.

With regard to the Economic Census for Business Frame that is to be implemented in FY2009, the implementation contents have already been settled. On the other hand, with regard to the Economic Census for Business Activity that is to be implemented in FY2011, due to considerable aggravation of conditions for implementing the survey associated with changes that were made inevitably to the plan that was initially agreed upon by relevant offices and ministries as a result of demands for maintaining the accuracy of National Accounts, it is necessary to reexamine the ideals for the survey, including simplification of survey items, etc. such as those regarding corporate accounting.

Consequently, in view of the significance, necessity, and importance of producing economic structure statistics, the national government will implement a survey that has been enhanced as much as possible in FY2011 and use the survey results to the fullest extent in estimations for National Accounts, etc., by coordinating closely with local public entities and promoting consistency with major relevant statistical surveys.

³ Refers to the statistics that are to be produced based on the Economic Census – Basic Survey and Economic Census – Activities Survey that are planned on being implemented in the future.

With regard to the Economic Census for Business Activity that will be implemented around 2016, to make the statistical survey one that is more enhanced that can achieve the expected purpose of the Economic Census, the survey is planned on being implemented at a timing when survey conditions are optimal.

The relevant office and ministries will progress with approaches so that definite conclusions can be obtained during the period for this Master Plan with regard to the following points in particular.

- 1) Objectives that should be achieved through economic structure statistics, and the time schedule
- 2) Relationship between economic structure statistics and major industry-related statistics that are closely related, and ideals for survey items
- 3) Ideals for relationships between processed statistics such as National Accounts and input-output tables (master tables), etc., and economic structure statistics as well as other industry-related statistics

2 Matters related to securing and improving consistency and international comparability of statistics

(1) Development of National Accounts and strengthening the relationship between National Accounts and primary statistics, etc.

- a) Current state, issues, etc.

Rather than simply being important in outlining the economic conditions of the entire country, National Accounts can be oriented as a system for comprehensively developing various economic statistics.

With regard to National Accounts, it is important to increase consistency with the classification system while conforming to international standards that serve as the framework for estimations, and to improve bench mark year estimates that are conducted every five years, in principle, which decisively influence accuracy. In the current state, there is not enough consistency between bench mark year estimates and input-output tables (master tables), and further reviews regarding ideals for coordination with economic structure statistics, for which there are expectations as important primary statistics, are necessary. In addition to this, it is necessary to make improvements to the estimation methods for annual estimates and quarterly estimates, and to strengthen the relationship with primary statistics, which have not yielded sufficient results up until now.

- b) Orientation of approaches

With regard to coordination with input-output tables (master tables) for improving bench mark year estimates, both the party producing National Accounts and the party producing input-output tables (master tables) will stand on a common foundation and ensure consistency. In addition, in order to improve the accuracy of input-output tables (master tables), further accurate methods for comprehending the production structure and intermediary input structure will be reviewed.

With regard to annual estimates, the improvement of accuracy will be promoted by making estimations so that the three aspects of expenditure, production, and income become consistent with each other. In addition, with regard to the commodity-flow method, which supports estimations from the aspect of spending, reexaminations pertaining to the structure of estimation methods, including issues related to its basic statistics, will be conducted.

To improve quarterly estimates, in addition to implementing factor analyses of the revision width relating to National Accounts (revision studies) as a premise for such improvements, reviews, etc. relating to the selection of basic statistics used in estimates will also be carried out. In particular, approaches will be made toward the development of statistics for enhancing consumption estimates based on expansion, etc. of the Survey of Household Economy, the development of statistics for improving the accuracy of estimates of compensation of employees, and accurate comprehension of government expenditures.

In addition, with regard to compliance with international standards, the measuring of our account software, classification standards for the public sector, and FISIM⁴ can be cited as those that require prompt responses.

(2) Construction and utilization of a business register

a) Current state, issues, etc.

In addition to providing population information for various statistical surveys, the objective of business registers⁵ is to produce new statistics based on registration of the results from various statistical surveys and administrative record information.

The development of population information that has been accurately updated is essential in producing highly accurate primary statistics using limited statistical resources. The main sources of information behind business registers are the results of various statistical surveys that center on economic censuses and administrative record information. Since the population information provided by business registers serves as information for lists used in economic censuses, in order to appropriately and efficiently implement economic censuses, it is necessary to comprehend information on changes such as regarding the establishment, abolition, etc. of establishments and enterprises on a timely basis, and to routinely develop and update population information.

Business registers can be used in the production of effective statistics if, in addition to registering the results of various complete surveys, such as economic censuses, it becomes possible to use various administrative record information by associating such information with an identification number for establishments and enterprises.

b) Orientation of approaches

⁴ Refers to financial intermediation services indirectly measured

⁵ Refers to the “establishment frame database (collection of information concerning establishments that is systematically organized so that information may be retrieved using computers)” as specified in Article 2 (8) of the Statistics Act.

To accurately develop population information, the Economic Census for Business Frame, from which attribute information relating to business establishments and the parent-child relationship, etc. of corporations can be accurately comprehended, will be implemented in FY2014, which is the intermediate year of the Economic Census for Business Activity. In developing population information of business corporations using registered information, the accuracy of maintaining and updating population will be improved through referring to information such as the industry name, number of employees, number of business establishments, etc. that cannot be comprehended through registered information by using a method of enclosing stamped postcards/envelopes for responses. Furthermore, with regard to the use of administrative record information, the maintenance and renewal of business registries using notifications regarding the establishment of a business establishment covered under employment insurance and reports of the establishment of a labor insurance relationship will be reviewed.

At the same time, with regard to usage based on coordination between business registries and various statistical surveys or administrative record information, reviews will also be conducted on incorporating EDINET⁶ information and information on corporate applicants for industrial property rights into business registries. Reviews on trade-related information regarding how such information can be useful will also be initiated.

(3) Development of statistics that comprehensively represent welfare and social security as a whole

a) Current state, issues, etc.

With regard to money and services that are paid to citizens throughout the year through systems for social security and social welfare, etc. such as pension, medical care, and welfare, the total amounts and amounts that are added up according to function, such as measures for the elderly and healthcare, are published every year as the Cost of Social Security. In Japan, in which a declining birthrate and an aging population are rapidly advancing, the issue of welfare and social security is a large concern for the public, and the importance of statistics that comprehensively represent welfare and social security is increasing.

However, from the perspective of comparisons with statistics of various foreign countries, it has been indicated that although there is compliance with the standards of the International Labour Organization (ILO), international comparisons cannot be sufficiently carried out based only on these standards, and also that it is necessary to increase consistency with National Accounts data pertaining to the same items.

b) Orientation of approaches

The Cost of Social Security will be oriented as an indicator that comprehensively represents welfare and social security as a whole, and reviews will be conducted on increasing consistency with statistics based on various international standards, including National Accounts, from the perspective of improving comparability with statistics of various foreign countries.

⁶ Electronic Disclosure for Investors' NETwork, an electronic disclosure system relating to disclosure documents such as annual securities reports, based on the Securities and Exchange Law (Law No. 25 of 1948)

(4) Increased international comparability of statistics concerning medical costs

a) Current state, issues, etc.

Under the universal health care insurance system, medical care in Japan has maintained high standards, and the average life expectancy is of the highest level in the world. Statistics relating to medical care expenditure that are financed from this public health care insurance system have been developed since 1954 as one of the most important indicators for medical economics.

At the same time, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has developed System of Health Accounts (SHA), which include expenses for services related to health and prevention that are not covered under health care insurance, the administration of the healthcare system, capital investments, etc., as a framework for collecting international data, and is gathering and providing data on international comparisons of macro healthcare spending estimates. Even in Japan, against the backdrop of the progression of an aging society, the necessity of developing internationally comparable statistics concerning healthcare spending estimates, including expenses for health and prevention services that are not covered under health care insurance, and past estimates of medical expenditures pertaining to the public medical insurance system has been pointed out, based on increased interest in health and medical expenditures by the public, and a shift to measures that emphasize disease prevention and health management.

b) Orientation of approaches

Based on the conditions described above, reviews will be conducted on orienting statistics that enable medical expenditures for entire sectors, such as healthcare, to be apprehended in a macro perspective (healthcare spending estimates based on the OECD's SHA method) as official statistics, based on the view of systematically developing and increasing international comparability of statistics related to medical expenditures.

(5) Development of finance statistics

a) Current state, issues, etc.

In a state where there are enormous government debts, the development of finance statistics that accurately reflect the scale of the government sector and the status of activities is an important issue. Many of the statistics for the finance sector consist of fiscal year data, and as a result, do not sufficiently support the need for data in units of months or quarters, such as preliminary quarterly estimates of GDP (gross domestic product), etc.; there are also expectations for earlier announcement of preliminary figures.

Although there are requests from international agencies such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and OECD to produce and develop finance statistics that are internationally comparable, sufficient responses have not been taken in Japan as of yet.

b) Orientation of approaches

To develop quarterly and monthly financial statistics, it becomes necessary to comprehend the state of execution of the public works budget and the compensation of public officials. As a

result, a review will also be conducted on this together with a review on issues related to quarterly estimates of National Accounts.

With regard to government finance statistics that are internationally comparable, approaches will be made toward estimates and announcement of major items.

(6) Development of stock statistics

a) Current state, issues, etc.

With regard to stock statistics such as national balance sheets and Gross Capital Stock of Private Enterprises, the necessity for improvements in the current estimation methods has been pointed out, as the National Wealth Survey, which was last implemented in 1970, is no longer conducted. Consequently, in recent years, the OECD has significantly revised standard methods related to the measurement of capital, but it has been indicated that in Japan, it is difficult to make international comparisons of stock statistics, since approaches toward the OECD revisions are insufficient. As a result, it is necessary to fundamentally reconstruct estimation methods and to develop the required basic statistics.

b) Orientation of approaches

With regard to capital stock, flows (investment amounts) and consistent statistics will be systematically developed based on standard methods focusing on the perpetual inventory method, and estimations by asset and industry will be implemented. In addition to reexamining existing primary statistics so that the capital investment structure can be comprehended in a further detailed manner, research and studies regarding the comprehension of distributions for retirement and amortization by capital that includes the use of private sector data and administrative record information, etc. will be implemented. Estimates based on physical approach methods, etc. will be used as methods for supplementing the perpetual inventory method, and the accuracy of such estimates will be compared mutually.

(7) Establishment of statistical standards

a) Current state, issues, etc.

In the Statistics Act, statistical standards are defined as “technical standards for ensuring uniformity and comprehensiveness in producing official statistics.” Uniformity and comprehensiveness among statistics are ensured by using statistical standards and in addition to direct results such as increased comparability of statistics both domestically and internationally, results such as the elimination of arbitrariness in individual statistics and the ensuring of objectivity can also be anticipated.

b) Orientation of approaches

From the above kind of perspective of increasing comparability and securing objectivity, current standards that will continue being necessary, such as the Japan Standard Industrial Classification and the Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, will be established as statistical standards as specified in the Statistics Act. Reviews will also be conducted on candidate statistical standards that are to be newly adopted regarding whether they should be established as standards as well as their contents. In establishing and revising

statistical standards such as the Japan Standard Industrial Classification, consistency with various international standards will also be taken into consideration, from the perspective of increasing international comparability.

When establishing statistical standards, the matters that should be kept in mind by each office and ministry, etc. when applying the standards will be established as “operating standards” in public notifications prescribing the statistical standards, based on the past operating performance, etc., of each standard. In addition, for statistical standards that are publicly notified, reviews will be conducted on the necessity of revising the applicable standard approximately five years after it is established or revised, taking into consideration environmental changes, etc. in the economy and society, and a conclusion that includes whether or not the standard should be reexamined will be obtained.

3 Matters related to the development of statistics that correspond to changes in social and policy needs

(1) Development of statistics pertaining to service activities

a) Current state, issues, etc.

The development of the trend in the economy towards services has been one of the largest changes over the past 60 years, but with regard to the service industry, which accounts for 70% of the GDP now, it has been pointed out that there is insufficient development of statistics for clarifying the activities in the industry and for appropriately comprehending the industry from the aspects of both quality and quantity. It has been indicated for some time now that due to statistics related to service activities, which extend over the jurisdiction of several offices and ministries, being developed in the form of a “mosaic” pattern for each individual industry under decentralized statistical system, the manner in which such statistics are developed is a problem. With this kind of problem consciousness, the development of statistics related to service activities has been specified repeatedly, such as through repeated Cabinet decisions, etc. including the “2005 Basic Policies for Economic and Fiscal Management and Structural Reform” (Cabinet Decision of June 21, 2005), and “2006 Basic Policies for Economic and Fiscal Management and Structural Reform” (Cabinet decision of July 7, 2006).

With this kind of situation as the background, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications initiated the Monthly Survey on Service Industry, which extensively surveys sales, etc. in the service industry on a monthly basis, in July 2008, with the purpose of contributing to improvements, etc. in the accuracy of various economic statistics, including quarterly GDP reports. In addition, it is also expected for the economic structure statistics that were newly created in 2008 to contribute greatly to the comprehension of the overall state of the service industry.

b) Orientation of approaches

Although there has been steady progress in the development of statistics related to service activities as described above, further promotion is necessary in the future. As a result, in this Master Plan, approaches will be made by focusing on the following four points, out of all of the many issues related to statistics on service activities. The first point is the development of

statistics related to information and communications services, as it is necessary to exhaustively comprehend the actual state of sophisticated information and communications services by producing new statistics that eliminate barriers among the office and ministries. The second point is the development of statistics related to intellectual property activities, as enhancement and advanced use of statistics related to intellectual property activities are indispensable to Japan in its quest to become a technology-oriented nation. The third point is conducting reviews in order to appropriately apprehend service activities, as research on service activities, which are difficult to measure in terms of the production volume and prices, that are directed towards the production of desirable statistics in the future is necessary. The fourth point is reviews on the development of statistics relating to corporate service activities, as statistics that clarify the conditions, etc. of external outsourcing and service activities within the enterprise and within the company group are important amidst the diversification of enterprise structures.

In addition to steadily responding to these issues, long-term approaches will also be made in the future for other issues oriented toward the development of statistics related to service activities.

(2) Development of statistics that correspond to the advancement of a low birthrate and aging population, etc. and to the balance between work and life, etc.

a) Current state, issues, etc.

Approaches toward the low birthrate and aging population, etc. are one of the most important issues in Japan. Above all, the key to simultaneously achieving the “realization of labor market participation by young people, women, and the elderly” and the “realization of marriage and childbirth/child-rearing that citizens desire” is considered as being a solution based on an either-or structure between work and marriage or childbirth/child-rearing. As a result, an environment where it is easy for people, especially women, who are in the stage for marriage, childbirth, and child-rearing to work and also become married, have children, or raise children at the same time, that takes the balance between work and life into consideration, is strongly desired. In order to carry out objective reviews regarding such approaches in response to the low birthrate and aging population, etc., the development of statistics that serve as a foundation is essential.

b) Orientation of approaches

Consequently, while taking the philosophy of gender equality into consideration, reviews will be conducted in the future particularly on (1) comprehension of data directly related to low birthrates, such as regarding marital status, the timing for marriage, number of children, etc., based on large-scale sampling surveys, and (2) the development of relevant, timely, and accurate statistics for conducting further detailed analysis of the relationships among work, marriage, childbirth, raising children, long-term care, etc., from the perspective of accurately apprehending the actual situation concerning the development of an environment where people can continue to work while raising children, after getting married and having children.

(3) Development of statistics that correspond to changes in the way of life

a) Current state, issues, etc.

Based on a background of changes in the population and society, as represented by a trend towards a low birthrate and aging population, nuclear families, non-marriage, and late marriage, household structure have become diverse, as demonstrated by an increase in the number of single-person households and households without children in particular, as well as a decrease in the number of “standard households” (households consisting of parents and two children). In addition, it has also been pointed out that it has become difficult to apprehend domestic finances for households as a whole, as there has been a trend towards individually-managed domestic finances due to increases in dual-income households and “parasite singles.”

In addition, the environment for statistical surveys has also been changing significantly, as seen by increased awareness of the protection of personal information, and an increase in the number of households with no one home in the daytime associated with increases in the number of dual-income households, single-person households, etc., and surveys related to household incomes and expenditures adopt a method where there is a strong sense of burden on the survey subjects. As a result, it has also been pointed out that there is a high necessity to respond to these kinds of environmental changes.

b) Orientation of approaches

Reviews will be conducted on adopting a monitor method and on comprehending the conditions of the trend toward individually-managed finances in a more accurate manner that is not limited to units of households in statistical surveys related to household finances and individual consumption.

(4) Development of statistics that correspond to changes, etc. in education

a) Current state, issues, etc.

Due to changes in the environment surrounding children, problems relating to children’s minds and bodies, including their mental health, have become aggravated, as represented by issues such as acts of violence, bullying, and truancy, and an increase in harmful information and the danger of being caught up in crimes, etc., associated with the popularization of the Internet, mobile phones, etc. Although a structural change in financial contributions by the government to the management of compulsory education, etc. have allowed for flexible responses according to the conditions at educational sites, such as the substitution of full-time teachers with part-time instructors, etc., there have been concerns regarding the impact that such responses have on the functions of school education, and the conditions surrounding school education have changed greatly in recent years.

Furthermore, the functional aspect of education is originally supposed to be multifaceted, and it has been indicated that it is important to comprehend this functional aspect in a more comprehensive manner, including the effects, etc., that education has on social living, employment, and labor. In particular, when thinking about the problem of young labor, such as of NEETs and *freeters*, the development of accurate statistics is necessary.

b) Orientation of approaches

In order to accurately respond to these kinds of changes in school education, reviews will be conducted on the improvement of statistics related to school education.

In addition, from the perspective of fully comprehending the functions of education, reviews will be carried out on the development, etc. of relevant statistics that make analyses of the relationship between social living and employment/labor and education possible.

(5) Phased development of statistics related to the environment

a) Current state, issues, etc.

Global environmental problems are the most important issue not only in Japan, but all across the world. The public has become increasingly concerned with various environmental issues, both domestic and international, as demonstrated by climate changes becoming a national, important concern, including its relationship with an increase in abnormal weather associated with the progression of global warming in recent years. Under such circumstances, the development of statistics related to the environment has become a pressing issue.

b) Orientation of approaches

As there are many fields in which environment-related statistics should be developed, approaches will be made toward the issue of greenhouses gases and the comprehension of waste/byproducts, with a focus on items from which the necessary information can be obtained through using and improving existing statistics for relevant fields. With regard to the issue of greenhouse gases, which is considered as being particularly important, factor analysis and estimation of the amount of carbon dioxide emissions that result from the consumption of fossil energy in economic activities is the most important field, and statistics that enable accurate comprehension of the amount of carbon dioxide in the industrial sector, business sector, household sector, and transport sector will developed.

(6) Development of statistics related to tourism

a) Current state, issues, etc.

Statistics related to tourism are important for executing the “promotion of Japan tourism” presented in the “2007 Basic Policy for Economic and Financial Reform” (approved by the Cabinet on June 19, 2007). In the “Basic Plan to Promote Japan Tourism” (approved by the Cabinet on June 29, 2007), the development of tourism-related statistics by FY2010 is prescribed.

In addition, as demonstrated by the adoption of the “Recommendations on Tourism Statistics 2008” by the United Nations Statistical Commission, appropriate production and development of tourism statistics are sought after even from an international standpoint. Tourism-related statistics are produced by individual entities in both the public and private sectors for various purposes, and since they are fragmentary, there are many issues in using them comprehensively.

b) Orientation of approaches

In addition to enhancing major tourism statistics such as the Survey on Travel and Tourism Consumption and the Statistical Survey on Overnight Travel, uniform criteria for prefectural tourism statistics will be created.

From the perspective of creating tourism statistics in a manner that would enable international comparisons, full-fledged production and publication of tourism satellite accounts that were introduced in the 93SNA⁷ will be carried out.

(7) Development of statistics that correspond to the expansion of globalization

a) Current state, issues, etc.

The expansion of globalization in economics has accelerated over the past few years, due in part to the prosperity of the economies of emerging countries. Under such circumstances, the globalization of activities by Japanese corporations has also been steadily advancing.

The number of registered foreigners living in Japan has exceeded two million people, and it has also been pointed out that foreigners are workers who are indispensable to their local regions, and there is also an increasing trend in such foreigners settling down in Japan with their families.

The importance of comprehending these kinds of trends in an accurate and timely manner is increasing.

b) Orientation of approaches

First of all, with regard to the development of statistics that correspond to the expansion of globalization, reviews will be conducted on the possibility of advanced use of trade-related information that focuses on combining existing statistical surveys with administrative record information related to corporate trade transactions. When doing so, it will be kept in mind that advanced use of such information should not result in large interferences with the smooth implementation of administrative procedures, and that it should be guaranteed that there will be no discrimination of individual corporate information.

To comprehend the business activities of overseas subsidiaries in a more accurate manner, the enhancement of population information related to overseas subsidiaries will also be promoted.

In addition, to appropriately provide various administrative services to foreigners residing in Japan, reviews will also be conducted on basic statistics concerning foreign residents, based on the conditions of reviews on a resident register system for legal foreign residents.

(8) Development of labor statistics that correspond to changes in corporate activities and the diversification in the ways of working, etc.

a) Current state, issues, etc.

⁷ Refers to the System of National Accounts, which is a standard for National Accounts, that was adopted by the UN Statistical Commission in 1993.

Together with the changes in the times, the labor market is also transforming greatly, and there the ways of working are diversifying, as demonstrated by the percentage of non-regular employees exceeding 30 percent. The percentage of people who change jobs is also increasing, and there is also diversification of the means for finding work, indicating that there are large changes in labor movement.

However, with the current labor statistics, it has been pointed out that it is impossible to sufficiently comprehend the actual state of the labor market, and improvements are necessary.

b) Orientation of approaches

Statistics that enable unified comprehension of the actual state of non-regular employment, which has continued to expand in recent years, including on the employment pattern, work contents, working hours, etc., will be developed. In particular, approaches will be made toward implementing statistical surveys that allow for continued comprehension of the actual condition of non-regular employment at a frequency of at least once a year.

To comprehend the impacts caused by the new establishment and abolition of business sites on the increase and decrease of employment, indicators for job creation and elimination, which have already been developed in various foreign countries, will also be developed in Japan.

3. Matters Necessary for Promoting the Development of Official Statistics

Among the matters described in Section 1 under “3 Basic perspectives in expanding measures,” the matters necessary for promoting development of statistical environments from the perspectives of “efficient production of statistics, and securing and making effective use of statistical resources,” “approaches toward environmental changes in the economy and society,” and “promotion of effective use of statistical data” are as follows.

1 Efficient production of statistics

(1) Use of administrative record information, etc.

a) Current state and issues, etc.

The use of administrative record information, etc. in statistical surveys is extremely effective in handling changes in the statistical survey environment in recent years, maintaining and improving statistical accuracy, alleviating the burden that is placed on respondents, and simplifying and streamlining production of statistics. In particular, due to the environment surrounding statistical surveys becoming increasingly harsh with increasing difficulties in obtaining cooperation from citizens and corporations for statistical surveys in recent years and the aging of enumerators, streamlining operations based on making use of administrative record information, etc. has become an extremely important issue.

In various foreign countries, administrative record information, etc. is broadly used in producing statistics. In Japan, however, there are extremely few examples of the use of administrative record information, etc. possessed by other administrative organs, etc. being used. The reason behind this is that the majority of administrative record information, etc. is considered as being information that is gathered in the process for permit approvals, notifications, etc. by various administrative organs, etc., and there are concerns by agencies that possess administrative record information, etc. (hereinafter referred to as “retaining agencies”) that the use of gathered information for purposes other than the original purpose will ultimately result in hindrances to operations for gathering information, since it is impossible to obtain understanding and cooperation from individuals and corporations from which the information was collected regarding the use of such information for other purposes.

With this kind of background, a new legal mechanism for promoting the use of administrative record information in the production of statistics was developed in the Statistics Act.

In the future, it is necessary for agencies producing statistics to concretely survey what kinds of administrative record information, etc. can be used in the statistical surveys that are under their jurisdiction, and to actively use administrative record information, etc., including making use of requests for provision of administrative record information as specified in the Statistics Act. In addition to effectively using administrative record information, etc., it is also necessary to make efforts to obtain sufficient understanding from citizens regarding safety, such as by ensuring that there will be no leakage of individual or corporate information even if administrative record information, etc. is used in the production of statistics.

b) Orientation of approaches

With regard to statistical surveys for which the use of administrative record information, etc. was recognized as being effective in deliberations regarding the Master Plan by the Statistical Commission as well as statistics that were considered as requiring reviews on the use of administrative record information, etc. as a “future issue” in reports by the Statistical Commission, concrete work oriented towards actively using administrative record information, etc., and reviews directed to resolving issues will be implemented promptly.

In addition, to promote the use of administrative record information, etc. in the future, when formulating execution plans for statistical surveys, preliminary surveys and reviews will be conducted principally as to whether there is administrative record information, etc. that can be used in developing the applicable statistics.

Furthermore, if a rational reason, such as restrictions based on special specifications in a law, including the guarantee of confidentiality, lies behind the difficulty of obtaining administrative record information, etc. from retaining agencies, as an alternate measure, retaining agencies will produce tables principally based on the pattern of “order-made tabulation” in accordance with requests from the agency producing the statistics, with the agency producing the statistics being responsible, in principle, for expenses, etc.

Cooperation from retaining agencies is indispensable in conducting concrete reviews for realizing the use of administrative record information, etc. As a result, in order to eliminate the concerns of retaining agencies regarding hindrances in operations for gathering administrative record information, etc., the relevant office and ministries will review concrete measures for obtaining the public’s sufficient understanding of the effectiveness of using administrative record information, etc. in the production of statistics, and of safety such as no discrimination of individual information concerning individuals or corporations even if administrative record information, etc. is used in producing statistics, and will implement such measures as quickly as possible.

(2) Use of private enterprises

a) Current state and issues, etc.

Under the harsh financial condition of recent years, in order to accurately respond to new needs concerning the production of statistics, the active and effective use of private enterprises is necessary now more than ever. At the same time, when using private enterprises, it is necessary to keep in mind that the maintenance and improvement of the quality of the statistics, the protection of confidentiality by the respondents, the guarantee of reliability, etc. are premises, that the ultimate responsibility for the production of official statistics lies in the entity producing the statistics, and that for critical statistical surveys that are carried out by the national government, it is appropriate for the national government itself to carry out core operations such as for establishing plans.

It is also necessary to develop an environment where private enterprises can be used further appropriately and effectively, and to continuously comprehend the performance ability of

private enterprises that can be improved in the future through the creation of new business categories as well as originality and ingenuity.

b) Orientation of approaches

Private enterprises will be actively used for operations where private enterprises possess superior know-how and resources, such as on-site investigation operations based on mail correspondence, operations that are supported through questioning.

At the same time, with regard to on-site investigation operations based on enumerators, the actual state of the method in which enterprises secure investigators, the capabilities and experience of enumerators, the system for guiding and managing enumerators, will be accurately comprehended and the possibility of making use of such operations will be thoroughly reviewed, taking the performance ability of private enterprises as of the current point in time into consideration.

In particular, the following surveys will be reviewed carefully and thoroughly, since a decrease in the accuracy of their results will result in large hindrances in the accuracy of the statistics of the national government as a whole and in the management of national politics.

- (1) Surveys conducted for the purpose of providing population for many statistical surveys implemented by the national government (Population Census, economic census)
- (2) Surveys (Census of Agriculture and Forestry, Comprehensive Survey of Living Condition of the People on Health and Welfare, etc.) conducted for the purpose of providing population information for statistical surveys (sampling surveys) conducted by the national government relating to certain administrative sectors (industrial fields corresponding to the large sections for the Japan Standardized Industrial Classification, etc.) or lifestyle sectors
- (3) Surveys that are reported regularly to the Cabinet, and of which the results are used as critical basic materials for economic and fiscal management by the government (Labour Force Survey, Retail Price Survey, etc.)

In addition to promoting development of environments such as for revising the “Guidelines Concerning Private Entrustment of Statistical Surveys” (undertaken at a conference among director-generals and directors of the main statistics departments of the office and ministries held on March 31, 2005; revised on May 30, 2007) based on the perspective of using private enterprises more appropriately and effectively, the performance ability of private enterprises will be continuously comprehended, and reexaminations on the ideal way in which they should be used will be conducted arbitrarily.

2 Securing and making effective use of statistical resources

(1) Ideals for securing and allocating statistical resources, and effective use of statistical resources

- a) Current state, issues, etc.
 - i) Current state and issues regarding statistical resources necessary for the development of official statistics

In Japan, which has adopted decentralized statistical system, each office and ministry secures the necessary statistical resources within their respective budgets and personnel capacity, but the priority of their allocation toward statistics departments was not necessarily high within each office and ministry.

Based on the above kind of circumstances, the office and ministries have thoroughly promoted rationalization based on implementing mechanization, effective use of private enterprises. As a result, with regard to statistics-related budgets, the average amount for the five years up until FY2007 was approximately 45 billion yen, indicating an approximately 10 percent decrease as compared to the preceding five-year period, and the number of personnel in charge of statistics at each office and ministry has also decreased from less than 19,000 people in FY1967 to less than 5,000 people in FY2007, representing an approximately 74% decrease.

At the same time, the economy and society are becoming more complex and advanced, and the level of demands for official statistics as critical information that serves as the foundation for implementing rational decision-making has been increasing, both in terms of quality and quantity. In addition to maintaining and improving the quality of statistics, improvements in statistics for sectors that have stagnated as viewed from an international perspective, and approaches toward the development of new statistics are also issues for the future.

For example, in National Accounts for Japan, there are few series for quarterly estimates such as production approach figures as compared to various foreign countries, and a lack of enhancement of figures that contribute to productivity analysis, resulting in issues regarding the comprehension of changes in economic structures. Issues such as a lack of balance among production, income, and expenditure, or the so-called equivalent of three aspects, in annual estimates, and a discrepancy of several trillion yen in production approach and expenditure approach estimates in GDP have yet to be resolved. Furthermore, there is no appropriate coordination with primary statistics, etc., and it is evident that active approaches have not been made on the National Accounts side in the development of economic statistics.

In order to resolve these issues in a steady manner, and to continue producing highly accurate statistics, it is essential to secure the necessary statistical resources, including the aspect of system development for estimations. However, it has been pointed out that in Japan, “resources for creating National Accounts” have “largely failed to fulfill standards” in “Japan: Report on the Observance of Standards and Codes (ROSC) – Data Module (2006)” published by the IMF in FY2006, and in this regard, the conditions in Japan are significantly weak from an international perspective (there are approximately 50 people in Japan who are engaged in the creation of National Accounts, but approximately 100 to 200 people in other advanced countries). With respect to the quality of human resources as well, it has been indicated that although advanced expertise is sought after, the necessary experts

have not been cultivated due to frequent personnel transfers, and it is thus necessary to secure statistical resources that are equal to those of various foreign countries.

- ii) Necessity of approaches toward ensuring the reliability of statistics, and developing and providing new statistics

The national government is responsible for producing the statistics that are necessary as an information structure that supports the development of society; delays in the publication of statistics and decreases in quality are unacceptable.

In systematically developing statistics in the future, it is necessary to progress with developing statistics that enable comprehensive apprehension of overall industries, as well as statistics for emerging business fields and fields that extend over the jurisdiction of each office and ministry.

Furthermore, it is also necessary to accurately respond to the needs for developing and providing new statistics, such as by promoting the creation and provision of anonymized data and order-made tabulations as described below in 4 (1) of Section 3.

Based on the recognition that the provision of necessary statistics as an information structure for society is one of the fundamental duties of the national government, it is necessary to secure and effectively use statistical resources that enable the national government to be responsible in providing statistics that are suitable as an information infrastructure for society.

- b) Orientation of approaches

Based on the perspective of the national government being responsible in systematically developing statistics that accurately correspond to the changes in the times and to social needs, and providing statistics that are suitable as an information structure for society based on this Master Plan, maximum efforts will be made toward securing and effectively using the necessary resources. In particular, to steadily resolve issues related to National Accounts, efforts will be made to secure statistical resources that are equivalent to those of various foreign countries in terms of both quality and quantity.

In producing statistics that accurately respond to urgent needs and implementing Fundamental Statistics surveys that are cross-sectoral with respect to the office and ministries, reviews will be conducted on measures for the effective use of statistical resources.

To promote the securing and effective use of statistical resources, the coordination of the national government as a whole will be promoted, such as through the sharing of information related to the state of approaches by each office and ministry.

(2) Functional maintenance of the on-site investigation system (full-time statistics personnel of prefectures, etc.), coordination between the national government and local public entities

- a) Current state, issues, etc.

i) Current state of and issues regarding the on-site investigation system

In addition to playing a role in promoting the development and provision of statistics by local public entities, the statistics departments of local public entities also take on an important role in the Fundamental Statistical Surveys implemented by the national government. The system of statistical surveys by the national government conducted through the statistical departments of local public entities fulfills an important role in establishing an infrastructure for statistical surveys in Japan, based on the perspective that verity and uniformity of statistics can be secured when implementing large-scale statistical surveys. Surveys conducted by enumerators are advantageous in that such surveys increase the collection rate of questionnaires as well as the accuracy of the contents that filled out on the questionnaires, and are thus considered as contributing greatly to ensuring accuracy of the contents of statistics and the certainty of statistical surveys.

However, the following kinds of issues have arisen, and their resolution is desired.

- (1) In line with the promotion of local administrative and fiscal reforms and the expansion of municipal mergers, there have been broad reductions in the number of personnel in major statistics divisions of prefectures and statistics-related personnel of municipalities.
- (2) Although the amount of work for statistical surveys fluctuates greatly depending on the implementation period of large-scale, periodic surveys, it is often the case that in municipalities that are in charge of the site at which on-site investigations are conducted, the statistics division/section handles both work that is related to statistical surveys and other work, and as a result, it is difficult to secure the needed personnel when the survey implementation period overlaps with a period during which the division/section is busy with other work. Thus, the equalization of the amount of work is a large issue.
- (3) In accordance with an increase in the average age of full-time statistical personnel, there is a gap between the actual state of expenses for commission of affairs for statistical surveys granted to local public entities by the national government⁸ and the standard unit price. As a result, in addition to an increase in the burdens of prefectures, there is also an increase in the allocation of reappointed short-time personnel falling outside of the bylaw for the fixed number of personnel, who are not applicable to the grant for expenses for commission mentioned above.
- (4) With regard to enumerators, there have been deficiencies both in terms of quality and quantity, in accordance with changes in survey environments such as a decrease in the cooperation consciousness of respondents due to aging and increased awareness of personal information protection. It has become difficult to secure enumerators, especially in large cities.

⁸ Expenses for commission granted by the national government for developing and maintaining the personnel necessary to implement statistical surveys entrusted to prefectures

In addition, local branch bureaus and departments of the national government are also in charge of affairs for on-site investigations for statistical surveys and play an important role in the production of official statistics; among such statistical surveys, there are those that require specialized and technical know-how. At the same time, with regard to affairs pertaining to statistical surveys implemented by these local branch bureaus and departments of the national government, reviews on streamlining operations through the expansion of private consignment and the transfer of on-site investigation affairs to local public entities as part of a reexamination of the local agencies of the national government under decentralization reforms are sought after. When conducting such reviews, it is necessary to make considerations so that the systematic development of statistics that correspond to the needs and the ensuring of reliability of official statistics, which are the aims of this Master Plan, are not affected.

ii) Necessity of coordination between the national government and local public entities

In the Statistics Act, the systematic development of official statistics through mutual cooperation and the appropriate sharing of roles among administrative organs. is specified as one of the fundamental principles of the Act. Many of the official statistics produced by the national government are used widely by both the national government and local public entities, and in developing such statistics, it is necessary to take not only the perspective of the entire country into consideration, but that of the local region as well. In addition to using official statistics produced by the national government, local public entities also possess a function for providing information to residents, and in widespread popularization of statistics, it is thus necessary to further deepen cooperation between the national government and local public entities while keeping this point in mind.

As many of the affairs carried out by local public entities that are related to Fundamental Statistical Surveys are specified as legally delegated affairs, local public entities play an important role in the production of Fundamental Statistics, and in addition, the results of Fundamental Statistical Surveys are very important in administrative management by local public entities. As a result, it is necessary and indispensable for the national government and local public entities to make efforts in cooperation with each other when developing Fundamental Statistics, through mutual cooperation and the appropriate sharing of roles, and under the premise that Fundamental Statistics are to be created based on the responsibility of the national government.

b) Orientation of approaches

Fundamental Statistics will be systematically developed through mutual cooperation between the national government and local public entities, under the premise that they will be produced based on the responsibility of the national government.

In order to coordinate with local public entities and maintain the functions of the on-site inspection system, multilateral measures, such as the reexamination of statistical surveys via local public entities, the equalization of the amount of work, streamlining survey operations,

will be implemented systematically, and reviews will also be conducted on the reexamination of operation of the system, including on the actual state of the expenses for commission of affairs for statistical surveys granted to local public entities by the national government and the system of enumerators.

Furthermore, to promote the development and use of statistics from the perspective of local regions, efforts will be made toward comprehending the wide spectrum of statistical needs and toward improvements, such as by enhancing the representation of statistical survey results by region. Support will also be given to activities by local public entities for usage and popularization of statistics.

If reviews are to be conducted on the transfer of operations for on-site inspections implemented by local branch bureaus and departments of the national government to local public entities in accordance with the promotion of decentralization reform, it is necessary to appropriately establish measures regarding the securing of impartiality, fairness, and national uniformity desired of statistics, and the transfer of personnel who possess specialized and technical know-how necessary for maintaining the quality of official statistics to local public entities as a premise for such reviews, taking into consideration deliberations by the Statistical Commission as well. In reviewing the ideal way of implementing such transfers, it will be sufficiently kept in mind that approaches must be made while discerning the state of development of the above kinds of measures.

(3) Cultivating and securing human resources such as statistical personnel

a) Current state, issues, etc.

In producing official statistics, it is important to sufficiently exhibit the expertise of personnel involved in their production. In order for Japan to actively contribute to approaches such as international standardization of statistics, it is essential to cultivate and secure human resources who can conduct discussions on the same level as statistical experts of various foreign countries.

However, since it is generally not the case that personnel transfers in each office and ministry are limited to within a specific bureau or department, it is difficult to cultivate core personnel⁹ through only statistics bureaus and departments. In addition, there are also cases where it is difficult to implement statistical training, etc. according to the office or ministry due to the aspect of organizational structures, etc. Local public entities are also very busy with daily business, and as a result, participation in long-term training, etc. held by the national government is difficult.

Consequently, from the perspective of cultivating and securing highly specialized human resources in the organization that produces statistics in Japan as a whole, it has become necessary to improve the capabilities of personnel by implementing personnel transfers, personnel exchanges, training programs, etc. that are conscious of the cultivation of human resources now more than ever.

⁹ Refers to personnel who have spent much of the number of years that they have worked as a public servant engaging in statistics-related affairs.

b) Orientation of approaches

While establishing measures that center mainly on core personnel, such as formulating a policy regarding the cultivation of human resources, promoting personnel exchanges, using a new personnel evaluation system that is based on the Act on Partial Revision of the National Service Act (Act No. 108 of 2007), establishing cultivation targets, etc., a system where the appointment of personnel engaged in statistics, training for such personnel, etc. can be promoted systematically will be developed, such as by dispatching personnel to statistical government agencies overseas, based on the perspective of cultivating and securing human resources who can make contributions to international society.

3 Responses toward environmental changes in the economy and society

(1) Continuous comprehension and utilization of statistical needs

a) Current state, issues, etc.

From the perspective of developing and providing official statistics that accurately correspond to social needs and changes in the times, it has become necessary to comprehend the needs of those who use statistics, and to use this in improving official statistics, while keeping the following points in mind.

- 1) Efforts shall be made to produce and provide official statistics, under the recognition that the provision of official statistics that are necessary as an information infrastructure for society is one of the fundamental principles of the national government, while taking the perspective of users into consideration as well.
- 2) In comprehending the needs of those who use statistics, improvements shall be made in improving convenience for the users, such as by making use of information and communications technologies.
- 3) The Statistical Commission shall exchange opinions with statistics users as needed, and implement adjustments and reviews regarding the needs that are cross-sectoral across the office and ministries. The results of such exchanges of opinions, adjustments, and reviews shall be used in the development and provision of statistics by relevant offices and ministries and in reexaminations of the Master Plan, etc.

b) Orientation of approaches

Together with individual approaches that each office and ministry has been implementing since the past, in order to accurately comprehend statistical needs, the demands, etc. of statistics users will be broadly comprehended, opportunities for exchanging opinions with these users will be established, and the results will be reflected in development and improvement of statistics that are cross-sectoral across the office and ministries.

(2) Reexaminations and streamlining evaluations of statistics

a) Current state, issues, etc.

To accurately respond to the changes in the times and to social needs, and to produce and provide functionally superior statistics as an information infrastructure for society despite severe

restrictions on statistical resources caused by the progression of administrative and fiscal reforms in recent years, it is becoming necessary to continue promoting reexaminations of existing statistics and streamlining the method for producing statistics, even from the perspective of effectively using statistical resources.

In carrying out such reexaminations and rationalization, it has also become necessary to take heed of the perspectives of systematic development of statistics, alleviation of the burdens on respondents, maintenance and improvement of the quality of statistics, etc., as well as to carry out reviews that aim for optimization of official statistics as a whole, based on the results of objective evaluations.

b) Orientation of approaches

From the perspective of securing and increasing usefulness of official statistics, continued reexaminations of existing statistics and streamlining the methods for producing statistics will be promoted, while taking heed of the alleviation of burdens of reports and the maintenance and improvement of the quality of statistics, etc.

In conducting these reexaminations and rationalization, the results of self-evaluations and of objective evaluations relating to the quality of statistics will be utilized.

(3) Encouragement of the public's understanding of statistics

a) Current state, issues, etc.

Due to increased awareness of personal information protection and increased awareness of information management by corporations, it has become difficult in recent years to obtain cooperation in statistical surveys, and this is affecting the smooth implementation of statistics and statistical accuracy.

Amidst such conditions, it is important to have the public accurately understand that official statistics are a critical information infrastructure for reasonable decision-making by not only the national government and local public entities, but by individuals and corporations as well, and that cooperating with statistical surveys is linked to improvements in the living standards of the citizens and to improvements in administrative management, etc.

As a result, in addition to effectively implementing activities to publicize and raise awareness in order to request for cooperation in statistical surveys to individuals, corporations, etc., that are applicable to surveys, it is necessary to expand statistics education that emphasizes statistical literacy¹⁰ and statistical ethics¹¹ in each stage of education, from elementary school education to higher education.

b) Orientation of approaches

¹⁰ Refers to the ability to understand the usefulness of statistics and use statistical data.

¹¹ Refers to the consciousness and ethics necessary for understanding the importance of statistics, cooperating with statistical surveys, and appropriately using statistical data as well as anonymized data, etc. that is created based on statistical data.

Reviews will be made on concrete measures for carrying out activities for publicizing and raising awareness among individuals and corporations so that they can understand how the tabulated results, etc. of statistical surveys in which they had cooperated are valuable, or the disadvantages if they had not cooperated in statistical surveys and requests will be made to industry organizations, etc. in order to smoothly implement statistical surveys.

The enhancement of training for teachers, the provision of educational materials, etc. will also be appropriately carried out, so that teachers of elementary, junior high, and high schools can appropriately educate children and students on the usefulness of statistics and on the importance of cooperating in statistical surveys. For university students, working people, etc., activities such as information provision and lectures will be carried out to deepen their understanding and interest in statistics.

4 Promotion of effective use of statistical data

(1) Production and provision of tailor-made tabulations and anonymized data

a) Current state, issues, etc.

In various foreign countries, systems relating to the production and provision of tailor-made tabulations and anonymized data (hereinafter referred to as “secondary usage”) have been developed since the past, and such data is being used in academic research, etc. In Japan, however, the questionnaire information for official statistics that was gathered through statistical surveys has been, in principle, tabulated and published in the form of statistical tables predefined by agencies that produce the statistics. However, it has become impossible to sufficiently respond to the needs of users solely through this kind of usage pattern amidst the diversification and sophistication of needs regarding statistics.

Consequently, a new provision regarding secondary usage was added to the Statistics Act, and the system of secondary usage was developed.

At the same time, due to concrete needs not being clear at each office and ministry, it is difficult to secure sufficient statistical resources for making approaches to affairs pertaining to secondary usage. As there are strong expectations for statistics to contribute to academic research as well as further development of society through more advanced and diverse research and analysis carried out by researchers, etc., it has become necessary to appropriately implement the administration of affairs related to secondary usage while taking the protection of confidentiality into consideration.

b) Orientation of approaches

Based on the guidelines pertaining to secondary usage, the administration of affairs related to secondary usage will be initiated appropriately starting in FY2009, while taking the protection of confidentiality into consideration, and starting in FY2010, the statistical surveys and needs that are applicable to secondary usage will be sequentially expanded.

In addition, annual plans relating to secondary usage will be formulated and published at the beginning of each fiscal year, so that potential users of the secondary usage system can learn where they can receive what kind of services, for which kind of surveys.

Furthermore, as it is anticipated that depending on the office or ministry, there will be cases where the implementation of services for secondary usage by the office or ministry itself will be difficult, the necessary measures toward usage of incorporated administrative agencies, etc. to which all relevant work pertaining to the provision of anonymized data and order-made tabulations (hereinafter referred to as “agencies designated by a Cabinet order”) can be entrusted as based on Article 37 of the Statistics Act will be established.

(2) Development of a statistical data archive

a) Current state, issues, etc.

In various foreign countries, statistical data archives have been developed, and the convenience of the use of anonymized data etc. in academic research, etc. through such archives is being promoted. In Japan, however, reviews on measures for actively using questionnaire information have not necessarily been sufficient, and the management of questionnaire information stored at each office and ministry cannot be considered favorable in relation to active use of such information.

As active use of questionnaire information is sought after, it is desirable to review concrete measures promptly in the future, in heading towards the development of statistical data archives. Since the core users of such statistical data archives are universities and research institutes, it has become necessary to sufficiently coordinate with academic societies and universities in conducting reviews.

It is also necessary to start storing questionnaire information, etc. that serves as the basis of data accumulated in statistical data archives as promptly as possible.

b) Orientation of approaches

Based on the perspective of efficient and effective use of limited statistical resources, statistical data archives will fundamentally be consolidated to a single agency, and reviews will continue to be conducted on details such as the kind of functions this agency should possess, and whether questionnaire information should be accumulated, etc. In doing so, reviews on statistical data archives will be conducted by obtaining the cooperation of agencies designated by a Cabinet order, academic societies, etc.

In addition, guidelines for storage that is unified in terms of the national government as a whole of questionnaire information, etc. that serves as the basis for the data accumulated in statistical data archives will also be formulated.

5 Other

(1) Promotion of the sharing and provision of data among the office and ministries based on using Inter-Ministry Information System for Official Statistics

a) Current state, issues, etc.

Currently, various approaches for sharing statistical data are being carried out based on the “Plan for Operations and System Optimization of Statistical Survey Operations, etc.” (decision made at liaison meeting among chief information officers (CIO) of each office and ministry on March 31, 2006; hereinafter referred to as “Optimization Plan”), and since FY2008, full-fledged operation of Inter-Ministry Information System for Official Statistics (hereinafter referred to as “IMISOS”) has been initiated.

Promoting the sharing and provision of statistical data among each office and ministry is critical in efficiently producing statistical data, providing statistical data that is useful for the public in a timely manner, alleviating the burdens of respondents, etc.

b) Orientation of approaches

The sharing and provision of data among the office and ministries will be promoted by steadily implementing various approaches based on the time schedule for the Optimization Plan (from FY2006 to FY2010), and by achieving the objectives described in the Optimization Plan and fully exhibiting the effects of doing so.

In addition, as part of a follow-up based on the Optimization Plan, the various issues related to the Optimization Plan and IMISOS will be comprehended, taking into consideration requests from respondents, statistics users, and each office and ministry, the state of operation of IMISOS, the state of implementation of approaches for optimization, etc. Reexaminations of the Optimization Plan will also be conducted as necessary.

(2) Promotion of research and development (utilization of information and communications technology, etc.) and strengthening coordination with academic societies, etc.

a) Current state, issues, etc.

The production of statistics, planning of statistical surveys, and analysis of results require advanced expertise that does not exist in other administrative sectors. In particular, in the sector of processed statistics, it is extremely critical to promote research and development on a routine basis in order to maintain and further expand the quality of statistics, as there have been significant developments in the theories and technology in this sector in recent years.

However, due to restrictions in statistical resources, and the fact that systems and knowledge relating to such research and development are fragile, it is critical to make approaches in coordination with academic societies, universities, etc. that possess relevant knowledge.

b) Orientation of approaches

Based on the perspective of developing statistics with high reliability, in order to use the knowledge of experts to the fullest extent, mutual coordination between the office and ministries and academic societies, universities, etc. will be further strengthened.

For example, research and development on future estimates and secondary processing of statistics for realizing policy planning based on evidence that makes use of information and communications technology, research and development on methods for extracting various

statistical data from a diverse information sources, research and development on prompt provision of statistics, etc., will be implemented upon obtaining cooperation from academic societies, universities, etc., determining a concrete theme, and taking sufficient heed of protecting the confidentiality of individuals and corporations and securing reliability of statistical surveys.

(3) Impartiality of statistics

a) Current state, issues, etc.

The results of statistical surveys are affected by whether there is diligent cooperation by the public, and securing the trust of citizens in statistics is necessary and essential in producing superior statistics of high quality.

In particular, with regard to critical statistics where the published results have a large social impact, if the results of such statistics were to be leaked to the outside before their publication, or if suspicion were to arise regarding an intentional modification of the tabulation method, etc. to produce results that are advantageous to interested parties, the trust that citizens have in statistics would be lost.

As a result, from the perspectives of ensuring the trust of citizens with respect to official statistics, and producing and providing superior statistics of high quality, it is necessary to make the production and publication processes transparent, ensure that the statistics are neutral with respect to all interested parties, and make the personnel involved in the production of statistics strictly observe the retention of confidentiality.

b) Orientation of approaches

From the perspective of producing and providing superior statistics of high quality while securing the trust of citizens and without being influenced by pressure from various interested parties, further transparency of the production process will be promoted. The scope of preliminary information to be shared before the deadline for publication will be specified as a bylaw, and such information will be appropriately published.

4. Promotion and Evaluation, etc. of the Master Plan

1 Progress management and evaluation, etc. of the Master Plan

In order to make sure that the Master Plan is effective, it is essential to continue promoting close coordination between each office and ministry and appropriate inspection of the progress of measures at a proper timing.

As a result, a “Master Plan Promotion Committee” (tentative name) will be established, and each office and ministry will promote the measures described in the Master Plan in a unified manner. The Statistical Commission will also comprehend the state of approaches to the said measures, including the securing of statistical resources, and will implement evaluations and validations of such approaches. Based on this, the Statistical Commission will present opinions for the reexamination, promotion, etc. of approaches to the relevant office and ministries where necessary.

2 Promotion of the provision of accurate information, and of the public’s understanding and cooperation

Official statistics are deeply intertwined with the living standards of the citizens as an information infrastructure for society. In addition, since the public’s cooperation is indispensable in the production of official statistics, it is critical to widely obtain citizens’ understanding and cooperation.

Consequently, together with providing information on relevant measures in the Master Plan broadly to the public through the Internet, etc., the comprehension and reflection of the public’s opinions and needs will also be promoted.

Appendix: Concrete Measures that Should Be Established within the Next Five Years

“2. Measures Concerning the Development of Official Statistics That Should Be Comprehensively and Systematically Established”

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Office and/or ministry in charge	Implementation period
Development of “Fundamental Statistics” that serve as the core of statistical systems (2) Orientation concerning the development of Fundamental Statistics	<Refer to separate sheet>		
(3) Importance of the Population Census, National Accounts, and economic structure statistics	- The relevant office and ministries will make approaches toward the systematic development of industry-related statistics that are centered on economic structure statistics by the time of the Economic Census for Business Activity that is planned on being implemented in 2016. In pursuance of that, they will take heed of well-coordinated linkages between the National Accounts and their source primary statistics. Especially, the Cabinet Office will establish annual estimate method in consistent with the system.	Relevant office and ministries	Reviews will be conducted starting in FY2009.
2 Matters related to securing and improving consistency and international comparability of statistics (1) Development of National Accounts and strengthening the relationship between National Accounts and primary statistics, etc.	- Coordination will be established among each of the bureaus and departments that produce National Accounts, input-output tables (master tables), and primary statistics, and the necessary reviews, adjustments, etc. will be carried out. With regard to reviews by third-party agencies, opportunities will be established under the National Accounts Committee of the Statistical Commission, and study and deliberate for following up on the items associated with input-output tables incorporated in the Master Plan will be carried out in coordination with investigative reviews on National Accounts and other primary statistics.	Cabinet Office, ministries and agencies that produce output-input tables (master tables), ministries that produce primary statistics	Reviews will be conducted starting in FY2009.
a) Various issues related to the framework for estimations	- With regard to the measurement of consumption of fixed capital at current prices (currently measured at book value), estimated figures will be obtained while maintaining consistency with the net capital stock, which is continuously revised, for large categories at the very least, and for approximately the medium categories in relation to the manufacturing industry. Implementation for input-output tables (master tables) will also be carried out based on these estimated figures.	Cabinet Office, ministries and agencies that produce output-input tables (master tables)	Aim for implementation at the time of the revision of the FY2005 basis (hereinafter referred to as “FY2005 base revision”) for National Accounts, and at the timing for when the next tables will be produced for input-output tables (master tables).

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Office and/or ministry in charge	Implementation period
	<p>- Reviews will be conducted on FISIM, which is currently a reference series, for the purpose of accuracy verification, and a transition will be made to make it an actual series. With regard to introduction into quarterly estimates, sufficient explanations will be provided to users based on the review results regarding the clarification of effects of introduction of FISIM and publication of these effects together with isolated series, even after the transition is made to an actual series.</p>	Cabinet Office	Transition will be made at the time of FY2005 base revision
	<p>- With regard to the measuring of the our accounts software as fixed capital, figures that can be compared with those of various foreign countries will be developed.</p> <p>- With regard to the work-in-process inventory of cultivated assets that produce an output only once, revisions will be carried out on current estimates for which conceptual issues have been pointed out.</p>	Cabinet Office	Will be implemented at the time of the FY2005 base revision.
	<p>- With regard to categories for the public sector, revisions of their rating will be made in view of the judgment standards presented in the revision of the 93SNA and unification will be promoted, based on cooperation from relevant ministries including the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.</p>	Cabinet Office, ministries and agencies that produce output-input tables (master tables)	Aim for implementation at the time of the revision of the FY2005 standards for National Accounts, and at the timing for when the next tables will be produced for input-output tables (master tables).
	<p>- Reviews will be conducted on the issues that arise in creating tables where the row categories serve as cross classifications for institutional sectors/industry sectors, such as use tables that serve as the basis for reference year estimates, and auxiliary tables pertaining to their added value sector or other relevant items (fixed capital formation matrix) for the purpose of constructing production accounts according to institutional sectors and generation of income accounts.</p>	Cabinet Office	Aim for introduction at the time of the base revision following the FY2005 base revision (hereinafter referred to as "revision following the next base revision").
	<p>- Approaches will be made to revisions for the 93SNA as early as possible.</p>	Cabinet Office	Approaches will be made without waiting for the revision following the next base revision. Approaches will be made starting with annual estimates that are ready.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Office and/or ministry in charge	Implementation period
b) Various issues related to reference year estimates	- With regard to National Accounts and input-output tables (master tables), reviews will be conducted on making a transition to a system based on detailed supply-use tables (SUT) and X tables (input-output tables (IOT)).	Cabinet Office, ministries and agencies that produce input-output tables (master tables)	Reviews will be conducted starting in FY2009.
	- In addition to reviewing basic data on indirect taxes and subsidies, and how to handle indirect taxes various primary statistics once again, reviews will also be conducted for the purpose of producing National Accounts and input-output tables (master tables) based on display of basis prices.	Cabinet Office, ministries and agencies that produce input-output tables (master tables), ministries that produce primary statistics	Reviews will be conducted in time for the revision following the next base revision for National Accounts, and in time for the next production for input-output tables (master tables).
	- Reviews will be conducted on the methods for further accurately comprehending the production structure and intermediary input structure, and in comprehending such structures, questionnaires will be designed according to industry while referring to the US Economic Census and by making sure that there is no increase in the burden on respondents. In addition, improvements will be made in the accuracy of producing input-output tables (master tables) and SUT, based on coordination with the economic census and the classification system for industries and commodities (output).	Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Cabinet Office, ministries and agencies that produce input-output tables (master tables)	Reviews will be conducted starting in FY2009.
c) Various issues related to annual estimates	- A framework will be constructed so that adjustments and reviews of measured values from the aspects of spending and production can be made under the annual SUT/IOT.	Cabinet Office	Will be introduced by the time of the revision following the next base revision.
	- Production accounts according to institutional sectors and generation of income accounts will be created, and GDP that is based on estimates from the aspect of income will be developed. Accuracy verification based on estimates from the three aspects of spending, production, and income will be carried out.	Cabinet Office	Will be introduced by the time of the revision following the next base revision.
	- With regard to the input-output tables (extended tables) and annual input-output tables for National Accounts, consistency will be ensured upon conducting reviews on integrations in classifications for industries and commodities (output), as well as reviews on the differences in the basic statistics and measurement methods relating to common items such as domestic productions and final demand. Reviews on securing further consistency will also be continued even after the revision following the next base revision.	Cabinet Office, METI	Reviews will be conducted in a phased manner by the time of the revision following the next base revision.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Office and/or ministry in charge	Implementation period
	<p>- In the commodity flow method, distribution of commodities to the demand destination is restricted to intermediate consumption for the construction sector, intermediate consumption for other sectors, household consumption, and fixed capital formation. Currently, intermediate consumption for other sectors is simplified based on aggregation vectors, but by reflecting the fluctuations in production value according to industry and intermediate input, it will become possible to link this intermediate consumption with changes in the intermediate consumption structure. In addition, with regard to final demand components, various information such as expense items and sectors will be reflected and accuracy will be improved by effectively combining human estimation methods (demand side) with physical approaches (supply side).</p>	Cabinet Office	<p>Will be introduced in a phased manner starting at the time of the FY2005 base revision and implemented by the time of the revision following the next base revision.</p>
	<p>- The commodity classification in the commodity flow method promotes consistency with the Standard Commodity Classification for Japan, which is planned on being revised in the future. As there is no longer a necessity for handling the construction sector in a special manner, so-called construction commodities will be abolished, and a method where they are classified as a single commodity in the commodity flow method and the output for each of their respective sectors is estimated will be constructed. Currently, the commodities applicable to the commodity flow method that are deemed as being only outputs of market production activities are extended to nonmarket output.</p>	Cabinet Office	<p>Will be introduced in a phased manner starting at the time of the FY2005 base revision and implemented by the time of the revision following the next base revision.</p>
	<p>- Cooperation from relevant ministries will be obtained, and concrete conclusions will be obtained for issues regarding basic statistics such as the development of basic statistics that contribute to further detailed comprehension of accounting items such as the intermediate output structure that cannot otherwise be apprehended through the Monthly Survey on Service Industry, the development of basic statistics for estimating inventory such as a distributor's inventory, the development of basic statistics for estimating the distribution ratio by commodity that is used in the commodity flow method, the development of basic statistics that contribute to the comprehension of activities carried out by unincorporated enterprises, the ideals for a converter for converting business statistics into units of establishments, and the development of labor productivity and total factor productivity indicators.</p>	Cabinet Office	<p>Conclusions will be obtained by the time of the FY2005 base revision.</p>
	<p>- Cooperation from relevant ministries will be obtained to conduct reviews on consistency regarding the concept of prices that are intrinsically necessary as deflators (producer's price, basis price, purchaser's price, etc.) and the concept of the price indices that are used, as well as to conduct reviews on long-term retrospective estimation.</p>	Cabinet Office	<p>Reviews will be conducted starting in FY2009.</p>

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Office and/or ministry in charge	Implementation period
d) Various issues related to quarterly estimates	- So-called "revision studies" that analyze the revision factors for National Accounts in an empirically detailed manner will be implemented as soon as possible, and evaluations regarding the magnitude of the revision width and determination of its causes will be carried out.	Cabinet Office	Will be implemented in FY2009.
	- Cooperation from relevant ministries will be obtained to review the advantages and disadvantages of various methods for seasonal adjustments and for quarterly division of annual figures.	Cabinet Office	Approximately 1 to 2 years will be spent to obtain a conclusion regarding ideal methods by the end of FY2010.
	- In the primary statistics that are used in quarterly estimates (Family Income and Expenditure Survey, Quarterly Financial Statements Statistics of Corporations by Industry, etc.), there are fluctuations in the numbers associated with sample substitutions, etc., and this is considered as being one of the causes of fluctuations in quarterly estimates. Cooperation from relevant ministries will be obtained to conduct reviews on handling errors in primary statistics, and approaches toward errors will be implemented, starting with those for which such approaches are possible.	Cabinet Office	Reviews will be conducted in FY2009.
	- Reviews will be conducted on the optimal selection of basic statistics that are used in quarterly estimates (including selection of the weight for when consolidating the demand side estimates with the supply side estimates).	Cabinet Office	Reviews will be conducted in FY2009.
	- Cooperation from relevant ministries will be obtained to comprehensively review estimation methods for quarterly estimates and annual estimates and to review the specification of an optimal estimation system, as long-term approaches. Concretely, reviews will be conducted on issues such as (1) organizing the relationship between basic statistics used in quarterly estimates and annual estimates (narrowing the gap between the Census of Manufacturers and the Current Survey of Production, etc.), (2) organizing the correspondence between the definition and concept of basic statistics and the definition and concept in National Accounts, (3) expanding basic statistics, and (4) using administrative record information.	Cabinet Office	Reviews will be conducted sequentially starting in FY2009.
	- The Cabinet Office will review once again the usage method of the Current Survey of Production that is used in quarterly estimates. In addition, METI will also cooperate by contributing to the sophistication of estimates, such as by providing further detailed data that consolidates the Current Survey of Production with the Census of Manufacturers.	Cabinet Office, METI	Will be implemented in FY2009.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Office and/or ministry in charge	Implementation period
	- Reviews will be initiated on (1) the enhancement of information provided in quarterly estimates (enhancement of information from the aspect of distribution, etc.) and (2) the fact that there is a large amount of demands from users such as regarding the provision of figures for long-term series.	Cabinet Office	Reviews will be conducted starting in FY2009.
	- With cooperation from the Cabinet Office and other Ministries survey items for the Survey of Household Economy will be expanded in order to contribute to increased accuracy of quarterly estimates, and reviews will be conducted on securing a sufficient number of household samples for the survey, including single-person households.	MIC	A conclusion will be obtained by FY2013.
	- Reviews will be conducted on the reexamination of the method for selecting samples with a capital between 10 million yen and 20 million yen for Quarterly Financial Statements Statistics of Corporations by industry (conducting stratified sampling upon segmentalizing according to sales, etc.)	Ministry of Finance (MOF)	A conclusion will be obtained by FY2013.
	- Reviews will be conducted on the development of statistics related to the state of execution of public works budgets that include not only the "central government" but "local governments" as well.	MOF, MIC, Cabinet Office	A conclusion will be obtained by FY2013.
	- To estimate the compensation for employees that is part of the government final consumption, information on the number of public servants and their wages by quarter is necessary. With regard to the "central government," the Cabinet Office will cooperate with relevant ministries and review the comprehension of such information through using administrative record information. With regard to comprehending such information for "local governments," the Cabinet Office will conduct reviews by obtaining cooperation from relevant ministries.	Cabinet Office	A conclusion will be obtained by FY2013.
	- In addition to reviewing quarterly estimates from the aspect of production, reviews will be conducted, for the time being, on how to secure fundamental information that can be further useful in carrying out quarterly estimates, with a focus on the Monthly Survey on Service Industry.	Cabinet Office	Reviews will be conducted sequentially starting in FY2010.
	- With regard to the Monthly Labour Survey, reviews will be conducted on (1) resolving the gaps in scheduled cash earnings, etc. based on the innovation of sample substitutions in surveys on establishments with 5 to 29 regular employees, (2) comprehending the percentage of people retiring from companies based on categorizing the reasons for leaving their job into "dismissal or retirement," "transferred," etc., and (3) surveys on retirement allowance.	Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW)	A conclusion will be obtained by FY2013.
	- Cooperation from relevant ministries will be obtained to review the implementation of quarterly estimates from an aspect of distribution other than compensation for employees, based on the using administrative record information, etc.	Cabinet Office	A conclusion will be obtained by FY2013.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Office and/or ministry in charge	Implementation period
(2) Construction and utilization of a business register a) Accurate development of population information	- The required preparations for accurately comprehending attributes information relating to establishments and the parent-child relationship of corporations in 2014, which is the intermediate year of the Economic Census for Business Activity, and for continued implementation of the Economic Census for Business Frame, which clarifies the organizational relationship between head offices and branch offices, will be carried out.	MIC	The required preparations will be implemented by FY2013.
	- To carry out development of population information regarding incorporated enterprises, verifications regarding the industry name, number of employees, number of establishments will be periodically implemented based on a system of enclosing stamped postcards/envelopes for responses.	MIC	Will be implemented starting in FY2009.
	- Cooperation from the MHLW will be obtained to reviews regarding the comprehension of business establishments, etc. that have been newly established, abolished based on using notifications regarding the establishment of a business establishment covered under employment insurance and reports of the establishment of a labor insurance relationship.	MIC	Reviews will be conducted starting in FY2010.
b) Enhancement and expansion of the business register	- Reviews with relevant ministries regarding the use of major accounting information such as sales from Financial Statements Statistics of Corporations by Industry for corporations that are larger than a certain scale, as well as results from complete surveys such as shipment values from the Census of Manufacturers as information sources for the business register will be initiated.	MIC	Reviews will be conducted starting in FY2009.
	- Reviews on incorporating EDINET information in the business register will be conducted. At the same time, reviews will also be conducted on concrete measures for using EDINET information and information from the business register in Financial Statements Statistics of Corporations by Industry.	MIC, MOF	Reviews will be conducted starting in FY2009.
	- Cooperation from Japan Patent Office(JPO) will be obtained to carry out operations for verifying the names and addresses of corporate applicants for industrial property rights with the corporation's registered information, and the verification information for both will be incorporated into the business register.	MIC	Reviews will be conducted starting in FY2009, and actions will be implemented promptly.
	- Reviews will be initiated on what kinds of usefulness can be obtained by implementing verification of the establishment/enterprise identification number with the "Japan Exporters and Importers Standard Code (JASTPRO Code)" (code that corresponds to exporters and importers that are listed in export/import declaration forms, import for storage application forms, re-shipment declaration forms, etc.), taking cost-effectiveness into consideration.	MIC	Reviews will be conducted starting in FY2009.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Office and/or ministry in charge	Implementation period
(3) Development of statistics that comprehensively represent welfare and social security as a whole	- In order to enable thorough international comparisons of statistics regarding the Cost of Social Security with those of various foreign countries, cooperation will be obtained from the Cabinet Office to review improving consistency with statistics based on various international standards (SNA, ESSPROS (European System of Social Protection Statistics), SOCX (OECD Social Expenditure Database), SHA, etc.).	MHLW	Reviews will be conducted starting in FY2009, and a conclusion will be obtained as soon as possible.
(4) improving international comparability of statistics concerning medical care expenditure	- From the standpoint of systematically developing statistics related to medical care expenditure and improving international comparability, reviews will be conducted together with academic experts and users regarding the orientation of statistics where medical expenditures for entire sectors such as healthcare can be apprehended from a macro perspective (healthcare spending estimates based on the OECD's SHA method) as official statistics, in a manner such that a conclusion can be obtained as soon as possible.	MHLW	Reviews will be conducted starting in FY2009, and a conclusion will be obtained as soon as possible.
(5) Development of finance statistics	- Cooperation from relevant ministries starting with MIC will be obtained to make approaches toward estimating and publicizing the main items in government finance statistics.	Cabinet Office	Will be implemented around the time of the FY2005 base revision.
	- While obtaining the cooperation of relevant ministries reviews will be conducted on estimation methods, etc. for items that are not estimated as of yet in financial accounts and capital stock, and a conclusion will be obtained regarding their estimation and publication.	Cabinet Office	Will be implemented by around FY2013.
	- Cooperation from relevant ministries starting with MIC will be obtained to, for items pertaining to the "central government," classify data that is being obtained during estimation operations for the current National Accounts into the two-digit level codes for COFOG (classification of the functions of government); for items pertaining to "local governments," develop items that correspond to classifications for the survey on local public finance and review estimation methods for items for which correspondence is not possible; and perform estimations for government spending based on the two-digit level codes for COFOG.	Cabinet Office	Will be implemented around the time of the FY2005 base revision.
(6) Development of stock statistics	- Flow (investment) amounts and consistent stock amounts will be measured based on standard methods centering on the perpetual inventory method. As systematic development of these measurements, the development of a time-series "fix capital stock matrix" that is based on a unified methodology and that is comprised of detailed assets classifications for the column categories and classifications by institutional sectors and industries for the row categories, and a "fixed capital matrix" that systematically depicts the capital investment series for the fixed capital stock matrix will be implemented. In addition, the consumption of fixed capital will also be revised in a consistent manner.	Cabinet Office	Will be introduced around the time of the FY2005 base revision.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Office and/or ministry in charge	Implementation period
	- Capital service input that corresponds to the revision of the 93SNA will be developed and introduced.	Cabinet Office	Will be introduced at the time of the revision following the next base revision.
	- Processed statistics that estimate the overall building stock from existing statistics and administrative record information, etc. will be developed.	Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT)	Will be implemented starting in FY2009.
	- In addition to estimating monetary evaluations through physical approaches based on the above processed statistics, consistency will be ensured for parts that are methodologically common with the perpetual inventory method, upon which mutual accuracy verifications will be conducted for values obtained through both estimation methods.	Cabinet Office	Will be implemented at the time of the revision following the next base revision.
	- To develop basic statistics for the fixed capital matrix, structures by asset and the structure of capital investments such as large-scale renovations and repairs to self-owned assets will be further comprehended through the Survey on Capital Expenditures and Disposals of Private Enterprises (with a focus on the capital expenditures survey).	Cabinet Office	Will be implemented at the time of the FY2005 base revision.
	- To estimate age profiles by stock (distribution of age-efficiency and price changes), which are essential in the measurement of productive capital stock and net capital stock, research and studies will be implemented, including on accumulating survey results from the Survey on Capital Expenditures and Disposals of Private Enterprises (with a focus on the disposal survey) and the use of administrative record information, etc. and private sector data.	Cabinet Office	Will be implemented at the time of the FY2005 base revision.
	- Cooperation from relevant ministries will be obtained to conduct reviews related to the evaluation of and the possibility of implementing social needs concerning capital investment surveys (according to year acquired) of existing property acquired that are based on the National Wealth Survey.	Cabinet Office	A conclusion will be obtained by the time of the revision following the next base revision
	- Cooperation from relevant ministries will be obtained to review methods for appropriately classifying economic activities that are entities for property acquisition, such as on survey methods that enable more direct classification of activities and the conversion of establishments and enterprises.	Cabinet Office	A conclusion will be obtained by the time of the revision following the next base revision
(7) Establishment of statistical standards	- From the perspective of improving the comparability of various statistics, the Japan Standard Occupational Classification will be established and announced as a new statistical standard in time for implementation of the 2010 Population Census.	MIC	Will be implemented by the first half of FY2009.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Office and/or ministry in charge	Implementation period
	- From the perspective of ensuring objectivity in the revision of base for indices as well as consistency of each index, the “Standards on Revision of Base and Weights of Indices” will be newly established and announced as statistical standards upon taking the operational performance, etc. by each ministry into consideration.	MIC	Will be implemented in FY2009.
	- From the perspective of ensuring objectivity of seasonally adjusted values, “Standards for Applying the Seasonal Adjustment Method” will be established and announced as new statistical standards upon taking the operational performance, etc. by each ministry into consideration.	MIC	Will be implemented in FY2010.
	- Progress will be made on research regarding the handling of services in the Japan Standard Commodity Classification and on the ideals for classification pertaining to status in employment, and a decision will be made regarding whether to establish this classification as new statistical standards. If establishing as new statistical standards, international comparability will be ensured while taking heed of consistency with Central Product Classification (CPC).	MIC	A conclusion will be obtained by FY2011.
3 Matters related to the development of statistics that correspond to changes in social and policy needs (1) Development of statistics pertaining to service activities a) Development of statistics related to information and communications services	- The statistical surveys that are conducted by MIC regarding the information and communications industry will be carried out in an integrated manner in coordination with the Basic Survey of Japanese Business Structure and Activities. Concretely, METI and MIC will integrate existing statistical surveys pertaining to information and communications activities as Basic Statistics on Business Activities (tentative name), one of Fundamental Statistics for comprehending business activities, implement this survey as a joint survey pertaining to division “G Information and Communications” in the Japan Standardized Industrial Classification, and develop statistics on business activities relating to the information and communications industry.	MIC, METI	Will be implemented around 2010.
	- Accuracy of the Communications usage trend survey will be improved. In addition, reviews will be conducted on securing a sufficient number of samples so that trends according to prefecture can be clarified.	MIC	Reviews will be conducted starting in FY2009.
b) Development of statistics related to intellectual property activities	- To aim for advanced use of statistics concerning intellectual property and effective use of statistics under the jurisdiction of the MIC and JPO pertaining to intellectual property activities, corporate information in the business register and the information on corporate applicants for industrial property rights will be cross-checked immediately. Discussions will then be initiated promptly regarding the kinds of measures that are necessary in the future for the information that was found to be non-corresponding.	MIC, JPO	A conclusion will be obtained by FY2011.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Office and/or ministry in charge	Implementation period
	- To make it possible to simultaneously use statistical data pertaining to intellectual property activities by corporate groups and five to six fiscal years' worth of financial data in 2015, the necessary approaches, etc. for rapidly constructing statistical data that enables analysis of intellectual property activities by corporate groups will be reviewed.	MIC, METI	A conclusion will be obtained by FY2012.
c) Reviews for appropriately apprehending service activities	- Cooperation will be obtained from each ministry as well as academic societies, etc. to promptly establish opportunities for conducting reviews on workshops, etc., in order to implement investigative research, etc. regarding the productivity of the service sector as well as the measurement of output and prices, based on the experience of various countries.	MIC	Will be implemented starting in FY2009.
d) Development of statistics related to service activities by corporations (activities within the organization and outsourcing)	- With a focus on all pure holding companies comprehended through the FY2009 Economic Census for Business Activity will be conducted on the number of full-time employees and their breakdown according to function, information relating to affiliated enterprises, breakdown of earnings, etc., after FY2011. Further reviews will also be conducted on clarifying the group activities of holding companies, by combining the results of these adjustments with information on parent companies and subsidiaries that will be obtained from Economic Census for Business Frame that is planned on being implemented in 2014.	METI	Will be implemented after FY2011.
(2) Development of statistics that respond to the advancement of a low birthrate and aging population, etc. and to the balance between work and life, etc.	- To obtain stable indicators for items related to declining birthrates, such as regarding marital status, the timing for marriage, number of children cooperation will be obtained from MHLW to review the possibility of comprehending such items through large-scale sampling surveys, such as by reconstructing existing statistical surveys or establishing new statistical surveys.	MIC	A conclusion will be obtained in FY2011.
	- From the perspective of analyzing the relationship between work (status of starting work and leaving jobs, factors that inhibit one from starting work, etc.) and marriage, childbirth, raising children, long-term care, etc., in a more detailed manner, reviews will be conducted on adding necessary items to relevant statistical surveys.	MIC, MHLW	In principle, a conclusion will be obtained in 2009.
	- To verify, etc. the differences according to generations, reviews will be conducted on adding new samples for the Longitudinal Survey of Babies in 21 st Century and the Longitudinal Survey of Adults in 21 st Century.	MHLW	A conclusion will be obtained in FY2009.
	- Discussions with local public entities will be held on using data from basic resident registers to produce statistics regarding the number of migrants according to age and regions more detailed than prefectures in the Annual Report on Internal Migration in Japan Derived from the Basic Resident Registers in a manner so that a conclusion can be obtained as soon as possible and giving consideration so that individuals are not specified.	MIC	Reviews will be conducted starting in FY2009, and a conclusion will be obtained as soon as possible.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Office and/or ministry in charge	Implementation period
	<p>- With regard to "Population, Migration and Number of Households Derived From the Basic Resident Registers," reviews will be conducted on the following while hearing the opinions of local public entities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancement of tabulation (population according to gender and age, number of households by gender and age of the head of household as well as number of persons in the household, population by relationship to head of household, number of persons changing nationality by gender and age, etc.) • Reexamination of the production period (currently the end of March) 	MIC	Reviews will be conducted starting in FY2009, and a conclusion will be obtained as soon as possible.
	- Reviews will be conducted on the enhancement of tabulations for Vital Statistics of Japan (tabulation of natality, marriages, and divorces by month and by age and year of birth, etc.)	MHLW	A conclusion will be obtained in 2009.
(3) Development of statistics that correspond to changes in the way of life	- Reviews will be conducted on further accurately comprehending the state of the trend towards individually-managed domestic finances in various statistical surveys that comprehend household income and expenditure.	MIC	A conclusion will be obtained in 2011.
	- Upon analyzing the survey results, etc. obtained from the National Survey on Income and Expenditure of One-Person Households through a monitor approach, reviews will be conducted on the adoption of the monitor approach in surveys relating to household income and expenditure.	MIC	A conclusion will be obtained in 2013.
	- Reviews will be conducted on survey items and tabulation contents related to NPO, volunteer, and regional community activities in the Survey on Time Use and Leisure Activities, from the perspective of developing statistics related to regional community activities, etc.	MIC	A conclusion will be obtained by the time that plans are to be made for the 2011 survey.
	- To enable clarification by prefecture according to survey results from the Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions using income questionnaire and savings questionnaire, reviews will be conducted on expanding the sampling scale of these survey questionnaires.	MHLW	A conclusion will be obtained by the time that plans are to be made for the 2013 survey.
	- With regard to the household questionnaire, health questionnaire, long-term care questionnaire, income questionnaire, and savings questionnaire that are used in the Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions, reviews will be conducted on enhancing mutual cross-analysis, etc.	MHLW	A conclusion will be obtained in 2011
	<p>- Reviews will be conducted on the statistical system relating to housing and land.</p> <p>In conducting such reviews, consideration will be given to (1) reexamining the ideals and the relationship between the Housing and Land Survey and the Population Census, (2) the rights and wrongs of integrating the Comprehensive Survey on Housing Life into the Housing and Land Survey, and (3) comprehension of not only the external aspects of housing and land, but prices, purchasers, income structure of households, etc. as well.</p>	MIC (Relevant ministry: MLIT)	A conclusion will be obtained by the time that plans are to be made for the 2013 survey.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Office and/or ministry in charge	Implementation period
(4) Development of statistics that respond to changes, etc. in education	- Reviews will be conducted on measures for improving the comparability of statistics, by establishing more objective standards, etc., in statistical surveys that include items related to problematic behavior of children and students, including acts of violence, absence, bullying, etc. (surveys related to problems, such as problematic behavior by children and students, that arise during student guidance).	Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)	A conclusion will be obtained in 2009.
	- Reviews will be conducted on adding items related to mental health, allergy diseases, lifestyle-related diseases, etc. in the School Health Survey, as well as on improving survey methods and questionnaire forms, including the establishment of measures so that medical examination forms can be used as is in the production of statistics.	MEXT	A conclusion will be obtained in 2010.
	- From the perspective of enabling for analysis of the relationship between education and social living/employment and labor, etc., reviews will be conducted on adding items related to education, such as academic background, in relevant statistical surveys.	Ministries that implement each survey	In principle, a conclusion will be obtained in 2009.
	- Reviews will be conducted on statistics that enable accurate comprehension of the overall life course, from the stage of school education to job hunting.	MEXT	A conclusion will be obtained in 2013.
	- Based on the perspective of comprehending the actual state of learning outside of school, reviews will be conducted on adding items such as the frequency at which students attend cram school and their desired educational path in the Survey of Household Expenditure on Education per Student.	MEXT	A conclusion will be obtained in 2010.
(5) Phased development of statistics related to the environment	- Through cooperating with the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA), scientific analysis related to climate changes will be conducted by using climate statistics produced by the JMA, and activities to raise awareness among citizens will also be carried out.	Ministry of the Environment (MOE)	Will be implemented starting in FY2009.
	- Through cooperating with relevant ministries, statistical data relating to the emission and absorption of greenhouse gases will be enhanced, and statistics related to impacts caused by climate changes (to humans, agricultural crops, buildings, etc.) will be developed within the next few years.	MOE	Will be implemented starting in FY2010.
	- Together with MOE and the Agency for Natural Resources and Energy (ANRE), the MIC will produce statistics that enable the comprehension of the relationship between the actual state of energy consumption (electricity, city gas, propane gas, kerosene, gasoline, etc.) and the state of possession of durable goods by each household according to each household attribute.	MIC, MOE, ANRE	Will be implemented starting in FY2009.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Office and/or ministry in charge	Implementation period
	- With regard to primary statistics related to new energy, detailed checks on existing published data and confirmations on their necessity will be implemented, after which reviews will be initiated on producing official primary statistics on renewable energy such as new energy.	Relevant ministries (MAFF, ANRE)	Reviews will be conducted starting in FY2009.
	- With regard to energy statistics, efforts will be made to publish preliminary figures earlier, while ensuring accuracy, so that policy planning and global warming countermeasures can be implemented. To do so, the relevant ministries will make efforts to use preliminary figures from data from the previous fiscal year as early as possible for the basic statistics to be used in producing energy statistics.	ANRE and relevant ministries (Forestry Agency, METI, MLIT, etc.)	Will be implemented starting in FY2009.
	- Opportunities for reviewing the development of statistics for comprehending waste and byproducts will be established.	Relevant ministries (MAFF, METI, MOE)	Will be established in FY2009.
	- Through cooperating with MIC and METI, reviews regarding the enhancement of input-output tables for analysis of the environmental sector will be initiated.	MOE	Reviews will be conducted starting in FY2009.
	- Through cooperating with relevant ministries including MIC, reviews on linking statistics from the past few years related to the environment and related to the economy and society (population, economic activities, construction, buildings, social facilities, etc.) in terms of geographic information, and constructing region-based environmental statistics will be initiated.	MOE	Reviews will be conducted starting in FY2009.
(6) Development of statistics related to tourism	- Enhancement of the Survey on Travel and Tourism Consumption and the Statistical Survey on Overnight Travel will be promoted.	Japan Tourism Agency (JTA)	Will be implemented by FY2010.
	- Necessary adjustments will be made to enable formulation of common standards that can be adopted by local public entities and to enable each prefecture to follow such common standards and develop tourism statistics that can be compared among prefectures.	JTA	Will be implemented by FY2010.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Office and/or ministry in charge	Implementation period
	- Cooperation from the Cabinet Office will be obtained to progress with reviews on developing tourism satellite accounts to enable further accurate international comparisons of the economic effects that tourism yields, and full-fledged production and publication of tourism satellite accounts will be carried out.	JTA	Will be implemented by FY2010.
(7) Development of statistics that correspond to the expansion of globalization	- With regard to the production of new statistics through obtaining population information on corporations based on the 2009 Economic Census for Business Frame and relating export/import behaviors to the corporate attributes (ratio of foreign capital, etc.) of the corresponding corporation, reviews will be conducted on whether it is possible to produce such statistics in a manner where, upon being presented with concrete needs for producing these kinds of statistics, production does not hinder the smooth implementation of administrative procedures and it is guaranteed that information on individual corporations will not be discriminated.	MOF	Reviews will be conducted starting in FY2009.
	- Reviews will be conducted on reflecting some of the information from export/import declaration forms by trade pattern (consigned processing, etc.), which is also considered as being administrative record information under the jurisdiction of MOF, in trade statistics.	MOF	Reviews will be conducted starting in FY2009.
	- Taking into consideration the status of reviews regarding a resident register system for legal foreign residents, reviews will be conducted on enhancing tabulations for statistics on registered foreigners (Statistics on Legal Migrants) and Statistics on Immigration Control by nationality and by residency period.	Ministry of Justice (MOJ)	A conclusion will be obtained as soon as possible by around 2013.
	- Reviews will be conducted on the enhancement of tabulations (particularly by age) related to foreigners in Vital Statistics	MHLW	A conclusion will be obtained in 2009.
(8) Development of labor statistics that correspond to changes in corporate activities and the diversification in the ways of working, etc.	- Reviews will be conducted on improving survey items in statistics related to employment and labor relations, such as the Labour Force Survey to enable comprehension of the actual state of the period for fixed-term employment contracts. In doing so, reviews will also be conducted on measures to ensure that users do not become confused about the terms and concepts related to employment.	Ministries that implement each survey	In principle, a conclusion will be obtained in 2009.
	- Based on the perspective of further appropriately comprehending the actual working hours, reviews will be conducted on reexamining survey items in statistical surveys related to employment and labour relations conducted on households, taking into consideration the ILO's international standards.	MIC, MHLW	In principle, a conclusion will be obtained in 2009.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Office and/or ministry in charge	Implementation period
	- Based on the perspective of developing an environment in which statistics that apprehend working hours can be further effectively used, reviews will be conducted on adding items to the Survey on Time Use and Leisure Activities that contribute to analyses of working hours and hours dedicated toward other aspects of life, such as individual annual income, health conditions, etc.	MIC	A conclusion will be obtained by the time that plans are to be made for the 2011 survey.
	- Using the Survey on Employment Trends as a basis, indicators for job creation and elimination will be estimated and published.	MHLW	Will be implemented by FY2012.
	- Through cooperating with METI, measures regarding the assignment of common codes, etc. will be established after the development of the business register, in order to promote linkage between statistics of manufactures, etc. and the Monthly Labour Survey and the Basic Survey on Wage Structure.	MHLW	Will be implemented promptly based on the condition of development of the business register.
	- Reviews will be conducted on the contents and implementation timing, etc. of an annual statistical survey related to continuously comprehending the actual state of non-regular employment, with the goal of initiating such a survey by FY2012 at the very latest.	MHLW	Reviews will be conducted starting in FY2009, and a conclusion will be obtained by FY2010.
	- Reviews will be conducted on estimating and producing analytical indicators that indicate, with regard to persons who were employed or unemployed as of the same month the previous year, the current employment condition, whether the person has left a job, and whether the person has changed jobs, and with regard to persons who were not in the labor force as of the same month the previous year, the current employment condition, according to gender, age, industry, and job, by using the Labour Force Survey as well as data from labor force flows that are based on monthly comparisons and that have already been published in the Labour Force Survey.	MIC	A conclusion will be obtained by around FY2013.
	- With regard to indicators that represent comprehensive supply and demand trends for labour, including not only job opening and job openings activities conducted through Hello Work, but through other routes as well, reviews will be conducted in cooperation with relevant ministries on methods for comprehending the number of job openings other than Hello Work, the availability statistics related to job seeking conditions based on household surveys, and the feasibility such statistics, including their cost-effectiveness.	MHLW, MIC	Reviews will be conducted starting in FY2009.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Office and/or ministry in charge	Implementation period
(9) Other	- Based on the state of implementation of the 2010 Population Census, further improvements will be made for Population Censuses to be conducted in and after 2015 regarding issues that remain in implementing the census, and reviews will be conducted regarding the contents of the census, by taking the world's needs into broad consideration.	MIC	A conclusion will be obtained by the time that plans are to be made for the 2015 survey.
	- From the perspective of reducing the burden on respondents filling out survey forms and of streamlining statistical surveys, reviews will be conducted on the availability administrative record information, etc. for the Survey of Medical Institutions and the Patient Survey that will be conducted after the 2011 surveys, taking the state of promotion of a system for provision of information on medical practices and digitization of receipt of the questionnaire into consideration.	MHLW	A conclusion will be obtained by the time that plans are to be made for the 2011 survey.
	- Reviews will be conducted on improving the accuracy of the Crime Victimization Survey (on crimes not represented in statistics) by expanding the number of samples, etc.	MOJ	A conclusion will be obtained by the time that plans are to be made for the 2012 survey.

(Note) The period for period surveys is up until the survey planning period (the period during which the approval application for the survey plan is implemented) that comes directly after the implementation period listed).

“3. Matters Necessary for Promoting the Development of Official Statistics”

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Office and/or ministry in charge	Implementation period
<p>1 Efficient production of statistics</p> <p>(1) Use of administrative record information, etc.</p> <p>a) Statistical surveys for which the use of administrative record information, etc. should be reviewed</p>	<p>- In developing population information for the Economic Census for Business Activity, cooperation from MHLW will be obtained to conduct reviews on using information regarding business establishments covered under labor insurance and employment insurance that is planned on being provided through “Optimization Plan for Operations and the System for Labour Insurance Application and Contributions Levy Operations” (approved at the MHLW information policy meeting on March 29, 2006; revised on March 19, 2008), etc. that is planned on being implemented by MHLW.</p>	MIC	Reviews for use in the Economic Census for Business Activity Survey for FY2011 will be conducted starting in FY2009.
	<p>- Explanations will be provided to local public entities regarding the necessity of making the clarifications in the Annual Report on Internal Migration in Japan Derived From the Basic Resident Registers that is tabulated by using basic resident register data more detailed, as well as regarding the methods for clarification so that individuals are not specified and the early realization of the use of necessary data will be promoted upon obtaining understanding on the provision of data that is more detailed than the current data.</p>	MIC	Concrete reviews will be conducted starting in FY2009.
	<p>- In heading towards early realization of the application of data from financial statement reports to Financial Statement Statistics of Corporations by Industry, reviews will be conducted on technical issues, etc., such as modifications in the tabulation system.</p>	MOF	Concrete reviews will be conducted starting in FY2009.
	<p>- With regard to tables for tax data that were produced based on the format of order-made tabulations, reviews will be conducted on technical issues and on the method for burden of expenses for applying such tables toward estimating and supplementing missing values in data collected for various economic surveys. Early implementation will also be promoted.</p>	MOF, METI, etc.	Concrete reviews will be conducted starting in FY2009.
	<p>- With regard to statistical surveys for which it was indicated in reports by the Statistical Commission that reviews are necessary, such as regarding the use of fishing vessel registration data in the Fisheries Census, the use of data from fixed asset tax ledgers in the Survey of Incorporated Land, the use of the system for provision of information on medical practices in the Survey of Medical Institutions reviews will be conducted on the active use of administrative record information, etc. as based on the reports from the Statistical Commission.</p>	Relevant ministries (MAFF, MLIT, MHLW, etc.)	Reviews will be conducted for each statistical survey by the time at which plans for the next survey are made, and a conclusion will be obtained.
<p>b) Fundamentalization of surveys on administrative record information, etc.</p>	<p>- When formulating survey plans, investigations and reviews will be conducted in advance regarding whether administrative record information, etc. exists and on the effects of use, etc. of such information.</p> <p>- For reviews regarding the approval of statistical surveys by the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications and reviews on Fundamental Statistical Surveys by the Statistical Commission, the status of preliminary investigations pertaining to administrative record information, etc. will be confirmed, and requests for cooperation by retaining agencies will be made if necessary.</p>	Each ministry	Will be implemented starting in FY2009.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Office and/or ministry in charge	Implementation period
c) Use of tabulation by retaining agencies	- As an alternative measure in the case that an agency producing statistics has requested for the provision of administrative record information but it is difficult to provide this information due to a rational reason, in principle, tables will be produced based on a pattern for order-made tabulations that correspond to the said agency's requests. The agency producing statistics will fundamentally be responsible for the expenses, etc. if such a case arises.	Each office and ministry	Will be implemented starting in FY2009.
d) Development of an environment pertaining to the use of administrative record information, etc.	- Cooperation from each office and ministry will be obtained and meetings for reviewing the following items will be established. (1) Concrete measures for ensuring that individual administration regarding the use of administrative record information, etc. is executed appropriately under the understanding and cooperation of not only retaining agencies but the public and corporations as well. (2) The direct use of administrative record information, etc. in producing statistics, the use of administrative record information, etc. as auxiliary information, and a framework for empirically verifying the impacts, etc. on retaining agencies.	MIC	A conclusion will be obtained around FY2011.
(2) Use of private enterprises a) Active use of private enterprises, etc.	- In reviews for the approval of statistical surveys conducted by the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications and reviews on Fundamental Statistical Surveys conducted by the Statistical Commission, the status of reviews pertaining to the use of private enterprises by the governing office or ministry will be confirmed.	Cabinet Office (Statistical Commission), MIC	Will be implemented starting in FY2009.
b) Development of an environment for adequate use	- Revisions will be made to "Guidelines Concerning Private Entrustment of Statistical Surveys," and measures regarding the management of the implementation process for statistical surveys and the manifestation of the creation of a Project Completion Report with respect to entrusted enterprises will be reflected.	MIC	Will be implemented starting in FY2009.
c) Constant reexaminations and improvements related to the use of private enterprises	- Opportunities for reviewing the method for managing the implementation process of statistical surveys as well as indicators pertaining to the quality of statistics will be established and reviewed.	Each office and ministry	Reviews will be conducted starting in FY2010.
	- In addition to comprehending the actual state of the performance ability of private enterprises and carrying out verifications on the effects of using private enterprises through exchanging opinions, etc. with organizations comprised of private enterprises involved in operations for statistical surveys, an opportunity for sharing such information will be established and held every year.	Each office and ministry	Will be implemented starting in FY2010.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Office and/or ministry in charge	Implementation period
<p>2 Securing and making effective use of statistical resources</p> <p>(1) Ideals for securing and allocating statistical resources, and effective use of statistical resources</p> <p>a) Exhibition of adjustment functions by the national government as a whole</p>	<p>- Through cooperating with each office and ministry, reviews will be conducted on organizing a team of experts who will support the formulation of plans in the production of new statistics and implementation of statistical surveys, etc., including on whether to organize such a team.</p>	MIC	Reviews will be conducted starting in FY2010.
<p>b) Approaches by each office and ministry</p>	<p>- In order to provide high-quality statistics while accurately responding to the needs for development and provision of new statistics, reexamination and streamlining existing statistics will be implemented from the perspectives of promoting systematic development of statistics, alleviating the burden on respondents, and securing and making efficient use of statistical resources.</p>	Each office and ministry	Will be implemented starting in FY2009.
	<p>- From the perspective of providing statistics that are suitable as an information infrastructure for society in a timely and appropriate manner, measures will be established to secure the statistical resources necessary in implementing the Master Plan.</p>	Each office and ministry	Will be implemented starting in FY2009.
	<p>- Efforts will be made to secure core personnel through enhancing training programs and personnel exchanges, etc., while keeping in mind the balance between the quantity (which is a particularly important element for departments conducting on-site investigations, reviews, and tabulations) and quality (which is a particularly important element for departments involved in planning and analysis/publication) that are required of the personnel in accordance with work contents.</p>	Each office and ministry	Will be implemented starting in FY2009.
	<p>- With regard to National Accounts, researchers and core personnel will be input in a concentrated manner for a 3-year period. Reviews will be conducted on the possibility of using information sources and indicators, estimation methods will be fundamentally reexamined, and system development will be carried out.</p>	Cabinet Office	Will be implemented starting in FY2009.
<p>c) Support for approaches by each office and ministry</p>	<p>- Opportunities to share and adjust information relating to the status of approaches, focusing on the aspects of the budget and the personnel numbers of each office and ministry, will be established.</p> <p>- Based on the abovementioned sharing, adjustment, etc. of information, encouragement will be given to financial authorities so that the securing and effective use of statistical resources carried out by each office and ministry can be realized, such as by using a framework where “Opinions on Review of Statistical Survey Plans by Each Office and Ministry” is submitted each time a budget request is made for each fiscal year.</p> <p>- Information regarding the necessity, etc. of the statistics developed by each office and ministry will be provided to the authorities involved in controlling the personnel numbers.</p>	MIC	Will be implemented starting in FY2010.

Item	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Office and/or ministry in charge	Implementation period
d) Responses to statistical needs that are cross-sectoral across the office and ministries	- From the perspective of promoting efficient development of statistics, the functions and statistical resources of the MIC will be used to the fullest extent in implementing Fundamental Statistical Surveys that are cross-sectoral across the office and ministries. Reviews will also be conducted on implementing cojurisdictional joint surveys where necessary, based on cooperating with relevant offices and ministries.	Each office and ministry	Will be implemented starting in FY2009.
e) Responses toward urgent needs	- In principle, when an urgent need arises, administrative record information, etc. and results from existing statistical surveys will be used. When doing so, reviews will be conducted on adding survey items in statistical surveys that are continuously implemented and on the implementation of auxiliary surveys, in addition to reviews regarding special tabulation of existing statistics. If a particular survey falls under the jurisdiction of several ministries, adjustments will be made by the MIC where necessary.	Relevant office and ministries	Will be implemented starting in FY2009.
	- If an application for approval of a new statistical survey that is more difficult than the ones described above is submitted, approaches will be made by simplifying and accelerating operations for the approval review.	MIC	Will be implemented starting in FY2009.
(2) Functional maintenance of the on-site investigation system (full-time statistics personnel of prefectures, etc.), coordination between the national government and local public entities	- A detailed check and any reexaminations that may be necessary will be implemented regarding the scope of surveys that are required to go through local public entities (in principle, surveys where a survey on enumerators is necessary).	Each office and ministry	Will be implemented starting in FY2009
	- Efforts will be made towards adjustments so that the amount of work handled by the statistics departments in local public entities is equalized as much as possible, taking the Master Plan, as well as the needs for developing new statistics into consideration.	MIC	Will be implemented starting in FY2009
	- With regard to surveys that go through local public entities, the enhancement of clarification of such surveys according to region will be promoted systematically, and support will be provided so that local public entities can implement surveys with more subjects and survey items, while taking the burden on reports as well as the needs of local public entities into consideration.	Each office and ministry	Will be implemented starting in FY2009

Items	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Office and/or ministry in charge	Implementation period
	<p>- From the perspective of further enhancing the major statistics divisions of prefectures, reviews will be conducted on reexamining the standard unit price for expenses for commission of affairs for statistical surveys granted to local public entities by the national government and the administration of the scope of budget items that are subject to receiving such grants while taking the actual circumstances and opinions of the prefecture into consideration.</p>	MIC	A conclusion will be obtained by FY2010.
	<p>- Through cooperating with each office and ministry, support will be provided so that statistics departments of local public entities can secure the necessary human resources, such as by raising awareness in policy departments and the human resources/financial departments of local public entities regarding concrete measures for usage of statistical surveys and of the usefulness of surveys, etc.</p>	MIC	Will be implemented starting in FY2009.
	<p>- Through cooperating with each office and ministry, as well as with local public entities, detailed checks will be conducted on the duties of enumerators (including counselors for statistical surveys), and roles for enumerators that are adapted to the current environment for statistical surveys will be specified. In addition, reviews will be conducted promptly on corresponding improvements in treatment, etc., and efforts will be made toward their implementation.</p>	MIC	Reviews will be conducted starting in FY2009.
	<p>- Raising awareness of the roles and social importance of enumerators will be promoted continuously with respect to respondents, etc., by coordinating with local public entities.</p>	MIC, relevant office and ministries	Will be implemented starting in FY2009.
	<p>- To promote the efficient use of enumerators, a scheme where information regarding enumerators who have been cultivated and secured through local branch bureaus and departments, etc. is provided to local public entities as well will be constructed.</p>	Each office and ministry	Will be implemented starting in FY2009.
(3) Cultivating and securing human resources such as statistical personnel a) Promotion of systematic cultivation and securing of core personnel	<p>- Each office and ministry with a bureau or department that manages statistics will make efforts toward systematic cultivation of human personnel in accordance with the actual circumstances of each office or ministry, such as by establishing challenges related to the percentage of core personnel who have at least 10 years worth of experience as a public servant making up the overall number of personnel belonging to the bureau or department managing statistics as well as goals for affiliated personnel to undergo training, etc. In other ministries, efforts will be made toward the same kind of approaches in the sections managing statistics.</p> <p>With regard to core personnel, policies for cultivating human resources such as regarding the transfer of personnel between bureaus and departments using statistics and bureaus and departments producing statistics will be specified within the office or ministry wherever possible, and efforts will be made toward the execution of such policies.</p> <p>- Mutual relationships of trust will be fostered between ministries, between the national and local governments, and between government and academia, and under the common recognition of cultivating human resources of good quality, exchanges of human resources between ministries, between the national and local governments, and between government and academia will be promoted while taking heed of making effective use of the system of employing officials with a fixed term of office as based on the Act on Special Measures of Employment and Remuneration of Officials with Fixed Term of Office in the Regular Service (Act No. 125 of 2000).</p>	Each office and ministry	Will be implemented starting in FY2009.

Items	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Office and/or ministry in charge	Implementation period
	<p>- From the perspective of increasing the expertise of personnel engaged in statistics who belong to statistical departments and bureaus, efforts will be made to establish items related to the improvement of the expertise of statistics as a goal for personnel in the personnel evaluation system that is planned on being introduced in the future.</p>	Each office and ministry	Will be implemented starting in FY2010.
	<p>- While taking the needs of each office and ministry as well as those of local public entities into consideration, enhancements will be made for training carried out for the purpose of improving their ability in producing primary statistics and training that is directly linked to increased ability in secondary use, etc.</p>	MIC	Will be implemented starting in FY2010.
	<p>- From the perspective of promoting and supporting approaches made by each office and ministry, the state of such approaches will be comprehended, and the sharing of information between each ministries will be promoted.</p>	MIC	Will be implemented starting in FY2010.
b) Promotion of the cultivation and securing of human resources who can contribute to international society	<p>- To cultivate personnel who can flourish in the field of international statistics, measures for improving their international response capabilities will be promoted through dispatching them to government statistical agencies overseas.</p>	Each office and ministry	Will be implemented starting in FY2009.
	<p>- With regard to international issues such as establishing and revising statistical standards, opportunities will be established so that each office and ministry can share information and carry out research and reviews on countermeasures, and support will be provided for strategically improving their international response capabilities.</p>	MIC	Will be implemented starting in FY2009.
c) Implementation of research oriented toward cultivating and securing human personnel	<p>- In order to contribute to the cultivation and securing of human resources with a great deal of expertise, research regarding the establishment of targets for the expertise that statistical personnel should possess and policies for supporting the acquisition of the targeted capabilities will be implemented, while referring to case examples, etc. of various foreign countries.</p>	MIC, each office and ministry	Will be implemented starting in FY2010.
3 Responses toward environmental changes in the economy and society (1) Continuous comprehension and utilization of statistical needs	<p>- Exchanges of opinions with users of statistics, including the policy departments of each office and ministry, relevant academic societies, and those in the business world, etc., will be implemented as needed, and specific reviews will be conducted on approaches toward the needs of statistics users, with a focus on the development of an infrastructure for producing statistics that is cross-sectoral among the office and ministries and on the development of new statistics, etc. The results of such reviews will be applied toward reexaminations of the Master Plan and the development and provision of statistics implemented by relevant ministries as well as toward reviews regarding consultative matters.</p>	Cabinet Office (Statistical Commission)	Will be implemented starting in FY2009.

Items	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Office and/or ministry in charge	Implementation period
	- Through using the "Portal Site of Official Statistics of Japan" (e-Stat) that is available on the Internet, the needs pertaining to development/improvement and secondary usage, etc. of statistics will be broadly comprehended. In addition, the development and provision of statistics by each office and ministry will be supported based on sharing the demands that were comprehended and the state of use of e-Stat, etc. with each office and ministry.	MIC	Will be implemented starting in FY2009.
(2) Reexaminations and streamlining evaluations of statistics	- Using the IMF Data Quality Assessment Framework, etc. as a basis, guidelines for conducting self-evaluations on the quality of statistics, including "Common Style for Quality Indication of Statistics," will be formulated. When doing so, provisions on making the production process more transparent, and on the scope and process for sharing statistical information before its publication, etc. will be specified.	MIC	Will be implemented in FY2009.
	- Each office and ministry will systematically implement self-evaluations of the statistics that they oversee based on the abovementioned guidelines, and promote reexamination and streamlining the statistics.	Each office and ministry	Will be implemented starting in FY2010.
	- The results of self-evaluations by each office and ministry will be applied in approval reviews for statistical surveys, etc. to alleviate the burden on each office and ministry.	MIC	Will be implemented starting in FY2010.
3) Encouragement of the public's understanding of statistics a) Enhancement of activities for publicizing and raising awareness among citizens and corporations	- With cooperation from each office and ministry, concrete measures for sharing information regarding the usefulness of statistical survey results and the disadvantages that arise from not cooperating in surveys, which can be obtained from Web sites, etc., as well as for sharing survey results that are more understandable and easy to use will be formulated.	MIC	Will be implemented in FY2009.
	- Based on the abovementioned concrete measures, improvements on the contents of items listed on Web sites will be made.	Each office and ministry	
	- In addition to making efforts to effectively raise awareness to enable respondents to understand the usefulness of statistics, each office and ministry will work together as one to request for cooperation from industry organizations that manage apartments and buildings in order to promote the smooth implementation of statistical surveys.	MIC, each office and ministry	Will be implemented starting in FY2009.
b) Policies for handling non-cooperating parties	- Cooperation from each office and ministry as well as local public entities, etc. will be obtained to review concrete policies for handling parties who do not cooperate in statistical surveys.	MIC	A conclusion will be obtained in FY2009.

Items	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Office and/or ministry in charge	Implementation period
	- Based on the abovementioned concrete policies, each office and ministry will make approaches with regard to parties who do not cooperate in statistical surveys that they have jurisdiction over.	Each office and ministry	Will be implemented starting in FY2010.
c) Expansion of statistics education that emphasizes statistical literacy and statistical ethics	<p>- In training workshops for teachers, the following will be implemented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers will be actively welcomed in training implemented at the Statistical Research and Training Institute. • The number of teachers welcomed in the training workshops that are currently being implemented will be expanded, and the enhancement of training contents will be promoted. 	MIC	Will be implemented starting in FY2011.
	<p>- Under the cooperation of each office and ministry as well as academic societies involved in statistics, reviews will be conducted on concrete measures related to the results of statistical surveys that are provided by each office and ministry via their homepage so that easily understandable education materials regarding the concrete usefulness of statistical surveys and the importance of cooperating in surveys that would spark the interest of children and students are also made available on the homepages.</p>	MIC	A conclusion will be obtained by FY2011.
	<p>- Based on the abovementioned concrete measures, improvements will be made to the contents listed on homepages.</p>	Each office and ministry	Will be implemented starting in FY2012.
4 Promotion of effective use of statistical data (1) Production and provision of order-made tabulations and anonymized data	<p>- The following approaches related to secondary usage will be implemented, while taking the protection of confidentiality into consideration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the statistical surveys that each office and ministry has jurisdiction over, an annual plan relating to secondary usage that includes the name of the statistical surveys, the contents of the services to be provided, the timing and period for accepting offers, the timing at which provision is planned, etc. regarding the statistical surveys and services to be subject to secondary usage in a particular fiscal year will be formulated and published at the beginning of the fiscal year. • Paperwork related to secondary usage as based on the above annual plan, the “Guidelines Concerning the Production of Statistics Based on Entrustment” and the “Guidelines Concerning the Production and Provision of Anonymized Data” will be implemented appropriately. 	Each office and ministry	Will be implemented starting in FY2009.

Items	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Office and/or ministry in charge	Implementation period
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MIC will summarize the annual plan and performance relating to secondary usage that was implemented by each office and ministry (status of acceptance of offer forms, status of review results, number of projects for which responses to offers were difficult and their reasons, status of provision of statistics, etc. and anonymized data that were produced, etc.), publish an overview, and report to the Statistical Commission. • Expansion of services will be promoted while taking the state of expansion of statistical resources and needs for secondary usage into consideration. • Maximum efforts will be made to secure statistical resources for the purpose of adequately responding to needs for secondary usage. • From the perspective of supporting the initiation and expansion of services related to provision of anonymized data and order-made tabulations for statistical surveys that are governed by each office and ministry, MIC will establish the necessary measures for the development of a system where the National Statistics Center, which is an agency designated by a Cabinet order (hereinafter referred to as “Statistics Center”) can accept entrustment of provision of anonymized data and order-made tabulations from each office and ministry. <p>- MIC will conduct reviews on on-site usage, which is a method where users can use questionnaire information through a location or equipment designated by administrative organs.</p>		
(2) Development of a statistical data archive a) Development of a statistical data archive	<p>- The following approaches will be implemented for the purpose of developing a statistical data archive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the cooperation of each office and ministry, the Statistical Center, academic societies, etc., a review meeting will be established to conduct reviews and obtain conclusions regarding the methods for developing and operating a statistical data archive, the functions that such an archive should possess, and the scope and method for storing applicable data. • Reviews will also be conducted and conclusions will be obtained on the future ideals for provision of questionnaire information and on the production and provision of order-made tabulations and anonymized data. 	MIC	Conclusions will be obtained by FY2013.
b) Method for storing questionnaire information, etc.	<p>- At the review meetings described above in a), guidelines pertaining to the storage of questionnaire information, regarding the storage methods for questionnaire information, anonymized data, survey overview documents, code books, etc. related to Fundamental Statistical Surveys carried out by each office and ministry will be formulated, to enable each office and ministry to appropriately store the questionnaire information, etc. that is used as input data for the statistical data archive.</p>	MIC	Will be implemented by FY2010.

Items	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Office and/or ministry in charge	Implementation period
	<p>- Based on the above guidelines, each office and ministry will appropriately store the questionnaire information, anonymized data, survey overview documents, code books, etc. pertaining to the Fundamental Statistics survey that they have jurisdiction over.</p>	Each office and ministry	Will be implemented starting in FY2011.
	<p>- From the perspective of supporting the abovementioned approaches, the necessary measures will be established so a system where the Statistics Center can accept entrustment of storage of questionnaire information and anonymized data from each office and ministry is developed.</p>	MIC	Will be implemented by FY2011.
<p>5 Other (1) Promotion of the sharing and provision of data among the office and ministries based on using the Government Statistics Sharing System</p>	<p>- The following will be implemented based on the Optimization Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sharing and provision of data between the office and ministries will be promoted through the use of the Inter-Ministry Information System for Official Statistics operated and managed by the Statistics Center. • Through the creation of implementation evaluation reports for the Optimization Plan, follow-ups regarding the progress of various approaches based on the Optimization Plan will be steadily implemented every fiscal year, the various issues related to the Optimization Plan and the sharing system will be accurately comprehended, and reexaminations of the Optimization Plan will be carried out as necessary. 	Each office and ministry	Will be implemented starting in FY2009.
<p>(2) Promotion of research and development (utilization of information and communications technology, etc.) and strengthening coordination with academic societies, etc.</p>	<p>- Cooperation will be obtained from METI, the Bank of Japan, universities, academic societies engaged in statistics, etc. to form a joint research organization for handling processed statistics, and research and development for advanced use of statistics and the production of various processed statistics through the use of advanced information and communications technology, such as regarding the method of producing processed statistics for National Accounts, etc., will be promoted.</p>	Cabinet Office	Will be implemented starting in FY2009.
	<p>- Requests will be made for cooperation from the Council for Science and Technology Policy, academic societies engaged in statistics, etc. regarding research and development related to statistics.</p>	Cabinet Office (Statistical Commission)	Will be implemented in FY2009.
	<p>- Coordination will be established with the Council for Science and Technology Policy, academic societies engaged in statistics, etc. to promote open-type and competitive-type research in implementing surveys and research and development related to methods for producing official statistics, based on the perspective of further broadly applying the knowledge of experts in academic societies, etc. In addition, the sharing of information will be promoted by disclosing the results from the abovementioned research on the Internet. If cooperation for research that contributes to the development and provision of official statistics is requested by relevant academic societies, etc., support will be provided to the maximum extent possible, such as through the provision of relevant materials.</p>	Each office and ministry	Will be implemented starting in FY2010.

Items	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Office and/or ministry in charge	Implementation period
	<p>- In addition to using opportunities for exchanging opinions with statistics users (refer to 3 (1)) and supporting strengthening coordination with each office and ministry as well as academic societies, etc. as mentioned above, the promotion of research by experts in academic societies, etc. will be encouraged such as through raising awareness through academic societies, etc. of research issues that are considered as being useful in the development and provision, etc. of official statistics.</p>	Cabinet Office (Statistical Commission)	Will be implemented starting in FY2009.
	<p>- From the perspective of cultivating human resources who make up the core of statistics, coordination with universities, etc. will be strengthened through mutual dispatch of training instructors, as well as through lectures, etc. at universities and graduate schools.</p>	Each office and ministry	Will be implemented starting in FY2010.
(3) Impartiality of statistics	<p>- Based on the guidelines mentioned above in 3 (2), the process for producing statistics, such as the survey methods, etc., will be published on the Internet, etc.</p> <p>- With regard to Fundamental Statistics prior to the date for publication, the scope, etc. for sharing of preliminary information will be specified as a bylaw, and such information will be published.</p>	Each office and ministry	Will be implemented starting in FY2010.

“4. Promotion and Evaluation, etc. of the Master Plan”

Items	Concrete measures, policies, etc.	Office and/or ministry in charge	Implementation period
1 Progress management and evaluation, etc. of the Master Plan	- A “Master Plan Promotion Committee” (tentative name) will be established, and the liaisons, adjustments, and reviews necessary for promoting measures described in the Master Plan while establishing close coordination between the office and ministries will be carried out.	Each office and ministry	Will be implemented starting in FY2009.
	- Each fiscal year, the Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications will summarize the approaches made by each office and ministry in the previous fiscal year relating to implementation of the Master Plan and report this to the Statistical Commission in the form of a report on the situation of enforcement as based on Article 55 (2) of the Statistics Act. In addition, where necessary, the Statistical Commission will request relevant ministries, etc. for reports relating to the status of approaches regarding priority issues from among the measures described in the Master Plan. - Based on the abovementioned reports, the Statistical Commission will objectively evaluate and verify the status of approaches for the enforcement of the Master Plan, including the securing of statistical resources, while taking the needs of statistics users into consideration. Upon doing so, where necessary, the Statistical Commission will present opinions to the relevant ministries regarding the provision specified in Article 55 (3) of the Statistics Act (hereinafter referred to as “opinions”) to enable further reviews, reexaminations, promotion, etc. of approaches.	Cabinet Office (Statistical Commission), MIC	Will be implemented starting in FY2010.
	- Upon receiving consultations related to Fundamental Statistics from the Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications, the consistency of the methods for producing Fundamental Statistics, etc. will be confirmed with the measures described in the Appendix of the Master Plan, and if necessary, consistency will be secured through reports presented to the Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications regarding the Fundamental Statistics that are the subject of the consultation. For statistics that are related to the applicable Fundamental Statistics, consistency will be secured through opinions presented to the relevant office and ministries as part of follow-ups.	Cabinet Office (Statistical Commission)	Will be implemented starting in FY2010.
	- In presenting opinions to the relevant ministries investigative research for contributing to survey reviews will be implemented as necessary by coordinating with experts from academic societies, etc.	Cabinet Office (Statistical Commission)	Will be implemented starting in FY2010.

1 Development of statistics to be converted from designated statistics to Fundamental Statistics
(1) Statistics that will continue to be developed as Fundamental Statistics

Name of office or ministry	Name of statistics
MIC	Housing and Land Survey, Labour Force Survey, Retail Price Survey (including the Consumer Price Index), Family Income and Expenditure Survey, Unincorporated Enterprise Survey, Survey of Research and Development, Employment Status Survey, National Survey of Family Income and Expenditure, National Survey of Prices, Survey on Time Use and Leisure Activities, Economic Structure Statistics
MOF	Financial Statement Statistics of Corporations by Industry
MEXT	School Basic Survey, School Health Survey, School Teachers Survey, Social Education Survey
MHLW	Vital Statistics, Monthly Labour Survey, Survey of Medical Institutions, Patient Survey, Basic Survey on Wage Structure, Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions
MAFF	Statistics on Agriculture and Forestry Structures, Statistics on Crop, Statistics on Marine Fishery Production, Census of Fisheries, Statistics on Farm Management and Economy
METI	Census of Manufacturers, Census of Commerce, Current Production Survey on Gas Utility Industry, Current Survey of Petroleum Products Supply and Demand, Current Survey of Commerce, Survey of Selected Service Industries, Survey of Oil Consumption in Commerce, Mining and Manufacturing, Basic Survey of Japanese Business Structure and Activities
MLIT	Survey on Port and Harbour, Statistics of Building Construction Starts, Statistical Survey on Construction, Survey on Motor Vehicle Transport, Survey on Coastwise Vessel Transport, Survey of Incorporated Land

(Note) Excludes the Population Census as designated by law and the statistics in (2) to (4) below.

(2) Fundamental surveys of which consolidation (co-jurisdiction) will be reviewed

Name of office or ministry	Name of statistics	Reason, concrete measures, etc.	Implementation period
MHLW	Statistics of Production by Pharmaceutical Industry	Reviews will be conducted on reorganizing these statistics pertaining to production dynamics in the manufacturing industry into a system where there is a single set of statistics (Statistics of Production (tentative name)) pertaining to production dynamics that is cross-sectoral across the office and ministries, under which statistical surveys on production dynamics that are governed by each office and ministry are implemented, upon making use of the survey items unique to each survey and making the survey items, terminology, uniform across the ministries.	Necessary reviews will be initiated as early as possible in FY2009, and development by FY2013 will be planned.
MAFF	Statistics on Milk and Dairy Products, Statistics on Lumber		
METI	Current Survey of Production		
MLIT	Survey on Shipbuilding and Engineering, Survey on Current Rolling Stock Production		

(3) Fundamental Statistics for which specific reviews are to be carried out

Name of office or ministry	Name of statistics	Reason, concrete measures, etc.	Implementation period
MOF (National Tax Agency)	Statistical Survey of Actual Status for Salary in the Private Sector	The Statistical Survey of Actual Status for Salary in the Private Sector is a statistical survey for comprehending the actual state of annual payment of wages and of the withholding of income tax payments by private enterprises according to salary level, scale of business establishment, scale of enterprise, etc., and is essential for estimating tax revenue, reviewing tax	A conclusion will be obtained in FY2009.
MIC	Survey on Wages of Local Government Employees		

		<p>burdens, managing tax administration, etc.</p> <p>The Survey on Wages of Local government Employees is a statistical survey for comprehending the actual state of wages of local government employees, of which there are approximately 3 million. In addition to being utilized as fundamental materials for systems and administration related to wages of local government employees, such as the production of the Laspeyres index, which compares the standards of wages between local government employees and national government employees, these statistics are also used in the creation of fiscal plans, etc. by local governments and are essential to administration of local government finances, etc.</p> <p>With the cooperation of relevant ministries MIC will conduct reviews on the orientation of these two statistics, together with the Survey of Remuneration of National Public Employees, which is implemented by the National Personnel Authority, from the perspective of systematically developing statistics on labor and employment. In conducting such reviews, consideration will be given to securing mobility pertaining to responses toward changes in the wage system. In addition, it will also be kept in mind that as the subjects and purposes of these three statistics differ, it is not appropriate to consolidate them into a single survey, and that it is extremely difficult to change the timing of surveys and publication from their current timing.</p>	
MLIT	Survey on Seaman's Labour	<p>As seamen differ from land-based workers, the Survey on Seaman's Labour is special in that the Mariners Act (Act No. 100 of 1947) is applied rather than the Labor Standards Act (Act No. 49 of 1947) with regard to the labor environment such as working hours and holidays, etc. As a result, this survey was created after 1957 as statistics for comprehending the actual state of compensation, employment, etc. of seamen. Nowadays, however, the conditions surrounding marine transportation in Japan have changed greatly; for example, the number of seamen in 1974 was approximately 280,000 but this number decreased greatly to approximately 80,000 in 2006.</p> <p>At the same time, in major statistics on the demand side of labor (enterprises, business establishments), such as the Monthly Labour Survey and the Basic Survey on Wage Structure, seamen are not included in the workers that are subject to such statistics, and from the perspective of systematic development of statistics, the fact that seamen are purely absent from such surveys is a problem.</p> <p>Consequently, based on the perspective of systematic development of labor and employment statistics, MIC will cooperate with relevant ministries to conduct reviews on the orientation of</p>	A conclusion will be obtained in FY2009.

		these statistics.	
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(4) Statistics to be excluded from Fundamental Statistics

Name of office or ministry	Name of statistics	Reason, concrete measures, etc.	Implementation period
METI	Statistical Survey of Estimated Mining Amount	These statistics were specified as designated statistics in August 1950, and surveys have been implemented every five years since 2004, but as the importance of this survey has declined, there is a lack of necessity in implementing this survey in the future as a Fundamental Statistical Survey, and it is appropriate to implement this survey as a general statistical survey instead.	Measures will be established by the time that this survey is to be implemented the next time after FY2010.

2 Statistics to be newly developed as Fundamental Statistics

Name of office or ministry	Name of statistics	Reason, concrete measures, etc.	Implementation period
MIC	Current Population Estimates (processed)	Current Population Estimates represents population statistics for points in time in between the years when the Population Census is implemented, and estimates the population by month and year. These statistics are processed statistics that are produced by using the Population Census, Vital Statistics of Japan, Statistics on Legal Migrants, and Statistics on International Migration with regard to the national population, and by using, in addition to these statistics, the Statistics on Domestic Migration with regard to population by prefecture. Current Population Estimates is used as the denominator population for statistical indicators (per population) and as fundamental data in formulating various policies. Using Current Population Estimates as Fundamental Statistics, improvement in accuracy and coordination with relevant population statistics such as the Statistics on Legal Migrants and Migration Statistics will be promoted, based on the perspective of systematic development of statistics.	The necessary preparations will be initiated in FY2010 for development by FY2011.
10 ministries, including MIC	Input-output tables (master tables) (processed)	The input-output tables (master tables) that are produced jointly by 10 ministries including MIC play important roles as basic statistics that clarify the economic structure of Japan, as a means for analyzing the ripple effects on production, etc., and as fundamental materials for base revisions for National Accounts and for the price index of services directed towards corporations.	The necessary preparations will be initiated in FY2009 for the next development of input-output tables (master tables).
MHLW	Complete life tables/abridged life tables (processed)	These tables are processed statistics that are produced as indicators that intensively indicate the state of survivals, deaths, health, and hygiene, based on processing the Population Census, Vital Statistics, and Current Population Estimates. In addition to being important as fundamental materials for medical care and health policies in Japan, these tables are also used as indicators for international comparisons relating to health.	The necessary preparations will be initiated in FY2009 for their development by FY2010.
MHLW	Cost of Social	These statistics are the most Fundamental	Based on the status of

	Security (processed)	<p>Statistics related to social security that are created using various statistics related to benefits such as social security, public health services, public assistance, and the social welfare system, based on the standards for social security established by the ILO for international comparisons, and are oriented as indicators that comprehensively represent welfare and social security as a whole. In addition to being used in various measures related to welfare and social security, these statistics are also broadly used by researchers, etc. in the field of welfare and social security.</p> <p>Using these statistics as Fundamental Statistics, improvement in accuracy and coordination with various relevant business statistics based on the perspective of systematic development of statistics will be promoted.</p>	<p>reviews on the issues described in 2 (3) and (4) under 2 in Separate Sheet, developments will be made as soon as possible.</p>
METI	Indices of Industrial Production (processed)	<p>The indices of Industrial Production, being processed statistics that are produced based on the results, etc. of the Current Survey of Production, are important indicators that represent the various activities pertaining to production, shipments, and inventory in the manufacturing and mining industry in Japan, and are used widely in overall assessments of production activity, analyses of economic activities, and analyses on production trends and capital investment.</p> <p>In orienting towards the development of these statistics as Fundamental Statistics, reviews will be conducted on the scope of index series to which to make this development applicable.</p>	<p>The necessary preparations will be initiated in FY2009 for development by FY2010.</p>

(Note) The “processed” in the parentheses in the column for the name of the statistics represents processed statistics.

3 Surveys on which reviews regarding the possibility of converting them into Fundamental Statistics in the future are to be conducted

Name of office or ministry	Name of statistics	Orientation of reviews	Implementation period
MIC	Monthly Survey on Service Industry	<p>Upon conducting reviews over a span of approximately 3 years after the start of the survey (from July 2008) on the survey methods, as well as reviews on estimation methods and methods for imputation of missing data based on data that has been accumulated, a conclusion will be reached regarding the conversion of these statistics into Fundamental Statistics.</p>	<p>A conclusion will be obtained around FY2011.</p>
	Basic Survey on the Telecommunications and Broadcasting Industry, Survey on the Television Program Production Industry	<p>Will be implemented in an integrated manner in coordination with the Basic Survey of Japanese Business Structure and Activities. Concretely, statistics on corporate activities related to the information and communications industry will be developed by consolidating these surveys under Basic Statistics on Business Activities (tentative name), which will serve as Fundamental Statistics for comprehending corporate activities, and by then implementing this as a cojurisdictional survey under METI and MIC relating to the large section “G Information and Communications” of the Japan Standardized Industrial Classification.</p>	<p>Will be implemented around FY2010.</p>

MOF	Trade Statistics (business)	<p>Trade Statistics are business statistics produced based on conventions (international conventions, protocols, and annexes concerning economic statistics and the Protocol and Annexes for revising the International Convention relating to Economic Statistics signed on December 12, 1928 in Geneva (Convention No. 19 of 1952)) and Article 102 of the Customs Act (Act No. 61 of 1954). As they provide fundamental materials for economic activities of private enterprises and for national economic policies by comprehending the actual state of trade and by enabling for each country to compare their trade with that of foreign countries in an easier manner, these statistics fulfill an extremely important role as statistics that apprehend the movement of goods at the border.</p> <p>At the same time, from the perspective of facilitation of trade procedures, it is essential for export/import declaration forms, which serve as the basis for Trade Statistics, to become standardized internationally and for some of the items on the forms to be deleted, taking into consideration the alleviation of the burden of respondents. As a result, reviews will be conducted on converting Trade Statistics into Fundamental Statistics by including the viewpoint of whether it is possible for these statistics to be compatible with demands toward primary business.</p>	Reviews will be conducted starting in FY2009.
MAFF	Survey on the Status of Processed Foods Production, Survey on Oil Production, Statistics Survey on Current Production of Processed Food from Rice and Wheat	During reviews regarding the development of statistics related to production dynamics into one set of Fundamental Statistics that are cross-sectoral across the ministries (Statistics of Production (tentative name)) as mentioned above in 1 (2) and regarding the reorganization of statistical surveys on production dynamics governed by the MAFF under such a structure, reviews will be conducted on the possibility of making these three surveys applicable.	Reviews will be conducted starting in early FY2009, and a conclusion will be obtained by FY2013.
METI	Current Survey of Energy Consumption	Upon organizing its relationship with the Survey of Oil Consumption in Commerce, Mining and Manufacturing, reviews will be conducted toward converting these statistics into Fundamental Statistics. When doing so, reviews will also be conducted on the scope of Fundamental Statistics.	A conclusion will be obtained by FY2011.
	Indices of Tertiary Industry Activity (processed) Input-output tables (extended tables) (processed)	If improvements in accuracy can be promoted through the development of primary statistics and sophistication of estimation methods, reviews will be conducted on converting these statistics into Fundamental Statistics.	A conclusion will be obtained by FY2012.
MLIT	Statistical Survey on Overnight Travel, Consumer Outlook Survey Tourism	In addition to producing uniform prefectural standards relating to tourism statistics and improving comprehension of the actual state of overseas travelers, it is necessary to systematically develop tourism statistics by promoting improvements and enhancement of both statistics, and reviews will be conducted on converting these	A conclusion will be obtained by FY2010.

		statistics into Fundamental Statistics during this process.	
	Survey of Incorporated Buildings	Reviews will be conducted on integrating this survey with the Survey of Incorporated Land that is being implemented simultaneously, as they are closely related to each other, and converting them into Fundamental Statistics for comprehending the real estate (land and buildings) stock of corporations.	A conclusion will be obtained by FY2012.

(Note) The “processed” in the parentheses in the column for the name of the statistics represents processed statistics, and “business” represents business statistics.