

Summary of Development of the Japan Standard Industrial Classification (JSIC) and Its Fourteenth Revision

1. The Japan Standard Industrial Classification - Background and Development

The Japan Standard Industrial Classification is a set of statistical standards established to ensure the accuracy and objectivity of official statistics prepared by administrative organs, and to make it easier to compare statistics and to obtain the maximum benefit from them. It classifies by industry all economic activities that are similar in terms of producing or providing goods and services.

This revision of the Japan Standard Industrial Classification (as revised in July 2023) is based on the state of new industries and new systems, as well as changes, etc. in the state of existing industries since the thirteenth revision in October 2013, and marks the fourteenth revision since the Classification was first devised in October 1949.

The following provides some historical background up to this revision of the Japan Standard Industrial Classification (hereinafter referred to as JSIC) since its establishment, along with before its establishment.

The occupational classification (Cabinet Instruction No. 1 dated December 24, 1920) that was drawn up in 1920 when the first Population Census was taken includes areas that correspond to industrial classifications, but it would be reasonable to say that Japan's first industrial classification is the one that was created in 1930 when the third Population Census was taken. In this classification (Cabinet Instruction No. 3 dated December 27, 1930), industry and occupation are separated distinctly. This industrial classification consisted of a three-level hierarchy of division, major group, and group—this structure was made up of 10 divisions, 42 major groups, and 280 groups. However, although it was specified that each ministry and agency use the classification in a uniform manner, at the same time, when there was a particular need, it was possible to change each item so that they still corresponded to the original classification.

In concert with the 1950 World Census that was advocated by the United Nations, various large-scale censuses came to be conducted in Japan as well. This enabled for a Central Planning Commission for the 1950 Census as well as various special sub-committees to be established under the Statistics Commission, which was formed as an administrative commission with jurisdiction over comprehensive coordination of statistics. In addition to conducting censuses, progress was made on research on various types of classification, which was a fundamental project.

The Industrial Classification Special Sub-committee, which was one of these special sub-committees, commenced the task of creating a standard industrial classification in March 1948. With cooperation from experts in the United States, reviews on research, etc. of standard industrial classifications in the United States and the International Standard Classification by the United Nations was implemented, and a provisional draft for JSIC was created in August 1948. Furthermore, the final version was approved in October of the same year, after revisions were made based on trial surveys by Statistics Bureau, the Prime

Minister's Agency (currently Statistics Bureau, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications) and Research and Statistics Bureau, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (currently Research and Statistics Department, Minister's Secretariat, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry). This final version was published as “The Japan Standard Industrial Classification Volume 1 – Items, Explanatory Notes, and Examples (October 1949)” and “The Japan Standard Industrial Classification Volume 2 – Index by Japanese Alphabet (March 1950)” by the Statistics Commission Secretariat.

The twelfth Statistics Commission and the seventeenth Statistics Commission deliberated on the issue of measures to enable for unified use of JSIC by the government on December 23, 1949 and April 28, 1950, respectively. As a result, a cabinet order was to be instituted based on the Statistics Act (Act No. 18 of 1947), and its use was to be made compulsory.

At this time, what became an issue for examination was whether JSIC could be applied reasonably to numerous statistical surveys. Consequently, following a review of the actual state of use of JSIC and of changes in the industrial structure of Japan, the conclusion that it was necessary to revise this standard classification was reached. Revision work was conducted based on establishing working groups by industrial sector under the Industrial Classification Special Sub-committee, and as a final draft for the revision was obtained in March 1951, the “Cabinet Order for Creating an Industrial Classification and Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death to be Used for Statistical Surveys (Cabinet Order No. 127 dated April 30, 1951; hereinafter referred to as Cabinet Order for Classification) was formulated and issued as the abovementioned cabinet order. At the same time, the first revision of JSIC as well as publication in the Official Gazette, as a public notification of the Statistics Commission, was implemented.

The Statistics Commission was integrated into the Administrative Management Agency under the reformation of government administration implemented in August 1952, resulting in attachment of the Statistics Council. The Industrial Classification Special Sub-committee under the Statistics Council was thus assigned responsibility for deliberating on issues related to JSIC, and in March 1953, the second revision of JSIC was implemented based on deliberations by this sub-committee. In the first Statistics Council of September 18, 1952, Inquiry No. 1 (Re: “Setting Standards of Industrial Classification to be Used for Statistical Surveys”) was presented to the Chair of the Statistics Council by the Director-General of the Administrative Management Agency. After the second Report to this Inquiry, a third revision and fourth revision were implemented in February 1954 and May 1957, respectively. Even afterwards, as multiple problems continued to occur in the application of JSIC to various types of statistical surveys in a reflection of the diverse changes in the industrial structure of Japan, a series of revisions was implemented in response to each renewed inquiry to the Statistics Council concerning revisions.

In the 166th Diet session in May 2007, the Statistics Act (Act No. 53 of 2007) was established with the purpose of systematically and efficiently developing official statistics and ensuring their effectiveness, and in Article 28 of this Act, “Statistical Standards”, which are technical standards for ensuring uniformity and comprehensiveness in producing official statistics, were established. “Statistical

Standards” were set by Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications, according to the above article. The Statistics Council was reorganized into the Statistics Commission which was also established in accordance with the stipulations of the Statistics Act.

Since the Cabinet Order for Classification was abolished in association with complete enforcement of the Statistics Act, it became necessary to set JSIC as statistical standards. The Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications presented an inquiry to the Statistics Commission dated January 19, 2009, upon obtaining a report that it is allowable to establish JSIC as statistical standards, JSIC was set as statistical standards and a public announcement was made in March 2009. The thirteenth revision in October 2013 clarified the General Rules, which had been defined as an integral part of the classification items but had not been publicly identified as statistical standards, to be statistical standards. The General Rules provide definitions of industries, the definition of establishment, and other basic principles of the Japan Standard Industrial Classification, thus serving as the design basis of various statistical surveys.

This fourteenth revision is the first revision in 10 years.

The following is a list of the dates, etc. of revisions, which can be used as a reference.

History of Revision of the Japan Standard Industrial Classification (Established in October 1949)

	Statistics Council (Note 1)			Notification Dates	Application Dates
	Inquiry No.	Inquiry Dates	Reporting Dates		
1 st	—	—	—	April 30, 1951	May 1, 1951
2 nd	—	—	—	March 31, 1953	April 1, 1953
3 rd	1	Sept. 18, 1952	(1) Feb 12, 1954	Feb. 27, 1954	March 1, 1954
4 th			(2) April 26, 1957	May 1, 1957	Jan. 1, 1958
5 th	92	Nov. 19, 1962	Dec. 14, 1962	Jan. 12, 1963	April 1, 1963
6 th	105	Feb. 18, 1966	Feb. 17, 1967	May 1, 1967	Jan. 1, 1968
7 th	139	June 16, 1971	Feb. 18, 1972	March 31, 1972	April. 1, 1972
8 th	164	Dec. 5, 1975	April 16, 1976	May 15, 1976	Jan. 1, 1977
9 th	195	Dec. 17, 1982	April 15, 1983	Jan. 10, 1984	April 1, 1985
10 th	233	June 14, 1991	July 9, 1993	Oct. 4, 1993	April 1, 1994
11 th	268	Feb. 16, 2001	Jan. 11, 2002	Mar. 7, 2002	Oct. 1, 2002
12 th	320	April 13, 2007	Sept. 14, 2007	Nov. 6, 2007	April 1, 2008
Establishment as statistical standards (Note 2)	14	Jan. 19, 2009	Jan 19, 2009	Mar. 23, 2009	April 1, 2009
13 th	53	May 17, 2013	Sept. 27, 2013	Oct. 30, 2013	April 1, 2014
14 th	172	March 23, 2023	June 16, 2023	July 27, 2023	April 1, 2024

(Note 1) As the Statistics Commission was held in place of the Statistics Council in October 2007, deliberations regarding the third to twelfth revisions were conducted by the Statistics Council, and subsequent deliberations were conducted by the Statistics Commission.

(Note 2) In association with enforcement of the current Statistics Act, the establishment in 2009 was implemented due to the change in positioning to statistical standards, and there are no changes in the twelfth revision in relation to the contents of classifications.