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**Items for information: Economic census for business
frame in Japan**

Economic census for business frame in Japan¹

In this paper, a summary of Economic Census for Business Frame is explained and a list of other main economic statistics conducted in Japan is presented as an appendix.

Summary of economic census for business frame

1. Purpose

The objectives of the Economic Census for Business Frame are, by investigating the economic activity of establishments and enterprises, to identify the basic structure of establishments and enterprises (e.g. the number of persons engaged) in all industries on a national and regional level, and to obtain basic information for conducting various statistical surveys.

2. Short History

In Japan, the development of primary statistics which capture the entire picture of economic activity in one glance has been an urgent challenge for the government. Japan's previous industrial statistics had the following characteristics, so it had been inconvenient to utilize the statistical data and there were major limitations on the estimation of the GDP.

(a) Industrial statistics were basically implemented by industries or by the relevant ministries.

(b) The reference dates of surveys and survey cycles differed respectively for different surveys.

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(c) The concepts and definitions of the survey terms were not uniform among censuses and statistical surveys.

Under the above circumstances, in “Toward the Structural Reform of Official Statistics (June 10, 2005, Committee for Promotion to Develop Social and Economic Statistics, Cabinet Office)”, it was determined that “a census focusing on establishments and enterprises should be implemented in 2009, and another focusing on accounting items should also be implemented in 2011 utilizing the information census of the 2009 survey.” Also the “2005 Basic Policy on Economic and Fiscal Management and Structural Reform (21 June 2005, Cabinet approval)” included a statement referring to the need to develop statistics corresponding to the changes of industrial structure, such as the Economic Census, which captures the entire picture of economic activity in one glance.

As a result, large-scale statistical surveys such as the Establishment and Enterprise Census (1947-2006) were merged, and it was decided to establish the Economic Census.

3. Census Date

The 2009 Census was conducted as of 1 July 2009.

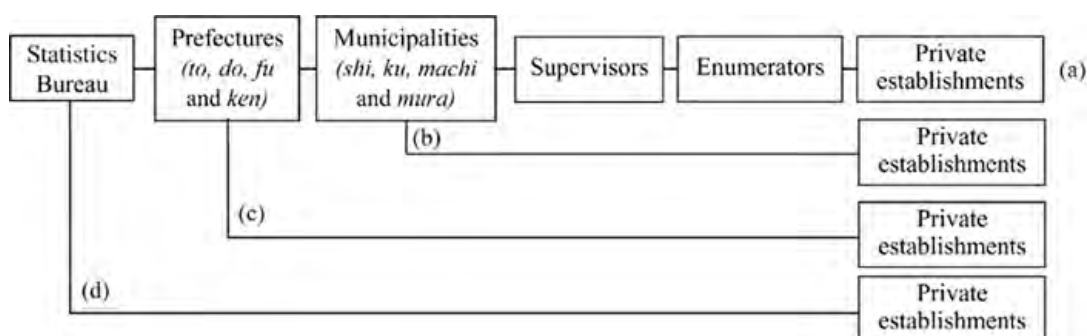
4. Coverage

All establishments and enterprises, excluding unincorporated establishments in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, domestic services, foreign governments or international agencies in Japan.

5. Census organization

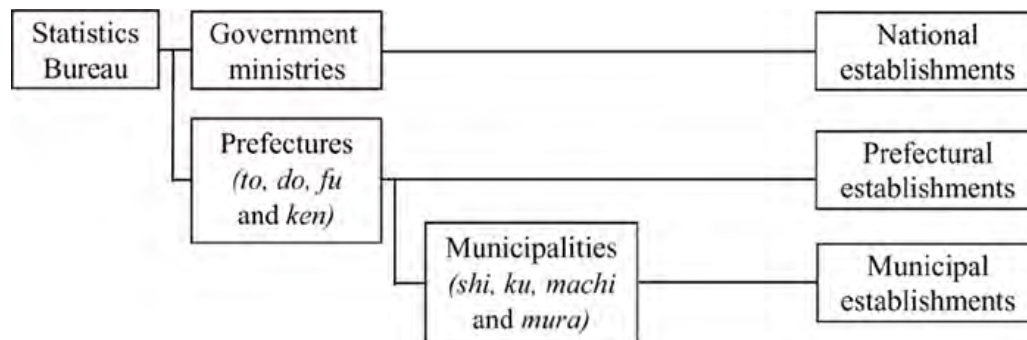
The 2009 Census consisted of Survey A, covering all private establishments and enterprises, and Survey B, covering all public establishments in both the central and local governments.

(1) Survey A (for private establishments and enterprises) was conducted through the following channels:



- (a) Survey by enumerators
- (b) Survey by municipalities
- (c) Survey by prefectures
- (d) Survey by the Statistics Bureau

(2) Survey B (for public establishments) is conducted through the following channels:



6. Survey Methods

The method of the 2009 Census was divided into four types—surveys by enumerators, central government, prefecture and municipalities, in accordance with the size of the establishments and enterprises surveyed.

7.1. Survey A (for private establishments)

7.1.1. Survey by enumerator

Enumerators visited each establishment, distributed questionnaires, and collected them after they were filled in.

7.1.2. Survey by the central government, prefecture or municipality

The establishment selected the method of response: via the Internet, or by mail back to the governments. Via the Internet, the central government (or prefecture or municipal authority) distributed questionnaires (soft or hard copies), and collected them after they were filled in.

7.2. Survey B (for public establishments)

For municipal establishments, municipal mayors sent and collected questionnaires, whereas this was done by prefectural governors for prefectural establishments and the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications for national establishments, through Ministers.

8. Enumeration Districts (EDs)

The whole area of Japan is divided into enumeration districts (EDs) in order to achieve the following purposes: to clarify the area of which each enumerator is in charge, to avoid duplication in the compilation of statistics, and to obtain basic information for conducting various statistical surveys on establishments and enterprises.

In the Economic Census, the EDs are demarcated by the number of enterprises in units named “Cho” or “Aza”. Each ED includes around 50 enterprises. However, if an ED has more than 50 enterprises, the ED is divided into some parts.

The EDs were set up as of June 1, 2008, and after some revision, the EDs were finally demarcated as of July 1, 2009 when the Census was conducted.

9. Survey Items

There were two types of questionnaires, I and II, in the 2009 Census. Questionnaire I was for private establishments, and Questionnaire II was for public establishments. Each of which surveyed the following items;

- (1) Questionnaire I (for private establishments)
 - (a) Items concerning establishments
 - Name and telephone number
 - Address
 - Startup date
 - Number of employees
 - Type of business conducted
 - Form of business conducted
 - (b) Items concerning enterprises
 - Legal organization
 - Amount of capital
 - Ratio of foreign equity
 - Timing (month) of the settlement of accounts
 - Holding company or not
 - Existence of parent company
 - Name of parent company
 - Address and telephone number of parent company
 - Existence and number of subsidiaries
 - Number of regular employees of whole enterprise
 - Type of main business of whole enterprise
 - Existence and number of branches
- (2) Questionnaire II (for public establishments)
 - Name
 - Telephone number
 - Address
 - Number of persons engaged
 - Type of operations
 - Name, telephone number and address of entrustee

10. Tabulation

The Bureau entrusts tabulation to the National Statistics Center. The major tabulation points are as follows:

- (a) Establishments
 - Items related to industry
 - Items related to number of employees
 - Items related to startup date
- (b) Incorporated Enterprises
 - Items related to Industry
 - Items related to type of organization
 - Items related to capital
 - Items related to ratio of foreign equity
 - Items related to existence of parent company, subsidiaries
 - Items related to number of regular employees

11. Publication

The publication schedule for the reports on the 2009 Census is as follows:

- Preliminary report -----February 2011
- Final report -----May 2011

12. Use of the Survey Results (Major Examples)

(a) Basic data for administrative policies and measures such as economic policies, employment policies, environmental policies, and policies for medium and small size enterprises

(b) Basic data for calculating macroeconomic figures such as Gross Domestic Expenditure

(c) Provision of a sampling framework for various sample surveys on establishments and enterprises

13. Website

<http://www.stat.go.jp/english/data/e-census/index.htm>

Appendix: List of other main economic statistics conducted in Japan

- Economic Census for Business Activity (Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry)
- Unincorporated Enterprise Survey (Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)
- Survey of Research and Development (Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)
- Financial Statements of Corporations by Industry (Ministry of Finance)
- Statistics of Production by Pharmaceutical Industry (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)
- Statistics on Agriculture and Forestry Structures (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries)
- Statistics on Milk and Dairy Products (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries)
- Census of Fisheries (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries)
- Statistics on Lumber (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries)
- Statistics on Farm Management and Economy (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries)
- Census of Manufactures (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry)
- Current Survey of Production (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry)
- Census of Commerce (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry)
- Current Production Survey on Gas Utility Industry (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry)
- Current Survey of Petroleum Product Supply and Demand (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry)
- Current Survey of Commerce (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry)
- Survey of Selected Service Industries (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry)
- Survey on Petroleum Consumption by Selected Industries (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry)
- METI Basic Survey of Business Structure and Activities (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry)
- Survey on Current Shipbuilding and Engineering (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism)
- Survey on Current Rolling Stock Production (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism)
- Survey on Construction Works (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism)