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Quality and Coverage

Restructuring the maintenance methods of the Business Register in Japan

Abstract

The current Business Register in Japan, formally called the Establishment Frame Database, has been operated from 2012, and its data sources are the results of the Economic Census, other major official statistical surveys, administrative data sources and so on.

The basic data source for the Business Register is based on the results of two kinds of Economic Censuses, one is the Economic Census for Business Frame, which aims to clarify the basic structure of businesses, and the other is the Economic Census for Business Activities, which aims to clarify the business activities of businesses in Japan.

These two kinds of Economic Censuses have been conducted approximately once every five years, beginning in 2009. So, the Economic Census for Business Frame was conducted in 2009 and 2014, and the Economic Census for Business Activity was conducted in 2012 and 2016. That means that the Business Register has been thoroughly updated with accuracy twice in five years by the basic data source, and this method is very important and effective for the maintenance of the Business Register in Japan.

In the meantime, recently there are some issues for the Business Register to deal with:

- a) To grasp the changes of the social and economic conditions, such as reorganizations of enterprise groups.
- b) To grasp high quality information about basic structures of the establishments and enterprises by small areas on a more timely basis than ever.
- c) To secure necessary well-trained enumerators of statistical surveys to maintain the Business Register.

To cope with these issues, we are planning to change the methods of the Economic Census for Business Register, which is one of the basic data sources for the Business Register in Japan, from once every five years to the two kinds of regular activities mentioned below from the 2019 fiscal year.

- a) Profiling of the structures and activities of the enterprises.
The profiling team will regularly grasp the latest basic information, such as structures, and activities of the major enterprise groups, which will be recorded in the Business Register without delay.
- b) Rolling survey to grasp the births and deaths of establishments and enterprises.
We will conduct the rolling survey regularly in which enumerators will grasp the status of the economic activities of establishments by using portable devices which can immediately update the information on the Business Register.

We expect that the quality and convenience of the Business Register will be improved more than ever:

- a) By grasping the reorganizations of the enterprise groups more promptly.
- b) By grasping the latest basic structures of the establishments and enterprises
- c) By maintaining the Business Register through the work of the well- trained enumerators
- d) By promoting the optimization and efficiency of the work to maintain the Business Register

In this paper, the plans mentioned above are introduced in detail.