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Business Demography and Data Products from the Business Registers

Analysis of the effective utilization of the Business Register in Japan

Abstract

The general public's understanding of statistical surveys is clearly critical to their quality. To achieve such an understanding, it would be effective to attest that statistical data are useful not only for data users but also for survey respondents. The development of new statistics that may interest respondents would also improve the quality of statistical surveys. In this presentation, we propose new statistics that can be developed by using Business Register data.

First, we propose geographical tabulations based on the merged dataset of Economic Census data and restaurant website information. Economic Census data is basic information to maintain the Business Register. Today, when people eat out, they usually search online for restaurants. The major characteristics of restaurant website information are that 1) everyone can access it at no cost, 2) it is updated frequently and 3) it contains rich information about restaurants' locations, including longitude and latitude. Statistical survey respondents can receive more information than they supply from geographical tabulations based on the merged dataset of Economic Census data and restaurant website information.

Second, we propose geographical tabulation based on railway lines. In Japan, administrative districts are used for geographical tabulation of business data, and this is thought to be conventional. However, the boundaries of many administrative districts were determined before modernization, and today, people tend to move along the railways or motorways that connect their homes, work places and shopping areas. Rather than staying inside the administrative districts in which they live, they freely move across administrative boundaries, and their actual behavioral spaces do not match administrative districts. If respondents saw geographical tabulation based on their actual behavioral spaces, they might say it is realistic and useful. We used QGIS, a cross-platform free and open-source desktop geographic information system (GIS) application that provides data viewing and editing. We applied QGIS for the Economic Census data and tabulated it by area along with railway lines. We applied this method for several economic census years and observed the business demography of establishments by railway lines.