

Abstract

2012 Economic Census for Business Activity

(Japan)

1. Background on establishment of the Economic Census

Japan's previous industrial statistics had the following challenges.

- (1) The reference dates of surveys and survey frequencies differed for each survey. As a result, it was difficult to capture the entire picture of economic activity in one glance.
- (2) There was a lack of statistics on the service sector which has come to account for an increasingly large portion of the national economy.

2. Structure of the Economic Census

(1) Economic Census for Business Frame

The Census was conducted as of July 1, 2009 to capture name, location, type of business, existence of parent company, subsidiaries and branch offices.

(2) Economic Census for Business Activity

The Census was conducted as of February 1, 2012 to capture the structure of establishments and enterprises in all industries in Japan using the Establishment Frame Database which is arranged based on the results of the Economic Census for Business Frame and other sources.

3. Outline of the Economic Census for Business Activity

(1) Purpose

The Census is conducted to capture the entire picture of economic activity in one glance and identify the structure of establishments and enterprises in all industries on a national and regional level. The Census also aims to provide population information of establishments and enterprises for the Establishment Frame Database which is used for conducting various statistical surveys.

(2) Consolidation of major statistical surveys

When the SBJ created the Economic Census, six large-scale statistical surveys were abolished or stopped.

(3) Coverage

All establishments and enterprises in Japan (260 thousand enterprises, 6.2 million establishments)

An establishment is defined as a single physical location where an economic activity is conducted and, as a general rule, the following prerequisites are satisfied:

- ① Economic activities are conducted under a single business principal, occupying a certain place or plot of land.
- ② Production or supply of goods and services is conducted continuously with personnel and facilities provided for this purpose.

For example, an establishment is what is usually called factory, a store, a hotel, a warehouse, a hospital, NPO, a religious body, a political party, or similar.

(4) Date of the Census

As of February 1, 2012

(5) Method of the Census

① Survey by enumerator (covering single-unit establishments)

The field work was carried out by enumerators appointed by the prefectural governors.

The enumerators delivered questionnaires by the end of January and collected them after February 1.

② Survey by direct mailing (covering enterprises having branch offices)

The national and local governments used private operators in mailing questionnaires to the head offices of the establishments. Responses were collected either by mail or online after February 1.

(6) Questionnaires and survey items

The census has 24 types of questionnaires by industries.

The questionnaires are designed in A3 size and printed on both sides.

Front side of questionnaire is for survey items which are common across industries.

Back side of questionnaire is for items which are specific for each industry.

4. Publication

Preliminary results will be released in January 2013.

Final results will be released from around the summer of 2013.