

Progress Report - Japan

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Information Society Statistics

1 In Japan, at least 41 kinds of official statistical surveys containing questions related to ICT have been conducted in the past five years (including one survey which was determined to be carried out in November 2002). Dividing these surveys according to the survey target, 26 are surveys for enterprise/establishment, 13 are those for household/individual and 9 are those for government, university, school, etc.

2 In most cases, ICT related questions are added in the existing statistical surveys as a part of each survey. But there are several statistical surveys in which most part of questions consists of those related to ICT such as the possession and use of ICT facilities/equipments. Main examples consisting of ICT related questions are as follows.

i) Statistical surveys to enterprise/establishment

a) Survey on ICT Workplaces

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) carries out this survey annually to the listed 9,500 enterprises using computer.

Main survey items are cost for ICT work and its prospect, ICT operators, possession of computer, PC and ICT network, operation of LAN and its application for business, self-development of software, state of outsourcing. The latest survey was conducted on the end of March 2001 and its results were released in January 2002.

b) Establishment and Enterprise Census 2001

The Census is conducted every five years by the Statistical Survey Department of the Statistics Bureau, MPHPT with the aim to clarify the industrial structure of the country as well as to provide the basic statistical framework for sample surveys on establishments and enterprises. It covers all establishments with a little exception. The Census held in October 2001 asked enterprises about use of e-commerce, its type (BtoB/BtoC) and its contents (sending orders, receiving orders, delivery of goods and service). The Census provides data that users can make analysis by region, industry and size of establishment. Its provisional results about use of e-commerce were released in April 2002.

ii) Statistical surveys to household/individual.

a) Survey of Household Economy

The Survey which has been launched since October 2001 by the Statistical Survey Department inquires about 30,000 households of the purchases of expensive and infrequently purchased goods and services and consumption for ICT, which supplements the monthly Family Income and Expenditure Survey initiated in 1954 covering about 8,000 households. Its preliminary results about usage of the Internet were released in May 2002.

3 Questions on e-commerce except possession and use of ICT facilities/equipments, namely questions on conducting e-commerce, barriers to e-commerce, sum of sales and purchase via the Internet etc. are contained in 11 surveys in the past five years. Main examples which contain questions on e-commerce are as follows.

i) Survey for enterprises/establishments

a) Establishment and Enterprise Census 2001 (Statistical Survey Department, October 2001)

Main survey items related to e-commerce are the use of e-commerce, its type (BtoB/BtoC) and contents of e-commerce (sending orders, receiving orders, delivery of goods and service).

b) Survey on ICT Workplaces (METI, as of the end of March, the results are released in next January.)

Main survey items related to e-commerce are the use of information systems in e-commerce processes for BtoB and BtoC, amount of sales and purchases of BtoB e-commerce, amount of sales of BtoC e-commerce, amount of purchases and sales of high ranked items in BtoB e-commerce by electronic network/the Internet, and amount of sales of high ranked items in BtoC by electronic network/ the Internet.

c) Census of Commerce (METI, June 2002)

Main survey items related to e-commerce are the use of e-commerce, annual amount of merchandise purchases and sales and those over electronic networks, the Internet etc.

ii) Survey for households/individuals

a) Survey of Household Economy (launched in October 2001 by the Statistical Survey Department)

Main survey items related to e-commerce are the possession of facilities/equipments for the Internet, telecommunications means for the Internet, use of the Internet and its purpose, use of e-commerce, amount of e-commerce purchases in a month.

b) Survey on Time Use and Leisure Activities (Statistical Survey Department, October, 2001)

Main survey items related to e-commerce are contents, frequency, place and purpose of the Internet use, frequency, place and purpose of e-commerce such as shopping, banking, ticket reservation or purchase, stock exchange etc.

Classification of Service Activities and Procedures: Revision of the Standard Industrial Classification for Japan (JSIC)

1 Since the latest revision of JSIC (10th revision: October 1993), we have faced the rapid changes in the structure of industry, owing to highly-developed information and communication technology (ICT), diversification in the service industries, declining fertility and an aging population. Especially, a fusion of telecommunications industries and information processing industries, rapid technological innovation and diversification in the service industries affect the statistical availability to grasp accurate data through using the existing classifications.

2 Namely, former division “L-Service” was a comprehensive division which comprises various industries in providing services not specifically provided for elsewhere in JSIC. Therefore, L-Services consisted of various industries such as information service, broadcasting, professional service, goods rental and leasing, hotels, medical and other health services, social insurance and social welfare, education etc. As a result, in 1995, 26.3 percent of the employment was in L-Services. The proportion of the amount of the turnover of L-Service was 18.8 percent according to our Input-Output tables 1995.

3 One of the major changes in this revision is the addition of new divisions to the present JSIC. The addition of new divisions is the first since the 4th revision in May 1957. As the result of the revision of L-Service and other divisions concerned, four new divisions –“H Information and Communications”, “M Eating and Drinking Places”, “N Health Care and Welfare” and “O Education and Learning Support”- are added. The major groups (2-digit), groups (3-digit) and industries (4-digit) have also been reorganized completely, adding new ones and removing some existing ones.

	Divisions	Major Groups	Groups	Industries
Number of existing items (A)	14	99	463	1,322
Number of revised items (B)	19	97	420	1,269
increase and decrease (B-A)	5	-2	-43	-53
Number of newly-established Items	5	22	76	162
Number of abolished items	0	24	119	215

4 Two following major points play important roles in creation of new division on information and communication.

i) Grasping the industrial structure on information and communication technology (ICT) is a critical issue for us to understand changing society. In order to consider the issue, Statistics Council had already asked us to explore new approaches to classifying economic activities owing to development of the ICT in 1993 when the 10th revision was published.

ii) Information sector is designed as one of 20 sectors in NAICS. ISIC Rev 3.1 also includes Information section as a new alternative aggregation.

5 “H Information and Communications” comprises establishments engaged in processing information for communication, notifying information, processing and providing information, or offering services incidental to internet. It consists of 5 major groups, i.e., Communications, Broadcasting, Information services, Internet based services, Video picture, sound information, character information production and distribution, and 15 groups.

6 We have following issues on Information and Communications.

i) It would be difficult to assign a classification item for an establishment not only because the value added is volatile in data processing and information services, communications, and internet based services but also because an establishment sometimes performs more than one activity on information.

ii) Considering the availability of data in collection for the statistics, we cannot arrange the Software services in the division for professional and technical services, but for “Information and Communications” since we need much more time to consider the possibility to arrange it to such a division.