Experiences and Future Directions in the Development of Service Sector Statistics in Japan

Session – Strategy

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Three reports on the development of service sector statistics

- "Strategies for Government Statistical Services for the Coming Decade" (1985)
- "New Strategies for Government Statistical Services for the Coming Decade" (1995)
- "New Directions in the Development of Government Statistical Services" (2003).

Situations before "Strategies for Government Statistical Services for the Coming Decade" (1985)

- Statistical surveys which cover service sector comprehensively and measure its activities including service production had not been developed.
- The number of establishments, enterprises and employees was measured through existing censuses, while its fluctuation had not been grasped well.
- Statistical surveys by type of business were only on specific fields and did not cover the whole service sector.
- Lack of the consistency based on the concept of basic common items, or the mutual relevancy.

"Strategies for Government Statistical Services for the Coming Decade" (submitted by the Statistics Council in 1985)

- In order to estimate SNA, it is necessary to measure the whole service sector consistently, and a wide and comprehensive statistical survey on service sector should be implemented. The survey focuses on common items of service sector.
- Statistics by types of business should be developed preliminary on some of the important types of business which had weight in Japanese economy to an extent or had been developing rapidly. The statistics should contain specific survey items particular to the each individual type of business and the administrative purposes of it.

"New Strategies for Government Statistical Services for the Coming Decade" (submitted by the Statistics Council in 10 March 1995)

- Enhance the activity-based measurement of services in statistical survey on establishments and enterprises conducted by ministries and agencies concerned.
- Dynamic statistics shall be steadily improved, taking into account the progress of improvement in wide and comprehensive statistics in service sector and service statistics by types of business.

"New Directions in the Development of Government Statistical Services" (June 2003)

- In order to help improve GDP statistics, the development of supply-side statistics for the services field (including public services field) shall be promoted.
- With regard to the services field, survey maps, which serve as a bird's-eye-view of the state of statistical development by industries and item of survey shall be prepared.
- In line with business diversification, the measurement of services field shall be promoted as necessary.

Deliberation on the creation of the Economic Census (provisional title)

< Basic directions >

 We will seek to compile statistics (under the provisional title of the "Economic Census") that can measure the economic activities of all industrial fields comprehensively and at the same point in time.

< Concrete measure >

 Regarding the Economic Census (provisional title), we will work towards bringing about this Census by compiling statistical surveys by 2009.

Conclusion

The development of service sector statistics has been implemented as the following process. We need to repeat this process periodically, for the services field is developing rapidly.

(Process of the development of service sector statistics)

- Grasp requirements for service sector statistics and present issues
- Set up the concrete plan for the development
- Develop and improve statistics to be required
- Evaluate improved statistics and set up new plan

Thank you!