Abstract

In 2007, the Statistics Act was revised, and the new act provides that the Business Register (formally, “Establishment Frame Database”) shall be developed by the Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications for the first time. In 2009, the Master Plan concerning the Development of Official Statistics, which includes the items for the development of the Business Register as a governmental policy, was decided (Cabinet Decision). Based on these directions, we started to implement the new Business Register system in 2013 and the system has been storing various data including administrative records. We also produced the Annual Business Frame based on information in the new Business Register for the first time in 2013 and plan to produce the Business Frame regularly from now on.

In this way, the new Business Register system was launched and integrates many survey results and administrative records into Business Frame information, which has been used by many national and local administrative agencies to conduct business surveys. However, there still remain many problems we should solve to maintain the Business Register (e.g., how to use survey data and administrative records more efficiently and how to exactly and timely understand the structure of complex enterprises) and to produce useful Business Register Statistics. Based on the new Master Plan, which was revised in early 2014, we are now tackling these difficult tasks, studying and developing methods to improve the Business Register.

In this paper, we introduce the history of the development of our new Business Register, and explain some problems regarding the maintenance of the useful Business Register and Business Register statistics. Finally, we outline the plan to solve these problems.

This paper is divided into the following three parts:

1) The history of our new Business Register

2) The plan to set up business profiling methods to understand exactly and efficiently the structure of complex enterprises.

3) The plan to create and provide useful Business Register Statistics based on the new Business Register.