

Current Survey of Commerce —Notes for use—

This Monthly Report contains the results of a survey conducted according to the Rules for the Statistical Survey on Commerce (Ordinance No. 17 of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, 1953) for Fundamental Statistics by the Statistics Act. The contents are outlined below:

1. Survey purpose

The survey aims to clarify the trends in sales activities of commercial establishments and enterprises (hereinafter "establishments").

2. Survey scope

The establishments throughout the nation which come under Division I of the Japan Standards Industrial Classification (which includes wholesale, retail) excluding agency businesses and brokerage businesses.

3. Survey method, routing, etc.

For this survey, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry commissions prefectural governments, through the survey-takers, to request the surveyed establishments to fill in questionnaires, which are then collected.

However, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry directly request the head offices of large retail establishments and the convenience stores to fill in questionnaires, and then collects them.

4. Sample design

This survey (excluding D survey) has been carried out since July 2010 for the establishments selected according to the sampling logic, with establishments surveyed in the 2007 Census of Commerce as the population. Samples consist of two groups: individual and regional, as follows. The sampling is designed so that any sampling errors for each industrial category will be 5% or less (8% or less for wholesale) (with the standard rate of deviation shown).

(1) Individual samples

--Individual samples will be selected from all wholesale establishments, automobile retail establishments, machinery and equipment retail establishments, fuel retail establishments and other retail establishments with 20 or more employees (including the large-scale retail stores in the complete survey).

--Sampling frames (hereafter "cells") are set for each industrial category and employee-scale division, and the number of samples will be decided for each cell.

(2) Regional samples

--Regional samples will be selected from retail establishments (excluding automobile retail establishments, machinery and equipment retail establishments, fuel retail establishments) with fewer than 20 employees from 264 predetermined survey areas.

-- In drawing the survey areas, the survey areas of statistics survey on commerce are made the population and stratified into four layers.

5. Method for estimating sales by industrial category

A ratio estimate is used to estimate the sales amount of each industrial category from the results of the survey samples (for sales of large-scale retailers, however, the actual amount is added). A ratio estimate is a method to estimate the total sales of the current month by totaling sales at samples for each cell, determining the ratio of month-to-month change and multiplying the previous month's sales amount by that ratio.

(1) Individual sample

$$\hat{X}_{ij}^t = \hat{X}_{ij}^{t-1} \times \frac{\frac{1}{f_{ij}} \sum_k^n X_{ijk}^t}{\frac{1}{f_{ij}} \sum_k^n X_{ijk}^{t-1}} = \hat{X}_{ij}^{t-1} \times \frac{\sum_k^n X_{ijk}^t}{\sum_k^n X_{ijk}^{t-1}}$$

(2) Regional sample

$$\hat{X}_{ij}^t = \hat{X}_{ij}^{t-1} \times \frac{\sum_j \left(\frac{1}{f_j} \sum_l^m \sum_k^n X_{ijlk}^t \right)}{\sum_j \left(\frac{1}{f_j} \sum_l^m \sum_k^n X_{ijlk}^{t-1} \right)}$$

$$\hat{X}_{ij}^t = \sum_j \hat{X}_{ij}^t \quad (\hat{X}_{ij}^t; \text{total of employeeclassification or layer})$$

【Explanation of signs】

i: Industrial classification

t: Month

j: Scale of employeeclassification

x: Monthly sales of individualsample

n: Number of individualsamples

\hat{X} : Estimation of monthliesales

m: Number of regional samples

f: Extraction ratio

l: Regional sample number

k: Individualsamplenumbers which is same as previous month

6. Level correction

As the Current Survey of Commerce (commercial sales) is a sample survey with the Census of Commerce as its population, as soon as the results of the latter survey, conducted every two or three years, are published, the figures of the former are revised to match those of the latter (level correction).

With the results of the 2004 Census of Commerce as the basis, a level correction was made in the Revised Report for February 2007.

(1) The way to find the amount of sales by the type of industry or scale of employee classification for 24 months (April 2002 ~

March 2004) is as follows:

$$Y_{ij} = \sum_{13}^{24} \hat{X}_{ij}^t = \alpha_{ij} \cdot \sum_{13}^{24} \hat{X}_{ij}^t \quad \hat{X}_{ij}^t = \left(\sqrt[24]{\alpha_{ij}} \right)^t \sum_{13}^{24} \hat{X}_{ij}^t \quad (1 \leq t \leq 24)$$

$$\alpha_{ij} \text{ satisfies } \sum_{13}^{24} \left(\sqrt[24]{\alpha_{ij}} \right) \cdot \hat{X}_{ij}^t = Y_{ij} \quad \text{so calculations are repeated and adjusted}$$

【Explanation of signs】

Y_{ij} = The amount of annual sales: i type of industry, j scale of employee classification of the 2004 Census of Commerce

\hat{X}_{ij} = The amount of annual sales: i type of industry, j scale of employee classification as result of level correction of the 2004 Current Survey of Commerce

\hat{X}_{ij}^t = Value of t moment: i type of industry, j scale of employee classification of monthly sales as result of level correction

\hat{X}_{ij}^t = Value of t moment: i type of industry, j scale of employee classification of monthly sales before level correction

Also, moment "t" is the serial number for that month which corresponds with the time series in which the point in the time with April 2002 set as t=1, and March 2004 set as t=24.

(2) Method of estimating the amount of sales after April 2004

It is calculated as "1. Method for estimating sales by industrial category."

7. Method of preparing and reading statistical tables

Statistical tables consist of 21 tables in 4 parts. Part 1 "Commercial Sales" are estimated sales of wholesalers and retailers throughout the nation using all samples (partly including the complete survey).

Part 2 contains the total sales of large-scale wholesalers using samples drawn on a 1/1 basis, and Part 3 contains the total sales of large-scale retailers obtained by the complete survey.

Part 4 contains the results compiled for convenience store chains of a certain scale and above.

(1) Part 1 Commercial Sales

These statistical tables are compiled for establishments drawn from the individual sample survey and the regional sample survey on the basis of "5. Method to estimate sales amount by industrial category." With regard to the correspondence between the industrial classification for the sales by industry and the Standard Industrial Classification for Japan, see tables below.

Industrial Classification for the Current Survey of Commerce	Standard Industrial Classification for Japan(Rev.11, March 2002)
Wholesale trade, General merchandise	491 Wholesale trade, General merchandise
Textile products	501 Textile products
Apparel, apparel accessories and notions	502 Apparel, apparel accessories and notions
Agricultural, animal and poultry farm and aquatic products	511 Agricultural, animal and poultry farm and aquatic products
Food and beverages	512 Food and beverages
Building materials	521 Building materials
Chemicals and related products	522 Chemicals and related products
Minerals and metals	523 Minerals and metals
Wholesale trade (machinery and equipment)	53 Wholesale trade (machinery and equipment)
General machinery and equipment	531 General machinery and equipment
Motor vehicles	532 Motor vehicles
Electrical machinery, equipment and supplies	533 Electrical machinery, equipment and supplies
Miscellaneous machinery and equipment	539 Miscellaneous machinery and equipment
Furniture, fixtures and house furnishings	541 Furniture, fixtures and house furnishings
Drugs and toiletries	542 Drugs and toiletries
Other wholesale	524 Recycled material 549 Other products, n.e.c (excluding "5497 Agents and brokers")
Retail trade, general merchandise	55 Retail trade, general merchandise
Retail trade (dry goods, apparel and apparel accessories)	56 Retail trade (dry goods, apparel and apparel accessories)
Retail trade (food and beverages)	57 Retail trade (food and beverages)
Retail trade (motor vehicles)	581 Retail trade (motor vehicles) (excluding "5814 Motorcycle stores")
Appliance stores	592 Appliance stores
Fuel stores	603 Fuel stores
Drug and Toiletry stores	601 Drug and Toiletry stores
Other retail	5814 Motorcycle stores 582 Retail trade (bicycles) 59 Retail trade (Furniture, household utensil and household appliance) (excluding "592 Appliance stores") 60 Miscellaneous retail trade (exclude "601 Drug and Toiletry stores", "603 Fuel stores")

(2) Part 2 Sales by Large-Scale Wholesalers

① These statistical tables are compiled for various wholesale establishments with 100 or more employees and wholesale establishments with 200 or more employees, both included in individual sample survey. The following merchandise classification is used for these statistical tables:

Merchandise name	Examples of contents
Textile goods:	Silk, cotton, wool, chemical textiles, other textile materials, yarns for fabrics, cotton fabrics, woolen fabrics, silk fabrics, chemical fiber fabrics, other fabrics, etc.
Clothing and accessories:	Suits and dresses, underwear, bedclothes, shoes, footwear, bags, umbrellas, other apparel and accessories, etc.
Agricultural, livestock and marine products:	Rice, barley, cereals, wheat flour, starch, beans, vegetables, fruit, meat, fresh fish, other agricultural products, livestock and marine products, etc.
Food and beverages:	Sugar, miso, soy sauce, alcoholic drinks, dry provisions, canned and bottled provisions, sweets, bread, soft drinks, teas, dairy products, other food and beverages, etc.
Drugs and toiletries:	Drugs, medical supplies, toiletries, toothpastes, soaps, detergents, shampoos, etc.
Chemical products:	Paints, printing inks, dyes, pigments, oils and fats, waxes, gunpowder, other chemical products, etc.
Petroleum and coal:	Crude oil, gasoline, kerosene, light oil, heavy oil, lubricants, grease, paraffin, road oil, natural gas, propane gas, liquefied petroleum gas, coal, coke, etc.
Minerals and mineral ores:	Iron ore, manganese ore, bauxite, limestone, mica, asbestos, graphite, clays for pottery and china, etc.
Iron and steel:	Pig iron, crude iron, cast iron, ferro-alloys, steel, semi-finished steel, cast steel, forged steel, ordinary steel materials, special steel materials, steel pipes, steel bars, rails, steel sheets, iron and steel secondary products, etc.
Non-ferrous metals:	Ground metals, wires, tubes, foils, metal powders, etc.
Industrial machinery:	Office machinery, agricultural machinery, general use internal combustion engines, textile related machinery, pumps, compressors, sewing machines, construction and mining machinery, metal-forming machinery, automatic vending machines, other industrial machinery, etc.
Automobiles:	Passenger cars, trucks, motorcycles, other automobiles, automobile parts and accessories, etc.
Other transportation equipment:	Bicycles, ships, aircraft, railroad cars, industrial vehicles, conveying machinery for work, etc.
Household electrical machinery:	TV and radio receivers, stereos, DVDs, VTRs, digital cameras, room air conditioners, fans, electric washing machines, electric vacuum cleaners, electric refrigerators, electric cookers, electric foot warmers, toasters, mixers, electric stoves, electric irons, lighting apparatus (household use), etc.
Other machinery:	Cameras, projectors, movie cameras, clocks, optical lenses, measures, scales, thermometers, other measuring instruments and machinery, medical equipment, physics and chemistry machinery, telephones, wired communication equipment, transmission equipment, electric signal equipment, generators, motors, transformers, wires and cables, storage batteries, wiring equipment, lighting instruments (excluding household use), etc.
Construction materials:	Timber, bamboo, cedar bark, cement, sheet glass, roofing tiles, bricks, tiles, slates, hume pipes, cement poles, stones, artificial stones, marbles, sand and gravel, ready-mix concrete, sashes, concrete pipes, sanitary porcelain, etc.
Paper and paper products:	Paper, cardboard products, paper boxes, school-use paper products, wrapping paper, daily necessity paper products, notebooks, albums, accounting books, paper bags, etc.
Other merchandise:	Empty containers such as bottles and cans, scrap iron, non-ferrous metal scraps, used paper, other recyclable materials, furniture and fittings, metal ware, hardware, fuels, fertilizers, books, magazines, sports equipment, toys, leisure goods, natural rubber, tanned leather, pulp for paper-making, stationery, fishing nets, polishing materials, handicrafts, jewels, seeds, saplings, animal feed, rubber products, photographic materials, badges, medals, artworks and curios, musical instruments, tobacco, etc.

② Linked coefficients

As a change was made to use the establishments surveyed for the 2007 Census of Commerce as the population from the July 2010 survey on, there exists some discontinuity between the time series of monthly sales, term-end inventory and inventory-sales ratio up to June 2010.

Therefore, the monthly sales, etc., up to June 2010 are to be multiplied by linked coefficients to connect those of the July 2010 survey with those afterwards.

The data on "Iron & Steel" during the period from January to December 2011 were modified retroactively as a consequence of the data modification of some establishments. In accordance with this, in order to maintain consistency in the time-series data of January 2011 and after, linked coefficients shown in Note 2 should be multiplied to the monthly data, such as sales amounts, during the period of July through December 2010.

Furthermore, the data for June 2010 and before needs to be treated by multiplying both coefficients in Notes 1 and 2, so that they are consistent with the data for January 2011 and after.

Goods	Sales	Commodity stocks	Inventory ratio	Goods	Sales	Commodity stocks	Inventory ratio
Total (Note 1)	1.0655	0.9853	0.7774	Industrial Machinery	0.9447	0.8823	0.7878
Total (Note 2)	1.0084	1.0100	1.0016	Motor Vehicles	1.0740	0.8815	0.4631
Textiles	0.8636	0.9121	1.0731	Other Transport Equipment	1.1595	1.3486	0.3213
Apparel & Accessories	1.5810	1.7630	0.9545	Household Electrical Machinery	1.6833	1.0050	0.9751
Farm & Aquatic Products	0.9735	0.9046	0.7314	Other Machinery	0.9105	0.6053	0.4361
Food & Beverages	1.4665	1.1183	0.7829	Construction Materials	1.1077	1.0955	1.2148
Drugs & Cosmetics	1.2897	1.0216	0.7810	Paper & Paper Products	0.9639	0.9134	0.5932
Chemicals	1.0085	1.0106	1.0298	Others	1.1181	1.2066	1.3440
Petroleum & Coal	0.8450	0.7989	0.9745	Exports (Note 1)	0.9974		
Minerals & Metals	0.9812	1.0066	3.8633	Exports (Note 2)	1.0166		
Iron & Steel (Note 1)	1.0198	0.9739	0.1914	Domestic wholesale of imported goods	0.9836		
Iron & Steel (Note 2)	1.0903	1.1527	1.0572	Domestic wholesale of domestic goods (Note 1)	1.1102		
Non-ferrous Metals	0.9274	0.9940	0.9329	Domestic wholesale of domestic goods (Note 2)	1.0076		

(3) Part 3 Sales by Large-Scale Retailers

These statistical tables are compiled for the following department stores and supermarkets from among the retail establishments with 50 or more employees that are included in the individual sample survey:

① Department stores are the establishments classified as department stores and general merchandise supermarkets by the Japan Standards Industrial Classification (551), and do not come under the classification of supermarkets described below, with floor space of not less than 3,000 square meters in special regions and ordinance-designated cities, and not less than 1,500 square meters in all other regions.

② Supermarkets are establishments which have adopted a self-service method for 50% or more of their floor space and have floor space of not less than 1,500 square meters. "Floor space" means the space actually used for goods sales, so, does not include other areas such as gift certificate sale sections, restaurants, coffee shops, access ways, elevators, escalators, stairs, lounges, restrooms, staff offices, warehouses, delivery sections and parking lots.

③ The following merchandise classification is used for these statistical tables:

Merchandise name:	Examples of contents
Men's clothing / haberdashery:	Men's clothing, underwear, shirts, neckties, socks, etc.
Ladies' and children's clothing/haberdashery:	Ladies' and children's clothing, underwear, blouses, hosiery, etc.
Other apparel:	Fabric for kimonos, piece goods, bedclothes, accessories for Japanese clothing, towels, etc.
Personal belongings:	Shoes, footwear, umbrellas, bags, trunks, handbags, sewing supplies, accessories (excluding jewelry and precious metals), etc.
Food and beverages:	Drinks, Japanese and western alcoholic drinks, seasonings, meat, fresh fish, dried provisions, vegetables, fruits, sweets, bread, dairy products, etc.
Furniture:	Japanese and western furniture, interior furnishings, Shinto and Buddhist altar fittings, carpets, curtains, matting, etc.
Household electric appliances:	TVs and radio receivers, stereos, DVDs, room air conditioners, washing machines, refrigerators, lighting apparatus, electric foot warmers, electric stoves, PCs, telephones, cellular telephones, etc.
Household utensils:	Pottery and china, glassware, lacquer ware, metal goods, hardware, gas equipment, oil-burning space stoves, water equipment, sewing machines, knitting machines, etc.
Other merchandise:	Medicines, toiletries, detergents, books, stationery, precious metals, jewelry, art works, clocks, eyeglasses, cameras, video tapes, CD software, DVD software, sports equipment, leisure goods, toys, electric applied toys, game software, musical instruments, gardening supplies, carpentry, pet-related goods, tobacco, smoking goods, fuels, bicycles, automobiles, toilet paper, tissue paper, paper diapers, etc.
Restaurants and coffee shops:	Restaurants, coffee shops, sushi bars, and other food and beverage services for shoppers.

④ Existing establishments are those surveyed for two consecutive years including the survey year. A comparison to the corresponding month in the preceding year is made only for such establishments. The calculation of changes from the preceding year (FY, or quarter) is made by adding up monthly sales of the existing establishments.

⑤ As a change was made to revised the establishments from the July 2010 survey on, there exists some discontinuity between the time series of monthly sales, etc. up to June 2010. Therefore, the monthly sales, etc., up to June 2010 are to be multiplied by the linked coefficients to connect those of July 2010 survey with those afterwards. The linked coefficients are released as "Reference table 2".

(4) Part 4. Convenience store sales

These statistical tables are compiled from data concerning the headquarters of convenience store chain which meet our requirements.

① The following merchandise classification is used for these statistical tables:

Merchandise classification, etc		Examples of contents
Sales of Goods	Fast food and daily-delivered foods	Rice-based food (sushi, boxed lunches, rice balls, etc.), bread, bread-based food, daily side dishes, pickles, vegetables, fruit, products stored in water (tofu, etc.), pre-cooked noodles, eggs, processed meat (ham, sausages, bacon, etc.), milk, dairy beverages, dairy products (butter, cheese, etc.), fish-paste foods (chikuwa, kamaboko, etc.), perishable sweets (Japanese and western-style sweets, such as cakes), salads, desserts (custard puddings, jellies, yogurt, etc.), etc.
	Processed foods:	Sweets (other than perishables), soft drinks (other than dairy beverages), alcoholic drinks (Japanese sake, whiskey, wine, etc.), seasonings (miso, soy sauce, umami seasonings, sauces, etc.), "personal preference foods" (coffee, tea, etc.), cooking salt, sugar, kitchen oils, rice, dried provisions, various canned food and food in jars, frozen food, ice cream, pouch-packed food, instant food, dried seasoned laver, etc.
	Non-food:	Magazines, books, newspapers, apparel, bags, stationery, brushes, toys, sundry goods, tobacco, pet food, dry batteries, tapes, compact disks, light bulbs/fluorescent lights, pocket calculators, fuel, dolls, sunglasses, footwear, gardening supplies, game software, fireworks, detergents, toiletries, medicines, nutrition-supplement drink, pottery and china, glassware, hardware, paper goods, films, postal stamps, postcards, revenue stamps, accessories, etc.
Service sales:		Copies, facsimiles, home delivery services, gift certificates, passenger tickets, various kinds of tickets, telephone cards, lotteries, DPE, rentals, airline tickets, hotel tickets, laundry services, etc.

Note: Service sales do not include money received from shoppers to cover costs of public utilities, such as electricity bills, gas bills, fees for television broadcasting, telephone bills, water bills, etc.

② Existing establishments are those surveyed for two consecutive years including the survey year. A comparison to the corresponding month in the preceding year is made only for such establishments. The calculation of changes from the preceding year (FY, or quarter) is made by adding up monthly sales of the existing establishments.

③ As a change was made to revised the establishments from the January 2012 survey on, there exists some discontinuity between the time series of monthly sales, etc. up to December 2011. Therefore, the monthly sales, etc., up to December 2011 are to be multiplied by the linked coefficients to connect those of January 2012 survey with those afterwards. The linked coefficients are released as "Reference table 3".

8. The Divisions of Bureaus of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and Special ward of Tokyo and ordinance-designated city

(1) The Bureaus of Economy, Trade and Industry are as follows:

Hokkaido Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry:

Hokkaido

Tohoku Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry:

Aomori, Iwate, Miyagi, Akita, Yamagata, and Fukushima Prefecture

Kanto Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry:

Ibaraki, Tochigi, Gunma, Saitama, and Chiba Prefecture, Tokyo Metropolis, Kanagawa, Niigata, Yamanashi, Nagano, and Shizuoka Prefecture

Chubu Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry:

Toyama, Ishikawa, Gifu, Aichi, and Mie Prefecture

Kansai Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry:

Fukui, Shiga, Kyoto, Osaka, Hyogo, Nara, and Wakayama Prefecture

Chugoku Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry:

Tottori, Shimane, Okayama, Hiroshima, and Yamaguchi Prefecture

Shikoku Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry:

Tokushima, Kagawa, Ehime, and Kochi Prefecture

Kyushu Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry:

Fukuoka, Saga, Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Oita, Miyazaki, and Kagoshima Prefecture

Okinawa Department of Economy, Trade and Industry:

Okinawa Prefecture

(2) Special ward of Tokyo and ordinance-designated city are as follows:

Sapporo city, Sendai city, Saitama city, Chiba city, Special ward of Tokyo, Yokohama city, Kawasaki city, Sagami-hara city, Niigata city, Shizuoka city, Hamamatsu city, Nagoya city, Kyoto city, Osaka city, Sakai city, Kobe city, Okayama city, Hiroshima city, Fukuoka city, Kitakyushu city

9. Indices

(1) Method of calculating Original indices

Original indices are indexed with the base year average sales value as 100. Since February 2007, Original indices are calculated using 2005C.Y. average sales value as 100. 2005C.Y. average sales value as follows:

① Commercial sales value

Total	47,427,776
- Wholesale	36,173,233
- - General merchandise wholesale	4,540,400
- - Textiles wholesale	367,594
- - Clothes and accessories wholesale	1,112,608
- - Agricultural, livestock and marine products wholesale	3,713,191
- - Food and beverage wholesale	3,669,306
- - Construction materials wholesale	1,958,576
- - Chemical products wholesale	1,863,576
- - Minerals and metal materials wholesale	4,091,328
- - Machinery and Equipment wholesale	9,061,525
- - Furniture, fitting and utensils wholesale	630,737
- - Medicines and cosmetics wholesale	1,940,269
- - Other wholesale	3,224,123
- Retail	11,254,542
- - General commodities retail	1,375,009
- - Textiles, clothes and accessories retail	926,898
- - Food and beverages retail	3,383,711
- - Other	5,568,924
- - Automobile retail	1,322,044
- - Machinery and Equipment retail	650,450
- - Other	3,596,430

② Large-Scale retail store sales value

Total	1,777,363
- Department stores	730,244
- Supermarkets	1,047,118
Clothes	551,586
- Department stores	369,085
- Supermarkets	182,501
Food & Beverages	803,711
- Department stores	184,244
- Supermarkets	619,467
Others	422,066
- Department stores	176,915
- Supermarkets	245,151

③ Sales value of convenience stores

Total	613,297
- Sales of goods	586,864
- - Fast foods & daily foods	218,973
- - Processed foods	202,444
- - Non-foods	165,448
- Sales of services	26,443

(2) Method of calculating Seasonal adjustment indices

The calculation method of seasonal indices for Commercial Sales Statistics (commercial sales indices for each industry, and large-scale retailers' sales indices by business type, by product) was changed from the previous MITI Method III R to X-12-ARIMA, the Method of the U.S. Bureau of the Census, effective from the preliminary report for January, 1999.

Consequently, the new seasonal indices have been adjusted not only for the seasons but also for the day of the week and holidays. Details are as follows:

Seasonally adjusted indices = Original indices ÷ (Seasonal indices × Day of week/holiday indices). The spec files adopted X-12-ARIMA as follows:

```
Series      {start=2005.Jan
            span=(2005.1,2011.12)
            decimals=1}
transform  {function=log}
arima      {model=(011)(011)}
regression {variables=(tdlcoef)
            user=(jap-hol)
            usertype=holiday
            start=2005.1
            file="xxxxxxx"}
forecast   {maxlead=0}
estimate   {save=(mdl)}
x11        {save=(d10 d11 d16)}
```

10. Reference data

The retail sales value by regional bureaus of METI is released as "Reference table" from July 2010.

11. Others

(1) The following symbols are used in the statistical tables of this Monthly to denote the words introduced by colon:

—:No record ...:Unknown 0:Less than a unit p: Preliminary figures r: Revised figures x: Concealed to protect confidential information of the reporters.

(2) Sales figures include consumption tax.

(3) Please cite the "Current Survey on Commerce" compiled by the Research and Statistics Department, Economic and Industrial Policy Bureau, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry as the source when reprinting the statistics contained in this Monthly Report.

12. Inquiries:

Please contact the following for any question concerning the contents of this Monthly Report:

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