

Notes for Use

This yearbook is a compilation of results of surveys based on the Current Survey of Commerce.

I. Outline of Current Survey of Commerce

1. Survey purpose

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

2. Legal framework

The Survey, the Designated Statistics Survey No. 64 under the Statistics Law, is conducted according to the Regulations for the Current Survey of Commerce (Ministry of International Trade and Industry Ordinance No. 17, 1953).

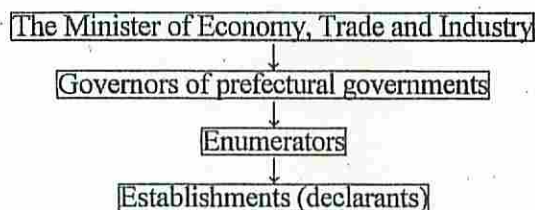
3. Survey scope

4. Survey method and route

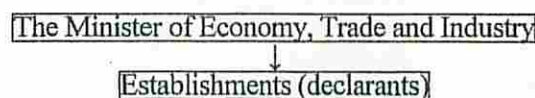
For this survey, enumerators request the surveyed establishments to fill in questionnaires which are then collected. (Survey by enumerators)

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

(1) Survey by enumerators



(2) Mail survey (large retail Establishments and head offices of convenience stores)



5. Date of survey

The date of the survey is the end of each month. The date of the survey for inventory is the end of each quarter (March, June, September and December).

6. Sample design

The Survey (excluding D survey) has been carried out since July 2004 for the establishments selected according to the sampling theory, from establishments surveyed in 2002 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 less than 5% (with the standard rate of deviation shown).

(1) Individual samples

(a) Individual sample design is applied to all wholesale establishments, automobile retail establishments and other retail establishments with 20 or more employees (including the large retail establishments in the complete survey).

(b) Sampling casing (hereafter "cells") is set for each industrial category and the number of employees and adequate number of samples will be decided for each cell.

(2) Regional samples

(a) Regional sample design is applied to retail establishments (excluding automobile retailers) with fewer than 20 employees from 264 predetermined survey areas.

(b) In sampling the survey areas, the survey areas of the Census of Commerce are made the population and stratified into five layers.

7. Kind and Scope of Questionnaire

The questionnaire is divided into Questionnaire A, Questionnaire B, Questionnaire C and Questionnaire D.

(1) Scope of Questionnaire A (survey by enumerator)

General commodities wholesale establishments with 100 or more employees and wholesale establishments with 200 or more employees that are designated by the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry.

(2) Scope of Questionnaire B (survey by enumerator)

(a) Wholesale establishments which are not covered by Questionnaire A, and car retail establishments and retail establishments with 20 or more employees which are not covered by Questionnaire C that are designated by the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry.

(b) Retail establishments (excluding car retail establishments) from among those with less than 20 employees and located in the survey area designated by the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry.

(3) Scope of Questionnaire C (survey by mail)

Department stores and supermarkets (see IV. "Sales by Large-scale Retailers") designated by the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry from among retail establishments with 50 or more employees.

(4) Scope of Questionnaire D (survey by mail)

The headquarters of convenience store chains with 500 or more establishments designated by the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry.

8. Definitions of Survey Items**(1) Commodity Sales**

Actual sales from the beginning to the end of the survey month.

(2) End-of-Month Number of Employees

The number of employees engaged in duties in establishments at the end of the survey month, consisting of entrepreneurs, unpaid family employees, paid directors of companies and associations, and regular employees.

Regular employees are those employed for an unfixed period or a period of one month or longer, and temporary workers and day laborers who were employed for 18 days or longer in each of the two months preceding the survey month.

Regular employees do not include those sent from other establishments, but include those loaned to other establishments. Regular employees do not include long-absent employees who have received no payment for one month or longer.

(3) Sales Floor Space

The total floor space used for the sale of commodities, excluding merchandise certificate shops, restaurants, tearooms, passages, elevators, escalators, stairs, rest rooms, toilets, offices, warehouses, delivery stations and parking lots.

(4) Monthly Number of Business Days

The number of days the establishment actually does business in the survey month.

(5) Monthly Sales of Merchandise Certificates

Sales of merchandise certificates in the survey month.

(6) End-of-Quarter Inventory

Inventory of commodities for sale at the end of each survey quarter (March, June, September and December). In principle, inventory is estimated at the cost of goods purchased.

(7) Inventory Ratio

The inventory ratio is calculated as follows:

Inventory ratio = end-of-quarter inventory / monthly sales of commodities $\times 100$

II. Sales in Commerce

To clarify trends in sales by commercial establishments in Japan, we estimated the sales from the Current Survey of Commerce.

1. 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 retail establishments, 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

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

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

(2) Regional sample

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

【Explanation of signs】

i : Industrial classification

j : Scale of employee classification

n : Number of individual samples

m : Number of regional samples

l : Regional sample number

k : Individual sample number which is same as previous month

t : Month

x : Monthly sales of individual sample

\hat{X} : Estimation of monthly sales

f : Extraction ratio

2. 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 2002 Census of Commerce as the basis, a level correction was made in the Revised Report for February 2004.

(1) The way to find the amount of sales by the type of industry or scale of employee classification for 36 months (April 1999 ~ March 2002) is as follows:

$$Y_{ij} = \sum_{t=1}^{36} \hat{X}_{ij}^t = \alpha_{ij} \cdot \sum_{t=1}^{36} \hat{X}_{ij}^t \quad \hat{X}_{ij}^t = \left(\sqrt[36]{\alpha_{ij}} \right)^t \sum_{t=1}^{36} \hat{X}_{ij}^t \quad (1 \leq t \leq 36)$$

$$\alpha_{ij} \text{ satisfies } \sum_{t=1}^{36} \left(\sqrt[36]{\alpha_{ij}} \right)^t \cdot \hat{X}_{ij}^t = Y_{ij} \quad \text{so calculations are repeated and adjusted}$$

【Explanation of signs】

Y_{ij} = The amount of annual sales: i type of industry, j scale of employee classification of the 2002 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 2002 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} = 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 1999 set as t=1, and March 2002 set as t=36.

(2) Method of estimating the amount of sales after April 2002

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

(3) Period of Standard Revision

See "Comparative Table of Standard Revision for Census of Commerce and Current Survey of Commerce."

Comparative Table of Standard Revision for Census of Commerce and Current Survey of Commerce

Census of Commerce				Level Correction	
Date of survey		Period for Annual sales	Kind of report	Date of publication	Unit for revision
1970	June 1	June 1969 to May 1970	Revised	January 1975	By industry
1972	May 1	May 1971 to April 1972	Preliminary	January 1975	
1974	May 1	May 1973 to April 1974	Revised	August 1978	
1976	May 1	May 1975 to April 1976	Preliminary	August 1978	
1979	June 1	June 1978 to May 1979	Revised	March 1982	By industry and by number of employees
1982	June 1	June 1981 to May 1982	Revised	April 1984	
1985	May 1	May 1984 to April 1985	Revised	October 1986	
1988	June 1	June 1987 to May 1988	Revised	January 1990	
1991	July 1	July 1990 to June 1991	Revised	May 1993	
1994	July 1	July 1993 to June 1994	Preliminary	December 1995	
1997	June 1	June 1996 to May 1997	Revised	January 1999	
1999	July 1	April 1998 to March 1999	Revised	October 2001	
2002	June 1	April 2001 to March 2002	Revised	February 2004	

3. Correspondence of Industrial Classification

With regard to the correspondence between the industrial classification for the sales by industry and the Standard Industrial Classification for Japan, see the "Correspondence Table of the Industrial Classification for the Current Survey of Commerce and the Standard Industrial Classification for Japan."

Correspondence Table of the Industrial Classification for the Current Survey of Commerce and the Standard Industrial Classification for Japan

Industrial Classification for the Current Survey of Commerce	Standard Industrial Classification for Japan
General merchandise wholesale Textiles wholesale Clothes and accessories wholesale Agricultural, livestock and marine products wholesale Food and beverage wholesale Construction materials wholesale Chemical products wholesale Minerals and metal materials wholesale Machinery and equipment wholesale General machinery and equipment wholesale Automobile wholesale Electrical machinery and equipment wholesale Other machinery and equipment wholesale Furniture, fittings and utensils wholesale Medicines and cosmetics wholesale Other wholesale	491 General merchandise wholesale 501 Textiles wholesale 502 Clothes and accessories wholesale 511 Agricultural, livestock and marine products wholesale 512 Food and beverage wholesale 521 Construction materials wholesale 522 Chemical products wholesale 523 Minerals and metal materials wholesale 53 Machinery and equipment wholesale, General machinery and equipment wholesale, Automobile wholesale 531 General machinery and equipment wholesale 532 Automobile wholesale 533 Electrical machinery and equipment wholesale 539 Other machinery and equipment wholesale 541 Furniture, fittings and utensils wholesale 542 Medicine and cosmetics wholesale 524 Reclaimed resources wholesale 549 Other wholesale
General commodities retail Textiles, clothes and accessories retail Food and beverages retail Automobile retail Machinery and Equipment retail Fuel retail Other retail	55 General commodities retail 56 Textiles, clothes and accessories retail 57 Food and beverages retail 581 Automobile retail (excluding "5814 Motorcycle (including motorized bicycle) retail") 592 Machinery and Equipment retail 603 Fuel retail 582 Bicycle retail (including "5814 Motorcycle (including motorized bicycle) retail") 59 Furniture, fittings, utensils and household appliances retail (excluding "592 Machinery and Equipment retail") 60 Other retail (exclude "603 Fuel retail")

4. Linked coefficients

As for the population frame, there existed differences between the 1997 Census of Commerce and the 1999 Census of Commerce. As a result of this discontinuity, also Current Survey of Commerce (conducted monthly) occurred discontinuity between the value of before and after April 1998. So since April 1998, the ratio to the same month in the previous year has been calculated by multiplying linked coefficients, No1. Also it changed the definition of the sales value of the automobile wholesale between the 1999 Census of Commerce and the 2002 Census of Commerce. So since April 1999, the ratio to the same month in the previous year has been calculated by multiplying linked coefficients, No2. (refer to Appendix Table1: Table of the latest Commercial Sales Linked Coefficients)

III. Sales by Large-Scale Wholesalers

This statistical table includes the results of Questionnaire A (see 1-7-(1)), showing trends in the sales of commodities by large-scale wholesale establishments.

Because samples are re-examined every three years, discontinuity occurs. Therefore, numbers such as sales are multiplied by coefficients for continuity. With regard to the coefficients, see Table 2: Table of Coefficients for Continuity of Large-Scale Wholesale establishments' Sales.

1. Classification of Commodities

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
Clothing and accessories:	Suits and dresses, underwear, bedclothes, shoes, footwear, bags, umbrellas, other apparel and accessories
Agricultural, livestock and marine products:	rice, barley, cereals, wheat flour, starch, beans, vegetables, fruit, meat, fresh fish, other agricultural products, livestock and marine products
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
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
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:	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
Automobiles:	passenger cars, trucks, motorcycles, other automobiles, automobile parts and accessories
Other transportation equipment:	bicycles, ships, aircraft, industrial vehicles, conveying machinery for work, etc.
Household electrical machinery:	TV and radio receivers, stereos, VTRs, tape recorders, room air-conditioners, fans, electric washing machines, electric vacuum cleaners, electric refrigerators, electric cookers, electric foot-warmers, toasters, mixers, electric stoves, electric irons, lighting apparatuses (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.

IV. 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 (541) establishments classified as department stores by the Japan Standards Industrial Classification, 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.

A self-service system is a sales method satisfying the following three conditions:

- (a) Commodities are packaged and priced beforehand.
- (b) Customers pick up commodities for themselves with baskets provided by the establishment.
- (c) Customers pay prices in one lump sum at counters at the exit of the establishment.

1. Classification of Commodities

The following merchandise classification is used for these statistical tables:

Merchandise name:	Examples of contents
Men's clothing and Western-style apparel:	men's clothing, underwear, shirts, neckties, socks, etc.
Ladies' and children's clothing and Western-style apparel:	Ladies' and children's clothing, underwear, blouses, hosiery, etc.
Other apparel:	fabric for kimonos, piece goods, bedclothes, accessories for Japanese clothing, etc.
Personal belongings:	shoes, footwear, umbrellas, bags, trunks, handbags, sewing supplies, accessories (excluding jewelry and precious metals), etc.
Food and beverages:	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:	TV and radio receivers, stereos, VTRs, room air conditioners, washing machines, refrigerators, lighting apparatuses, electric foot-warmers, electric stoves, heating equipment, personal computers, telephones, etc.
Household utensils:	pottery and china, glassware, lacquer ware, metal goods, hardware, gas equipment, water equipment, sewing machines, knitting machines, etc.
Other merchandise:	medicines, toiletries, detergents, books, stationery, precious metals, jewelry, art works, clocks, eyeglasses, cameras, cassette tapes, video tapes, sports equipment, leisure goods, toys, 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.

2. The Regional 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, Fukushima

Kanto Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry:

Ibaraki, Tochigi, Gumma, Saitama, Chiba, Tokyo, Kanagawa, Niigata, Yamanashi,

Nagano, Shizuoka
 Chubu Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry:
 Toyama, Ishikawa, Gifu, Aichi, Mie
 Kinki Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry:
 Fukui, Shiga, Kyoto, Osaka, Hyogo, Nara, Wakayama
 Chugoku Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry:
 Tottori, Shimane, Okayama, Hiroshima, Yamaguchi
 Shikoku Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry:
 Tokushima, Kagawa, Ehime, Kochi
 Kyushu Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry:
 Fukuoka, Saga, Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Oita, Miyazaki, Kagoshima
 Okinawa Department of Economy, Trade and Industry:
 Okinawa

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

Sapporo City, Sendai City, Chiba City, Tokyo(Wards), Yokohama City, Kawasaki City,
 Nagoya City, Kyoto City, Osaka City, Kobe City, Hiroshima City, Fukuoka City,
 Kitakyushu City

3. Secrecy

When the number of establishments is one or two in a prefecture, bureau or city, values are not be disclosed in order to protect the privacy of the declarant(s). Even if there are three or more establishments, numbers may not be disclosed for the same reason.

4. Existing establishments

When the definition of establishments to be surveyed is changed, or such establishments are opened or closed, changes from the same month of the preceding year are calculated only with regard to establishments surveyed both in the year and in the preceding year. Changes from the preceding year (fiscal year, same quarter) are calculated by adding up monthly sales of existing establishments.

5. Numbers for Year (Fiscal Year) and Quarter

The number of establishments, the number of employees and the establishment space are those existing at the end of the quarter. The number of operating days is the total of monthly average operating days.

Monthly average operating days = total operating days / number of establishments

V. Convenience Store Sales

This statistical table includes the results of Questionnaire D (see 1-7-(4)), showing trends in the sales of commodities by convenience stores.

1. Scope of Survey

The survey covers the headquarters of enterprises that have 500 or more chain convenience stores, whether stores under direct management, franchise chain stores or voluntary chain stores.

2. Starting Month and Period of Survey

Although we started the survey in October 1998, we surveyed the sales from April 1998 and the changes from the same month of the preceding year.

3. Classification of Commodities

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, 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, chemical 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, medical supplies, 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.

4. The Regional Bureaus of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

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, Fukushima

Kanto Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry:

Ibaraki, Tochigi, Gumma, Saitama, Chiba, Tokyo, Kanagawa, Niigata, Yamanashi, Nagano, Shizuoka

Chubu Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry:

Toyama, Ishikawa, Gifu, Aichi, Mie

Kinki Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry:

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

Chugoku Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry:

Tottori, Shimane, Okayama, Hiroshima, Yamaguchi

Shikoku Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry:

Tokushima, Kagawa, Ehime, Kochi

Kyushu Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry:

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

Okinawa Department of Economy, Trade and Industry:

Okinawa

5. Existing Establishments

When the definition of establishments to be surveyed is changed, or such establishments are opened or closed, changes from the same month of the preceding year are calculated only with regard to establishments surveyed both in the year and in the preceding year. Changes from the preceding year (fiscal year, same quarter) are calculated by adding up monthly sales of existing establishments.

VI. Other Remarks

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

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

2. Numbers may not add up exactly to totals because of rounding.

3. Sales figures include consumption tax.

4. If you reproduce statistics from this yearbook, please clearly state that the statistics are reproduced from the 2004 Yearbook of the Current Survey of Commerce compiled by the Research and Statistics Department, Economic and Industrial Policy Bureau, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

5. Inquiries:

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