Services in the Japanese CPI – Some Examples –

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I Rent

1. Current method of index calculation

- Pricing Method
  - We conduct sample survey for rent to calculate price indices of “house rent, private” and “imputed rent”. Sample size is about 28,000.
  - We divide survey area into three groups, and field collectors collect rent prices from each group every three months.

- Index Calculation
  - We classify rent prices into four segments by total floor area (Under 30 m² or Over 30 m² square meters) and housing materials (Wooden or Non-wooden).
  - We calculate monthly average prices per unit area for each four segment using surveyed rent prices and total floor area.
  - We calculate the price indices for each four segment by dividing the base period average prices.
  - We calculate the price index of “house rent, private” by weighted average using segment weights.
  - As for the “imputed rent”, we adopt rental equivalent approach. For each segment, we implicate monthly average prices derived from rent survey and calculate price index of “imputed rent” alike.

II Mobile phone charges

1. Current method of index calculation

- Pricing Method
  - Mobile phone charges consist of domestic calling charges, data communication charges and universal service charges.
  - Discount rate is adopted only if the rate is applied for most customers or representations. (Conditional discount rate is excluded.)

2. Challenges

- To update customer profiles, we conduct a monitor survey on the web every year. We ask monitors about the calling time, traffic per month and usage plan.
- To update weights by telecommunication carriers, we use the estimated number of consumer contracts by a research institute every year.

III Funeral services

1. Background

- In order to improve the accuracy of GDP deflator, it is important to capture service prices and produce price indices of services.
  - To update weights by telecommunications carriers every year.

- To improve the accuracy of GDP deflator, it is important to capture service prices and produce price indices of services. “Cell phone charges” are excluded.
  - We interviewed various funeral service providers including association of funeral service providers about details of present situation of funeral services.

2. Interview with funeral service providers

- We interviewed several funeral service providers including association of funeral service providers about details of present situation of funeral services.

- Feasibility survey: Based on the interviews, we asked main funeral service providers in each surveyed city about the features of the funeral services in the local community and possibility of answering prices by each specified services.

- Results in general
  - Almost all funeral was held according to the Buddhist rites.
  - The average price of funeral was above 5 million yen (10,000 dollars).

- Funeral service consists of a series of funeral ceremony, foods & beverages and cremation.

3. 2020-based CPI

- Considering the locality, we plan to collect prices from several private funeral service providers in each prefecture.

- In principle, we plan to collect cremation fee from crematories run by local governments. (As for Tokyo, collect fees from several privately owned crematories.)

- We conducted sample survey for funeral to collect price indices of funeral services by hypothesizing for price indices of specified models.

- In this poster, we illustrate current method of index calculation and challenges for rent and mobile phone charges.

- Besides, we introduce our examination process of how to collect prices of funeral services to be included in the 2020-based CPI.

- Statistics Bureau of Japan (SBJ) calculates price indices of some services by using hypothetical prices for specified model cases.

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