

## Application De Statistics

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**Organisation:** Statistical Bureau, Japan Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC)

**Country:** Japan

**Level of government:** Central government

**Sector:** General public services

**Type:** Data, Digital, Public Service

**Launched in:** 2014

**Overall development time:** 4 year(s)

**Link to the innovation's website**

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# Description

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In October 2014, the Government of Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications' (MIC) Statistics Bureau added a user-friendly API and other functions to the official portal site of the Government Statistics of Japan ("e-Stat"). At the same time, the Bureau significantly increased the volume and types of statistical data available on "e-Stat". Users can now automatically download statistical data onto their systems through the added API.

To allow a broader range of citizens to benefit from available statistical information, the innovation team developed an application called "Application De Statistics", which offers statistics information data to users' smartphones. Launched in April 2015, "Application De Statistics" offers three functions:

- "City Stat": provides statistical information on the municipality where you are located by linking your smartphone's GPS function with Statistical API function. City Stat also includes contents so-called "pride/fame of hometowns (furusato-jiman)" which suggests places to visit or various information of interest to tourists.
- "Pocket Statistics": offers basic statistical data of prefectures and municipalities.
- "Statistics Clock": offers statistical information data relevant to each day of the year (i.e. anniversaries), quizzes related to statistics, and a function to draw simple statistical graphics. This is designed mainly, but not exclusively, for younger generations.

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## Why the innovation was developed

- With the rapid progress of ICTs in society, the innovation team in Japan's Statistical Information Systems Division in the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications adapted government information tools to make them more accessible by smart phones.
- Increase the inclusion of hard to reach households in the census through ICTs.

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## Objectives

Develop staff capacity, Enhance transparency, Improve access, Improve effectiveness, Improve efficiency, Improve service quality, Improve user satisfaction, Increase citizen engagement

- Make Japan's national government statistics more accessible and useful to the general public through improved online tools.
- Serve a broader range of citizens that utilise government statistics, such as local communities and new and existing businesses.
- Improve the convenience for census respondents.
- Reduce the burden of census enumerators.
- Help prevent omissions and mistakes to better improve the quality of census data.

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## Main beneficiaries

Businesses, Civil Society, General population, Government bodies, Government staff, Young people

- The general public: approximately 33 000 citizens have downloaded "Application De Statistics" (as of May 2015).
- Every household enumerated in the population census. The census covers all households and people who usually live in Japan. In 2010, there were 52 million households. The expected number of households responding to the census online in 2015 is over 10 million according to the results of pilot surveys.

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## Existing similar practices

### e-census

In other countries' public administrations

Canada, Korea

Similar e-censuses that employ both an online and paper-based survey for the nationwide census that collects the online responses first.

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# Results

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## Results not available yet

- The population census will be held in October 2015. A post-enumeration survey will be conducted in November 2015 to evaluate the results of the online census by November 2016.

# Development

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## Design

An open call for ideas and an “API application contest” was held within the Census Bureau and “National Statistics Center” (an Independent Administrative Agency affiliated with the Bureau) to explore the possibilities of using API with government statistics. A number of ideas were entered in the contest by government staffers, with the winning submission selected to receive resources to create.

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## Testing

- A pilot survey
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## Partnerships

### Technology company

Private sector

Partnering with the private sector helped with the technological development of the online census application.

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# Lessons Learned

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## Conditions for success

- Publicity to make the public aware of the online census.
- Information to help people understand the benefits of using the online census.

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