

# 02 Population

## Population Growth and Trends

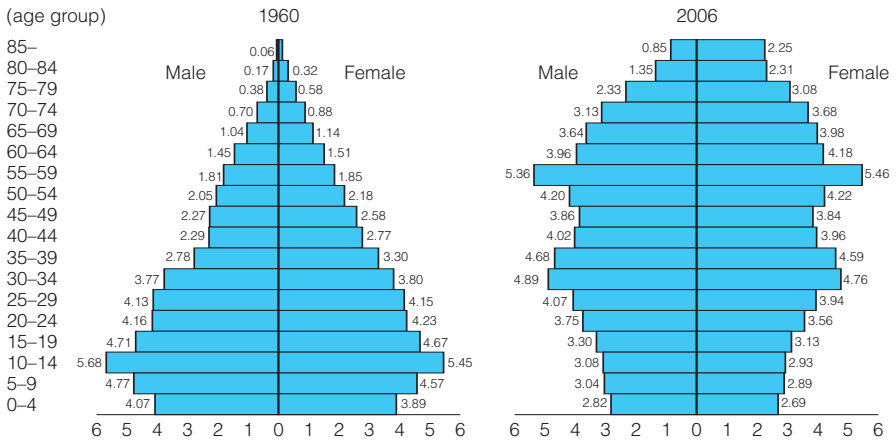
As of October 1, 2006, Japan's population was 127.77 million (62.33 million males, 65.44 million females), an increase of 10,000 over the previous year.

Japan has one of the highest average life expectancies in the world, and the aging of the population is proceeding at a rapid rate. The ratio of people aged 65 and over to the whole population more than doubled from 7.1% in 1970 to 20.8% in 2006.

The number of people aged under 15 dropped to a new postwar record low of 17.44 million as of October 1, 2006, a decrease of 120,000 from 2005. The proportion of those under 15 in the total population dropped to 13.6%.

### Japan's Population Structure by Age Group

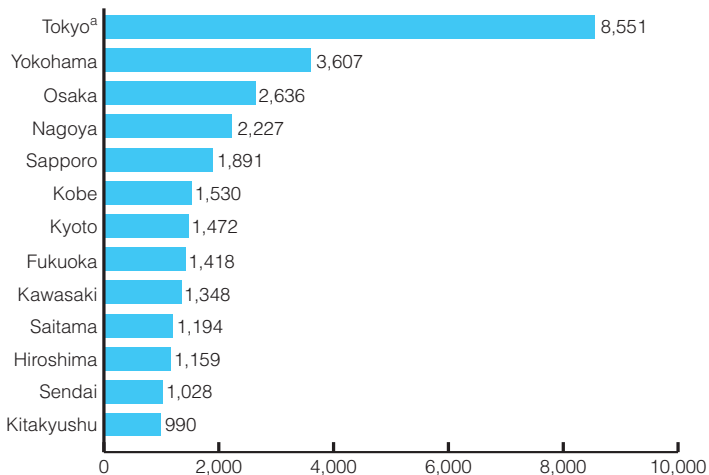
(million persons)



Source: Statistics Bureau and Statistics Center, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, *Jinko suikei* (Current Population Estimates), 2006.

## Population of Major Cities, February 2007

(1,000 persons)



Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, *Nihon tokei geppo* (Monthly Statistics of Japan), March 2007.

a. Twenty-three wards of central Tokyo only.

## Population by Age Group

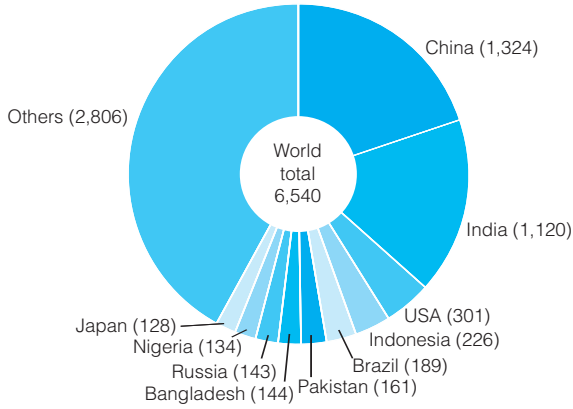
	Total	0–14	15–64	65 and over
1945	71,998	26,477 (36.8)	41,821 (58.1)	3,700 (5.1)
1950	83,200 <sup>a</sup>	29,428 (35.4)	49,658 (59.7)	4,109 (4.9)
1955	89,276 <sup>a</sup>	29,798 (33.4)	54,729 (61.3)	4,747 (5.3)
1960	93,419	28,067 (30.0)	60,002 (64.2)	5,350 (5.7)
1965	98,275	25,166 (25.6)	66,928 (68.1)	6,181 (6.3)
1970	103,720	24,823 (23.9)	71,566 (69.0)	7,331 (7.1)
1975	111,940 <sup>a</sup>	27,221 (24.3)	75,807 (67.7)	8,865 (7.9)
1980	117,060 <sup>a</sup>	27,507 (23.5)	78,835 (67.4)	10,647 (9.1)
1985	121,049 <sup>a</sup>	26,033 (21.5)	82,506 (68.2)	12,468 (10.3)
1990	123,611 <sup>a</sup>	22,486 (18.2)	85,904 (69.5)	14,895 (12.0)
1995	125,570 <sup>a</sup>	20,014 (15.9)	87,165 (69.4)	18,261 (14.5)
2000	126,926 <sup>a</sup>	18,472 (14.6)	86,220 (67.9)	22,005 (17.3)
2005	127,756 <sup>a</sup>	17,400 (13.6)	83,373 (65.3)	26,820 (21.0)
2006	127,770	17,435 (13.6)	83,731 (65.5)	26,604 (20.8)

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

Note: Figures in parentheses are percentage of total.

a. Including age not reported.

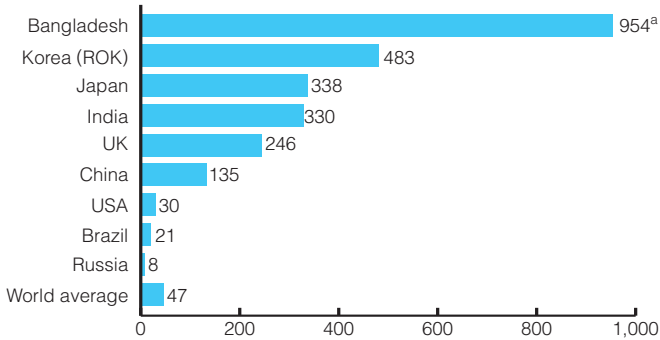
## World Population and Most Populous Countries, 2006 (million persons)



Source: United Nations Population Fund, *State of World Population*, 2006.

## Population Density

(persons per km<sup>2</sup>)

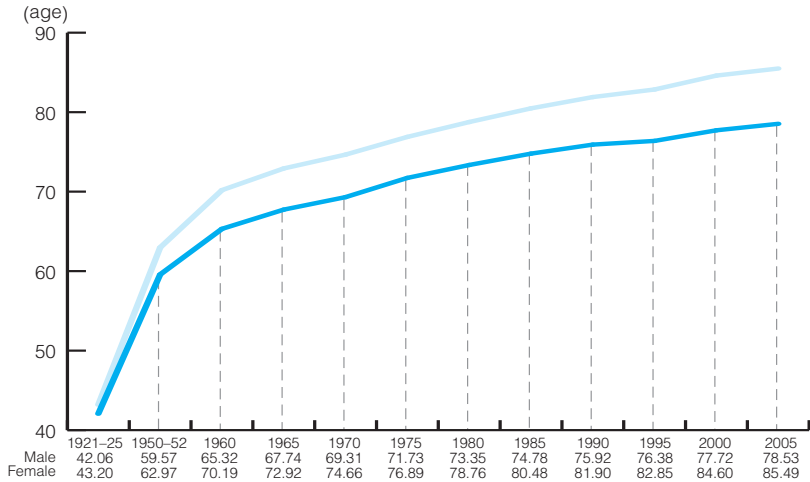


Source: United Nations, *Demographic Yearbook*, 2004.

Note: Figures are for 2004.

a. 2000.

## Life Expectancy



Source: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, *Kani seimeihyo* (Latest Vital Statistics), 2005.

Note: Through 1970, excluding Okinawa Prefecture.

## Life Expectancy of Major Countries, 2005

Age (in years)

	Male	Female
China <sup>a</sup>	69.6	73.3
France <sup>b</sup>	76.7	83.8
Japan	78.5	85.5
Korea (ROK) <sup>c</sup>	73.9	80.8
Russia <sup>d</sup>	58.9	72.3
Sweden	78.4	82.8
UK	76.9	81.1
USA <sup>c</sup>	74.8	80.1

Source: United Nations, *Demographic Yearbook* 2004; Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, *Kani seimeihyo* (Latest Vital Statistics), 2005; European Commission, *Eurostat Yearbook* 2005.

a. 2000; b. Eurostat estimate; c. 2003; d. 2004.

## Population Forecast for Japan, 1995–2050

(1,000 persons)

	Total	Age 0–14	Share of total (%)	Age 15–64	Share of total (%)	Age 65 and over	Share of total (%)
1995	125,570	20,033	15.95	87,260	69.49	18,277	14.56
2000	126,926	18,505	14.6	86,380	68.1	22,041	17.4
2010	127,176	16,479	13.0	81,285	63.9	29,412	23.1
2020	122,735	13,201	10.8	73,635	60.0	35,899	29.2
2030	115,224	11,150	9.7	67,404	58.5	36,670	31.8
2040	105,695	9,833	9.3	57,335	54.2	38,527	36.5
2050	95,152	8,214	8.6	49,297	51.8	37,641	39.6

Source: National Institute of Population and Social Security Research.

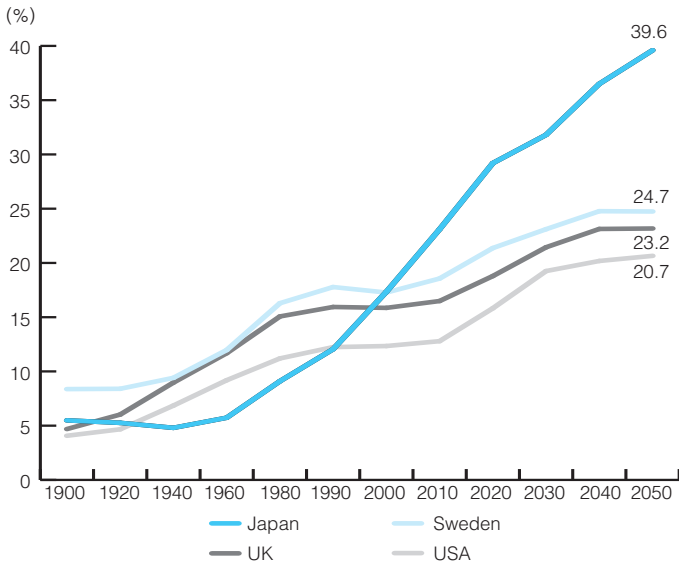
## Average Life Expectancy by Prefecture

Male		Female	
1. Nagano	78.90	1. Okinawa	86.01
2. Fukui	78.55	2. Fukui	85.39
3. Nara	78.36	3. Nagano	85.31
4. Kumamoto	78.29	4. Kumamoto	85.30
5. Kanagawa	78.24	5. Shimane	85.30
6. Shiga	78.19	6. Okayama	85.25
7. Kyoto	78.15	7. Toyama	85.24
8. Shizuoka	78.15	8. Yamanashi	85.21
9. Gifu	78.10	9. Niigata	85.19
10. Saitama	78.05	10. Ishikawa	85.18
National average	77.71	National average	84.62

Source: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare.

Note: Updates every five years. The 2005 data will be released in December 2007. Figures are for 2000.

## Share of Population Aged 65 Years and Over by Country, 1900–2050



Source: National Institute of Population and Social Security Research.

## Total Fertility Rates of Developed Countries

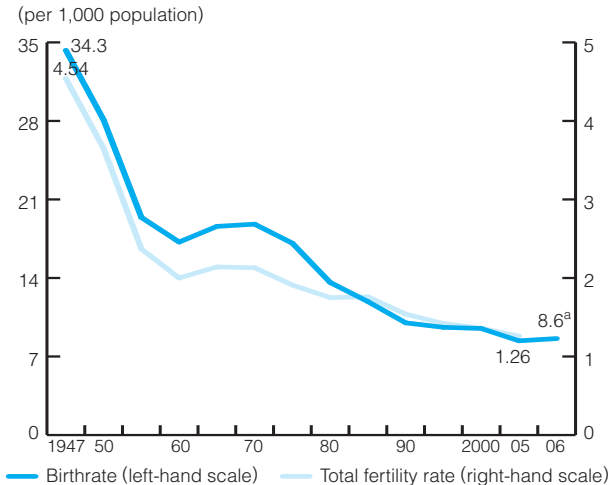
	Japan	USA	France	Norway	UK
1950	3.65	n/a	2.92	2.53	n/a
1960	2.00	n/a	2.73	2.91	2.71
1970	2.13	2.48	2.47	2.50	2.43
1980	1.75	1.84	1.95	1.72	1.89
1990	1.54	2.08	1.78	1.93	1.83
2000	1.36	2.06	1.89	1.85	1.64
2005	1.26	2.05 <sup>a</sup>	1.94	1.84	1.80

Source: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, *Jinko dotai tokei* (Demographic Statistics), 2006; European Commission, *Eurostat Yearbook*, 2005; US Department of Health and Human Services, *National Vital Statistics Reports*, December 18, 2006.

Note: The total fertility rate is the average number of children one woman gives birth to in her life.

a. Preliminary figure.

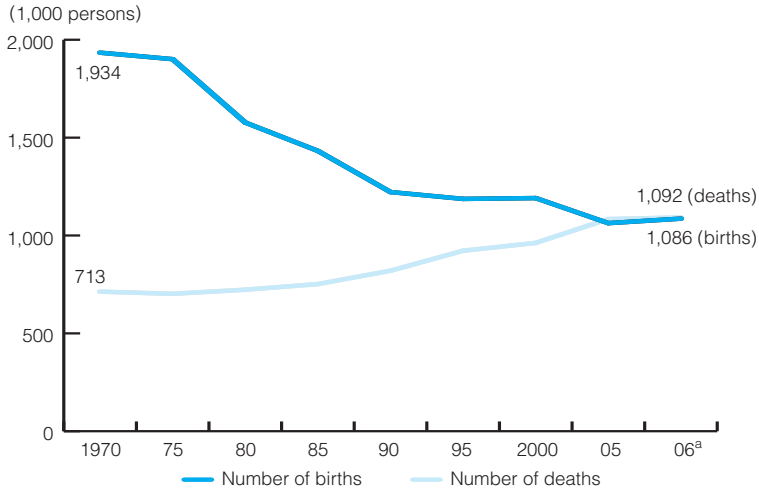
## Trends in Total Fertility Rate and Birthrate



Source: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, *Jinko dotai tokei* (Demographic Statistics), 2006.

Note: The total fertility rate is the average number of children one woman gives birth to in her life.  
a. Estimate.

## Trends in Numbers of Births and Deaths



Source: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, *Jinko dotai tokei* (Demographic Statistics), 2006.

Note: Estimate.

## Birth, Death, and Total Fertility Rates of Developed Countries, 2005

	Birthrate (per 1,000 population)	Death rate (per 1,000 population)	Total fertility rate
Japan	8.6 <sup>a</sup>	8.7 <sup>a</sup>	1.26
USA	14.0 <sup>b</sup>	8.2 <sup>c</sup>	2.05 <sup>b</sup>
France	12.7 <sup>d</sup>	8.4 <sup>de</sup>	1.94
Germany	8.6 <sup>d</sup>	9.9 <sup>d</sup>	1.34
Italy	9.7 <sup>d</sup>	9.4 <sup>de</sup>	1.34
Sweden	11.2 <sup>d</sup>	10.1 <sup>d</sup>	1.77
UK	12.0 <sup>de</sup>	9.8 <sup>de</sup>	1.80
China	12.3 <sup>d</sup>	6.4 <sup>d</sup>	1.70 <sup>d</sup>
Korea (ROK)	9.0	5.0	1.08

Source: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, *Jinko dotai tokei* (Demographic Statistics), 2006; European Commission, *Eurostat Yearbook*, 2005; United Nations, *Demographic Yearbook*, 2004; World Health Organization, *World Health Statistics*, 2006; US Department of Health and Human Services, *National Vital Statistics*.

a. Estimate 2006.

b. Preliminary 2005.

c. Preliminary 2004.

d. 2004.

e. Provisional.

## Number of Japanese Living Overseas by Region, October 2005

	Number of Japanese	Share of total (%)	Increase over previous year (%)
Asia	260,747	25.8	11.1
Oceania	72,871	7.2	7.3
North America	397,585	39.3	4.6
Central America	8,700	0.9	11.4
South America	89,701	8.9	-3.2
Western Europe	162,643	16.1	2.0
Eastern Europe (incl. NIS)	7,132	0.7	13.3
Middle East	7,062	0.7	16.2
Africa	6,069	0.6	0.7
Antarctica	37	0.0	-11.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,012,547</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5.3</b>

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Note: Includes both long-term and permanent residents. Japanese living in Guam included in Oceania, not North America.

## Number of Foreign Residents in Japan by Nationality, December 2005

	Registered foreigners	Share of total (%)	Increase over previous year (%)
Korea (ROK and North Korea)	598,687	29.8	-1.4
China	519,561	25.8	6.6
Brazil	302,080	15.0	5.4
Philippines	187,261	9.3	-6.1
Peru	57,728	2.9	3.5
USA	49,390	2.5	1.1
Thailand	37,703	1.9	3.7
Vietnam	28,932	1.4	11.2
Indonesia	25,097	1.2	5.1
UK	17,494	0.9	-3.3
India	16,988	0.8	9.7
Canada	12,022	0.6	-0.7
Australia	11,277	0.6	-3.6
Bangladesh	11,015	0.5	2.7
Others	136,320	6.8	1.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,011,555</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1.9</b>

Source: Ministry of Justice, *Shutsunyukoku kanri tokei* (Annual Report of Statistics on Legal Migrants), 2006.

## Asylum Applications and Refugee Status Determination by Country, 2005

	Procedure level	Cases submitted during year	Recognized during year	Recognition rate (%)
Canada	FI	20,786	12,061	50.4
Austria	FA	22,461	4,650	42.6
USA	IN	24,247	9,554	32.1
Belgium	FI	15,957	3,059	30.7
Switzerland	FI	10,061	1,497	17.7
Australia	FI	3,204	577	17.1
Japan	FI	384	29	9.7
UK	FI	30,460	2,470	8.5
France	FI	49,733	4,184	8.2
Netherlands	FI	12,347	964	5.7
Germany	NA	28,914	1,302	4.5

Source: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Note: Refugee recognition rate: Number of recognized divided by total decisions.

Procedure level: NA=new applications; FI=first instance decisions; FA=including first instance and appeal/review decisions; IN=US Immigration and Naturalization Service.

## Causes of Death

For a few years immediately after World War II, tuberculosis was the largest cause of death in Japan, followed by cerebral hemorrhage. Through the government anti-tuberculosis campaign, the number of tuberculosis cases sharply decreased in the 1950s, while the cancer mortality rate has increased by leaps and bounds in the past few decades. In 1955 cancer accounted for only 11.2% of all causes of death. In 1981, however, it became the first cause, replacing cerebral hemorrhage, and has been on a steady rise since that time. In 2005 cancer caused 325,941 deaths, accounting for 30.1% of the total of 1,083,796. Heart disease and cerebral hemorrhage occupied second and third places, accounting for 16.0% and 12.3%, respectively. The major factor in the large increase in cancer is the aging of the Japanese population; as people age, they are more prone to contract cancer, and the proportion of the aged is expanding.

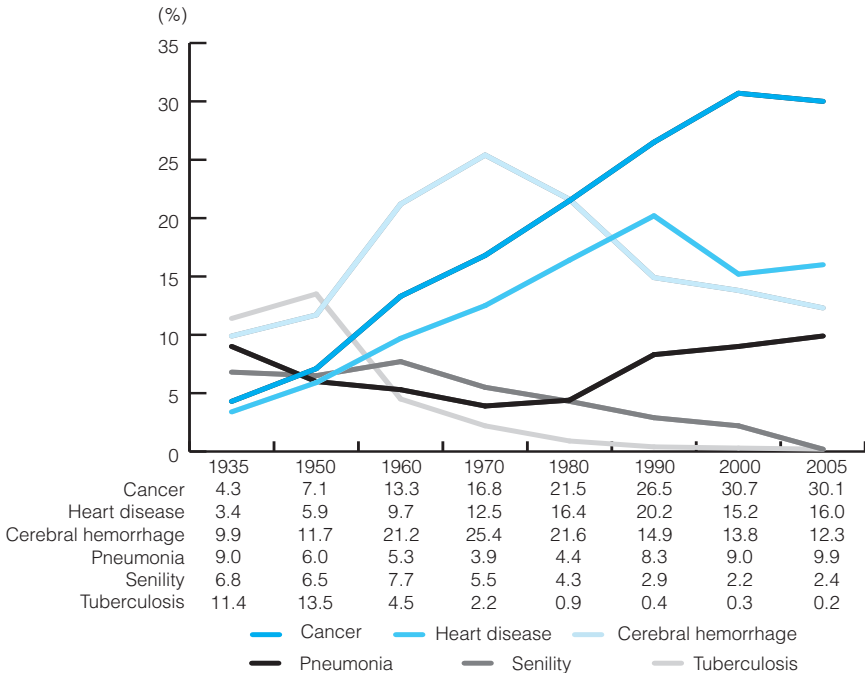
According to the National Police Agency, the number of suicides reached 32,552 in 2005. The figure was up 0.7% from the previous year. Of the total 10,360 suicides with a suicide note, 4,145 cases, or 40.0% of the total, were caused by hardship from sickness. Financial difficulties accounted for 31.4%, or 3,255 cases, a decrease of 5.3% from the previous year.

## Causes of Death, 2005

	Deaths	Share of total (%)
Cancer	325,941	30.1
Heart disease	173,125	16.0
Cerebral hemorrhage	132,847	12.3
Pneumonia	107,241	9.9
Accidents	39,863	3.7
Others	304,779	28.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,083,796</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, *Jinko dotai tokei* (Demographic Statistics), 2005.

## Trends in Causes of Death



Source: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, *Jinko dotai tokei* (Demographic Statistics), 2005.

## Suicides, 2005

Age group	Total	Male	Female
19 and under	608 (2.5)	382	226
20–29	3,409 (22.9)	2,357	1,052
30–39	4,606 (25.7)	3,389	1,217
40–49	5,208 (32.9)	4,120	1,088
50–59	7,586 (39.1)	6,016	1,570
60 and over	10,894 (30.6)	7,060	3,834
Unknown	241 (–)	216	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,552 (25.5)</b>	<b>23,540</b>	<b>9,012</b>

Source: National Police Agency.

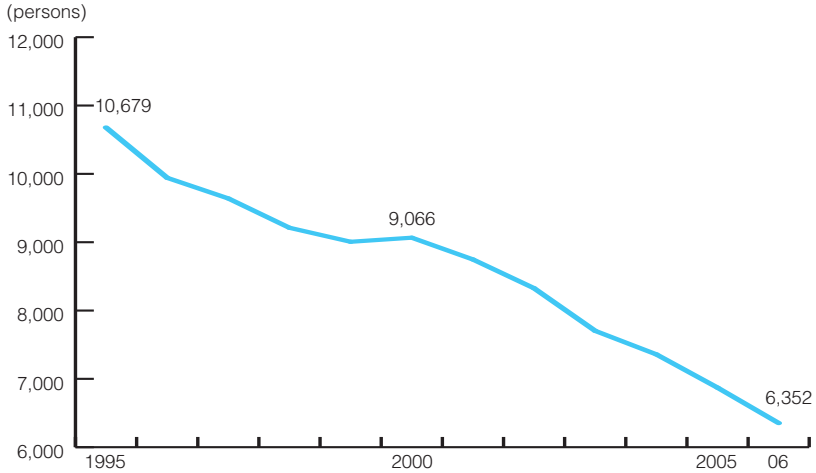
Note: Figures in parentheses are per 100,000 persons in the age group.

## Causes and Motives for Suicide, 2005

Classification	With suicide note									Without suicide note
	Total	Family problems	Illness, etc.	Household finance	Business problems	Problems between the sexes	School problems	Others	Unknown	
Total (persons)	10,360	1,011	4,145	3,255	654	317	71	622	285	22,192
Composition ratio (%)	(100.0)	(9.8)	(40.0)	(31.4)	(6.3)	(3.1)	(0.7)	(6.0)	(2.8)	
Male	7,694	679	2,495	2,964	609	205	52	461	229	15,846
Composition ratio (%)	(100.0)	(8.8)	(32.4)	(38.5)	(7.9)	(2.7)	(0.7)	(6.0)	(3.0)	
Female	2,666	332	1,650	291	45	112	19	161	56	6,346
Composition ratio (%)	(100.0)	(12.5)	(61.9)	(10.9)	(1.7)	(4.2)	(0.7)	(6.0)	(2.1)	

Source: National Police Agency.

## Trends in Traffic Accident Fatalities



Source: National Police Agency.

## Marriage and Divorce

After peaking in 1971, Japan's marriage rate fell to 5.7 marriages per 1,000 persons in 2005. The average age of first marriage rose steadily during the same period, from 26.8 for men and 24.2 for women in 1971 to 29.8 for men and 28.0 for women in 2005. Reflecting the fact that more women are pursuing higher education and entering the workforce, the percentage of women in their twenties and early thirties who are unmarried is rising, a trend that is fueling the decline in the marriage rate. Meanwhile, Japan's divorce rate rose from 0.74 per 1,000 persons in 1960 to 2.30 in 2002, then declined to 2.08 in 2005.

## Marriage and Divorce Rates in Major Countries

	Marriage rate (per 1,000 population)		Divorce rate (per 1,000 population)	
	Year		Year	
USA	2005	7.5 <sup>a</sup>	2005	3.6 <sup>a</sup>
Korea (ROK)	2005	6.5	2005	2.6
Japan	2006	5.8 <sup>b</sup>	2006	2.0 <sup>b</sup>
UK	2005	5.2 <sup>a</sup>	2005	2.6
France	2005	4.5	2005	2.2 <sup>a</sup>
Sweden	2005	4.9	2005	2.2

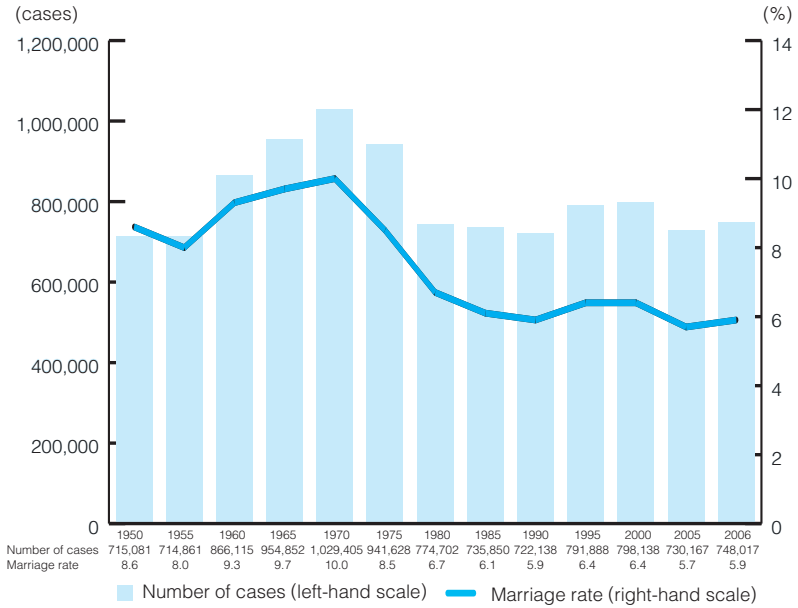
Source: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, *Jinko dotai tokei* (Demographic Statistics), 2006; European Commission, *Eurostat Yearbook*, 2005.

a. Provisional.

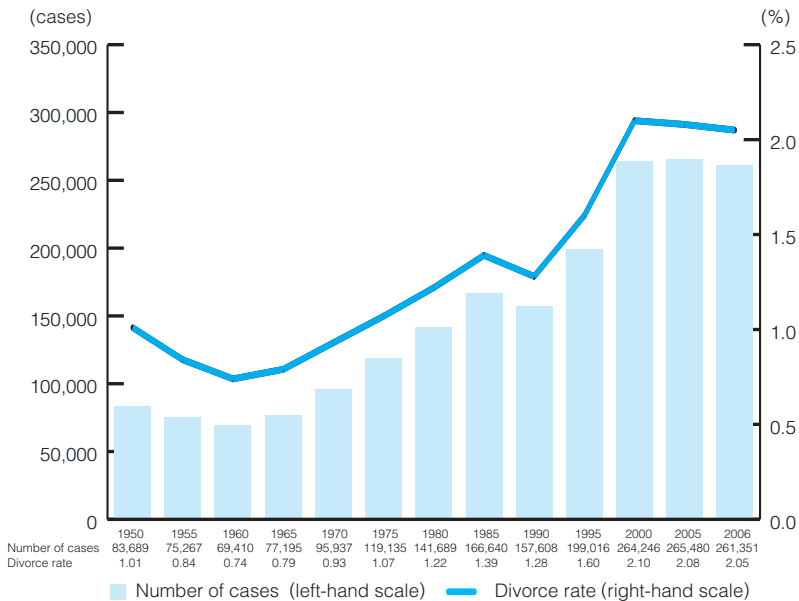
b. Estimate.

## Trends in Marriage and Divorce Rates

### Marriage

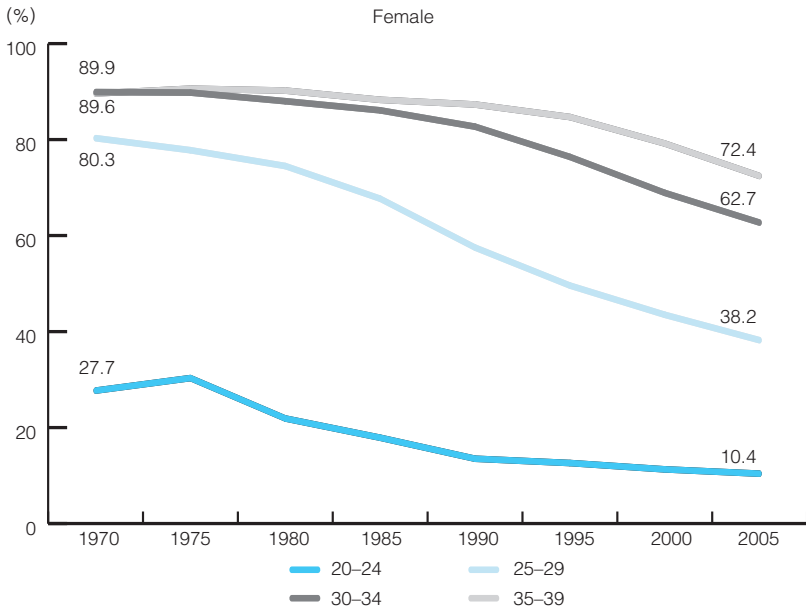
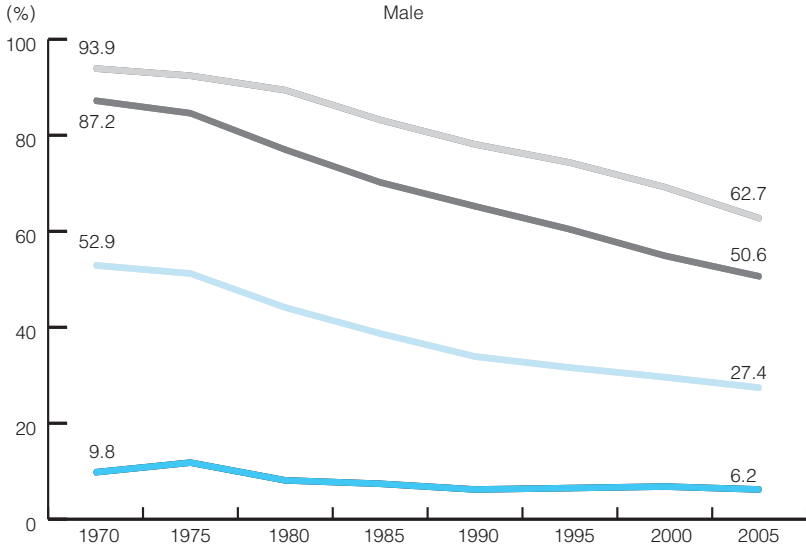


### Divorce



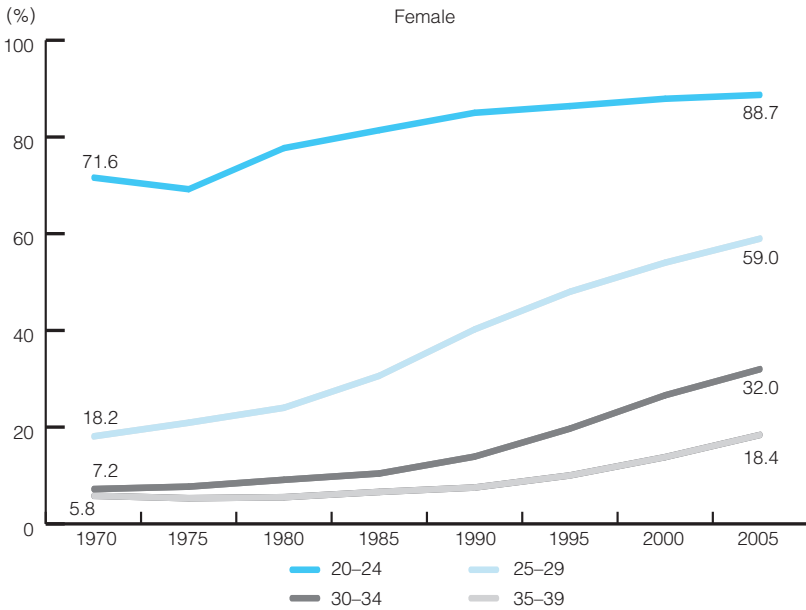
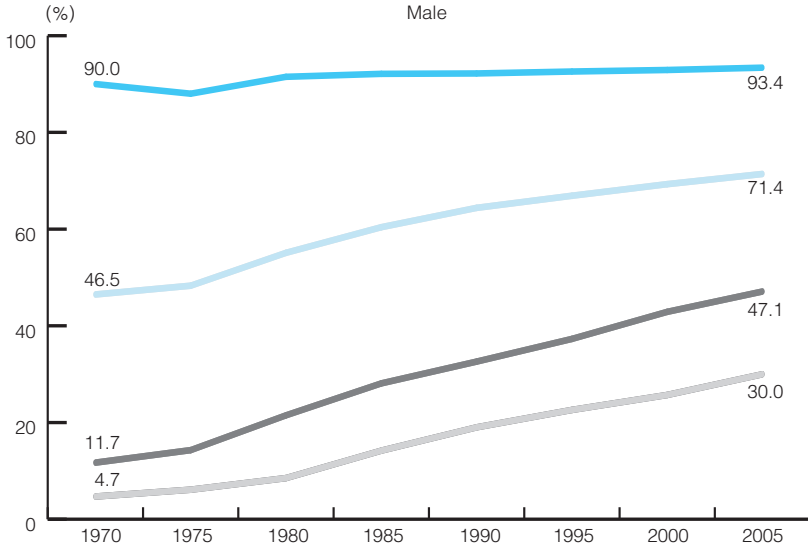
Source: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, *Jinko dotai tokei* (Demographic Statistics), 2006.

# Rate of Married Persons by Age Group



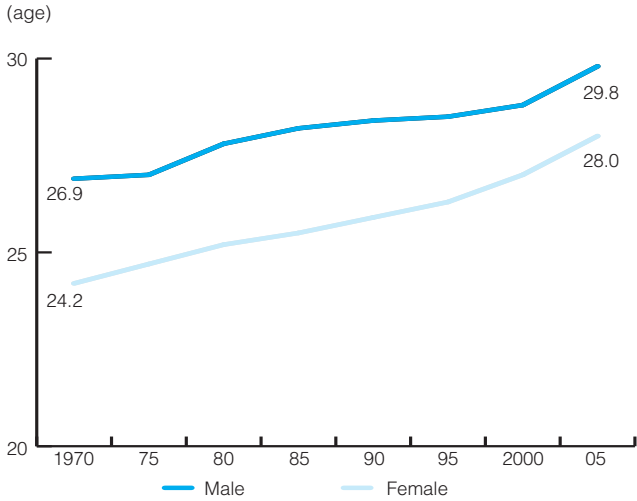
Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, *Kokusei chosa* (Population Census).

### Rate of Unmarried Persons by Age Group



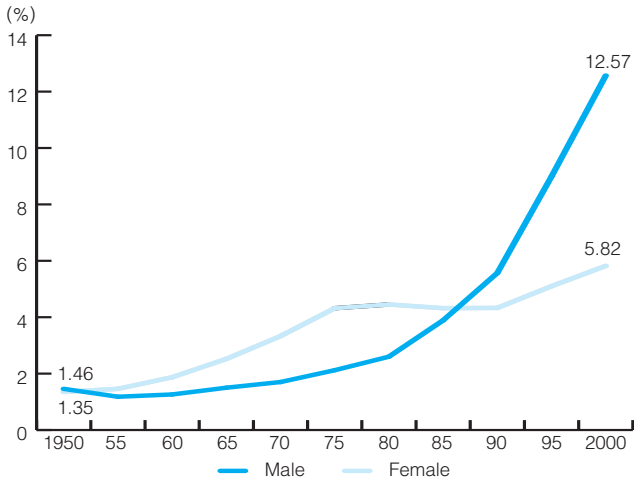
Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, *Kokusei chosa* (Population Census).  
 Note: Figures are only for persons who never married.

## Trends in Average Age of First Marriage



Source: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, *Jinko dotai tokei* (Demographic Statistics), 2005.

## Trends in Lifetime Single Rates



Source: National Institute of Population and Social Security Research, *Jinko tokei shiryoshu* (Population Statistics of Japan), 2005.

Note: The figure shows the ratio of unmarried persons at the age of 50.

## Number of Mixed Marriage Cases in Japan

### Husband: Japanese

Wife's nationality	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005
China	280	574	912	1,766	3,614	5,174	9,884	11,644
Philippines						7,188	7,519	10,242
Korea (ROK and North Korea)	1,536	1,994	2,458	3,622	8,940	4,521	6,214	6,066
Thailand						1,915	2,137	1,637
Brazil						579	357	311
USA	75	152	178	254	260	198	202	177
Peru						140	145	121
UK						82	76	59
Others	217	502	838	2,096	7,212	990	1,792	2,859
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,108</b>	<b>3,222</b>	<b>4,386</b>	<b>7,738</b>	<b>20,026</b>	<b>20,787</b>	<b>28,326</b>	<b>33,116</b>

### Wife: Japanese

Husband's nationality	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005
Korea (ROK and North Korea)	1,386	1,554	1,651	2,525	2,721	2,842	2,509	2,087
USA	1,571	631	625	876	1,091	1,303	1,483	1,551
China	195	243	194	380	708	769	878	1,015
UK						213	249	343
Brazil						162	279	261
Philippines						52	109	187
Peru						66	124	123
Thailand						19	67	60
Others	286	395	405	662	1,080	1,514	2,239	2,738
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,438</b>	<b>2,823</b>	<b>2,875</b>	<b>4,443</b>	<b>5,600</b>	<b>6,940</b>	<b>7,937</b>	<b>8,365</b>

Source: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, *Jinko dotai tokei* (Demographic Statistics), 2005.

Note: Through 1990, the Philippines, Thailand, UK, Brazil, and Peru are included in "others."

## Household Structure

As of June 2005, there were 47.0 million households in Japan, an increase of 15.4% over 1995. With the number of households growing faster than the population, the average number of persons per household is estimated to fall from 2.68 in 2005 to 2.37 by 2025.

From the 1960s to the early 1980s, Japan experienced a nuclearization of families, but since 1985 there has been a more prominent increase in the number of single-member households. The share of nuclear families in the total number of households was 59.2% in 2005, while single-member households accounted for 24.6% of the total. The number of households consisting of only elderly people has also been on the rise, reaching 17.7% of the total in 2005.

### Change of Household Structure

(%)

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005
Single persons	18.5	18.1	21.0	24.1	24.6
Nuclear families	57.0	60.3	60.0	59.1	59.2
Single parents with children	5.1	4.2	5.1	5.7	6.3
Married couples without children	10.7	13.1	16.6	20.7	21.9
Married couples with children	41.2	43.1	38.2	32.8	31.1
Three-generation families	19.2	16.2	13.5	10.6	9.7
Others	5.3	5.4	5.6	6.1	6.4

Source: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, *Kokumin seikatsu kiso chosa* (The Comprehensive Survey of Living Condition of the People on Health and Welfare), 2005.

### Number of Children per Household

(1,000 households)

	Households with children					Average number of children per household	Households with no child
	Number of children						
	Total	One	Two	Three	Four or more		
1975	<b>17,427 (53.0)</b>	6,578 (20.0)	8,089 (24.6)	2,401 (7.3)	360 (1.1)	1.81	<b>15,450 (47.0)</b>
1980	<b>17,630 (49.9)</b>	6,251 (17.7)	8,568 (24.2)	2,497 (7.1)	315 (0.9)	1.83	<b>17,708 (50.1)</b>
1985	<b>17,385 (46.7)</b>	6,174 (16.6)	8,417 (22.6)	2,520 (6.8)	274 (0.7)	1.83	<b>19,841 (53.3)</b>
1990	<b>15,573 (38.7)</b>	5,803 (14.4)	7,176 (17.8)	2,348 (5.8)	247 (0.6)	1.81	<b>24,700 (61.3)</b>
1995	<b>13,586 (33.3)</b>	5,495 (13.5)	5,854 (14.4)	1,999 (4.9)	238 (0.6)	1.78	<b>27,183 (66.7)</b>
2000	<b>13,060 (28.7)</b>	5,485 (12.0)	5,588 (12.3)	1,768 (3.9)	219 (0.5)	1.75	<b>32,485 (71.3)</b>
2005	<b>12,366 (26.3)</b>	5,355 (11.4)	5,323 (11.3)	1,480 (3.1)	208 (0.4)	1.72	<b>34,677 (73.7)</b>

Source: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare.

Note: Figures in parentheses are percentage of total.

## Number of Households with Persons Aged 65 Years or Over

	Total	Single persons only		Married couples only
		Male	Female	
				(1,000 households)
1986	<b>9,769 (26.0)</b>	246 (0.7)	1,035 (2.8)	1,782 (4.7)
1995	<b>12,695 (31.1)</b>	449 (1.1)	1,751 (4.3)	3,075 (7.5)
2000	<b>15,647 (34.4)</b>	682 (1.5)	2,398 (5.3)	4,234 (9.3)
2002	<b>16,848 (36.6)</b>	755 (1.6)	2,650 (5.8)	4,822 (10.5)
2003	<b>17,273 (37.7)</b>	776 (1.7)	2,635 (5.8)	4,845 (10.6)
2004	<b>17,864 (38.6)</b>	906 (2.0)	2,842 (6.1)	5,252 (11.3)
2005	<b>18,532 (39.4)</b>	1,010 (2.1)	3,059 (6.5)	5,420 (11.5)

Source: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, *Kokumin seikatsu kiso chosa* (The Comprehensive Survey of Living Condition of the People on Health and Welfare), 2005.

Note: Figures in parentheses are percentage of all households.

## Homeless Population in Japan

	1999	2001	2003	2007
Tokyo <sup>a</sup>	5,800	5,600	5,927	4,213
Osaka	8,660	8,600	6,603	4,069
Kawasaki	901	901	829	848
Fukuoka	269	341	607	784
Nagoya	1,019	1,318	1,788	741
Yokohama	794	602	470	661
Kyoto	300	492	624	387
Kitakyushu	166	197	421	249
Saitama	n/a	n/a	323	179
Kobe	335	341	323	135
Others	2,047	5,588	7,381	6,298
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,451</b>	<b>24,090</b>	<b>25,296</b>	<b>18,564</b>

Source: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, *Homeless Survey*, 2007.

a. Twenty-three wards of central Tokyo only.