

Chapter 9

Transport

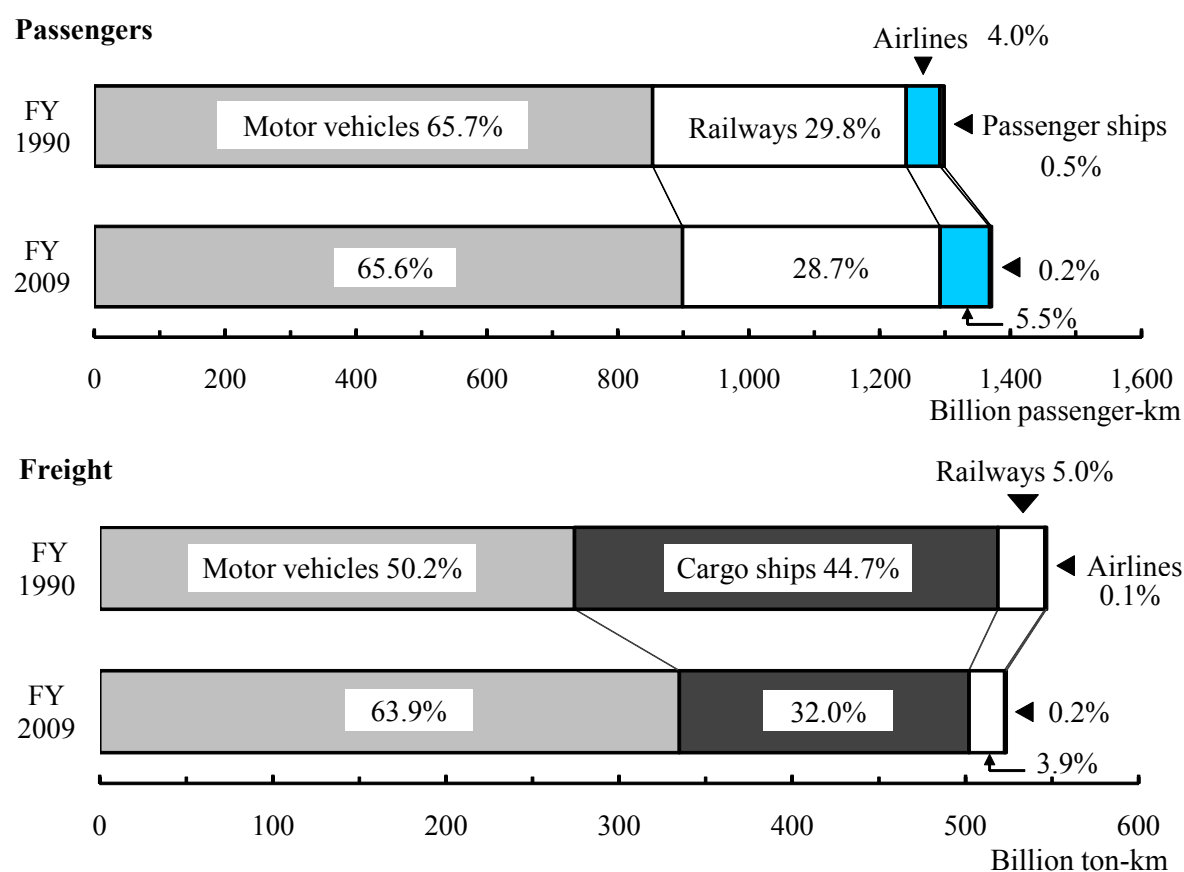


A train of the Uedadentetsu Bessho Line, a railroad that operates on the 11.6-kilometer route from Ueda Station to Bessho-Onsen Station in Nagano Prefecture. It runs for approximately 30 minutes across Shiodadaira in Ueda City, connecting 15 stations. The route is flanked by vast stretches of lush, idyllic scenery, and serves a large number of cultural properties as well as universities and an industrial park, functioning as a research and development hub.

1. Domestic Transport

Various modes of domestic transport are used in Japan; almost all passenger transport is by motor vehicle and railway, while nearly all freight transport is by motor vehicle and cargo ship. A comparison of data between fiscal 1990 and fiscal 2009 showed a marked growth in motor vehicle transportation for both passengers and freight. Currently, in the face of the increasing importance of CO₂ emissions reduction, a series of efforts, including improving the energy efficiency of cars and promoting the broader use of environmentally-friendly cars, resulted in Japan's transport sector recording 230 million tons in CO₂ emissions in fiscal 2009. This marked the second consecutive year of success in meeting the emissions target of 240 million to 243 million tons, which is the reference level for fiscal 2010 set in the Kyoto Protocol Target Achievement Plan. In an attempt to further reduce emissions, the government is encouraging a shift from driving to public transportation and the development of next-generation low-emission vehicles, etc.

Figure 9.1
Composition of Domestic Transport



Source: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

(1) Domestic Passenger Transport

No major changes have been observed in recent years in the volume of domestic passenger transport. In public transportation, among other domains, a variety of actions have been taken to boost ridership, for example, by introducing multiple-use IC (integrated circuit) cards covering different railway/bus operators and bus location systems designed to provide bus location tracking information, as well as varying commute times to relieve road traffic jams on a city- or region-wide scale.

In fiscal 2009, the number of domestic transport passengers was 89.50 billion (down 0.5 percent from the previous fiscal year). The total volume of passenger transport was 1.37 trillion passenger-kilometers (down 1.7 percent).

Table 9.1
Domestic Passenger Transport

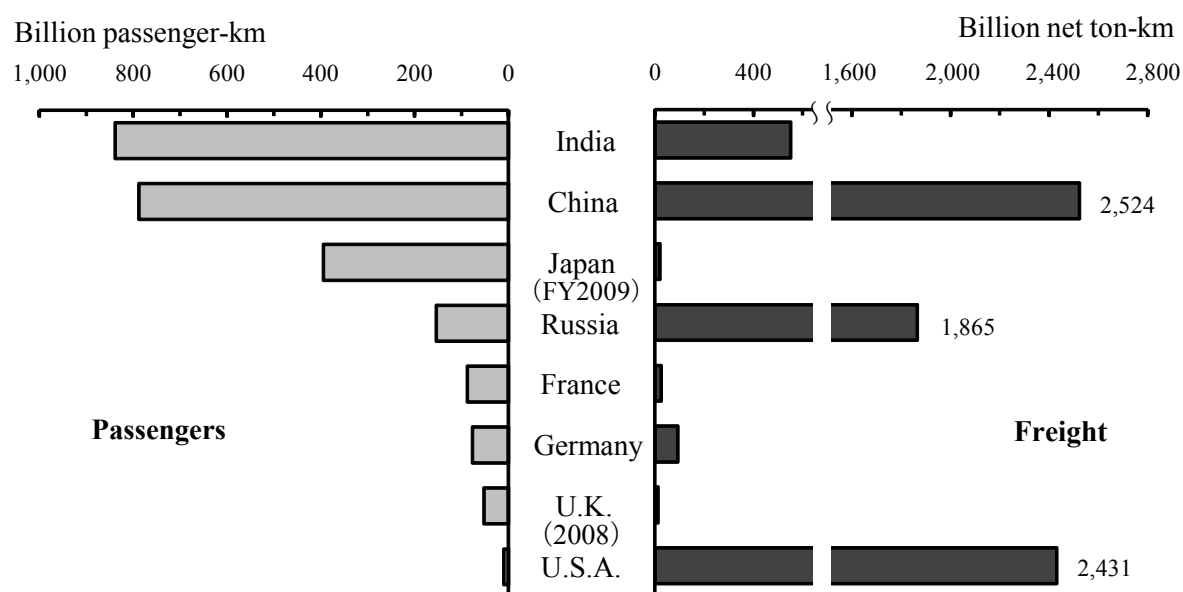
Item	Passengers carried (millions)		Passenger kilometers (billions)	
	FY2008	FY2009	FY2008	FY2009
Total transport volume	89,940	89,500	1,394.83	1,370.90
Railways	22,976	22,724	404.59	393.90
JR (Japan Railways)	8,984	8,841	253.56	244.25
Other than JR	13,992	13,884	151.03	149.66
Motor vehicles	66,774	66,600	905.91	898.72
Buses	5,930	5,733	89.92	87.40
Commercial use	4,607	4,476	73.26	71.21
Non-commercial use	1,322	1,257	16.66	16.20
Passenger cars	38,049	37,673	552.88	543.65
Taxis and limousine hires	2,025	1,948	10.57	10.16
Private cars ¹⁾	36,025	35,725	542.30	533.50
Light vehicles ²⁾	20,889	21,423	216.20	223.07
Trucks	1,907	1,770	46.91	44.59
Airlines	91	84	80.93	75.20
Passenger ships	99	92	3.51	3.07

1) Includes both family- and business-owned cars. 2) Cars with gasoline engine sizes under 660cc, and motorcycles.

Source: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

In fiscal 2009, the Japan Railways (JR) group reported 8.84 billion passengers (down 1.6 percent from the previous fiscal year) and 244.25 billion passenger-kilometers (down 3.7 percent). Railways other than JR reported 13.88 billion passengers (down 0.8 percent) and 149.66 billion passenger-kilometers (down 0.9 percent).

Figure 9.2
Rail Transport by Country (2009)



Source: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism; The World Bank.

In order to encourage the use of buses, various efforts to improve their convenience have been promoted. Commercial buses transported 4.48 billion passengers (down 2.8 percent from the previous fiscal year) and achieved 71.21 billion passenger-kilometers (down 2.8 percent); both figures decreased in fiscal 2009.

Taxi and limousine hire services have marked a long-term downward trend in passengers. They carried 1.95 billion passengers (down 3.8 percent from the previous fiscal year) and reported 10.16 billion passenger-kilometers (down 3.9 percent); both figures of passengers and passenger-kilometers declined in fiscal 2009. Passenger transport via private cars registered 35.73 billion passengers (down 0.8 percent) and 533.50 billion passenger-kilometers (down 1.6 percent).

Table 9.2
Number of Motor Vehicles Owned

Type of vehicles	(Thousands)				
	FY1995	FY2000	FY2005	FY2008	FY2009
Trucks and trailers	20,235	18,065	16,707	15,859	15,533
Buses	243	236	232	230	228
Passenger cars	45,069	52,449	57,098	57,682	57,903
Special purpose vehicles	1,524	1,754	1,619	1,528	1,512
Two-wheeled vehicles ¹⁾	3,036	3,021	3,337	3,502	3,517

1) Two-wheeled vehicles with engine displacement of more than 125cc.

Source: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

Fiscal 2009 air transport records show that there were 84 million passengers (down 7.5 percent from the previous fiscal year), and passenger-kilometers amounted to 75.20 billion (down 7.1 percent).

In fiscal 2009, passenger ships reported 92 million passengers (down 6.9 percent from the previous fiscal year) and 3.07 billion passenger-kilometers (down 12.5 percent).

(2) Domestic Freight Transport

In the area of domestic freight, a total of 4.83 billion metric tons (down 6.1 percent from the previous fiscal year) of freight was transported for a total of 523.59 billion ton-kilometers (down 6.1 percent) in fiscal 2009.

As for transport tonnage volume in fiscal 2009, motor vehicle transport accounted for more than 90 percent of the total. Major items transported by motor vehicles were: foodstuffs, textiles and household equipment; and wastes and feed. In terms of transport ton-kilometers, cargo ships, next to motor vehicles, accounted for a substantial portion of volume. The principal items transported by cargo ships were nonferrous ores and metals, petroleum products, etc.

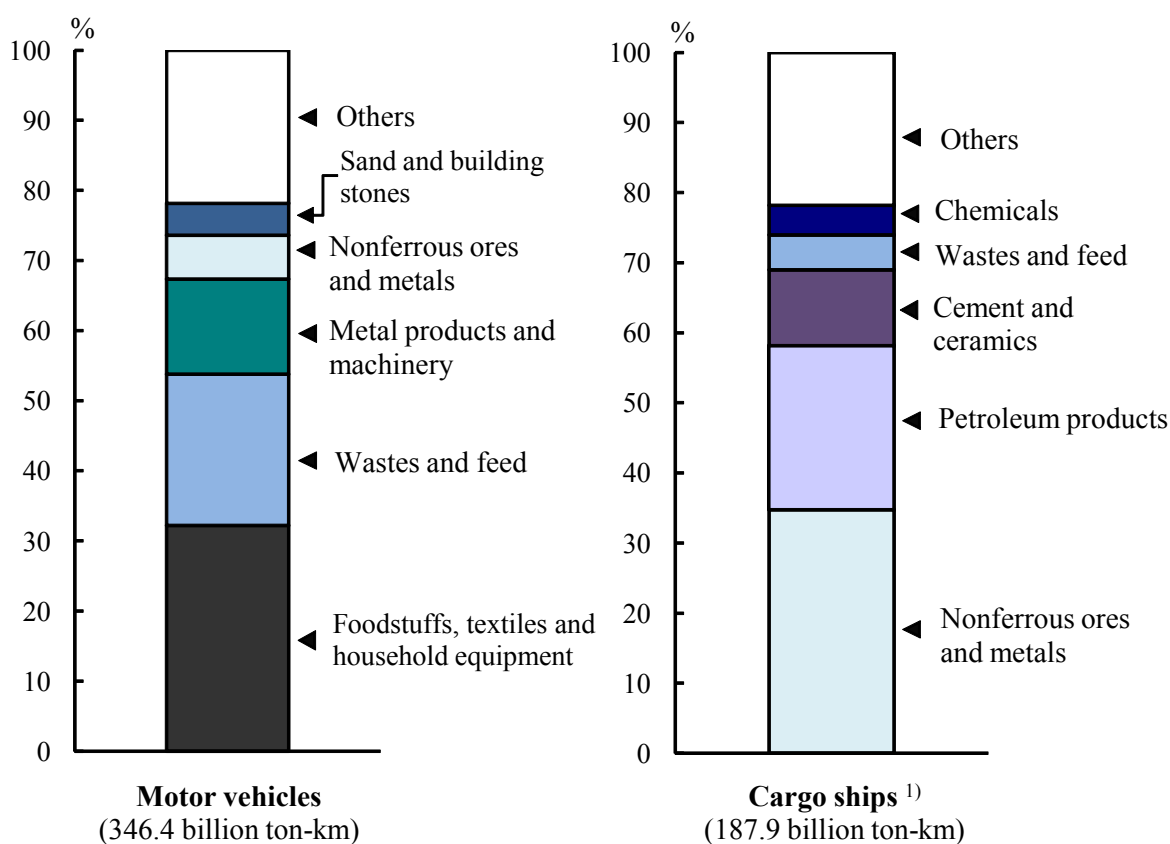
Table 9.3
Domestic Freight Transport

Item	Freight tonnage (millions)		Ton kilometers (billions)	
	FY2008	FY2009	FY2008	FY2009
Total transport volume	5,144.3	4,830.5	557.61	523.59
Railways	46.2	43.3	22.26	20.56
JR (Japan Railways)	32.8	30.8	22.08	22.40
Other than JR	13.4	12.4	0.17	0.16
Motor vehicles	4,718.3	4,454.0	346.42	334.67
Commercial use	2,808.7	2,686.6	302.82	293.23
Non-commercial use	1,909.7	1,767.5	43.60	41.44
Cargo ships	378.7	332.2	187.86	167.32
Airlines ¹⁾	1.1	1.0	1.08	1.04

1) Including overweight baggage and postal mail.

Source: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

Figure 9.3
Breakdown of Freight Transport (FY2008)



1) Including non-commercial use.

Source: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

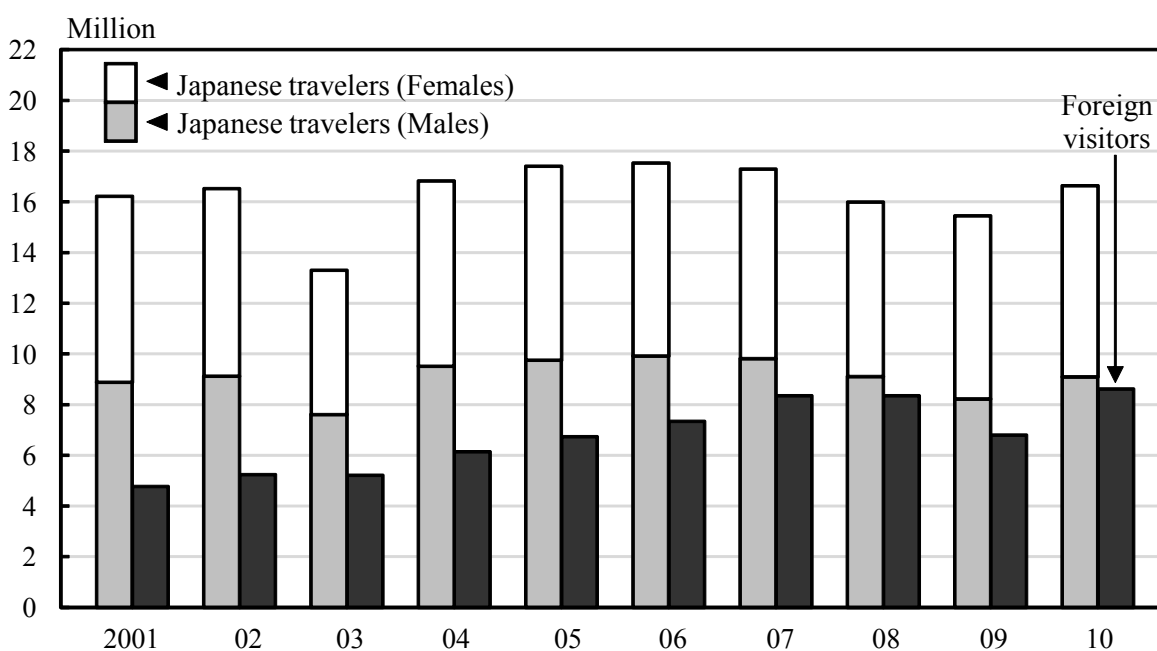
2. International Transport

(1) International Passenger Transport

Since 2008, fuel price hikes and global economic downturns have quickly shrunk demand for international air passenger transport with Japanese airlines. In 2010, they transported 14.57 million passengers (down 5.3 percent from the previous year) on international flights, and registered 63.35 billion passenger-kilometers (down 5.7 percent).

The number of Japanese overseas travelers in 2010 rose from the previous year to 16.64 million (up 7.7 percent). According to reports on arrivals by tourist offices in countries around the world, China, the U.S.A. and Republic of Korea had many Japanese visitors in 2010.

Figure 9.4
Japanese Overseas Travelers and Foreign Visitor Arrivals



Source: Ministry of Justice; Japan National Tourism Organization.

Table 9.4
Japanese Travelers

Country or area of destination	2008		2009		2010	
	Number of arrivals (1,000)	Annual growth (%)	Number of arrivals (1,000)	Annual growth (%)	Number of arrivals (1,000)	Annual growth (%)
China	3,446	-13.4	3,317	-3.7	3,731	12.5
U.S.A. ¹⁾	3,250	-8.0	2,918	-10.2	3,386	16.0
Korea, Rep. of	2,378	6.4	3,053	28.4	3,023	-1.0
Hong Kong SAR	1,325	0.0	1,204	-9.1	1,317	9.3
Taiwan	1,087	-6.8	1,001	-7.9	1,080	7.9
France	674	-3.4	697	3.4
Germany ²⁾	598	-9.7	538	-10.0	605	12.5

1) Including territories and dependencies (Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico and United States Virgin Islands, etc.). 2) Arrivals in registered tourist accommodations.

Source: Japan National Tourism Organization.

Table 9.5
Foreign Visitors

Country or area of origin	2009		2010	
	Number of arrivals (1,000)	Percent distribution	Number of arrivals (1,000)	Percent distribution
Total arrivals	6,790	100.0	8,611	100.0
Korea, Rep. of	1,587	23.4	2,440	28.3
China	1,006	14.8	1,413	16.4
Taiwan	1,024	15.1	1,268	14.7
U.S.A.	700	10.3	727	8.4
Hong Kong SAR	450	6.6	509	5.9
Australia	212	3.1	226	2.6
Thailand	178	2.6	215	2.5
U.K.	181	2.7	184	2.1
Singapore	145	2.1	181	2.1
Canada	153	2.2	153	1.8

Source: Japan National Tourism Organization.

The number of foreign visitors to Japan was 8.61 million in 2010 (up 26.8 percent from the previous year). Broken down by country/region, the number of visitors from Asian countries was highest, totaling 6.53 million persons (up 35.6 percent from the previous year). Among Asian countries, the number of visitors from Republic of Korea was highest, amounting to 2.44 million, a figure that accounted for 28.3 percent of the total number of foreign visitors to Japan.

Of the total number of foreign visitors to Japan, tourists numbered 6.36 million persons, or 73.9 percent of total foreign visitors. The highest number of tourists came from Republic of Korea with 1.96 million travelers, followed by Taiwan with 1.14 million travelers.

(2) International Freight Transport

The volume of seaborne foreign transport in 2009 was 823.85 million tons, down 4.9 percent over the previous year. Of this figure, total exports decreased by 5.9 percent to 44.96 million tons, and total imports decreased by 16.4 percent to 458.00 million tons.

Table 9.6
Seaborne Foreign Transport

Year	(Thousand tons)			
	Total	Exports	Imports	Cross Transport
1995	703,606	38,761	529,929	134,916
2000	739,377	34,960	538,875	165,542
2005	777,869	45,403	529,239	203,225
2007	833,217	56,702	527,467	249,048
2008	866,453	47,781	547,888	270,784
2009	823,851	44,963	457,996	320,892

Source: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

Air-shipped international freight in 2010 totaled 1.32 million tons in terms of volume (up 13.5 percent from the previous year) and 6.66 billion tons in terms of ton-kilometers (up 9.8 percent).