

Chapter 16

Education and Culture



The neighborhood of Ochiai and Nakai (Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo) was once home to a bustling dye industry carrying on Edo traditions, such as hand-painted *yuzen* and *komon*, where, until the 1950s, it used to be commonplace to see dyed fabrics being washed in all parts of the river.

1. School-Based Education

Japan's primary and secondary education is based on a 6-3-3 system: 6 years in elementary school, 3 years in lower secondary school, and 3 years in upper secondary school. The period of compulsory schooling is the 9 years at elementary and lower secondary schools. Higher education institutions are universities, junior colleges, and colleges of technology. Other education establishments include kindergartens, which provide pre-school education, and special education schools for mentally and/or physically challenged children. There are also specialized training colleges and miscellaneous schools for a wide range of vocational and other practical skills learning. Given the nearly 100-percent upper secondary school entrance rate, the School Education Law was amended in 1998 to authorize combined lower and upper secondary schooling, which began at some lower and upper secondary schools in 1999. On an additional note, school years in Japan start in April and end in March.

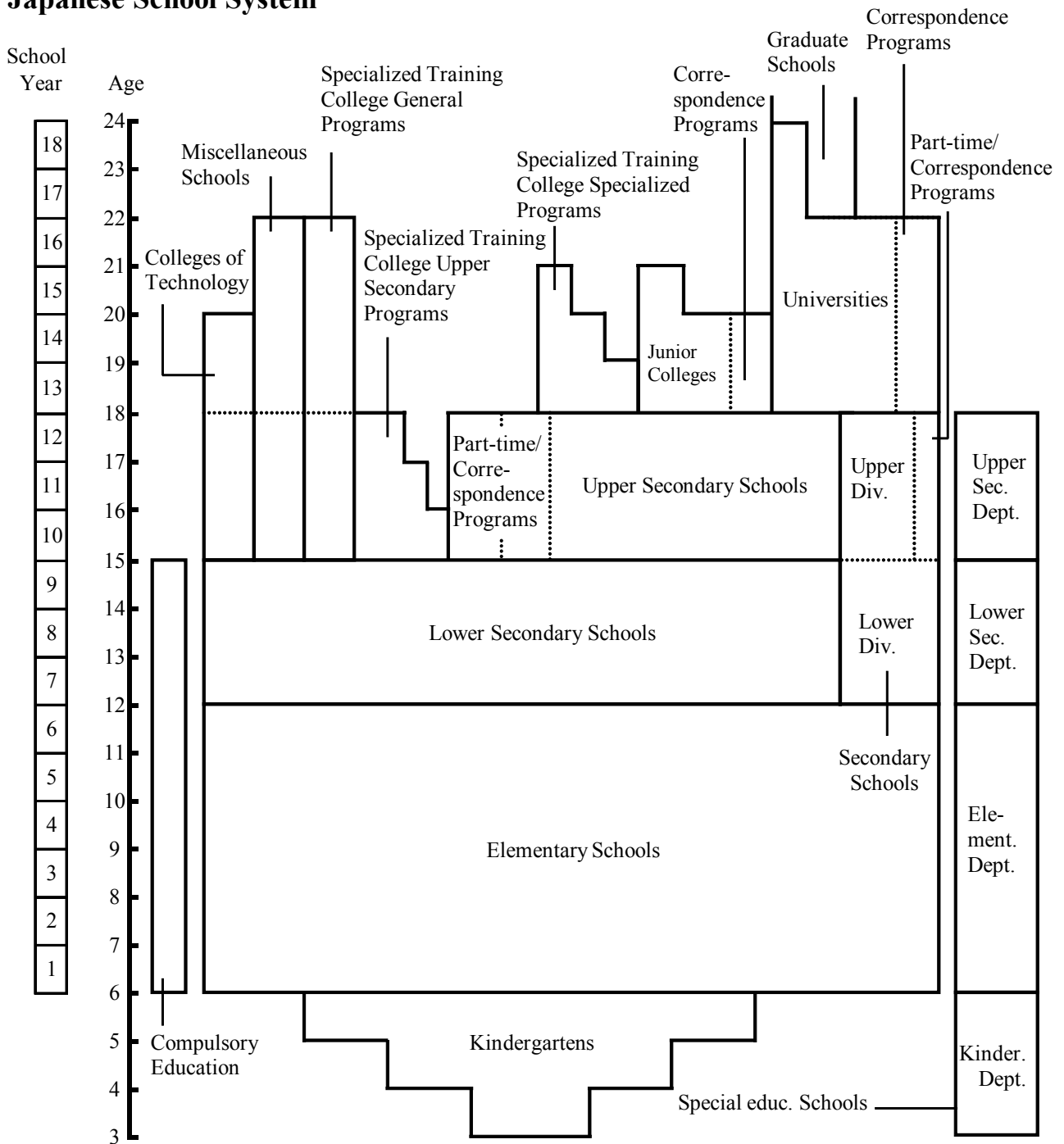
Table 16.1
Educational Institutions in Japan (As of May 1, 2010)

| Type of institution | Schools | | | Full-time teachers (1,000) | Students (1,000) | | |
|---|---------|----------|--------|----------------------------|------------------|-------|---------|
| | Total | National | Public | | Private | Males | Females |
| Kindergartens | 13,392 | 49 | 5,107 | 8,236 | 111 | 814 | 792 |
| Elementary schools | 22,000 | 74 | 21,713 | 213 | 420 | 3,579 | 3,414 |
| Lower secondary schools | 10,815 | 75 | 9,982 | 758 | 251 | 1,817 | 1,741 |
| Upper secondary schools | 5,116 | 15 | 3,780 | 1,321 | 239 | 1,703 | 1,665 |
| Secondary schools | 48 | 4 | 28 | 16 | 2 | 12 | 12 |
| Special educ. schools ¹⁾ | 1,039 | 45 | 980 | 14 | 73 | 79 | 43 |
| Colleges of technology | 58 | 51 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 50 | 9 |
| Junior colleges | 395 | - | 26 | 369 | 10 | 17 | 138 |
| Universities | 778 | 86 | 95 | 597 | 174 | 1,702 | 1,186 |
| Graduate schools | 616 | 86 | 80 | 450 | 101 | 189 | 82 |
| Specialized training colleges | 3,311 | 10 | 203 | 3,098 | 40 | 291 | 347 |
| Miscellaneous schools | 1,466 | - | 9 | 1,457 | 9 | 65 | 65 |

1) Schools for mentally and / or physically challenged children, inclusive of kindergarten to upper secondary school levels.

Source: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

Figure 16.1
Japanese School System



Source: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

Of the March 2010 upper secondary school graduates, 54.3 percent went straight on to enter a university or junior college. The ratio of upper secondary school graduates who entered a university, junior college, etc. in 2010 was 56.8 percent (57.7 percent of male and 56.0 percent of female graduates), including graduates from previous years.

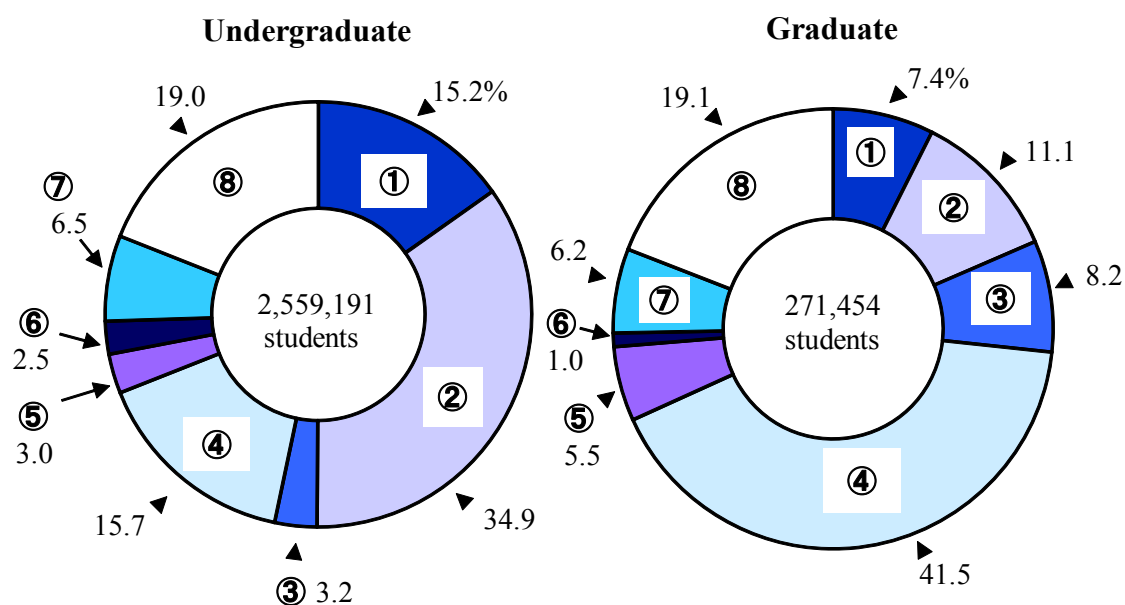
Table 16.2
Number of University Students (As of May 1, 2010)

| | (Thousands) | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 2000 | 2005 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
| Total | 2,740 | 2,865 | 2,836 | 2,846 | 2,887 |
| Undergraduate | 2,472 | 2,508 | 2,521 | 2,527 | 2,559 |
| Graduate schools | 205 | 254 | 263 | 264 | 271 |
| Others ¹⁾ | 63 | 102 | 53 | 55 | 57 |
| Females | 992 | 1,125 | 1,141 | 1,158 | 1,186 |
| Undergraduate | 913 | 1,009 | 1,037 | 1,053 | 1,078 |
| Graduate schools | 54 | 76 | 80 | 81 | 82 |
| Others ¹⁾ | 25 | 40 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| National | 624 | 628 | 624 | 622 | 625 |
| Public | 107 | 125 | 132 | 137 | 143 |
| Private | 2,009 | 2,112 | 2,080 | 2,087 | 2,120 |

1) Auditing students, non-degree students, research students, etc.

Source: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

Figure 16.2
University Students by Major Subject (As of May 1, 2010)

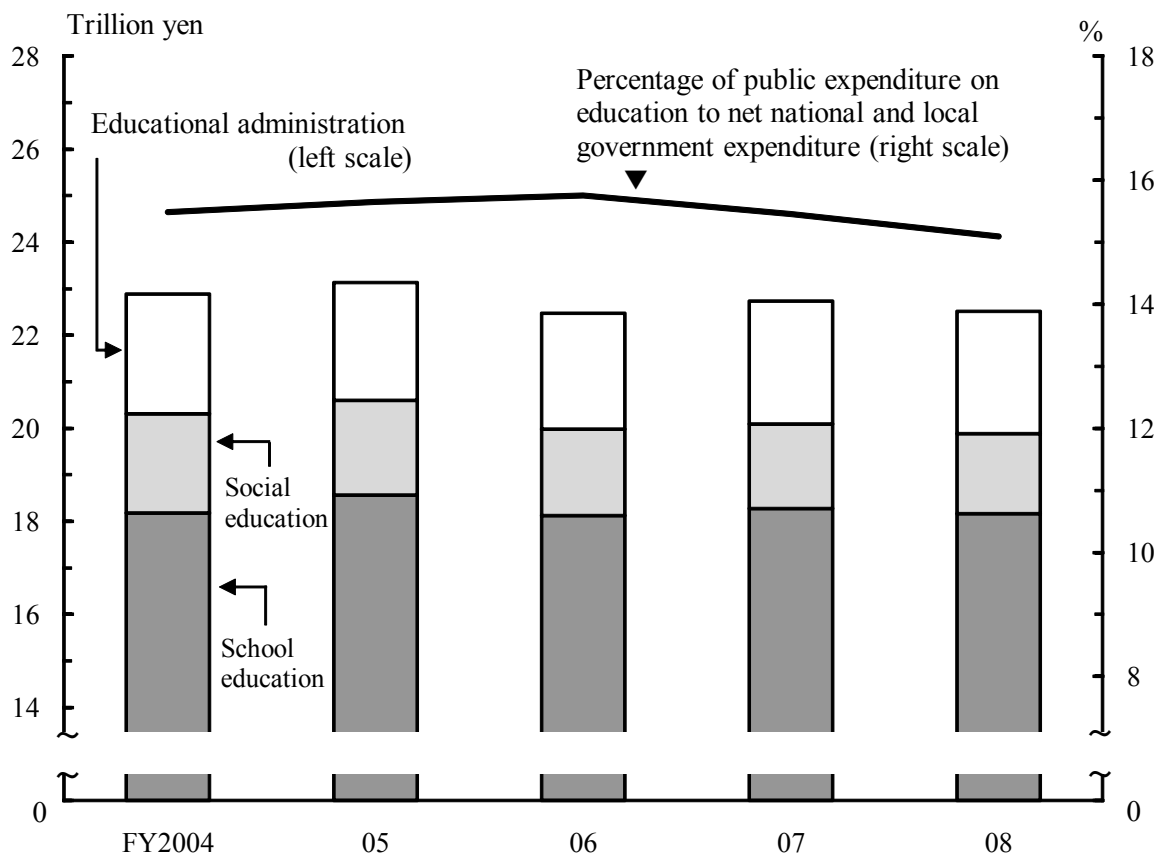


① Humanities. ② Social sciences. ③ Natural sciences. ④ Engineering. ⑤ Agriculture.
⑥ Medicine and dentistry. ⑦ Education and teacher training. ⑧ Others.

Source: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

Fiscal 2008 public expenditure on education in Japan was 22.5 trillion yen, which was equivalent to 15.1 percent of the net expenditure of national and local governments. Fiscal 2008 school expenditure by households with children attending public school averaged 56,019 yen per elementary school pupil, 138,042 yen per lower-secondary school student and 356,937 yen per upper-secondary school student.

Figure 16.3
Public Expenditures on Education



Source: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

As of May 1, 2010, a total of 111,211 foreign students were enrolled in Japanese junior colleges, universities, and graduate schools. Of the total foreign students, 90.8 percent were from Asia, including 67,455 from China, 15,509 from the Republic of Korea and 3,373 from Taiwan.

2. Lifelong Learning

A broad range of changes are occurring in Japan in line with the maturation of society, including aging of the population, the social advancement of women, the rapid progress of informatization and the expansion of leisure time. Amidst these changes, the mindset of the Japanese people is shifting from a focus on materialistic wealth to a focus on cultural/spiritual wealth and leading a meaningful life.

Table 16.3
Social Education Facilities (As of October 1, 2008)

| Facilities | Number | Facilities | Number |
|------------------------------|--------|---|--------|
| Citizens' public halls | 15,943 | Botanical gardens | 11 |
| Libraries | 3,165 | Zoological and botanical gardens | 10 |
| Museums | 1,248 | Aquariums | 41 |
| General museums | 149 | Centers for children and youths | 1,129 |
| Science museums | 105 | Women's education centers | 380 |
| Historical museums | 436 | Culture halls | 1,893 |
| Art museums | 449 | Cultural centers ¹⁾ | 698 |
| Outdoor museums | 18 | | |
| Zoological gardens | 29 | | |

1) As of November 1, 2005.

Source: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

Table 16.4
Sports Facilities (As of October 1, 2008)

| Facilities | Public | Private | Facilities | Public | Private |
|---|--------|---------|---------------------------------|--------|---------|
| Total | 47,925 | 17,323 | Tennis courts, indoor | 188 | 323 |
| Fields and tracks | 927 | 16 | Tennis courts, outdoor | 4,965 | 1,026 |
| Baseball grounds | 6,240 | 180 | Physical training gyms | 1,605 | 1,410 |
| Other ball game grounds ... | 1,361 | 275 | Dance halls | 99 | 1,185 |
| Playgrounds | 7,106 | 234 | Golf courses | 120 | 2,298 |
| Swimming pools, indoor .. | 1,627 | 1,702 | Golf practice ranges | 28 | 1,802 |
| Swimming pools, outdoor | 2,257 | 129 | Camping sites | 1,636 | 485 |
| Gymnasiums | 6,825 | 380 | Gate ball and croquet fields .. | 2,127 | 199 |
| <i>Judo</i> and <i>Kendo</i> gyms | 2,416 | 484 | | | |

Source: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

Today, efforts are being made to link school education, social education, cultural activities, sports activities, recreational activities, volunteer activities, and corporate in-house education, in order to create a society where people have the freedom to continue learning throughout their lives. In providing places and opportunities for such lifelong learning, educational institutions, social education facilities (public halls, libraries, museums, etc.) and sports facilities play a vital role. Staff members of these institutions and facilities regularly consult and exchange views with prefectural boards of education, private education organizations, NPOs and business groups.

3. Leisure Activities

The results of the 2006 Survey on Time Use and Leisure Activities conducted with people aged 10 and over show that the per-day average amount of free time was 6 hours and 23 minutes, which is the time remaining after activities that are physiologically necessary (sleeping, eating, etc.) and societally essential (work, housework, etc.). It was found that 1 hour and 17 minutes of free time was spent for hobbies, sports, studies, volunteer activities, etc.

Table 16.5
Major Leisure Activities by Gender (10 years old and over) (2006)

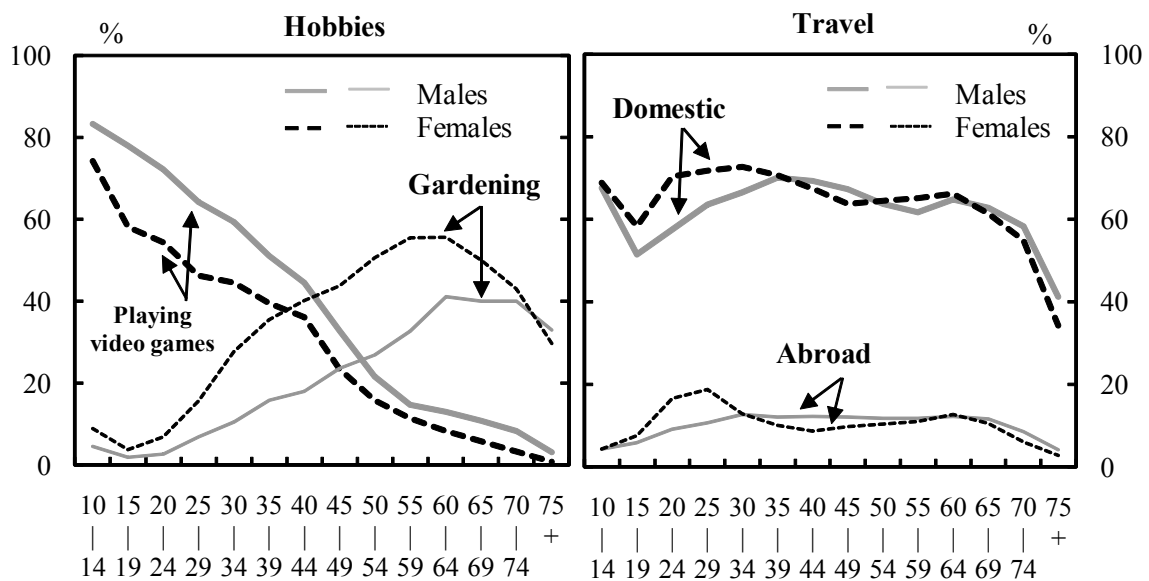
| Leisure Activities | Total | Males | Females |
|---|-------|-------|---------|
| Free time per day (hours and minutes) | 6:23 | 6:31 | 6:15 |
| Active leisure time (hours and minutes) | 1:17 | 1:28 | 1:06 |
| Participation rate (%) ¹⁾ | | | |
| Hobbies and amusements | 84.9 | 85.2 | 84.6 |
| Sports ²⁾ | 65.3 | 70.4 | 60.5 |
| Studies and researches ²⁾ | 35.2 | 34.4 | 36.0 |
| Internet use ³⁾ | 59.4 | 62.5 | 56.5 |
| Travel (domestic) ⁴⁾ | 62.2 | 62.0 | 62.5 |
| Travel (abroad) ⁴⁾ | 10.1 | 10.2 | 10.0 |
| Volunteer activities | 26.2 | 25.1 | 27.2 |

1) Total participants / Population (10 years old and over) × 100 2) Excluding school and professional activity. 3) Excluding use at work or school. 4) Excluding day trips.

Source: Statistics Bureau, MIC.

The participation rate (percentage of people who engaged in the activity within the past 12 months) for "sports" was 65.3 percent. The most popular sport for both genders was "walking and light exercise" (men: 30.6 percent; women: 39.0 percent). Other popular sports for men were "bowling" (21.0 percent) and "fishing" (16.0 percent). For women, such sports were "bowling" (16.3 percent) and "swimming" (12.8 percent). The participation rate for "studies and researches (excluding school and professional activities)" was 35.2 percent. Men preferred "information processing using PCs and other related technologies" (14.6 percent) and "commercial skills and other business-related topics" (11.1 percent), while women preferred "cooking, sewing and other household management-related topics" (13.8 percent), as well as "arts and culture" (13.3 percent).

Figure 16.4
Participation Rates for Major Leisure Activities by Age Group (2006)



Source: Statistics Bureau, MIC.

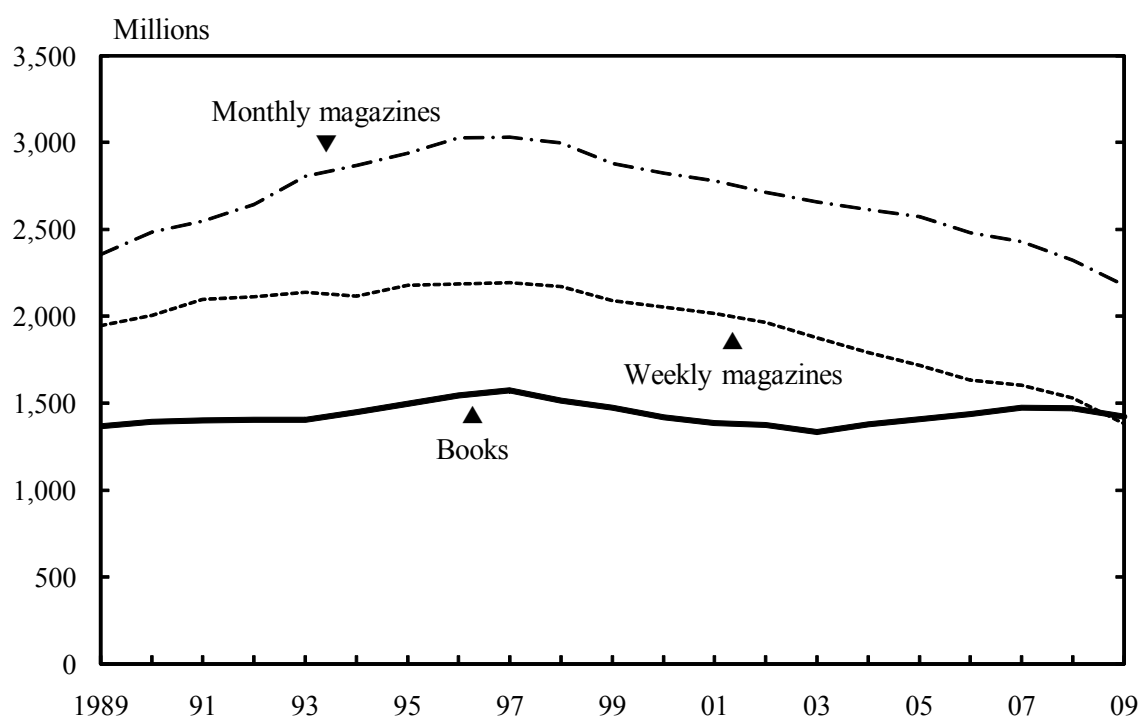
4. Publishing and Mass Media

The total number of books and magazines published in Japan during 2009 was 1.42 billion and 3.56 billion, respectively, of which 2.18 billion were monthlies and 1.38 billion were weeklies. It is estimated that 11.2 books and 27.9 magazines (17.1 monthlies and 10.8 weeklies) were printed per Japanese citizen in 2009.

A total of 78,501 new book titles were released in 2009. The number of magazine titles published was 4,215 (including 2,432 monthlies and 119 weeklies) in 2009.

A total of 120 daily newspapers were in circulation, and the penetration was 0.9 newspapers per household as of October 2010.

Figure 16.5
Trends in Number of Publications



Source: Shuppan News Co., Ltd.

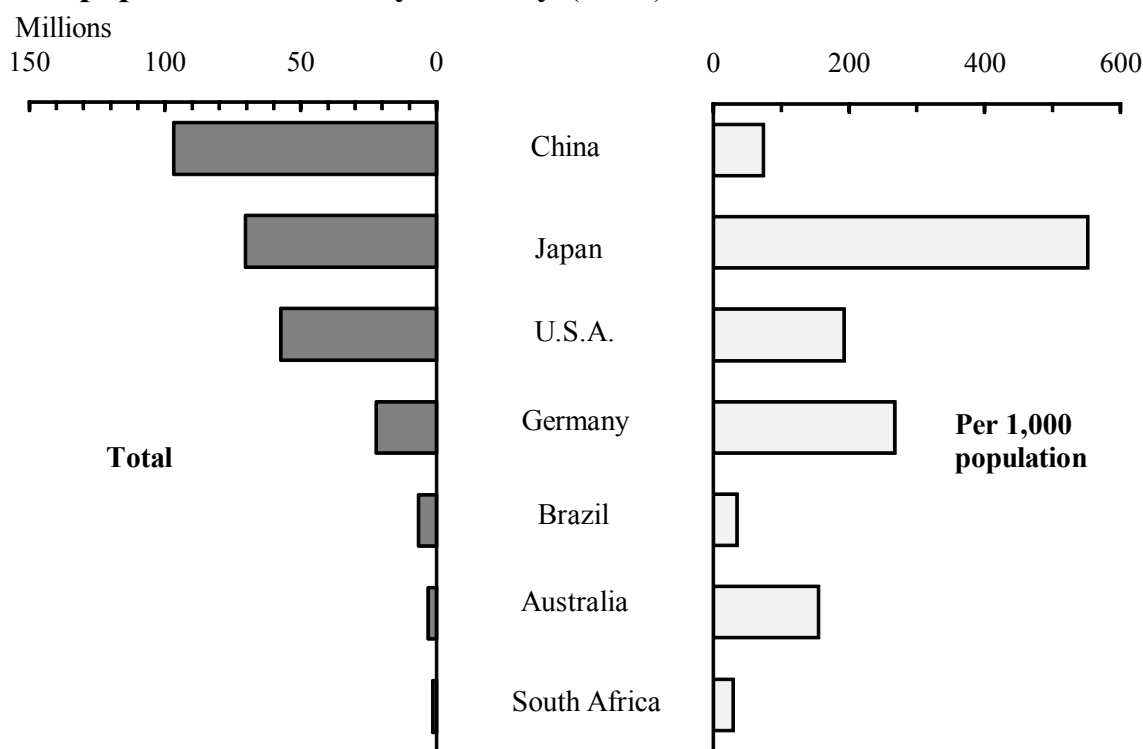
Table 16.6
New Publications

| Subject | 1995 | 2000 | 2005 | 2008 | 2009 |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total | 58,310 | 65,065 | 78,304 | 78,013 | 78,501 |
| General works | 2,794 | 2,587 | 2,551 | 2,372 | 2,265 |
| Philosophy | 2,731 | 2,997 | 3,763 | 3,933 | 4,344 |
| General history | 3,917 | 4,634 | 5,102 | 5,131 | 4,908 |
| Social sciences | 12,578 | 14,099 | 16,201 | 16,196 | 16,310 |
| Natural sciences | 4,460 | 5,218 | 6,226 | 6,563 | 6,797 |
| Technology and engineering .. | 4,774 | 6,105 | 8,104 | 8,623 | 8,669 |
| Industry and commerce | 2,160 | 3,000 | 3,337 | 3,500 | 3,435 |
| Art | 7,540 | 8,895 | 10,884 | 10,921 | 10,835 |
| Languages | 1,391 | 1,766 | 2,063 | 1,971 | 1,957 |
| Literature | 11,427 | 11,484 | 13,595 | 12,759 | 12,844 |
| Others ¹⁾ | 4,538 | 4,280 | 6,478 | 6,044 | 6,137 |

1) Children's books and school textbooks.

Source: Shuppan News Co., Ltd.

Figure 16.6
Newspaper Circulation by Country (2004)

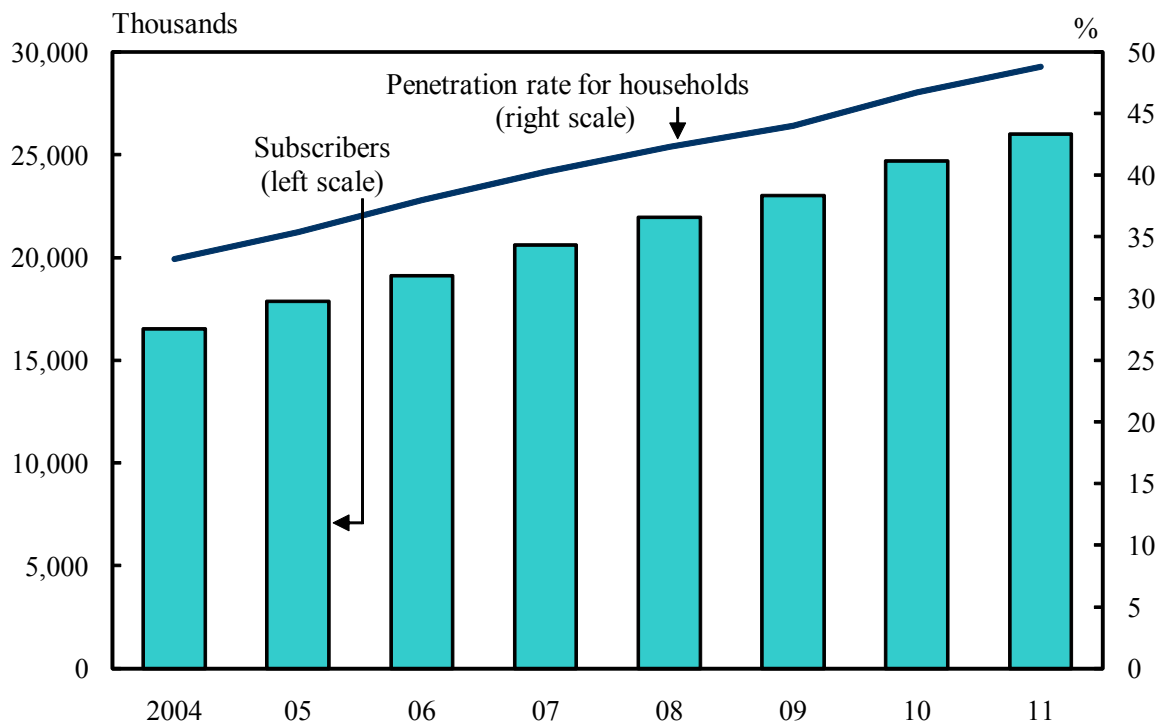


Source: UNESCO; World Association of Newspapers.

Japan has a public broadcasting network (NHK: Nippon Hoso Kyokai, or Japan Broadcasting Corporation), as well as commercial networks. NHK was the pioneer broadcasting station, and has been funded through fees paid by subscribers.

Major broadcasting services can be divided roughly into three categories: terrestrial, satellite, and cable television. Terrestrial digital broadcasting was launched in some areas of the Kanto, Kinki and Chukyo regions in December 2003 and then also in other areas, including all prefectural capitals, in December 2006. Satellite broadcasters offer an increasing number of channels through, for example, new digital broadcasting which began in March 2002. As of July 24, 2011, analog broadcasting ended and was replaced with terrestrial digital broadcasting, with the exception of some regions.

Figure 16.7
Subscribers of Cable TV Service
 (Self-originating broadcasting using licensed facilities) ¹⁾



1) As of March each year.

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

Subscribers of cable TV services (self-originating broadcasting using licensed facilities) have steadily increased to 26.0 million households, or 48.8 percent of all households in March 2011.

In 2010, advertising expenditures on the four major media types in Japan (newspapers, magazines, radio and television) totaled 2.8 trillion yen, remaining unchanged from the previous year. This accounted for 47.5 percent of total 2010 advertising expenditures, which were 5.8 trillion yen. Internet advertising expenditure made up 13.3 percent, up 9.6 percent from the previous year.

Table 16.7
Advertising Expenditures by Medium

| Year | Total | News- papers | Maga- zines | Radio | TV | Satellite media- related | Internet | Others |
|---|---------|-----------------|----------------|-------|---------|--------------------------------|----------|---------|
| Advertising expenditures (billion yen) | | | | | | | | |
| 1995 | 5,426.3 | 1,165.7 | 374.3 | 208.2 | 1,755.3 | 15.8 | - | 1,907.0 |
| 2000 | 6,110.2 | 1,247.4 | 436.9 | 207.1 | 2,079.3 | 26.6 | 59.0 | 2,053.9 |
| 2005 | 6,823.5 | 1,037.7 | 484.2 | 177.8 | 2,041.1 | 48.7 | 377.7 | 2,656.3 |
| 2009 | 5,922.2 | 673.9 | 303.4 | 137.0 | 1,713.9 | 70.9 | 706.9 | 2,316.2 |
| 2010 | 5,842.7 | 639.6 | 273.3 | 129.9 | 1,732.1 | 78.4 | 774.7 | 2,214.7 |
| Percentage distribution (%) | | | | | | | | |
| 1995 | 100.0 | 21.5 | 6.9 | 3.8 | 32.3 | 0.3 | - | 35.2 |
| 2000 | 100.0 | 20.4 | 7.2 | 3.4 | 34.0 | 0.4 | 1.0 | 33.6 |
| 2005 | 100.0 | 15.2 | 7.1 | 2.6 | 29.9 | 0.7 | 5.6 | 38.9 |
| 2009 | 100.0 | 11.4 | 5.1 | 2.3 | 29.0 | 1.2 | 11.9 | 39.1 |
| 2010 | 100.0 | 11.0 | 4.7 | 2.2 | 29.6 | 1.3 | 13.3 | 37.9 |

Source: Dentsu Inc.

5. Cultural Assets

As a country with a long history, Japan has been endowed with an abundance of valuable cultural assets, including works of art, historic landmarks, and many natural monuments. To pass on this cultural heritage to future generations, the Japanese government has accorded many of the most important assets as national treasures, designated important cultural properties, historic sites, places of scenic beauty, or natural monuments, based on the Cultural Assets Preservation Law. The government has also been engaged in efforts to preserve and repair existing cultural assets, search for and recover other buried artifacts and restore historic landmarks.

Table 16.8
Cultural Properties Designated by the National Government
 (As of May 1, 2011)

| Type of cultural and natural heritage | Number | |
|---|--------|---------|
| Designated important cultural properties ¹⁾ | 12,761 | (1,082) |
| Fine and applied arts ¹⁾ | 10,387 | (866) |
| Buildings ¹⁾ | 2,374 | (216) |
| Historic sites, places of scenic beauty and natural monuments ²⁾ | 2,921 | (162) |
| Historic sites ²⁾ | 1,655 | (60) |
| Places of scenic beauty ²⁾ | 322 | (30) |
| Natural monuments ²⁾ | 944 | (72) |
| Important tangible folk cultural properties | 211 | |
| Important intangible folk cultural properties | 272 | |
| Important intangible cultural properties | | |
| Recognized individuals | 82 | |
| Performing arts | 39 | |
| Craft techniques | 43 | |
| Recognized holding groups | 26 | |
| Performing arts | 12 | |
| Craft techniques | 14 | |
| Traditional building preservation areas | 88 | |

1) Figures in the parentheses refer to national treasures only.

2) Figures in the parentheses refer to specially designated places only.

Source: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

As of May 1, 2011, 12,761 items were assigned as designated important cultural properties, of which 1,082 were classified as national treasures. In addition, the government has provided support for such activities as theatrical performances, music, handicrafts and other important intangible cultural properties. It also has worked to preserve important folk-cultural properties such as annual cultural events and folk performing arts, as well as to train people to carry on such traditions.

Japan ratified the UNESCO World Heritage Convention (the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage) in 1992. In June 2011, Ogasawara Islands, Tokyo, was inscribed as the 15th World Heritage Site in Japan. Located approximately 1,000 kilometers south of the heart of Tokyo, Ogasawara Islands comprise a group of approximately 30 islands that vary in size. Every one of those islands is an oceanic island that has never been connected to any continent since its formation and is, therefore, the habitat of a great number of living creatures native to it, a fact that gave the islands the nickname "Galapagos of the Orient."

This was then followed by "Hiraizumi - Temples, Gardens and Archaeological Sites Representing the Buddhist Pure Land" being named as the 16th World Heritage Site. It consists of temples, former temple sites, gardens and other sites. All those temples were built with the involvement of the Oshu Fujiwara clan, which flourished in the Tohoku region in the 12th century throughout four generations.

In 2006, the UNESCO Convention for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage entered into force. As of November 2010, Japan has 18 entries on its list, including: *noh* theater, *ningyo johruri bunraku* puppet theater and *kabuki* theater (the kind of *kabuki* performed by a traditional method of acting and directing).

Table 16.9

Heritage Sites Inscribed on the World Heritage List (As of June 29, 2011)

| Year | Type of heritage | World heritage | Prefecture |
|------|------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1993 | Cultural | Buddhist monuments in the Horyu-ji area | Nara |
| | Cultural | Himeji-jo (castle) | Hyogo |
| | Natural | Shirakami-sanchi (mountains) | Aomori, Akita |
| | Natural | Yakushima (island) | Kagoshima |
| 1994 | Cultural | Historic monuments of ancient Kyoto | Kyoto, Shiga |
| 1995 | Cultural | Historic villages of Shirakawa-go and Gokayama | Gifu, Toyama |
| 1996 | Cultural | Hiroshima Peace Memorial (Genbaku Dome) | Hiroshima |
| | Cultural | Itsukushima Shinto Shrine | Hiroshima |
| 1998 | Cultural | Historic monuments of ancient Nara | Nara |
| 1999 | Cultural | Shrines and temples of Nikko | Tochigi |
| 2000 | Cultural | Gusuku sites and related properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu | Okinawa |
| | | Sacred sites and pilgrimage routes in the Kii mountain range | Mie, Nara, Wakayama |
| 2005 | Natural | Shiretoko (peninsula) | Hokkaido |
| 2007 | Cultural | Iwami Ginzan silver mine and its cultural landscape | Shimane |
| | | Ogasawara Islands | Tokyo |
| 2011 | Cultural | Hiraizumi-Temples, Gardens and Archaeological Sites Representing the Buddhist Pure Land | Iwate |

Source: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.