

Chapter 9

Transport

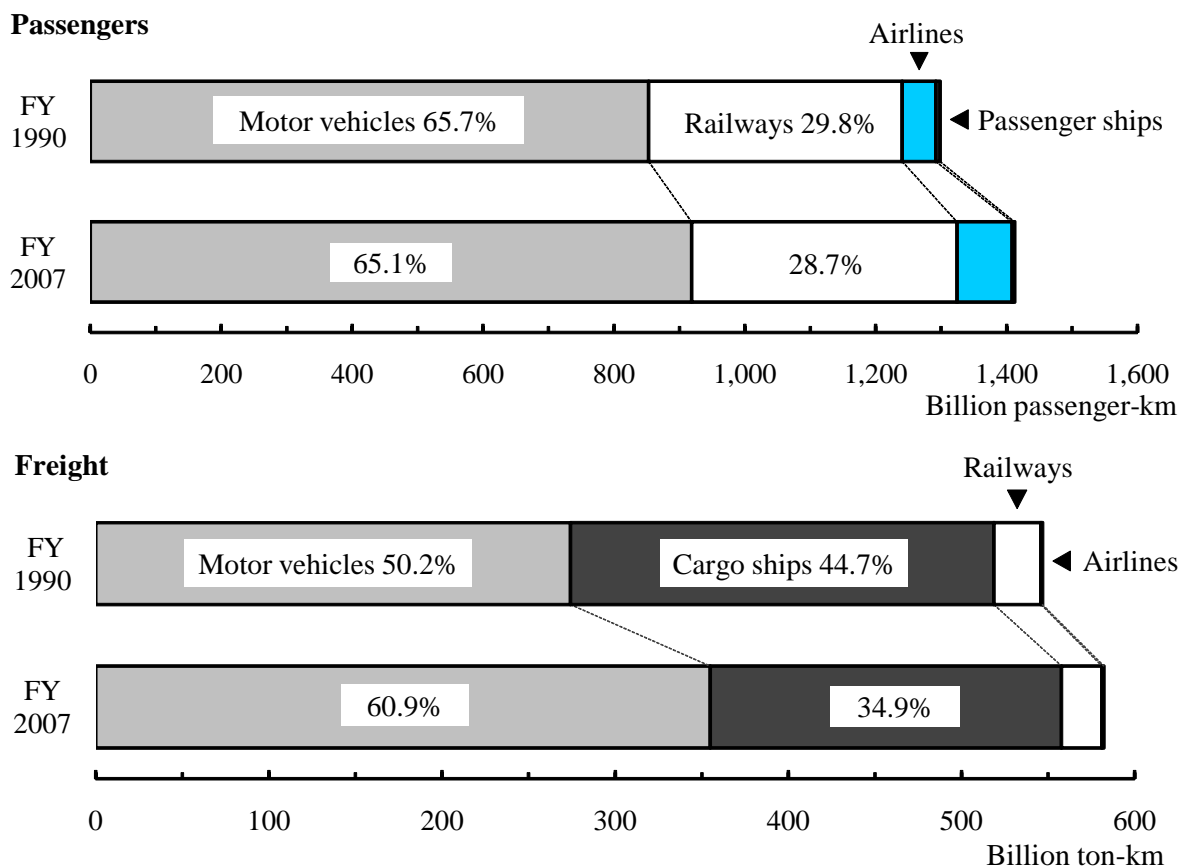


Toyama Light Rail, running in Toyama City, Toyama Prefecture. Applying low-floor models for all of its cars, it is drawing attention as an environmentally-friendly, next-generation streetcar featuring, for example, reduced carbon dioxide and nitrogenous compound emissions, lower levels of noise, and alleviating traffic jams.

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 2007 showed a marked growth in motor vehicle transportation for both passengers and freight. In the face of the increasing importance of the current issue of CO₂ emissions reduction, since approximately 90 percent of CO₂ emissions in the transport sector is attributable to motor vehicles, the government is accordingly making various efforts, including encouraging a shift from driving cars to public transportation and the wider use of energy-efficient cars.

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. Public transportation authorities have been taking measures to upgrade their services, by introducing multiple-use cards and IC (Integrated Circuit) cards that can be used with different public railway/bus operators, and by improving the transit convenience between public transport at terminal stations.

In fiscal 2007, the number of domestic transport passengers was 89.95 billion (up 1.8 percent from the previous fiscal year). The total volume of passenger transport was 1.41 trillion passenger-kilometers (up 0.7 percent).

Table 9.1
Domestic Passenger Transport

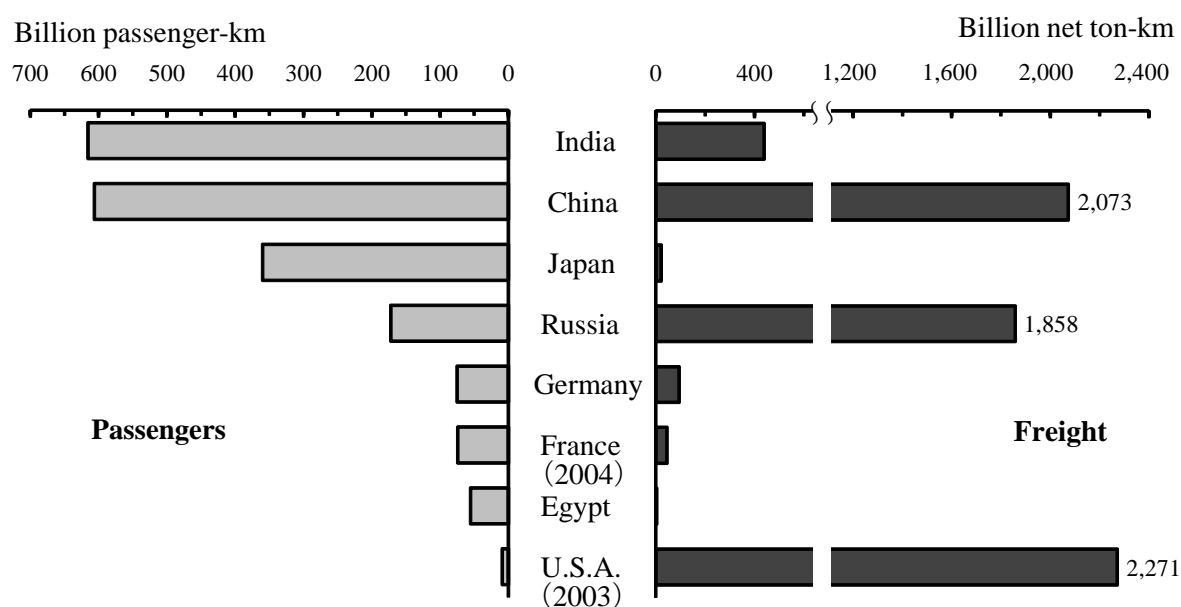
Item	Passengers carried (billions)		Passenger kilometers (billions)	
	FY2006	FY2007	FY2006	FY2007
Total transport volume	88.38	89.95	1,403.38	1,412.77
Railways	22.24	22.84	395.91	405.54
JR (Japan Railways)	8.78	8.99	249.03	255.21
Other than JR	13.47	13.85	146.88	150.33
Motor vehicles	65.94	66.91	917.94	919.06
Buses	5.91	5.96	88.70	88.97
Business purpose	4.54	4.56	72.62	71.98
Non-business purpose	1.37	1.40	16.08	16.99
Passenger cars	38.78	38.76	578.03	570.63
Taxis and limousine hires	2.21	2.14	11.45	11.10
Private cars ¹⁾	36.57	36.63	566.58	559.53
Light vehicles ²⁾	19.23	20.18	202.75	210.80
Trucks	2.02	2.00	48.46	48.66
Airlines	0.10	0.09	85.75	84.33
Passenger ships	0.10	0.10	3.78	3.83

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

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

In fiscal 2007, the Japan Railways (JR) group reported 8.99 billion passengers (up 2.4 percent from the previous fiscal year) and 255.21 billion passenger-kilometers (up 2.5 percent). Railways other than JR reported 13.85 billion passengers (up 2.9 percent) and 150.33 billion passenger-kilometers (up 2.4 percent).

Figure 9.2
Rail Transport by Country (2005)



Source: United Nations.

In order to encourage the use of buses, various efforts toward improving their convenience and safety have been promoted. Business purpose buses recorded an increase (up 0.5 percent from the previous fiscal year) to 4.56 billion passengers, but a decline in passenger-kilometers (down 0.9 percent) to 71.98 billion passenger-kilometers in fiscal 2007.

Taxi and limousine hire services have marked a long-term downward trend in passengers. They carried 2.14 billion passengers (down 3.3 percent from the previous fiscal year) and reported 11.10 billion passenger-kilometers (down 3.1 percent); both figures of passengers and passenger-kilometers declined in fiscal 2007. Passenger transport via private cars registered 36.63 billion passengers (up 0.2 percent) and 559.53 billion passenger-kilometers (down 1.2 percent).

Table 9.2
Number of Motor Vehicles Owned

Type of vehicles	(Thousands)				
	FY1995	FY2000	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007
Trucks and trailers	20,235	18,065	16,707	16,491	16,265
Buses	243	236	232	232	231
Passenger cars	45,069	52,449	57,098	57,510	57,551
Special purpose vehicles	1,524	1,754	1,619	1,600	1,578
Two-wheeled vehicles ¹⁾	3,036	3,021	3,337	3,403	3,456

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

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

Air passenger transport hit a record high with 96.97 million people carried in fiscal 2006. There were 94.85 million air passengers carried in fiscal 2007 (down 2.2 percent from the previous fiscal year), which amounted to 84.33 billion passenger-kilometers (down 1.7 percent).

In fiscal 2007, passenger ships reported 100.79 million passengers (up 1.6 percent from the previous fiscal year) and 3.83 billion passenger-kilometers (up 1.3 percent).

(2) Domestic Freight Transport

In the area of domestic freight, a total of 5.39 billion metric tons (down 0.7 percent from the previous fiscal year) of freight was transported for a total of 582.24 billion ton-kilometers (up 0.6 percent) in fiscal 2007.

As for transport tonnage volume in fiscal 2006, 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.

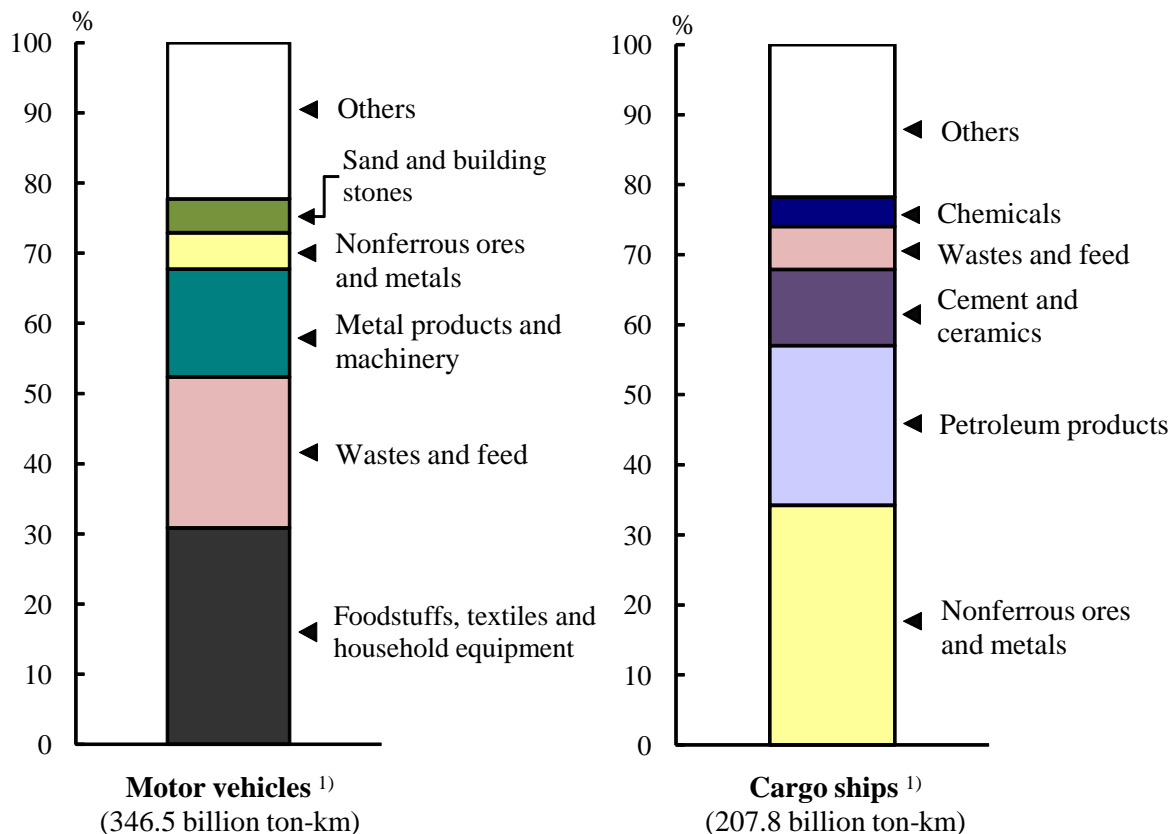
Table 9.3
Domestic Freight Transport

Item	Freight tonnage (millions)		Ton kilometers (billions)	
	FY2006	FY2007	FY2006	FY2007
Total transport volume	5,430.9	5,394.2	578.67	582.24
Railways	51.9	50.9	23.19	23.33
JR (Japan Railways)	36.4	36.0	22.99	23.14
Other than JR	15.5	14.9	0.21	0.19
Motor vehicles	4,961.3	4,932.5	346.53	354.80
Business purpose	2,899.6	2,927.9	302.18	310.19
Non-business purpose	2,061.7	2,004.6	44.35	44.62
Domestic cargo ships	416.6	409.7	207.85	202.96
Airlines ¹⁾	1.1	1.1	1.09	1.15

1) Including overweight baggage and postal mail.

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

Figure 9.3
Breakdown of Freight Transport (FY2006)



1) Including non-business purpose.

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

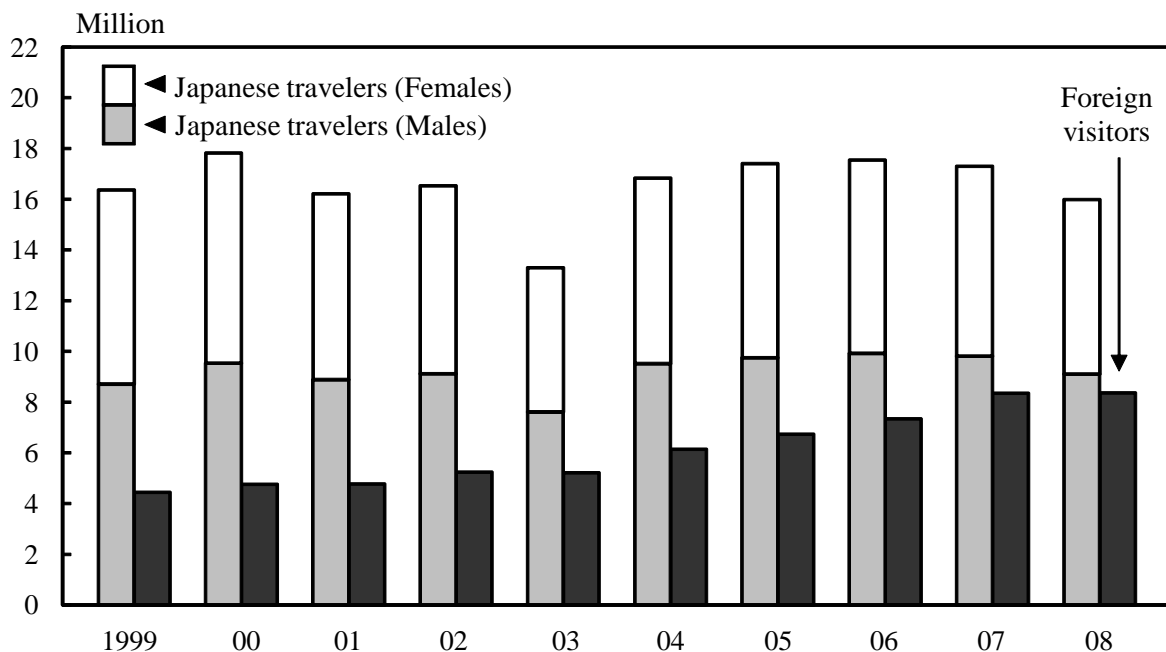
2. International Transport

(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 2008, they transported 16.43 million passengers (down 7.5 percent from the previous year) on international flights, and registered 72.81 billion passenger-kilometers (down 7.5 percent).

The number of Japanese overseas travelers in 2008 dropped from the previous year to 15.99 million (down 7.6 percent). According to the reports on arrivals by tourist offices in countries around the world, the places most visited by Japanese people in 2008 were China, the U.S.A. and the Republic of Korea.

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	2005		2006		2007	
	Number of arrivals (1,000)	Annual growth (%)	Number of arrivals (1,000)	Annual growth (%)	Number of arrivals (1,000)	Annual growth (%)
China	3,390	1.7	3,746	10.5	3,977	6.2
U.S.A. ¹⁾	3,884	3.6	3,673	-5.4	3,531	-3.8
Korea, Rep. of	2,440	-0.1	2,339	-4.1	2,236	-4.4
Hong Kong SAR	1,211	7.5	1,311	8.3	1,324	1.0
Thailand	1,197	-1.3	1,312	9.6	1,278	-2.6
Taiwan	1,124	26.7	1,161	3.3	1,166	0.4
France	735	14.5	671	-8.7	708	5.4
Germany ²⁾	730	2.1	760	4.1	662	-12.9

1) Including territories and dependencies (Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, 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	2007		2008	
	Number of arrivals (1,000)	Percent distribution	Number of arrivals (1,000)	Percent distribution
Total arrivals	8,347	100.0	8,351	100.0
Korea, Rep. of	2,601	31.2	2,382	28.5
Taiwan	1,385	16.6	1,390	16.6
China	942	11.3	1,000	12.0
U.S.A.	816	9.8	768	9.2
Hong Kong SAR	432	5.2	550	6.6
Australia	223	2.7	242	2.9
U.K.	222	2.7	207	2.5
Thailand	167	2.0	192	2.3
Canada	166	2.0	168	2.0
Singapore	152	1.8	168	2.0

Source: Japan National Tourism Organization.

The number of foreign visitors to Japan was 8.35 million in 2008, almost the same as the previous year. Broken down by country/region, the number of visitors from Asian countries was the highest, totaling 6.15 million persons (up 0.4 percent from the previous year). Among Asian countries, the number of visitors from the Republic of Korea was the highest, amounting to 2.38 million, a figure that accounted for 28.5 percent of the total number of foreign visitors to Japan.

Of the total number of foreign visitors to Japan tourists numbered 6.05 million persons, or 72.4 percent of total foreign visitors. The highest number of tourists came from the Republic of Korea with 1.89 million travelers, followed by Taiwan with 1.26 million travelers.

(2) International Freight Transport

The volume of seaborne foreign transport in 2007 was 833.22 million tons, up 3.8 percent over the previous year. Of this figure, total exports increased by 3.7 percent to 56.70 million tons, and total imports increased by 4.8 percent to 527.47 million tons.

Table 9.6
Seaborne Foreign Transport

Year	(Thousand tons)			
	Total	Exports	Imports	Cross Transport
1990	597,821	32,970	469,612	95,239
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
2006	803,051	54,697	503,152	245,203
2007	833,217	56,702	527,467	249,048

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

Air-shipped international freight in 2008 totaled 1.31 million tons in terms of volume (down 2.7 percent from the previous year) and 7.45 billion tons in terms of ton-kilometers (down 13.4 percent).