

## **CHAPTER XI: POPULATION OF FOREIGN RESIDENTS**

### 1. Trends in the Population of Foreign Residents and Their Nationalities

**The population of foreign residents is 1.56 million, a 18.7% increase.**

The 2005 Population Census shows that the population of foreign residents usually living in Japan is 1.56 million (1.22% of the total population), which is an increase of 240 thousand or 18.7% from the population of foreign residents in 2000.

Trends in the population of foreign residents reported in respective Population Censuses conducted since 1920 (the census covered all foreigners in Japan before 1940, and covered the same groups of foreigners as the census in 2005 after 1950) indicate that the population of foreigners residing in Japan has been increasing rapidly. (Table 11.1)

**The nationalities of foreigners usually living in Japan are becoming more diverse.**

According to the population of foreign residents in 2005 by nationality, Korean nationals number 470 thousand to constitute the biggest group, followed by Chinese nationals (350 thousand), Brazilian nationals (210 thousand), Philippine nationals (120 thousand), etc.

A comparison of the population of foreign residents by nationality in 2005 with that in 2000 reveals that the numbers of Korean and United States nationals decreased by 11.9% and 3.6%, respectively, while the numbers of Chinese, Brazilian, Philippine and Peruvian nationals increased significantly by 37.1%, 13.6%, 32.1% and 19.3%, respectively. This indicates that nationalities are diversifying as the foreign population increases. (Table 11.2)

**Table 11.1 Trends in the Total Population and the Number of Foreigners: 1920 to 2005**

Year	Total population (thousands)	Number of foreigners (thousands)			Sex ratio of foreigners	Proportion of foreigners (%)
		Both sexes	Male	Female		
1920	55,963	78	63	15	425.1	0.14
1930	64,450	478	341	137	249.2	0.74
1940	73,114	1,304	788	516	152.6	1.78
1950	84,115	529	299	230	129.6	0.63
1955	90,077	598	328	270	121.7	0.66
1960	94,302	579	312	266	117.4	0.61
1965	99,209	596	317	279	113.7	0.60
1970	104,665	604	319	285	112.1	0.58
1975	111,940	642	335	307	109.2	0.57
1980	117,060	669	344	325	105.8	0.57
1985	121,049	720	364	356	102.3	0.59
1990	123,611	886	445	441	101.0	0.72
1995	125,570	1,140	567	574	98.8	0.91
2000 <sup>1)</sup>	126,926	1,311	621	689	90.1	1.03
2005	127,768	1,556	727	829	87.7	1.22

1) Based on the results of special tabulation on foreigners.

**Table 11.2 Trends in the Number of Foreigners by Nationality: 1920 to 2005**

Number, Proportion and year	Total	Korea	China	U.S.A.	Others				
					Total	Brazil	Philippines	Peru	Others
Number (population)									
1920	78,061	40,755	24,130	3,966	9,210	-	-	-	-
1930	477,980	419,009	44,051	3,640	11,280	-	-	-	-
1940	1,304,286	1,241,315	45,825	4,755	12,391	-	-	-	-
1950	528,923	464,306	39,965	4,995	19,657	-	-	-	-
1955	<sup>1)</sup> <sup>4)</sup> 597,438	539,635	40,500	7,858	9,443	-	-	-	-
1960	<sup>4)</sup> 578,519	<sup>1)</sup> 516,211	40,505	10,688	<sup>5)</sup> 11,115	-	-	-	-
1965	<sup>2)</sup> 593,030	<sup>1)</sup> 520,465	43,945	13,550	<sup>5)</sup> 15,075	-	-	-	-
1970	604,253	519,997	44,765	17,548	21,943	-	-	-	-
1975	641,931	558,833	39,521	18,755	24,822	-	-	-	-
1980	<sup>4)</sup> 668,675	557,672	43,748	18,590	29,521	-	-	-	-
1985	<sup>4)</sup> 720,093	571,234	60,549	25,170	49,084	-	-	-	-
1990	886,397	567,598	109,229	33,317	176,253	42,273	36,079	6,181	<sup>4)</sup> 91,720
1995	<sup>4)</sup> 1,140,326	560,414	175,640	38,954	358,373	133,609	68,496	27,112	129,156
2000	<sup>3)</sup> 1,310,545	529,408	253,096	38,804	489,237	188,355	93,662	33,608	<sup>4)</sup> 173,612
2005	1,555,505	466,637	346,877	37,417	704,574	214,049	123,747	40,091	<sup>4)</sup> 326,687
Proportion (%)									
1920	100.0	52.2	30.9	5.1	11.8	-	-	-	-
1930	100.0	87.7	9.2	0.8	2.4	-	-	-	-
1940	100.0	95.2	3.5	0.4	1.0	-	-	-	-
1950	100.0	87.8	7.6	0.9	3.7	-	-	-	-
1955	<sup>1)</sup> <sup>4)</sup> 100.0	90.3	6.8	1.3	1.6	-	-	-	-
1960	<sup>4)</sup> 100.0	<sup>1)</sup> 89.2	7.0	1.8	<sup>5)</sup> 1.9	-	-	-	-
1965	<sup>2)</sup> 100.0	<sup>1)</sup> 87.8	7.4	2.3	<sup>5)</sup> 2.5	-	-	-	-
1970	100.0	86.1	7.4	2.9	3.6	-	-	-	-
1975	100.0	87.1	6.2	2.9	3.9	-	-	-	-
1980	<sup>4)</sup> 100.0	83.4	6.5	2.8	4.4	-	-	-	-
1985	<sup>4)</sup> 100.0	79.3	8.4	3.5	6.8	-	-	-	-
1990	100.0	64.0	12.3	3.8	19.9	4.8	4.1	0.7	<sup>4)</sup> 10.3
1995	<sup>4)</sup> 100.0	49.1	15.4	3.4	31.4	11.7	6.0	2.4	11.3
2000	<sup>3)</sup> 100.0	40.4	19.3	3.0	37.3	14.4	7.1	2.6	<sup>4)</sup> 13.2
2005	100.0	30.0	22.3	2.4	45.3	13.8	8.0	2.6	<sup>4)</sup> 21.0

1) Excludes Okinawa-ken.

2) Based on the results of 20% sample tabulation.

3) Based on the results of special tabulation on foreigners.

4) Includes "statelessness and name of country not reported".

5) Includes Koreans living in Okinawa-ken.

## 2. Foreign Residents by Sex and Age

**The sex ratio in population by foreign residents is 87.7, and varies greatly by nationality.**

Regarding the population of foreign residents by sex, the male population is 730 thousand while the female population is 830 thousand, showing that female foreigners outnumber male foreigners by 100 thousand with a sex ratio of 87.7. This ratio is 7.6 points lower than that of the Japanese population of 95.2, and varies greatly by nationality. (Tables 11.1 and 11.3)

**The proportion of the productive-age population is high among foreigners of Southeast Asian nationalities.**

According to the proportions within the population of foreign residents among three age groups by nationality, the proportion of the productive-age population is above 90% among Indonesian, Thai, Philippine and Chinese nationals, and is 89.4%, a figure close to 90%, among United Kingdom nationals. The proportion of the child population is high among Peruvian (20.1%), Brazilian (16.6%), and Vietnamese (14.8%) nationals, while the aged population is high among Korean nationals (15.2%). (Table 11.3, Figure 11.1)

**Table 11.3 Foreigners by Nationality and Age (3 Groups): 2005**

Nationality	Number (population)				Proportion (%)				Sex ratio
	Total	0-14 years old	15-64	65 and over	Total	0-14 years old	15-64	65 and over	
Total	1,555,505	146,805	1,302,603	106,097	100.0	9.4	83.7	6.8	87.7
Korea	466,637	44,196	351,580	70,861	100.0	9.5	75.3	15.2	84.0
China	346,877	24,044	314,397	8,436	100.0	6.9	90.6	2.4	66.6
Philippines	123,747	9,128	113,808	811	100.0	7.4	92.0	0.7	23.5
Thailand	26,429	1,569	24,728	132	100.0	5.9	93.6	0.5	32.4
Indonesia	18,041	1,003	16,969	69	100.0	5.6	94.1	0.4	205.2
Viet Nam	20,630	3,058	17,264	308	100.0	14.8	83.7	1.5	102.8
U.K.	9,605	734	8,590	281	100.0	7.6	89.4	2.9	247.1
U.S.A.	37,417	5,092	29,829	2,496	100.0	13.6	79.7	6.7	178.2
Brazil	214,049	35,589	176,196	2,264	100.0	16.6	82.3	1.1	121.6
Peru	40,091	8,069	31,504	518	100.0	20.1	78.6	1.3	112.1
Others <sup>1)</sup>	251,982	14,323	217,738	19,921	100.0	5.7	86.4	7.9	154.5
(Reference)									
Japanese population (thousands)	125,730	17,374	82,790	25,566	100.0	13.8	65.8	20.3	95.2

1) Includes "statelessness and name of country not reported".

**Figure 11.1 Population Pyramids by Nationality: 2005**

