

# Statistics Bureau of Japan (SBJ) News Bulletin

24 August 2009

## Japan's Population Estimates released

In April 2009, the Statistics Bureau of Japan (SBJ) released the Current Population Estimates (annual report)<sup>1\*)</sup> as of October 1, 2008.

Note: 1\*) The SBJ publishes two kinds of reports on Current Population Estimates: Annual report on estimates as of October 1 and Monthly report on estimates as of the first day of each month. The annual report includes more detail information ("population by age (single year) and sex for Japan" and "population by age (5-year age group) and sex for prefectures") compared with the monthly report that includes "population by age (single year) and sex for Japan" only.

Statistics on Japan's population is obtained assessed in detail from the Population Census conducted by the SBJ every five years. Furthermore, during the inter-census period, the SBJ has been compiling the Current Population Estimates, based on the latest census population data, and extrapolated from there using Natural Change (Live births, Deaths) and Migration Change (immigration, emigration) derived from the Vital Statistics (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare) and the Statistical Survey on Legal Migrants (Ministry of Justice), etc.

The summary of the estimates as of October 1, 2008 is as follows.

### 1. Total Population

- The total population numbered 127,692 thousand, and decreased by 79 thousand from the previous year. The rate of decrease was 0.06 percent. The total population decreased for the first time in three years. (Table1)

- The male population numbered 62,251 thousand, a decrease of 59 thousand (0.09 percent), while the female population numbered 65,441 thousand, a decrease of 20 thousand (0.03 percent) from the previous year. The male population decreased for four consecutive years, while the female population decreased for the first time since 1950<sup>2\*)</sup>. (Table1)

- The natural decrease accelerated in comparison with the previous year, while the social decrease marked for the first time in three years.

Note: 2\*) A time-series comparison is applicable to the data from 1950.

Table1 Trends in the Population by sex (2005~2008)

(Thousand persons, as of October,1 each year)

|      | Total                 |                      |                           |                                 |                                   | Male                 |                      |                           |                                 |                                   | Female               |                      |                           |                                 |                                   |
|------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|      | Population            | Change over year     |                           | Natural <sup>3)</sup><br>Change | Migration <sup>4)</sup><br>Change | Population           | Change over year     |                           | Natural <sup>3)</sup><br>Change | Migration <sup>4)</sup><br>Change | Population           | Change over year     |                           | Natural <sup>3)</sup><br>Change | Migration <sup>4)</sup><br>Change |
|      |                       | Number <sup>1)</sup> | Rate <sup>2)</sup><br>(%) |                                 |                                   |                      | Number <sup>1)</sup> | Rate <sup>2)</sup><br>(%) |                                 |                                   |                      | Number <sup>1)</sup> | Rate <sup>2)</sup><br>(%) |                                 |                                   |
| 2005 | 127,768 <sup>5)</sup> | -19                  | -0.01                     | 9                               | -53                               | 62,349 <sup>5)</sup> | -31                  | -0.05                     | -25                             | -28                               | 65,419 <sup>5)</sup> | 12                   | 0.02                      | 34                              | -25                               |
| 2006 | 127,770               | 2                    | 0.00                      | 0                               | 1                                 | 62,330               | -19                  | -0.03                     | -26                             | 7                                 | 65,440               | 21                   | 0.03                      | 26                              | -6                                |
| 2007 | 127,771               | 1                    | 0.00                      | -2                              | 4                                 | 62,310               | -20                  | -0.03                     | -26                             | 6                                 | 65,461               | 21                   | 0.03                      | 23                              | -2                                |
| 2008 | 127,692               | -79                  | -0.06                     | -34                             | -45                               | 62,251               | -59                  | -0.09                     | -41                             | -18                               | 65,441               | -20                  | -0.03                     | 7                               | -27                               |

1) Population change in absolute numbers over the year (from previous October to current September)

2) Rate of change over the year =  $\frac{\text{Population change in absolute numbers over the year (from previous October to current September)}}{\text{Population as of Oct.1, last year}}$

3) Natural Change = Live births – Deaths

4) Migration Change = (Entries – Exits) + (Net inter-prefectural migrants)

Net inter-prefectural migrants = In-migrants – Out-migrants

5) The population in 2005 is based on the 2005 census population data

## 2. Population by Age Group

- The population aged 0 to 14 (child population) numbered 17,176 thousand and accounted for 13.5 percent of the total population, the same rate as the previous year.

- The population aged 15 to 64 (productive-age population) numbered 82,300 thousand and accounted for 64.5 percent of the total population, a decrease of 0.5 points from the previous year.

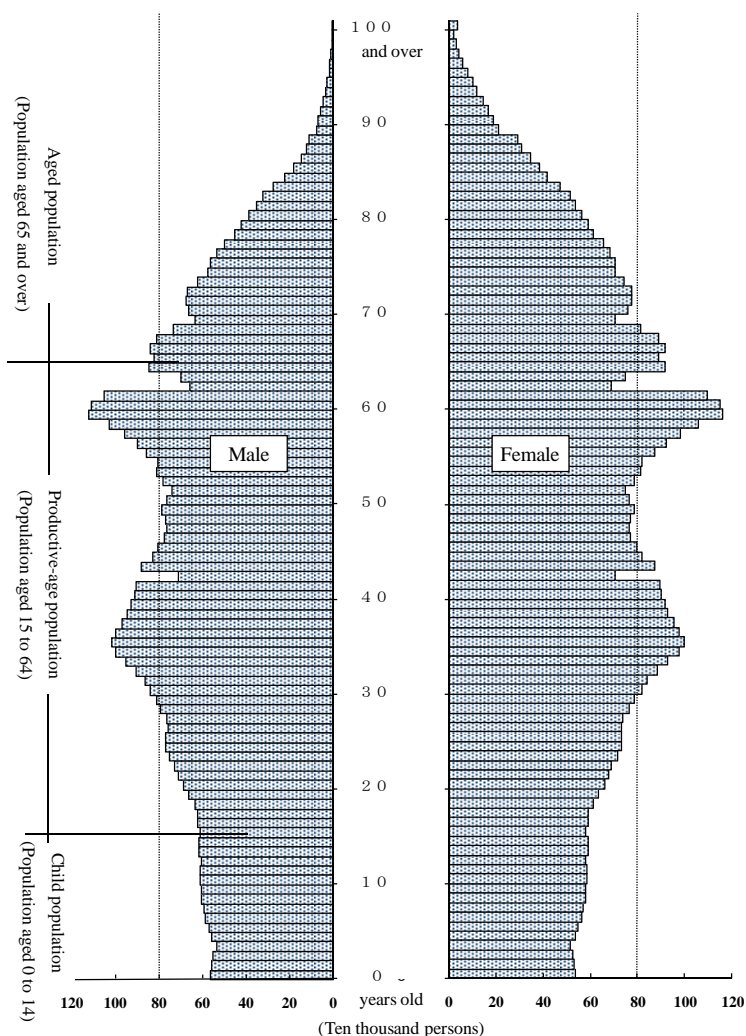
- The population aged 65 and over (aged population) numbered 28,216 thousand and accounted for 22.1 percent of the total population, an increase of 0.6 points which was the record-high rate since 1950<sup>2)</sup>. (Table2, Figure1)

Table2 Composition of Population by age group (2007, 2008)

(Thousand persons, as of October,1 each year)

|      | Population aged 0 to 14 | Percentage distribution (%) | Population aged 15 to 64 | Percentage distribution (%) | Population aged 65 and over | Percentage distribution (%) |
|------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2007 | 17,293                  | 13.5                        | 83,015                   | 65.0                        | 27,464                      | 21.5                        |
| 2008 | 17,176                  | 13.5                        | 82,300                   | 64.5                        | 28,216                      | 22.1                        |

Figure1 Population pyramid (as of October 1, 2008)



(Source) The Current Population Estimates (SBJ)

The Annual Report was published in June.

For further this estimates details, see the web site below.

<http://www.stat.go.jp/english/data/jinsui/index.htm>