

Statistics Bureau of Japan (SBJ) News Bulletin

January 28, 2010

Aged population and households in Japan ~In celebration of "Senior Citizens Day"~

The SBJ published a report analyzing the conditions of the aged^{*1)} population and households in celebration of the "Senior Citizens Day" (September 21, 2009).

*1) "Aged" hereinafter is defined as the population aged 65 years old and over

The percentage of aged population was 22.7%, highest ever

As of September 15, 2009, the aged population in Japan was estimated as 28.98 million, constituting 22.7% of the total population. This was an increase of 0.8 million (0.6 points) compared with the previous year. Both the number and the percentage of aged population marked record highs.

The number of the aged population increased for all the three aged group. The population 70 years old and over was 20.6 million (16.1% of the total population), an increase of 0.44 million compared with the previous year, the population 75 years old and over was 13.7 million (10.7%), an increase of 0.5 million, and the population 80 years old and over was 7.89 million (6.2%), an increase of 0.39 million. (Table 1)

Table 1 Population and percentage by age (3 groups) (2008, 2009)

	Total population	0-14 years old	15-64 years old	65 years old and over	70 years old and over	75 years old and over	80 years old and over
As of September 15, 2009							
Population (Ten thousand persons)							
Total	12756	1703	8156	2898	2060	1370	789
Male	6216	873	4104	1239	838	519	267
Female	6541	830	4051	1659	1221	851	522
Percentage (%)							
Total	100.0	13.4	63.9	22.7	16.1	10.7	6.2
Male	100.0	14.0	66.0	19.9	13.5	8.4	4.3
Female	100.0	12.7	61.9	25.4	18.7	13.0	8.0
Sex ratio *	95.0	105.1	101.3	74.7	68.6	61.0	51.0
As of September 15, 2008							
Population (Ten thousand persons)							
Total	12768	1718	8232	2818	2016	1320	750
Male	6224	880	4142	1203	819	498	251
Female	6543	838	4091	1615	1197	822	499
Percentage (%)							
Total	100.0	13.5	64.5	22.1	15.8	10.3	5.9
Male	100.0	14.1	66.5	19.3	13.2	8.0	4.0
Female	100.0	12.8	62.5	24.7	18.3	12.6	7.6
Sex ratio *	95.1	105.1	101.2	74.5	68.4	60.5	50.2

(Source) The Current Population Estimates

Note) Figures may not add up to the totals because of rounding to the 10,000 persons.

* The number of males per 100 females.

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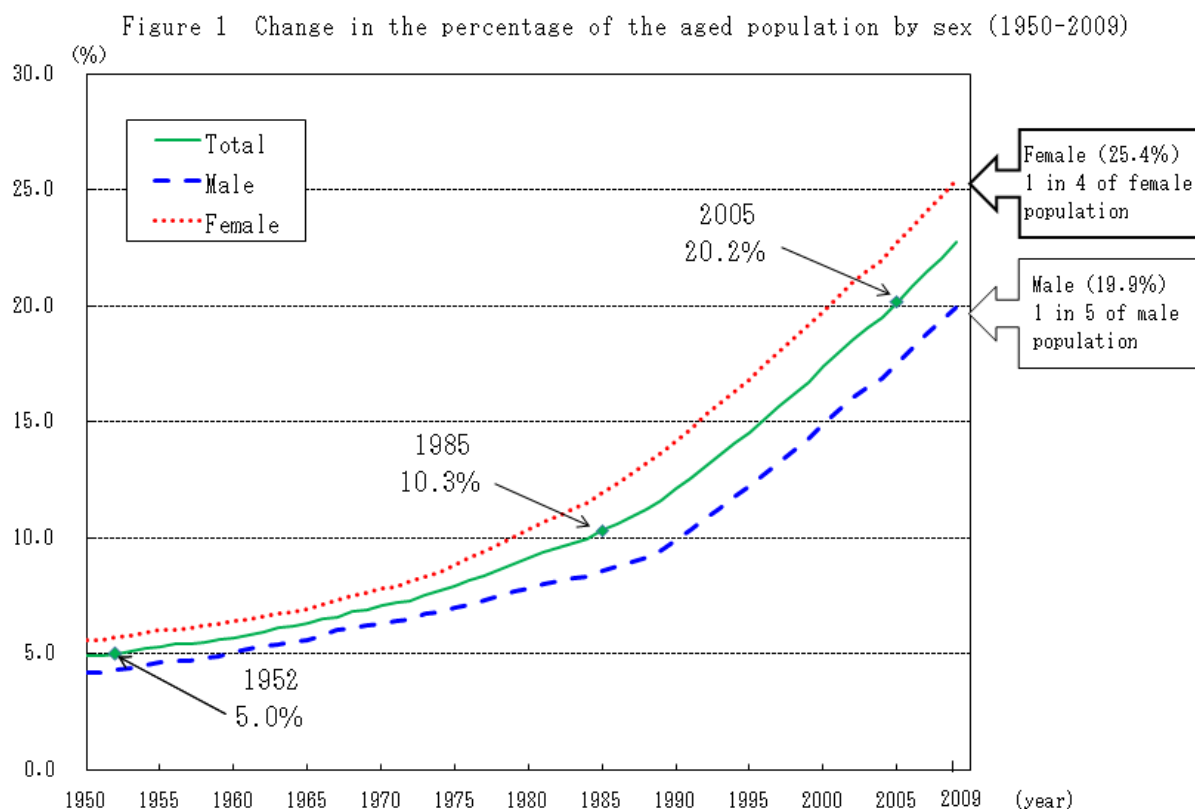
Phone: 81-3-5273-1116 Fax: 81-3-5273-1180 E-mail: stat-general@soumu.go.jp

Website: www.stat.go.jp/english/

1 in 4 of the female population was aged 65 years or older

The percentage of the aged population sharply climbed up from 4.9% in 1950 to 22.7% in 2009. During this period, the percentage reached to 5.0% in 1952, and exceeded 10% in 1985. In 2005, it exceeded 20%, and finally reached to 22.7% in 2009.

Broken down by sex, the percentage of aged males was 19.9% of the total male population (1 in 5 of the male population was aged), while that of aged females was 25.4% of the total female population, exceeding 25% for the first time (1 in 4 of the female population was aged). (Figure1)



(Source) The Population Census and the Current Population Estimates

Note 1) Figures for 2008 and 2009 were based on the results as of September 15, while the others were as of October 1.

2) Excludes Okinawa-ken until 1971.

3) As for the rates compiled from the results of Population Census, unknown age population is included after being prorated to each age population.

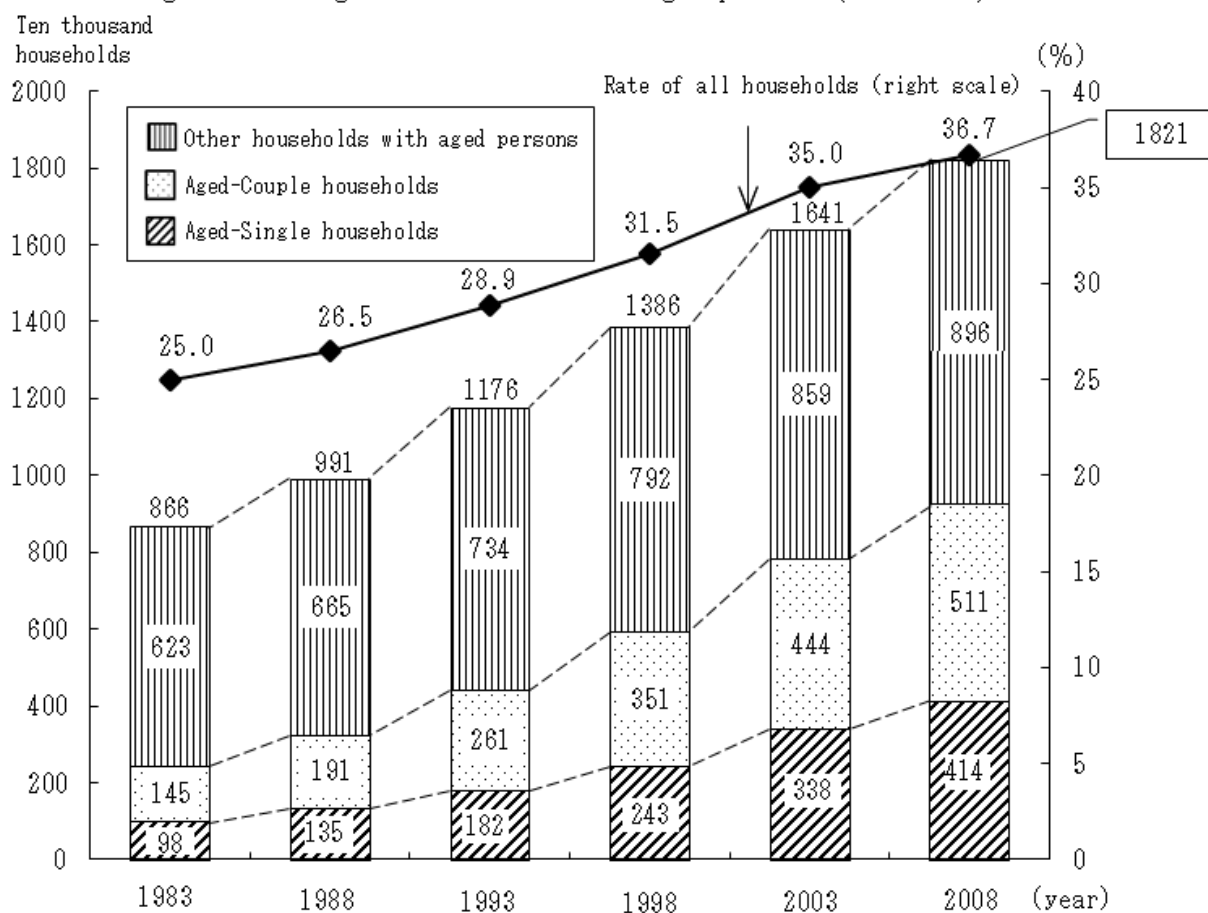
Aged households continued to increase

The number of aged households^{*2)} increased from 8.66 million in 1983 to 18.21 million in 2008. During this period, the number reached to 11.76 million in 1993, exceeding 10 million for the first time. In 2003, it exceeded 15 million, continued to increase, and finally reached to 18.21 million in 2008.

The percentage of aged households of all households^{*3)} also continued to increase: 25% (one fourth) in 1983, 35% in 2003 and 36.7% in 2008, exceeding one third.

Broken down in the change of aged households for 25 years (1983-2008), "Aged-Single households" increased by 4.2 times, "Aged-Couple households" by 3.5 times and "Other households with aged persons" by 1.4 times. "Aged-Single households" had the highest increase (percentage) (Figure 2).

Figure 2 Change in households with aged persons (1983-2008)



(Source) The Housing and Land Survey (Figures for 2008 are based on the interim report)

Note) Figures may not add up to totals because of rounding to 10,000 households.

*2) "Aged households" are defined as households with related members aged 65 years old and over. This is grouped into 3 categories as follows.

1. Aged-Single households... Households comprising only one person aged 65 years old and over
2. Aged-Couple households... Households comprising only one couple either or both of whom are aged 65 years old and over
3. Other households with aged persons... Households with at least one aged persons excluding the above 2 types of households (households consisting of aged persons and other household members)

The results of "Aged households" have been tabulated since 1983.

*3) All households... Households excluding those living in facilities, such as hospitals, nursing homes and so on.

(Source)

For further information on surveys and estimates, see the web site below:

The Population Census (SBJ)

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

The Current Population Estimate (SBJ)

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

The Housing and Land Survey (SBJ)

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