

## Chapter 9

# Transport



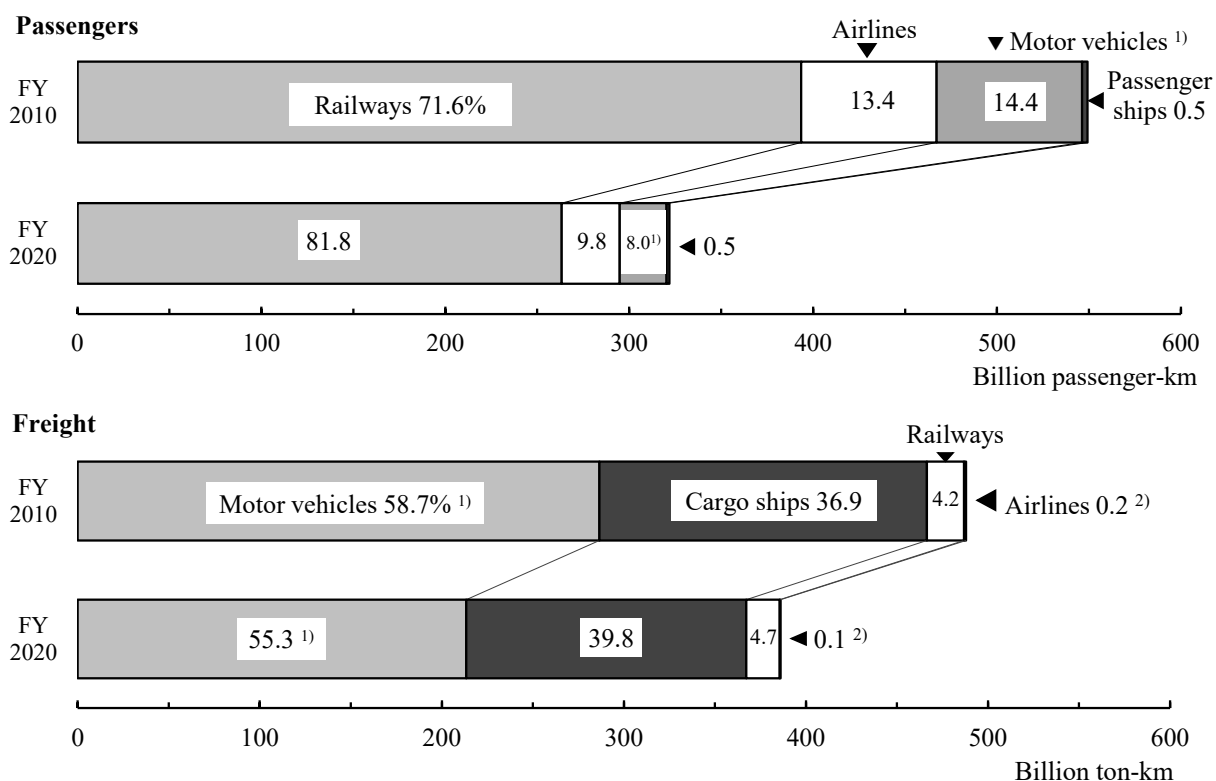
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The Watarase Keikoku Railway runs through peach blossoms on tracks connecting Kiryu City, Gunma with Ashiomachi, Nikko City, Tochigi.

## 1. Domestic Transport

Various modes of domestic transport are used in Japan; almost all passenger transport is by railway, while nearly all freight transport is by motor vehicle and cargo ship.

**Figure 9.1**  
**Composition of Domestic Transport**



1) Figures from FY2010 are estimates based on the survey method and aggregation method changed in FY2020.

2) Including overweight baggage and postal mail.

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

In fiscal 2010, railways accounted for 71.6 percent, motor vehicles for 14.4 percent, airlines for 13.4 percent, and passenger ships for 0.5 percent of domestic passenger transport volume (passenger-kilometers). In fiscal 2020, airlines dropped to 9.8 percent due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, while railways, in contrast, rose to 81.8 percent, 10.2 points higher than fiscal 2010. In terms of domestic freight volume (ton-kilometers), on the other hand, motor vehicles accounted for 55.3 percent and cargo ships for 39.8 percent in fiscal 2020, together constituting about 95 percent of the total. Although ton kilometers decreased, the component ratio shows the same trend as 10 years before.

## (1) Domestic Passenger Transport

In fiscal 2020, the number of domestic transport passengers was 21.75 billion (down 30.2 percent from the previous fiscal year). The total volume of passenger transport was 321.87 billion passenger-kilometers (down 45.8 percent).

**Table 9.1**  
**Domestic Passenger Transport**

Item	Passengers carried (millions)		Passenger kilometers (millions)	
	FY2019	FY2020	FY2019	FY2020
Total transport volume .....	31,172	21,749	593,930	321,870
Railways .....	25,190	17,670	435,063	263,211
JR (Japan Railways) .....	9,503	6,707	271,936	152,084
Other than JR .....	15,687	10,963	163,126	111,127
Motor vehicles .....	5,800	4,000	61,301	25,593
Buses (Commercial use) .....	4,532	3,262	55,815	22,546
Taxis and limousine hires ....	1,268	738	5,486	3,047
Airlines .....	102	34	94,490	31,543
Passenger ships .....	80	45	3,076	1,523

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

In fiscal 2020, the Japan Railways (JR) group reported 6.71 billion passengers (down 29.4 percent from the previous fiscal year) and 152.08 billion passenger-kilometers (down 44.1 percent). Railways other than JR reported 10.96 billion passengers (down 30.1 percent) and 111.13 billion passenger-kilometers (down 31.9 percent).

To promote the use of buses, approaches to improve punctuality and speed using bus lanes and to make buses more convenient, such as by introducing a bus location system that provides locational information of buses as well as an IC card system that enables smooth bus rides, are being carried out. Commercial buses transported 3.26 billion passengers (down 28.0 percent from the previous fiscal year) and 22.55 billion passenger-kilometers (down 59.6 percent); both figures of passengers and passenger-kilometers declined in fiscal 2020.

Domestic airline passengers increased until around fiscal 2002, and after that the trend was roughly flat until fiscal 2007. However, a declining trend continued after the bankruptcy of the major American securities firm Lehman Brothers in 2008, and although there was a recovery after fiscal 2011, domestic air transport fell into a major slump due to the COVID-19 pandemic which occurred in 2020. Fiscal 2020 air transport records show that there were 34 million passengers (down 66.9 percent from the previous fiscal year), and passenger-kilometers amounted to 31.54 billion (down 66.6 percent).

In fiscal 2020, passenger ships reported 45 million passengers (down 43.5 percent from the previous fiscal year) and 1.52 billion passenger-kilometers (down 50.5 percent).

## (2) Domestic Freight Transport

In the area of domestic freight, a total of 4.13 billion metric tons (down 12.3 percent from the previous fiscal year) of freight was transported for a total of 386.11 billion ton-kilometers (down 8.2 percent) in fiscal 2020. As for transport tonnage volume in fiscal 2020, motor vehicle transport accounted for more than 90 percent of the total.

**Table 9.2**  
**Domestic Freight Transport**

Item	Freight tonnage (thousands)		Ton kilometers (millions)	
	FY2019	FY2020	FY2019	FY2020
Total transport volume .....	4,502,384	4,132,688	442,075	386,111
Railways .....	42,660	39,124	19,993	18,340
Motor vehicles .....	4,117,399	3,786,998	251,471	213,419
Commercial use .....	2,842,033	2,550,515	224,012	186,999
Non-commercial use .....	1,275,366	1,236,483	27,459	26,421
Cargo ships .....	341,450	306,076	169,680	153,824
Airlines <sup>1)</sup> .....	875	490	931	528

1) Including overweight baggage and postal mail.

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

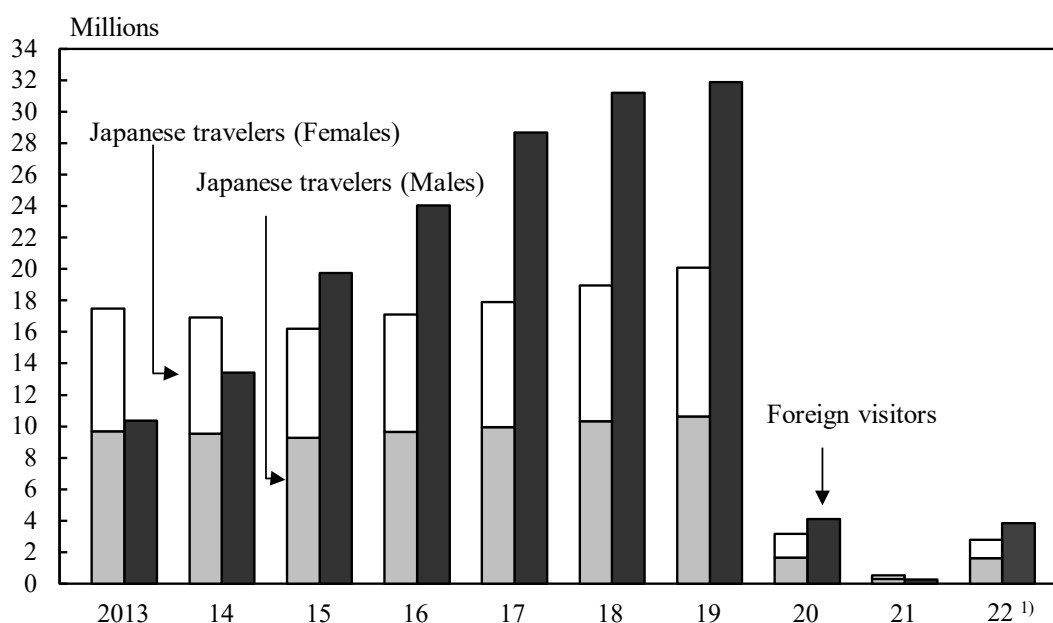
## 2. International Transport

### (1) International Passenger Transport

The global economic downturn after September 2008, the spread of a new influenza in early 2009, and the effects of the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011 reduced international air passenger transport on Japanese airlines. In 2012, this trend reversed to an increase, and the increase continued for 8 consecutive years until 2019. However, due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, Japanese airlines transported 1.39 million passengers (down 68.1 percent from the previous year) and registered 9.32 billion passenger kilometers (down 58.7 percent) in 2021, declining for the second consecutive year.

The number of Japanese overseas travelers in 2022 was 2.77 million, down 86.2 percent from 2019, prior to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of foreign visitor arrivals was 3.83 million, indicating a marked recovery since October 2022 when full-fledged acceptance of foreign visitors was resumed, but still only about 10 percent of the 2019 level.

**Figure 9.2**  
**Japanese Overseas Travelers and Foreign Visitor Arrivals**



1) The Foreign visitors data for 2022 is provisional.

Source: Immigration Services Agency of Japan; Japan National Tourism Organization.

According to reports on arrivals by tourist offices in countries around the world, the U.S.A. and the Republic of Korea had many Japanese visitors in 2020.

**Table 9.3**  
**Japanese Overseas Travelers by Destination**

Country or area of destination	2018		2019		2020	
	Number of arrivals	Annual change (%)	Number of arrivals	Annual change (%)	Number of arrivals	Annual change (%)
U.S.A. <sup>1)2)</sup> .....	3,493,313	-2.8	3,752,980	7.4	696,727	-81.4
Korea, Rep. of <sup>3)</sup> ....	2,948,527	27.6	3,271,706	11.0	430,742	-86.8
China <sup>3)</sup> .....	2,689,662	0.4	2,676,334	-0.5	...	...
Thailand <sup>4)</sup> .....	1,655,996	7.2	1,806,438	9.1	320,331	-82.3
Taiwan <sup>5)</sup> .....	1,969,151	3.7	2,167,952	10.1	269,659	-87.6
Viet Nam <sup>5)</sup> .....	826,674	3.6	951,962	15.2	200,346	-79.0
Philippines <sup>2)</sup> .....	631,821	8.2	682,788	8.1	136,664	-80.0
Singapore <sup>5)</sup> .....	829,676	4.6	884,308	6.6	125,879	-85.8

1) Including territories and dependencies (Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico and United States Virgin Islands, etc.). 2) Arrivals of non-resident tourists at national borders, by country of residence. 3) Arrivals of non-resident visitors at national borders, by nationality. 4) Arrivals of non-resident tourists at national borders, by nationality. 5) Arrivals of non-resident visitors at national borders, by country of residence.  
Source: Japan National Tourism Organization.

Among foreign visitors to Japan in 2022 by country/region, visitors from Asian countries were the highest, totaling 3.00 million. Among Asian countries, the number of visitors from the Republic of Korea was highest, amounting to 1.01 million, and the figure accounted for 26.4 percent of the total number of foreign visitors to Japan.

Strategic efforts are being made to achieve recovery and reexpansion of inbound tourism, focusing on areas such as further increasing tourist expenditures, attracting more visitors to rural areas, promoting sustainable tourism, responding to post-COVID travel needs, and strengthening marketing based on data analysis.

**Table 9.4**  
**Foreign Visitors**

Region, country or area of origin	2020		2021		2022*	
	Number of arrivals	Percentage distribution	Number of arrivals	Percentage distribution	Number of arrivals	Percentage distribution
Total arrivals <sup>1)</sup> .....	4,115,828	100.0	245,862	100.0	3,832,110	100.0
Asia .....	3,403,547	82.7	150,427	61.2	3,001,292	78.3
Korea, Rep. of .....	487,939	11.9	18,947	7.7	1,012,751	26.4
Taiwan .....	694,476	16.9	5,016	2.0	331,097	8.6
Viet Nam .....	152,559	3.7	26,586	10.8	284,113	7.4
Hong Kong, SAR ....	346,020	8.4	1,252	0.5	269,285	7.0
Thailand .....	219,830	5.3	2,758	1.1	198,037	5.2
China .....	1,069,256	26.0	42,239	17.2	189,125	4.9
Europe .....	240,897	5.9	52,238	21.2	304,505	7.9
U.K. ....	51,024	1.2	7,294	3.0	57,496	1.5
Africa .....	7,840	0.2	6,769	2.8	14,613	0.4
North America .....	284,829	6.9	26,238	10.7	392,009	10.2
U.S.A. ....	219,307	5.3	20,026	8.1	323,513	8.4
Canada .....	53,365	1.3	3,536	1.4	55,877	1.5
South America .....	18,222	0.4	5,204	2.1	17,652	0.5
Oceania .....	160,386	3.9	4,953	2.0	101,921	2.7
Australia .....	143,508	3.5	3,265	1.3	88,648	2.3

1) Including stateless people, etc.

Source: Japan National Tourism Organization.

In 2022, of the total number of foreign visitors to Japan, tourists numbered 2.49 million people, or 64.9 percent of total foreign visitors. The highest number of tourists came from the Republic of Korea, with 0.86 million travelers, followed by Taiwan, with 0.29 million travelers.

## (2) International Freight Transport

The volume of seaborne foreign transport in 2021 was 883 million tons, down 0.7 percent over the previous year. Of this figure, total exports increased by 29.9 percent to 76 million tons, and total imports increased by 0.8 percent to 438 million tons.

**Table 9.5**  
**Seaborne Foreign Transport**

(Thousand tons)				
Year	Total	Exports	Imports	Cross Transport
2000	739,377	34,960	538,875	165,542
2005	777,869	45,404	529,239	203,225
2010	819,075	44,758	465,898	308,419
2015	1,056,144	60,802	544,702	450,639
2020	889,365	58,411	435,019	395,935
2021*	883,042	75,897	438,283	368,863

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

Air-shipped international freight in 2021 totaled 1.77 million tons in terms of volume (up 37.9 percent from the previous year) and 10.36 billion tons in terms of ton-kilometers (up 42.4 percent).



## Chapter 10

### Commerce



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A morning market in Wajima, Ishikawa Prefecture. They say this market started around the year 800 when people brought products to shrines and bartered with each other. This market has been nurtured over a long history, and thrived amid the heart-to-heart contact of buyers and sellers.

## 1. Wholesale and Retail

The "2021 Economic Census for Business Activity" showed that 1.23 million wholesale and retail establishments were in operation in Japan. The number of persons engaged at such establishments became 11.61 million. Sales in the wholesale and retail industries amounted to 480.17 trillion yen, accounting for 28.4 percent of the total of all industries.

### (1) Wholesale Trade

The number of wholesale establishments in operation was 348,889 in 2021. Observed by size of operation in terms of persons engaged, establishments with less than 20 persons accounted for 88.0 percent of the total. By type of corporate form, 91.5 percent of them were corporations, while 8.4 percent were individual proprietorships.

**Table 10.1**  
**Establishments and Persons Engaged in the Wholesale and Retail Sector (2021)**

Item	Total	Wholesale	Retail
<b>Number of Establishments</b> .....	1,228,920	348,889	880,031
Size of operation (persons engaged)			
1-4 persons .....	662,206	171,120	491,086
5-9 .....	265,776	85,100	180,676
10-19 .....	173,105	50,733	122,372
20-29 .....	56,551	16,437	40,114
30-49 .....	33,078	12,023	21,055
50-99 .....	19,287	6,651	12,636
100 and over .....	10,167	3,765	6,402
Loaned or dispatched employees only .....	8,750	3,060	5,690
<b>Persons engaged</b> .....	11,611,924	3,900,979	7,710,945
Regular employees .....	10,174,880	3,453,375	6,721,505
Indefinite duration employees .....	6,790,299	2,951,492	3,838,807
Limited duration employees .....	3,384,581	501,883	2,882,698
Temporary employees .....	214,794	44,194	170,600
Loaned or dispatched employees from the separately operated establishments .....	279,040	146,446	132,594
Loaned or dispatched employees to the separately operated establishments .....	97,377	75,678	21,699

Source: Statistics Bureau, MIC; Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

The number of persons engaged in the wholesale sector was 3.9 million in 2021, 546,077 of whom were limited duration employees and temporary employees, making up 14.0 percent of the total.

## (2) Retail Trade

The number of retail establishments in operation totaled 880,031 in 2021. Observed by size of operation in terms of persons engaged, establishments with less than 10 persons accounted for 76.3 percent of the total. By type of corporate form, 65.7 percent of them were corporations, while 34.2 percent were individual proprietorships. The proportion of individual proprietorships was higher than that in the wholesale sector.

The number of persons engaged in retail was 7.71 million in 2021, 3.05 million of whom were limited duration employees and temporary employees, comprising 39.6 percent of the total.

## 2. Eating and Drinking Places

There were 499,176 eating and drinking places establishments in operation and 3.49 million persons engaged at them in 2021.

**Table 10.2**  
**Eating and Drinking Places (2021)**

Size of operation (persons engaged)	Establishments		Persons engaged	
	Number	Ratio (%)	Number	Ratio (%)
Total .....	499,176	100.0	3,489,039	100.0
1-4 persons .....	308,208	61.7	649,085	18.6
5-9 .....	92,798	18.6	608,955	17.5
10-19 .....	55,144	11.0	746,796	21.4
20-29 .....	25,036	5.0	596,470	17.1
30 and over .....	17,094	3.4	887,733	25.4
Loaned or dispatched employees only ....	896	0.2	-	-

Source: Statistics Bureau, MIC; Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

## Chapter 11

# Trade, International Balance of Payments, and International Cooperation



An airplane flies from Shimojishima Airport.

From 17 END at the northern end of Shimojishima Island, you can see up close as airplanes take off and land.

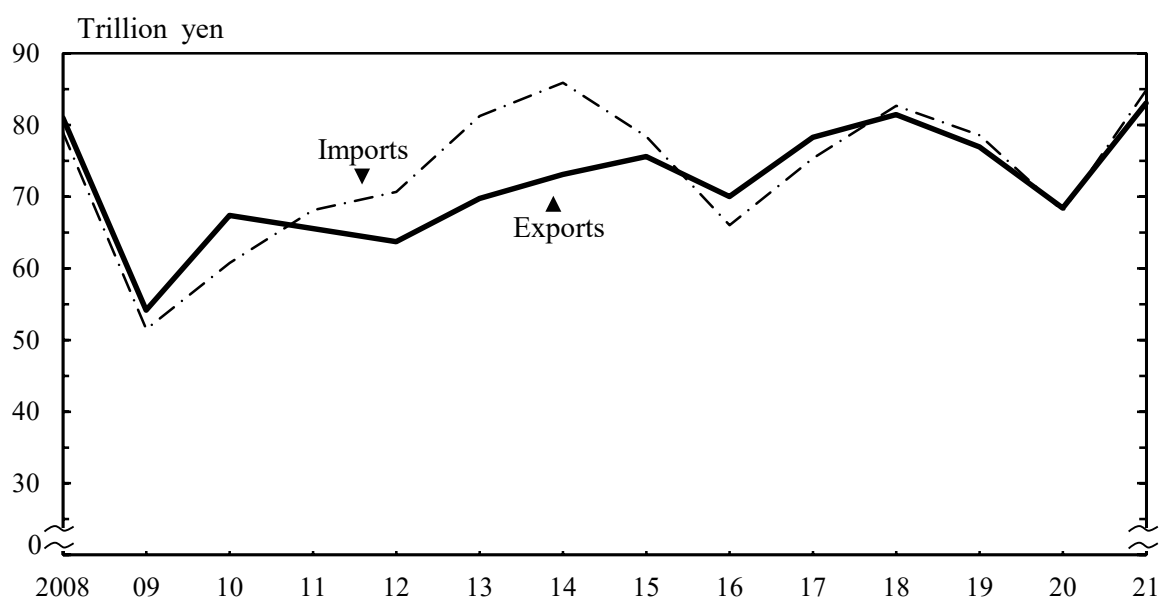
Shimojishima Airport has domestic and international flights and contributes to the further growth of the Miyako Islands as an international resort.

## 1. Trade

### (1) Overview of Trade

In 2021, Japan's international trade on a customs clearance basis increased, both exports and imports. Exports (in FOB value) amounted to 83.1 trillion yen, which was a 21.5 percent increase as compared to the previous year, and an increase for the first time in 3 years. Imports (in CIF value) amounted to 84.9 trillion yen, which was a 24.8 percent increase as compared to the previous year, and an increase for the first time in 3 years. Trade balance totaled -1.8 trillion yen. This was the red figure for the first time in 2 years.

**Figure 11.1**  
**Foreign Trade**



Source: Ministry of Finance.

**Table 11.1**  
**Trends in Foreign Trade and Indices of Trade**

Year	Value (billion yen) (Customs clearance basis)			Indices of trade (2015=100)					
	Exports (FOB)	Imports (CIF)	Balance	Exports			Imports		
				Value index	Quantum index <sup>1)</sup>	Unit value index	Value index	Quantum index <sup>1)</sup>	Unit value index
2012	63,748	70,689	-6,941	84.3	102.0	82.7	90.2	102.0	88.4
2013	69,774	81,243	-11,468	92.3	100.5	91.8	103.6	102.3	101.3
2014	73,093	85,909	-12,816	96.7	101.1	95.7	109.6	102.9	106.5
2015	75,614	78,406	-2,792	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
2016	70,036	66,042	3,994	92.6	100.5	92.2	84.2	98.8	85.3
2017	78,286	75,379	2,907	103.5	105.9	97.8	96.1	102.9	93.4
2018	81,479	82,703	-1,225	107.8	107.7	100.1	105.5	105.8	99.7
2019	76,932	78,600	-1,668	101.7	103.0	98.8	100.2	104.6	95.9
2020	68,399	68,011	388	90.5	91.0	99.4	86.7	97.9	88.6
2021	83,091	84,875	-1,784	109.9	101.9	107.8	108.3	102.8	105.3

1) Quantum index = Value index / Unit value index × 100

Source: Ministry of Finance.

With regard to unit value index, Japan's 2021 exports increased by 8.5 percent from the previous year (an increase for the second consecutive year), and quantum index increased by 12.0 percent from the previous year (the first increase in 2 years).

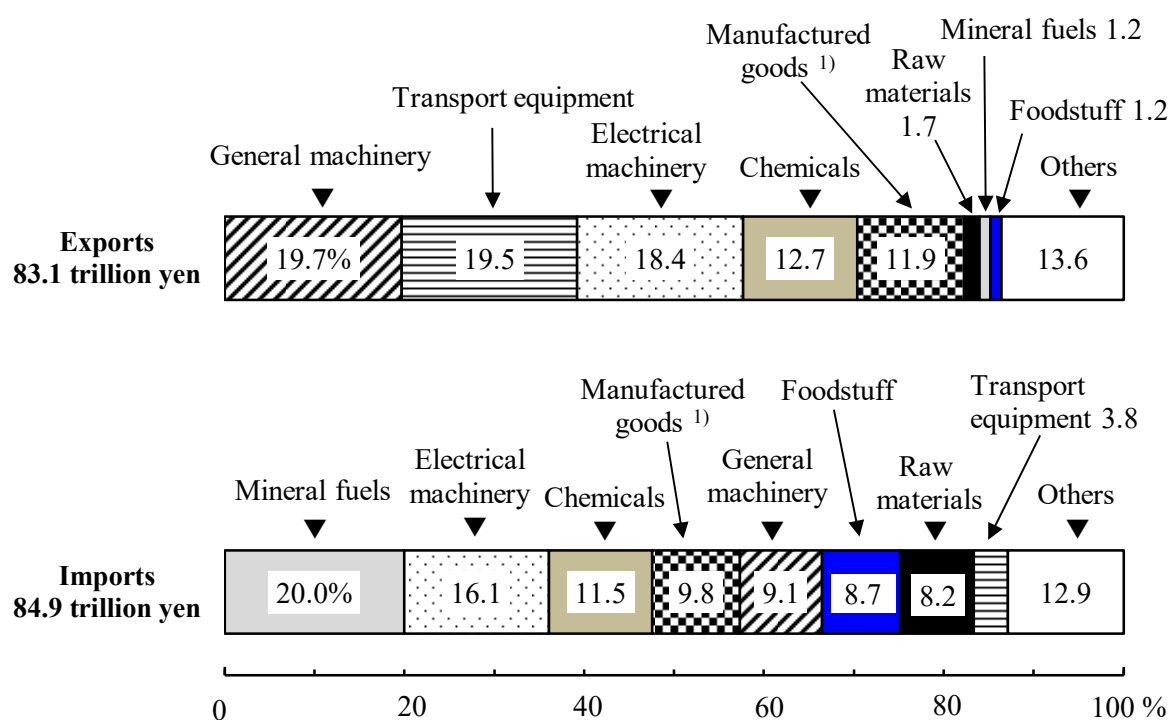
With regard to Japan's imports in 2021, the unit value index and quantum index increased by 18.8 percent and 5.0 percent respectively compared to the previous year; both indices recorded their first increase in 2 years.

## (2) Trade by Commodity

As for Japan's exports in 2021 by commodity, general machinery accounted for the largest portion of the total export value, 19.7 percent, followed by transport equipment and electrical machinery, making up 19.5 percent and 18.4 percent, respectively. Motor vehicles, which are in the transport equipment category, constituted 12.9 percent of the total export value, up 4.7 percent in quantity and up 11.9 percent in value from the previous year. One characteristic of Japan's exports is the large proportion of high value-added products manufactured with advanced technology, such as motor vehicles, iron and steel products, and semiconductors, etc.

The leading import item category was mineral fuels, which represented 20.0 percent of the total value imported, followed by electrical machinery and chemicals, at 16.1 percent and 11.5 percent, respectively. Petroleum, in the mineral fuels category, constituted 8.2 percent of the total import value, down 1.2 percent in quantity and up 49.1 percent in value from the previous year.

**Figure 11.2**  
**Component Ratios of Foreign Trade by Commodity (2021)**



1) Consisting of iron and steel products, nonferrous metals, textile yarn and fabrics, etc.

Source: Ministry of Finance.

**Table 11.2**  
**Value of Exports and Imports by Principal Commodity**

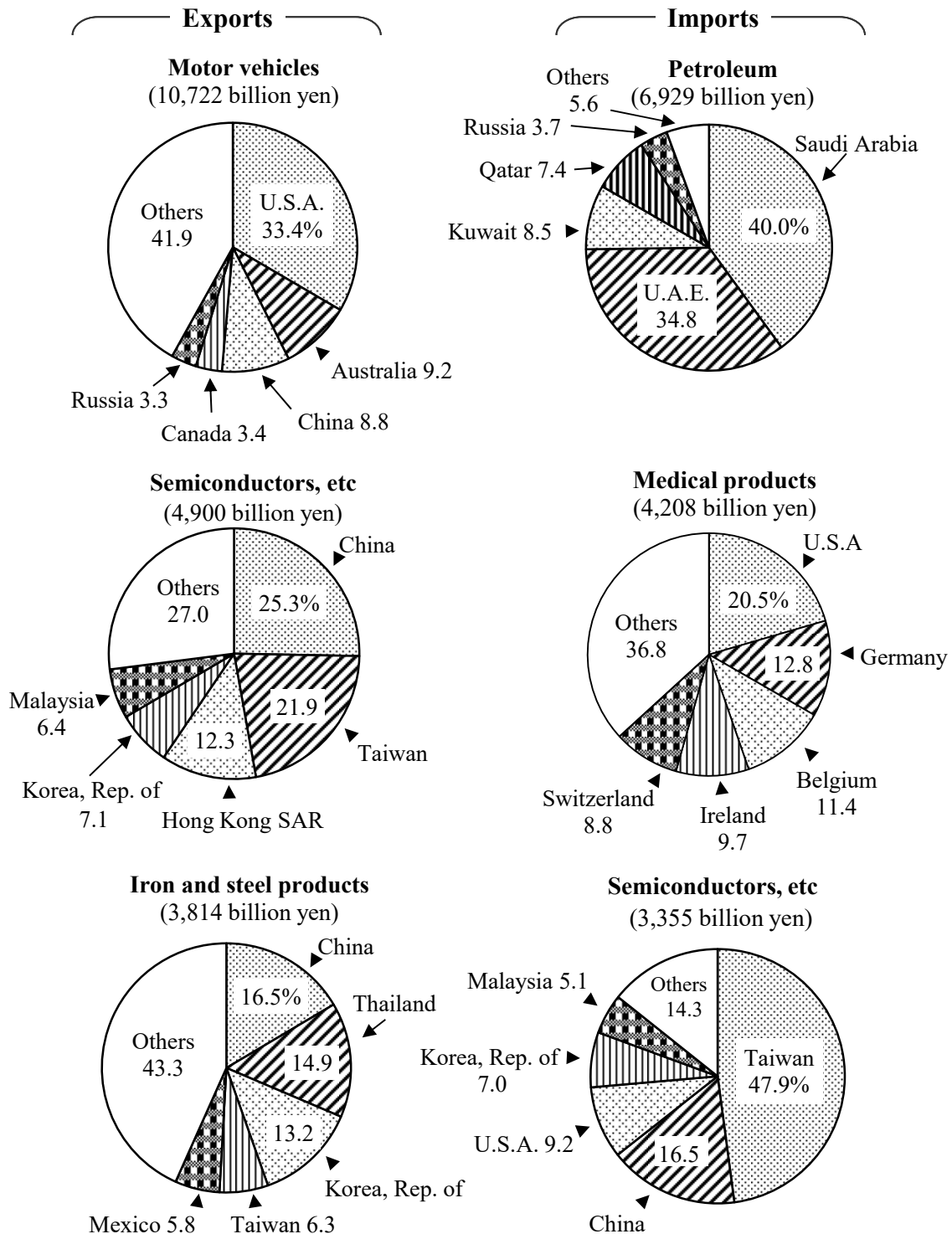
Item	2019	2020	2021	(Billion yen)
				Annual growth (%)
<b>Exports, total</b> .....	76,932	68,399	83,091	21.5
Foodstuff .....	754	790	992	25.6
Raw materials .....	1,034	1,020	1,439	41.1
Mineral fuels .....	1,383	723	993	37.4
Chemicals .....	8,739	8,534	10,552	23.7
Plastic materials .....	2,430	2,420	2,976	23.0
Manufactured goods <sup>1)</sup> .....	8,407	7,504	9,928	32.3
Iron and steel products .....	3,074	2,574	3,814	48.2
General machinery .....	15,122	13,140	16,382	24.7
Semicon machinery, etc. ....	2,467	2,517	3,353	33.2
Electrical machinery .....	13,208	12,898	15,309	18.7
Semiconductors, etc. ....	4,006	4,155	4,900	17.9
Transport equipment .....	18,118	14,456	16,192	12.0
Motor vehicles .....	11,971	9,580	10,722	11.9
Others .....	10,167	9,334	11,302	21.1
Scientific, optical inst .....	2,130	1,968	2,322	18.0
<b>Imports, total</b> .....	78,600	68,011	84,875	24.8
Foodstuff .....	7,192	6,679	7,383	10.5
Meat and meat preparation .....	1,540	1,431	1,557	8.8
Raw materials .....	4,861	4,682	6,936	48.2
Ore of nonferrous .....	1,378	1,505	2,007	33.4
Mineral fuels .....	16,951	11,254	17,007	51.1
Petroleum .....	7,969	4,646	6,929	49.1
Chemicals .....	8,163	7,859	9,769	24.3
Medical products .....	3,092	3,197	4,208	31.6
Manufactured goods <sup>1)</sup> .....	7,068	6,564	8,277	26.1
Nonferrous metals .....	1,750	1,723	2,836	64.6
General machinery .....	7,583	7,043	7,682	9.1
Computers and units .....	2,211	2,406	2,392	-0.6
Electrical machinery .....	11,992	11,354	13,648	20.2
Semiconductors, etc. ....	2,581	2,506	3,355	33.9
Transport equipment .....	3,561	2,600	3,244	24.8
Motor vehicles .....	1,408	1,165	1,372	17.7
Others .....	11,229	9,977	10,930	9.5
Clothing and accessories .....	3,205	2,724	2,835	4.1

1) Consisting of iron and steel products, nonferrous metals, textile yarn and fabrics, etc.

Source: Ministry of Finance.



**Figure 11.3**  
**Component Ratios of the Value of Major Export and Import Commodities by Country/Region (2021)**



Source: Ministry of Finance.

### (3) Trade by Country/Region

Japan has maintained a trade surplus with Asia and the U.S.A., while having a continuous trade deficit with the Middle East and Oceania.

**Table 11.3**  
**Trends in Value of Exports and Imports by Country/Region** (Billion yen)

Year	Total	Asia	China	Korea, Rep. of	Taiwan	U.S.A.	EU <sup>1)</sup>	Middle East	Oceania
<b>Exports from Japan</b>									
2017	78,286	42,920	14,890	5,975	4,558	15,113	8,657	2,350	2,301
2018	81,479	44,736	15,898	5,793	4,679	15,470	9,209	2,434	2,402
2019	76,932	41,327	14,682	5,044	4,689	15,255	8,955	2,356	2,053
2020	68,399	39,220	15,082	4,767	4,739	12,611	6,460	1,809	1,688
2021	83,091	48,158	17,984	5,770	5,988	14,832	7,668	2,052	2,194
<b>Imports to Japan</b>									
2017	75,379	37,026	18,459	3,153	2,848	8,090	8,757	8,243	4,969
2018	82,703	39,218	19,194	3,550	2,998	9,015	9,718	10,375	5,659
2019	78,600	37,413	18,454	3,227	2,928	8,640	9,722	8,852	5,587
2020	68,011	34,678	17,508	2,842	2,863	7,454	7,832	5,558	4,359
2021	84,875	41,094	20,382	3,521	3,678	8,916	9,453	8,471	6,434

1) 28 countries: from July 2013 to Jan. 2020, 27 countries: from Feb. 2020 onward.

Source: Ministry of Finance.

#### (A) Trade with Asia

Japan's 2021 trade balance with Asia resulted in a 7.1 trillion yen in surplus, an increase for the second consecutive year (up 55.5 percent from the previous year). Exports (in FOB value) totaled 48.2 trillion yen (up 22.8 percent), an increase for the first time in 3 years; this was mainly due to the contributions for the increase in manufactured goods and general machinery. Imports (in CIF value) amounted to 41.1 trillion yen (up 18.5 percent), an increase for the first time in 3 years; this was mainly contributed to the increase in electrical machinery and manufactured goods.

In 2021, Japan's trade with China amounted to 18.0 trillion yen in exports and 20.4 trillion yen in imports. The percentage of the total amount of Japan's imports and exports that is accounted for by imports and exports between Japan and China is approximately 20 percent, signifying that China is Japan's largest trading counterpart.

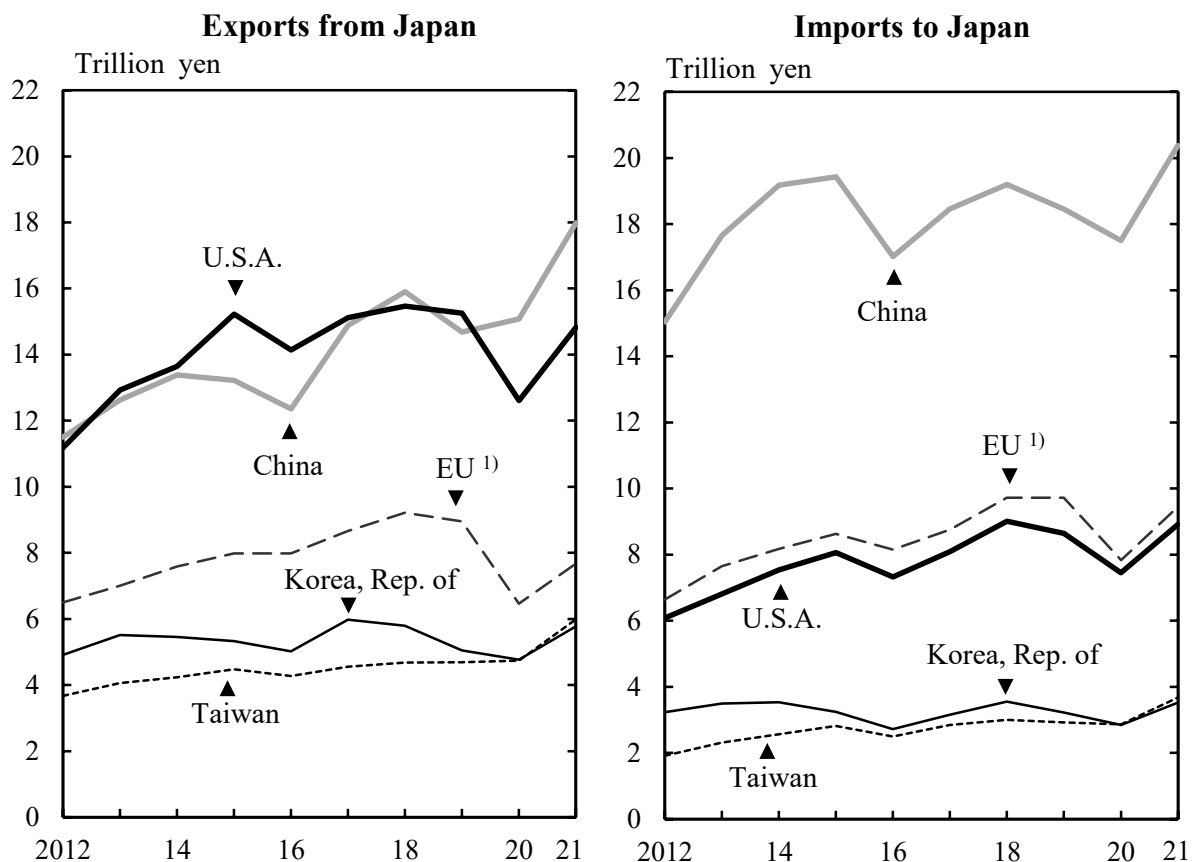
(B) Trade with U.S.A.

Japan's 2021 trade balance with the U.S.A. showed a surplus of 5.9 trillion yen (up 14.7 percent from the previous year), an increase for the first time in 2 years. Exports (in FOB value) totaled 14.8 trillion yen (up 17.6 percent), an increase for the first time in 3 years. The growth was due mainly to the contributions of general machinery and electrical machinery. Imports (in CIF value) totaled 8.9 trillion yen (up 19.6 percent), an increase for the first time in 3 years. The growth was due mainly to the contributions of mineral fuels and chemicals.

(C) Trade with EU

Japan's 2021 trade balance with the EU (27 countries) registered a deficit of 1.8 trillion yen. Exports (in FOB value) to the EU (27 countries) increased by 21.4 percent year-on-year, to 7.7 trillion yen. Commodities such as general machinery and electrical machinery contributed to the growth in exports. Imports (in CIF value) from the EU (27 countries) totaled 9.5 trillion yen, up 21.8 percent from the previous year. Commodities such as chemicals and transport equipment contributed to the growth in imports.

**Figure 11.4**  
**Trends in Value of Exports and Imports by Country/Region**



1) 27 countries: from Jan. 2007 to June 2013, 28 countries: from July 2013 to Jan. 2020, 27 countries: from Feb. 2020 onward.

Source: Ministry of Finance.

## 2. International Balance of Payments

The current account in 2022 totaled 11.5 trillion yen, and its surplus shrank for the first time in 2 years, due to the trade balance switching to a deficit, etc. Breaking down the current account, goods and services fell by 18.7 trillion yen from the previous year to -21.2 trillion yen, recording a deficit for the fourth consecutive year. Primary income amounted to 35.2 trillion yen, which was a 33.4 percent increase in its surplus from the previous year.

The financial account amounted to 6.5 trillion yen in 2022, due to factors such as an increase in net assets for direct investment, etc.

**Table 11.4**  
**International Balance of Payments**

Item	(Billion yen)			
	2019	2020	2021	2022
Current account .....	19,251.3	15,991.7	21,536.3	11,546.6
Goods and services .....	-931.8	-877.3	-2,483.4	-21,163.8
Goods .....	150.3	2,777.9	1,762.3	-15,743.6
Exports .....	75,775.3	67,262.9	82,352.6	98,768.8
Imports .....	75,625.0	64,485.1	80,590.3	114,512.4
Services .....	-1,082.1	-3,655.2	-4,245.7	-5,420.2
Primary income .....	21,553.1	19,438.7	26,378.8	35,185.7
Secondary income .....	-1,370.0	-2,569.7	-2,359.1	-2,475.3
Capital account .....	-413.1	-207.2	-423.2	-114.4
Financial account <sup>1)</sup> .....	24,862.4	14,125.1	16,837.6	6,492.2
Direct investment .....	23,859.1	9,389.8	19,242.8	16,958.2
Portfolio investment .....	9,366.6	4,391.6	-21,917.5	-19,256.5
Financial derivatives (other than reserves) ..	370.0	799.9	2,168.5	5,136.2
Other investment .....	-11,537.2	-1,654.1	10,453.9	10,711.4
Reserve assets .....	2,803.9	1,198.0	6,889.9	-7,057.1
Net errors and omissions .....	6,024.2	-1,659.4	-4,275.5	-4,940.0

1) Positive figures (+) show increase in net assets, negative figures (-) show decrease in net assets.

Source: Ministry of Finance.

Japan's external assets (overseas assets held by residents in Japan) as of the end of 2022 amounted to 1,338.2 trillion yen, while its external liabilities (assets held in Japan by nonresidents) were 919.6 trillion yen. As a result, Japan's net international investment position (external assets minus external liabilities) were 418.6 trillion yen.

**Table 11.5**  
**Trends in Japan's International Investment Position** <sup>1)</sup>

(Billion yen)					
Item	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Assets .....	1,018,047	1,090,549	1,149,589	1,257,141	1,338,236
Liabilities .....	676,597	733,534	789,597	839,232	919,608
Net assets .....	341,450	357,015	359,992	417,908	418,629

1) End of year.

Source: Ministry of Finance.

Japan's reserve assets remained at around 220 billion U.S. dollars during the period from 1996 to 1998. Beginning in 1999, reserve assets increased continuously. A downward trend started at the end of 2012, but at the end of 2017, assets began to increase again, and increased to the end of 2021. They amounted to 1,227.6 billion U.S. dollars (down 12.7 percent from the previous year) at the end of 2022, marking a decrease for the first time in 6 years.

**Table 11.6**  
**Reserve Assets**

(Million U.S. dollars)						
End of year	Total	Foreign currency reserves <sup>1)</sup>	IMF reserve position	SDRs	Gold <sup>2)</sup>	Other reserve assets <sup>3)</sup>
2018	1,270,975	1,208,958	11,464	18,484	31,531	538
2019	1,323,750	1,255,322	11,202	19,176	37,469	581
2020	1,394,680	1,312,160	15,147	20,215	46,526	632
2021	1,405,750	1,278,925	10,643	62,330	49,505	4,347
2022	1,227,576	1,103,907	10,817	59,275	49,295	4,282

1) Including securities in market value. 2) Market value. 3) Including Asian Bond Fund 2.

Source: Ministry of Finance.

The yen began appreciating sharply in late 2008. From 2011 into 2012, the exchange rate of yen to the U.S. dollar stayed between the higher 70 yen range and the lower 80 yen range. In April 2013, the Bank of Japan introduced Quantitative and Qualitative Monetary Easing (QQME) to put an end to deflation. Based on this, the exchange rate shifted towards yen depreciation. Subsequently, the yen strengthened from early to mid 2016, followed by a leveling off phase from 2017. However, from March 2022, factors such as trends in the interest rate difference between the U.S.A. and Japan have led, with some fluctuations, to a weakening yen-dollar exchange rate. As of April 2023, the exchange rate was 135.7 yen per U.S. dollar.

**Figure 11.5**  
**Yen Exchange Rate against the U.S. Dollar**



Source: Bank of Japan.

### 3. International Cooperation

In Japan, there are diverse international cooperation donors: Official Development Assistance (ODA) by the government, direct investments and export credits by private corporations, grants by private non-profit organizations, assistance activities by NGOs and volunteer citizen groups, etc. With regard to ODA, there are various forms, including bilateral assistance, which assists developing countries and regions directly, and multilateral assistance, which contributes to international organizations.

**Table 11.7**  
**Financial Flows to Developing Countries**

Item	(Million U.S. dollars)			
	Net disbursements <sup>1)</sup>		Grant equivalent <sup>2)</sup>	
	2020	2021	2020	2021
Total value .....	32,472	38,494	...	...
Official flows .....	18,558	16,356	...	...
Official Development Assistance (ODA) .....	13,660	15,765	16,260	17,634
Bilateral official development assistance <sup>3)</sup> ....	10,243	11,621	13,181	13,716
Grants <sup>3)</sup> .....	5,470	5,680	5,470	5,680
Grant assistance <sup>3)</sup> .....	3,068	3,257	3,068	3,257
Technical assistance .....	2,401	2,423	2,401	2,423
Loans .....	4,774	5,940	7,712	8,036
Contributions to multilateral institutions .....	3,417	4,145	3,079	3,918
Other Official Flows (OOF) .....	4,898	591	...	...
Export credits (over 1 year) .....	3	-286	...	...
Direct investment and others .....	4,895	876	...	...
Contributions to multilateral institutions .....	-	-	-	-
Private Flows (PF) .....	13,309	21,502	...	...
Export credits (over 1 year) .....	-5,414	-570	...	...
Direct investment .....	25,031	26,702	...	...
Other bilateral securities and claims .....	-4,213	-5,911	...	...
Contributions to multilateral institutions .....	-2,095	1,280	...	...
Grants by private non-profit organizations .....	606	636	...	...
ODA as percentage of GNI (%) .....	0.26	0.31	0.31	0.34
ODA as percentage of GNI (DAC average) (%) ..	...	...	0.33	0.33

1) Net disbursements at current prices and exchange rate designated by DAC. Negative figures (-) indicate that loan repayments, etc., exceeded the disbursed amount. 2) Grant equivalent at current prices and exchange rate designated by DAC. 3) Including bilateral grants through multilateral institutions.

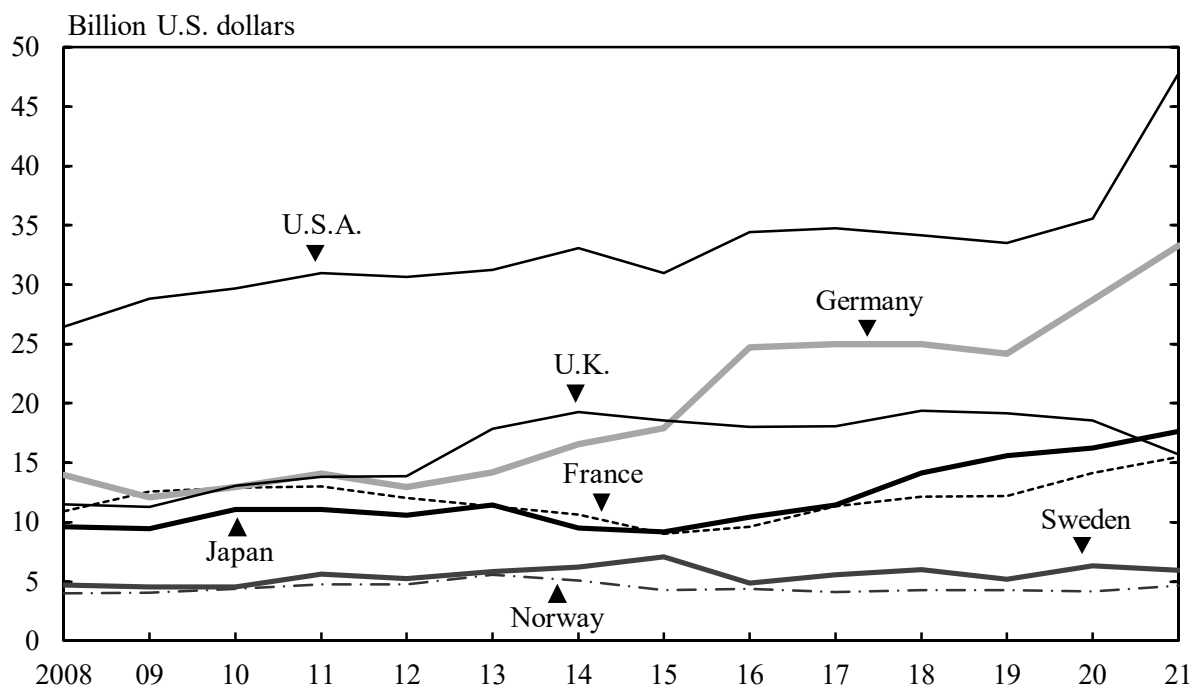
Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Finance; OECD.

In the ODA framework, Japan's spending (on a grant equivalent basis at current prices) in 2021 was increased by 8.4 percent over the previous year to 17.6 billion U.S. dollars. Japan contributed to the growth of developing countries as the world's number-one ODA donor for 10 consecutive years up until 2000, but recently Japan's ODA budget has declined to about half its peak level.

With regard to the comparison of the ODA grant equivalents in 2021 of the member countries of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the OECD, Japan was the third-largest contributor behind the U.S.A. and Germany. The ratio of Japan's ODA grant equivalent to Gross National Income (GNI) was 0.34 percent, or an increase of 0.03 percentage points compared with that of the previous year.



**Figure 11.6**  
**Trends in ODA by Country** <sup>1)</sup>



1) 2008-2017 data: Net disbursement at current prices and exchange rate designated by DAC.  
2018-2021 data: Grant equivalent at current prices and exchange rate designated by DAC.  
Source: OECD.

Of the 17.6 billion U.S. dollars in ODA grant equivalent provided by Japan in 2021, 13.7 billion was bilateral ODA (up 4.1 percent year-on-year), and 3.9 billion was ODA contributed through multilateral institutions (up 27.2 percent).

Bilateral ODA (grant equivalent at current prices) provided in 2021 consisted of 3.3 billion U.S. dollars of grant assistance, 2.4 billion of technical assistance, and 8.0 billion of loans.

By region, bilateral ODA (net disbursement at current prices, including assistance to designated countries in developing regions) was distributed as follows: Asia, 5,413 million U.S. dollars; Sub-Saharan Africa, 1,630 million U.S. dollars; Middle East and North Africa, 1,211 million U.S. dollars; Oceania, 619 million U.S. dollars; Latin America and the Caribbean, 480 million U.S. dollars; and Europe, 51 million U.S. dollars.

**Table 11.8**

**Regional Distribution of Bilateral ODA <sup>1)</sup> (2021)**

(Million U.S. dollars)

Region	Net disbursements
Total .....	11,625
Asia .....	5,413
ASEAN .....	1,036
Middle East and North Africa .....	1,211
Sub-Saharan Africa .....	1,630
Latin America and the Caribbean .....	480
Oceania .....	619
Europe .....	51
Multiple regions, etc. ....	2,221

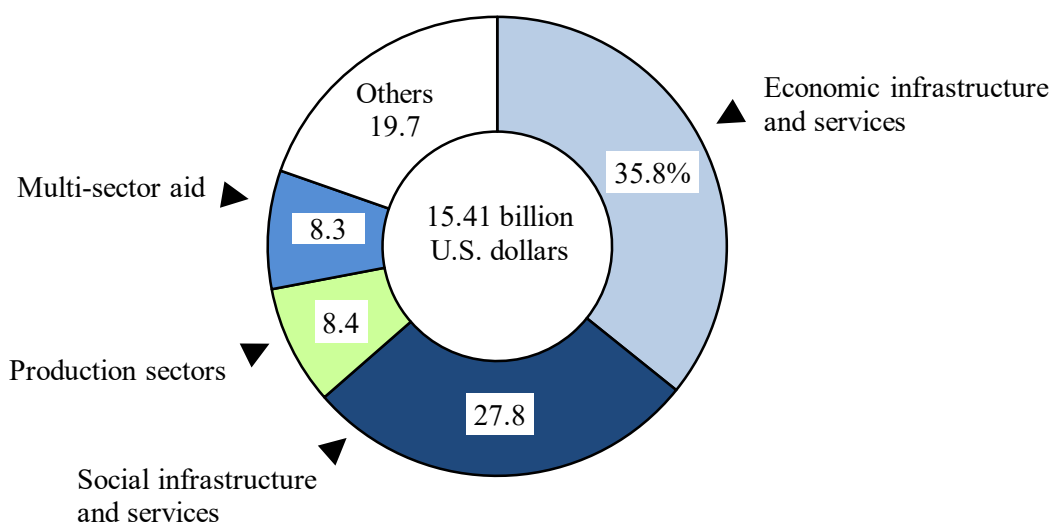
1) Net disbursement at current prices and exchange rate designated by DAC. Including assistance to designated countries in developing regions. The negative figure (-) indicates that repayments of loans, etc. exceeded the disbursed amount.

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Bilateral ODA in 2021 (including assistance to designated countries in developing regions) was broken down by purpose (on a commitments basis) as follows: 35.8 percent for improving "economic infrastructure and services" (including transport, storage and energy), followed in descending order by "social infrastructure and services", at 27.8 percent.

**Figure 11.7**

**Distribution of Bilateral ODA by Sector <sup>1)</sup> (2021)**



1) Commitments basis. Including assistance to designated countries in developing regions.

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In addition to the financial assistance described above, Japan has also been active in the areas of human resources development and technology transfer through its ODA activities, both of which are vital to the growth of developing countries.

**Table 11.9**  
**Number of Persons Involved in**  
**Technical Cooperation by Type**<sup>1)</sup>

Type of cooperation	FY2021
Total .....	26,665
Trainees received .....	21,735
Dispatched	
Experts .....	2,583
Research team .....	1,992
Japan Overseas	
Cooperation Volunteers .....	312
Other volunteers .....	43

1) Numbers of persons newly received/dispatched in the aforementioned fiscal year.

Source: Japan International Cooperation Agency.

## Chapter 12

### Labour



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Cats relaxing on the knees of the factory workers.

In 2022, there were 10,440 thousand employed persons in the manufacturing industry.

## 1. Labour Force

After the population in Japan aged 15 years old and over peaked at 111.18 million people in 2017, it has been broadly flat since 2018. In 2022, this population reached 110.38 million people.

In the 2000s, the labour force (among the population aged 15 years old and over, the total of employed persons and unemployed persons) had been on a downward trend due to the aging of the population, but began to increase in 2013 and continued to increase until 2019. In 2020, there was a decrease due to the effects of COVID-19, but in 2021, the figure increased. In 2022, it was 69.02 million, a decrease of 0.05 million (0.1 percent) from the previous year and the first decrease in 2 years.

The labour force participation rate (the rate of the labour force to the population aged 15 years old and over) was 62.5 percent in 2022 (up 0.4 percentage points from the previous year). Observed by gender, the rate was 71.4 percent for males (up 0.1 percentage points) and 54.2 percent for females (up 0.7 percentage points).

**Table 12.1**  
**Population by Labour Force Status**

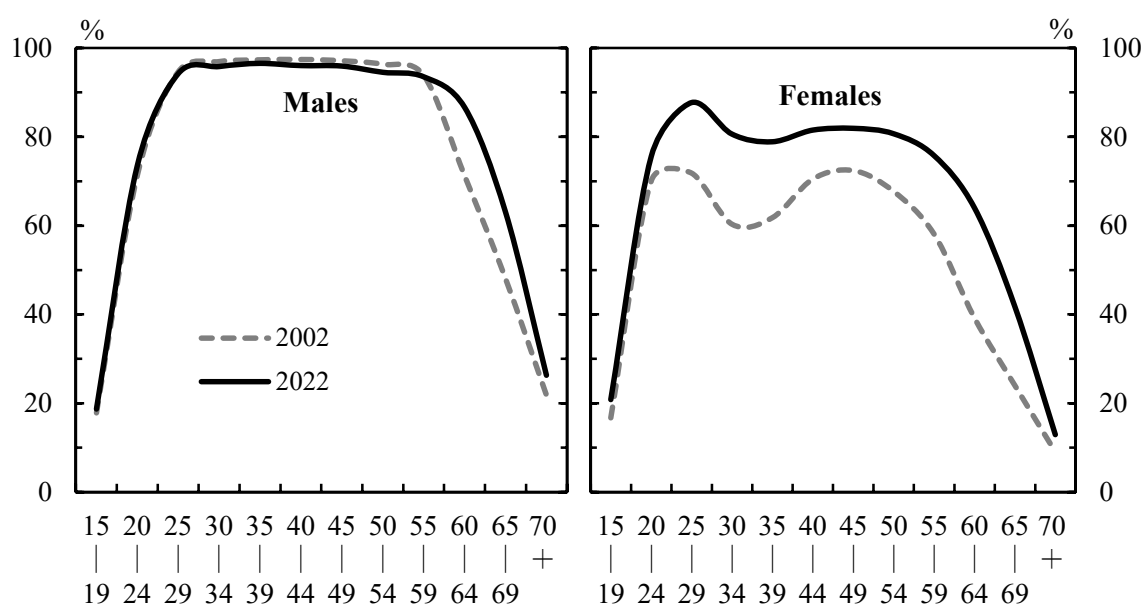
Year	Population aged 15 years old and over	Labour force			Not in labour force	(Thousands)
		Total	Employed	Unemployed		Unemploy- ment rate (%)
<b>Total</b>						
2005	110,080	66,510	63,560	2,940	43,460	4.4
2010	111,110	66,320	62,980	3,340	44,730	5.1
2015	111,100	66,250	64,020	2,220	44,790	3.4
2019	111,120	69,120	67,500	1,620	41,910	2.4
2020	111,080	69,020	67,100	1,920	41,970	2.8
2021	110,870	69,070	67,130	1,950	41,710	2.8
2022	110,380	69,020	67,230	1,790	41,280	2.6
<b>Males</b>						
2005	53,230	39,010	37,230	1,780	14,160	4.6
2010	53,650	38,500	36,430	2,070	15,130	5.4
2015	53,650	37,730	36,390	1,350	15,880	3.6
2019	53,660	38,410	37,440	960	15,200	2.5
2020	53,640	38,400	37,240	1,150	15,200	3.0
2021	53,510	38,270	37,110	1,170	15,200	3.1
2022	53,280	38,050	36,990	1,070	15,180	2.8
<b>Females</b>						
2005	56,850	27,500	26,330	1,160	29,300	4.2
2010	57,460	27,830	26,560	1,280	29,600	4.6
2015	57,460	28,520	27,640	890	28,910	3.1
2019	57,470	30,720	30,050	660	26,700	2.2
2020	57,440	30,630	29,860	760	26,770	2.5
2021	57,350	30,800	30,020	780	26,510	2.5
2022	57,110	30,960	30,240	730	26,100	2.4

Source: Statistics Bureau, MIC.

The female labour force participation rate by age group is in an M-shaped curve, which implies that females leave the labour force when they get married or give birth and then rejoin the labour force after their child has grown. However, the shape of the M-shaped curve has been changing in recent years. A comparison with the data from 20 years ago (2002) shows that, in 2022, the 35-39 age group replaced the 30-34 age group to form the bottom of the M-shaped curve. The participation rate rose by 20.3

percentage points in the 30-34 age group and by 17.1 percentage points in the 35-39 age group, making the bottom of the M-shaped curve flatter and more gradual. While this is thought to be greatly affected by the progression of enhancement of the legal system to balance work and childcare, and the improvement of work environment of companies, there are also effects from the trend of getting married and having children later in life.

**Figure 12.1**  
**Labour Force Participation Rate by Gender and Age Group**



Source: Statistics Bureau, MIC.

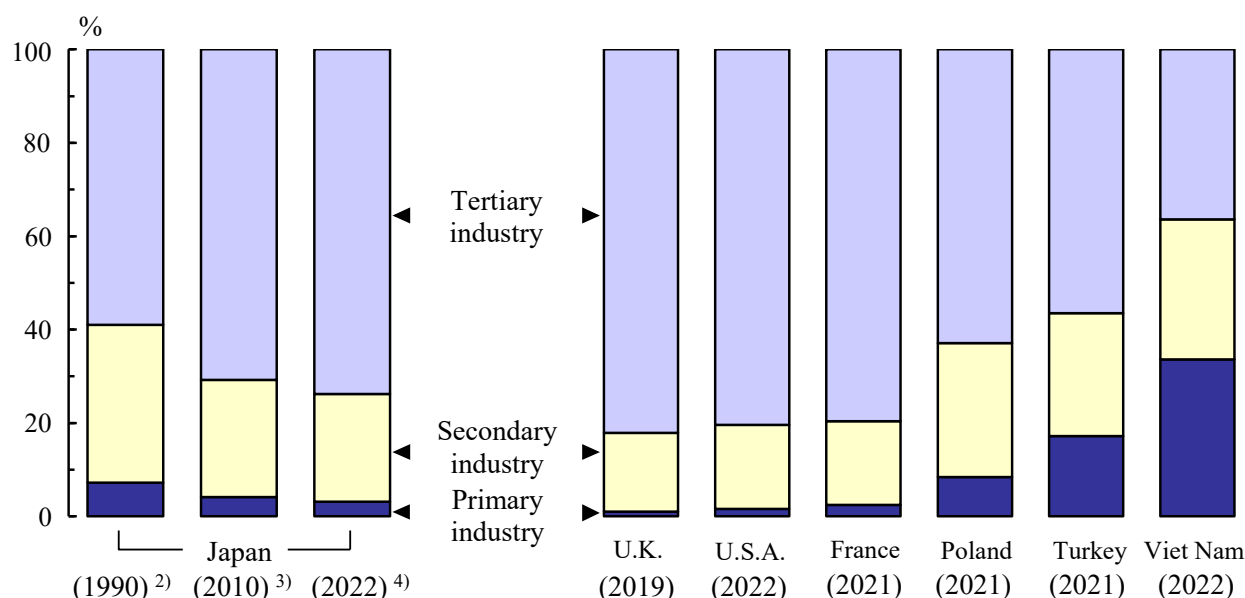
## 2. Employment

The number of employed persons declined between 2008 and 2012, before increasing between 2013 and 2019. Although there was a decrease for the first time in 8 years in 2020, the number began increasing in 2021, and the increase amounted to 0.1 million in 2022, from 67.13 million (60.4 percent of the population aged 15 years old and over) in the previous year to 67.23 million (60.9 percent).

## (1) Employment by Industry

In 2022, the primary industry accounted for 3.1 percent of the total of employed persons; the secondary industry, 23.1 percent; and the tertiary industry, 73.8 percent.

**Figure 12.2**  
Structure of Employment by Country <sup>1)</sup>



1) As to the countries other than Japan, the industrial classification is the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Revision 4 (ISIC Rev.4).

2) The industrial classification is the 10th revision of the Japan Standard Industrial Classification (JSIC).

3) The industrial classification is the 12th revision of the JSIC.

4) The industrial classification is the 13th revision of the JSIC.

Source: Statistics Bureau, MIC; International Labour Organization.

Over the long term, the percentage of persons employed in the primary industry and in the secondary industry have been continually falling, while the percentage of persons employed in the tertiary industry has been continually rising. Within the tertiary industry, the number of those in "medical, health care and welfare" has been increasing.

Depending on the industrial sector, a difference was seen in the employment tendency between males and females. In 2022, the percentage of male employment was highest in "mining and quarrying of stone and gravel", followed by "fisheries" and "construction". The percentage of female employment was highest in "medical, health care and welfare", followed by "accommodations, eating and drinking services" and "living-related and personal services and amusement services".



**Table 12.2**  
**Employment by Industry**

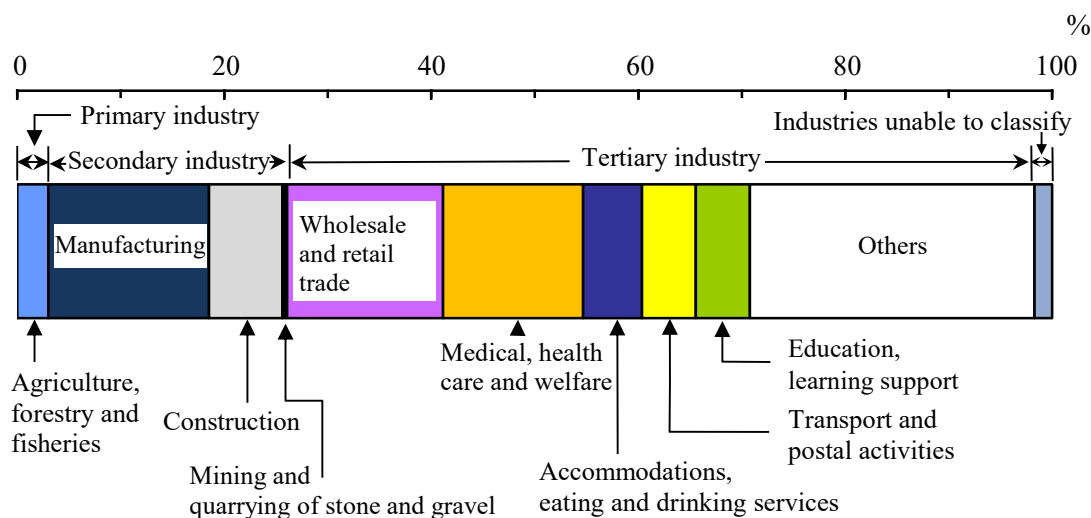
Industries	2019	2020	2021	2022	(Thousands)	
					Percentage <sup>1)</sup>	
					Males	Females
Total <sup>2)</sup> .....	67,500	67,100	67,130	67,230	55.0	45.0
<b>Primary industry</b> .....	<b>2,220</b>	<b>2,130</b>	<b>2,080</b>	<b>2,050</b>	<b>62.7</b>	<b>37.3</b>
Agriculture and forestry .....	2,070	2,000	1,950	1,920	61.5	38.5
Fisheries .....	150	130	130	130	83.3	16.7
<b>Secondary industry</b> .....	<b>15,700</b>	<b>15,470</b>	<b>15,330</b>	<b>15,250</b>	<b>74.0</b>	<b>26.0</b>
Mining and quarrying of stone and gravel .....	20	20	30	20	100.0	0.0
Construction .....	5,000	4,940	4,850	4,790	82.3	17.7
Manufacturing .....	10,680	10,510	10,450	10,440	70.1	29.9
<b>Tertiary industry</b> .....	<b>48,080</b>	<b>48,260</b>	<b>48,660</b>	<b>48,810</b>	<b>48.9</b>	<b>51.1</b>
Electricity, gas, heat supply and water .....	280	320	340	320	81.3	18.8
Information and communications ...	2,300	2,410	2,580	2,720	71.7	28.3
Transport and postal activities .....	3,480	3,490	3,520	3,510	78.1	21.9
Wholesale and retail trade .....	10,640	10,620	10,690	10,440	47.6	52.4
Finance and insurance .....	1,670	1,670	1,680	1,600	45.6	54.4
Real estate and goods rental and leasing .....	1,300	1,400	1,420	1,410	58.9	41.1
Scientific research, professional and technical services .....	2,410	2,450	2,540	2,540	62.2	37.8
Accommodations, eating and drinking services .....	4,210	3,920	3,710	3,810	38.1	61.9
Living-related and personal services and amusement services .....	2,420	2,360	2,270	2,250	39.6	60.4
Education, learning support .....	3,360	3,410	3,480	3,490	41.5	58.5
Medical, health care and welfare ....	8,470	8,670	8,910	9,080	25.0	75.0
Compound services .....	540	510	500	500	58.0	42.0
Services, N.E.C. ....	4,570	4,540	4,520	4,630	59.0	41.0
Government <sup>3)</sup> .....	2,430	2,490	2,500	2,510	67.9	32.1

1) Calculated from figures rounded to thousands.

2) Including "Industries unable to classify". 3) Excluding elsewhere classified.

Source: Statistics Bureau, MIC.

**Figure 12.3**  
**Distribution of Employment by Industry (2022)**



Source: Statistics Bureau, MIC.

## (2) Employment by Occupation

In terms of occupation, the "administrative and managerial workers" has been declining in recent years. The number was 1.24 million in 2022, down 3.9 percent from the previous year's 1.29 million. In contrast, "service workers" such as home-care workers have been on a rising trend over the past few years due to a trend toward a service-oriented economy, the aging population, and improvements on welfare services. There is also a rising trend in the number of "professional and engineering workers". The number was 12.77 million in 2022, which accounted for approximately 19.0 percent of the total employed persons.

**Table 12.3**  
**Employment by Occupation**

Occupation	(Thousands)					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	Percentage	
					Males	Females
Total <sup>1)</sup> .....	67,500	67,100	67,130	67,230	55.0	45.0
Administrative and managerial workers .....	1,290	1,290	1,290	1,240	87.1	12.9
Professional and engineering workers ....	11,790	12,210	12,650	12,770	52.1	47.9
Clerical workers .....	13,260	13,600	13,890	14,010	39.5	60.5
Sales workers .....	8,590	8,520	8,480	8,260	55.0	45.0
Service workers .....	8,520	8,310	8,060	8,170	31.6	68.4
Security workers .....	1,330	1,330	1,300	1,290	93.0	7.0
Agricultural, forestry and fishery workers ...	2,170	2,090	2,030	1,990	64.8	35.2
Manufacturing process workers .....	9,110	8,730	8,650	8,700	70.2	29.8
Transport and machine operation workers ...	2,220	2,180	2,140	2,160	96.3	3.7
Construction and mining workers .....	2,940	2,930	2,840	2,760	97.5	2.5
Carrying, cleaning, packaging, and related workers .....	4,920	4,820	4,880	4,890	55.0	45.0

1) Including figures unclassifiable or not reported.

Source: Statistics Bureau, MIC.

In 2022, the percentages of male and female employed persons by occupation show that males were particularly prominent among "construction and mining workers" (97.5 percent) and "transport and machine operation workers" (96.3 percent). Females were prominent among "service workers" (68.4 percent) and "clerical workers" (60.5 percent).

### (3) Employment by Employment Pattern

With regard to the trends in the number of employed persons by employment pattern, the number of non-regular staff members (such as part-time workers and agency-dispatched workers) has been increasing continuously for 10 consecutive years since 2010. However, in 2020, it decreased for the first time in 11 years, and in 2021 it decreased again for the second consecutive year. In 2022, the number began increasing again, for the first time in 3 years. The number of regular staff members was on a slight declining trend in the 2000s and the early 2010s, but began to rise in 2015 and has continued to rise for 8 years in a row.

In 2022, there were 56.89 million employees (excluding company

executives), 21.01 million of whom, or 36.9 percent, were non-regular staff members. The ratio of non-regular staff members among all male employees was 22.2 percent, while the corresponding ratio for females was 53.4 percent, revealing a large difference between the genders.

With regard to the percentage of non-regular staff members to the total of regular and non-regular staff members by gender and age group, for males, the percentages of young people aged 15 to 24 years old, and the elderly aged 65 years old and over were high. Among females, non-regular staff members accounted for more than 50 percent across all age groups, with the exception of females aged 25 to 34 and 35 to 44 years old.

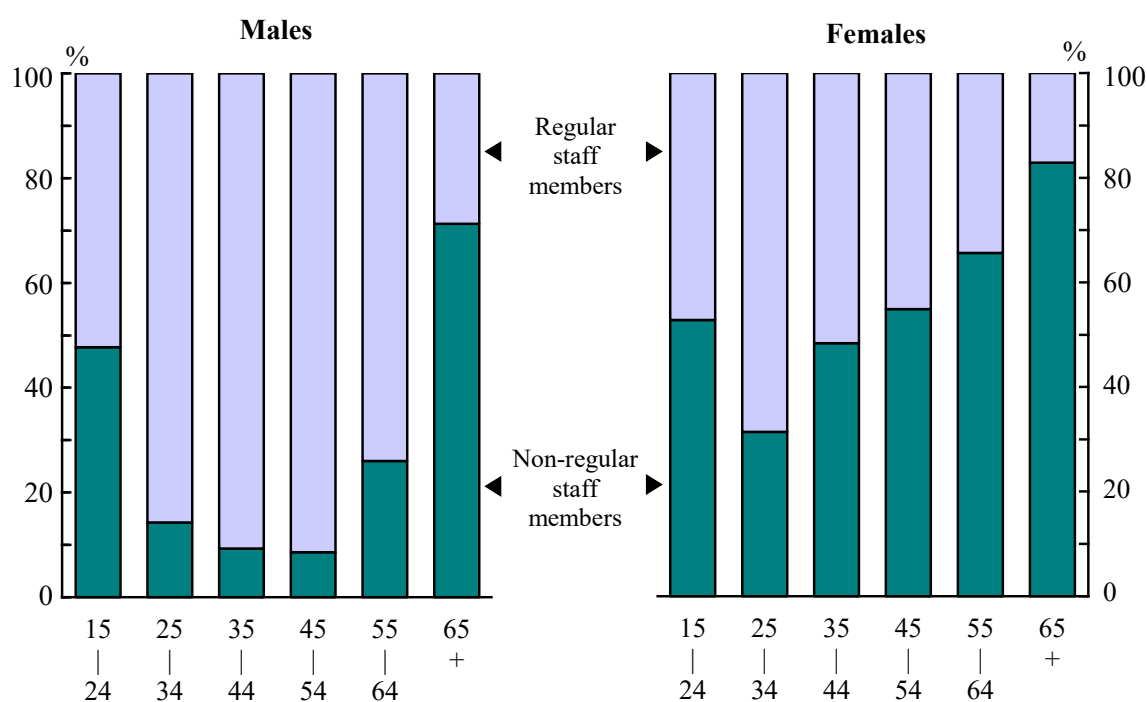
**Table 12.4**  
**Employment by Employment Pattern (2022)**

	Employees <sup>1)</sup>	Regular staff members		Non-regular staff members	
			Percentage		Percentage
Total .....	56,890	35,880	63.1	21,010	36.9
Males .....	30,080	23,390	77.8	6,690	22.2
Females .....	26,810	12,490	46.6	14,320	53.4

1) Excluding company executives.

Source: Statistics Bureau, MIC.

**Figure 12.4**  
**Employment Pattern by Gender and Age Group (2022)**



Source: Statistics Bureau, MIC.

With regard to the main reasons for the current employment patterns of males and females who are non-regular staff members, for males, the reason "For working at convenient times" was the most popular, on average in 2022, with 1.99 million males (31.2 percent) choosing this reason, up 0.12 million people as compared to the previous year. The most popular reason among females was also "For working at convenient times", with 4.80 million females (34.5 percent) choosing this reason, up 0.10 million people.

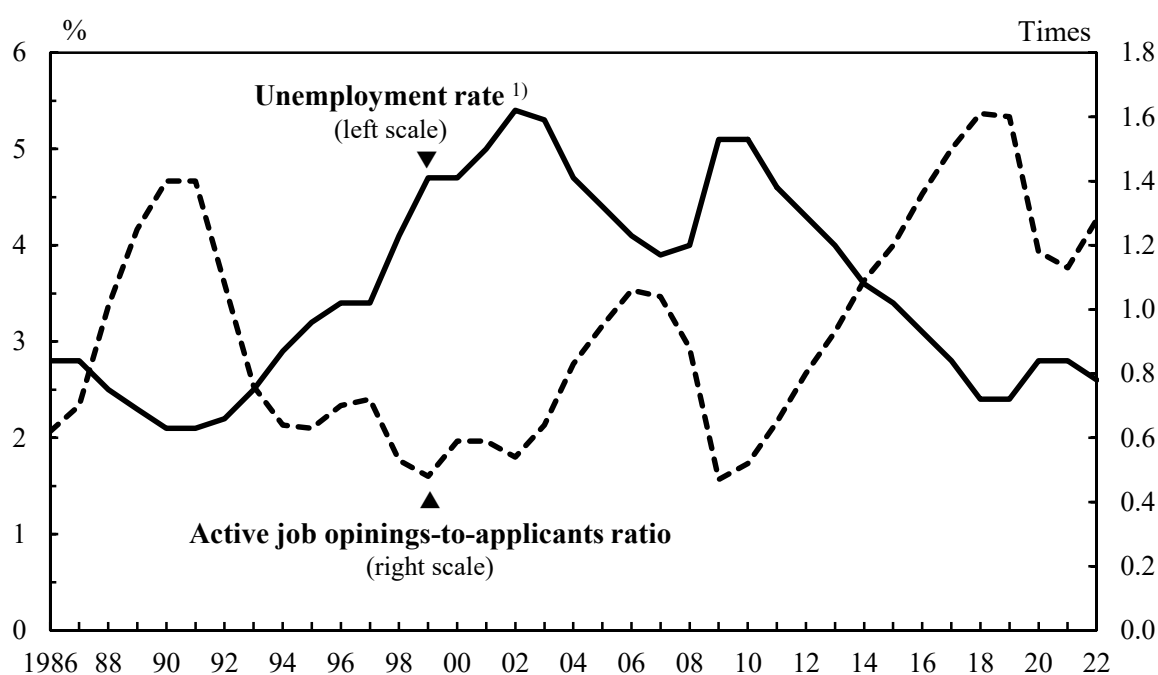
The employment rate of new graduates of high schools, universities, and other educational institutions declined at the time of the bankruptcy of the major American securities firm Lehman Brothers, and after that a generally increasing trend continued against a backdrop of issues like labour shortages and economic expansion. However, due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a decline in the employment rate of new graduates graduating in March 2021. After that, there was an increase in the employment rate of new graduates graduating in March 2023.

### 3. Unemployment

In 2022, the number of unemployed persons stood at 1.79 million people, down 8.2 percent from the previous year, recording the first decrease in 3 years. The unemployment rate was 2.6 percent, down 0.2 percentage points from the previous year, the first increase in 4 years.

The active job openings-to-applicants ratio had been on an upward trend from 2009 to 2019. However, as a result of the impact of COVID-19, the ratio declined in 2020 and 2021, but in 2022 it stood at 1.28 times, up 0.15 points from the previous year.

**Figure 12.5**  
**Unemployment Rate and Active Job Openings-to-Applicants Ratio**



1) The data for 2011 indicates supplementary estimated figure.

Source: Statistics Bureau, MIC; Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

The breakdown by gender shows that the unemployment rate in 2022 was 2.8 percent among males, and 2.4 percent among females. The unemployment rate among males has been higher since 1998.

The unemployment rate was higher in younger age groups than in other age groups, in males and females alike.

**Figure 12.6**

**Unemployment Rates by Gender and Age Group (2022)**

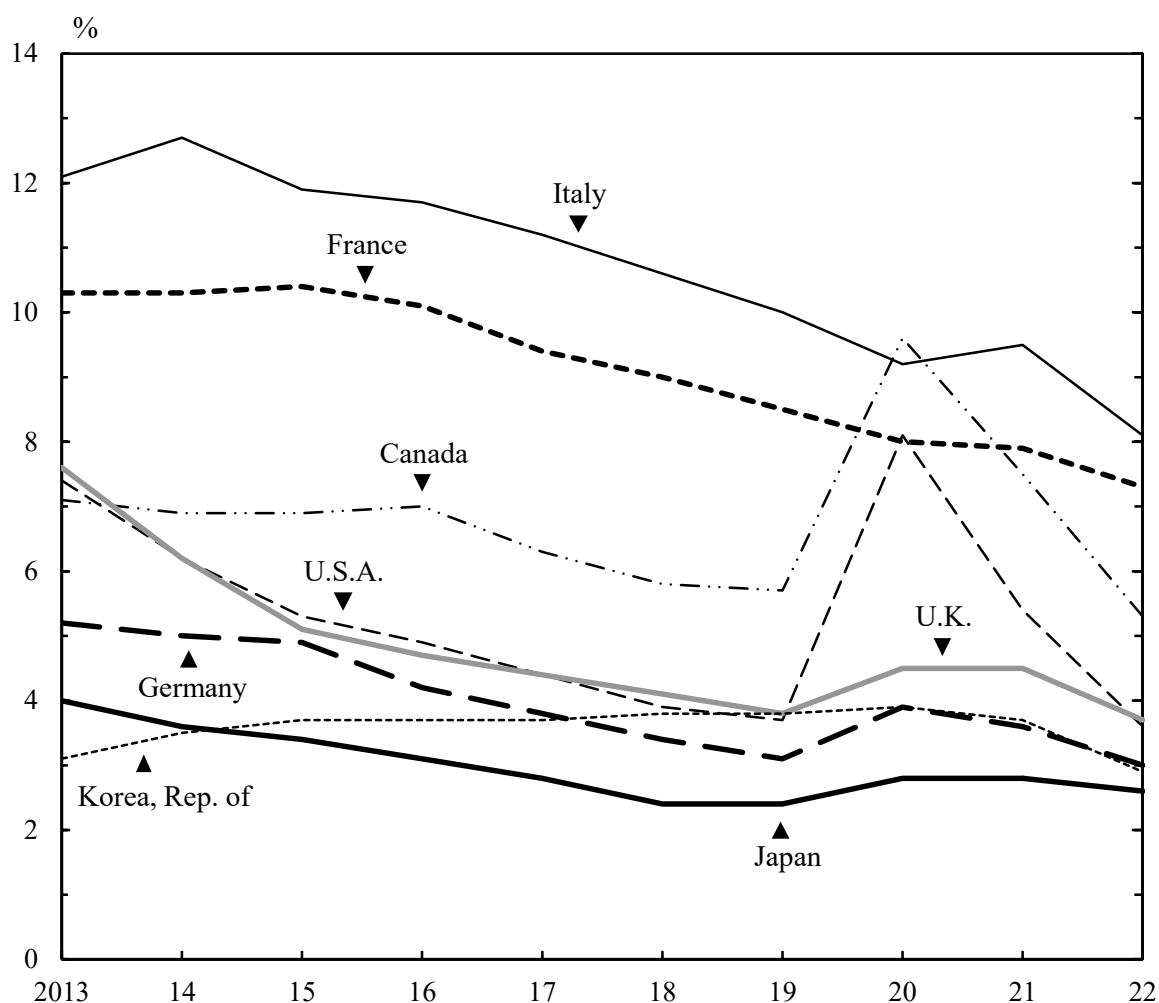


Source: Statistics Bureau, MIC.

With regard to the total number of unemployed persons in 2022, by reason for job-seeking, the major reasons were: (i) involuntary separation due to corporate or business circumstances, or reaching retirement age limit, 0.46 million persons; (ii) voluntary separation for personal or family reasons, 0.72 million persons; (iii) new job seekers due to the necessity to earn income, 0.24 million; and (iv) new job seekers just graduated from school, 0.07 million.

In terms of the duration of unemployment, the largest was unemployed for "1 year or more" (0.64 million persons), followed by "less than 3 months" (0.62 million persons).

**Figure 12.7**  
**Unemployment Rates by Country**



Source: Statistics Bureau, MIC; Cabinet Office.

#### 4. Hours Worked and Cash Earnings

In 2022, the monthly average of total hours worked was 136.1 per regular employee (in establishments with 5 or more regular employees), up 0.1 percent from the previous year, and an annual average was 1,633 hours.

Of the total monthly hours worked per regular employee, 126.0 were scheduled hours worked, representing a decrease of 0.3 percent from the previous year. Non-scheduled hours worked such as overtime work were 10.1 hours, representing an increase of 4.6 percent from the previous year. Monthly days worked per regular employee were 17.6 days in 2022.



In 2022, the monthly average of total cash earnings per regular employee (in establishments with 5 or more regular employees) was 325,817 yen. This total amount consists of 267,461 yen in "contractual cash earnings" (total for "scheduled cash earnings" and "non-scheduled cash earnings" for working overtime, on holidays and late at night, as well as other allowances), and 58,356 yen in "special cash earnings" (which include summer and year-end bonuses, payments to celebrate employees' marriages, etc.).

**Table 12.5**  
**Hours Worked and Cash Earnings** <sup>1)</sup> (Monthly average)

Year	Days worked	Hours Worked			Cash Earnings (1,000 yen)					
		Total	Scheduled	Non-scheduled	Total	Contractual	Scheduled	Non-scheduled	Special <sup>2)</sup>	
2018	18.4	142.2	131.4	10.8	324	265	245	20	59	
2019	18.0	139.1	128.5	10.6	323	264	244	20	58	
2020	17.7	135.1	125.9	9.2	318	262	245	17	56	
2021	17.7	136.1	126.4	9.7	319	264	246	18	56	
2022	17.6	136.1	126.0	10.1	326	267	249	19	58	
Indices (2020 average = 100)										
2018	-	105.2	104.4	117.5	101.6	100.9	99.9	-	-	
2019	-	102.9	102.0	115.1	101.2	100.7	99.8	-	-	
2020	-	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	-	-	
2021	-	100.7	100.4	105.2	100.3	100.5	100.3	-	-	
2022	-	100.8	100.1	110.0	102.3	101.9	101.4	-	-	

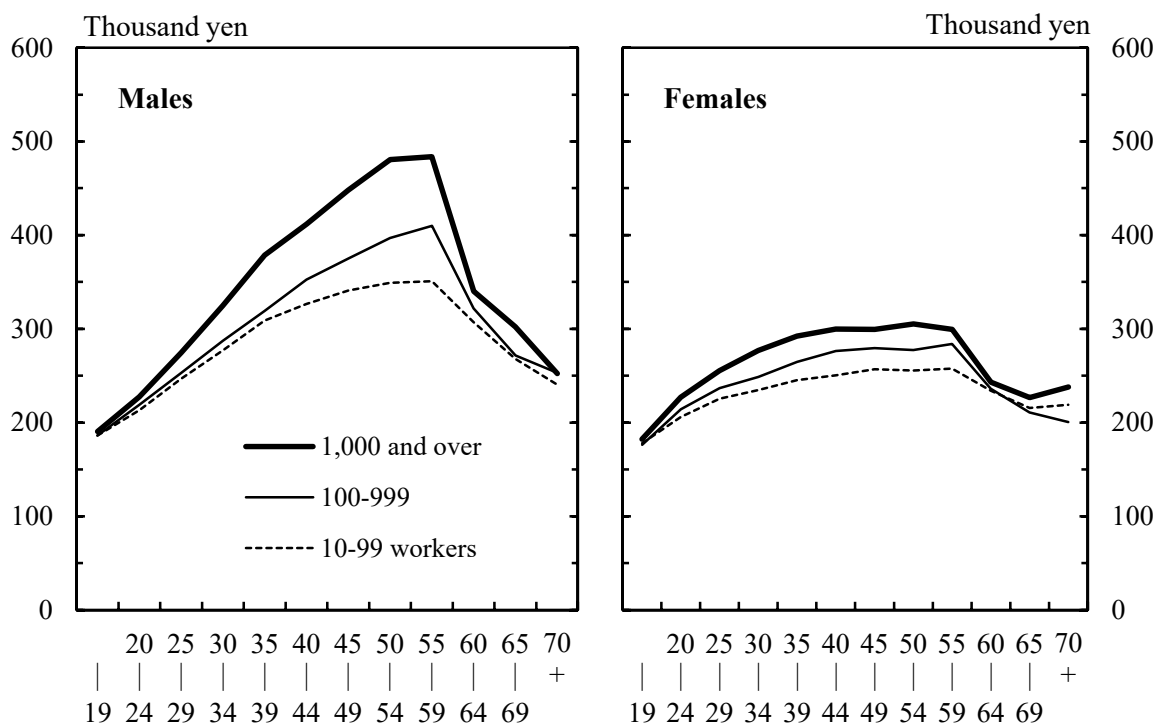
1) Establishments with 5 or more regular employees.

2) Bonuses and other special allowances.

Source: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

The average earnings (scheduled cash earnings) in Japan go up with age until roughly the 40s to mid-50s and then decline. In revising salaries, about 40 percent of all companies emphasize "corporate performance", but in the context of worsening labour shortages, a rising percentage of companies in recent years have been placing the greatest emphasis on "securing and retaining their labour force".

**Figure 12.8**  
**Monthly Scheduled Cash Earnings by Size of Enterprise, Gender, and Age Group (2022)**



Source: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

## Chapter 13

### Family Budgets and Prices



Meguro saury.

Pacific saury is one of the most popular fish in Japan. It is eaten raw, grilled, or boiled.

## 1. Family Budgets

In 2020, there were approximately 56 million private households in Japan, of which about 62 percent are two-or-more-person households and about 38 percent are one-person households. Family budgets vary significantly depending on the employment situation and ages of their members. In this section, family budgets in various types of households are described on the basis of the 2022 results of the "Family Income and Expenditure Survey".

### (1) Income and Expenditure

#### (A) Two-or-more-person Households

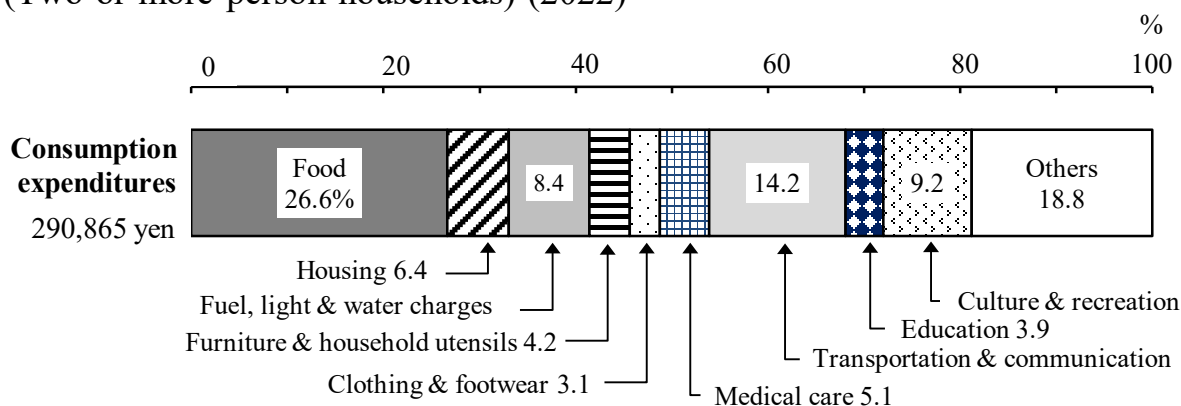
The 2022 average monthly consumption expenditures per two-or-more-person household (the average number of household members being 2.91 and the average age of the household head being 60.1 years) were 290,865 yen. Compared to the previous year, it increased by 4.2 percent in nominal terms and increased by 1.2 percent in real terms. The share of food expenses to total consumption expenditures (Engel's coefficient) was 26.6 percent.

Results for 2022 marked an increase, for the second consecutive year, in the real annual change rate in consumption expenditures.

**Figure 13.1**

#### Average Monthly Consumption Expenditures per Household <sup>1)</sup>

(Two-or-more-person households) (2022)



1) Use Classification.

Source: Statistics Bureau, MIC.

## (a) Workers' Households

A workers' household means a household of which the head is employed by a company, public office, school, factory, store, etc. The average income of workers' households (the average number of household members being 3.24 and the average age of the household head being 50.4 years) was 617,654 yen in 2022. With regard to the breakdown of income, regular income by the household head makes up the majority. The ratio of income by spouses has been increasing little by little, however.

**Table 13.1****Average Monthly Income and Expenditures per Household** (Workers' households <sup>1)</sup>)

(Thousand yen)

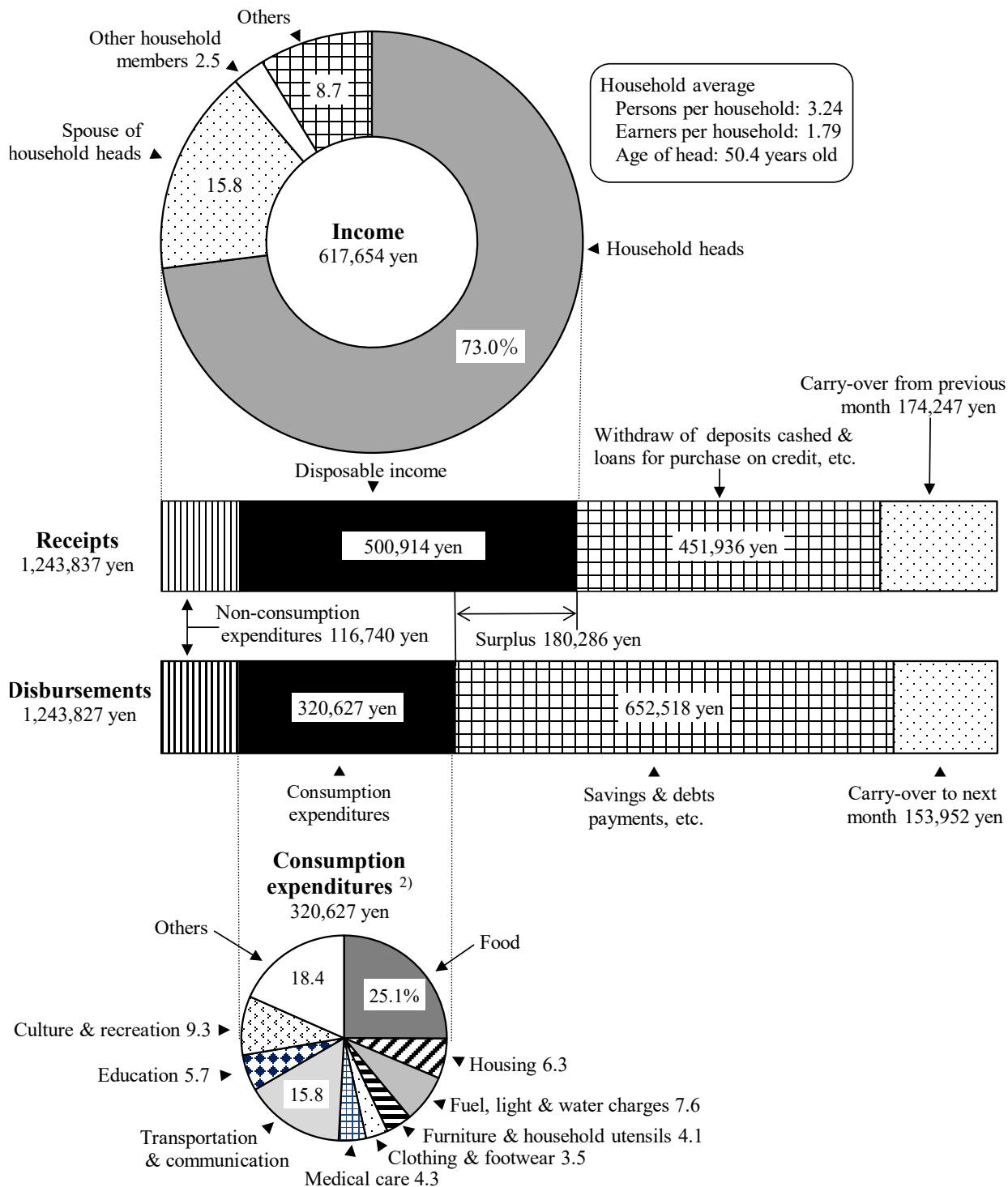
Item	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Income (A) .....	558.7	586.1	609.5	605.3	617.7
Wages and salaries .....	512.6	536.3	536.9	551.0	564.0
Others .....	46.1	49.8	72.7	54.3	53.6
Disposable income (A-C) .....	455.1	476.6	498.6	492.7	500.9
Expenditures .....	418.9	433.4	416.7	422.1	437.4
Consumption expenditures (B) .....	315.3	323.9	305.8	309.5	320.6
Non-consumption expenditures (C) <sup>2)</sup> .....	103.6	109.5	110.9	112.6	116.7
Surplus ((A-C)-B) .....	139.8	152.8	192.8	183.2	180.3
Net increase in deposits and insurance .....	121.1	149.7	175.5	168.7	168.2
Average propensity to consume (%) <sup>3)</sup> .....	69.3	67.9	61.3	62.8	64.0
Ratio of net increase in deposits and insurance (%) <sup>4)</sup> .....	26.6	31.4	35.2	34.2	33.6
Engel's coefficient (%) .....	24.1	23.9	26.0	25.4	25.1
Annual change (%) (real terms)					
Disposable income .....	3.6	4.1	4.6	-0.9	-1.3
Consumption expenditures .....	-0.5	2.1	-5.6	1.5	0.6

1) Two-or-more-person households. 2) Direct taxes, social insurance contributions, etc. 3) Ratio of consumption expenditures to disposable income. 4) Ratio of net increase in deposits and insurance to disposable income.

Source: Statistics Bureau, MIC.

Disposable income, calculated as income minus non-consumption expenditures such as taxes and social insurance contributions, was 500,914 yen. Of this disposable income, 320,627 yen was used for living expenses (consumption expenditures), such as food and housing expenses, while the remainder (surplus), totaling 180,286 yen, was applied to savings, life insurance premiums and repaying debts such as housing loans.

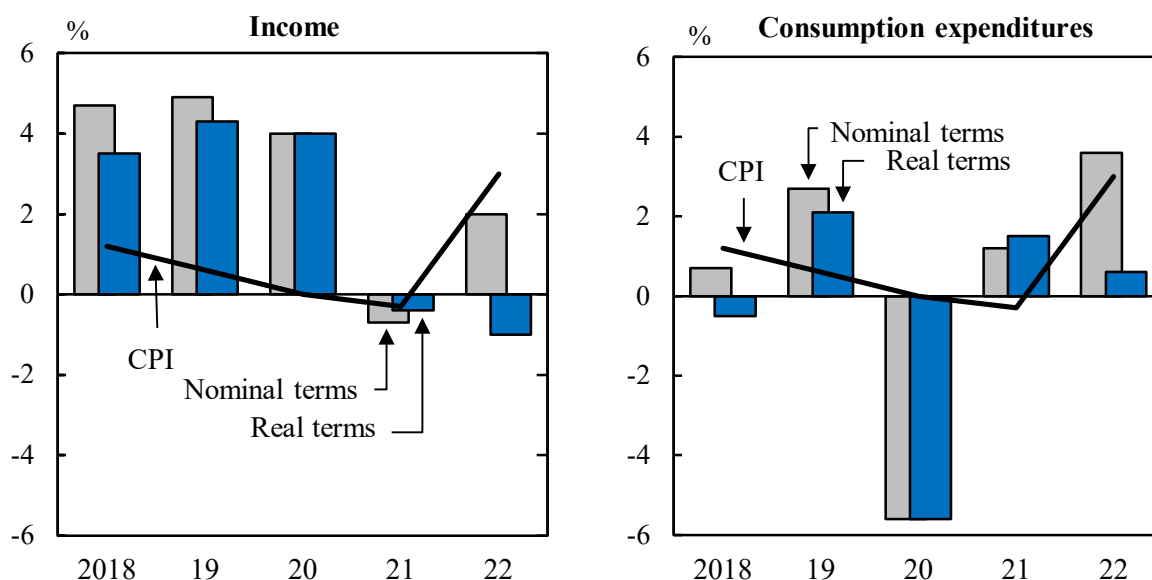
**Figure 13.2**  
**Balance of Income and Expenditures**  
 (Monthly average per household, workers' households <sup>1)</sup>) (2022)



1) Two-or-more-person households. 2) Use Classification.  
 Source: Statistics Bureau, MIC.

A comparison of consumption expenditures by category showed that spending on "culture and recreation" and "transportation and communication", etc. increased from the previous year in real terms, while spending on "education" and "food", etc. decreased in real terms.

**Figure 13.3**  
**Year-on-Year Change in Average Monthly Income and Consumption Expenditures per Household (Workers' households <sup>1)</sup>)**

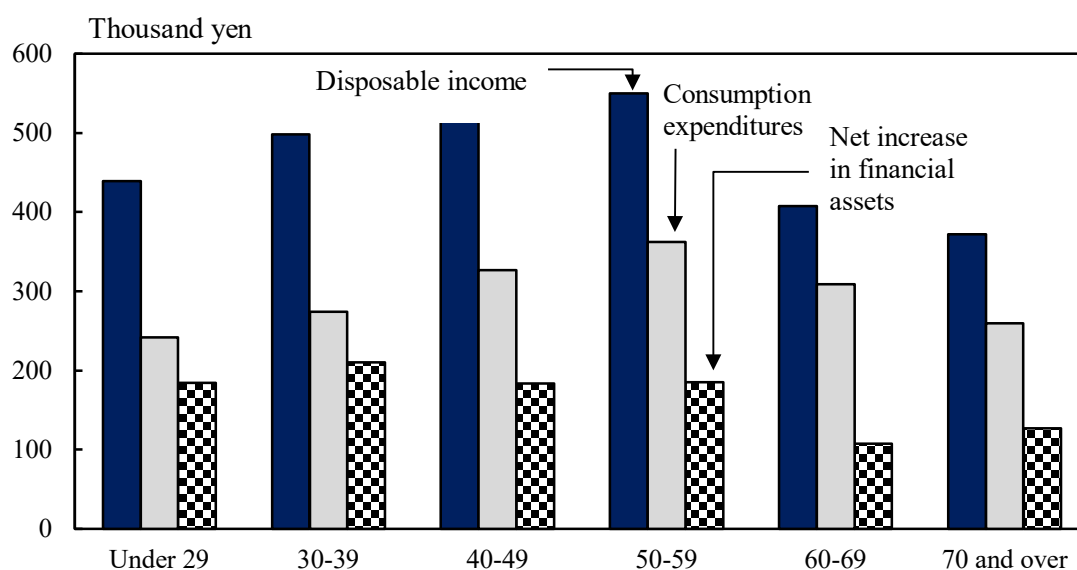


1) Two-or-more-person households.  
 Source: Statistics Bureau, MIC.

Family budgets differ among households according to their stages in life. Observed by age group of the household head, the 2022 average monthly disposable income of workers' households was the highest in households in the 50s group (550,095 yen), followed by those in the 40s group (534,558 yen) and the 30s group (498,393 yen).

The 2022 average propensity to consume (the ratio of consumption expenditures to disposable income) was the lowest in households in the under 29 group and the 30s group (55.0 percent). The figure was 61.1 percent in the 40s group, 65.9 percent in the 50s group, 75.8 percent in the 60s group, and 69.9 percent in the 70 and over group. The percentage tends to be higher as the age goes up, except for the 70 and over group. Meanwhile, a net increase in financial assets (an amount added to savings) was the highest in households in the 30s group, followed by those in the 50s group.

**Figure 13.4**  
**Average Monthly Family Income and Consumption Expenditures**  
**per Household by Age Group of Household Head**  
 (Workers' households <sup>1)</sup> (2022)



1) Two-or-more-person households.  
 Source: Statistics Bureau, MIC.

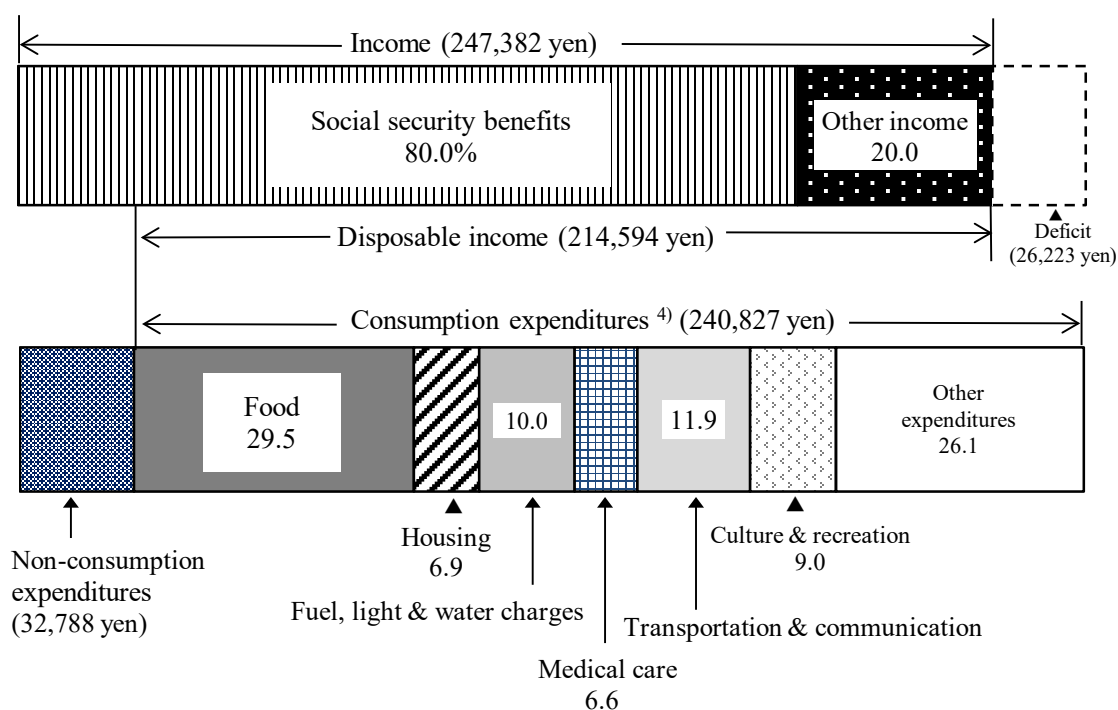
### (b) Non-working Elderly Households

According to an analysis of the average monthly income and expenditures of non-working elderly households (two-or-more-person households where the age of the household head is 60 and over), the average income was 247,382 yen in 2022. Social security benefits amounted to 198,017 yen, thus accounting for 80.0 percent of income.

Disposable income averaged 214,594 yen, while consumption expenditures averaged 240,827 yen. The average propensity to consume in non-working elderly households was 112.2 percent, which means consumption expenditures exceeded disposable income. The deficit of disposable income to consumption expenditures (26,233 yen) increased from that of the previous year (16,903 yen). This deficit was financed by withdrawing financial assets such as deposits, etc.



**Figure 13.5**  
**Average Monthly Income and Expenditures per Household** <sup>1) 2)</sup>  
 (Non-working elderly households <sup>3)</sup>) (2022)



- 1) The percentage of "Social security benefits" and "Other income" in the graph is in proportion to the income. 2) The percentage from "Food" to "Other expenditures" in the graph is in proportion to the consumption expenditures. 3) Two-or-more-person households.  
 4) Use Classification.

Source: Statistics Bureau, MIC.

## (B) One-person Households

The average monthly consumption expenditures of one-person households in 2022 were 161,753 yen, up 4.3 percent in nominal terms and up 1.3 percent in real terms from the previous year. By age group, the average monthly consumption expenditures were 158,198 yen for the under 34 group, 186,503 yen for the 35-59 group, and 150,409 yen for the 60 and over group. Spending on categories such as "fuel, light and water charges", "medical care" and "furniture and household utensils" tended to be larger in older age groups. On the other hand, expenditures on "housing", "clothing and footwear" and "culture and recreation" decreased in each successively older age groups.

**Table 13.2**  
**Average Monthly Consumption Expenditures per Household by Age Group**  
 (One-person households) (2022)

Item	(Yen)							
	Average		Under 34		35-59		60 and over	
	Actual figures	ratio (%)	Actual figures	ratio (%)	Actual figures	ratio (%)	Actual figures	ratio (%)
Consumption expenditures <sup>1)</sup> ...	161,753	100.0	158,198	100.0	186,503	100.0	150,409	100.0
Food .....	39,069	24.2	34,385	21.7	42,899	23.0	38,913	25.9
Housing .....	23,300	14.4	36,676	23.2	30,966	16.6	14,196	9.4
Fuel, light and water charges .....	13,098	8.1	9,272	5.9	12,352	6.6	14,959	9.9
Furniture and household utensils .....	5,487	3.4	3,577	2.3	5,359	2.9	6,291	4.2
Clothing and footwear .....	5,047	3.1	7,643	4.8	5,722	3.1	3,697	2.5
Medical care .....	7,384	4.6	5,348	3.4	7,150	3.8	8,285	5.5
Transportation and communication .....	19,303	11.9	20,084	12.7	24,621	13.2	16,269	10.8
Education .....	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Culture and recreation .....	17,993	11.1	21,908	13.8	19,790	10.6	15,558	10.3
Others .....	31,071	19.2	19,306	12.2	37,644	20.2	32,240	21.4
Annual change (%) (real terms)								
Consumption expenditures .....	1.3		...		...		...	

1) Use Classification.

Source: Statistics Bureau, MIC.

## (2) Savings and Debts

Two-or-more-person households in 2022 showed that the average amount of savings per workers' household was 15.08 million yen, resulting in a ratio to yearly income (7.68 million yen) of 196.4 percent. The median value of household savings (the current household savings of the household exactly in the middle when all households, excluding those with 0 savings, are listed in order from lowest to highest amount of savings) was 9.28 million yen. On the other hand, the average amount of debts per household was 8.79 million yen, which was 114.5 percent relative to yearly income. The median value of households holding debts (the current household debts of the household exactly in the middle when all households, excluding those with 0 debts, are listed in order from lowest to highest amount of debts) was 14.90 million yen. The portion of household debts accounted for by "housing and/or land" averaged 8.13 million yen. A total of 43.3 percent of workers' households held "debts for housing and/or land".

**Table 13.3****Average Amount of Savings and Debts (Workers' households <sup>1)</sup>)**

(Thousand yen)

Year	Yearly income	Savings	Ratio of savings to yearly income (%)	Debts	Housing and/or land	Ratio of debts to yearly income (%)	Ratio of households holding debts (%)
2018	7,290	13,200	181.1	8,210	7,610	112.6	54.6
2019	7,360	13,760	187.0	8,550	7,980	116.2	55.3
2020	7,400	13,780	186.2	8,510	7,910	115.0	54.3
2021	7,490	14,540	194.1	8,560	7,910	114.3	53.4
2022	7,680	15,080	196.4	8,790	8,130	114.5	53.2

1) Two-or-more-person households.

Source: Statistics Bureau, MIC.

By age group of household head, the average amount of savings was found to be the highest in the 70s and over group, while debts were the highest in the 30s group.

**Table 13.4****Amount of Savings and Debts by Age Group of Household Head**(Workers' households <sup>1)</sup>) (2022)

(Million yen)

Item	Average	Under 29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70 and over
Yearly income .....	7.68	5.75	6.96	7.93	8.74	6.80	6.05
Savings .....	15.08	4.38	8.64	11.56	18.00	21.80	21.91
Financial institutions .....	14.56	4.14	8.33	11.09	17.06	21.57	21.89
Demand deposits .....	5.56	2.58	4.38	5.10	5.69	7.26	6.91
Time deposits .....	3.84	0.32	1.47	2.31	4.58	6.96	7.68
Life insurance and non-life insurance .....	3.21	0.35	1.39	2.50	4.34	4.63	2.90
Securities .....	1.94	0.88	1.09	1.18	2.45	2.72	4.40
Non-financial institutions .....	0.52	0.24	0.31	0.46	0.94	0.24	0.03
Debts .....	8.79	7.41	15.75	12.46	6.08	2.49	1.73
Housing and/or land .....	8.13	6.90	14.96	11.75	5.41	2.00	1.21
Other than housing and/or land ....	0.45	0.35	0.58	0.51	0.42	0.31	0.43
Monthly and yearly installments ...	0.21	0.16	0.21	0.20	0.25	0.17	0.90

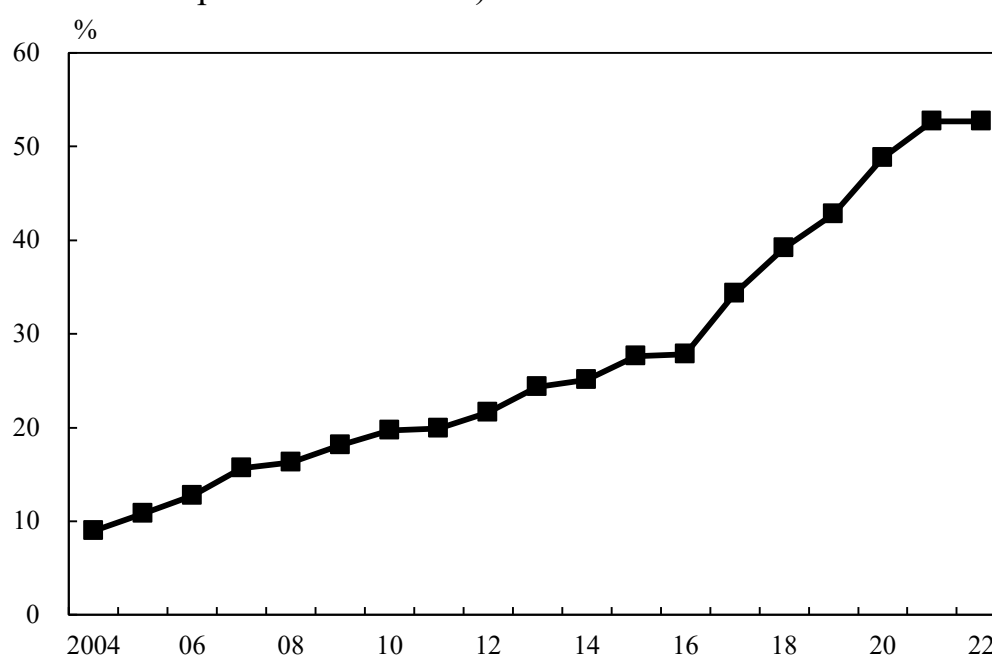
1) Two-or-more-person households.

Source: Statistics Bureau, MIC.

### (3) Internet Shopping by Households

Due to popularization of computers, smartphones, etc., the use of Internet shopping has been increasing. According to the "Survey of Household Economy", the percentage of two-or-more-person households that utilize Internet shopping has continued to increase since 2002, reaching 52.7 percent in 2022. Total monthly expenditures used on Internet shopping amounted to an average of 20,810 yen per household.

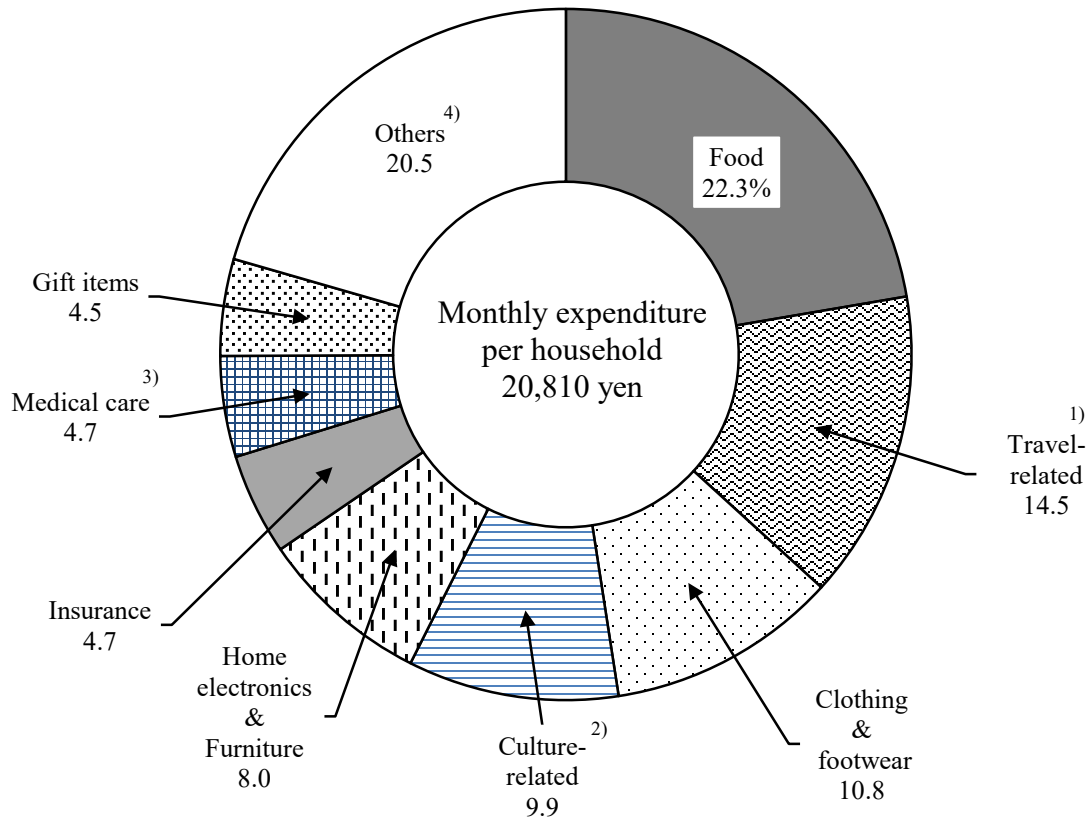
**Figure 13.6**  
**Proportion of Households Ordered over the Internet**  
 (Two-or-more-person households)



Source: Statistics Bureau, MIC.

Looking at the breakdown of total expenditures per two-or-more-person households spent on Internet shopping, "food" was the highest at 22.3 percent, followed by "travel-related" at 14.5 percent, "clothing and footwear" at 10.8 percent, "culture-related" (such as books and music software) at 9.9 percent, and "home electronics and furniture" at 8.0 percent, etc.

**Figure 13.7**  
**Ratio of Expenditure on Goods and Services Ordered over the Internet**  
 (Two-or-more-person households) (2022)



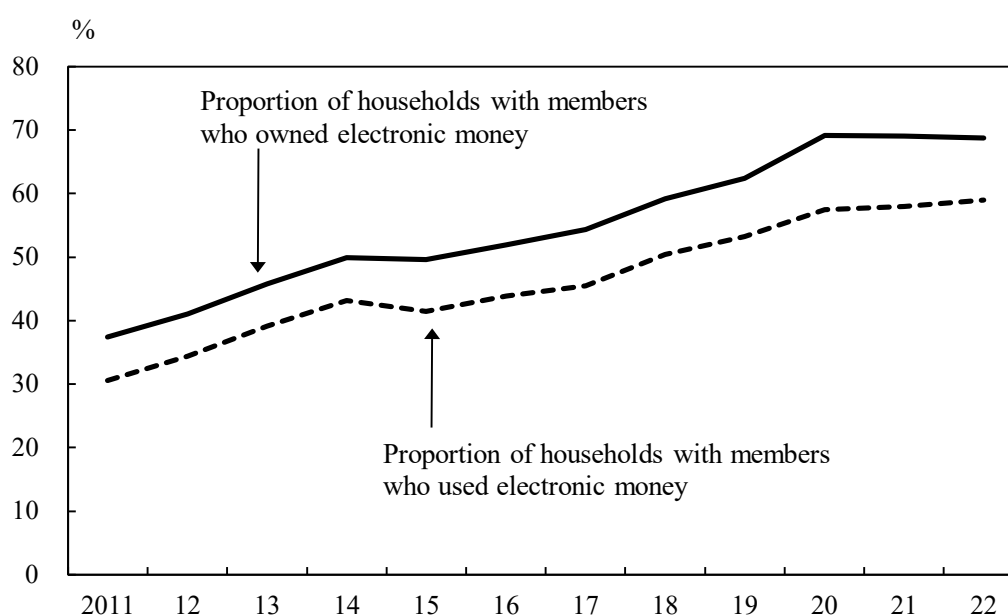
1) Total of accommodation services, fares and package tours. 2) Total of books and other reading materials, software (music, video, personal computer, TV game), digital books, download music, video, applications and tickets. 3) Total of medicines and health foods. 4) Total of cosmetics, private transportation, other goods and services.

Source: Statistics Bureau, MIC.

#### (4) Electronic Money

Use of electronic money has been increasing, as a means for settling accounts that can be easily used at transportation facilities, convenience stores, supermarkets, etc. Based on two-or-more-person households in the "Survey of Household Economy", the percentage of households with members who owned electronic money and the percentage of households with members who used electronic money have been on an increasing trend starting in 2008. In 2022, the percentage of households with members who owned electronic money was 68.8 percent, and the percentage of households with members who used electronic money was 59.0 percent.

**Figure 13.8**  
**Trends in Ownership and Utilization of Electronic Money**  
 (Two-or-more-person households)



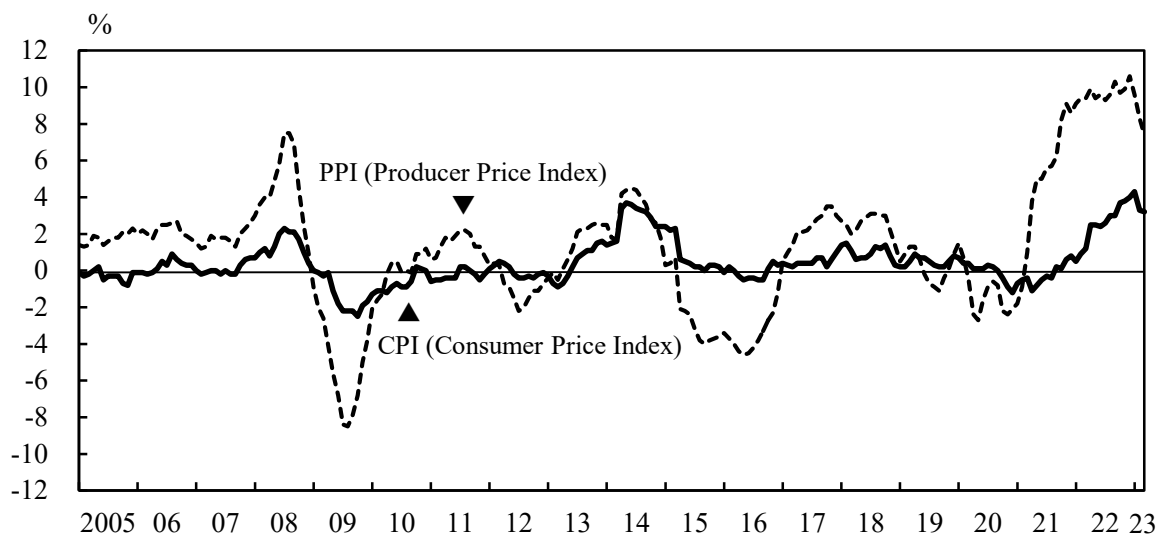
Source: Statistics Bureau, MIC.

## 2. Prices

Producer prices fell in 2009 due to the bankruptcy of the major American securities firm Lehman Brothers. From 2010 to 2013, prices fluctuated in the range of plus or minus 3 percent, then rose in 2014 due to depreciation of the yen, and fell from 2015 to 2016 due to the decline in international commodity prices and a stronger yen. From 2018 to 2019, there was a drop in global resource prices due to a worldwide economic slowdown brought on by trade friction between the U.S.A. and China, and thus the size of the increase in producer prices contracted. In 2020, producer prices declined with global resource prices due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, global resource prices increased due to worldwide economic recovery, sparking an increase in producer prices. There was a further increase in 2022 due to a weaker yen, and a rise in global crude oil and natural gas prices brought on by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Consumer prices began a rising trend in 2008 due to sharp increases in imported raw material prices, but began to fall in 2009 as a result of falling imported raw material prices due to the bankruptcy of the major American securities firm Lehman Brothers, and the trend was generally downwards until 2013. Consumer prices rose due to the increase in the consumption tax to 8 percent in April 2014, but the stimulative effects of the tax increase subsided by the first half of 2015. From the fourth quarter of 2016, the upward trend continued, due to global resource prices (such as crude oil) and exchange rates, but from 2018, trade friction between the U.S.A. and China had a major impact. The consumption tax rate was raised to 10 percent in October 2019, but the increase in consumer prices was less than 1 percent, due to factors such as elimination of fees for preschool education and daycare, lower resource prices, and lower communications charges. From 2020 to 2021, consumer behavior was constrained by the COVID-19 pandemic and domestic demand fell, resulting in a declining trend in consumer prices, but in 2022 these prices rose due to higher energy and food prices.

**Figure 13.9**  
**Price Trends (Percent change from previous year)**



Source: Statistics Bureau, MIC; Bank of Japan.

### (1) Consumer Price Index (CPI)

The all items index of consumer prices (with base year 2020 = 100) was 102.3 in 2022, up 2.5 percent from the previous year.

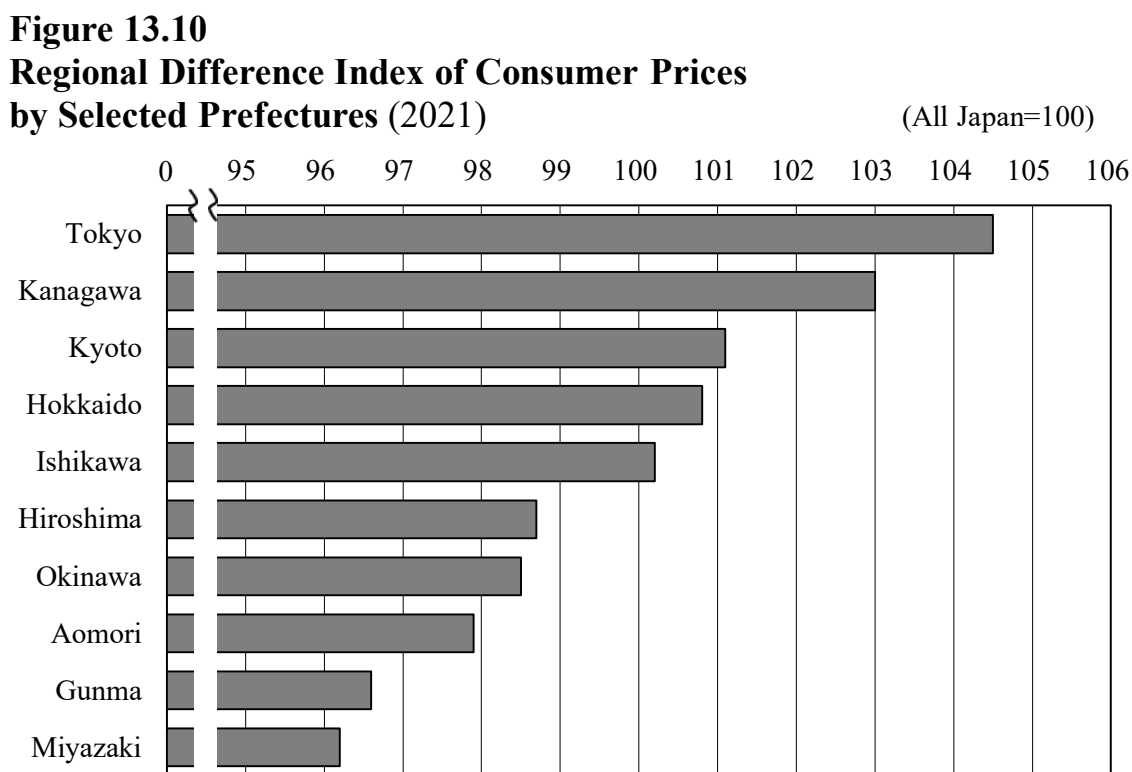
**Table 13.5**  
**CPI for Major Categories of Goods and Services**

Item	Weight	(CY2020=100)				
		2005	2010	2015	2021	2022
All items .....	10000	95.2	94.8	98.2	99.8	102.3
All items, less imputed rent .....	8420	93.8	93.5	97.8	99.7	102.7
Food .....	2626	85.9	88.7	94.6	100.0	104.5
Housing .....	2149	101.1	100.5	99.6	100.6	101.3
Fuel, light and water charges .....	693	82.2	87.1	101.2	101.3	116.3
Furniture and household utensils .....	387	115.2	103.2	97.6	101.7	105.5
Clothing and footwear .....	353	92.4	92.3	96.4	100.4	102.0
Medical care .....	477	97.1	96.0	95.8	99.6	99.3
Transportation and communication ...	1493	99.3	97.7	101.2	95.0	93.5
Education .....	304	112.7	104.9	107.3	100.0	100.9
Culture and recreation .....	911	105.8	98.1	97.0	101.6	102.7
Miscellaneous .....	607	89.1	91.8	100.7	101.1	102.2
Goods .....	5046	92.5	92.4	96.8	100.8	106.3
Services .....	4954	98.0	97.3	99.6	98.7	98.2

Source: Statistics Bureau, MIC.



According to the general index (all items, less imputed rent) in the regional difference index of consumer prices, which compares the difference in consumer price levels by prefecture, Tokyo had the highest score in 2021, with a figure of 104.5 against the national average set at 100, followed by Kanagawa, with 103.0. On the other hand, Miyazaki registered the lowest score, with 96.2, followed by Gunma with 96.6.



Source: Statistics Bureau, MIC.

## (2) Corporate Goods and Services Producer Price Indices

The Corporate Goods Price Index measures price changes of goods traded in the corporate sector. It is comprised of the Producer Price Index (price index of domestically-produced and domestically-traded goods in the corporate sector), the Export Price Index, and the Import Price Index.

In 2022, the Producer Price Index (CY2020 as the base year = 100) was 114.7, up 9.7 percent from the previous year.

In 2022, the Export Price Index increased to 110.6 on a contract currency basis (up 4.5 percent from the previous year), and to 125.8 on a yen basis (up 16.2 percent from the previous year). Furthermore, the Import Price

Index rose to 143.9 on a contract currency basis (up 21.2 percent from the previous year) and to 169.0 on a yen basis (up 39.0 percent from the previous year).

The Services Producer Price Index measures price movements of services traded between companies. In 2022, the Services Producer Price Index (CY2015 as the base year = 100) was 106.9, up 1.7 percent from the previous year.

**Table 13.6**  
**Corporate Goods and Services Producer Price Indices**

Item	Weight	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Corporate Goods Price Index (CY2020=100)</b>						
Producer Price Index .....	1000.0	101.0	101.2	100.0	104.6	114.7
Manufacturing industry products .....	892.3	100.7	100.8	100.0	104.7	113.6
Export Price Index (yen basis) .....	1000.0	107.4	103.3	100.0	108.3	125.8
Import Price Index (yen basis) .....	1000.0	117.8	111.5	100.0	121.6	169.0
<b>Services Producer Price Index (CY2015=100)</b>						
All items .....	1000.0	102.2	103.3	104.2	105.1	106.9
Information and communications .....	228.3	100.9	101.3	102.5	102.7	102.5
Transportation and postal activities .....	158.0	102.7	104.4	105.6	107.0	110.9
Real estate services .....	94.5	103.6	104.9	105.6	107.3	108.9
Leasing and rental .....	79.2	99.2	99.5	100.4	100.2	103.8

Source: Bank of Japan.

## Chapter 14

### Environment and Life



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A village in Okuaizu, Fukushima Prefecture.

In 2023, the Statistics Bureau of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications will conduct the "Housing and Land Survey". This survey is designed to investigate the actual status of dwellings, land ownership, and household dwelling conditions in Japan, and to clarify the current situation and trends by nation and region. The survey has been conducted every five years since 1948, and the 2023 survey will be the 16th.

## 1. Environmental Issues

The list of environmental issues is wide-ranging, from waste management to global warming. Japan is, while pursuing regional development at home, taking the initiative in efforts to prevent global warming and conserve the natural environment to help achieve sustainable growth of the entire world.

In fiscal 2021, Japan's total emission of greenhouse gases, which are a major cause of global warming, amounted to 1.2 billion tons (calculated after their conversion into carbon dioxide), representing an increase of 2.0 percent from the previous fiscal year. Carbon dioxide accounted for 90.9 percent of these greenhouse gases, with an emission volume of 1.1 billion tons. A breakdown of carbon dioxide emissions by sector revealed that emissions from the industrial sector accounted for 35.1 percent of the total, followed in order by emissions from the the commercial industry sector (office buildings, etc.), the transport sector, the residential sector, and the energy transformation sector (electric power plants, etc.).

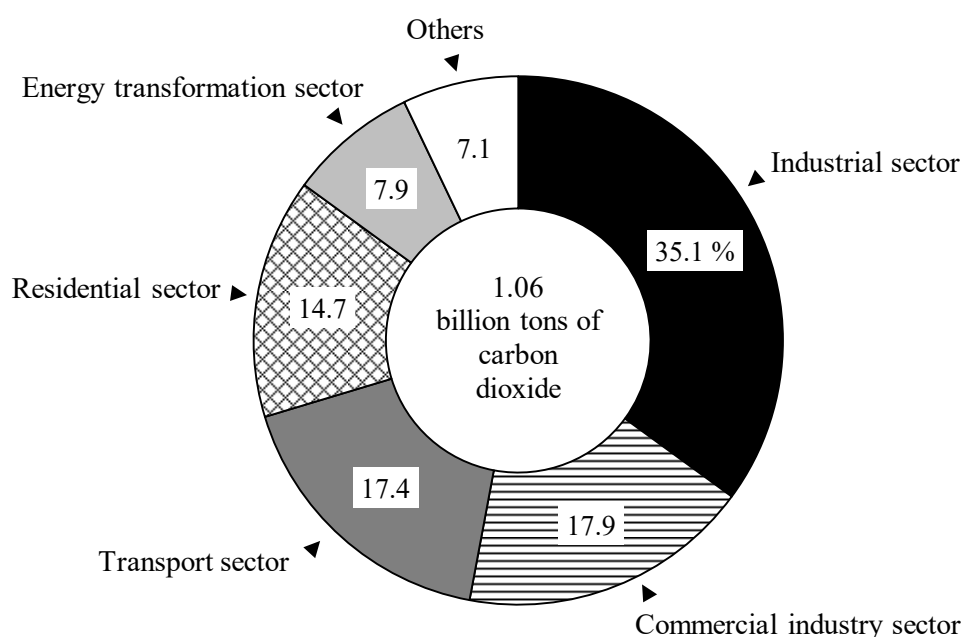
**Table 14.1**  
**Breakdown of Carbon Dioxide Emissions**<sup>1) 2)</sup>

Category	(Million tons)					
	FY1990	FY2005	FY2010	FY2015	FY2020	FY2021
Total .....	1,163	1,293	1,217	1,225	1,042	1,064
Industrial sector .....	503	467	431	430	354	373
Transport sector .....	208	244	229	217	183	185
Commercial industry sector .....	131	220	200	218	184	190
Residential sector .....	129	171	178	187	167	156
Energy transformation sector ...	96	98	99	93	79	84
Industrial processes						
and product use .....	65	56	47	47	42	43
Waste (incineration, etc.) .....	24	32	29	30	30	30
Others .....	7	5	4	3	3	3

1) Volume of carbon dioxide after reallocation to the end-use sector. 2) Due to the revision of the Electricity Business Act (liberalization of electricity retail sales), the emission intensity of electricity used in each sector has changed since FY2016.

Source: Ministry of the Environment.

**Figure 14.1**  
**Sources of Carbon Dioxide Emissions** <sup>1)</sup> (FY2021)



1) Volume of carbon dioxide after reallocation to the end-use sector.  
 Source: Ministry of the Environment.

The state of waste management in Japan had remained serious due to the shrinking remaining capacity of final disposal sites and increased illegal dumping. This led to the Basic Act on Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society (brought into force in January 2001), which defines basic principles for the creation of a sound material-cycle society. This Act has established a legal framework to address issues such as waste disposal and recycling of automobile and electrical appliance. Furthermore, in Japan, the "3Rs" (reduce, reuse and recycle) in waste management including R&D on waste recycling technology and appropriate management of materials of hazards have been promoted, but recently, socio-economic systems have been developed to especially implement the "2Rs" (reduce and reuse) from among the "3Rs".

Of various types of waste generated as a result of business activities, 20 of them, including sludge, waste oil, soot and dust, and imported waste, are designated as "industrial waste". The fiscal 2020 nationwide industrial waste generation totaled 374 million tons. Sludge, animal excreta, and debris, which account for approximately 80 percent of the total industrial waste, are now increasingly recycled into construction materials, fertilizers, and other materials. Thanks to this development, the volume of final disposal (to be put into landfills) fell from 89 million tons in fiscal 1990 to 9 million tons in fiscal 2020.

Meanwhile, a total of 42 million tons of "nonindustrial waste" (household waste and also shop, office, and restaurant waste) was generated in fiscal 2020. This translates to 901 grams per person per day. The total volume of processed nonindustrial waste was 40 million tons in fiscal 2020. The total volume of recycled waste was 8 million tons, with the recycling rate at 20.0 percent.

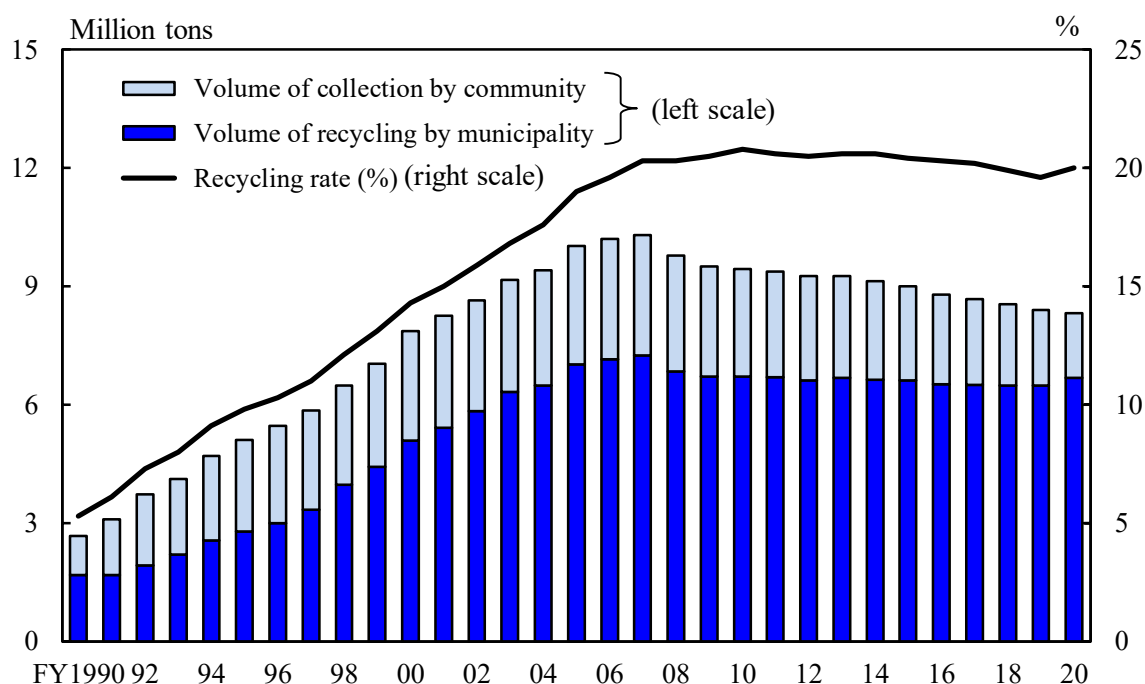
**Table 14.2**  
**Waste Generation and Disposal**

Item	(Thousand tons)				
	FY1990	FY2000	FY2005	FY2010	FY2020
<b>Industrial waste</b>					
Total volume of waste generation .....	394,736	406,037	421,677	385,988	373,818
Recycling .....	150,568	184,237	218,888	204,733	199,022
Treatment for waste reduction .....	154,443	176,933	178,560	167,000	165,708
Final disposal .....	89,725	44,868	24,229	14,255	9,089
<b>Nonindustrial waste</b> <sup>1)</sup>					
Total volume of waste generation .....	50,257	54,834	52,720	45,359	41,669
Municipally scheduled and collected .....	42,495	46,695	44,633	38,827	36,160
Directly brought to					
waste treatment facilities .....	6,776	5,373	5,090	3,803	3,866
Recyclable waste					
collected by community .....	986	2,765	2,996	2,729	1,643
Waste generated					
daily per person (in grams) .....	1,115	1,185	1,131	976	901
Total volume of processed waste .....	49,282	52,090	49,754	42,791	40,085
Direct incineration .....	36,192	40,304	38,486	33,799	31,872
Intermediate treatment for recycling, etc. ...	3,300	6,479	7,283	6,161	5,923
Direct recycling .....		2,224	2,541	2,170	1,923
Direct final disposal .....	9,790	3,084	1,444	662	367

1) Due to the Great East Japan Earthquake, figures for FY2010 exclude those for Minamisanriku Town, Miyagi Prefecture. Figures for FY2020 exclude disaster waste.

Source: Ministry of the Environment.

**Figure 14.2**  
**Recycling of Nonindustrial Waste**<sup>1)</sup>



$$\text{Recycling rate (\%)} = \frac{\text{Total volume of recycled waste}}{\text{Total volume of processed waste} + \text{Volume of collection by community}} \times 100$$

$$\text{Total volume of recycled waste} = \text{Volume of recycling by municipality} + \text{Volume of collection by community}$$

1) Due to the Great East Japan Earthquake, figures for FY2010 exclude those for Minamisanriku Town, Miyagi Prefecture. Figures after FY2011 exclude disaster waste.

Source: Ministry of the Environment.

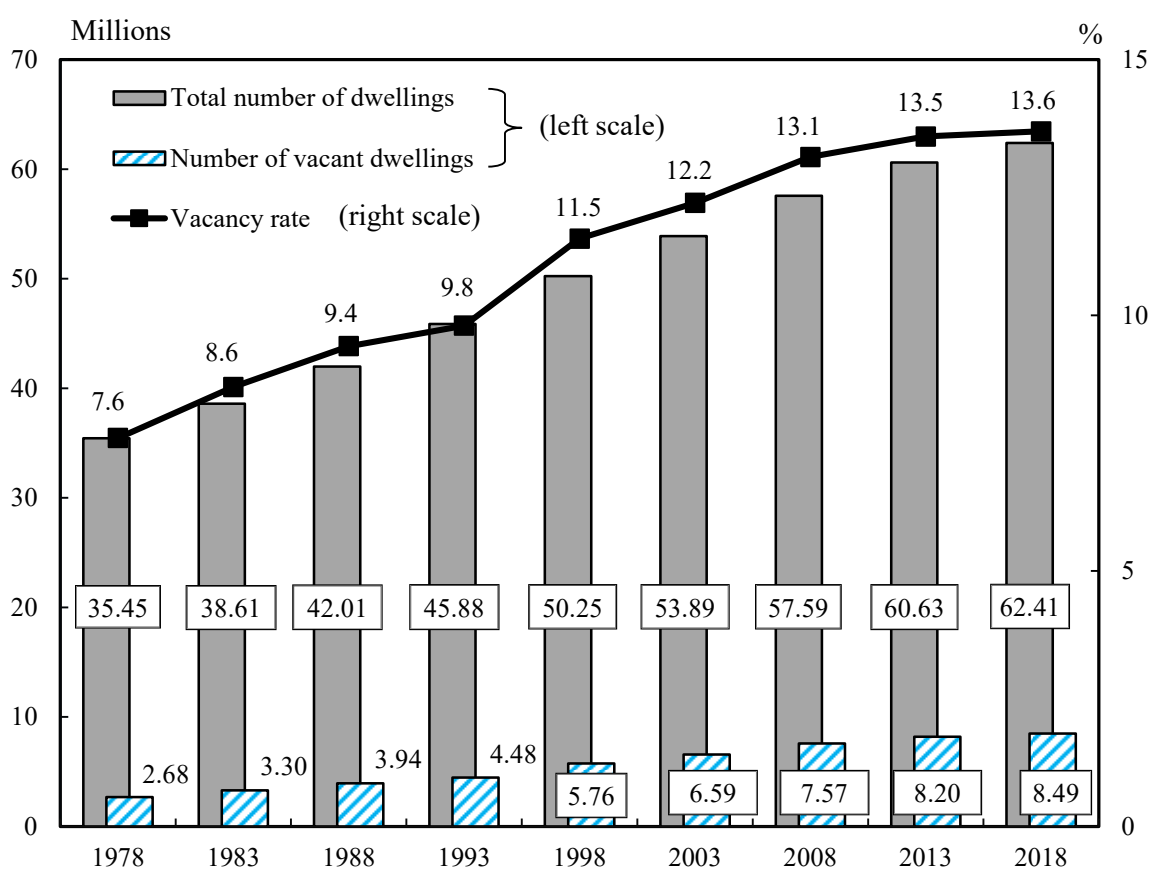
## 2. Housing

The total number of dwellings (the number of individual units in the case of apartment buildings) in Japan was 62 million in 2018, up by 2 million, 2.9 percent from 2013. The number of households was 54 million, representing the excess in number of dwellings over households by 8 million.

In 2018, the number of occupied dwellings (where people usually live) amounted to 54 million, accounting for 85.9 percent of the total number of dwellings. Of these, the number of dwellings used exclusively for living totaled 53 million, accounting for 98.2 percent of the occupied dwellings. Meanwhile, the number of vacant dwellings increased by 0.3 million, 3.6 percent from 2013, to 8 million. That vacancy rate represented 13.6 percent of the total number of dwellings, the highest-ever ratio.

**Figure 14.3**

**Trends in Dwellings, Vacant Dwellings, and Vacancy Rate**



Source: Statistics Bureau, MIC.

A breakdown of occupied dwellings by category of ownership showed that owned houses totaled 33 million, accounting for 61.2 percent of the total, which represented a decrease of 0.5 percentage points from the figure of 61.7 percent in 2013. Rented houses, on the other hand, numbered 19 million, accounting for 35.6 percent of the total.



**Table 14.3**  
**Housing Conditions**

Year	Total households	Total number of dwellings <sup>1)</sup>	Occupied dwellings <sup>2)</sup>	Ownership		Dwellings used exclusively for living	Floor space per dwelling (m <sup>2</sup> ) <sup>2)</sup>
				Owned	Rented		
				1988	37,812		
1993	41,159	45,879	40,773	24,376	15,691	38,457	88.4
1998	44,360	50,246	43,922	26,468	16,730	41,744	89.6
2003	47,255	53,891	46,863	28,666	17,166	45,258	92.5
2008	49,973	57,586	49,598	30,316	17,770	48,281	92.4
2013	52,453	60,629	52,102	32,166	18,519	50,982	93.0
2018	54,001	62,407	53,616	32,802	19,065	52,642	92.1

1) Including dwellings without occupying households.

2) Including ownership of dwelling "Not reported".

Source: Statistics Bureau, MIC.

**Table 14.4**  
**Occupied Dwellings by Type of Building**

Year	Total	Detached houses	Tenement houses	Apartments	Others
1993	40,773	24,141	2,163	14,267	202
1998	43,922	25,269	1,828	16,601	224
2003	46,863	26,491	1,483	18,733	156
2008	49,598	27,450	1,330	20,684	134
2013	52,102	28,599	1,289	22,085	130
2018	53,616	28,759	1,369	23,353	136

Source: Statistics Bureau, MIC.

Occupied dwellings by building type showed that 29 million or 53.6 percent were detached houses, and 23 million or 43.6 percent were apartments. The proportion of apartments has consistently increased in recent years.

In terms of construction materials, 27 million or 92.6 percent of the detached houses were wood-frame houses (including fire-resistant ones). On the other hand, 17 million or 72.3 percent of the apartments were steel-framed concrete structures.

The number of principal households with household members aged 65 years old and over was 22.53 million. Of these households, there were 9.56 million households living in houses that are handrail-equipped at 2 or more locations or have a step-free interior (constant barrier-free houses), accounting for 42.4 percent of households with elderly members. This marked an increase of 1.2 percentage points compared to 2013.

**Table 14.5**  
**Ratio of Barrier-Free Houses with Elderly Members**

Year	Principal households <sup>1)</sup> with household members aged 65 years old and over					
	Number (1,000)			Ratio (%)		
	Total	Constant barrier-free houses <sup>2)</sup>	High barrier-free houses <sup>3)</sup>	Total	Constant barrier-free houses <sup>2)</sup>	High barrier-free houses <sup>3)</sup>
2013	20,844	8,584	1,775	100.0	41.2	8.5
2018	22,534	9,556	1,988	100.0	42.4	8.8

1) When a single household lives in 1 house, it is called a "principal household", and if 2 or more households live in 1 house, then the main household from among the multiple households is regarded as the "principal household". 2) Houses that are handrail-equipped at 2 or more locations, or have step-free interiors, as equipment for the elderly etc.

3) Houses that are handrail-equipped at 2 or more locations, and have step-free interiors and wheelchair-accessible hallways, as equipment for the elderly etc.

Source: Statistics Bureau, MIC.

### 3. Traffic Accidents

In 1970, the annual number of fatalities from traffic accidents hit a record high of 16,765, leading to the enactment of the Basic Act on Traffic Safety Measures in the same year. Based on this, the government has promoted traffic safety measures in a comprehensive and systematic manner. As a result, the number of traffic accident fatalities was 2,636 in 2021, which is the lowest number since 1948 when the current traffic accident statistics were adopted, and this represented approximately one-sixth of the number in 1970.

In 2021, the number of traffic accident fatalities per 100,000 population was 2.1 persons, while that per 10,000 motor vehicles owned was 0.3 persons.

**Table 14.6**  
**Traffic Accidents and Casualties**

Year	Traffic accidents	Injuries	Fatalities <sup>1)</sup>	per 10,000	
				motor vehicles owned	per 100,000 population
1970	718,080	981,096	16,765	9.0	16.2
1980	476,677	598,719	8,760	2.2	7.5
1990	643,097	790,295	11,227	1.9	9.1
2000	931,950	1,155,707	9,073	1.2	7.1
2010	725,924	896,297	4,948	0.6	3.9
2020	309,178	369,476	2,839	0.3	2.3
2021	305,196	362,131	2,636	0.3	2.1

1) Death within 24 hours of the traffic accident.

Source: Cabinet Office.

## 4. Crime

The police organization consists of the National Public Safety Commission and the National Police Agency, both of which are state organizations, as well as the Prefectural Public Safety Commission and prefectural police, both of which are organizations under the authority of individual prefectures. As of April 1, 2022, the prefectural police operated police headquarters, police academies, 1,149 police stations, 6,250 police boxes and 6,105 police substations in 47 prefectures.

Community police officers at their respective police boxes/substations are engaged in standing guard over their communities, patrolling, and dealing with criminal cases and accidents to prevent crime and catch criminals.

In 2022, the reported number of penal code offenses was 601,331, an increase of 33,227, or 5.8 percent compared to the previous year. The proportion of thefts was the highest, accounting for 67.8 percent, or 407,911 cases (up 6.8 percent from the previous year).

The number of persons arrested for penal code offenses was 169,409 in 2022, a decrease of 5,632, or 3.2 percent compared to the previous year, marking a decline for the 18th consecutive year.

The ratio of arrests to reported number of offenses marked 19.8 percent in 2001, the lowest since World War II. From 2002 to 2007, this ratio increased, and levelled off afterwards. From 2014 it exhibited a rising

trend, but in 2022, it was 41.6 percent, a decrease of 5.0 percentage points from the previous year.

**Table 14.7**  
**Trends in Crime (Penal code offenses)**

Year	Reported offenses	Resultant arrests	Persons arrested	Arrest rate <sup>1)</sup> (%)	Crime rate per 100,000 population
1980	1,357,461	811,189	392,113	59.8	1,159.6
1985	1,607,697	1,032,879	432,250	64.2	1,328.1
1990	1,636,628	692,593	293,264	42.3	1,324.0
1995	1,782,944	753,174	293,252	42.2	1,419.5
2000	2,443,470	576,771	309,649	23.6	1,925.5
2005	2,269,293	649,503	386,955	28.6	1,775.7
2010	1,604,019	497,356	322,620	31.0	1,252.6
2015	1,098,969	357,484	239,355	32.5	864.7
2020	614,231	279,185	182,582	45.5	486.6
2021	568,104	264,485	175,041	46.6	452.7
2022	601,331	250,350	169,409	41.6	481.3

1) The ratio of arrests to reported number of offenses.

Source: National Police Agency; Ministry of Justice.

Various kinds of computers and computer networks are currently playing an essential role as a social foundation. In line with this, crimes utilizing computer networks are becoming increasingly diversified. The number of arrests for cybercrime (violation of the Unauthorized Computer Access Act, offenses involving computers or electromagnetic records, offenses related to creation of unauthorized commands for electromagnetic records, etc.) in 2022 was 12,369, up 1.3 percent from the previous year. This represented about a fourteenfold increase from the 913 cases registered in 2000.

## Chapter 15

### Social Security, Health Care, and Public Hygiene



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A granddaughter participates in the Rice-Planting Festival at a shrine to pray for a good harvest. Her grandmother helps her prepare. Life expectancy at birth was 87.6 years for women and 81.5 years for men in 2021.

## 1. Social Security

In Japan, the birth rate has been falling, while the number of elderly people has been growing. Meanwhile, its social security system is required to address various changes in the socioeconomic environment.

The long-term care insurance system, established in April 2000 to ensure that society as a whole supports care for the elderly, marked its 23rd year in 2022. When the system was first established, there were 2.18 million people certified as needing care or needing support. This number grew by approximately 3.2-fold, to 6.91 million people as of April 2022, and the long-term care insurance system has become anchored in society. Today, there are approaches aimed at enhancing services for promoting "the Community-based Integrated Care System" (system where medical care, nursing care, preventive care, and livelihood support are provided integrally in regions where one is used to living), as well as realizing a local, inclusive society.

The number of monthly users of long-term care insurance services totaled, on average, 5.75 million per month in fiscal 2020, and increased by approximately 3.1-fold over 20 years in comparison to the approximately 1.84 million users in fiscal 2000, when the system was initiated. In addition, the amount of nursing care costs in fiscal 2020 (including allowances for high-cost long-term care service, for high-cost medical care and long-term care service, and for long-term care service to a person admitted to a specified facility), totaled 11.5 trillion yen.

**Table 15.1****Trends in Social Security Benefit Expenditures by Functional Category** <sup>1) 2) 3) 4) 5)</sup>

(Billion yen)

Item	FY2000	FY2005	FY2010	FY2015	FY2019	FY2020
Total .....	78,408	88,854	10,537	116,814	123,924	132,221
Old age .....	36,688	# 44,102	51,335	# 55,339	57,833	58,921
Survivors .....	5,958	# 6,459	6,795	# 6,670	6,450	6,410
Invalidity benefits .....	2,151	# 2,397	3,398	# 4,283	4,900	5,225
Employment injury .....	1,058	984	943	# 919	930	905
Sickness and health .....	25,578	# 27,491	32,214	# 36,891	39,083	41,144
Family benefits .....	2,365	# 3,232	5,009	# 7,142	9,191	10,267
Unemployment .....	2,647	1,453	2,250	1,442	1,463	5,024
Housing .....	201	# 429	513	617	603	605
Other social policy areas .....	1,761	# 2,307	2,910	# 3,510	3,470	3,720

1) This table is calculated in accordance with the standards of the ILO's "The Cost of Social Security 19th International Inquiry."

2) Because of retrospective tabulation up to FY2005 of expenditure items data that were added in FY2011, a gap has occurred with FY2004 data.

3) Since FY2011, Employees' Accident Compensation has been added for special national public servants in the House of Representatives, House of Councillors, National Diet Library, courts, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Defense.

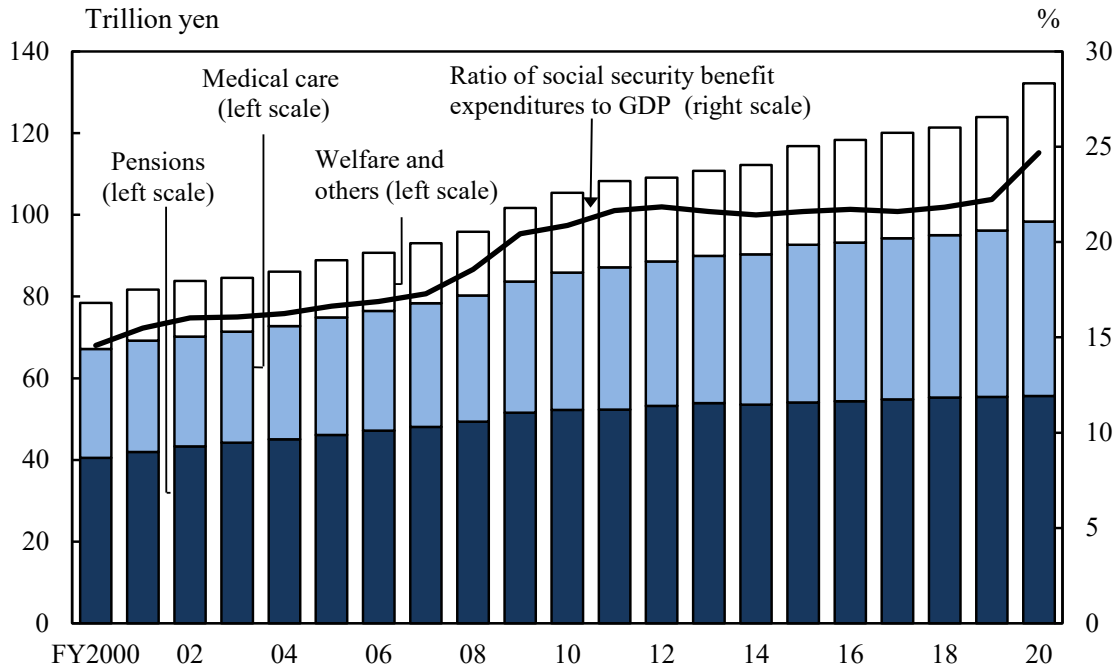
4) In addition to expenses for early childhood care services, expenses for early childhood education are included in total social security benefit expenditures from FY2015.

5) There is a gap between FY2014 and FY2015 because of the change in the scope of the services operated independently by local public entities that were targeted for tabulation in FY2015.

Source: National Institute of Population and Social Security Research.

In fiscal 2020, social security benefit expenditures totaled 132.2 trillion yen (up 6.7 percent from the previous fiscal year), a figure which amounted to 1.05 million yen per person. The ratio of Japan's social security benefit expenditures to GDP registered 24.7 percent. Benefits for the aged accounted for 62.9 percent of total social security benefit expenditures.

**Figure 15.1**  
**Trends in Social Security Benefit Expenditures by Sector** 1) 2) 3) 4)



- 1) Because of retrospective tabulation up to FY2005 of expenditure items data that were added in FY2011, a gap has occurred with FY2004 data.
- 2) Since FY2011, Employees' Accident Compensation has been added for special national public servants in the House of Representatives, House of Councillors, National Diet Library, courts, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Defense.
- 3) In addition to expenses for early childhood care services, expenses for early childhood education are included in total social security benefit expenditures from FY2015.
- 4) There is a gap between FY2014 and FY2015 because of the change in the scope of the services operated independently by local public entities that were targeted for tabulation in FY2015.

Source: National Institute of Population and Social Security Research.

In fiscal 2020, pensions accounted for 42.1 percent of total social security benefit expenditures, while medical care accounted for 32.3 percent, and social welfare and others for 25.6 percent. Social security benefit expenditures are forecasted to continue growing.

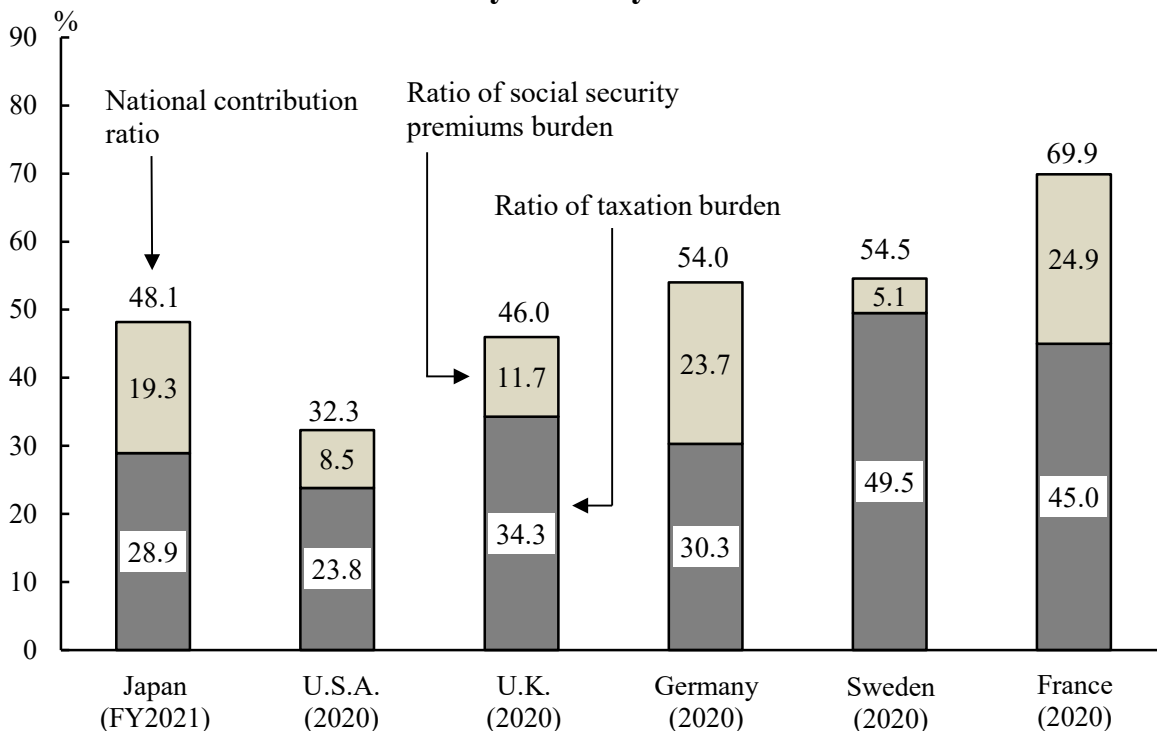
The government has established "Social Security for All Generations", in which all generations support each other fairly, and is examining sustainable reforms. Total funding for social security in fiscal 2020 was 184.8 trillion yen, an increase of 39.6 percent compared to the previous fiscal year. This can be broken down into 73.5 trillion yen in social insurance contributions (39.8 percent of the total), 59.0 trillion yen in public contributions (31.9 percent of the total), and 52.3 trillion yen in other revenue (28.3 percent of the total). The increase in funding was



due to increased asset revenue in the other revenue category, and increased state contributions in the public contributions category due primarily to expenditures relating to COVID-19 countermeasures.

The national contribution ratio (the combined ratios of taxes and social security costs to national income) was 48.1 percent in fiscal 2021 (taxation burden: 28.9 percent; social security premiums: 19.3 percent), up 0.2 percentage points from 47.9 percent in fiscal 2020 (taxation burden: 28.2 percent; social security premiums: 19.8 percent). The national contribution ratio in 2020 was 32.3 percent in the U.S.A., 46.0 percent in the U.K., and 69.9 percent in France. While the ratio in Japan was higher than that of the U.S.A., it is trending lower than European countries.

**Figure 15.2**  
**National Contribution Ratio by Country**



Source: Ministry of Finance.

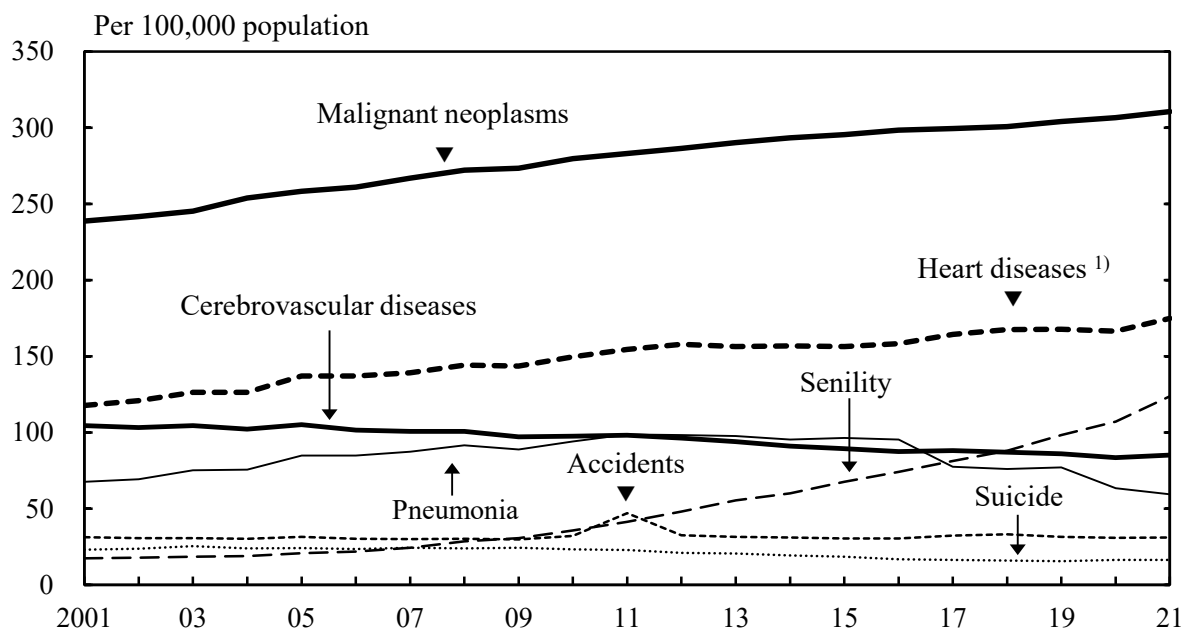
## 2. Health Care and Public Hygiene

Japan has a universal health insurance regime to ensure that anyone can receive necessary medical treatment. Under this regime, every citizen enters a publicly regulated medical insurance system, such as employees' health insurance, national health insurance or the latter-stage elderly's medical insurance.

Under the universal health insurance regime, Japan's life expectancy at birth and healthcare standards are at the highest level in the world. However, reform will be needed with an eye toward future Japanese society, in 2025 when the baby boom generation will all be 75 years old or older, and 2040 when second-generation baby boomers reach old age.

Life expectancy at birth was 87.6 years for women and 81.5 years for men in 2021. Japan's life expectancy at birth remains at a high level in the world. Even with regard to healthy life expectancy, which is the "average period without being restricted in daily life", Japan was among the world's highest as of 2019, with 75.4 years for women and 72.7 years for men. Japan's infant mortality rate was 1.7 per 1,000 births in 2021.

**Figure 15.3**  
**Death Rates by Major Cause**



1) Excluding hypertensive diseases.

Source: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

The death rate was 1,172.7 per 100,000 population in 2021. The leading cause of death was malignant neoplasms (310.7 per 100,000 population), followed by lifestyle diseases such as heart diseases (174.9; excluding hypertensive diseases), in which people's daily diet and behavior are significant factors, and senility (123.8). Malignant neoplasms became the leading cause of death in 1981. The death rate by malignant neoplasms has continued to increase since, reaching 26.5 percent of all deaths in 2021.

The number of deaths caused by suicide in Japan hovered at around 30,000 annually in 1998 and onwards. In recent years, the number has remained steady at around 20,000. The number of suicides in 2021 was 20,291. In 2021, suicide was the leading cause of deaths for people aged between 10 and 39.

In the past, human beings have faced the threat of various epidemic diseases, including new strains of influenza. In 2014, cases of infection from Dengue fever in Japan were confirmed for the first time in approximately 70 years. In 2018, the number of patients with rubella increased. In 2020, the outbreak of COVID-19 developed into a pandemic, resulting in increasing numbers of infections and verified deaths. In Japan, measures have been taken to counter infectious diseases, such as vaccination to prevent the outbreak and spread of infectious diseases, but in November 2021, it was decided, as preparation against infectious diseases, to further strengthen vaccination, testing, prevention with therapeutic drugs, and the process from discovery to early treatment, and to strengthen the medical system, promote vaccination, and secure therapeutic drugs.

In terms of healthcare provision, Japan had 336,882 physicians engaged in medical care, or 267.0 physicians per 100,000 population, in 2020. While the number of physicians providing healthcare is increasing nationwide, their uneven distribution has become a problem due to the lack of physicians specializing in certain areas of medicine and the lack of physicians operating in regional parts of the country.

**Table 15.2**  
**Medical Personnel at Work**

Personnel	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020
<b>Number</b>					
Physicians .....	300,664	308,651	317,162	324,737	336,822
Dentists .....	101,110	102,534	103,127	103,418	105,798
Pharmacists .....	262,520	271,364	284,069	294,430	302,504
Nurses and Assistant nurses .....	1,373,521	1,426,932	1,472,508	1,523,085	1,565,500
<b>Rates per 100,000 population</b>					
Physicians .....	235.6	242.6	249.7	256.2	267.0
Dentists .....	79.2	80.6	81.2	81.6	83.9
Pharmacists .....	205.7	213.3	223.6	232.3	239.8
Nurses and Assistant nurses .....	1,076.5	1,121.5	1,159.1	1,201.7	1,241.0

Source: Statistics Bureau, MIC; Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

As of October 1, 2021, the number of hospitals in Japan (excluding medical clinics and dental clinics) totaled 8,205. The number of hospital beds amounted to 1,500,057 (1,195.2 per 100,000 population).

**Table 15.3**  
**Medical Care Institutions and Beds**

Type of Institution	2011	2014	2017	2020	2021
<b>Institutions</b>					
Total .....	176,308	177,546	178,492	178,724	180,396
Hospitals .....	8,605	8,493	8,412	8,238	8,205
Medical clinics .....	99,547	100,461	101,471	102,612	104,292
Dental clinics .....	68,156	68,592	68,609	67,874	67,899
<b>Rates per 100,000 population</b>					
Total .....	138.0	139.7	140.9	141.7	143.7
Hospitals .....	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.5
Medical clinics .....	77.9	79.1	80.1	81.3	83.1
Dental clinics .....	53.3	54.0	54.1	53.8	54.1
<b>Beds</b>					
Total .....	1,712,539	1,680,712	1,653,303	1,593,633	1,583,783
Hospitals .....	1,583,073	1,568,261	1,554,879	1,507,526	1,500,057
Medical clinics .....	129,366	112,364	98,355	86,046	83,668
Dental clinics .....	100	87	69	61	58
<b>Rates per 100,000 population</b>					
Total .....	1,340.0	1,322.5	1,304.8	1,263.3	1,262.0
Hospitals .....	1,238.7	1,234.0	1,227.2	1,195.1	1,195.2
Medical clinics .....	101.2	88.4	77.6	68.2	66.7
Dental clinics .....	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0

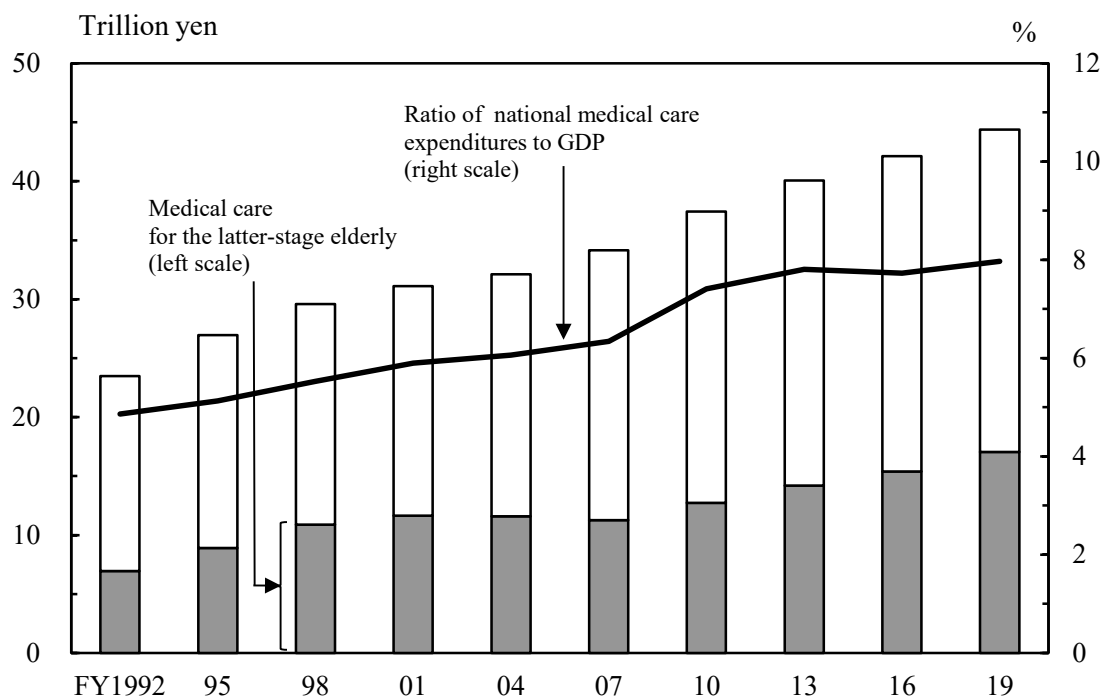
Source: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

In fiscal 2020, national medical care expenditures totaled 43.0 trillion yen or 8.02 percent of Japan's GDP. The cost of medical care per person averaged 340,600 yen in fiscal 2020.

To ensure that society as a whole supports medical care for the elderly, Japan has established a medical insurance system which divides the elderly into two categories: 65 to 74 years old (early-stage elderly) and 75 years old and older (latter-stage elderly). Medical costs for treating the latter-stage elderly in fiscal 2019 were 17.1 trillion yen, or 38.4 percent of national medical care expenditure, and accounted for 3.06 percent of GDP.

The per-capita cost of medical care for the latter-stage elderly averaged 954,369 yen for the year. The percentage of national medical care expenditures accounted for by medical care costs for the late-stage elderly decreased when the age of persons eligible to receive later-stage elderly medical care was raised in a phased manner over 5 years from 70 years to 75 years old in October 2002, but in recent years, there has been a slight uptrend.

**Figure 15.4**  
**Trends in Medical Care Expenditures**



Source: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

## Chapter 16

### Education and Culture



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According to the "2021 Survey on Time Use and Leisure Activities", the total number of people aged 10 years old and over who participated in some kind of sports was 74.79 million, for a participation rate of 66.5 percent. The total number of participants in baseball (including playing catch) was 7.05 million, for a participation rate of 6.3 percent.

## 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 and integrated centers for early childhood education and care, which provide pre-school education, and schools for special needs education. There are also specialized training colleges and miscellaneous schools for a wide range of vocational and other practical skills learning. In order to promote diversity of the school education system, unified lower-upper secondary schooling began at some schools in 1999. Furthermore, in 2016, compulsory education schools, where compulsory education for elementary schools to lower secondary schools is carried out consistently, were established. On an additional note, the school year in Japan starts in April and ends in March of the following year.

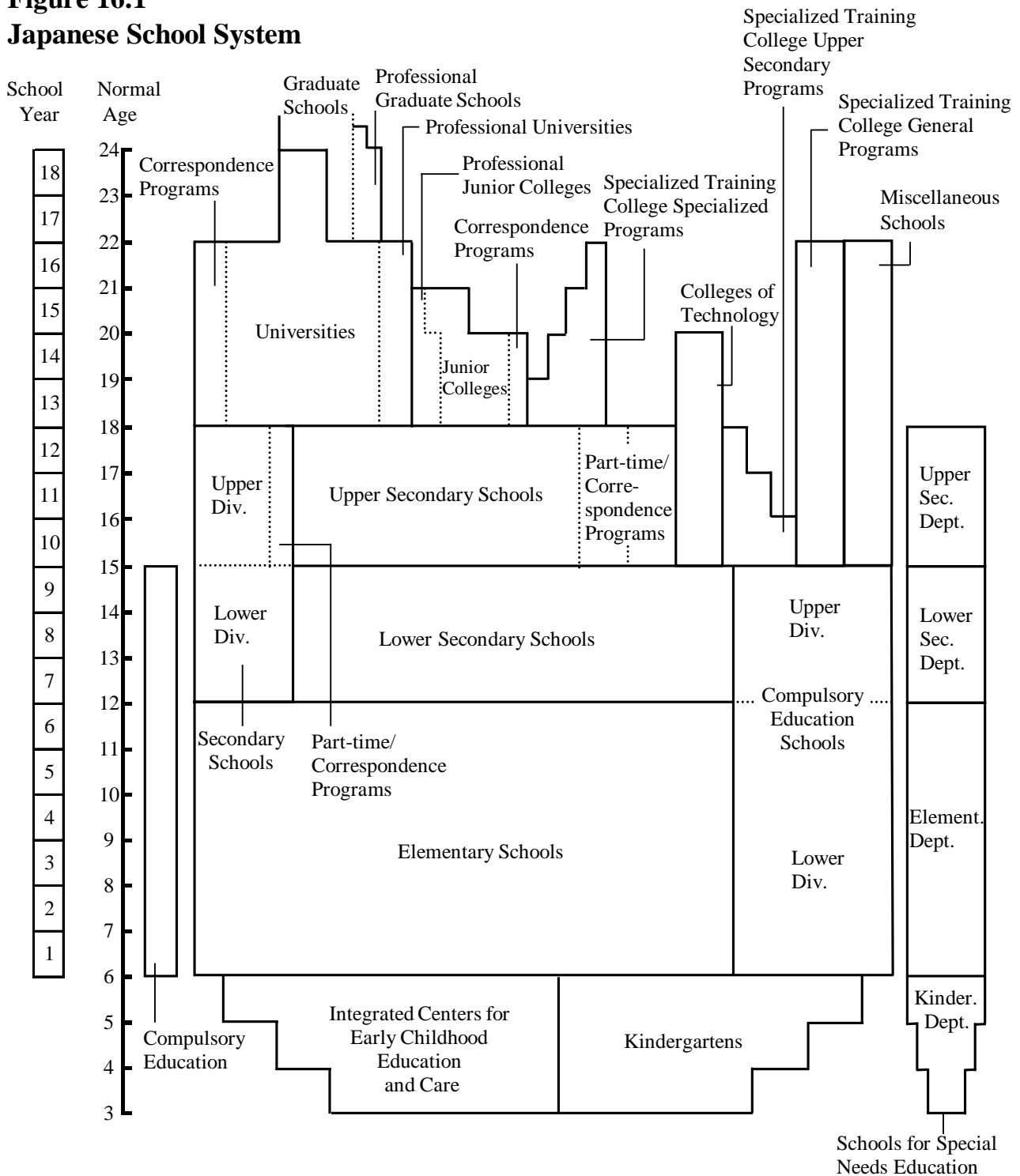
**Table 16.1**  
**Educational Institutions in Japan** (as of May 1, 2022)

Type of institution	Schools				Full-time teachers (1,000)	Students (1,000)	
	Total	National	Public	Private		Males	Females
Kindergartens .....	9,111	49	2,910	6,152	88	466	457
Integrated centers for early childhood education and care ....	6,657	-	913	5,744	137	420	401
Elementary schools .....	19,161	67	18,851	243	423	3,145	3,006
Lower secondary schools .....	10,012	68	9,164	780	247	1,639	1,566
Compulsory education schools ..	178	5	172	1	6	35	33
Upper secondary schools .....	4,824	15	3,489	1,320	225	1,499	1,458
Secondary schools .....	57	4	35	18	3	16	17
Schools for special needs education <sup>1)</sup> .....	1,171	45	1,111	15	87	98	50
Colleges of technology .....	57	51	3	3	4	44	12
Junior colleges .....	309	-	14	295	7	12	83
Universities .....	807	86	101	620	191	1,627	1,304
Graduate schools .....	657	86	89	482	106	176	86
Specialized training colleges .....	3,051	8	183	2,860	40	277	359
Miscellaneous schools .....	1,046	-	5	1,041	8	55	47

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 2022 upper secondary school and upper division of secondary school graduates, 59.6 percent went straight on to enter a university, junior college, etc. The ratio of graduates of upper secondary school, etc. who entered a university or junior college in 2022 was 60.4 percent (60.6 percent of male and 60.1 percent of female graduates), including graduates from previous years.



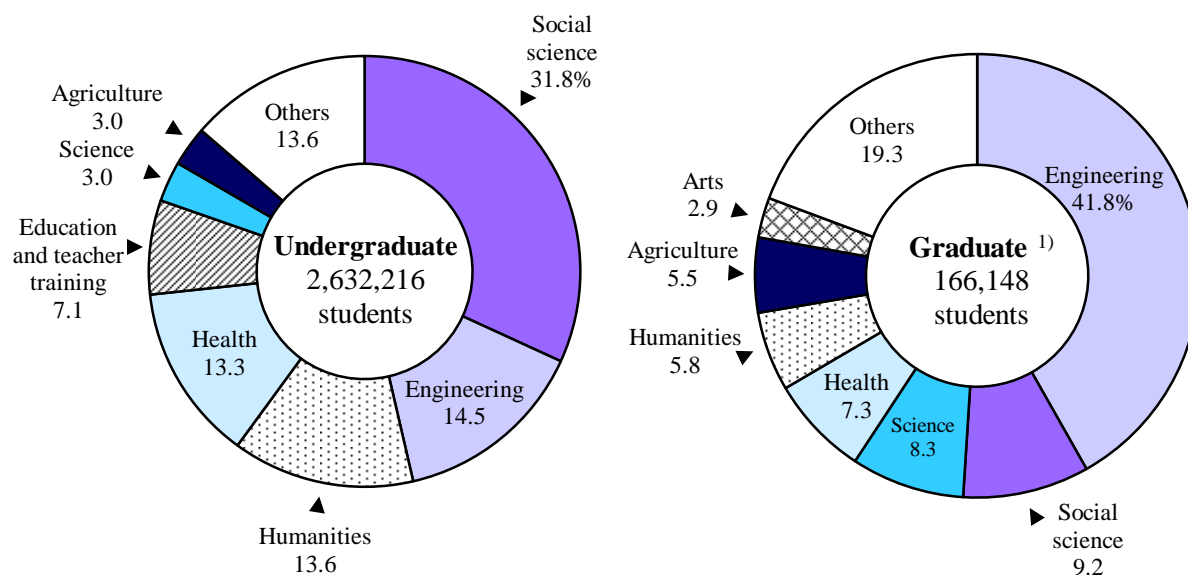
**Table 16.2**  
**Number of University Students (as of May 1)**

	2010	2015	2020	2021	2022
<b>Total</b> .....	2,887,414	2,860,210	2,915,605	2,917,998	2,930,780
Undergraduate .....	2,559,191	2,556,062	2,623,572	2,625,688	2,632,216
Graduate schools .....	271,454	249,474	254,529	257,128	261,782
Others <sup>1)</sup> .....	56,769	54,674	37,504	35,182	36,782
<b>Females</b> .....	1,185,580	1,231,868	1,294,320	1,297,056	1,303,975
Undergraduate .....	1,077,782	1,127,372	1,193,465	1,196,555	1,200,992
Graduate schools .....	82,133	77,831	82,982	84,017	85,580
Others <sup>1)</sup> .....	25,665	26,665	17,873	16,484	17,403
National .....	625,048	610,802	598,881	597,450	596,195
Public .....	142,523	148,766	158,579	160,438	163,103
Private .....	2,119,843	2,100,642	2,158,145	2,160,110	2,171,482

1) Including advanced students, short-term students, non-degree students, auditing students and research students.

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

**Figure 16.2**  
**University Students by Field of Study (as of May 1, 2022)**



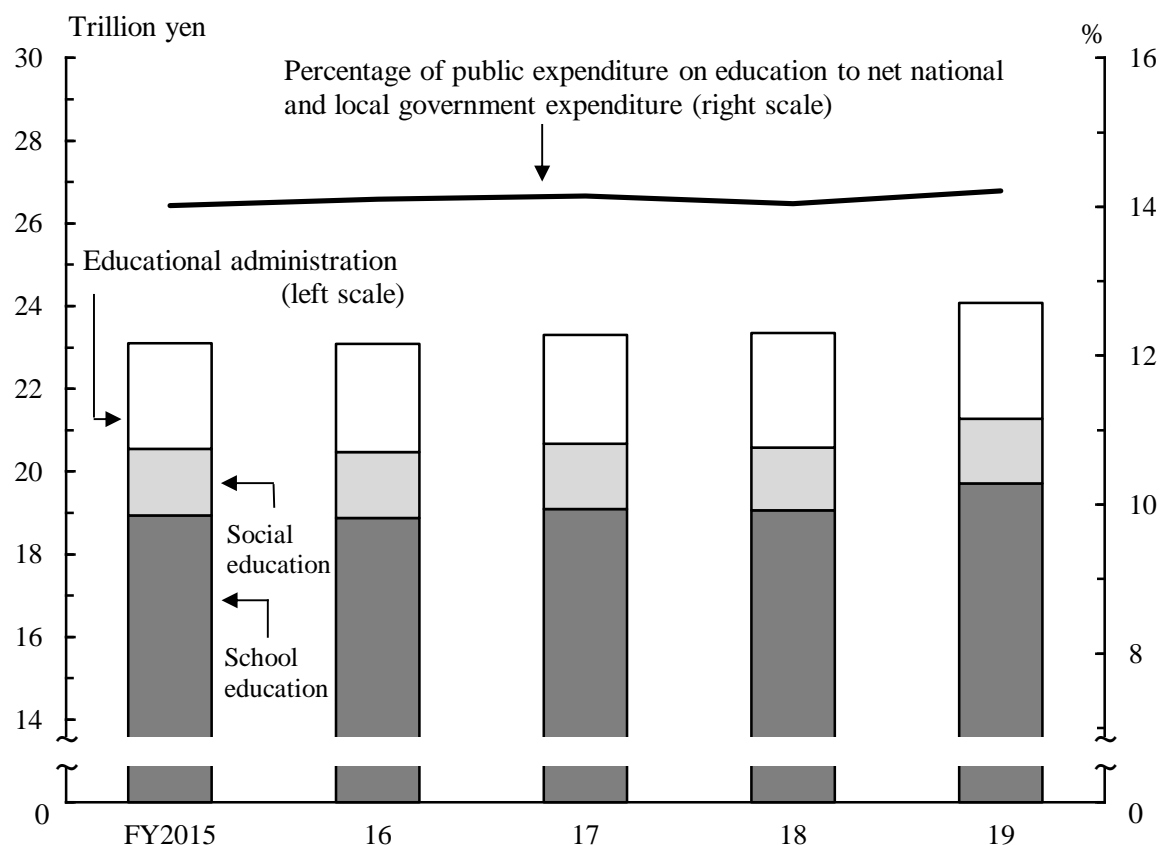
1) Master's course.

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

As of May 1, 2021, a total of 128,805 foreign students were enrolled in Japanese junior colleges, universities, and graduate schools. Of the total foreign students, 93.8 percent were from Asia, including 76,734 from China, 11,833 from the Republic of Korea and 11,322 from Vietnam.

Fiscal 2019 public expenditure on education in Japan was 24 trillion yen, which is equivalent to 14.2 percent of the net expenditure of national and local governments.

**Figure 16.3**  
**Public Expenditures on Education**



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

Fiscal 2021 school expenditure by households with children attending public school averaged 65,974 yen per elementary school pupil, 132,349 yen per lower-secondary school student and 309,261 yen per upper-secondary school student.

## 2. Lifelong Learning

As society approaches a major turning point in heading towards a "100-year-life", there is increasing importance in realizing a "Lifelong Learning Society" in which people are able to select learning opportunities whenever they want during their life, and their learning outcomes are evaluated appropriately.

Today, in order to develop a society where people can engage in learning any time they like throughout their lives, efforts are being made to provide learning opportunities such as school education, social education, cultural activities, sports activities, recreational activities, volunteer activities, and corporate in-house education. In providing places and opportunities for such lifelong learning, educational institutions and social education facilities (citizens' public halls, libraries, museums, and sports facilities, etc.) play a vital role.

**Table 16.3**  
**Social Education Facilities and Users**

Facilities	Number <sup>1)</sup>		Users (1,000) <sup>2)</sup>	
	2018	2021	2017	2020
Citizens' public halls <sup>3)</sup> .....	14,281	13,798	183,513	110,203
Libraries <sup>4)</sup> .....	3,360	3,394	177,899	142,490
Museums .....	1,286	1,305	142,456	65,047
General museums .....	154	157	9,349	3,736
Science museums .....	104	100	16,830	6,087
Historical museums .....	470	476	28,611	9,572
Art museums .....	453	457	39,811	17,038
Outdoor museums .....	16	18	2,157	560
Zoological gardens .....	34	36	19,396	11,191
Botanical gardens .....	11	11	1,117	1,162
Zoological and botanical gardens .....	6	7	4,538	3,147
Aquariums .....	38	43	20,646	12,553
Facilities similar to museums .....	4,452	4,466	160,613	74,657
Centers for children and youths .....	891	840	19,729	7,553
Women's education centers .....	358	358	11,310	4,302
Public sports facilities .....	46,981	45,658	526,725	280,631
Private sports facilities .....	16,397	#* 29,821	107,939	#* 179,328
Theaters, concert halls, etc. ....	1,827	1,832	...	...
Lifelong learning centers .....	478	496	27,290	11,698

1) As of October 1. 2) Total of fiscal year. 3) Including similar facilities.

4) Including the same type of facilities.

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

### 3. Leisure Activities

The results of the "2021 Survey on Time Use and Leisure Activities" conducted on people living in this country, aged 10 years old and over, show that the amount of free time each person has spent was 6 hours and 16 minutes, which was the time remaining after activities that were physiologically necessary (sleeping, eating, etc.) and societally essential (work, housework, etc.).

**Table 16.4**  
**Major Leisure Activities by Sex (Aged 10 years old and over) (2021)**

Leisure Activities	Total	Males	Females
Free time per day (hours. minutes) .....	6.16	6.34	6.00
Participation rate (%) <sup>1)</sup>			
Hobbies and amusements .....	86.3	86.8	85.8
Sports <sup>2) 3)</sup> .....	66.5	69.9	63.3
Travel and excursion .....	49.5	48.9	50.1
Learning, self-education, and training <sup>2) 4)</sup> .....	39.6	39.8	39.5
Volunteer activities .....	17.8	18.2	17.5

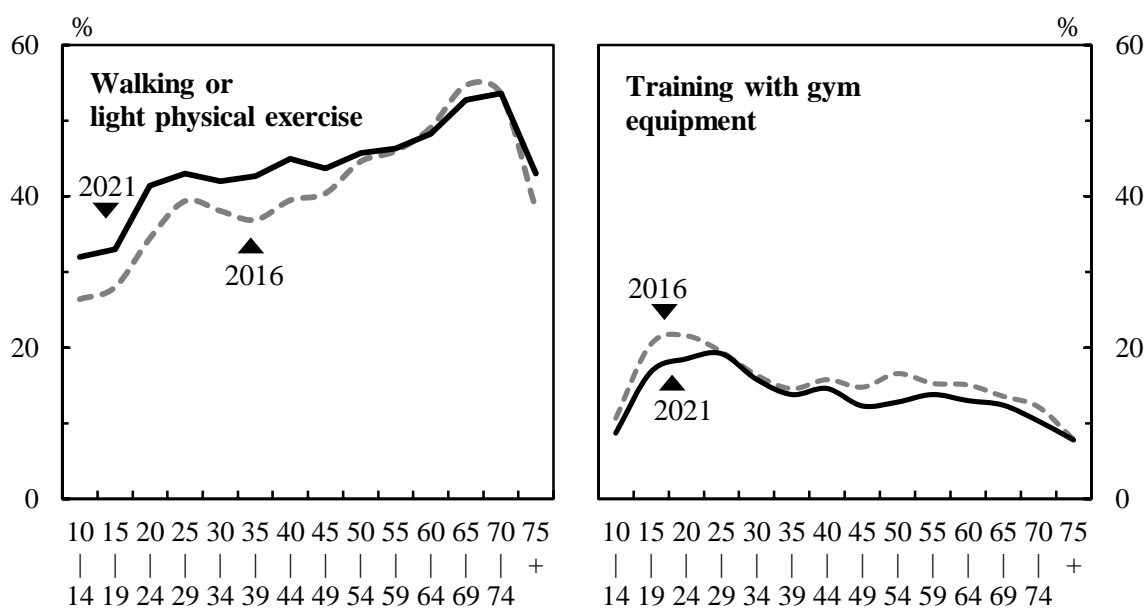
1) Participants in the activity / Population × 100. 2) Including club activities at school. 3) Excluding sports performed by professional players as their job and by students in PE class. 4) Excluding worker training at the workplace, and study and research activities performed by children, pupils or students as schoolwork, such as study in class, preparation for class and review of lessons.

Source: Statistics Bureau, MIC.

The participation rate for "hobbies and amusements" was 86.3 percent (percentage of people (aged 10 years old and over) who engaged in the activity within the past 12 months), and by sex, the participation rate for males was 86.8 percent and that for females was 85.8 percent. In addition, for participation rates by type of activity, "listening to music by CDs, smartphone, etc." was the highest at 53.5 percent, followed by "watching movies other than movie theater" at 52.7 percent, "playing games on a smartphone, home video game consoles, etc." at 42.9 percent, and so on.

The participation rate for "sports" was 66.5 percent, and by sex, the participation rate for males was 69.9 percent and that for females was 63.3 percent. In addition, for participation rates by type of sport, "walking or light physical exercise" was the highest at 44.3 percent, followed by "training with gym equipment" at 12.9 percent, and so on.

**Figure 16.4**  
**Participation Rates for Major "Sports" by Age Group**



Source: Statistics Bureau, MIC.

#### 4. Publishing and Mass Media

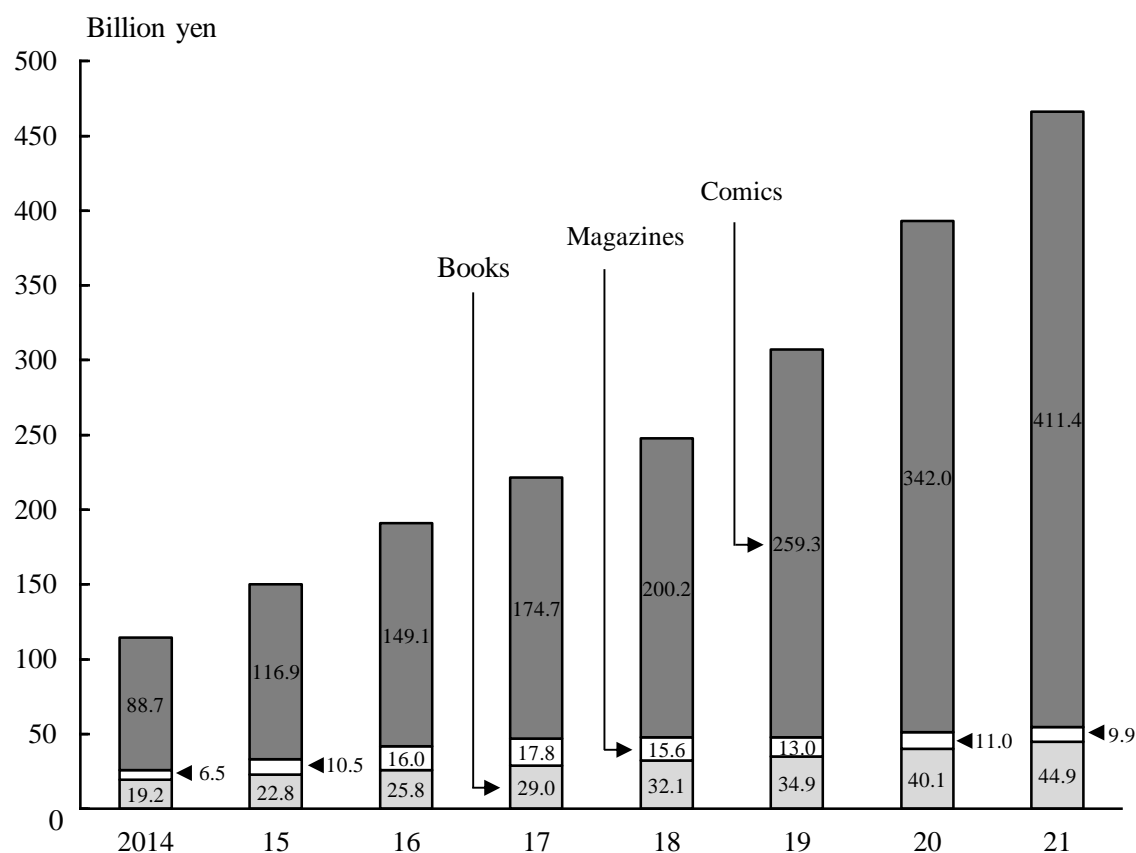
A total of 69,052 new book titles were released in 2021. The number of magazine titles published was 2,536 (including 2,454 monthlies and 82 weeklies). In recent years, a wider range of electronic book content has become available, leading to continuing growth of the electronic books market.

**Table 16.5**  
**Number of New Book Titles Published**

Subject	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total .....	73,057	71,661	71,903	68,608	69,052
General works .....	858	767	804	805	760
Philosophy .....	3,932	3,955	3,743	3,507	3,402
History and geology .....	3,404	3,530	3,890	3,927	3,902
Social sciences .....	15,422	15,220	15,482	14,068	14,159
Natural sciences .....	5,757	5,325	5,066	5,117	5,043
Engineering and technology ...	4,176	3,906	3,951	3,608	3,662
Industry and commerce .....	2,652	2,492	2,444	2,310	2,275
Arts and life .....	12,676	11,856	12,383	12,068	12,289
Language .....	1,628	1,535	1,473	1,329	1,332
Literature .....	13,327	13,048	12,979	12,104	12,071
Children's books .....	4,350	4,721	4,583	4,295	4,446
Reference books .....	4,875	5,306	5,105	5,470	5,711

Source: The Research Institute for Publications, The All Japan Magazine and Book Publisher's and Editor's Association.

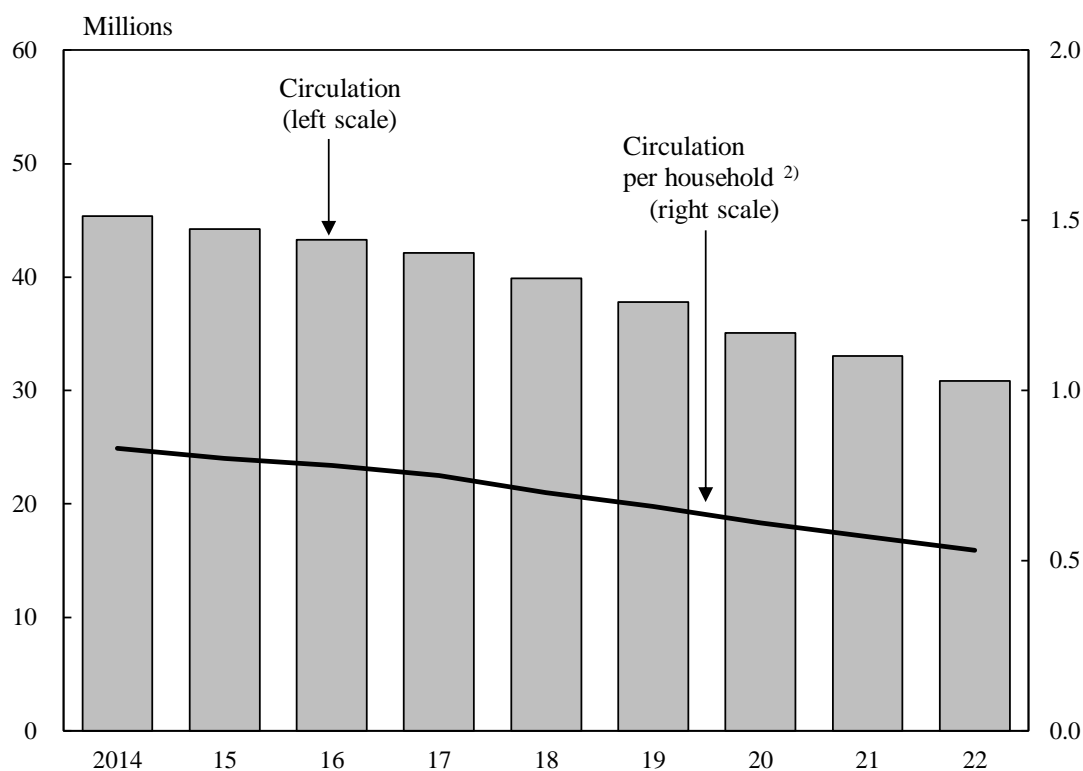
**Figure 16.5**  
**Trends in the Size of the Electronic Publication Market**



Source: The Research Institute for Publications, The All Japan Magazine and Book Publisher's and Editor's Association.

A total of 112 daily newspapers were in circulation, and the penetration rate was 0.53 newspapers per household as of October 2022.

**Figure 16.6**  
**Trends in the Circulation of Newspaper** (as of October) <sup>1)</sup>



1) Set paper counted as one copy. 2) Number of households used for calculation are derived from the Basic Resident Registration as of January 1 of the year.

Source: The Japan Newspaper Publishers and Editors Association.

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

Television broadcasting in Japan became fully digital at the end of March 2012, and practices like broadcasting of video and data with high-definition image quality have become common. New 4K and 8K satellite broadcasting began in December 2018, and products such as televisions enabling viewing of 4K and 8K broadcasts have been disseminated. Efforts are being made to further improve the appeal of satellite broadcasting, such as improving and broadening 4K programs, and steps are being taken to disseminate and develop 4K and 8K broadcasting.

In 2022, advertising expenditures in the four major mass media types in Japan (newspapers, magazines, radio and television) totaled 2.4 trillion yen, down compared with the previous year. This accounted for 33.8 percent of total advertising expenditures, which were 7.1 trillion yen. Spending on Internet advertising reached 3.1 trillion yen (up 14.3 percent from the previous year). This amounted to 43.5 percent of the total advertising expenditures.

**Table 16.6**  
**Advertising Expenditures by Medium**

Year	Total	News- papers	Maga- zines	Radio	Tele- vision <sup>1)</sup>	Satellite media- related	Internet	Promo- tional media
<b>Advertising expenditures (billion yen)</b>								
2010	5,842.7	639.6	273.3	129.9	1,732.1	78.4	774.7	2,214.7
2015	6,171.0	567.9	244.3	125.4	1,932.3	-	1,159.4	2,141.7
2020	6,159.4	368.8	122.3	106.6	1,655.9	-	# 2,229.0	# 1,676.8
2021	6,799.8	381.5	122.4	110.6	1,839.3	-	2,705.2	1,640.8
2022	7,102.1	369.7	114.0	112.9	1,801.9	-	3,091.2	1,612.4
<b>Percentage distribution (%)</b>								
2010	100.0	11.0	4.7	2.2	29.6	1.3	13.3	37.9
2015	100.0	9.2	4.0	2.0	31.3	-	18.8	34.7
2020	100.0	6.0	2.0	1.7	26.9	-	36.2	27.2
2021	100.0	5.6	1.8	1.6	27.1	-	39.8	24.1
2022	100.0	5.2	1.6	1.6	25.4	-	43.5	22.7

1) Including "satellite media-related advertising" after 2015.

Source: Dentsu Inc.



## 5. Cultural Assets

Throughout its 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 Act on Protection of Cultural Properties. In addition to preserving cultural assets, measures to utilize such assets are being established, such as expansion of viewing opportunities through exhibitions.

**Table 16.7**  
**Cultural Properties Designated by the National Government**  
 (as of April 1, 2023)

Type of cultural properties	Number	
Important cultural properties .....	13,377	a) 1,132
Fine arts and crafts .....	10,820	a) 902
Structures .....	2,557	a) 230
Historic sites, places of scenic beauty and natural monuments .....	3,353	b) 174
Historic sites .....	1,888	b) 63
Places of scenic beauty .....	427	b) 36
Natural monuments .....	1,038	b) 75
Important tangible folk cultural properties .....	226	
Important intangible folk cultural properties .....	329	
Important intangible cultural properties		
Individual recognition .....	70	
Performing arts .....	36	
Craft techniques .....	34	
Group recognition .....	30	
Performing arts .....	14	
Craft techniques .....	16	
Traditional building preservation areas .....	126	

a) National treasures only. b) Specially designated places only.

Source: Agency for Cultural Affairs.

As of April 1, 2023, 13,377 items were designated as important cultural properties, of which 1,132 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 accepted the UNESCO World Heritage Convention (the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage) in 1992.

In July 2021, two new sites were registered in the World Heritage List: Amami-Oshima Island, Tokunoshima Island, Northern part of Okinawa Island, and Iriomote Island; and Jomon Prehistoric Sites in Northern Japan.

Amami-Oshima Island, Tokunoshima Island, Northern part of Okinawa Island, and Iriomote Island are natural heritage. They have a mild, humid subtropical climate, and are regions inhabited by distinctive land animals, including many endemic species and endangered species.

The Jomon Prehistoric Sites in Northern Japan are cultural heritage consisting of 17 historic sites. These sites present the daily life and spiritual culture of people who lived in the region for more than 10,000 years through hunting, gathering, and fishing.

**Table 16.8****Heritage Sites Inscribed on the World Heritage List <sup>1)</sup>**

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
2004	Cultural	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
2011	Cultural	Hiraizumi-Temples, Gardens and Archaeological Sites Representing the Buddhist Pure Land	Iwate
	Natural	Ogasawara Islands	Tokyo
2013	Cultural	Fujisan, Sacred Place and Source of Artistic Inspiration	Yamanashi, Shizuoka
2014	Cultural	Tomioka Silk Mill and Related Sites	Gunma
2015	Cultural	Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution: Iron and Steel, Shipbuilding and Coal Mining	Fukuoka, Saga, Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Kagoshima, Yamaguchi, Iwate, Shizuoka
2016	Cultural	The National Museum of Western Art - The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier, an Outstanding Contribution to the Modern Movement	Tokyo
2017	Cultural	Sacred Island of Okinoshima and Associated Sites in the Munakata Region	Fukuoka
2018	Cultural	Hidden Christian Sites in the Nagasaki Region	Nagasaki, Kumamoto
2019	Cultural	Mozu-Furuichi Kofun Group: Mounded Tombs of Ancient Japan	Osaka
2021	Natural	Amami-Oshima Island, Tokunoshima Island, Northern part of Okinawa Island, and Iriomote Island	Kagoshima, Okinawa
	Cultural	Jomon Prehistoric Sites in Northern Japan	Hokkaido, Aomori, Iwate, Akita

1) As of January, 2023.

Source: Agency for Cultural Affairs.

In 2006, the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage entered into force. As of January 2023, Japan has 22 entries on its list, including: Nogaku Theater, Ningyo Johruri Bunraku Puppet Theater, Kabuki Theater (the kind of Kabuki performed using a traditional method of acting and directing), and Washoku, the traditional dietary culture of Japan.

## Chapter 17

### Government System



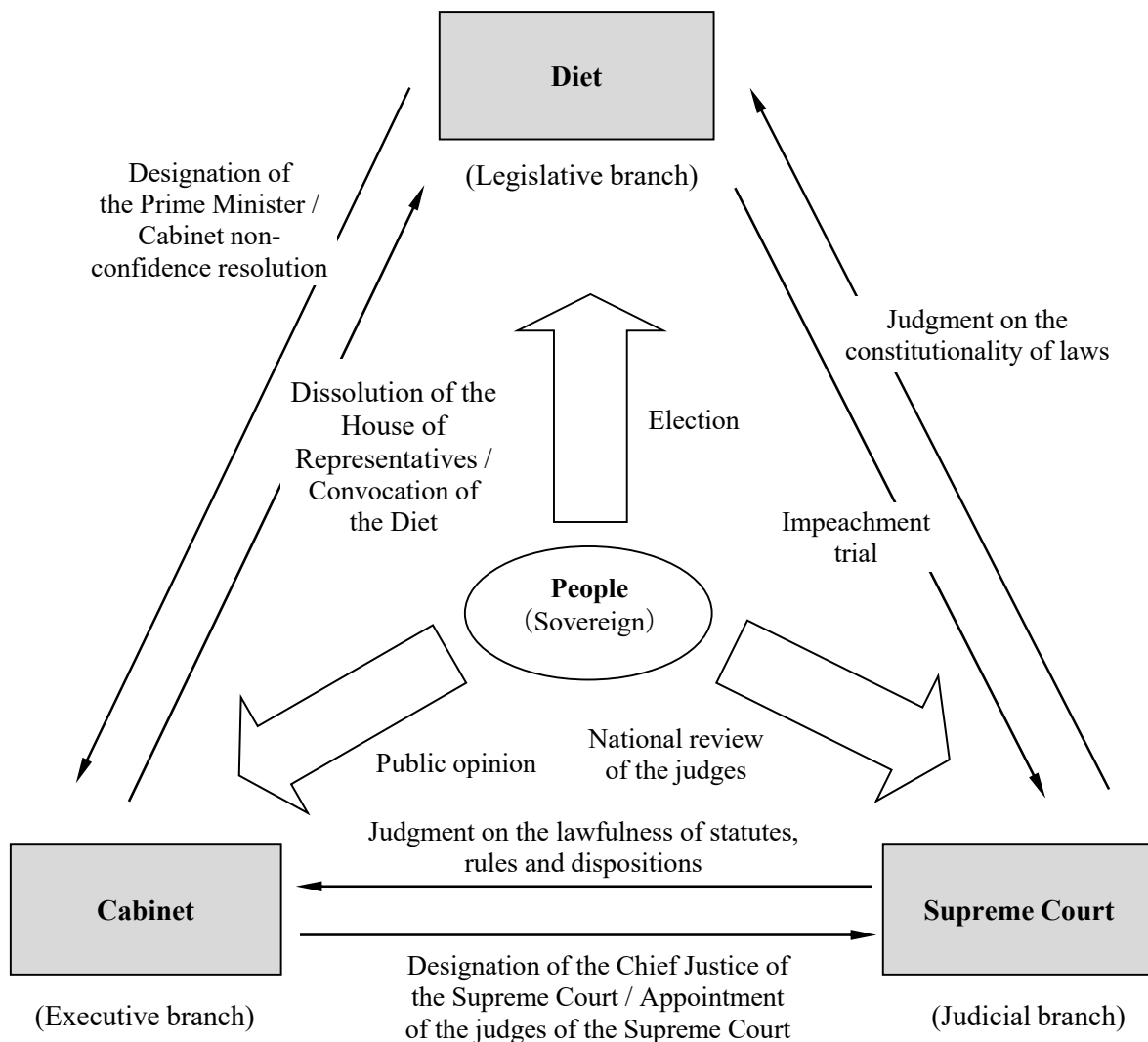
© AIDA Katsuhito

The Children and Families Agency was launched on April 1, 2023 as a new organization to lead efforts related to children. Its purpose is to consider what is best for children and to reflect those priorities in government policy.

## 1. Separation of Powers

The Constitution of Japan, which went into effect on May 3, 1947, is based on three core principles: sovereignty of the people, respect for fundamental human rights and pacifism. To control governmental power effectively through checks and balances, governmental power is separated into three independent branches: legislative, executive and judicial, and each contains a separate set of agencies and personnel.

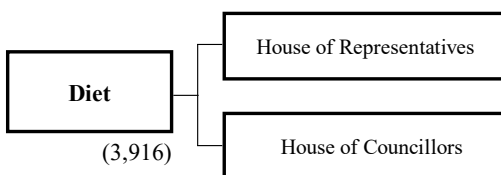
**Figure 17.1**  
**Separation of Powers under the Constitution of Japan**



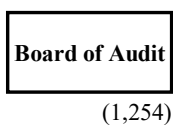
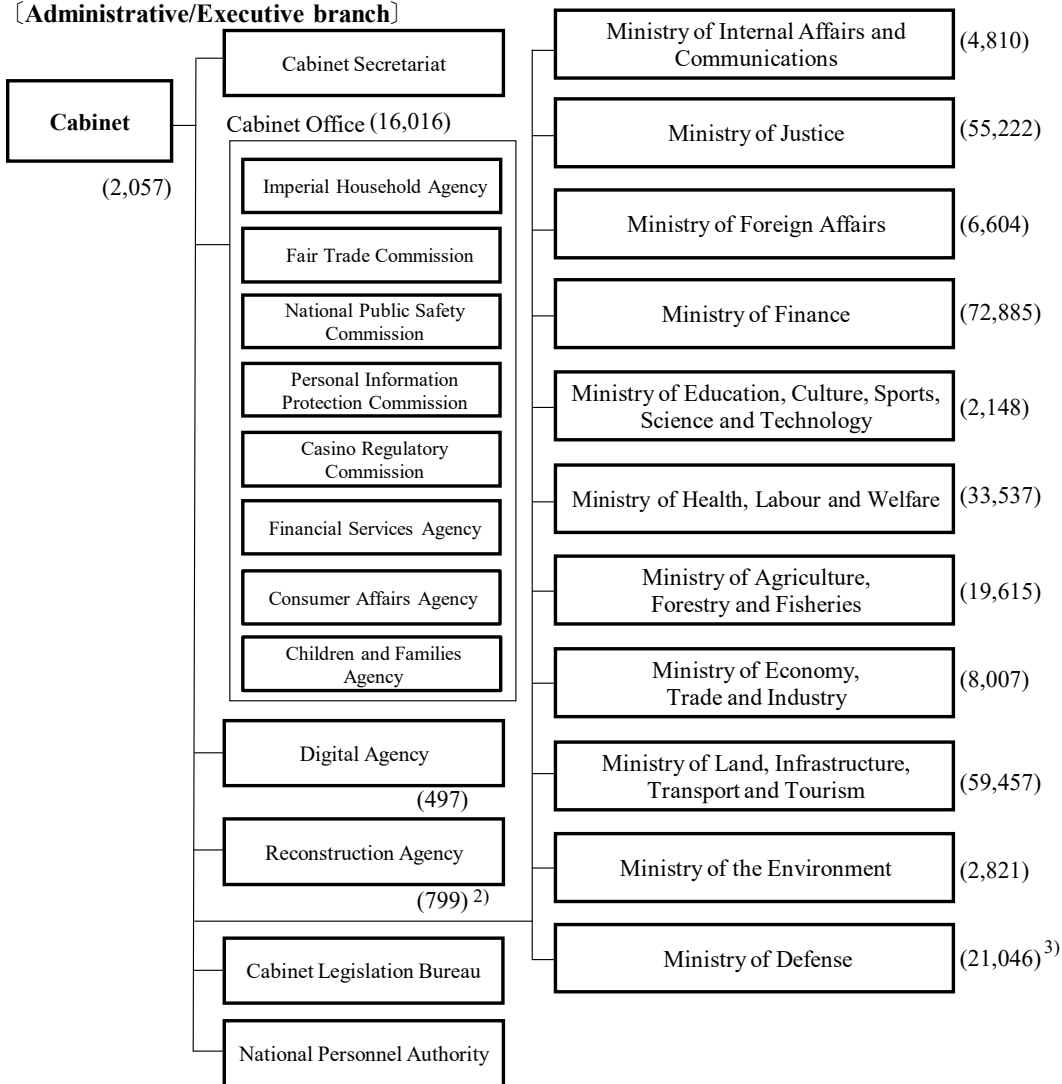
Source: Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet.

**Figure 17.2**  
**Government Organization <sup>1)</sup> (FY2023)**

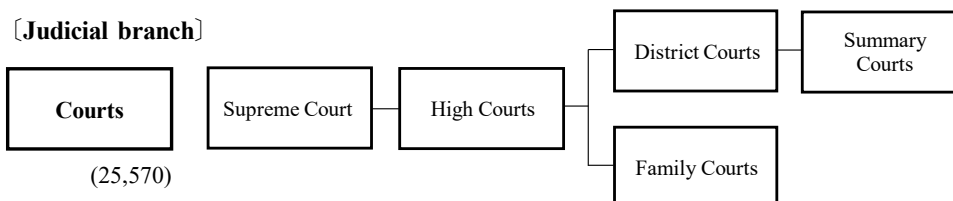
[Legislative branch]



[Administrative/Executive branch]



[Judicial branch]



1) Figures in parentheses refer to budgetary fixed number of national government employees.

2) Of the 799 employees, 221 are from the Reconstruction Agency and 578 are from other ministries.

3) Excluding the number of the personnel of the Self-Defense Forces.

Source: Cabinet Bureau of Personnel Affairs, Cabinet Secretariat; Ministry of Finance.

## 2. Legislative Branch

The Diet is the highest organ of state power, and is the sole law-making organ of the State. The Diet consists of the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors. Both Houses consist of elected members, representative of all the people.

The most important responsibility of the Diet is to enact legislation. The Diet also has the authority to fulfill a number of additional functions, including the deliberation and passage of the budget and other matters of fiscal importance, the approval of treaties, the designation of the Prime Minister and the initiation of motions to amend the Constitution. Each House may conduct investigations relating to the government, and demand the presence and testimony of witnesses, and the production of records. For the Diet to pass a resolution, the agreement of both Houses of the Diet is necessary. However, when the two Houses differ in their resolutions regarding legislative bills, draft budgets, the approval of treaties or the designation of the Prime Minister, under the terms of the Constitution, the decision of the House of Representatives overrides that of the House of Councillors.

The term of office for Diet members is set by the Constitution. Members of the House of Representatives serve a 4-year term, while members of the House of Councillors, 6 years. Elections for the latter are held every 3 years, so that one half of the seats are contested in each election.

The House of Representatives has 465 members. Of these, 289 are elected under a single-seat constituency system, while 176 are elected under a proportional representation system in which the nation is divided into 11 regions. The last general election was held in October 2021. The House of Councillors has 248 members, of whom 100 are elected through proportional representation, and 148 are elected as representatives from 45 electoral districts of the nation, based upon prefectures. The last regular election was held in July 2022.

In June 2015, revisions to the Public Offices Election Law, which consist mainly of lowering the voting age from 20 to 18 years or older, were established and promulgated. The revisions were applied starting with the House of Councillors regular election, which was officially announced in June 2016. Both men and women above the qualifying age are eligible to run in elections. The qualifying age for members of the House of



Representatives is 25 years or older, while the qualifying age for members of the House of Councillors is 30 years or older.

**Table 17.1**  
**Diet Members by Political Group**

House of Representatives (as of April 25, 2023)			House of Councillors (as of May 7, 2023)		
Membership 465, Vacancies 0			Membership 248, Vacancies 0		
Name	Males	Females	Name	Males	Females
Incumbents .....	417	48	Incumbents .....	182	66
Liberal Democratic Party .....	242	21	Liberal Democratic Party .....	95	24
The Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan and the Independent .....	84	13	The Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan and Social Democratic Party .....	20	20
Nippon Ishin (Japan Innovation Party) .....	36	5	Komeito .....	23	4
Komeito .....	28	4	Nippon Ishin (Japan Innovation Party) .....	17	4
Democratic Party For the People ....	9	1	Democratic Party For the People and The Shin-Ryokufukai .....	9	4
Japanese Communist Party .....	8	2	Japanese Communist Party .....	6	5
Yushi no Kai .....	5	0	REIWA SHINSENGUMI .....	4	1
REIWA SHINSENGUMI .....	1	2	Okinawa Whirlwind .....	2	0
Independents .....	4	0	sejikajoshi48party .....	2	0
			Independents .....	4	4

Source: The House of Representatives; The House of Councillors.

### 3. Executive Branch

The Cabinet exercises its executive power on the basis of the laws and budgets adopted by the Diet. The Cabinet, composed of the Prime Minister and other Ministers of State, is collectively responsible to the Diet, regarding the exercise of the executive power. The Prime Minister is elected in the Diet from among its members. The Ministers of State are appointed by the Prime Minister, and the majority of them must be Diet members. Thus, Japan adopts the parliamentary Cabinet system, in which the organization and existence of the Cabinet rest on the confidence in the Diet.

The Cabinet's powers include the following: (i) implementing laws; (ii) engaging in foreign diplomacy; (iii) signing treaties; (iv) overseeing the operational affairs of public officers; (v) formulating a budget and submitting it to the Diet; (vi) enacting Cabinet orders; and (vii) deciding amnesty. In addition, the Cabinet powers also include designating the

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and appointing other judges. The Cabinet also gives advice and approval to the Emperor in matters of state, and bears the responsibility for this.

**Table 17.2**  
**Successive Prime Ministers**

Date <sup>1)</sup>	Name	Date <sup>1)</sup>	Name
Oct. 4, 2021	KISHIDA Fumio	Sep. 26, 2007	FUKUDA Yasuo
Sep. 16, 2020	SUGA Yoshihide	Sep. 26, 2006	ABE Shinzo
Dec. 26, 2012	ABE Shinzo	Apr. 26, 2001	KOIZUMI Junichiro
Sep. 2, 2011	NODA Yoshihiko	Apr. 5, 2000	MORI Yoshiro
Jun. 8, 2010	KAN Naoto	Jul. 30, 1998	OBUCHI Keizo
Sep. 16, 2009	HATAYAMA Yukio	Jan. 11, 1996	HASHIMOTO Ryutaro
Sep. 24, 2008	ASO Taro	Jun. 30, 1994	MURAYAMA Tomiichi

1) Date of initial cabinet formation.

Source: Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet.

## 4. Judicial Branch

Judicial power resides in the courts and is independent from the executive branch and the legislative branch.

The Constitution provides for the establishment of the Supreme Court as the highest court with final judgment, while the Court Act provides for 4 lower-level courts (High Court, District Court, Family Court and Summary Court). At present, there are 8 High Courts, 50 District Courts, 50 Family Courts, and 438 Summary Courts throughout the nation.

To ensure fair judgments, Japan uses a three-tiered judicial system. The first courts in the court hierarchy are the District Courts, the second are the High Courts, and the highest court is the Supreme Court. The system thus allows a case to be heard and ruled on up to 3 times in principle, should a party involved in the case so desire. The Summary Courts and Family Courts handle simple cases, domestic relations and cases involving juveniles as first courts.

The Supreme Court has the authority to deliver the final judgment on the legitimacy of any law, ordinance, regulation, or disposition. It is chaired by the Chief Justice and 14 judges.

A lay judge system began in May 2009. This is a system under which citizens participate in criminal trials as judges to determine, together with

professional judges, whether the defendant is guilty or not and, if found guilty, what sentence should apply. What is hoped for is that the public's participation in criminal trials will make citizens feel more involved in the justice process and make the trials easier to understand, thus leading to the public's greater trust in the justice system. A total of 15,089 people were tried in lay judge trials held between the start of the system and December 2022.

**Table 17.3**  
**Judicial Cases Newly Commenced, Terminated or Pending (All courts)**

Year	(Thousands)					
	Civil and administrative cases			Criminal cases <sup>1)</sup>		
	Commenced	Terminated	Pending	Commenced	Terminated	Pending
2005	2,713	2,827	576	1,568	1,572	47
2010	2,179	2,241	536	1,158	1,161	36
2015	1,432	1,425	409	1,033	1,030	34
2020	1,350	1,324	456	852	851	33
2021	1,374	1,400	430	845	847	31

Year	(Thousands)					
	Domestic cases			Juvenile cases <sup>1)</sup>		
	Commenced	Terminated	Pending	Commenced	Terminated	Pending
2005	718	713	99	237	238	32
2010	815	815	106	165	168	25
2015	970	959	133	95	98	13
2020	1,105	1,092	159	53	54	8
2021	1,150	1,156	154	47	48	7

1) The number of persons.

Source: Supreme Court of Japan.

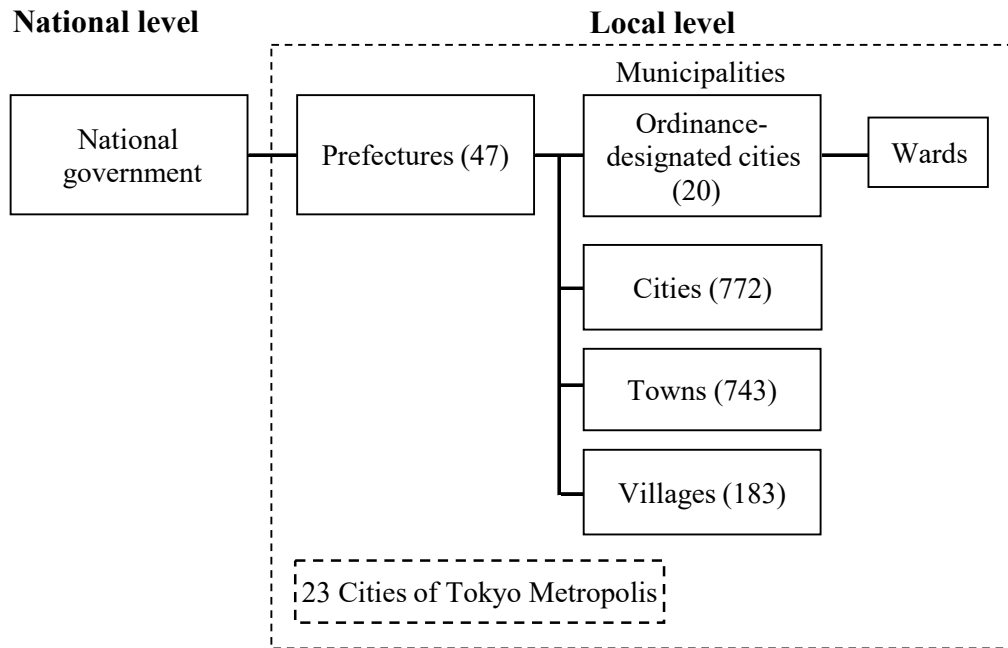
## 5. Local Governments

The affairs of local governments in Japan are conducted by ordinary local governments (prefectures and municipalities within each prefecture) and by special local governments, such as special wards. As of October 1, 2018, Japan has 47 prefectures, within which there are 1,718 municipalities, plus the 23 Cities of Tokyo metropolis. In order to strengthen the administrative and fiscal foundation of the municipalities, municipal mergers were promoted by law. Consequently, the number of municipalities was reduced by nearly half from the 3,232 existing at the end of March 1999.

Municipalities that satisfy certain population criteria (i.e., 500,000 people or more) are eligible for designation as "Ordinance-designated cities". This designation gives them administrative and fiscal authority equivalent to

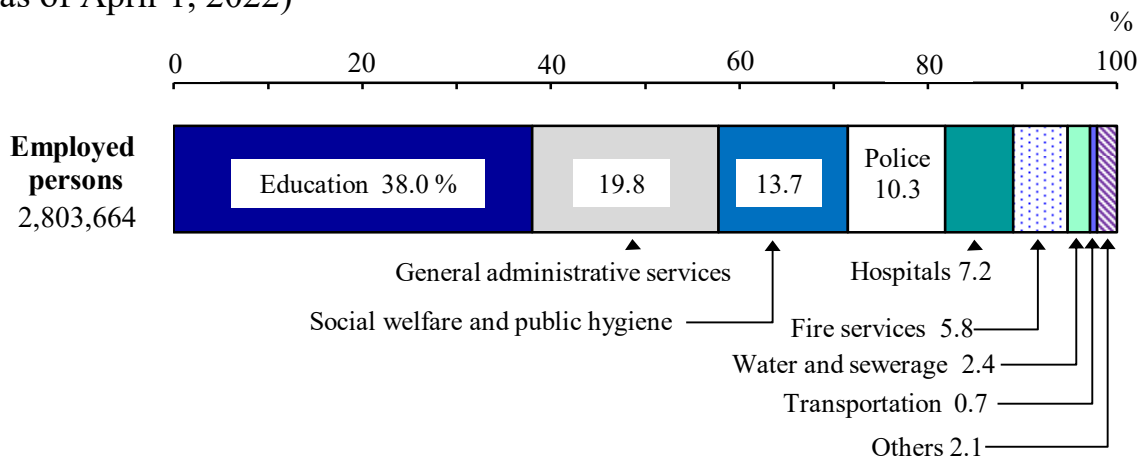
those of prefectures. With the addition of Kumamoto City in April 2012, there are presently 20 cities that have earned this designation. See the map on the inside back cover.

**Figure 17.3**  
**Government System by Level** <sup>1)</sup> (as of October 1, 2018)



1) Figures in parentheses indicate number.  
 Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

**Figure 17.4**  
**Local Government Employees by Type of Administrative Services**  
 (as of April 1, 2022)



Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

## Appendix 1

### Population, Surface Area, and Population Density by Prefecture

Prefectures	Prefectural capital cities	Population (1,000)		Surface area (km <sup>2</sup> )		Population density (per km <sup>2</sup> )	
		2020 <sup>1)</sup>	2022 <sup>2)</sup>	Total area	Inhabitable	Total area	Inhabitable
				2021	2021	2021	2021
Japan .....		126,146	124,947	377,975	122,956	337	1,021
Hokkaido .....	Sapporo City	5,225	5,140	83,424	22,699	66	228
Aomori .....	Aomori City	1,238	1,204	9,646	3,253	127	375
Iwate .....	Morioka City	1,211	1,181	15,275	3,751	78	319
Miyagi .....	Sendai City	2,302	2,280	7,282	3,186	315	719
Akita .....	Akita City	960	930	11,638	3,233	81	292
Yamagata .....	Yamagata City	1,068	1,041	9,323	2,873	113	367
Fukushima .....	Fukushima City	1,833	1,790	13,784	4,231	132	428
Ibaraki .....	Mito City	2,867	2,840	6,097	3,889	468	733
Tochigi .....	Utsunomiya City	1,933	1,909	6,408	3,005	300	639
Gunma .....	Maebashi City	1,939	1,913	6,362	2,269	303	849
Saitama .....	Saitama City	7,345	7,337	3,798	2,603	1,933	2,820
Chiba .....	Chiba City	6,284	6,266	5,157	3,534	1,217	1,776
Tokyo .....	23 Cities of Tokyo	14,048	14,038	2,194	1,423	6,386	9,847
Kanagawa .....	Yokohama City	9,237	9,232	2,416	1,474	3,823	6,267
Niigata .....	Niigata City	2,201	2,153	12,584	4,550	173	478
Toyama .....	Toyama City	1,035	1,017	4,248	1,842	241	556
Ishikawa .....	Kanazawa City	1,133	1,118	4,186	1,395	269	807
Fukui .....	Fukui City	767	753	4,191	1,077	181	706
Yamanashi .....	Kofu City	810	802	4,465	953	180	845
Nagano .....	Nagano City	2,048	2,020	13,562	3,249	150	626
Gifu .....	Gifu City	1,979	1,946	10,621	2,211	185	887
Shizuoka .....	Shizuoka City	3,633	3,582	7,777	2,775	464	1,300
Aichi .....	Nagoya City	7,542	7,495	5,173	2,996	1,453	2,509
Mie .....	Tsu City	1,770	1,742	5,774	2,064	304	851
Shiga .....	Otsu City	1,414	1,409	4,017	1,300	351	1,086
Kyoto .....	Kyoto City	2,578	2,550	4,612	1,177	555	2,175
Osaka .....	Osaka City	8,838	8,782	1,905	1,334	4,622	6,601
Hyogo .....	Kobe City	5,465	5,402	8,401	2,769	647	1,961
Nara .....	Nara City	1,324	1,306	3,691	854	356	1,540
Wakayama .....	Wakayama City	923	903	4,725	1,123	194	814
Tottori .....	Tottori City	553	544	3,507	904	157	607
Shimane .....	Matsue City	671	658	6,708	1,271	99	523
Okayama .....	Okayama City	1,888	1,862	7,114	2,228	264	842
Hiroshima .....	Hiroshima City	2,800	2,760	8,479	2,298	328	1,210
Yamaguchi .....	Yamaguchi City	1,342	1,313	6,113	1,715	217	774
Tokushima .....	Tokushima City	720	704	4,147	1,016	172	701
Kagawa .....	Takamatsu City	950	934	1,877	1,005	502	937
Ehime .....	Matsuyama City	1,335	1,306	5,676	1,666	233	793
Kochi .....	Kochi City	692	676	7,104	1,161	96	589
Fukuoka .....	Fukuoka City	5,135	5,116	4,987	2,764	1,028	1,854
Saga .....	Saga City	811	801	2,441	1,335	330	604
Nagasaki .....	Nagasaki City	1,312	1,283	4,131	1,668	314	778
Kumamoto .....	Kumamoto City	1,738	1,718	7,409	2,747	233	629
Oita .....	Oita City	1,124	1,107	6,341	1,795	176	621
Miyazaki .....	Miyazaki City	1,070	1,052	7,735	1,876	137	566
Kagoshima .....	Kagoshima City	1,588	1,563	9,186	3,287	172	479
Okinawa .....	Naha City	1,467	1,468	2,282	1,126	643	1,304

1) Population Census. 2) Population Estimates.

Source: Statistics Bureau, MIC; Geospatial Information Authority of Japan.

## Appendix 2

### Conversion Factors

	Metric units	British Imperial and U.S. equivalents
Length:	1 centimeter (cm) .....	0.39370 inches
	1 meter (m) .....	{ 3.28084 feet
	1 kilometer (km) .....	{ 1.09361 yards
		0.62137 miles
Area:	1 square meter (m <sup>2</sup> ) .....	{ 10.7639 square feet
	1 square kilometer (km <sup>2</sup> ) .....	{ 1.19599 square yards
	1 hectare (ha)	} ..... 2.47105 acres
	10,000 square meters (m <sup>2</sup> ) }	
Volume:	1 cubic meter (m <sup>3</sup> ) .....	{ 35.3147 cubic feet
		{ 1.30795 cubic yards
Weight:	1 kilogram (kg) .....	{ 35.2740 ounces
		{ 2.20462 pounds
	1 ton (t) .....	{ 0.98421 long tons
		{ 1.10231 short tons
Capacity:	1 liter (L) .....	{ 0.87988 imp. Quarts
		{ 1.05669 U.S. liq. Quarts
Temperature:	centigrade (°C) .....	$5/9 \times (\text{Fahrenheit} - 32)$

## Appendix 3

### Foreign Exchange Rates <sup>1)</sup>

Year	(Yen per U.S. dollar)	
	Average	End of year
2000	107.77	114.90
2001	121.53	131.47
2002	125.31	119.37
2003	115.93	106.97
2004	108.18	103.78
2005	110.16	117.48
2006	116.31	118.92
2007	117.76	113.12
2008	103.37	90.28
2009	93.54	92.13
2010	87.78	81.51
2011	79.81	77.57
2012	79.81	86.32
2013	97.63	105.37
2014	105.85	119.80
2015	121.03	120.42
2016	108.84	117.11
2017	112.16	112.65
2018	110.39	110.40
2019	109.01	109.15
2020	106.78	103.33
2021	109.80	115.12
2022	131.38	132.14

1) Midpoint rate in the interbank foreign exchange market in Tokyo.

Source: Bank of Japan.