

CHAPTER X: HOUSEHOLDS WITH AGED PERSONS

The number of ‘aged-single-person households’ is 3.86 million, a 27.5% increase.

Population aging in Japan has been advancing rapidly, which is leading to an increase in households with aged persons. The number of private households with relatives 65 years of age and over (aged relatives) is 17.2 million in 2005, which is a 14.4% increase from the number in 2000. The proportion of these private households to the entire private households also gradually went up from 22.7% in 1980 to 29.1% in 1995, to 32.2% in 2000, and finally reached 35.1% in 2005, accounting for over one third of private households.

Regarding private households with aged relatives by family type, the number of ‘aged-single-person households’ increased by 27.5%, from 3.03 million in 2000 to 3.86 million in 2005, and the number of ‘family nuclei’ households also increased rapidly by 23.8%, from 6.8 million to 8.41 million. (Table 10.1)

One in 5.3 women 65 years of age and over lives alone.

The ‘aged-single-person households’ have increased by 830 thousand from 2000, and the proportion of ‘aged-single-person households’ within the population 65 years of age and over has also risen to 15.1% from 13.8% in 2000. Observing ‘aged-single-person households’ by sex, those of men number 1.05 million and those of women number 2.81 million, indicating that there are 2.7 times as many women in such households as men. Regarding the proportion of male and female ‘aged-single-person households’ within the population 65 years of age and over, men account for 9.7% while women account for 19.0%, meaning that approximately one in five women 65 years of age and over is living in an ‘aged-single-person household’. (Table 10.1)

Table 10.1 Trends in the Number of Households by Family Type of Private Households with Aged Relatives: 1995 to 2005

Family type of household	Number of private households (thousands of households)			Proportion (%)			Change rate (%)	
	1995	2000	2005	1995	2000	2005	1995-2000	2000-2005
Total	12,780	15,045	17,204	100.0	100.0	100.0	17.7	14.4
A Relatives households	10,564	11,994	13,313	82.7	79.7	77.4	13.5	11.0
I Family nuclei	5,162	6,798	8,415	40.4	45.2	48.9	31.7	23.8
A married couple only	3,042	3,977	4,779	23.8	26.4	27.8	30.7	20.2
Aged-couple households	2,763	3,661	4,487	21.6	24.3	26.1	32.5	22.6
A married couple with their child(ren)	1,146	1,568	2,042	9.0	10.4	11.9	36.9	30.2
A parent and his or her child(ren)	975	1,253	1,594	7.6	8.3	9.3	28.5	27.3
II Other relatives households	5,402	5,196	4,898	42.3	34.5	28.5	-3.8	-5.7
B Non-relatives households	14	19	27	0.1	0.1	0.2	35.4	42.6
C “Aged-single-person households”	2,202	3,032	3,865	17.2	20.2	22.5	37.7	27.5

A higher proportion of households of ‘aged-single-person households’ live in rented houses owned privately.

Regarding private households with aged relatives living in dwelling houses (17.16 million households) by tenure of dwelling, the proportion of households living in owned houses is high at 83.5%, which is followed by the proportion of households living in rented houses owned privately at 9.3%, and the proportion of households living in rented houses owned by local governments at 4.7%, etc. The proportions of households living in rented houses owned by Urban Renaissance agency and public corporation, living in rented rooms, and living in issued houses are very small, standing at 1.7%, at 0.6%, and at 0.3%, respectively. Comparing these figures with that of the entire private households living in dwelling houses, the ratio of owner occupants is high and the proportion living in rented houses owned privately is low for private households with aged relatives.

The figures are almost the same for aged-couple households, among which owner occupants account for 86.4% and those living in rented houses owned privately for 6.3%. ‘Aged-single-person households’ show a lower ratio of owner occupants of 64.9%, but a higher proportion of living in rented houses owned privately of 21.1%. In particular, male ‘aged-single-person households’ show a high proportion of living in rented houses owned privately of 31.4%, a figure exceeding 30% that is high in comparison with the figure of private households living in dwelling houses. (Table 10.2)

Table 10.2 Number of the Households by Kind of Residence and Tenure of Dwelling of Private Households with Aged Relatives: 2005

Kind of residence and tenure of dwelling	Number of private households (thousands of households)					Proportion (%)				
	Households with aged relatives	Aged- couple households	“Aged-single-person households”			Households with aged relatives	Aged- couple households	“Aged-single-person households”		
			Both sexes	Male	Female			Both sexes	Male	Female
Total	17,204	4,487	3,865	1,051	2,814					
Private households living in dwelling houses	17,159	4,474	3,842	1,040	2,802	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Principal households	17,062	4,451	3,783	1,023	2,760	99.4	99.5	98.5	98.4	98.5
Owned houses	14,321	3,866	2,495	572	1,924	83.5	86.4	64.9	55.0	68.6
Rented houses owned by local governments	804	207	354	84	270	4.7	4.6	9.2	8.1	9.6
Rented houses owned by Urban Renaissance agency and public corporation	289	85	109	34	75	1.7	1.9	2.8	3.3	2.7
Rented houses owned privately	1,595	282	812	327	485	9.3	6.3	21.1	31.4	17.3
Issued houses	53	12	13	6	6	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.2
Rented rooms	97	22	59	17	42	0.6	0.5	1.5	1.6	1.5
Private households living in other than dwelling houses	45	13	23	11	11	-	-	-	-	-