

# OUTLINE OF THE 2010 POPULATION CENSUS OF JAPAN

## History

The population censuses in Japan have been conducted almost every five years since 1920, the 2010 Population Census being the nineteenth one.

There are two kinds of population censuses: large-scale censuses and simplified censuses. The censuses conducted every ten years starting in 1920 were large-scale censuses while the censuses taken in the fifth year after the large-scale decennial censuses were simplified censuses.

The 2010 Population Census was conducted as a large-scale one.

The main difference between a large-scale census and a simplified census is the number of questions asked. During the prewar period, questions of the simplified censuses (1925 and 1935) were limited to the basic characteristics of the population, i.e., name, sex, age, marital status, while the large-scale censuses (1920, 1930 and 1940) covered questions on economic characteristics such as industry and occupation in addition to the basic characteristics of the population.

After World War , the scale of census-taking was generally amplified so as to satisfy the increased demands from a wider variety of users for the census results.

The large-scale censuses (1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000 and 2010) covered questions on dwellings, internal migration and education in addition to the basic and economic characteristics of the population.

The simplified censuses (1955, 1965, 1975, 1985, 1995 and 2005) covered questions on the basic and economic characteristics of the population and dwellings.

The censuses had been also conducted in Okinawa-ken since 1975, because it reverted to Japan on 15 May 1972, as the 47th prefecture of Japan. Before reversion, however, the censuses had been conducted by the U.S. Military Government of the Ryukyu Islands or Government of the Ryukyu Island five times in Okinawa-ken.

## Date of the Census

The 2010 Population Census was taken as of 0:00 a.m., 1 October 2010.

## Legal Basis of the Census

The 2010 Population Census was conducted in conformity with provisions of Article 5, Clause 2 of the Statistics Act, Cabinet Order for the Population Census (Cabinet Order No.98 of 1980), the Regulation for the Execution of the Population Census (Prime Minister's Office Order No.21 of 1980) and the Prime Minister's Office Order for Instruction for the Establishment of Enumeration Districts for the Population Census (Prime Minister's Office Order No.24 of 1984).

## Area Coverage of the Census

The 2010 Population Census covered the whole territory of Japan excluding the following islands in accordance with the Regulation for the Execution of the Population Census mentioned above.

- (1) Habomai-gunto, Shikotan-to, Kunashiri-to and Etorofu-to
- (2) Take-shima in Okinoshima-cho, Oki-gun Shimane-ken

## Population Enumerated in the Census

The 2010 Population Census used what is known as *de jure* population concept for enumerating the people. That is, a person was enumerated at the place where he or she usually lived, and was counted as the population of the area including the place.

The term “persons usually living” was defined in the census as those persons who had lived or were going to live for three months or more at their respective households at the census date. Persons who had no usual places of living in this sense were enumerated at the places where they

were present at the date of the census. There were, however, exceptions to this general rule for the following population groups:

(1) Students and pupils of regular schools as well as those attending special training schools or miscellaneous schools who were living in school dormitories, boarding houses or the like were enumerated at the places where they lived regardless of their period of stay.

(2) Inpatients of hospitals were enumerated in the hospitals only when they had been hospitalized for three months or more at the census date. Otherwise, they were enumerated at their homes even if they were expected to be in the hospital for three months or more.

(3) Crews aboard ships except ships of the Self-Defence Forces were enumerated at their residential places on land, if any. Otherwise, they were enumerated on the ships if the ships were of the Japanese flag and were at anchor at a port of Japan at the census date, or if the ships left a port of Japan before the census date and entered a port of Japan within five days after the census date without calling at any foreign ports.

(4) Residents in the camps of the Self-Defence Forces were enumerated in the camps. Crews aboard ships of the Self-Defence Forces were enumerated at the places of the local general headquarters to which their ships belonged.

(5) Persons in prisons or detention houses whose penalties had been fixed, and inmates of reformatories or women's guidance homes were enumerated at those institutions.

In accordance with the rules described above, all persons living in Japan were enumerated whether they were foreigners or not. However, the following persons were excluded from the enumeration.

(1) Foreign diplomatic corps, their suite and their dependents

(2) Foreign military personnel including both military corps and civilians, and their dependents

### **Topics to be surveyed**

The 2010 Population Census covered the following topics.

For household members:

- (1) Name
- (2) Sex
- (3) Year and month of birth
- (4) Relationship to the household head
- (5) Marital status
- (6) Nationality
- (7) Duration of residency at the current domicile
- (8) Place of 5 years previous residence
- (9) Education
- (10) Type of activity
- (11) Name of establishment and kind of business (Industry)
- (12) Kind of work (Occupation)
- (13) Employment status
- (14) Place of work or location of school
- (15) Transportation to the place of work or the location of school

For households:

- (1) Type of household
- (2) Number of household members
- (3) Type and tenure of dwelling
- (4) Area of floor space of dwelling
- (5) Type of building and number of stories

### **Method of the Census**

The 2010 Population Census was conducted through the following channel: Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications — Prefectures (*To, Do, Fu* and *Ken*) — Municipalities (*Shi, Ku, Machi* and *Mura*) — Super-visors — Enumerators — Households.

Before the census-taking, enumeration districts for the 2010 census were demarcated and mapped. The enumeration districts numbered about 1,010,000 were delineated to comprise 50

households per enumeration district on the average and each enumeration district was in general demarcated by combining some of basic unit blocks. The basic unit blocks were set up in the 1990 Population Census as units of area for permanent use.

Enumeration was done as follows. About 700,000 enumerators who were specially appointed for the 2010 Population Census by Director-General of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications delivered questionnaires to each household and requested the household head to fill out each item. Respondents had basically two options for submitting filled out questionnaires, namely, enumerators' pickup and mail-back to municipalities. In addition, the Internet response option was available in Tokyo to.

For the households which were not canvassed due to their absence from home during the period of census-taking, the enumerator filled out name, sex and number of household members on the questionnaires through interviews with neighbours.

In the 2010 Population Census, the mark-sheet type questionnaires printed on both sides and designed for four individuals to report on one sheet were used separately for each household.

## **Tabulation and Publication**

The National Statistics Center, Incorporated Administrative Agency, takes charge of the whole tabulation of the census results. The tabulated results are released on the website and in reports by the Statistics Bureau. The reports containing the principal results are published approximately four month after the release. The tabulation and publication are scheduled as follows.

### **(1) Preliminary Counts of the Population and Households**

As the first release of the census results, the preliminary counts of the population and of households for the whole country, prefectures and municipalities (i.e. *shi*, *ku*, *machi* and *mura*) were announced in the official gazette of the government on 25 February 2011.

These preliminary counts are based on the entries on the summary sheets which are prepared by the prefectural and municipal governments to ascertain the number of persons and households enumerated in the respective enumeration districts under their jurisdiction.

### **(2) Preliminary Sample Tabulation**

The tabulation by using sample households was carried out to offer preliminary results on the basic characteristics of population and households including sex, age, labour force status, industrial and occupational structure, place of work or schooling, and Migrant. The sampling ratio for this tabulation was about one percent.

The results were released in 29 June 2011 and a report entitled "2010 Population Census of Japan, Results of Preliminary Sample Tabulation" (this report) is now published.

### **(3) Basic Complete Tabulation on Population and Households**

In the 2010 Population Census, the complete tabulation is performed in three stages. The first basic complete tabulation includes statistics on the basic characteristics of population and households, and statistics on aged persons household, for the whole country, prefectures and municipalities.

The results of this tabulation for each prefecture and municipality are released by October 2011, successively, prefecture by prefecture, and the reports entitled "2010 Population Census of Japan, Volume 2-2: Results of Basic Complete Tabulation on Population and Households" (12 separate books) are published. The results for the whole country are released in October 2011. And the report entitled "2010 Population Census of Japan, Volume 2-1: Results of Basic Complete Tabulation on Population and Households" is published.

At this stage, the report entitled "2010 Population Census of Japan, Volume 1: Total Population and Households" which contains the population, households and area of each municipality as well as those of each prefecture, the whole country and each Densely Inhabited District is published in March 2012.

### **(4) Basic Complete Tabulation on Industries**

The tabulation at this stage includes basic statistics on labour force status of population and industry of employed persons for the whole country, prefectures and municipalities.

The results of this tabulation for each prefecture and municipality are released by April 2012, successively, prefecture by prefecture, and the reports entitled “2010 Population Census of Japan, Volume 3-2: Results of Basic Complete Tabulation on Industries” (12 separate books) are published.

The results for the whole country are released in April 2012 and the report entitled “2010 Population Census of Japan, Volume 3-1 : Results of Basic Complete Tabulation on Industries” is published.

#### **(5) Basic Complete Tabulation on Occupations**

The tabulation at this stage includes basic statistics on occupational structure of employed persons for the whole country, prefectures and municipalities.

The results of Basic Complete Tabulation on Occupations for each prefecture and municipality are released by November 2012, successively, prefecture by prefecture, and the reports entitled “2010 Population Census of Japan, Volume 4-2: Results of Basic Complete Tabulation on Occupations” (12 separate books) are published. The results for the whole country are released in November 2012, and the report entitled “2010 Population Census of Japan, Volume 4-1: Results of Basic Complete Tabulation on Occupations” is published.

#### **(6) Detailed Sample Tabulation**

The detailed sample tabulation is carried out to provide more detailed tables for the whole country, prefectures and municipalities. In this tabulation included are statistics based on detailed classifications of industry and occupation of employed persons.

The results of this tabulation for each prefecture and municipality are released by October 2013, successively, prefecture by prefecture, and the reports entitled “2010 Population Census of Japan, Volume 5-2: Results of Detailed Sample Tabulation” (12 separate books) are published.

The results for the whole country are released in October 2013 and the report entitled “2010 Population Census of Japan, Volume 5-1: Results of Detailed Sample Tabulation” is published.

#### **(7) Tabulation on Place of Work or Schooling**

The tabulation on place of work or schooling is designed to provide statistics on the daily movement of workers and students commuting between their homes and places of work or schooling and economic characteristics of commuters. The results of this tabulation are also used to calculate the daytime population in each municipality to be compared with each nighttime population, that is, the *de jure* population.

The tabulation on commuting population is carried out in three stages.

##### **( ) Tabulation on Place of Work or Schooling for Population and Industries**

The first stage of the tabulation on commuting population includes statistics on the basic characteristics of population except occupation of employed persons by the place of work or schooling. The results are released by June 2012, and the reports entitled “2010 Population Census of Japan, Volume 6-1 Part1: Results of Tabulation on Place of Work or Schooling for Population and Industries” and “2010 Population Census of Japan, Volume 6-1 Part2 : Results of Tabulation on Place of Work or Schooling for Population and Industries” (12 separate books) are published.

##### **( ) Tabulation on Place of Work or Schooling for Occupations**

The second stage of the tabulation on commuting population includes the results on the occupational structure of employed persons by the place of work. The results are released by March 2013, and the reports entitled “2010 Population Census of Japan, Volume 6-2: Results of Tabulation on Place of Work or Schooling for Occupations” (6 separate books) are published.

##### **( ) Detailed Sample Tabulation on Place of Work or Schooling**

The third stage of the tabulation is conducted after the completion of the detailed sample tabulation to obtain statistics concerning detailed industry and occupation of commuters. The results are released by October 2013, and the reports entitled “2010 Population Census of Japan, Volume 6-3 : Results of Detailed Sample Tabulation on Place of Work or Schooling”

(6 separate books) are published.

### **(8) Tabulation on Internal Migration**

The tabulation on internal migration is scheduled to provide statistics concerning the number, direction and characteristics of those who changed usual place of residence.

The tabulation on internal migration will be carried out in three stages.

( ) Tabulation on Internal Migration for Population

The first stage of the tabulation on internal migration aims at clarifying mobility of population, that is, a change in usual place of residence and characteristics of migrants except industry and occupation.

The results are released in January 2012, and the reports entitled “2010 Population Census of Japan, Volume 7-1: Results of Tabulation on Internal Migration for Population” (12 separate books) are published.

( ) Tabulation on Internal Migration for Industries

The second stage of the tabulation on internal migration aims at clarifying mobility of population, that is, a change in usual place of residence and migrants by industry.

The results are released in July 2012, and the reports entitled “2010 Population Census of Japan, Volume 7-2: Results of Tabulation on Internal Migration for Industries” (12 separate books) are published.

( ) Tabulation on Internal Migration for Occupations

The third stage of the tabulation on internal migration aims at clarifying mobility of population, that is, a change in usual place of residence and migrants by occupation.

The results are released in April 2013, and the reports entitled “2010 Population Census of Japan, Volume 7-3: Results of Tabulation on Internal Migration for Occupations” are published.

### **(9) Tabulation for Small Areas**

The fundamental results are tabulated by such small areas as subdivision of municipalities by *cho* and *aza*.

The results based on Basic Complete Tabulation on Population and Households, Basic Complete Tabulation on Industries, Basic Complete Tabulation on Occupations, the tabulation on place of work or schooling and the tabulation on internal migration become available after the release of the results of the corresponding tabulation for prefectures and municipalities.