

CHAPTER X: POPULATION OF FOREIGN RESIDENTS

1. Trends in the Population of Foreign Residents and Nationalities

The population of foreign residents is 1.75 million, a 6.3% increase.

The 2015 Population Census shows that the population of foreign residents usually living in Japan is 1.75 million (1.4% of the total population), which is an increase of 6.3% from the population of foreign residents in 2010.

Trends in the population of foreign residents since 1950 indicate that the population of foreigners residing in Japan continued to increase with the exception of 1960. (Table 10.1)

Number of Chinese nationals occupies about 30 percent of foreigners.

According to the population of foreign residents in 2015 by nationality, the number of Chinese is the largest (511 thousand), followed by that of Koreans (377 thousand), Filipinos (172 thousand), Brazilians (126 thousand), etc.

A comparison of the proportion of foreign residents by nationality in 2015 with that in 2010 reveals that the proportions of nationality of Korea and Brazil decreased by 4.2 percentage points (pp) and 2.1 pp respectively, while the proportion of Vietnam and Chinese nationals increased by 3.2 pp and 1.2 pp, respectively. (Table 10.2)

Table 10.1 Trends in the Total Population, the Number of Foreigners and the Number of Japanese: 1950 to 2015

Year	Number (thousands)						Sex ratio of foreigners	foreigners growth (%)	Proportion of foreigners (%)
	Total Population	Foreigners			Japan	Not reported			
		Both sexes	Male	Female					
1950	84,115	529	299	230	-	-	129.6	-	0.6
1955	90,077	598	328	270	-	-	121.7	13.1	0.7
1960	94,302	579	312	266	-	-	117.4	-3.3	0.6
1965	99,209	596	317	279	-	-	113.7	3.1	0.6
1970	104,665	604	319	285	104,061	-	112.1	1.3	0.6
1975	111,940	642	335	307	111,252	46	109.2	6.2	0.6
1980	117,060	669	344	325	116,320	71	105.8	4.2	0.6
1985	121,049	720	364	356	120,287	41	102.3	7.7	0.6
1990	123,611	886	445	441	122,398	326	101.0	23.1	0.7
1995	125,570	1,140	567	574	124,299	131	98.8	28.6	0.9
2000	126,926	1,311	621	689	125,387	229	90.1	14.9	1.0
2005	127,768	1,556	727	829	125,730	482	87.7	18.7	1.2
2010	128,057	1,648	742	906	125,359	1,050	82.0	5.9	1.3
2015	127,095	1,752	807	945	124,284	1,058	85.4	6.3	1.4

Observing the trends in the foreign residents by nationality shows that Koreans made up the bulk of foreign residents between 1950 and 1985 (about 80-90%), but afterward, there has been a decline since 1990, reaching 21.5% in 2015. Meanwhile, the number of Chinese residents has been increasing since 1980, reaching 29.2% in 2015. (Table 10.2)

Table 10.2 Trends in the Number of Foreigners by Nationality: 1950 to 2015

Year	Total	China	Korea	U.S.A	Others					
					Total	Brazil	Peru	Philippines	Vietnam	Others ¹⁾
Number (thousand)										
1950	529	40	464	5	20	-	-	-	-	-
1955	597	41	540	8	9	-	-	-	-	-
1960	579	41	516	11	11	-	-	-	-	-
1965	593	44	520	14	15	-	-	-	-	-
1970	604	45	520	18	22	-	-	-	-	-
1975	642	40	559	19	25	-	-	-	-	-
1980	669	44	558	19	30	-	-	-	-	-
1985	720	61	571	25	49	-	-	-	-	-
1990	886	109	568	33	176	42	6	36	5	92
1995	1,140	176	560	39	365	134	27	68	8	136
2000	1,311	253	529	39	489	188	34	94	13	174
2005	1,556	353	473	39	691	215	40	126	21	308
2010	1,648	460	423	38	726	153	37	146	30	390
2015	1,752	511	377	41	823	126	35	172	87	403
Proportion (%)										
1950	100.0	7.6	87.8	0.9	3.7	-	-	-	-	-
1955	100.0	6.8	90.3	1.3	1.6	-	-	-	-	-
1960	100.0	7.0	89.2	1.8	1.9	-	-	-	-	-
1965	100.0	7.4	87.8	2.3	2.5	-	-	-	-	-
1970	100.0	7.4	86.1	2.9	3.6	-	-	-	-	-
1975	100.0	6.2	87.1	2.9	3.9	-	-	-	-	-
1980	100.0	6.5	83.4	2.8	4.4	-	-	-	-	-
1985	100.0	8.4	79.3	3.5	6.8	-	-	-	-	-
1990	100.0	12.3	64.0	3.8	19.9	4.8	0.7	4.1	0.6	10.3
1995	100.0	15.4	49.1	3.4	32.0	11.7	2.4	6.0	0.7	11.9
2000	100.0	19.3	40.4	3.0	37.3	14.4	2.6	7.1	1.0	13.2
2005	100.0	22.7	30.4	2.5	44.4	13.9	2.6	8.1	1.3	19.8
2010	100.0	27.9	25.7	2.3	44.1	9.3	2.2	8.9	1.8	23.7
2015	100.0	29.2	21.5	2.4	47.0	7.2	2.0	9.8	5.0	23.0
Differences (percentage point)										
2010-2015	-	1.2	-4.2	0.0	2.9	-2.1	-0.3	1.0	3.2	-0.7

1) Includes "Statelessness and name of country not reported".

2) Excludes Okinawa-ken.

3) Based on the results of 20% sample tabulation.

4) Based on the results of special tabulation on foreigners.

5) Includes Korean living in Okinawa-ken.

2. Foreign Residents by Sex and Age

The sex ratio in the population of foreign residents is 85.4, and varies greatly by nationality.

Regarding the population of foreign residents by sex, the male population is 807 thousand while the female population is 945 thousand, showing that female foreigners outnumber male foreigners by 1.75 million leading to a sex ratio of 85.4. This ratio is 9.4 points lower than that of the Japanese population of 94.8, and varies greatly by nationality.

Regarding the sex ratio by nationality, the ratio of the U.K (310.8), the U.S.A. (198.4), Indonesia (190.7) etc., are higher than that of Japan. Meanwhile, the ratios of the Philippines (33.2), Thailand (33.5), China (68.7) and Korea (82.9) are lower than that of Japan. (Tables 10.1 and 10.3)

The proportion of the productive-age population is high among foreigners of Southeast Asian nationalities.

Regarding the proportions within the population of foreign residents among three age groups, the proportion of population aged under 15 (child population) is 9.2%, the proportion of population aged 15 to 64 (productive-age population) is 83.2% and the proportion of population aged 65 and over (aged population) is 7.6%. The proportion of productive-age population is higher than the Japanese one. Meanwhile, the proportion of the child population and the aged population are lower than the Japanese ones.

According to the proportions within the population of foreign residents among three age groups by nationality, the proportion of the productive-age population is above 90% among Thailand, Indonesian and Viet Nam nationals, and the proportion of the child population is high among Peru (18.6%), India (18.2%) and Brazilian (18.1%) nationals, while the proportion of the aged population is high among Korean nationals (24.6%).

In this way, because composition by age and sex vary considerably between nationalities, the shapes of the population pyramid are also different for each nationality. (Figure 10.1, Table 10.3)

Figure 10.1 Population Pyramids by Nationality: 2015

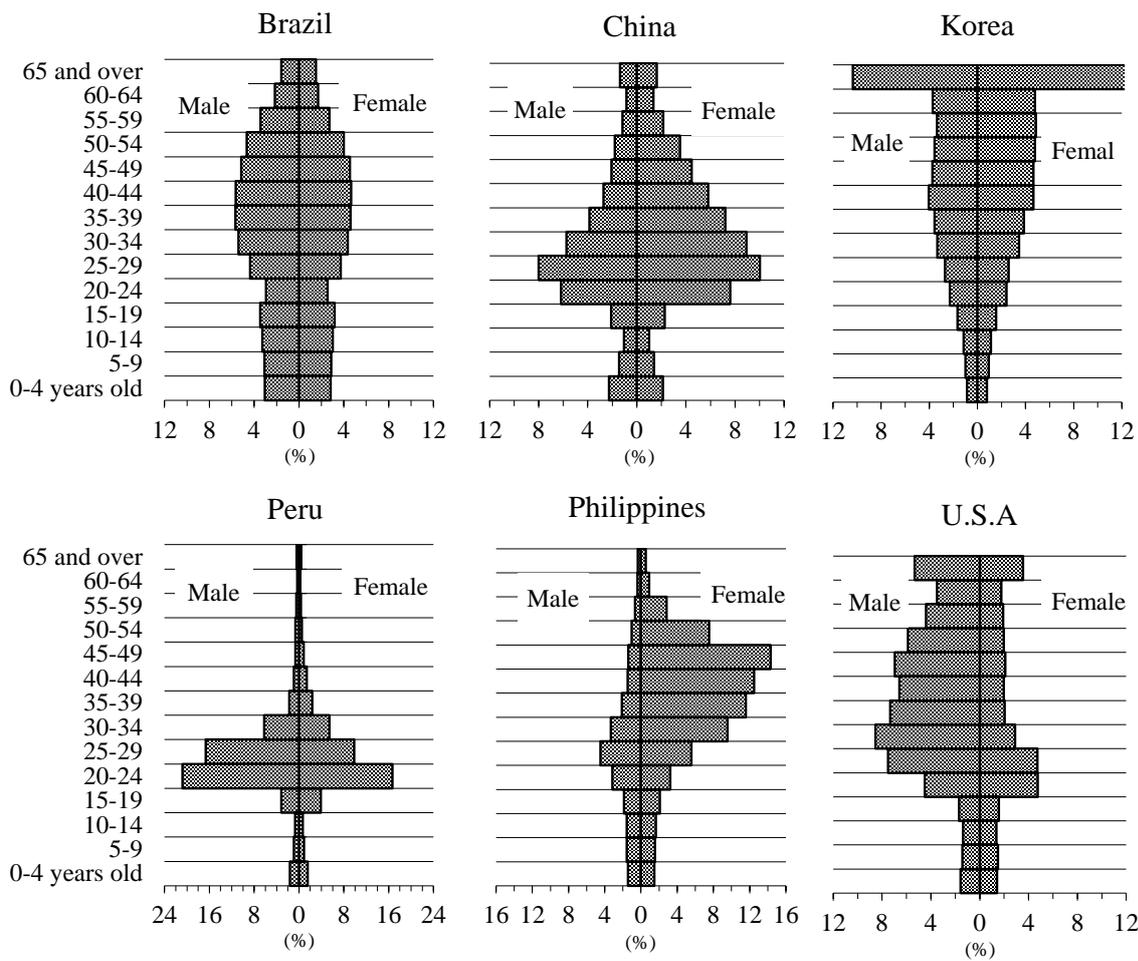


Table 10.3 Foreigners by Nationality and Age (3 Groups): 2015

Nationality	Population					Proportion (%)				Sex ratio
	Total	0-14 years old	15-64	65 and over	Not reported	Total	0-14 years old	15-64	65 and over	
Total	1,752,368	159,574	1,436,193	131,237	25,364	100	9.2	83.2	7.6	85.4
Brazil	126,091	22,725	98,902	3,859	605	100	18.1	78.8	3.1	116.8
China	511,118	46,777	443,626	15,197	5,518	100	9.3	87.7	3.0	68.7
India	16,492	2,983	13,154	250	105	100	18.2	80.3	1.5	188.3
Indonesia	25,516	1,613	23,549	166	188	100	6.4	93.0	0.7	190.7
Korea	376,954	21,901	260,764	92,266	2,023	100	5.8	69.5	24.6	82.9
Peru	34,575	6,405	26,849	1,191	130	100	18.6	77.9	3.5	108.0
Philippines	172,457	15,873	154,340	1,483	761	100	9.2	89.9	0.9	33.2
Thailand	33,843	1,189	32,030	449	175	100	3.5	95.1	1.3	33.5
U.K	11,055	508	9,858	636	53	100	4.6	89.6	5.8	310.8
U.S.A	41,405	3,559	33,979	3,664	203	100	8.6	82.5	8.9	198.4
Viet Nam	87,109	5,435	80,081	684	909	100	6.3	92.9	0.8	123.5
Others ¹⁾	315,753	30,606	259,061	11,392	14,694	100	10.2	86.0	3.8	131.3
(reference) Japan (thousands)	124,284	15,693	74,395	33,230	966	100	12.7	60.3	26.9	94.8

1) Includes "Statelessness and name of country not reported".

