

II Summary of Average Results for 2005

1 Labor force

The labour force of employed and unemployed persons combined based on the 2005 yearly average was 66.50 million (39.01 million males and 27.50 million females), an increase of 80,000 people compared to the previous year, and the first increase in the 7 years since 1998. This figure includes an increase of 270,000 employed persons, and a decrease of 190,000 unemployed persons.

A breakdown of the labour force by sex shows that males decreased by 40,000 compared to the previous year, which means a decrease for 8 consecutive years. On the other hand, females in the labour force increased by 130,000, the second consecutive year it has increased.

○ Labor force participation rate

The labour force participation rate (the labour force as a percentage of the total population of people aged 15 years or more) was 60.4% on average for 2005, the same rate as the previous year.

A breakdown of the labour force by sex shows the rate for males was 73.3%, a 0.1 point decrease on the previous year. If broken down according to age group, the rates for the group aged 25-34 and 45-54 both decreased compared to the previous year.

The rate for females was 48.4%, an increase of 0.1 point compared to the previous year. If broken down according to age group, the rate for each age group except those 65 or more increased compared to the previous year.

2 Employed persons

Based on the 2005 yearly average, the number of employed persons was 63.56 million, an increase of 270,000 compared to the previous year, and the second consecutive year this figure has increased. A breakdown by sex shows that the number of males in employment increased by 100,000, the first increase for 8 years. The number of females increased by 170,000, an increase for the third consecutive year.

(1) Employed persons by status of employment

As for the employed persons according to status of employment, the average number of employees for 2005 was 53.93 million, which is a record high and an increase of 380,000 in comparison with the previous year. The proportion of employees to employed persons was 84.8%, a 0.2 point increase. Furthermore, the number of self-employed and family workers was 9.32 million, a decrease of 140,000.

A breakdown of employees by sex shows the number of males was 31.64 million, an increase of 120,000 compared with the previous year, and the first increase for 5 years. The number of females was 22.29 million, an increase of 260,000, and the third consecutive year in which this figure has increased. Moreover, the number of female employees reached a record high for the second consecutive year.

The number of employees in non-agricultural industries was 53.56 million, an increase of 370,000 compared to the previous year. Of these, the number of regular employees was 46.05 million, an increase of 230,000 and the second consecutive year in which this figure has increased. The number of temporary/daily employees was 7.52 million, an increase of 160,000 and the 19th consecutive year since 1987 that this figure has increased.

The proportion of regular employees accounted for 86.0% of all employees in non-agricultural industries, a decrease of 0.1 point on the previous year. The proportion of regular employees decreased for the eleventh consecutive year since 1995, whereas the proportion of temporary/daily employees has increased for the eleventh straight year since 1995.

Furthermore, the percentage of males as regular employees was higher than that for females, and the percentage of females as temporary/daily employees was higher than that for males.

(2) Employed persons by major industry

A breakdown of employed persons on average for 2005 by major industry shows 5.53 million in “Medical, health care and welfare” an increase of 220,000 compared to the previous year, and the number in “Services” was 9.16 million, an increase of 350,000. On the other hand, the number in “Construction” was 5.68 million, a decrease of 160,000 in comparison with the previous year, the number in “Manufacturing” was 11.42 million, a decrease of 80,000, the number in “Wholesale and retail trade” was 11.22 million, a decrease of 10,000, and the number in “Eating and drinking places, accommodations” was 3.43 million, a decrease of 40,000.

(3) Employed persons by occupation

A breakdown of employed persons by major occupation on average for 2005 shows the number of “Professional and technical workers” was 9.37 million, an increase of 170,000 compared to the previous year. Furthermore, the number of “Production process workers and labourers” was 17.82 million, an increase of 40,000 compared to the previous year, and the first increase for eight years since 1997. On the other hand, the number of “Sales workers” was 8.92 million, a decrease of 90,000 compared to the previous year, and the fourth consecutive year in which this figure has decreased.

(4) Employees by number of persons engaged in enterprise

A breakdown of employees in non-agricultural industries according to the number of persons engaged in enterprise (excluding government employees) on average through 2005 shows that the number of employees in enterprise with a staff of between 30-499 persons was 18.37 million, an increase of 320,000 compared to the previous year, and the number of employees in enterprise with over 500 persons was 12.71 million, an increase of 380,000. On the other hand, the number of employees in enterprise with 1-29 persons was 16.56 million, a decrease of 230,000 compared to the previous year.

3 Unemployed persons

Based on the 2005 yearly average, the number of unemployed persons was 2.94 million, a decrease of 190,000 compared to the previous year, and the third consecutive year in which this figure has decreased. A breakdown of unemployed persons by sex shows that there were 1.78 million unemployed males, a decrease of 140,000, and 1.16 million unemployed females, a decrease of 50,000.

The average unemployment rate for 2005 (the proportion of unemployed persons to the whole labour force) was 4.4%, a decrease of 0.3 point compared to the previous year, and the third consecutive year in which the proportion has decreased. The unemployment rate for males was 4.6%, marking a decline of 0.3 point, and for females 4.2%, a decrease of 0.2 point.

The unemployment rate for males has been higher than that for females for eight consecutive years since 1998.

(1) Unemployment rate by age group

A breakdown of the unemployment rate by sex and age group showed the highest rate in the 15-24 age group for both males and females. Of particular note was that males in the 15-24 age group showed the highest unemployment rate at 9.9%. Next highest was the rate for both males and females in the 25-34 age group, and these rates show that the severe employment conditions continue for the younger age groups.

(2) Unemployed persons by relationship to the head of household

A breakdown of the unemployment rate of persons according to their relationship to the head of the household showed that the rate for the "Head of the household" was 2.7%, a decrease of 0.3 point compared to the previous year, and for "Spouse of the head" the rate was also 2.7%, a decrease of 0.1 point compared to the previous year, and the rate for "Other family members" was 7.7%, a decrease of 0.5 point. The rate for "One-person households" was 5.6%, a decrease of 0.3 point compared to the previous year.

Furthermore, the number of unemployed persons for "Head of the household" decreased by 80,000 compared to the previous year, the third consecutive year this figure has decreased. The number of unemployed persons for "Other family members" decreased by 70,000, the second consecutive year in which this figure has decreased.

(3) Unemployed persons by reason for seeking a job

A breakdown of unemployed persons on average for 2005 according to their reasons for seeking a job shows:

- The number of “Persons who quitted a job involuntarily” was 1 million, of which:
 - The number of persons who quitted their previous jobs “Due to mandatory retirement or termination of employment contract” was 280,000, a decrease of 40,000 in comparison with the previous year.
 - The number of persons who quitted their previous jobs “Due to circumstances of employer or business” was 720,000, a decrease of 140,000.
- The number of persons who “Quitted a job voluntarily” (leaving previous job for personal or family’s convenience) was 1.1 million, an increase of 40,000.
- The number of persons who “Graduated from school” (persons who started seeking new jobs after they graduated from school) was 160,000, a decrease of 20,000.
- The number of “Other persons” was 650,000, of which:
 - The number of persons who started seeking a new job because it was “Necessary to earn revenue” was 390,000, a decrease of 30,000.
 - The number of persons who started seeking a new job for reasons classified under “Others” (e.g. reasons such as having more time than before) was 260,000, a decrease of 10,000.

4 Regional situation

The number of employed persons and the unemployment rates based on the 2005 yearly average for the ten regions covering Japan are given below.

(1) Employed persons

The number of employed persons increased in comparison with the previous year in nine out of the ten regions, with Kyushu being the exception.

(2) Unemployment rates

The unemployment rates and comparisons with the previous year are as follows:

Hokkaido	5.3% (down 0.4 percentage point)
Tohoku.....	5.0% (down 0.4)
Southern Kanto.....	4.3% (down 0.3)
Northern Kanto/Koshin	3.7% (down 0.4)
Hokuriku.....	3.3% (down 0.4)
Tokai.....	3.2% (down 0.3)
Kinki.....	5.2% (down 0.4)
Chugoku	3.8% (down 0.5)
Shikoku.....	4.3% (down 0.6)
Kyushu	5.3% (down 0.2)