

Summary of the results

I Employment and Unemployment Trends in 2006

As for the employment situation during 2006, the number of employed person increased from the same month of the previous year every month except September.

The unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted), reached 4.4% in January, then stayed between 4.0% and 4.2% from February through December.

1. Employment situation

As for employment trends in 2006, the number of employed person increased from the same month of the previous year every month except September.

As for the changes in the number of employed person by sex, the number of employed males exceeded the same month of the previous year every month except for the months of January, September and October. The number of employed females increased every month except May.

(Fig.1, Table 1)

Of the employed person, the number of self-employed workers and family workers decreased every month from the same month of the previous year. Meanwhile, the number of employee increased from the same month of the previous year every month, as seen in the increases of 1.26 million person in February, 1.11 million in March and 1.01 million in June, all exceeding the 1 million threshold. The number of employee reached a record 55.25 million in May.

(Fig.2, Table 1)

Fig.1 Employed person change from the same month of the previous year (2006)

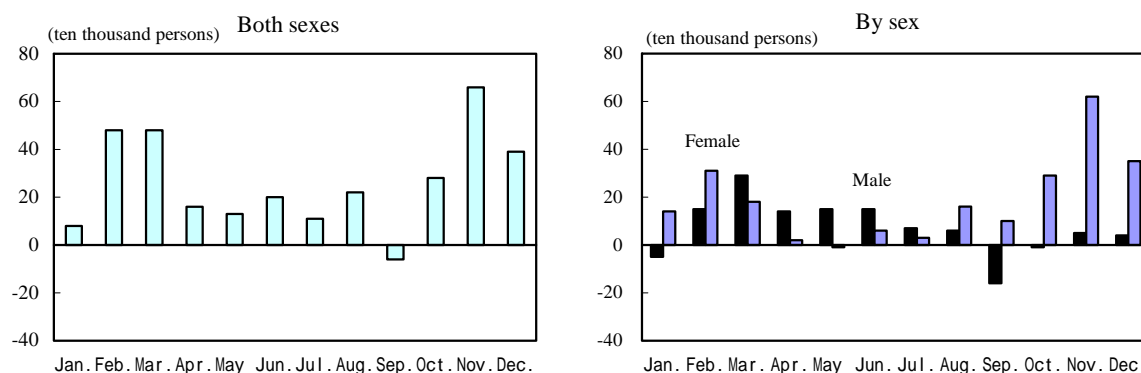
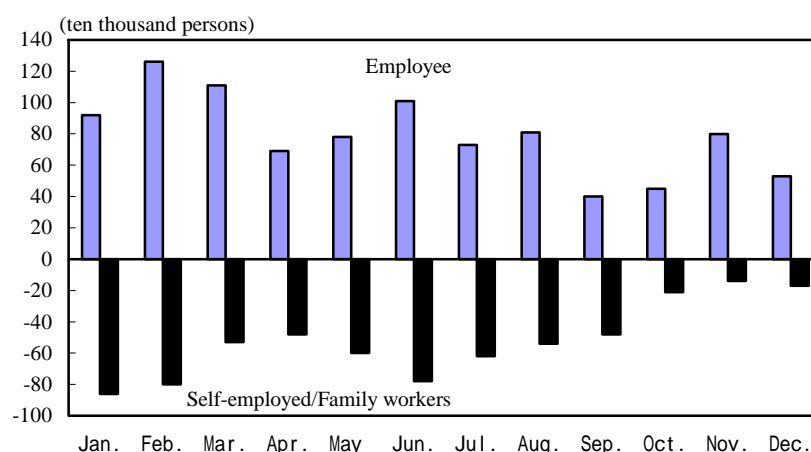


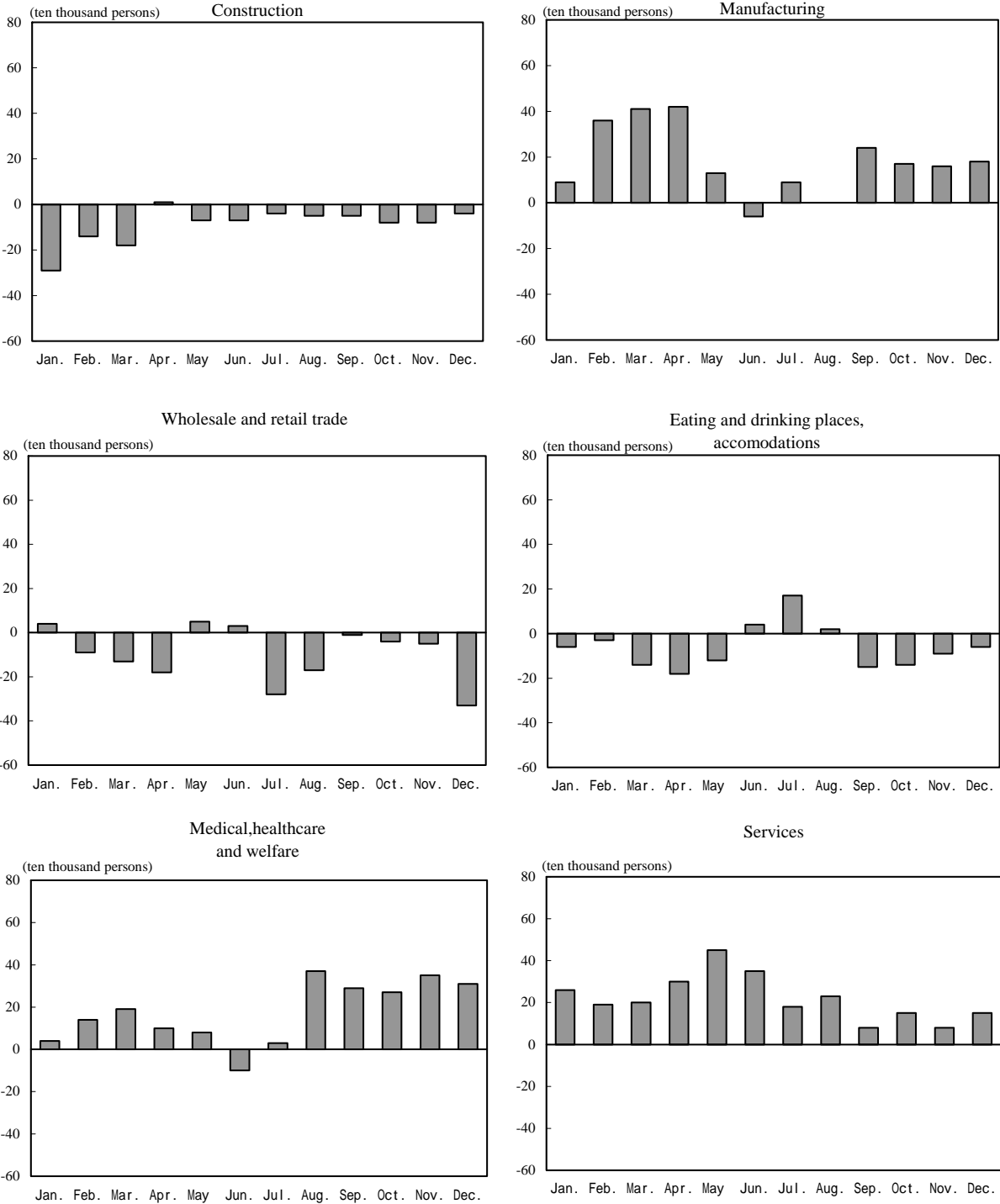
Fig.2 Employed person by status change from the same month of the previous year (2006)



A comparison of the number of employed person by major industry indicates that the number of employed person in “Services” continued to increase for 20 consecutive months since April 2005 when the number was equal to the same month of the previous year. The number of employed person in “Manufacturing” increased each month from the same month of the previous year except for June and August, when the number was the same as in the same month of the previous year. The number of employed person in “Medical, healthcare and welfare” fell in June after continuously increasing for 41 consecutive months since comparable data became available from January 2003 till May 2006, then took an upturn in July and continued to increase for six consecutive months. The number of employed person in “Construction” decreased each month except April.

(Fig.3, Table 1)

Fig.3 Employed person by major industry change from the same month of the previous year (2006)



2. Unemployment situation

As for the unemployment situation, the number of unemployed person decreased from the same month of the previous year for 13 consecutive months from December 2005.

The number of unemployed males decreased for 11 consecutive months from February 2006, while the number of unemployed females decreased each month except June.

The unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted) stayed between 4.0% and 4.2% after reaching 4.4% in January. (Fig.4,5, Table 1)

For a breakdown of unemployed person by their relationship to the head of the household, the number of unemployed household head decreased each month from the same month of the previous year except for the months of January, February, August and September. Unemployment among “Spouse of the head” decreased each month except January, while that of “Other family members” decreased each month except for June. (Fig.6)

For a breakdown of unemployed person by reason for seeking a job, the number of those who left their previous job due to the “circumstances of employer or business” decreased from the same month of the previous year for 29 consecutive months between August 2003 and December 2005, increased in January 2006, then continued to decrease for 11 consecutive months. Meanwhile, the number of those who had “quitted a job voluntary” decreased each month except for January when the figure was the same as the previous January as well as March and September when the number was higher. (Fig.7, Table 1)

Fig.4 Unemployed person change from the same month of the previous year(2006)

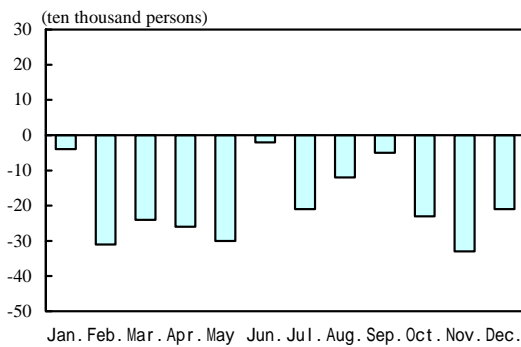


Fig.5 Trends in unemployment rate (seasonally-adjusted)(2006)

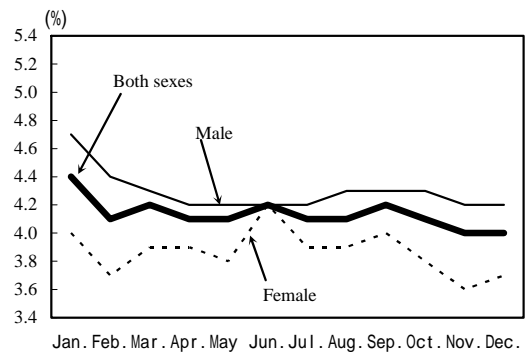


Fig.6 Unemployed person by relation to the head of the household change from the same month of the previous year (2006)

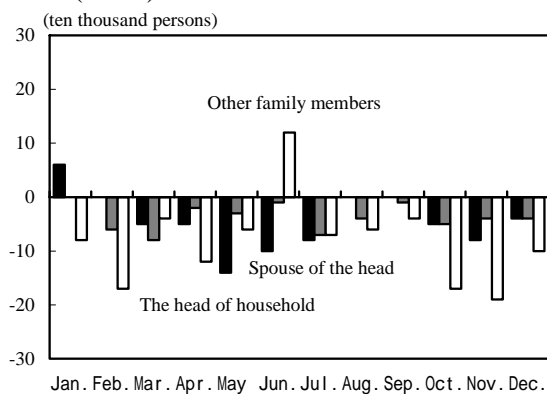
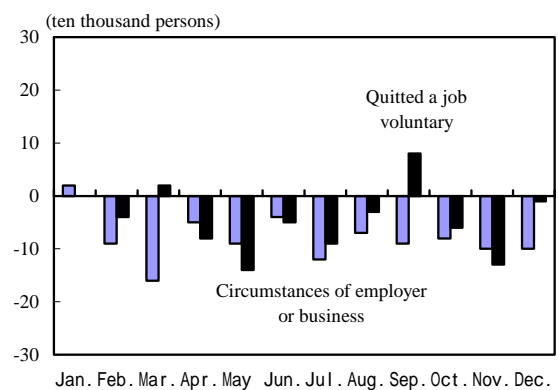


Fig.7 Unemployed person by major reason for seeking a job change from the same month of the previous year(2006)



(Note) Seasonal adjustment has been revised retroactively by adding new data for twelve months of 2006 in the calculation process.

As a result, seasonally adjusted figures in this monthly data are not necessarily equal to those in the 2006 preliminary report.

Table 1 Monthly Data on Major Items

(2006)

(unit : ten thousand persons)

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Average
Employed person													
Both sexes	6269	6272	6308	6368	6448	6438	6421	6427	6431	6437	6410	6354	6382
Male	3681	3675	3710	3731	3761	3758	3745	3749	3750	3749	3730	3720	3730
Female	2589	2596	2597	2637	2687	2681	2675	2678	2681	2688	2681	2634	2652
[Status in employment]													
Employee	5402	5410	5424	5459	5525	5517	5482	5479	5494	5502	5494	5471	5472
Regular employee	4623	4638	4665	4706	4749	4741	4730	4721	4730	4724	4706	4694	4702
Temporary employee and daily employee	780	771	759	753	777	777	752	758	764	778	788	777	769
Self-employed worker and family worker	837	831	855	880	895	891	903	918	911	904	884	853	880
[Employed person by major industry]													
Agriculture and forestry	204	203	225	267	282	286	272	267	264	270	248	210	250
Construction	546	555	561	580	583	574	558	549	549	545	550	560	559
Manufacturing	1146	1163	1155	1147	1148	1144	1160	1173	1187	1172	1165	1167	1161
Transport	319	331	326	308	318	331	337	325	323	321	324	323	324
Wholesale and retail trade	1125	1107	1112	1109	1112	1108	1103	1113	1118	1119	1121	1104	1113
Eating and drinking places, accommodations	339	327	321	315	330	339	345	350	348	342	341	343	337
Medical, health care and welfare	545	557	555	560	579	564	564	578	588	589	590	578	571
Services	901	901	929	947	967	954	945	950	938	945	937	935	938
Unemployed person													
Both sexes	292	277	289	284	277	278	268	272	280	281	259	244	275
Male	183	179	177	169	165	166	163	163	167	172	162	153	168
Female	109	98	112	114	112	112	105	110	113	109	97	91	107
[Unemployed person by reason for seeking a job]													
Mandatory retirement, or termination of employment contract	29	25	22	27	26	26	25	24	24	24	24	20	25
Circumstances of employer or business	74	65	63	69	64	66	59	63	63	65	59	55	64
Quitted a job by voluntary	109	111	112	103	98	99	103	106	111	109	103	101	106
Graduated from school	11	11	20	22	16	17	16	14	15	12	10	10	15
Necessary to earn revenue	39	37	40	34	38	41	37	37	35	40	33	32	37
Other	26	24	28	27	31	25	25	24	27	26	27	24	26
Unemployment rate (%)													
	Seasonally adjusted series												
Both sexes (Note2)	4.4	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.1
Male (Note2)	4.7	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.3
Female (Note2)	4.0	3.7	3.9	3.9	3.8	4.2	3.9	3.9	4.0	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.9

Note 1 The upper figures show the actual figures and the lower indicate the change over the year.

Note 2 Seasonal adjustment has been revised retroactively by adding new data for twelve months of 2006 in the calculation process. As a result, seasonally adjusted figures in this monthly data are not necessarily equal to those in the 2006 preliminary report.

II Summary of Average Results for 2006

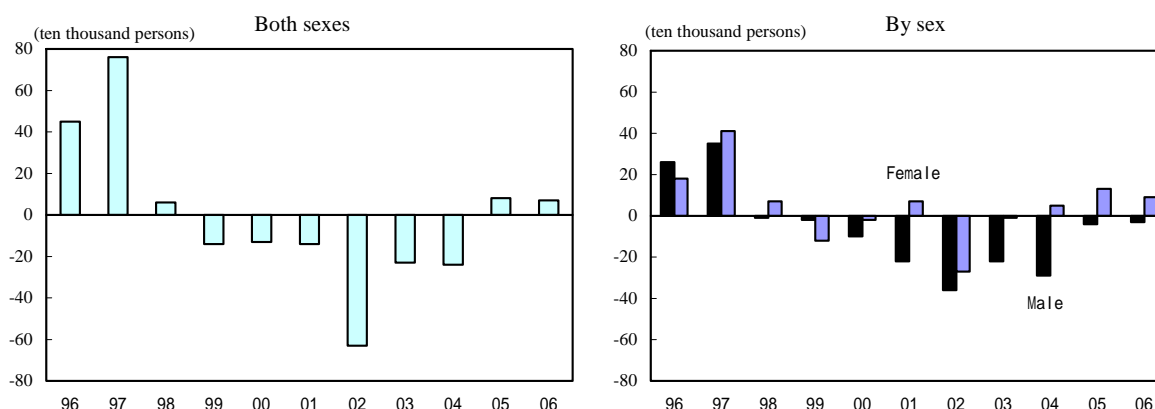
1. Labour force

The labour force of employed and unemployed person combined based on the 2006 yearly average was 66.57 million (38.98 million males and 27.59 million females), an increase of 70,000 people from the previous year, and the 2nd consecutive annual increase. This figure includes an increase of 260,000 employed person and a decrease of 190,000 unemployed person.

A breakdown of the labour force by sex shows that the male labourforce shrank by 30,000, the 9th consecutive annual decrease, while the female labourforce grew by 90,000, the 3rd consecutive annual increase.

(Fig.8)

Fig.8 Labour force change from the previous year



Labour force participation rate

The labour force participation rate (the labour force as a percentage of the total population of people aged 15 years old or more) was 60.4% on average for 2006, the same rate for 3 consecutive years.

A breakdown of the labour force by sex shows the rate for males was 73.2%, a 0.1 point decrease from the previous year. According to age group, the rate for the group aged 15-64 was 84.8%, an increase of 0.4 point.

The rate for females was 48.5%, an increase of 0.1 point compared to the previous year. According to age group, the rate for the group aged 15-64 was 61.3%, an increase of 0.5 point.

(Table 2)

Table 2 Trends in labour force participation rate by age group

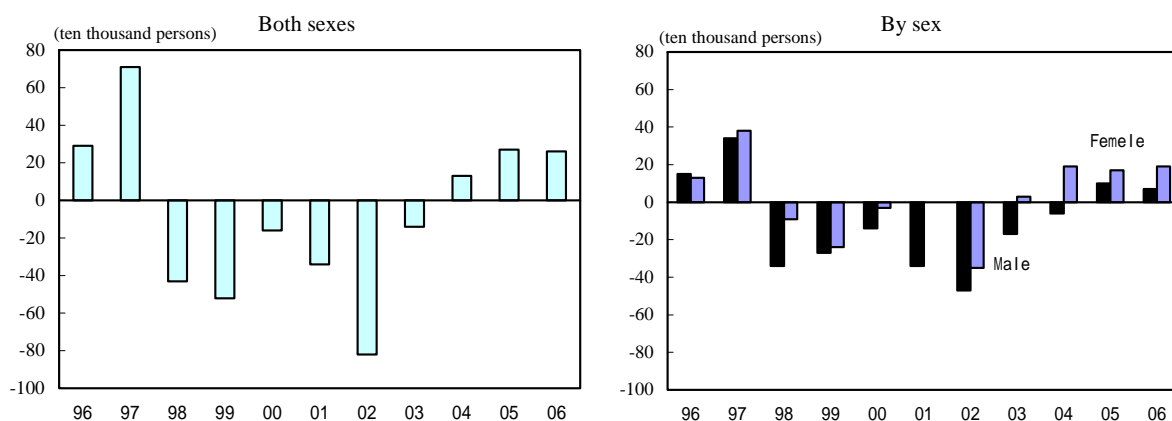
(unit : %)

	Both sexes		Male							Female							
	Total	Total	15 ~ 24 years old	25 ~ 34	35 ~ 44	45 ~ 54	55 ~ 64	65 or older	(regrouped) 15 ~ 64	Total	15 ~ 24 years old	25 ~ 34	35 ~ 44	45 ~ 54	55 ~ 64	65 or older	(regrouped) 15 ~ 64
96	63.5	77.7	48.9	97.4	98.1	97.5	85.1	36.7	85.0	50.0	47.6	61.6	65.4	69.7	48.8	15.4	58.9
97	63.7	77.7	49.4	97.2	98.1	97.6	85.1	36.7	85.4	50.4	47.6	62.5	66.8	70.3	49.5	15.4	59.6
98	63.3	77.3	48.9	96.7	97.9	97.2	85.0	35.9	85.3	50.1	47.8	62.9	66.3	70.2	49.8	15.2	59.8
99	62.9	76.9	47.7	96.5	97.9	97.2	85.2	35.5	85.3	49.6	46.8	63.6	65.4	69.8	49.9	14.9	59.5
00	62.4	76.4	47.3	96.6	98.0	97.1	84.0	34.1	85.3	49.3	46.8	63.9	65.3	69.9	49.6	14.4	59.6
01	62.0	75.7	46.5	96.4	97.7	96.7	83.4	32.9	85.1	49.2	46.4	65.2	66.2	70.1	49.2	13.8	60.0
02	61.2	74.7	46.0	95.7	97.3	96.6	82.9	31.1	84.7	48.5	44.9	66.0	66.0	69.8	48.9	13.2	59.8
03	60.8	74.1	45.2	95.6	97.2	96.6	83.0	29.9	84.6	48.3	44.5	66.6	66.5	70.1	49.4	13.0	60.0
04	60.4	73.4	44.0	95.4	97.0	96.3	82.6	29.2	84.3	48.3	44.3	67.5	66.2	70.4	50.2	12.9	60.2
05	60.4	73.3	44.4	95.1	97.0	96.1	83.0	29.4	84.4	48.4	45.0	68.3	66.7	71.2	50.8	12.7	60.8
06	60.4	73.2	44.7	95.4	96.9	96.3	83.7	29.2	84.8	48.5	45.2	68.7	67.3	72.2	51.5	13.0	61.3

2. Employed person

The number of employed person was, based on the 2006 yearly average, 63.82 million, an increase of 260,000 from the previous year, and this figure has increased for 3 consecutive years. A breakdown by sex shows that the number of males 70,000, the 2nd consecutive annual increase. The number of females increased by 190,000, the 4th consecutive annual increase. (Fig.9)

Fig.9 Employed person change from the previous year



Employment rate

The employment rate (employed person as a percentage of the total population of people aged 15 years and over) was 57.9% on average for 2006, the 2nd consecutive annual increase.

A breakdown by sex shows that the rate for males was 70.0%, a 0.1 point increase from the previous year. According to age group, the rate for the group aged 15-64 was 81.0%, an increase of 0.6 point.

The rate for females was 46.6%, a 0.3 point increase. According to age group, the rate for the group aged 15-64 was 58.8%, an increase of 0.7 point. (Table 3)

Table 3 Trends in employment rate by age group

(unit : %)

	Both sexes		Male							Female							
	Total	Total	15 ~ 24 years old	25 ~ 34	35 ~ 44	45 ~ 54	55 ~ 64	65 or older	(regrouped) 15 ~ 64	Total	15 ~ 24 years old	25 ~ 34	35 ~ 44	45 ~ 54	55 ~ 64	65 or older	(regrouped) 15 ~ 64
96	61.4	75.1	45.7	94.2	96.0	95.6	80.7	35.9	82.1	48.3	44.5	58.5	63.8	68.2	47.5	15.3	56.8
97	61.5	75.1	46.1	94.0	95.9	95.5	80.9	36.1	82.4	48.6	44.5	59.1	65.1	68.9	48.2	15.3	57.5
98	60.7	74.1	44.8	92.8	95.3	94.9	79.7	35.0	81.7	48.1	44.3	59.0	64.2	68.5	48.5	15.1	57.2
99	59.9	73.2	42.9	91.9	94.8	94.2	79.5	34.3	81.1	47.4	43.0	59.3	63.1	67.8	48.3	14.7	56.7
00	59.5	72.7	42.5	91.8	95.0	93.8	78.4	33.1	81.0	47.1	43.0	59.8	62.9	67.8	47.8	14.3	56.7
01	58.9	71.7	41.6	91.1	94.5	93.1	77.5	31.7	80.5	46.8	42.4	60.8	63.5	67.9	47.2	13.7	57.0
02	57.9	70.6	40.9	90.1	93.6	92.5	77.0	30.2	79.9	46.1	41.0	61.2	63.0	67.3	47.1	13.1	56.6
03	57.6	70.1	40.0	89.9	93.6	92.8	77.3	29.0	79.8	45.9	40.7	62.0	63.3	67.7	47.5	12.9	56.8
04	57.6	69.8	39.4	90.0	93.5	92.9	78.1	28.4	80.0	46.1	40.6	63.6	63.3	68.2	48.6	12.8	57.4
05	57.7	69.9	40.0	90.0	93.6	93.0	78.9	28.7	80.4	46.3	41.7	64.0	64.0	69.1	49.4	12.6	58.1
06	57.9	70.0	40.6	90.5	93.9	93.3	79.9	28.4	81.0	46.6	42.1	65.1	64.7	70.2	50.1	12.8	58.8

(1) Employed person by status of employment

As for employed person by their employment status, the average number of employee for 2006 was 54.72 million, which was an increase of 790,000 from the previous year and a record-high figure. The proportion of employee to employed person was 85.7%, an increase of 0.9 point.

The number of self-employed and family workers was 8.80 million, which was a decrease of 520,000 from the previous year.

A breakdown of employee by sex shows that the number of male employee was 31.94 million, an increase of 300,000, and the 2nd consecutive annual increase. The number of female employee was 22.77 million, an increase of 480,000 and the 4th consecutive annual increase.

(Table 4)

Table 4 Trends in employed person by status in employment

	(unit : ten thousand persons)											
	Both sexes				Male				Female			
	Total	Self-employed/ Family workers	Employee	Ratio (%)	Total	Self-employed/ Family workers	Employee	Ratio (%)	Total	Self-employed/ Family workers	Employee	Ratio (%)
96	6486	1147	5322	82.1	3858	610	3238	83.9	2627	537	2084	79.3
97	6557	1148	5391	82.2	3892	618	3264	83.9	2665	531	2127	79.8
98	6514	1128	5368	82.4	3858	603	3243	84.1	2656	525	2124	80.0
99	6462	1110	5331	82.5	3831	604	3215	83.9	2632	508	2116	80.4
00	6446	1071	5356	83.1	3817	590	3216	84.3	2629	482	2140	81.4
01	6412	1018	5369	83.7	3783	566	3201	84.6	2629	452	2168	82.5
02	6330	975	5331	84.2	3736	553	3170	84.9	2594	422	2161	83.3
03	6316	956	5335	84.5	3719	546	3158	84.9	2597	410	2177	83.8
04	6329	946	5355	84.6	3713	545	3152	84.9	2616	401	2203	84.2
05	6356	932	5393	84.8	3723	541	3164	85.0	2633	392	2229	84.7
06	6382	880	5472	85.7	3730	517	3194	85.6	2652	362	2277	85.9

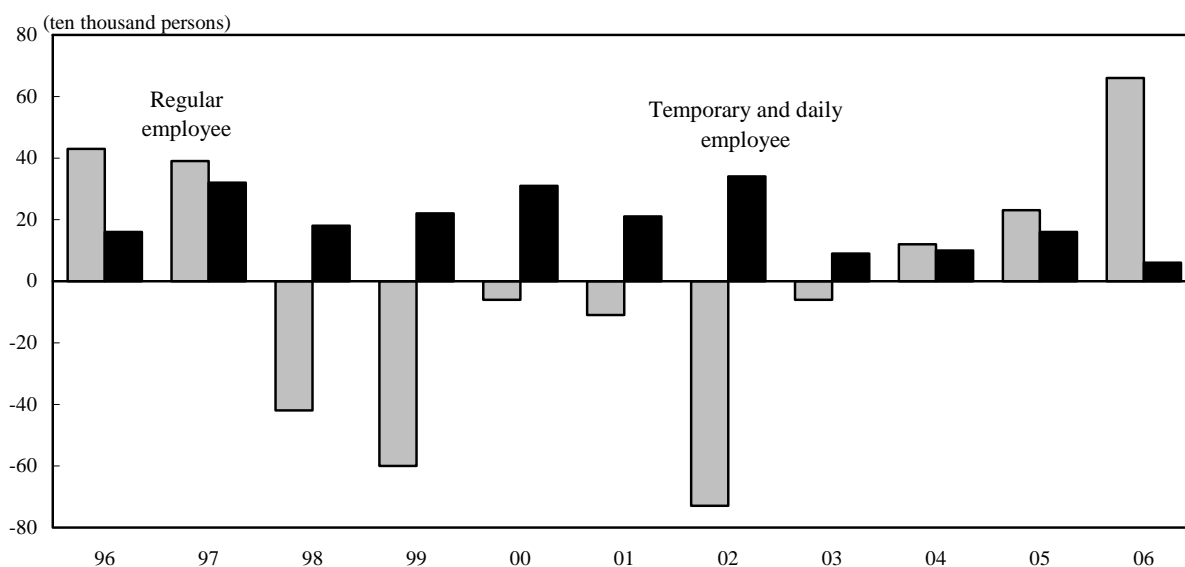
(Note) Total figures include the "Status unknown in employment".

The number of employee in non-agricultural industries was 54.30 million, an increase of 740,000 from the previous year.

Of these employee, the number of regular employee was 46.71 million, an increase of 660,000 and the 3rd consecutive annual increase. The number of temporary/daily employee was 7.58 million, an increase of 60,000 and the 20th consecutive annual increase since 1987.

(Fig.10)

Fig.10 Employee in non-agricultural industries by regular, temporary and daily employee change from the previous year



The proportion of regular employee to all employee in non-agricultural industries for 2006 was 86.0%, the same percentage as the previous year for the first time in 12 years.

The percentage of males as regular employee was higher than that of females, and the percentage of females as temporary/daily employee was higher than that of males. (Table 5)

Table 5 Trends in shares of employee in non-agricultural industries by regular, temporary and daily employee

(unit : %)

	Both sexes			Male			Female		
	Total	Regular	Temporary/ daily	Total	Regular	Temporary/ daily	Total	Regular	Temporary/ daily
96	100.0	89.4	10.6	100.0	94.4	5.5	100.0	81.7	18.3
97	100.0	89.0	11.0	100.0	94.1	5.9	100.0	81.1	18.9
98	100.0	88.6	11.4	100.0	93.9	6.1	100.0	80.5	19.5
99	100.0	88.1	11.9	100.0	93.6	6.4	100.0	79.7	20.3
00	100.0	87.6	12.4	100.0	93.2	6.8	100.0	79.1	20.9
01	100.0	87.2	12.8	100.0	92.9	7.1	100.0	78.8	21.2
02	100.0	86.5	13.5	100.0	92.4	7.6	100.0	77.8	22.2
03	100.0	86.3	13.7	100.0	92.2	7.8	100.0	77.8	22.2
04	100.0	86.1	13.8	100.0	92.0	8.0	100.0	77.8	22.2
05	100.0	86.0	14.0	100.0	91.8	8.2	100.0	77.7	22.3
06	100.0	86.0	14.0	100.0	91.7	8.3	100.0	78.1	21.9

(2) Employed person by major industry

A breakdown of employed person on average for 2006 by major industry shows 9.38 million in “Services,” an increase of 220,000 compared to the previous year, 11.61 million in “Construction”, an increase of 190,000 and 5.71 million in “Medical, health care and welfare,” an increase of 180,000. On the other hand, the number of employed person in “Construction” decreased by 90,000 to 5.59 million, the number in “Wholesale and retail trade” decreased by 90,000 to 11.13 million, and the number in “Eating and drinking places, accommodations” decreased by 60,000 to 3.37 million. (Fig.11)

Fig.11 Employed person change from the previous year by major industry



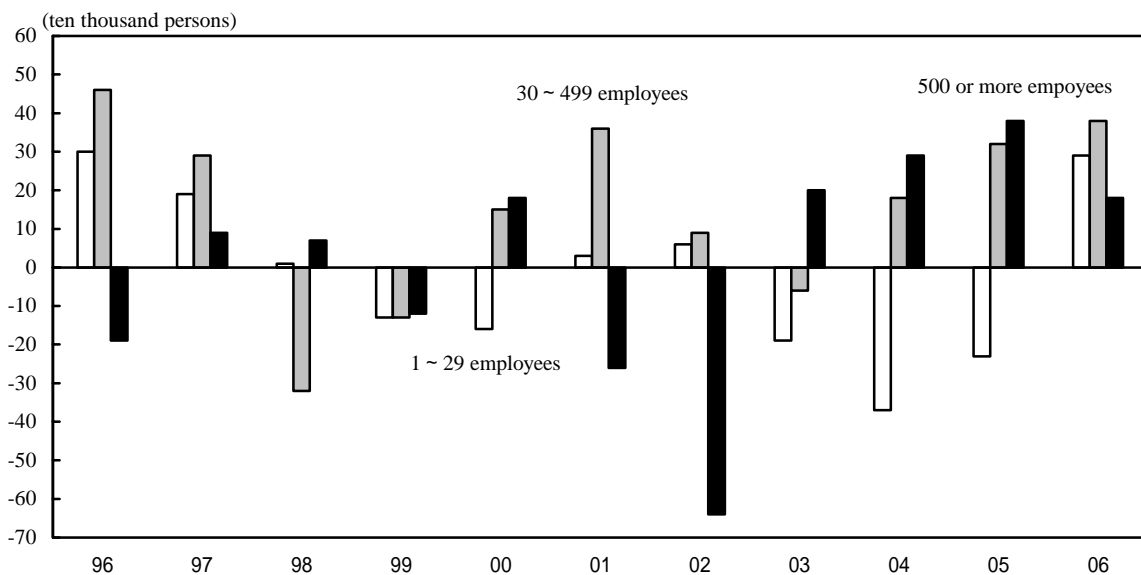
(3) Employee by number of person engaged in enterprise

A breakdown of employee in non-agricultural industries according to the average number of person engaged by enterprises (excluding government employee) through 2006 shows that the number of employee in enterprises with a staff of 1-29 person was 16.85 million, an increase of 290,000 from the previous year while the number of employee in enterprises with a staff of 30-499 person was 18.75 million, an increase of 380,000, and those in enterprises with 500 or more people was 12.89 million, an increase of 180,000.

An increase in the number of employee in enterprises with 1-29 person was seen for the first time in four years, and the number of employee exceeded the previous year in every size group.

(Fig.12)

Fig.12 Non-agricultural employee by number of employee in enterprise change from the previous year

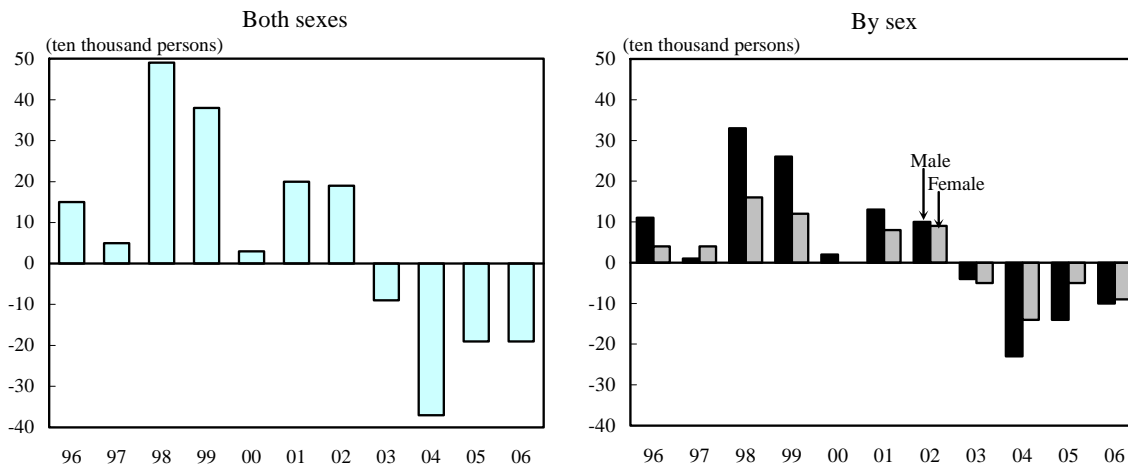


3. Unemployed person

Based on the 2006 yearly average, the number of unemployed person was 2.75 million, a decrease of 190,000 compared to the previous year, and this figure has decreased for 4 consecutive years. A breakdown of unemployed person by sex shows that there were 1.68 million for unemployed males, a decrease of 100,000, and 1.07 million for unemployed females, a decrease of 90,000.

(Fig.13)

Fig.13 Unemployed person change from the previous year



The average unemployment rate for 2006 (the proportion of unemployed person to the whole labour force) was 4.1%, a decrease of 0.3 point from the previous year, and the 4th consecutive annual decrease of this rate. The unemployment rate for males was 4.3%, a decrease of 0.3 point, and for females 3.9%, a decrease of 0.3 point.

The unemployment rate for males has been higher than that of females for 9 consecutive years since 1998. (Fig.14)

Fig.14 Trends in unemployment rate



(1) Unemployment rate by age group

A breakdown of the unemployment rate by sex and age group shows the highest rate in the 15-24 age group for both males and females, 8.8% and 7.2% respectively. However, while the unemployment rate for this age group remains high, the rates for both males and females in this age group were lower than the previous year, by 1.1 point and 0.2 point respectively.

(Fig.15, Table 6)

Fig. 15 Trends in unemployment rate by age group

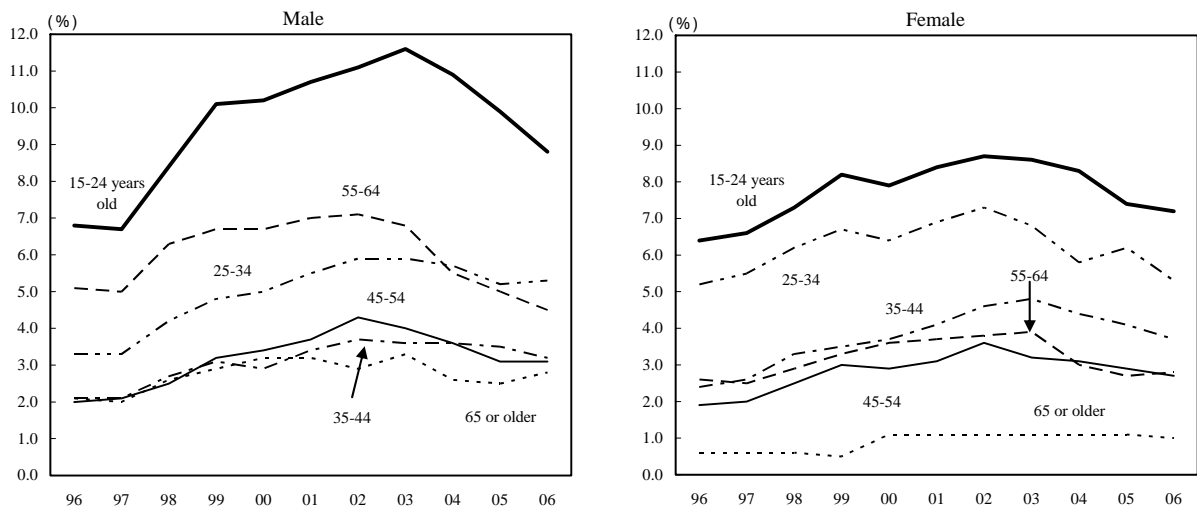


Table 6 Trends in unemployment rate by age group

		Unemployment rate (%)							Changes from the previous year(point)							
		Total	15 ~ 24 years old	25 ~ 34	35 ~ 44	45 ~ 54	55 ~ 64	65 or older	Total	15 ~ 24 years old	25 ~ 34	35 ~ 44	45 ~ 54	55 ~ 64	65 or older	
B o t h	96	3.4	6.6	4.0	2.2	2.0	4.2	1.5	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.5	0.2	
	97	3.4	6.7	4.2	2.3	2.1	4.0	1.5	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	-0.2	0.0	
	98	4.1	7.7	4.9	3.0	2.5	5.0	2.1	0.7	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.4	1.0	0.6	
	99	4.7	9.1	5.5	3.3	3.1	5.4	2.2	0.6	1.4	0.6	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.1	
	00	4.7	9.1	5.6	3.2	3.3	5.5	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	-0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	
	01	5.0	9.6	6.0	3.6	3.4	5.7	2.4	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.2	
	02	5.4	9.9	6.4	4.1	4.0	5.9	2.3	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.2	-0.1	
s e x e s	03	5.3	10.1	6.3	4.1	3.7	5.6	2.5	-0.1	0.2	-0.1	0.0	-0.3	-0.3	0.2	
	04	4.7	9.5	5.7	3.9	3.4	4.5	2.0	-0.6	-0.6	-0.6	-0.2	-0.3	-1.1	-0.5	
	05	4.4	8.7	5.6	3.8	3.0	4.1	2.0	-0.3	-0.8	-0.1	-0.1	-0.4	-0.4	0.0	
	06	4.1	8.0	5.2	3.4	2.9	3.9	2.1	-0.3	-0.7	-0.4	-0.4	-0.1	-0.2	0.1	
	M a l l e	96	3.4	6.8	3.3	2.1	2.0	5.1	2.1	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.5	-0.1
		97	3.4	6.7	3.3	2.1	2.1	5.0	2.0	0.0	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	-0.1	-0.1
		98	4.2	8.4	4.2	2.7	2.5	6.3	2.6	0.8	1.7	0.9	0.6	0.4	1.3	0.6
99		4.8	10.1	4.8	3.1	3.2	6.7	2.9	0.6	1.7	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.3	
00		4.9	10.2	5.0	2.9	3.4	6.7	3.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	-0.2	0.2	0.0	0.3	
01		5.2	10.7	5.5	3.4	3.7	7.0	3.2	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.0	
02		5.5	11.1	5.9	3.7	4.3	7.1	2.9	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.1	-0.3	
F e m a l e	03	5.5	11.6	5.9	3.6	4.0	6.8	3.3	0.0	0.5	0.0	-0.1	-0.3	-0.3	0.4	
	04	4.9	10.9	5.7	3.6	3.6	5.5	2.6	-0.6	-0.7	-0.2	0.0	-0.4	-1.3	-0.7	
	05	4.6	9.9	5.2	3.5	3.1	5.0	2.5	-0.3	-1.0	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	-0.5	-0.1	
	06	4.3	8.8	5.3	3.2	3.1	4.5	2.8	-0.3	-1.1	0.1	-0.3	0.0	-0.5	0.3	
	F e m a l e	96	3.3	6.4	5.2	2.4	1.9	2.6	0.6	0.1	0.3	0.4	-0.2	-0.2	0.5	0.0
		97	3.4	6.6	5.5	2.6	2.0	2.5	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	-0.1	0.0
		98	4.0	7.3	6.2	3.3	2.5	2.9	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.0
99		4.5	8.2	6.7	3.5	3.0	3.3	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.4	-0.1	
00		4.5	7.9	6.4	3.7	2.9	3.6	1.1	0.0	-0.3	-0.3	0.2	-0.1	0.3	0.6	
01		4.7	8.4	6.9	4.1	3.1	3.7	1.1	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.0	
02		5.1	8.7	7.3	4.6	3.6	3.8	1.1	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.0	
e	03	4.9	8.6	6.8	4.8	3.2	3.9	1.1	-0.2	-0.1	-0.5	0.2	-0.4	0.1	0.0	
	04	4.4	8.3	5.8	4.4	3.1	3.0	1.1	-0.5	-0.3	-1.0	-0.4	-0.1	-0.9	0.0	
	05	4.2	7.4	6.2	4.1	2.9	2.7	1.1	-0.2	-0.9	0.4	-0.3	-0.2	-0.3	0.0	
	06	3.9	7.2	5.3	3.7	2.7	2.8	1.0	-0.3	-0.2	-0.9	-0.4	-0.2	0.1	-0.1	

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

A breakdown of the unemployment rate of person according to their relationship to the head of the household shows that the rate for the “Head of the household” was 2.6%, a decrease of 0.1 point compared to the previous year, and for “Spouse of the head” the rate was 2.5%, a decrease of 0.2 point, and the rate for “Other family members” was 7.1%, a decrease of 0.6 point. The rate for “One-person household” was 5.3%, a decrease of 0.3 point.

The number of unemployed household heads has decreased by 40,000, the 4th consecutive annual decrease, while the number of other family members who are unemployed has decreased by 90,000, the 3rd consecutive annual decrease. (Fig.16,17)

Fig.16 Trends in unemployment rate by relation to the head of the household

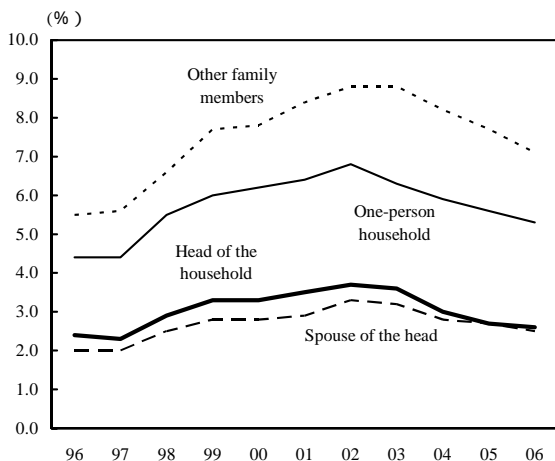
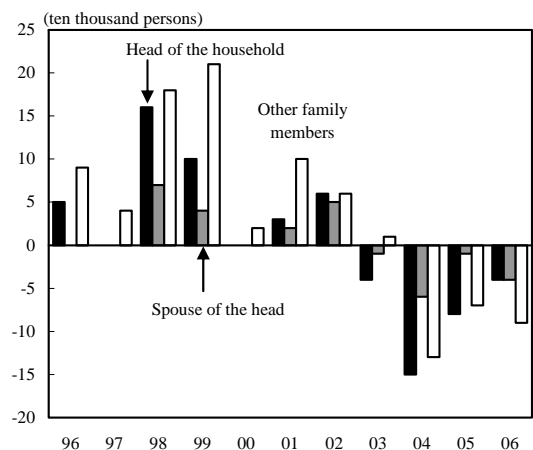


Fig.17 Unemployed person by relation to the head of the household change from the previous year



(3) Unemployed person by reason for seeking a job

A breakdown of unemployed person on average for 2006 according to their reasons for seeking a job shows:

- The number of person who “Quitted a job involuntarily” was 880,000, of which:
The number of person who quitted their previous job “Mandatory retirement or termination of employment contract” was 250,000, a decrease of 30,000 from the previous year.
The number of person who quitted their previous job “Circumstances of employer or business” was 640,000, a decrease of 80,000.
- The number of person who “Quitted a job voluntary” (leaving previous job for personal or family’s convenience) was 1.06 million, a decrease of 40,000.
- The number of person who “Graduated from school” (person who started seeking job after they graduated from school) was 150,000, a decrease of 10,000.
- The number of “Other” was 630,000, of which:
The number of person who started seeking a new job because it was “Necessary to earn revenue” was 370,000, a decrease of 20,000.
The number of person who started seeking a new job for reasons classified under “Other” (e.g. reasons such as having more time than before) was 260,000, the same figure as the previous year.

(Table 7)

Table 7 Trends in the unemployed person by reason for seeking a job

(unit : ten thousand persons)

	Total	Quitted a job involuntarily			Quitted a job voluntary	Graduated from school	Other	Other	
		Mandatory retirement, or termination of employment contract	Circumstances of employer or business	Necessary to earn revenue				Other	
96	225	59	-	-	87	13	55	-	-
97	230	54	-	-	95	12	59	-	-
98	279	85	-	-	101	15	68	-	-
99	317	102	-	-	109	17	77	-	-
00	320	102	-	-	109	18	80	-	-
01	340	106	-	-	118	17	85	-	-
02	359	151	36	115	115	18	70	40	30
03	350	146	38	108	113	20	69	42	27
04	313	118	32	86	106	18	68	42	27
05	294	100	28	72	110	16	65	39	26
06	275	88	25	64	106	15	63	37	26

Note) Because of the choices of reason for seeking a job was subdivided from January 2002, attention need to be paid to the time series comparison.

4. Regional situation

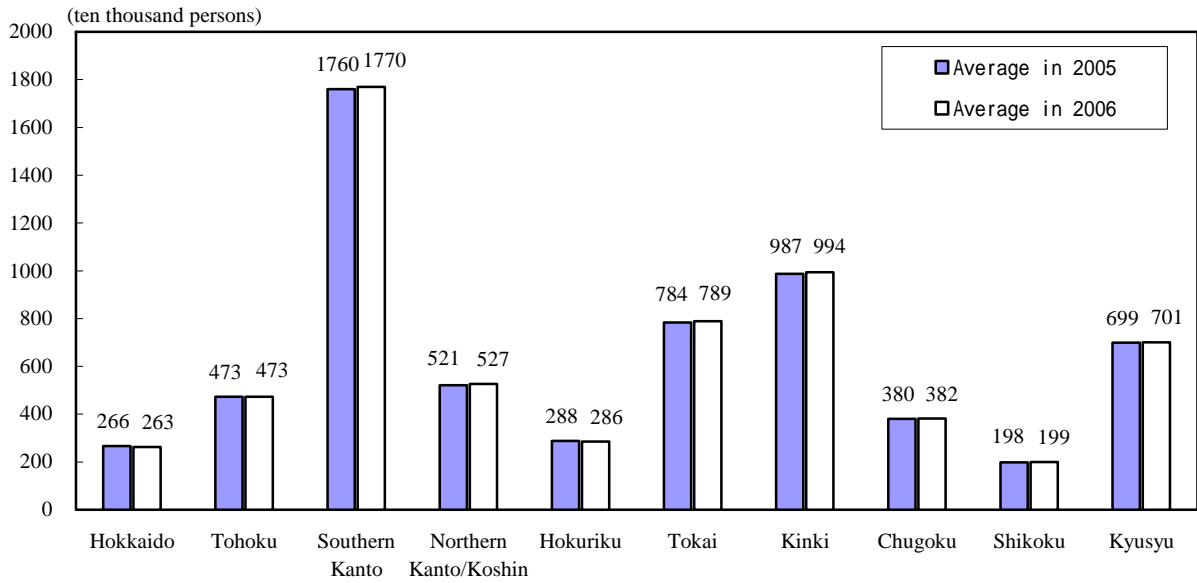
The number of employed person and the unemployment rates for ten regions based on the 2006 yearly average are given below.

(1) Employed person

In seven of the ten regions, the number of employed person increased from the previous year.

(Fig.18)

Fig.18 Employed person by region



(2) Unemployment rate

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

Hokkaido	5.4% (up 0.1 point)	Tokai	3.0% (down 0.2 point)
Tohoku	4.8% (down 0.2 point)	Kinki	5.0% (down 0.2 point)
Southern Kanto	4.0% (down 0.3 point)	Chugoku	3.5% (down 0.3 point)
Northern Kanto/Koshin	3.5% (down 0.2 point)	Shikoku	3.9% (down 0.4 point)
Hokuriku	3.4% (up 0.1 point)	Kyusyu	5.0% (down 0.3 point)

(Fig.19)

Fig.19 Unemployment rate by region

