

# 02 Population

## Population Growth and Trends

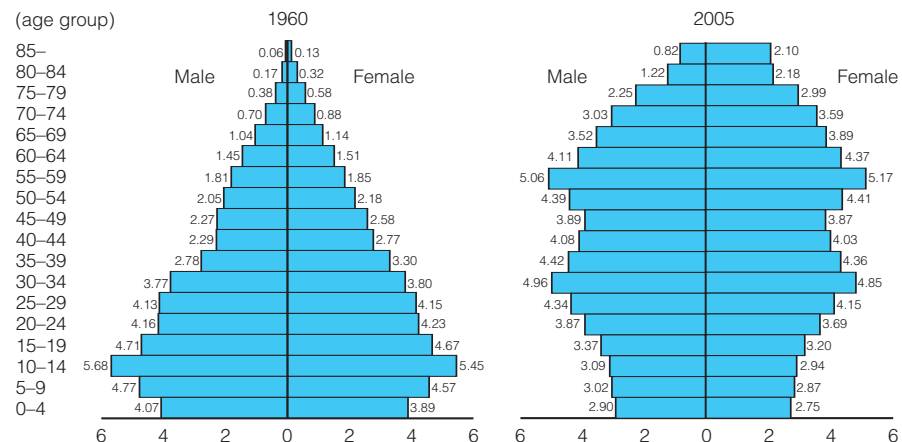
As of October 1, 2005, Japan's population was 127.76 million (62.34 million males, 65.42 million females), a decrease of 20,000 from a year earlier, suggesting that Japanese society has entered a depopulation process.

Japan has one of the highest average life expectancies in the world, and the aging of the population is proceeding at a rapid rate. The ratio of people aged 65 and over to the whole population more than doubled from 7.1% in 1970 to 20.0% in 2005.

The number of people aged under 15 dropped to a new postwar record low of 17.56 million as of October 1, 2005, a decrease of 171,000 from 2004. The proportion of those under 15 in the total population dropped to 13.7%.

## Japan's Population Structure by Age Group

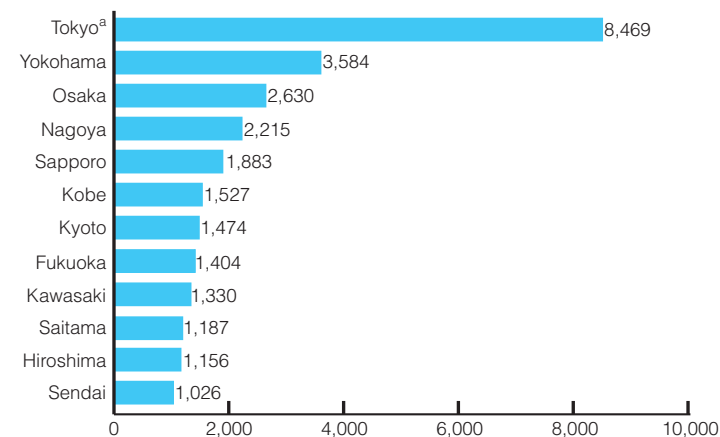
(million persons)



Source: Statistics Bureau and Statistics Center, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, *Jinko suikei* (Current Population Estimates), 2005.

## Population of Major Cities, January 2006

(1,000 persons)



Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, *Nihon tokei geppo* (Monthly Statistics of Japan), March 2006.

a. Twenty-three wards of central Tokyo only.

## Population by Age Group

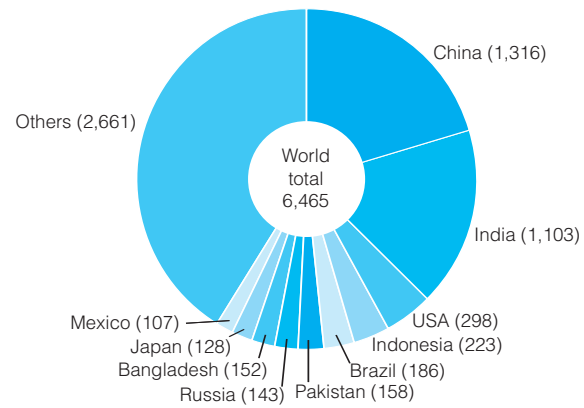
	Total	0-14	15-64	65 and over
1945	71,998	26,477 (36.8)	41,821 (58.1)	3,700 (5.1)
1950	83,200 <sup>a</sup>	29,428 (35.4)	49,658 (59.7)	4,109 (4.9)
1955	89,276 <sup>a</sup>	29,798 (33.4)	54,729 (61.3)	4,747 (5.3)
1960	93,419	28,067 (30.0)	60,002 (64.2)	5,350 (5.7)
1965	98,275	25,166 (25.6)	66,928 (68.1)	6,181 (6.3)
1970	103,720	24,823 (23.9)	71,566 (69.0)	7,331 (7.1)
1975	111,940 <sup>a</sup>	27,221 (24.3)	75,807 (67.7)	8,865 (7.9)
1980	117,060 <sup>a</sup>	27,507 (23.5)	78,835 (67.4)	10,647 (9.1)
1985	121,049 <sup>a</sup>	26,033 (21.5)	82,506 (68.2)	12,468 (10.3)
1990	123,611 <sup>a</sup>	22,486 (18.2)	85,904 (69.5)	14,895 (12.0)
1995	125,570 <sup>a</sup>	20,014 (15.9)	87,165 (69.4)	18,261 (14.5)
2000	126,926 <sup>a</sup>	18,472 (14.6)	86,220 (67.9)	22,005 (17.3)
2001	127,291	18,283 (14.4)	86,139 (67.7)	22,869 (18.0)
2002	127,435	18,102 (14.2)	85,706 (67.3)	23,628 (18.5)
2003	127,619	17,905 (14.0)	85,404 (66.9)	24,311 (19.0)
2004	127,687	17,734 (13.9)	85,077 (66.6)	24,876 (19.5)

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

Note: Figures in parentheses are percentage of total.

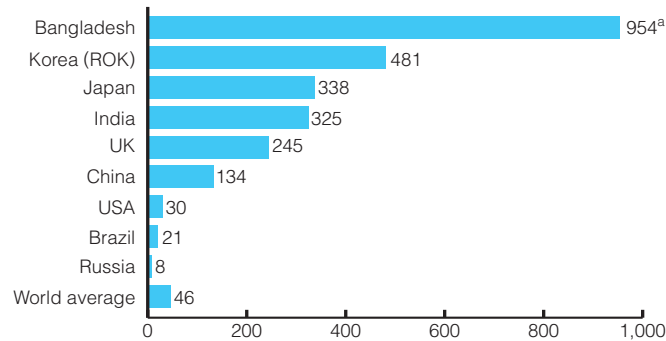
a. Including age not reported.

## World Population and Most Populous Countries, 2005 (million persons)



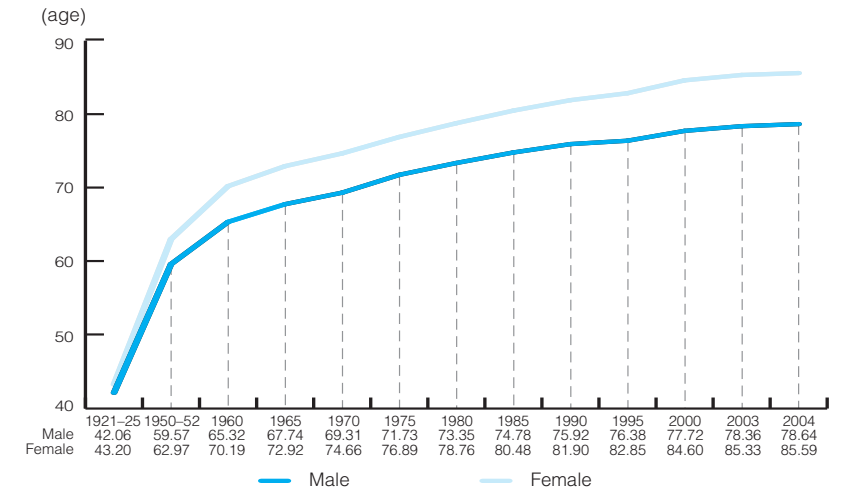
Source: United Nations Population Fund, *State of World Population*, 2005.

## Population Density, 2003 (persons per km<sup>2</sup>)



Source: United Nations, *Demographic Yearbook*, 2003, a. 2000.

## Life Expectancy (age)



Source: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare.

## Life Expectancy in Major Countries (Age in years)

Country	Year	Male	Female
Japan	2004	78.6	85.6
Sweden	2002	77.7	82.1
UK	2000	75.3	80.1
China	2000	69.6	73.3
Australia	2001-03	77.8	82.8
Brazil	2002	67.3	74.9
Netherlands	2002	76.0	80.7
France	2001	75.5	82.9
USA	2002	74.5	79.9

Source: United Nations, *Demographic Yearbook*, 2003; Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, *Kani seimeihyo* (Latest Vital Statistics), 2004.

## Population Forecast for Japan, 1995-2050 (1,000 persons)

Year	Total	Age 0-14	Share of total (%)	Age 15-64	Share of total (%)	Age 65 and over	Share of total (%)
1995	125,570	20,033	15.95	87,260	69.49	18,277	14.56
2000	126,926	18,505	14.6	86,380	68.1	22,041	17.4
2010	127,473	17,074	13.4	81,665	64.1	28,735	22.5
2020	124,107	15,095	12.2	74,453	60.0	34,559	27.8
2030	117,580	13,233	11.3	69,576	59.2	34,770	29.6
2040	109,338	12,017	11.0	60,990	55.8	36,332	33.2
2050	100,593	10,842	10.8	53,889	53.6	35,863	35.7

Source: National Institute of Population and Social Security Research.

### Average Life Expectancy by Prefecture in 2000

Male		Female	
1. Nagano	78.90	1. Okinawa	86.01
2. Fukui	78.55	2. Fukui	85.39
3. Nara	78.36	3. Nagano	85.31
4. Kumamoto	78.29	4. Kumamoto	85.30
5. Kanagawa	78.24	5. Shimane	85.30
6. Shiga	78.19	6. Okayama	85.25
7. Kyoto	78.15	7. Toyama	85.24
8. Shizuoka	78.15	8. Yamanashi	85.21
9. Gifu	78.10	9. Niigata	85.19
10. Saitama	78.05	10. Ishikawa	85.18
National average	77.71	National average	84.62

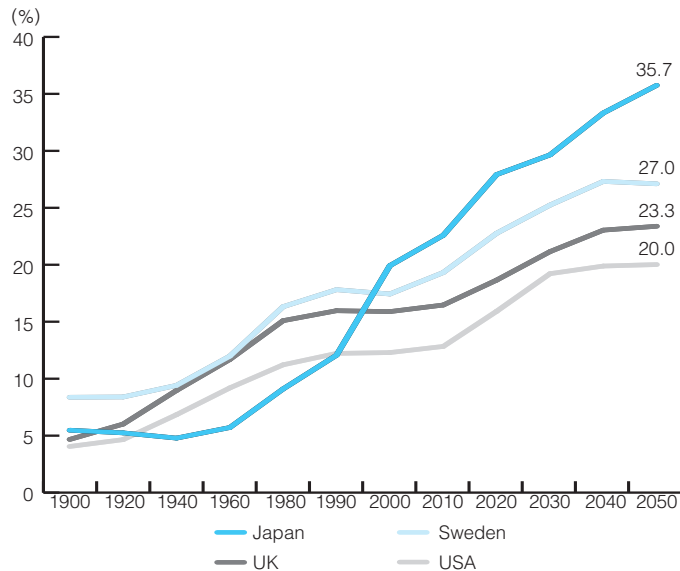
Source: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare.  
 Note: Updates every five years.

### Total Fertility Rates of Developed Countries

	Japan	USA	France	Norway	UK
1950	3.65	n/a	2.92	2.53	n/a
1960	2.00	n/a	2.73	2.91	2.71
1970	2.13	2.48	2.47	2.50	2.43
1980	1.75	1.84	1.95	1.72	1.89
1990	1.54	2.08	1.78	1.93	1.83
2000	1.36	2.06	1.89	1.85	1.65
2001	1.33	2.03	1.90	1.78	1.63
2002	1.32	2.01	1.89	1.75	1.64
2003	1.29	2.04	1.89	1.80	n/a
2004	1.29	2.05	n/a	n/a	n/a

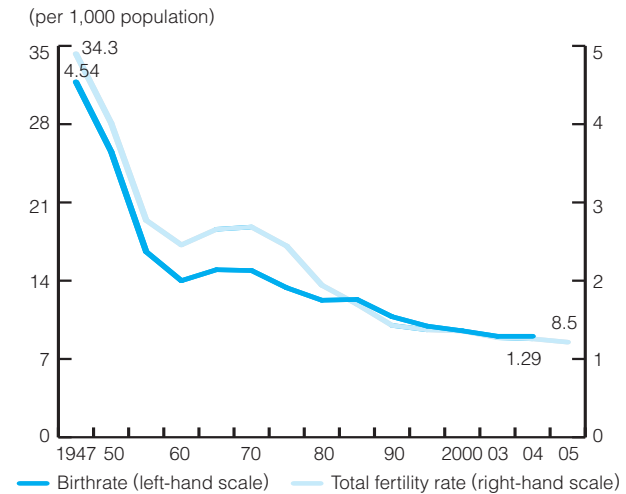
Source: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, *Jinko dotai tokei* (Demographic Statistics), 2005; Council of Europe, *Recent Demographic Developments in Europe*, 2004; US Department of Health and Human Services, *National Vital Statistics Report*, December 29, 2005.  
 Note: The total fertility rate is the average number of children one woman gives birth to in her life.

### Share of Population Aged 65 Years and Over by Country, 1900–2050



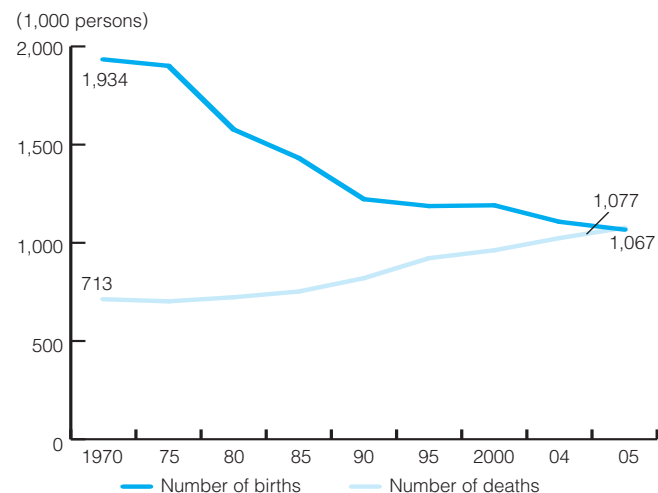
Source: National Institute of Population and Social Security Research.

### Trends in Total Fertility Rate and Birthrate



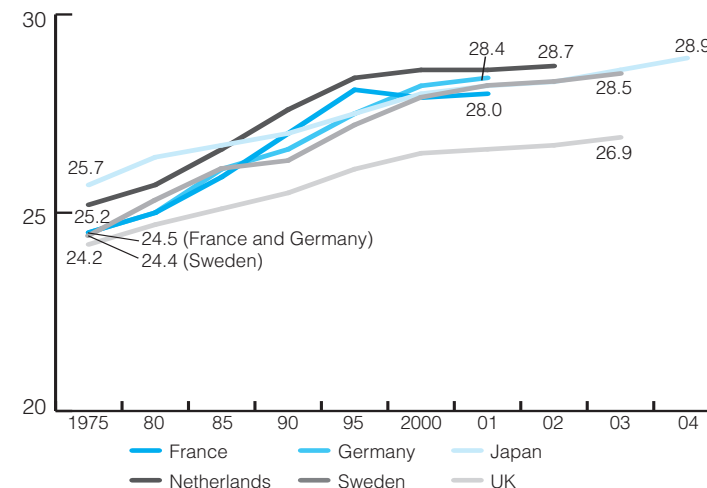
Source: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, *Jinko dotai tokei* (Demographic Statistics), 2005.  
 Note: The total fertility rate is the average number of children one woman gives birth to in her life.

### Trends in Numbers of Births and Deaths



Source: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, *Jinko dotai tokei* (Demographic Statistics), 2005.

### Average Age of Women at First Childbirth by Country



Source: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, *Jinko dotai tokei* (Demographic Statistics), 2004; Council of Europe, *Recent Demographic Developments in Europe*, 2004. Note: UK figures are only England and Wales.

### Birth, Death, and Total Fertility Rates of Developed Countries, 2003

	Birthrate (per 1,000 population)	Death rate (per 1,000 population)	Total fertility rate
Japan	8.5 <sup>ab</sup>	8.5 <sup>ab</sup>	1.29 <sup>c</sup>
USA	14.0 <sup>d</sup>	8.4 <sup>e</sup>	2.05 <sup>d</sup>
France	12.7	9.2	1.89
Germany	8.6	10.3	1.31 <sup>f</sup>
Italy	9.4	10.2	n/a
Sweden	11.1	10.4	1.71
UK	11.7	10.3	1.20

Source: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, *Jinko dotai tokei* (Demographic Statistics), 2005; Council of Europe, *Recent Demographic Developments in Europe*, 2004; US Department of Health and Human Services, *National Vital Statistics Report*, December 29, 2005.

- a. Estimate.
- b. 2005.
- c. 2004.
- d. Preliminary 2004.
- e. Preliminary 2003.
- f. 2002.

### Number of Japanese Living Overseas by Region, October 2004

	Number of Japanese	Share of total (%)	Increase over previous year (%)
Asia	234,734	24.4	13.7
Oceania	67,887	7.1	7.7
North America	380,228	39.6	2.9
Central America	7,810	0.8	3.0
South America	92,676	9.6	-1.7
Western Europe	159,528	16.6	4.4
Eastern Europe (incl. NIS)	6,297	0.7	10.2
Middle East	6,077	0.6	3.8
Africa	6,028	0.6	8.8
Antarctica	42	0.0	-4.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>961,307</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5.5</b>

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Note: Includes both long-term and permanent residents. Japanese living in Guam included in Oceania, not North America.

## Number of Foreign Residents in Japan by Nationality, December 2004

	Registered foreigners	Share of total (%)	Increase over previous year (%)
Korea (ROK and North Korea)	607,419	30.8	-1.0
China	487,570	24.7	5.4
Brazil	286,557	14.5	4.3
Philippines	199,394	10.1	7.6
Peru	55,750	2.8	3.9
USA	48,844	2.5	2.1
Thailand	36,347	1.8	4.4
Vietnam	26,018	1.3	9.1
Indonesia	23,890	1.2	4.5
UK	18,082	0.9	-0.8
India	15,480	0.8	8.8
Canada	12,110	0.6	1.1
Australia	11,703	0.6	1.0
Bangladesh	10,724	0.5	10.5
Others	133,859	6.8	2.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,973,747</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3.1</b>

Source: Ministry of Justice, *Shutsunyukoku kanri tokei* (Annual Report of Statistics on Legal Migrants), 2005.

## Asylum Applications and Refugee Status Determination by Country, 2004

	Procedure level	Cases submitted during year	Recognized during year	Recognition rate (%)
Austria	FA	24,634	5,208	45.9
Canada	FI	25,750	16,005	45.5
USA	IN	27,907	10,278	32.2
Belgium	FI	15,357	2,275	30.3
Australia	FI	3,276	346	11.3
Switzerland	FI	14,248	1,555	9.8
France	FI	58,545	6,358	9.3
UK	FI	40,200	2,080	4.4
Germany	NA	35,607	1,760	4.4
Netherlands	FI	9,782	480	3.8
Japan	FI	426	9	2.9

Source: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Note: Refugee recognition rate: Number of recognized divided by total decisions.

Procedure level: NA=new applications; FI=first instance decisions; RA=repeat/reopened applications; IN=US Immigration and Naturalization Service.

## Causes of Death

For a few years immediately after World War II, tuberculosis was the largest cause of death in Japan, followed by cerebral hemorrhage. Through the government anti-tuberculosis campaign, the number of tuberculosis cases sharply decreased in the 1950s, while the cancer mortality rate has increased by leaps and bounds in the past few decades. In 1955 cancer accounted for only 11.2% of all causes of death. In 1981, however, it became the first cause, replacing cerebral hemorrhage, and has been on a steady rise since that time. In 2004 cancer caused 320,358 deaths, accounting for 31.1% of the total of 1,028,602. Heart disease and cerebral hemorrhage occupied second and third places, accounting for 15.5% and 12.5%, respectively. The major factor in the large increase in cancer is the aging of the Japanese population; as people age, they are more prone to contract cancer, and the proportion of the aged is expanding.

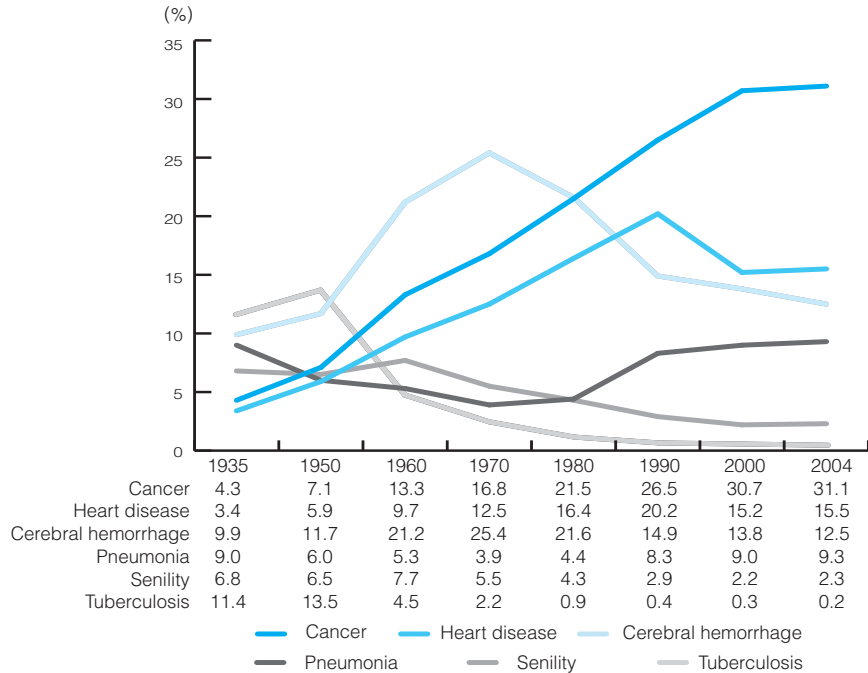
According to the National Police Agency, the number of suicides reached 32,325 in 2004. The figure was down 6.1% from the previous year. Of the total 10,443 suicides with a suicide note, 4,087 cases, or 39.1% of the total, were caused by hardship from sickness. Financial difficulties accounted for 32.9%, or 3,436 cases, a decrease of 6.0% from the previous year.

## Causes of Death, 2004

	Deaths	Share of total (%)
Cancer	320,358	31.1
Heart disease	159,625	15.5
Cerebral hemorrhage	129,055	12.5
Pneumonia	95,534	9.3
Accidents	38,193	3.7
Others	285,837	27.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,028,602</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, *Jinko dotai tokei* (Demographic Statistics), 2004.

## Trends in Causes of Death



Source: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, *Jinko dotai tokei* (Demographic Statistics), 2004.

## Suicides, 2004

Age group	Total	Male	Female
19 and under	589 (2.4)	361	228
20-29	3,247 (19.7)	2,251	996
30-39	4,333 (23.4)	3,200	1,133
40-49	5,102 (32.4)	4,074	1,028
50-59	7,772 (41.0)	6,128	1,644
60 and over	10,994 (32.8)	7,015	3,979
Unknown	288 (-)	243	45
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,325 (25.3)</b>	<b>23,272</b>	<b>9,053</b>

Source: National Police Agency.

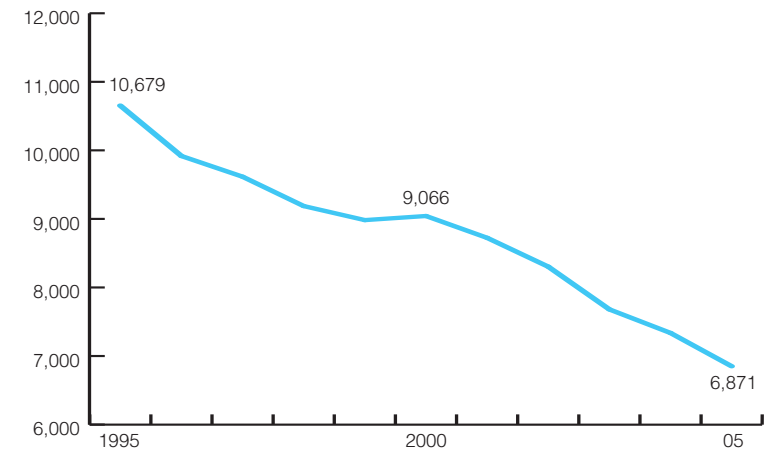
Note: Figures in parentheses are per 100,000 persons in the age group.

## Causes and Motives for Suicide, 2004

Classification	With suicide note									Without suicide note
	Total	Family problems	Illness, etc.	Household finance	Business problems	Problems between the sexes	School problems	Others	Unknown	Total
Total (persons)	10,443	1,009	4,087	3,436	628	312	76	594	301	21,882
Composition ratio (%)	100.0	9.7	39.1	32.9	6.0	3.0	0.7	5.7	2.9	
Male	7,819	684	2,483	3,125	583	221	51	442	230	15,453
Composition ratio (%)	100.0	8.7	31.8	40.0	7.5	2.8	0.7	5.7	2.9	
Female	2,624	325	1,604	311	45	91	25	152	71	6,429
Composition ratio (%)	100.0	12.4	61.1	11.9	1.7	3.5	1.0	5.8	2.7	

Source: National Police Agency.

## Trends in Traffic Accident Fatalities



Source: National Police Agency.

## Marriage and Divorce

After peaking in 1971, Japan's marriage rate fell to 5.7 marriages per 1,000 persons in 2004. The average age of first marriage rose steadily during the same period, from 26.8 for men and 24.2 for women in 1971 to 29.6 for men and 27.8 for women in 2004. Reflecting the fact that more women are pursuing higher education and entering the workforce, the percentage of women in their twenties and early thirties who are unmarried is rising, a trend that is fueling the decline in the marriage rate. Meanwhile, Japan's divorce rate rose from 0.74 per 1,000 persons in 1960 to 2.30 in 2002, then declined to 2.15 in 2004.

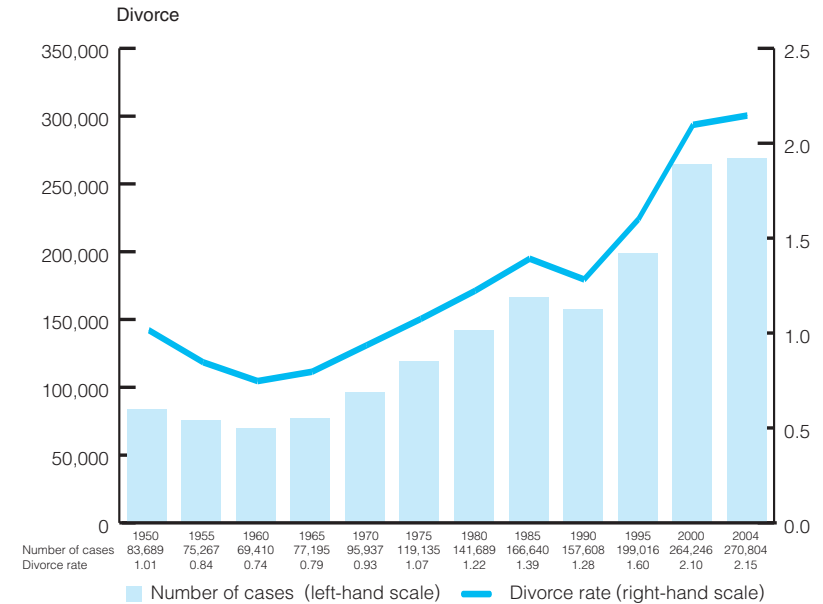
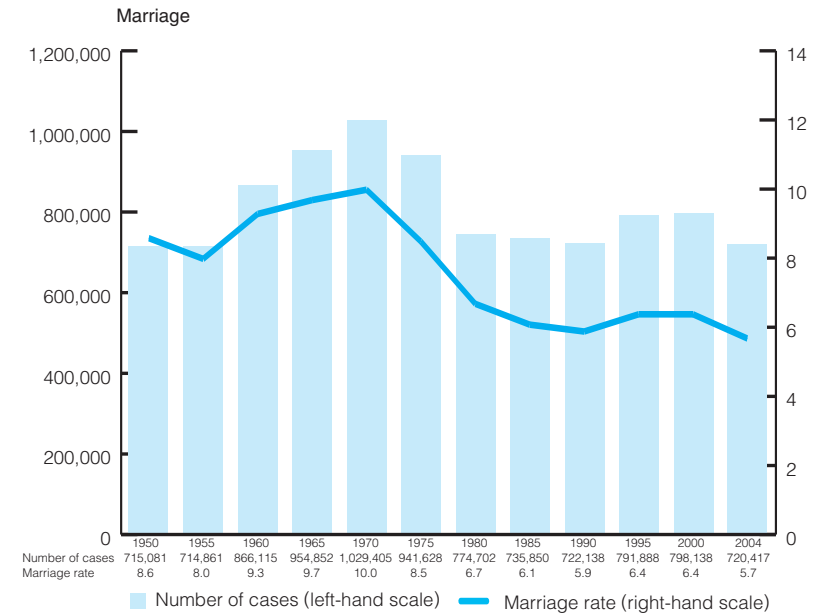
### Marriage and Divorce Rates in Major Countries

	Marriage rate (per 1,000 population)		Divorce rate (per 1,000 population)	
	Year		Year	
USA	2003	7.5 <sup>a</sup>	2002	4.00
Korea (ROK)	2004	6.4	2004	2.90
Japan	2005	5.7	2005	2.08
UK	2003	5.1	2003	2.80
Mexico	2003	5.6	2003	0.62
France	2003	4.6 <sup>a</sup>	2003	2.14
Sweden	2003	4.4	2003	2.36

Source: United Nations, *Demographic Yearbook*, 2003; Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, *Jinko dotai tokei* (Demographic Statistics), 2005.

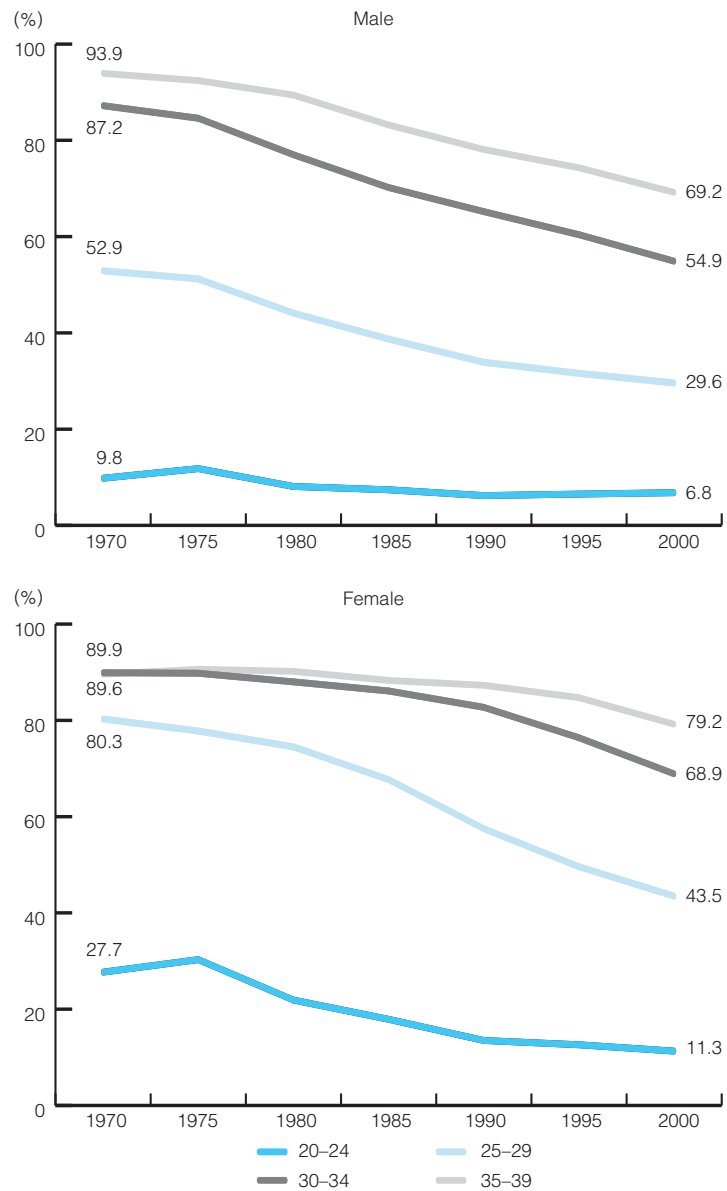
a. Provisional.

### Trends in Marriage and Divorce Rates



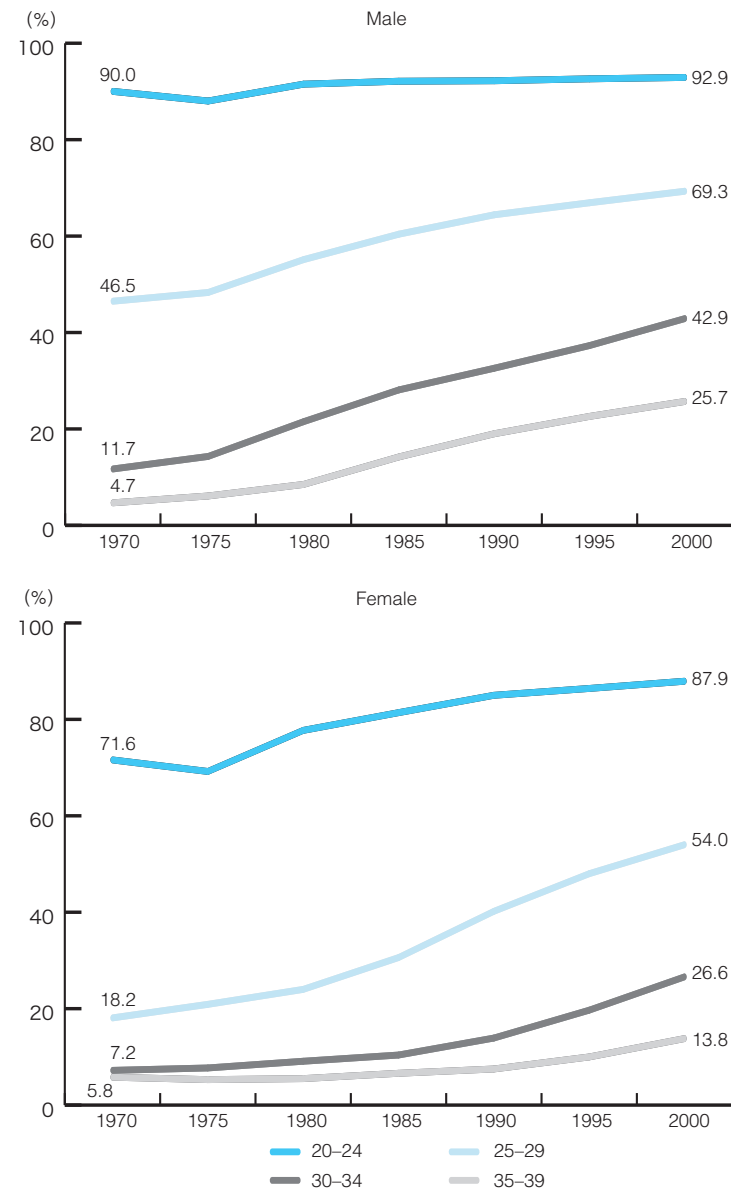
Source: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, *Jinko dotai tokei* (Demographic Statistics), 2004.

## Married Persons Rate by Age Group



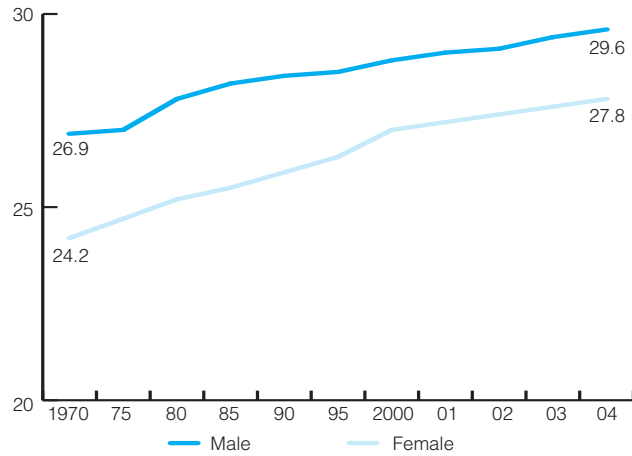
Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, *Kokusei chosa* (Population Census).

## Unmarried Persons Rate by Age Group



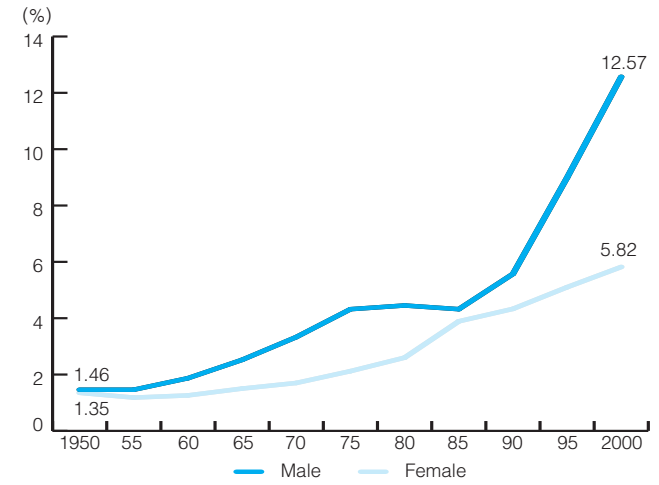
Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, *Kokusei chosa* (Population Census).

### Trends in Average Age of First Marriage



Source: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, *Jinko dotai tokei* (Demographic Statistics), 2005.

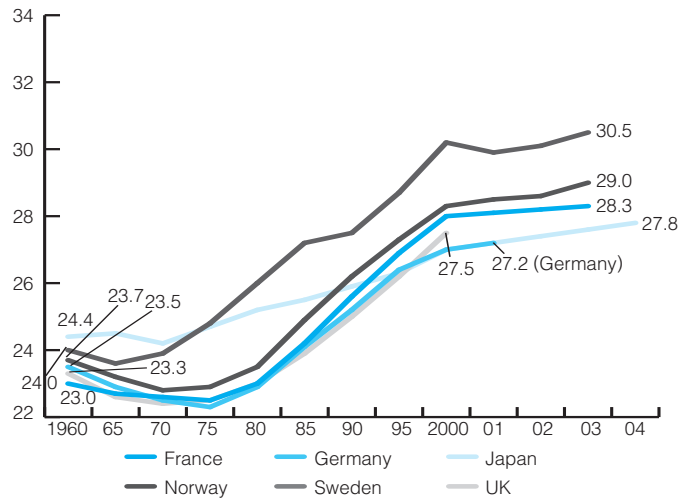
### Trends in Lifetime Single Rates



Source: National Institute of Population and Social Security Research, *Jinko tokei shiryoshu* (Population Statistics of Japan), 2004.

Note: The figure shows the ratio of unmarried persons at the age of 50.

### Average Age of Women at First Marriage by Country



Source: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, *Jinko dotai tokei* (Demographic Statistics), 2004; Council of Europe, *Recent Demographic Developments in Europe*, 2004.

## Household Structure

As of June 2004, there were 46.3 million households in Japan, an increase of 13.6% over 1995. With the number of households growing faster than the population, the average number of persons per household is estimated to fall from 2.72 in 2004 to 2.37 by 2025.

From the 1960s to the early 1980s, Japan experienced a nuclearization of families, but since 1985 there has been a more prominent increase in the number of single-member households. The share of nuclear families in the total number of households was 60.6% in 2004, while single-member households accounted for 23.4% of the total. The number of households consisting of only elderly people has also been on the rise, reaching 17.0% of the total in 2004.

### Change of Household Structure

	(%)				
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2004
Single persons	18.5	18.1	21.0	24.1	23.4
Nuclear families	57.0	60.3	60.0	59.1	60.6
Single parents with children	5.1	4.2	5.1	5.7	5.9
Married couples without children	10.7	13.1	16.6	20.7	21.9
Married couples with children	41.2	43.1	38.2	32.8	32.7
Three-generation families	19.2	16.2	13.5	10.6	9.7
Others	5.3	5.4	5.6	6.1	6.3

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, *Nihon tokei geppo* (Monthly Statistics of Japan), January 2006.

### Number of Children per Household

	(1,000 households)					Average number of children per household	Total	
	Households with children							Households with no child
	Total	One	Two	Three	Four or more			
1975	<b>17,427 (53.0)</b>	6,578 (20.0)	8,089 (24.6)	2,401 (7.3)	360 (1.1)	1.81	<b>15,450 (47.0)</b>	
1980	<b>17,630 (49.9)</b>	6,251 (17.7)	8,568 (24.2)	2,497 (7.1)	315 (0.9)	1.83	<b>17,708 (50.1)</b>	
1985	<b>17,385 (46.7)</b>	6,174 (16.6)	8,417 (22.6)	2,520 (6.8)	274 (0.7)	1.83	<b>19,841 (53.3)</b>	
1990	<b>15,573 (38.7)</b>	5,803 (14.4)	7,176 (17.8)	2,348 (5.8)	247 (0.6)	1.81	<b>24,700 (61.3)</b>	
1995	<b>13,586 (33.3)</b>	5,495 (13.5)	5,854 (14.4)	1,999 (4.9)	238 (0.6)	1.78	<b>27,183 (66.7)</b>	
2000	<b>13,060 (28.7)</b>	5,485 (12.0)	5,588 (12.3)	1,768 (3.9)	219 (0.5)	1.75	<b>32,485 (71.3)</b>	
2002	<b>12,797 (27.8)</b>	5,428 (11.8)	5,471 (11.9)	1,683 (3.7)	214 (0.5)	1.74	<b>33,208 (72.2)</b>	
2003	<b>12,947 (28.3)</b>	5,540 (12.1)	5,596 (12.2)	1,611 (3.5)	200 (0.4)	1.73	<b>32,854 (71.7)</b>	
2004	<b>12,916 (27.9)</b>	5,510 (11.9)	5,667 (12.2)	1,739 (3.8) <sup>a</sup>		1.73	<b>33,407 (72.1)</b>	

Source: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare.

Note: Figures in parentheses are percentage of total.

a. Three or more.

## Number of Mixed Marriage Cases in Japan

### Husband: Japanese

Wife's nationality	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2004
China	280	574	912	1,766	3,614	5,174	9,884	11,915
Philippines						7,188	7,519	8,397
Korea (ROK and North Korea)	1,536	1,994	2,458	3,622	8,940	4,521	6,214	5,730
Thailand						1,915	2,137	1,640
Brazil						579	357	256
USA	75	152	178	254	260	198	202	179
Peru						140	145	137
UK						82	76	64
Others	217	502	838	2,096	7,212	990	1,792	2,589
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,108</b>	<b>3,222</b>	<b>4,386</b>	<b>7,738</b>	<b>20,026</b>	<b>20,787</b>	<b>28,326</b>	<b>30,907</b>

### Wife: Japanese

Husband's nationality	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2004
Korea (ROK and North Korea)	1,386	1,554	1,651	2,525	2,721	2,842	2,509	2,293
USA	1,571	631	625	876	1,091	1,303	1,483	1,500
China	195	243	194	380	708	769	878	1,104
UK						213	249	339
Brazil						162	279	268
Peru						66	124	122
Philippines						52	109	120
Thailand						19	67	75
Others	286	395	405	662	1,080	1,514	2,239	2,783
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,438</b>	<b>2,823</b>	<b>2,875</b>	<b>4,443</b>	<b>5,600</b>	<b>6,940</b>	<b>7,937</b>	<b>8,604</b>

Source: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, *Jinko dotai tokei* (Demographic Statistics), 2004.

Note: Through 1990, the Philippines, Thailand, UK, Brazil, and Peru are included in "others."

## Number of Households with Persons Aged 65 Years and Over

	Total	Single persons only		Married couples only
		Male	Female	
				(1,000 households)
1986	<b>9,769 (26.0)</b>	246 (0.7)	1,035 (2.8)	1,782 (4.7)
1995	<b>12,695 (31.1)</b>	449 (1.1)	1,751 (4.3)	3,075 (7.5)
2000	<b>15,647 (34.4)</b>	682 (1.5)	2,398 (5.3)	4,234 (9.3)
2002	<b>16,848 (36.6)</b>	755 (1.6)	2,650 (5.8)	4,822 (10.5)
2003	<b>17,273 (37.7)</b>	776 (1.7)	2,635 (5.8)	4,845 (10.6)
2004	<b>17,864 (38.6)</b>	906 (2.0)	2,842 (6.1)	5,252 (11.3)

Source: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, *Kokumin seikatsu kiso chosa* (Basic Survey on National Life), 2004.

Note: Figures in parentheses are percentage of total.

## Homeless Population in Japan

	1999	2001	2003
Osaka	8,660	8,600	6,603
Tokyo <sup>a</sup>	5,800	5,600	5,927
Nagoya	1,019	1,318	1,788
Kawasaki	901	901	829
Kyoto	300	492	624
Fukuoka	269	341	607
Yokohama	794	602	470
Kitakyushu	166	197	421
Kobe	335	341	323
Amagasaki	160	110	323
Others	2,047	5,588	7,381
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,451</b>	<b>24,090</b>	<b>25,296</b>

Source: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, *Homeless Survey*, 2003.

a. Twenty-three wards of central Tokyo only.