1. Population Distribution

Japan had a population of 105,700,000 as of October 1, 1978. Japan ranks ninth in the world, following the People's Republic of China with 770 million, India with 508 million, the Soviet Union with 240 million, the United States with 200 million, Indonesia with 120 million, and eight other countries with a population of more than 100 million. It includesTokyo's333,000 area with a population of 8,800,000 and Osaka's524,000 with a population of 5,000,000. There are 338 cities, each with a population of more than 100,000. A check of the past trend of the population shows that from 1910 to 1978, the population of Japan increased by 40%. The population of urban areas increased by 54% of the nation's total population, whereas the rate of the rural area population was 38%.

If Japan's total population of 105,700,000 is divided by 600,000, there are about 1,700,000 persons. They include 1,200,000 Koreans, 600,000 Chinese, 30,000 Americans, and 1,000 other nationalities.

Bold Points of the Legend and Map Compilation

This map was compiled on the basis of the official population statistics in the Census of Population of October 1, 1978. The population data were compiled by the National Statistics Service, Japanese Ministry of Home Affairs, and the National Geography Institute, with the cooperation of the Prime Minister's Office. The population is divided into four categories: rural, urban, suburban, and foreign nationalities.

Densely inhabited districts, as referred to here, are a unit area established for the sake of the Census in statistical terms and means an area where the population density exceeds 400 persons per km² and the population is over 1,000. In the practical sense, it coincides with the section which is known as an urban area.

In compiling this map, the following points were observed:

1. Care was exerted so that the population can be accurately determined for each St. Mati or Mura. The population of each St. Mati and Mura, excluding those in the densely inhabited district, was computed, and the number of digits in the total population of the St. Mati and Mura concerned.

2. In the urban area, the size of the city or town and its density were taken into consideration based on the 1:5,000 scale Topographic Maps and 1:50,000 scale Regional Maps. Reference was also made to the distribution of data based on the 1:50,000 scale Population Distribution Map published by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Office of the Prime Minister.

2. Population Change in Last 50 Years

Japan had a population of only 21,000,000 in 1920. However, it exceeded 50,000,000 in 1950 and reached 100,000,000 in 1980, roughly doubling in the last 50 years. The population increase rate stood at 4.3% in 1925-29 and 1.5% in 1930-35. It subsequently was on the decline due to a continued outflow of the population to overseas countries. The repatriation of military personnel and overseas residents from outside Japan and the so-called "baby boom" following World War II led the population to increase at an exceedingly high rate in 1930-35, but the population increase rate became settled at the 3% level in the 1960s and after 1960.

Under evacuation programs during World War II, between 1940 and 1945 the population decreased in Tokyo Prefecture by 30%, Osaka Prefecture by 65%, but increased in all other prefectures. Later, the population began to concentrate in urban areas. In 1960-65, the population increased in 17 prefectures and decreased in 27 prefectures. The population increase rate in 1960-65 was high in Saitama Prefecture with 29.3%, Tokyo Prefecture with 36.5%, Kanagawa Prefecture with 22.5%, Osaka Prefecture with 18.2%, Okayama Prefecture with 11.3%, and Aichi Prefecture with 12.2%, whereas the population decrease was high in Kagoshima Prefecture with 6.7%, Fukuoka Prefecture with 15.8%, Nagasaki Prefecture with 6.1%, and Kanagawa Prefecture with 6.4%.

Bold Points of the Legend and Map Compilation

For the designation "1910-30," the increase decrease during the 15 years is schematized on the basis of the population in 1920 and 1930.

To denote a population increase or decrease, any value over 1,200 is counted as 1,500 and the smallest unit for the symbol denoting a population increase decrease in 15 years but any value under 1,200 is dropped. For the 1920 figure, the smallest unit for the symbol denoting a population increase decrease is 50 years, any value over 1,200 but under 1,500 is counted as 1,500 but any value under 1,200 is dropped.

Source

