1. VEHICLE TRAFFIC VOLUME

2. DENSITY OF ROADS AND NUMBER OF VEHICLES

1. Vehicle Traffic Volume

As present, the means of transport in Japan consist mainly of railways and automobiles. Automobiles which used to play a supplementary role to railways have been developed to a point where they now assume a role equal to, or more significant than, the railways due to the development of industry and the improvement of roads since World War II.

The passenger transport volume (in passenger-kilometers) in 1931 stood at 69.5% for railways and 30.5% for automobiles, whereas the freight transport volume (in ton-kilometers) was 10.5% for railways and 89.5% for automobiles.

The vehicle traffic volume is great on national highways and principal local roads connecting large metropolitan cities with major local cities. A check of the 10-hour vehicle traffic volume reveals that the sections recording a traffic volume of more than 30,000 vehicles are found in Tokyo, Osaka, and Nagoya, and that the sections recording a traffic volume of more than 20,000 vehicles can be found in the peripheries of these cities and Sapporo, Sendai, Saitama, Hiroshima, and Kobe.

2. Density of Roads and Number of Vehicles

The roads as of March 31, 1950, totaled 1,627,850 km, including 70,000 km of national highways, 120,000 km of prefectural highways, and 679,000 km of St. Mati and Muro roads. Of these roads, roads less than 5.5 m in width amounted to 846,000 km (52.7%), whereas ungraded roads consisted of 201,000 km (12.5%). Of the 120,000 km of national and prefectural highways, roads more than 5.5 m in width totaled 71,800 km (59.7%), whereas ungraded roads amounted to 48,200 km (40.3%).

The density of national and prefectural highways, length of roads per 1 km²/1000 stands at 65.2 in on the national average.

The number of vehicles owned in Japan has been steadily on the rise from about 1940. As of March 31, 1950, there were about 21,894,000 vehicles (including bicycles with motors, etc., and those in Okinawa Prefecture). They included 13,998,000 passenger cars (63.8%), 280,000 buses (1.2%), 8,000,000 small-sized trucks and other commercial vehicles (35.9%), 906,000 general trucks (4.5%), and 760,000 motorcycles (4%).

3. Sources

5. Data from the Japanese Automobile Manufacturers Association.