

- 1. AGE STRUCTURE OF POPULATION
 - RATIO OF POPULATION UNDER 15 YEARS OF AGE
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 - RATIO OF POPULATION AGED 65 YEARS AND OVER
 - TOTAL DEPENDENCY RATIO
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 - RATIO OF NUCLEAR FAMILIES

1. Age Structure of Population
Ratio of Population Under 15 Years of Age
Ratio of Population Aged 15 to Under 65 Years
Ratio of Population Aged 65 Years and Over

The population of Japan was 121,048,923 as of October 1, 1985. Classified into three groups, the population under 15 years of age (the youthful population) was 26,033,218 (21.5% of the total population); the population aged 15 to under 65 years of age (the productive population) was 82,506,016 (68.2%); the population aged 65 years and over (the elderly population) was 12,468,343 (10.3%); there were also 41,346 others (0.0%) for which no information was available.

Classified by prefecture according to the three age groups, Okinawa had the highest proportion of youthful population with 27.4%, followed by Saitama with 23.2%, Siga with 23.4% and Tiba 23.2%. There were 23 prefectures which exceeded the average ratio for the whole country. On the other hand, the lowest proportion of youthful population was that of Tōkyō with 18.0%, followed by Akita with 20%, Kōti with 20.1% and Yamagata with 20.3%.

Tōkyō Prefecture had the highest proportion of productive population with 73.0%, followed by 71.0% for Kanagawa Prefecture, 70.3% for Ōsaka Prefecture, 69.2% for Saitama Prefecture, 69.1% for Aiti Prefecture, and 68.9% for Tiba and Hokkaidō Prefectures. There were 7 prefectures which exceeded the average ratio for the whole country. On the other hand, the lowest rate for this section of the population was that of Okinawa Prefecture with 64.0%, followed by 64.2% for Simane and Kagosima Prefectures.

Simane Prefecture had the highest rate of elderly population with 15.3%, followed by Kōti Prefecture with 14.5%, Kagosima Prefecture with 14.2% and Tottori Prefecture with 13.7%. There were 35 prefectures which exceeded the average rate for the whole country. On the other hand, Saitama Prefecture had the lowest rate with 7.2%, followed by Kanagawa Prefecture with 7.5%, Tiba Prefecture with 7.9% and Ōsaka Prefecture with 8.3%.

Considering the changes in the population in terms of the three age groups over the past 50 years, the youthful population increased slightly from 25,550,000 in 1935 to 26,030,000 in 1985, but decreased from 36.9% of the total population to 21.5%.

The productive population increased from 40,480,000 in 1935 to 82,510,000 in 1985, and increased from 58.1% of the total population in 1945 to 68.9% in 1970. It has shown no marked fluctuations since then.

The elderly population was 3,230,000 in 1935, accounting for 4.7% of the total population, but has been increasing since then, reaching 12,470,000, 10.3%, in 1985.

[Salient Points of the Legend and Map Compilation]

The age structure of the population is divided into three groups: the youthful population (under 15 years of age), the productive population (aged 15 to under 65 years of age) and the elderly population (aged 65 years and over). The ratio of each group to the total population is shown on three separate maps.

Total Dependency Ratio

As of October 1, 1985, the youthful population of Japan was 26,033,218; the productive population, 82,506,016; and the elderly population, 12,468,343, giving a ratio of dependent population of 46.7.

Classified by prefecture, Okinawa had the highest ratio of dependent population with 56.3, followed by Simane with 55.8, Kagosima with 55.7, Saga with 54.5, and Tottori and Miyazaki with 53.7. The lowest ratio was that of Tōkyō with 36.8, followed by Kanagawa with 40.8, Ōsaka with 42.1, Saitama with 44.3, Aiti with 44.7, Tiba with 45.1 and Hokkaidō with 45.2. These 7 prefectures had ratios below that for the whole country.

Considering the ratio of dependent population over the past 50 years, it decreased from 71.1 in 1935 to 45.1 in 1970 but has shown little fluctuation since then. The ratio of youthful population to elderly population included in the ratio of dependent population changed from 7.9 : 1 in 1935 to 5.3 : 1 in 1960 and to 2.1 : 1 in 1985.

[Salient Points of the Legend and Map Compilation]

The total dependency ratio is an index to explain the characteristics of the age structure of the population. It is calculated by taking the sum of the youthful population (under 15 years of age) and the elderly population (aged 65 years and over), dividing it by the productive population (aged 15 years to under 65 years) and multiplying the result by 100.

2. Number of Household Members Per Household

The total number of households in Japan was 37,979,984 as of October 1, 1985. The average number of members per household was 3.14. There were also 122,102 households consisting of institutions.

The percentage of private households classified by the number of members was as follows: 4-member households accounted for the largest ratio with 23.7%; followed by 2-member households with 18.4%; 3-member households with 17.9%; 5-member households with 11.1%; 6-member households with 5.2% and 7-member households with 2.9%.

Classified by prefecture, the largest number of average members per household was that of Yamagata with 3.77, followed by Toyama with 3.69, Niigata and Hukui with 3.61, and Siga with 3.58. The lowest was Tōkyō with 2.60 members, followed by Kagosima with 2.78 and Hokkaidō with 2.89.

The average number of members per household was 3.41 in 1970 (3.69 for private households), but this decreased to 3.28 in 1975, 3.22 in 1980 and 3.14 in 1985, indicating a trend towards small-scale households due to the increasing tendency to form nuclear families, the increase in 1 or 2-member households and a decrease in the birth rate.

[Salient Points of the Legend and Map Compilation]

A household, which is a group of people who live together and share living expenses, is divided into two kinds: private households and institutions. The number of members per household is calculated by dividing the number of private household members by the number of private households. A private household refers to a group of people who live together and share living expenses; a person who lives in a house; a person who lives in a flat or lodging and a person who lives in a dormitory supplied by an employer. Other groups consisting of people who live in dormitories or institutions are referred to as institutional households.

2. Ratio of Nuclear Families

The number of nuclear families in Japan was 22,803,619 as of October 1, 1985, accounting for 60.0% of all private households.

Considering the family structure of nuclear families, those consisting of a couple and their children had the highest rate with 66.6%; followed by those consisting of a couple with 22.9%; those consisting of a mother and her children with 9.0% and those consisting of a father and his children with 1.6%.

Classified by prefecture, the highest proportion of nuclear families was that of Saitama with 67.8%, followed by Okinawa with 65.9%, Ōsaka with 65.9%, Tiba with 65.2% and Kagosima with 65.1%. The lowest rate was that of Yamagata with 45.7%, followed by Hukui with 49.7%.

Concerning the five-yearly increase rate of nuclear families, the 22.7% increase between 1960-1965 was the highest. The rate then decreased to 16.3% between 1970-1975 and to 5.6% between 1980-1985.

[Salient Points of the Legend and Map Compilation]

The three types of private households are: households of related family members, households of unrelated members, and one-member households. A 'nuclear family household' belongs to the first group: a household of related family members. The structure of a nuclear family varies and may consist of a couple, a couple and children, father and children, or mother and children. The ratio of nuclear families is calculated by dividing the number of nuclear families by the number of private households.

[Sources]

- 1. Statistics Bureau, Management and Coordination Agency, *1985 Population Census of Japan*
- 2. Statistics Bureau, Management and Coordination Agency, *Major Aspects of Population of Japan, 1985*



