1. Distribution of Post Offices

The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications plays the leading role in the postal business of Japan.

As of March 1975, there were about 21,998 post offices in Japan. By kind, the post offices included 18,194 ordinary post offices, of which delivery collection offices numbered 16,166 and non-delivery collection offices 41. The other types of post offices include collection offices, railway post offices, and sea post offices. There were also 3,804 special post offices, of which delivery collection offices numbered 4,291 and non-delivery collection offices 1,492. In addition, there were 1,530 postal agencies.

![Image](image_url)

The number of post offices has been increasing from year to year particularly in major cities and their outlying areas where there has been a marked increase in the utilization of post offices. For this reason, additional non-delivery collection special offices and postal agencies have been established. The national land per post office was 71.15 km², and the population per post office was 3,542. There were about 32,000 mailboxes in the whole country at a rate of 123 mailboxes per 100,000 population.

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Sample Points of the Legend and Map Compilation

Of the post offices which existed as of October 1, 1975, this map shows the delivery collection offices.

Source: 1. Data from the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications.

2. Number of Postal Matter

The total number of mail matter per day on the day of the survey conducted in October 1975 was 22,545,086 of which mail matter sent within each prefecture accounted for about 86%, of these about one third of the mail matter was sent within the area placed under the jurisdiction of each collection office. The percentage of mail matter sent within each prefecture gradually increased from 59.5% in 1961 to 80.5% in 1977. A check of the addresses other than those within each prefecture reveals that there were 31 prefectures whose mail matter sent to Tokyō Prefecture ranked first in number and nine prefectures whose mail matter sent to Tokyō Prefecture ranked second in number. The prefectures whose mail matter sent from Tokyō Prefecture ranked first totaled 47, whereas there were many prefectures whose mail matter sent from Ōsaka Prefecture or its adjacent prefectures ranked second in number. In Tokyō and Ōsaka prefectures, outgoing mail matter exceeded incoming mail matter in quantity, whereas incoming mail matter exceeded outgoing mail matter in all other prefectures. The percentage of incoming mail matter to outgoing mail matter stood at 63% in Tokyō Prefecture and 59% in Ōsaka Prefecture, the two prefectures accounting for 43% of all outgoing mail matter in the nation and 53% of all incoming mail matter in the nation.

The annual total number of mail matter from April 1972 to March 1974 was 23,686,886, up about 1.2% from the previous year. By kind, ordinary post items accounted for 90.5% and the special post items included registered mail with 2% and ordinary express mail with 0.5%. The postal parcels included general postal parcels with 1.2% and books with 0.8%.

A check of the forms in which the changes for ordinary mail matter shows that mail matter with postage paid without allowing postage stamps and mail matter with prepaid postage have been increasing from year to year, and that the ratio of these two categories of mail matter was about two times that of mail matter with postage stamps. This type of mail matter accounted for 41.5% of all types of mail matter.

Sample Points of the Legend and Map Compilation

On the basis of the results of the Survey on Accepted Mail Matter Classified by Address conducted in October 1975, this map shows the volume of outgoing and incoming domestic mail matter per day.

The semicircles representing the number of outgoing and incoming mail matter were further subdivided to show the ratio of prefectures or regions. In the case of Tokyō Prefecture, the upper semicircle represents the number of outgoing mail matter from Tokyō, of which No. 13 represents that receiving post offices are situated in Tokyō and No. 17 in Ōsaka. In the case of Ōsaka Prefecture, the lower semicircle represents the number of incoming mail matter to Tokyō, of which No. 13 represents that sending post offices are located in Tokyō and No. 17 in Osaka.
