

Summary of the results

I Employment and Unemployment Trends in 2005

As for the employment situation during 2005, the number of employed persons increased in comparison with the same month of the previous year, except for March and April.

The unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted) showed a tendency of decline same as previous year.

1. Employment situation

As for the employment trends in 2005, compared to the same month of the previous year the number of employed persons increased continually for the 2 months from January to February, and for 8 months from May to December. Furthermore, the number only decreased for the 2 months in March and April.

As for the employed persons by sex, compared to the same month of the previous year the number of employed persons for males increased in January, June, and July, and from September to November. Excluding March, the number for females increased every month.

Of the employed persons, compared to the same month of the previous year the number of self-employed workers and family workers decreased each month excluding January, February, and July. On the other hand, the number of employees increased each month with the exceptions of January and February, and in particular there were increases of around one million people in 2 months: 1,010,000 people in September, and 950,000 people in October.

A comparison of the number of employed persons by major industry indicates that the number of employed persons in “Medical, health care and welfare” has since January 2003 continued to increase for 36 consecutive months compared to the same month of the previous year. The number employed in “Services” has also increased since February 2004 compared to the same month of the previous year, excluding April 2005 which had the same figure as the previous April. On the other hand, the number of employed persons in “Construction” decreased for 34 consecutive months from March 2003. Furthermore, “Manufacturing” decreased for 31 consecutive months from January 2003 to July 2005, but August 2005 showed the same number as August 2004, and for the 4 consecutive months from September the number of employed persons has increased.

(note) Along with the revision of Japan Standard Industrial Classification, the data are shown by New Standard Industrial Classification from the January 2003 survey results.

2. Unemployment situation

As for the situation of unemployment in 2005, the number of unemployed persons decreased for 29 consecutive months from June 2003 to October 2005 compared to the same month for the previous year, but it increased in November, then went decreased again in December.

As for the unemployed persons by sex, the number of unemployed for males has decreased for 30 consecutive months since July 2003 compared to the same month of the previous year. That for females decreased for 22 consecutive months from December 2003 to September 2005, but has increased since October of the same year.

The unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted) showed a tendency of decline same as the previous year.

For a breakdown of unemployed persons by their relationship to the head of the household, the number of household heads in unemployment has decreased for 29 consecutive months since August 2003 compared to the same month of the previous year. Unemployment among “Other family members” decreased for 23 consecutive months from December 2003 to October 2005, but it has increased since November of the same year.

As for the unemployed persons by reason for seeking a job shows that those who left their previous job “due to the circumstances of employer or business” has decreased for 29 consecutive months since August 2003 in comparison with the same month of the previous year. On the other hand, the number of those who “quitted a job voluntarily” increased each month with the exceptions of August and September.

表1 主要項目の月別の動向
Monthly Data on Major Items

(平成17年, 2005)

(単位: 万人, ten thousand persons)

	1月 Jan.	2月 Feb.	3月 Mar.	4月 Apr.	5月 May	6月 June	7月 July	8月 Aug.	9月 Sept.	10月 Oct.	11月 Nov.	12月 Dec.	17年平均 Average
就業者 Employed person													
男女計 Both sexes	6261	6224	6260	6352	6435	6418	6410	6405	6437	6409	6344	6315	6356
	40	15	-19	-2	46	44	37	10	68	57	22	9	27
男 Male	3686	3660	3681	3717	3746	3743	3738	3743	3766	3750	3725	3716	3723
	9	0	-3	-12	-2	17	19	0	47	40	8	-4	10
女 Female	2575	2565	2579	2635	2688	2675	2672	2662	2671	2659	2619	2599	2633
	31	17	-15	10	48	27	18	9	21	17	14	13	17
[従業上の地位] [Status in employment]													
雇用者 Employee	5310	5284	5313	5390	5447	5416	5409	5398	5454	5457	5414	5418	5393
	0	-2	2	21	41	45	28	15	101	95	50	56	38
常雇 Regular employee	4575	4545	4584	4639	4678	4661	4655	4641	4661	4677	4628	4627	4631
	6	-10	23	21	14	12	17	12	55	61	24	41	23
臨時雇・日雇 Temporary employee and daily employee	735	739	728	751	770	756	754	757	793	780	786	792	762
	-6	7	-22	0	29	33	11	3	46	34	25	17	16
自営業主・家族従業者 Self-employed worker and family worker	923	911	908	928	955	969	965	972	959	925	898	870	932
	34	12	-28	-33	-5	-7	1	-11	-35	-38	-28	-35	-14
[主な産業別就業者] [Employed person by industry]													
農林業 Agriculture and forestry	212	209	231	275	300	301	297	285	285	273	239	206	259
	5	-13	-16	-9	-2	-3	-2	-12	-3	5	2	-10	-5
建設業 Construction	575	569	579	579	590	581	562	554	554	553	558	564	568
	-30	-26	-8	-2	-2	-2	-9	-22	-29	-25	-26	-13	-16
製造業 Manufacturing	1137	1127	1114	1105	1135	1150	1151	1173	1163	1155	1149	1149	1142
	-19	-21	-23	-18	-4	-6	-27	0	5	10	10	2	-8
運輸業 Transport	315	304	303	315	308	315	322	323	328	318	323	330	317
	-15	-27	-25	-19	-1	8	17	11	-3	-10	-5	-3	-6
卸売・小売業 Wholesale and retail trade	1121	1116	1125	1127	1107	1105	1131	1130	1119	1123	1126	1137	1122
	-7	13	14	6	-10	-17	-4	-12	14	9	-14	1	-1
飲食店、宿泊業 Eating and drinking places, accommodations	345	330	335	333	342	335	328	348	363	356	350	349	343
	8	-2	-10	-19	-1	2	-8	-2	15	-5	-19	-14	-4
医療、福祉 Medical, health care and welfare	541	543	536	550	571	574	561	541	559	562	555	547	553
	30	14	9	36	41	34	19	14	26	24	14	3	22
サービス業 Services	875	882	909	917	922	919	927	927	930	930	929	920	916
	28	38	14	0	33	40	57	46	39	43	44	37	35
完全失業者 Unemployed person													
男女計 Both sexes	296	308	313	310	307	280	289	284	285	304	292	265	294
	-27	-22	-20	-25	-12	-29	-29	-30	-24	-7	2	-5	-19
男 Male	182	193	191	184	183	175	174	167	168	179	176	164	178
	-16	-13	-14	-17	-7	-18	-26	-19	-21	-10	-6	-6	-14
女 Female	113	114	122	126	124	105	115	117	117	124	116	101	116
	-12	-10	-7	-8	-6	-11	-3	-11	-3	2	8	1	-5
[求職理由別完全失業者] [Unemployed person by reason for seeking a job]													
定年又は雇用契約の満了 Mandatory retirement, or termination of employment contract	30	30	28	30	31	28	28	27	28	27	27	25	28
	-7	-2	-5	-6	0	-2	-7	-4	-1	-4	-2	0	-4
勤め先や事業の都合 Circumstances of employer or business	72	74	79	74	73	70	71	70	72	73	69	65	72
	-23	-25	-11	-16	-9	-20	-19	-10	-11	-9	-7	-11	-14
自発的な離職 Quitted a job by voluntary	109	115	110	111	112	104	112	109	103	115	116	102	110
	8	1	3	5	5	3	5	-3	-8	4	14	8	4
学卒未就職者 Graduated from school	13	13	23	25	17	14	15	15	13	14	14	11	16
	0	-2	-4	-1	-6	-6	-2	-4	-3	-2	0	-3	-2
収入を得る必要が生じたから Necessary to earn revenue	42	41	37	38	41	37	39	37	42	40	38	35	39
	-5	-2	-8	-10	-4	-5	1	-2	2	2	-1	1	-3
その他 Other	27	29	30	28	29	22	21	22	24	30	26	23	26
	0	4	3	3	1	-3	-6	-8	-4	0	0	-1	-1
完全失業率(季節調整値) % Ratio of unemployed in labour force (Seasonally adjusted series) %													
男女計 (注2, Note2) Both sexes	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.4
男 (注2, Note2) Male	4.8	4.9	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.6
女 (注2, Note2) Female	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.0	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.4	4.5	4.3	4.2

(注1) 上段は実数値, 下段は前年同月(前年)増減

(注2) 完全失業率(季節調整値)については, 平成17年1月~12月の結果を追加して再計算している。
このため, 平成17年速報の季節調整値は一部改訂されている。

Note1 The upper figures show the real number and the lower indicate the change over the year.

Note2 Seasonal adjustment has been revised retroactively by adding new data for twelve months of 2005 in the calculation process.
As a result, seasonally adjusted figures in this monthly data are not necessarily equal to those in the 2005 preliminary report.

II Summary of Average Results for 2005

1 Labor force

The labour force of employed and unemployed persons combined based on the 2005 yearly average was 66.50 million (39.01 million males and 27.50 million females), an increase of 80,000 people compared to the previous year, and the first increase in the 7 years since 1998. This figure includes an increase of 270,000 employed persons, and a decrease of 190,000 unemployed persons.

A breakdown of the labour force by sex shows that males decreased by 40,000 compared to the previous year, which means a decrease for 8 consecutive years. On the other hand, females in the labour force increased by 130,000, the second consecutive year it has increased.

○ Labor force participation rate

The labour force participation rate (the labour force as a percentage of the total population of people aged 15 years or more) was 60.4% on average for 2005, the same rate as the previous year.

A breakdown of the labour force by sex shows the rate for males was 73.3%, a 0.1 point decrease on the previous year. If broken down according to age group, the rates for the group aged 25-34 and 45-54 both decreased compared to the previous year.

The rate for females was 48.4%, an increase of 0.1 point compared to the previous year. If broken down according to age group, the rate for each age group except those 65 or more increased compared to the previous year.

2 Employed persons

Based on the 2005 yearly average, the number of employed persons was 63.56 million, an increase of 270,000 compared to the previous year, and the second consecutive year this figure has increased. A breakdown by sex shows that the number of males in employment increased by 100,000, the first increase for 8 years. The number of females increased by 170,000, an increase for the third consecutive year.

(1) Employed persons by status of employment

As for the employed persons according to status of employment, the average number of employees for 2005 was 53.93 million, which is a record high and an increase of 380,000 in comparison with the previous year. The proportion of employees to employed persons was 84.8%, a 0.2 point increase. Furthermore, the number of self-employed and family workers was 9.32 million, a decrease of 140,000.

A breakdown of employees by sex shows the number of males was 31.64 million, an increase of 120,000 compared with the previous year, and the first increase for 5 years. The number of females was 22.29 million, an increase of 260,000, and the third consecutive year in which this figure has increased. Moreover, the number of female employees reached a record high for the second consecutive year.

The number of employees in non-agricultural industries was 53.56 million, an increase of 370,000 compared to the previous year. Of these, the number of regular employees was 46.05 million, an increase of 230,000 and the second consecutive year in which this figure has increased. The number of temporary/daily employees was 7.52 million, an increase of 160,000 and the 19th consecutive year since 1987 that this figure has increased.

The proportion of regular employees accounted for 86.0% of all employees in non-agricultural industries, a decrease of 0.1 point on the previous year. The proportion of regular employees decreased for the eleventh consecutive year since 1995, whereas the proportion of temporary/daily employees has increased for the eleventh straight year since 1995.

Furthermore, the percentage of males as regular employees was higher than that for females, and the percentage of females as temporary/daily employees was higher than that for males.

(2) Employed persons by major industry

A breakdown of employed persons on average for 2005 by major industry shows 5.53 million in “Medical, health care and welfare” an increase of 220,000 compared to the previous year, and the number in “Services” was 9.16 million, an increase of 350,000. On the other hand, the number in “Construction” was 5.68 million, a decrease of 160,000 in comparison with the previous year, the number in “Manufacturing” was 11.42 million, a decrease of 80,000, the number in “Wholesale and retail trade” was 11.22 million, a decrease of 10,000, and the number in “Eating and drinking places, accommodations” was 3.43 million, a decrease of 40,000.

(3) Employed persons by occupation

A breakdown of employed persons by major occupation on average for 2005 shows the number of “Professional and technical workers” was 9.37 million, an increase of 170,000 compared to the previous year. Furthermore, the number of “Production process workers and labourers” was 17.82 million, an increase of 40,000 compared to the previous year, and the first increase for eight years since 1997. On the other hand, the number of “Sales workers” was 8.92 million, a decrease of 90,000 compared to the previous year, and the fourth consecutive year in which this figure has decreased.

(4) Employees by number of persons engaged in enterprise

A breakdown of employees in non-agricultural industries according to the number of persons engaged in enterprise (excluding government employees) on average through 2005 shows that the number of employees in enterprise with a staff of between 30-499 persons was 18.37 million, an increase of 320,000 compared to the previous year, and the number of employees in enterprise with over 500 persons was 12.71 million, an increase of 380,000. On the other hand, the number of employees in enterprise with 1-29 persons was 16.56 million, a decrease of 230,000 compared to the previous year.

3 Unemployed persons

Based on the 2005 yearly average, the number of unemployed persons was 2.94 million, a decrease of 190,000 compared to the previous year, and the third consecutive year in which this figure has decreased. A breakdown of unemployed persons by sex shows that there were 1.78 million unemployed males, a decrease of 140,000, and 1.16 million unemployed females, a decrease of 50,000.

The average unemployment rate for 2005 (the proportion of unemployed persons to the whole labour force) was 4.4%, a decrease of 0.3 point compared to the previous year, and the third consecutive year in which the proportion has decreased. The unemployment rate for males was 4.6%, marking a decline of 0.3 point, and for females 4.2%, a decrease of 0.2 point.

The unemployment rate for males has been higher than that for females for eight consecutive years since 1998.

(1) Unemployment rate by age group

A breakdown of the unemployment rate by sex and age group showed the highest rate in the 15-24 age group for both males and females. Of particular note was that males in the 15-24 age group showed the highest unemployment rate at 9.9%. Next highest was the rate for both males and females in the 25-34 age group, and these rates show that the severe employment conditions continue for the younger age groups.

(2) Unemployed persons by relationship to the head of household

A breakdown of the unemployment rate of persons according to their relationship to the head of the household showed that the rate for the “Head of the household” was 2.7%, a decrease of 0.3 point compared to the previous year, and for “Spouse of the head” the rate was also 2.7%, a decrease of 0.1 point compared to the previous year, and the rate for “Other family members” was 7.7%, a decrease of 0.5 point. The rate for “One-person households” was 5.6%, a decrease of 0.3 point compared to the previous year.

Furthermore, the number of unemployed persons for “Head of the household” decreased by 80,000 compared to the previous year, the third consecutive year this figure has decreased. The number of unemployed persons for “Other family members” decreased by 70,000, the second consecutive year in which this figure has decreased.

(3) Unemployed persons by reason for seeking a job

A breakdown of unemployed persons on average for 2005 according to their reasons for seeking a job shows:

- The number of “Persons who quitted a job involuntarily” was 1 million, of which:
 - The number of persons who quitted their previous jobs “Due to mandatory retirement or termination of employment contract” was 280,000, a decrease of 40,000 in comparison with the previous year.
 - The number of persons who quitted their previous jobs “Due to circumstances of employer or business” was 720,000, a decrease of 140,000.
- The number of persons who “Quitted a job voluntarily” (leaving previous job for personal or family’s convenience) was 1.1 million, an increase of 40,000.
- The number of persons who “Graduated from school” (persons who started seeking new jobs after they graduated from school) was 160,000, a decrease of 20,000.
- The number of “Other persons” was 650,000, of which:
 - The number of persons who started seeking a new job because it was “Necessary to earn revenue” was 390,000, a decrease of 30,000.
 - The number of persons who started seeking a new job for reasons classified under “Others” (e.g. reasons such as having more time than before) was 260,000, a decrease of 10,000.

4 Regional situation

The number of employed persons and the unemployment rates based on the 2005 yearly average for the ten regions covering Japan are given below.

(1) Employed persons

The number of employed persons increased in comparison with the previous year in nine out of the ten regions, with Kyushu being the exception.

(2) Unemployment rates

The unemployment rates and comparisons with the previous year are as follows:

Hokkaido	5.3% (down 0.4 percentage point)
Tohoku.....	5.0% (down 0.4)
Southern Kanto.....	4.3% (down 0.3)
Northern Kanto/Koshin	3.7% (down 0.4)
Hokuriku.....	3.3% (down 0.4)
Tokai.....	3.2% (down 0.3)
Kinki.....	5.2% (down 0.4)
Chugoku	3.8% (down 0.5)
Shikoku.....	4.3% (down 0.6)
Kyushu	5.3% (down 0.2)