

# OUTLINE OF THE 2005 POPULATION CENSUS OF JAPAN

## History

The population censuses in Japan have been conducted almost every five years since 1920, the 2005 Population Census being the eighteenth one.

There are two kinds of population censuses: large-scale censuses and simplified censuses. The censuses conducted every ten years starting in 1920 were large-scale censuses while the censuses taken in the fifth year after the large-scale decennial censuses were simplified censuses.

The 2005 Population Census was conducted as a simplified one.

The main difference between a large-scale census and a simplified census is the number of questions asked. During the prewar period, questions of the simplified censuses (1925 and 1935) were limited to the basic characteristics of the population, i.e., name, sex, age, marital status, while the large-scale censuses (1920, 1930 and 1940) covered questions on economic characteristics such as industry and occupation in addition to the basic characteristics of the population.

After World War II, the scale of census-taking was generally amplified so as to satisfy the increased demands from a wider variety of users for the census results.

The large-scale censuses (1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990 and 2000) covered questions on dwellings, internal migration and education in addition to the basic and economic characteristics of the population.

The simplified censuses (1955, 1965, 1975, 1985, 1995 and 2005) covered questions on the basic and economic characteristics of the population and dwellings.

The censuses had been also conducted in Okinawa-ken since it reverted to Japan on 15 May 1972, as the 47th prefecture of Japan. Before reversion, however, the censuses had been conducted by the U.S. Military Government of the Ryukyu Islands or Government of the Ryukyu Island five times in Okinawa-ken.

## Date of the Census

The 2005 Population Census was taken as of 0:00 a.m., October 1, 2005.

## Legal Basis of the Census

The 2005 Population Census was conducted in conformity with provisions of Article 4, Clause 2 of the Statistics Law (Law No.18 of 1947), Cabinet Order for the Population Census (Cabinet Order No.98 of 1980), the Regulation for the Execution of the Population Census (Prime Minister's Office Order No.21 of 1980) and the Ministerial Ordinance for Instruction for the Establishment of Enumeration Districts for the Population Census (Prime Minister's Office Order No.24 of 1984).

## Area Coverage of the Census

The 2005 Population Census covered the whole territory of Japan excluding the following islands in accordance with the Regulation for the Execution of the Population Census mentioned above.

- (1) Habomai-*gunto*, Shikotan-*to*, Kunashiri-*to* and Etorofu-*to*
- (2) Take-*shima* in Okinoshima-*cho*, Oki-*gun* Shimane-*ken*

## Population Enumerated in the Census

The 2005 Population Census used what is known as *de jure* population concept for enumerating the people. That is, a person was enumerated at the place where he or she usually lived, and was counted as the population of the area including the place.

The term "persons usually living" was defined in the census as those persons who had lived or were going to live for three months or more at their respective households at the census date. Persons who had no usual places of living in this sense were enumerated at the places where they were present at the date of the census. There were, however, exceptions to this general rule for the following population groups:

- (1) Students and pupils of regular schools as well as those attending special training schools or miscellaneous schools who were living in school dormitories, boarding houses or the like were enumerated at the places where they lived regardless of their period of stay.

- (2) Inpatients of hospitals were enumerated in the hospitals only when they had been hospitalized for three months or more at the census date. Otherwise, they were enumerated at their homes even if

they were expected to be in the hospital for three months or more.

(3) Crews aboard ships except ships of the Self-Defence Forces were enumerated at their residential places on land, if any. Otherwise, they were enumerated on the ships if the ships were of the Japanese flag and were at anchor at a port of Japan at the census date, or if the ships left a port of Japan before the census date and entered a port of Japan within five days after the census date without calling at any foreign ports.

(4) Residents in the camps of the Self-Defence Forces were enumerated in the camps. Crews aboard ships of the Self-Defence Forces were enumerated at the places of the local general headquarters to which their ships belonged.

(5) Persons in prisons or detention houses whose penalties had been fixed, and inmates of reformatories or women's guidance homes were enumerated at those institutions.

In accordance with the rules described above, all persons living in Japan were enumerated whether they were foreigners or not. However, the following persons were excluded from the enumeration.

- (1) Foreign diplomatic corps, their suite and their dependents
- (2) Foreign military personnel including both military corps and civilians, and their dependents

## Topics to be surveyed

The 2005 Population Census covered the following topics.

For household members:

- (1) Name
- (2) Sex
- (3) Year and month of birth
- (4) Relationship to the household head
- (5) Marital status
- (6) Nationality
- (7) Type of activity
- (8) Hours actually worked during the week
- (9) Name of establishment and kind of business  
(Industry)
- (10) Kind of work (Occupation)
- (11) Employments status
- (12) Place of work or location of school

For households:

- (1) Type of household
- (2) Number of household members
- (3) Type and tenure of dwelling
- (4) Area of floor space of dwelling
- (5) Type of building and number of stories

## Method of the Census

The 2005 Population Census was conducted through the following channel: Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications — Prefectures (*To, Do, Fu* and *Ken*)—Municipalities (*Shi, Ku, Machi* and *Mura*) — Supervisors — Enumerators.

Before the census-taking, enumeration districts for the 2005 census were demarcated and mapped. The enumeration districts numbered about 980,000 were delineated to comprise 50 households per enumeration district on the average and each enumeration district was in general demarcated by combining some of basic unit blocks. The basic unit blocks were set up in the 1990 Population Census as units of area for permanent use.

Enumeration was done as follows. About 830,000 enumerators who were specially appointed for the 2005 Population Census by the Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications delivered questionnaires to each household and requested the household head to fill out each item. After the census date, they again visited every household to collect the questionnaires.

In the 2005 Population Census, the mark-sheet type questionnaires printed on both sides and designed for four individuals to report on one sheet were used separately for each household.

For the households which were not canvassed due to their absence from home during the period of census-taking, the enumerator filled out name, sex and number of household members on the questionnaires through interviews with neighbours.

## Method of Tabulation

After being accepted and sorted, questionnaires were read using OCR (Optical Character Reader) and coded by category (industry, occupation, etc.).

Based on input data, blanks, erroneous entries, and conflicting entries in the questionnaires were checked and corrected in case of necessity automatically, and data that had been completely checked were then compiled and tabulated.

## Tabulation and Publication

The National Statistics Center, Incorporated Administrative Agency, took charge of the whole tabulation of the census results. The tabulated results were released in reports and CD-ROMs by the Statistics Bureau. The reports containing the principal results were published approximately one month after the release. The tabulation and publication were scheduled as follows.

### (1) Preliminary Counts of the Population

As the first release of the census results, the preliminary counts of the population by sex and of households for the whole country, prefectures and municipalities (i.e. *shi*, *ku*, *machi* and *mura*) were announced in the official gazette of the government on 27 December 2005. And a report entitled "Prompt Tabulation Series No.1, Preliminary Counts of the Population on the Basis of Summary Sheets" was published in January 2006.

These preliminary counts are based on the entries on the summary sheets which are prepared by the prefectural and municipal governments to ascertain the number of persons and households enumerated in the respective enumeration districts under their jurisdiction.

### (2) Prompt Sample Tabulation

The tabulation by using sample households is carried out to offer prompt results on the basic characteristics of population and households including sex, age, labour force status, industrial and occupational structure, place of work or schooling. The sampling ratio for this tabulation is about one percent.

The results were released in June 2006 and a report entitled "Prompt Tabulation Series No.2, 2005 Population Census of Japan, Results of Prompt Sample Tabulation" was published in September 2006.

### (3) The First Basic Complete Tabulation

In the 2005 Population Census, the complete tabulation is performed in three stages. The first basic complete tabulation includes statistics on the basic characteristics of population and households, and statistics on aged persons household, for the whole country, prefectures and municipalities.

The results of this tabulation for each prefecture and municipality were released by October 2006, successively, prefecture by prefecture, and the reports entitled "2005 Population Census of Japan, Volume 2-2-xx : Sex, Age and Marital Status of Population, Structure and Housing Conditions of Households" (compiled separately for each of 47 prefectures; xx represents a prefectural code.) were

published. The results for the whole country were released in October 2006 and the report entitled "2005 Population Census of Japan, Volume 2-1: Sex, Age and Marital Status of Population, Structure and Housing Conditions of Households" was published in February 2007.

At this stage, the report entitled "2005 Population Census of Japan, Volume 1: Total Population" which contained the population and area of each municipality as well as those of each prefecture, the whole country and each Densely Inhabited District was published in February 2007.

### (4) The Second Basic Complete Tabulation

The tabulation at this stage includes basic statistics on labour force status of population and industry of employed persons for the whole country, prefectures and municipalities.

The results of this tabulation for each prefecture and municipality were released by January 2007, successively, prefecture by prefecture, and the reports entitled "2005 Population Census of Japan, Volume 3-2-xx : Labour Force Status of Population, Industry (Major Groups) of Employed Persons" (compiled separately for each of 47 prefectures) were published in June 2007.

The results for the whole country were released in January 2007 and the report entitled "2005 Population Census of Japan, Volume 3-1: Labour Force Status of Population, Industry (Major Groups) of Employed Persons" was published in May 2007.

### (5) The Third Basic Complete Tabulation

The tabulation at this stage includes basic statistics on occupational structure of employed persons and on mother-child(ren) households and father-child(ren) households for the whole country, prefectures and municipalities.

The results of the third basic complete tabulation for each prefecture and municipality were released by December 2007, successively, prefecture by prefecture, and the reports entitled "2005 Population Census of Japan, Volume 4-2-xx : Occupation (Major Groups) of Employed Persons, Types of Household" (compiled separately for each of 47 prefectures) were published. The results for the whole country were released in December 2007, and the report entitled "2005 Population Census of Japan, Volume 4-1: Occupation (Major Groups) of Employed Persons, Types of Household" was published.

### (6) Detailed Sample Tabulation

The detailed sample tabulation is carried out to provide more detailed tables for the whole country, prefectures and municipalities. In this tabulation included are statistics based on detailed classifications of industry and occupation of employed per-

sons.

The results of this tabulation for each prefecture and municipality were released by December 2008, successively, prefecture by prefecture, and the reports entitled “2005 Population Census of Japan, Volume 5-2-xx : Industry (Minor Groups) and Occupation (Minor Groups) of Employed Persons (Sample Tabulation Results)” (compiled separately for each of 47 prefectures) were published in February 2009.

The results for the whole country were released in December 2008 and the report entitled “2005 Population Census of Japan, Volume 5-1: Industry (Minor Groups) and Occupation (Minor Groups) of Employed Persons (Sample Tabulation Results)” was published February 2009.

### **(7) Tabulation on Place of Work or Schooling**

The tabulation on place of work or schooling is designed to provide statistics on the daily movement of workers and students commuting between their homes and places of work or schooling and economic characteristics of commuters. The results of this tabulation are also used to calculate the daytime population in each municipality to be compared with each nighttime population, that is, the *de jure* population.

The tabulation on commuting population is carried out in three stages.

( i ) The first stage of the tabulation on commuting population is performed immediately after the completion of the first and second basic complete tabulation. This includes statistics on the basic characteristics of population except occupation of employed persons by the place of work or schooling. The results were released in March 2007, and the reports entitled “2005 Population Census of Japan, Volume 6-1 Part1 : Population by Place of Work or Schooling, Sex and Age of Population, Industry (Major Groups) of Employed Persons” and “2005 Population Census of Japan, Volume 6-1 Part2-xx : Population by Place of Work or Schooling, Sex and Age of Population, Industry (Major Groups) of Employed Persons” (compiled separately for each of 47 prefectures) were published in August 2007.

( ii ) The second stage of the tabulation on commuting population is carried out after the completion of the third basic complete tabulation.

The tabulation at this stage includes the results on the occupational structure of employed persons by the place of work. The results were released in April 2008, and the reports entitled “2005 Population Census of Japan, Volume 6-2 : Population by Place of Work or Schooling,

Occupation (Major Groups) of Employed Persons” (7 separate books) were published in July 2008.

( iii ) The third stage is conducted after the completion of the detailed sample tabulation to obtain statistics concerning detailed industry and occupation of commuters. The results were released in December 2008, and the reports entitled “2005 Population Census of Japan, Volume 6-3 : Population by Place of Work or Schooling, Industry (Medium Groups) and Occupation (Medium Groups) of Employed Persons (Sample Tabulation Results)” (6 separate books) were published in February 2009.

### **(8) Tabulation for Small Areas**

The fundamental results are tabulated by such small areas as subdivision of municipalities by *cho* and *aza*.

The results based on the first basic complete tabulation, the second basic complete tabulation, the third basic complete tabulation and the tabulation on place of work or schooling become available after the release of the results of the corresponding tabulation for prefectures and municipalities.

The results were released by each prefecture three months after the release of the results of the basic complete tabulation.