

OUTLINE OF THE POPULATION CENSUS OF 1955

Date of Census

The Population Census of 1955 was conducted as of 00:00 a.m. of October 1, 1955.

Legal Basis of Census

The 1955 Census was conducted in conformity with the provisions in Article 4, Paragraph 2, of the Statistics Law (Law No. 18 of 1947).

In order to carry out the census, the Enforcement Order for the Population Census of 1955 (Cabinet Order No. 72 of 1955), Rules for the Census-taking of the 1955 Population Census (Instruction No. 4 of 1955) and related notifications were appointed in accordance with the Statistics Law.

Area Coverage of Enumeration

The Population Census of 1955 was conducted as of the census date in the whole area strictly under the administrative authority of the Japanese Government. The following islands, therefore, were excluded from the coverage of enumeration.

1. Shikotan-shima, Suisho-shima, Yuri-shima, Akiyuri-shima, Shibotsu-shima and Taraku-shima in Hokkaido
2. Nampo-shoto (Ogasawara-gunto, Nishino-shima and Kazan-retto)
3. Okinotori-shima and Minamitori-shima
4. Take-shima, located at East Longitude 131°52' 30", North Latitude 37° 15' 0"
5. Iwotori-shima, Iheya-shima and Nansei-shoto in the South of North Latitude 27° (including Daito-shoto)

In addition to the areas enumerated in the 1950 Census, the 1955 Census further covered Tokara-retto (Toshima-mura in Oshima-gun, Kagoshima-ken) and Amami-gunto (Naze-shi and major portion of Oshima-gun), both of which were returned to the Japanese Government on the 5th of December 1951 and the 25th of December 1953, respectively. According to the results of the population censuses taken as of May 1, 1952, for Tokara-retto and as of March 1, 1954, for Amami-gunto, the population was 2 968 and 201 132, and the land areas were 87.54 km<sup>2</sup> and 1 292.38 km<sup>2</sup>, respectively.

Population enumerated in this census

The 1955 Census was taken to enumerate the so-called "de jure population". The de jure population,

in this census, refers to those persons who are usually living in an area at the date of census, and counted as the population of that area. The wording "persons usually living" was defined as those persons who had or would have lived more than three months at their respective households. The institutional population, however, was not enumerated under this general rule, but treated under the following special rules:

1. Students, who were attending schools indicated in Article 1, schools specified in Article 83, and schools mentioned as still existing in Article 98, School Education Law (Law No. 26 of 1947), were enumerated at the places where they were living to attend school, despite the length of their living there.
2. Patients in hospitals were enumerated in the hospitals if they had been there more than 3 months. Otherwise, they were enumerated at their homes even if they expected to stay in hospitals more than 3 months.
3. Crews aboard ships except ships used by the National Defence Forces were enumerated at their residential places on land if they had them. Otherwise, they were enumerated on the ships only when their ships entered the ports of Japan within 3 days after the census date.
4. Residents in the camps of the National Defence Forces were enumerated in the camps. Crews aboard ships of the National Defence Forces were enumerated at the places where the local general headquarters their ships belonged to were situated.
5. Persons in prisons and juvenile detention houses whose penalties had been fixed were enumerated at their institutions.
6. Persons who had no usual living places or whose usual living places were unknown were enumerated at the places where they were present at the time of the census.

In accordance with the rules mentioned above, all persons in Japan were enumerated no matter whether they were foreigners or not. But the following persons were excluded from the survey.

1. The military personnel of the forces of the United States of America and the United Nations, civilians attached to these forces and their families.

2. Diplomatic corps who were on official missions of the foreign governments and international organizations, their suites and their families.

Enumeration Items

In the Population Census of 1955, the following items were reported on the census schedule:

1. Kind of household
2. Kind of living quarters, tenure and number of tatami only for households living in dwelling houses
3. Name
4. Relationship to household head
5. Sex
6. Date of birth
7. Marital status
8. Nationality
9. Labor force status, place of work, industry, occupation and class of worker, as actually employed during the 7 days from 24 to 30 September 1955, of those who were born by the end of 1941

Method of Survey

The enumeration was carried within the jurisdiction of mayors or heads of shi, machi and mura, under the supervision of the governors of to, do, fu and ken, and was planned and administered by the Bureau of Statistics, Office of the Prime Minister.

Before the census-taking, the whole area to be enumerated in this census was divided into enumeration districts and separately mapped. Ordinary Enumeration Districts were arranged to comprise 50 households on the average, numbering 365 954, while Special Enumeration Districts counted 25 637.

The field work of the census was carried out by 377 578 enumerators who were especially appointed for this purpose. Moreover, 16 147 supervisors were appointed to take the responsibilities for the training and supervision of enumerators and the checking of the entries in the census schedules. As a rule, an enumerator was assigned to one enumeration district. Preparatory survey was taken during the week from 24 through 30 September 1955 and actual enumeration was carried out during the 3-day period from 1 through 3 October.

The schedule used in this census was "household schedule" designed to report 10 individuals in one sheet, and used separately for each household as unit. Of the above-mentioned items, the items from

No. 3 through No. 8 on the schedule were filled up by the heads or representatives of households concerning their household members. The remaining items, Nos. 1, 2 and 9, were filled up by the enumerator who interviewed the heads or representatives of households to obtain information.

For the enumeration of the National Defence Forces and reformatory institutions, Special Schedules (collective schedules) were employed.

Tabulation and Publication

As the initial census results, the preliminary count of the population by sex and households was released officially on December 6, 1955, and a report entitled "Preliminary Count of the Population and Households for All Japan, To, Do, Fu, Ken, Gun, Shi, Ku, Machi and Mura" was published on the 12th of the same month.

The final count was made at the Bureau of Statistics by using the schedules submitted by all local governments. The results were announced on the Official Gazettes on January 31, February 22 and February 25, 1956, and published under the title of "Population for All Japan, To, Do, Fu, Ken, Gun, Shi, Ku, Machi and Mura, Final Count" in March 1956. Furthermore, "1955 Population Census of Japan, Volume I" was published as the first of the regular census reports, presenting the land areas for shi, machi and mura as well as the final count of population, and summarizing them for comparison with those of the previous census.

In the one percent sample tabulation, one schedule was drawn out of every one hundred schedules and schedules thus selected were tabulated. The tabulation concerned itself with all items enumerated, and the results were presented with detailed classifications for all Japan, all shi and all gun, but with less detailed classifications for prefectures and six major cities.

This tabulation was completed in November 1956, and the results were published successively in preliminary reports, "Results of One Percent Sample Tabulation for 1955 Population Census" (9 for All Japan, 52 for prefectures and six major cities) from October through December 1956. "1955 Population Census of Japan, Volume II" was compiled as the second volume of regular reports, containing all results in the said preliminary reports.

The complete count was taken on the basis of all

schedules submitted. It provides the detailed statistics for all Japan and prefectures, and principal statistics of all items for *shi*, *machi* and *mura*. This complete count was made prefecture by prefecture, and the tabulations for each prefecture were finished by the end of March 1954. The data were compiled separately for each prefecture in 46 parts which together form Volume V, Report by Prefecture. They had been published successively by the end of June 1954.

As for the similar results for the whole area of Japan, those concerned with sex, age, marital status, nationality, household and housing are compiled in this report, Volume III, Part 1. The rest, concerned

### EXPLANATION OF TERMS

#### Age

Age is measured in terms of years completed as of the census date, October 1.

#### Marital Status

Marital status is classified into the following categories according to the actual situation at the census date, regardless of whether the marriage has been registered or not. Persons in common law marriages are, therefore, to be classified as married.

- Single: person who has not yet married.
- Married: person who has a spouse (husband or wife).
- Widowed: person who has been separated from spouse by death and is not now married.
- Divorced: person who has parted from spouse by separation and is not married to any one else.

The tabulation concerning marital status of the population is limited to persons 15 years old and over.

#### Nationality

As for persons of two or more nationalities, those reported both Japanese and a foreign nationality are counted as Japanese, and those reported of two or more foreign nationalities are counted according to the first entry. The stateless persons are included in the category "Others".

#### Kind of Household

Households are classified as follows:

**Ordinary household**—An ordinary household is

with labor force status, industry, occupation and class of worker, will be published subsequently in Volume III, Part 2.

The results on the place of work will be published as Volume IV. Finally, the Volume VI, containing the synthetic explanation and analysis of the Census results and methods will be published. And as the appendices "Population Maps of Japan" are being prepared.

For the items of one percent sample tabulation and complete count, see Table I, Page 14 and Table II, Page 15 of "1955 Population Census of Japan, Volume I".

defined as a group of two or more persons sharing living quarters and living expenses ("Ordinary household of two or more persons"), or a person who lives by himself and occupies a house ("One-person ordinary household").

In case a group of related persons, sharing living quarters and living expenses, is living with unrelated employees, or lodgers, roomers who do not pay for rooms or meals, all these persons constitute an ordinary household.

**Quasi household**—A quasi household refers to (1) one person residing together with an ordinary household but keeping a separate budget ("One-person quasi household"), or a group of this sort, and (2) a group of persons residing in a house but keeping separate budgets.

Speaking in detail, the former, (1), indicates a person who is residing alone in the rented room of an ordinary household and paying room rent or boarding charges. If such a person lives alone in a house, he constitutes an one-person quasi household; if two or more persons live in a house, they are grouped into a quasi household. The latter, (2), means a group of all persons living together in a dormitory or boarding house, etc., who are grouped together as a quasi household.

#### Kind of Living Quarters

Living quarters are classified into the following four types:

**Dwelling house**—A dwelling house is defined as a

durable structure or a structurally separated part of a structure built or renovated in a manner suitable for separate home life of a family.

For instance, a detached private house, or each apartment of an apartment house which is completely partitioned and built for a separate family living is included in this type. Also included here are dwelling houses with store or work shop attached to them.

**Dormitory**—A dormitory is defined as a building built or renovated for living of students or workers maintaining separate budgets, not for boarding or lodging business purpose.

**Boarding house**—A boarding house is defined as a building built or renovated for living of students or workers maintaining separate budgets for boarding or lodging business purpose.

**Others**—All living quarters other than the dwelling house, dormitory and boarding house, such as factory, office, warehouse, institution and their janitor room or night-duty room etc., are classified as "Others" provided these are not renovated into dwelling houses. Besides them, a temporary hut, trench and other emergency tent or barrack are included in "Others".

**Non-dwelling house**—This is the general term for others than dwelling house, that is, for "Dormitory", "Boarding house" and "Others".

#### Tenure

Tenure is defined in the following four categories with respect to households living in dwelling houses:

**Owned house**—An owned house is a dwelling house owned by a household living in it. It is no matter whether the ownership of the house is registered or not. This category comprises also a dwelling house which was built or bought in installments, though the installments are not yet paid up at the census date.

**Rented house**—A rented house is a dwelling house which is rented to the household living in it, and not an issued house defined below. It does not matter whether the rent is actually paid or not.

**Issued house**—An issued house is a dwelling house owned by a company, private organization or the

government and issued to an employee and his household for the convenience of his service or as a partial payment of his wages. It makes no difference whether the rent is actually paid or not.

**Rented room**—A rented room is one or more rooms occupied by a household in an owned, rented or issued dwelling house, occupied by another household.

In case two or more households rent a dwelling house owned by another, one of them is reported as living in a rented house and the other as living in rented rooms, as a matter of convenience. Hence, the number of households living in owned, rented or issued houses is same as the number of dwelling houses.

#### Number of *Tatami* in Dwelling Rooms

The number of *tatami* in dwelling rooms is counted only for the households living in dwelling houses.

A dwelling room is defined as a room to be used for living and sleeping, such as the living room, sitting room, bed room, drawing room, Buddhist altar room, study room, maid's room, etc.

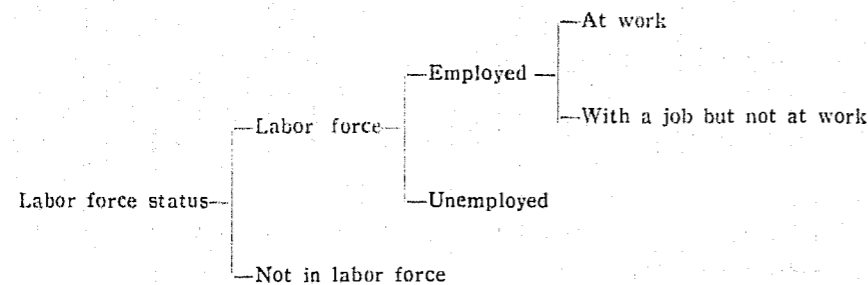
The number of *tatami* is counted also for the dwelling rooms where there are no *tatami*, such as a foreign style room or a wooden-floor room, counting two *tatami* to one *tsubo*.

*Tatami* are mats which are used to cover the floor area of a room from wall to wall. The size of *tatami* varies slightly from one region to another, but, generally speaking, they are 3 by 6 feet. Rooms are designed so that the square feet of floor space is a multiple of *tatami*. Thus, in Japan, the people do not speak of a room as so many feet square but as being a 3-*tatami* room, 4-*tatami* room, etc.

#### Labor Force Status

In this census, labor force status of all persons born by the end of 1941 were reported according to the individual's activities during the "census week" running from 24 through 30 September 1955. The tabulation concerning these economic characteristics of the population is limited to persons 15 years old and over.

Labor force status of the individual is classified as follows:



The outlines of main categories are:

**At work**—Employed persons “at work” refer to all persons who did any work during the census week for pay or profit, whether it be in the form of wages, salary, allowance, business profit, commission, etc. Included here, therefore, are persons working as proprietors of their own farms, stores, factories, etc., and persons working as doctor, lawyer, priest, musician, etc., together with employees of a company, factory, store, government office, etc.

Also, in this category is included any person who was working in the family business on a farm, in a store, private hospital and so forth, even though he was not paid any wage.

**With a job but not at work**—Employed persons “with a job but not at work” comprise those who did not work at all during the census week though they had a job or business from which they were temporarily absent because of vacation, illness, bad weather, labor dispute, or for family or personal reasons. But, in case an employee or worker did not receive and did not expect to receive wages or salary for the census week because of his absence from work, or in case a proprietor or unpaid family worker was away from his work, such persons are also included in this category, if only their absence did not extend over 30 days up to the census date.

**Unemployed**—“Unemployed” persons refer to those who did not work, and had no job, though were able to work and actually seeking work during the census week. This category includes also persons who were engaged in a preparatory work to open a business.

**Not in labor force**—Persons “not in labor force” comprise all persons who did not do any work and had no job, and, further, did not make any positive effort to find a job during the census week or were unable to work; among such persons are included

those who were unable to work because of illness or old age, those making their living on revenues from assets, old-age pensions, etc., or those mainly keeping house or attending school.

The term “labor force” is a general term covering “at work”, “with a job but not at work” and “unemployed”, while the term “employed” is a general term for “at work” and “with a job but not at work”.

**Industry**

“Industry” for employed person refers to the kind of business of the establishment where persons classified as “at work” were working during the census week, or persons classified as “with a job but not at work” had been usually working. If a person worked for two or more establishments, the kind of business of the establishment where he worked mainly was reported.

The industrial classification for the 1955 Census consists of 121 minor groups, 38 intermediate groups and 12 major groups, all formed on the basis of the “Standard Industrial Classification for Japan” (Cabinet Order No. 127 of 1951).

**Divisions of Area**

Japan is divided into 46 prefectures. The names of 42 carry the suffix “ken” and the remaining 4 are known as *to*, *do* or *fu*. Each prefecture is divided into *shi* (cities) and *gun* or *shicho* (rural counties). The term “*shicho*” is used in Hokkaido to designate the same kind of unit that is called *gun* in all other prefectures. In this volume tables which refer to all *gun* also include *shicho* although the term is not used.

The *gun* and *shicho* are further divided into *machi* or *cho* (towns) and *mura* or *son* (villages). *Shi*, *machi* and *mura* are political units but *gun* and *shicho* are merely administrative sub-divisions of the prefectures. *Shi*, *machi* and *mura*, in the order named, tend to diminish in population and almost all *shi* contain a population of 30 000 or more and other necessary urban conditions. Recently a great number

of communities were newly incorporated as *shi*, and area of some *shi* present too rural an appearance to be called as urban.

The six major cities are the *ku*-area of Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto, Nagoya, Yokohama and Kobe. All these cities are incorporated as *shi* except the *ku*-area of Tokyo. The city of Tokyo had also been incorporated as a *shi* within the area of Tokyo-*fu* until 1943 when the separate *shi* incorporation was abolished although its sub-divisions, *ku* (wards), which together had constituted the former city were retained and Tokyo-*fu* became Tokyo-*to*. Then the ward “*ku*-area of Tokyo-*to*” came into use corresponding to the names of other cities.

The results for all Japan, included in the “Statistical

Tables” of the present volume, are presented for “all *shi*” (all cities), “all *gun*” (all rural counties) as well as for “all Japan”, and those for “all *shi*”, for two sub-groups, those having 50 000 or more inhabitants and those having less than 50 000 inhabitants. In relatively summarized classifications, results, also, are presented for each of 46 prefectures and six major cities.

Although the political and administrative divisions of Japan have changed particularly during the three years prior to the 1955 Census, the “Statistical Tables” represent the census results for the political and administrative division defined as of the census date, October 1, 1955.