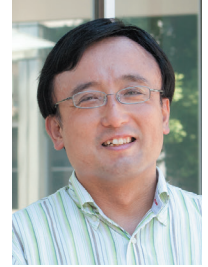


Japan as Seen in the Population Census



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Delayed Publication of Results from Impacts Such as Coronavirus

The release of the results of the Population Census conducted on Oct. 1, 2020 began last fall. The Population Census is a survey that is conducted every five years for all people living in Japan and serves as the basis for various statistics. As the timing of the survey coincided with the coronavirus infections, the release of the tabulated data was delayed. Public release of the preliminary tabulation of population (preliminary) was delayed from the planned February 2021 to June 2021, and the basic tabulation of population (confirmed) was delayed from the planned September 2021 to November 2021.

This article will look at the population trend in Japan as seen in the basic tabulation of population.

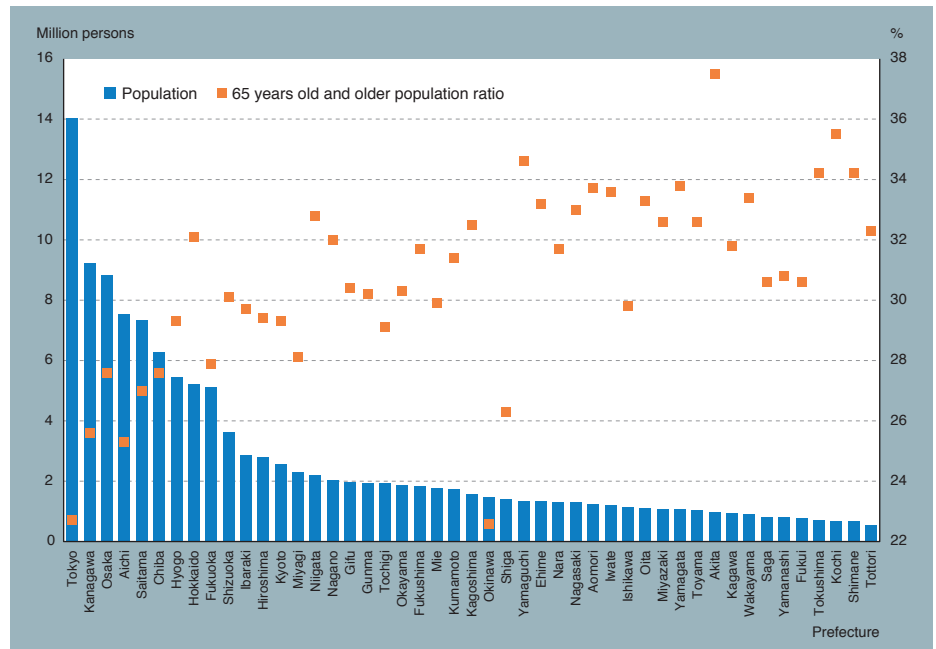
Continued Decline in Population as Aging Accelerates

The total population of Japan as of Oct. 1, 2020 was 126,146,099 people, some 948,646 less than in the previous survey conducted five years ago. This is the second consecutive decline in population, and compared with the historical peak of 128,057,352 for Oct. 1, 2010, the population decreased by 1,911,253 people. The median figure for Japan's population as of Oct. 1, 2020 among all prefectures (the 24th prefecture) was 1,588,256 people for Kagoshima Prefecture, and the decrease in the population of Japan for the past 10 years now exceeds the population of Kagoshima Prefecture. To put it differently, the entire population of an average prefecture in Japan has declined over 10 years.

Looking at the population by different prefectures as of Oct. 1, 2020, the most populated prefecture was Tokyo with 14,047,594 people, more than 25 times the population of Tottori Prefecture which is the least populated with 553,407 people (Chart 1). The population of the greater Tokyo area (Tokyo, Kanagawa, Saitama and Chiba prefectures) was 36,914,176, making up approximately one-third of Japan's population. There were only eight prefectures which saw growth in population compared to the previous survey, and they were Tokyo (by 3.9%), Okinawa (2.4%), Kanagawa (1.2%), Saitama (1.1%), Chiba (1.0%), Aichi (0.8%), Fukuoka (0.7%), and Shiga (0.0%), while the remaining 39 prefectures saw declines in population. The rate of decrease was highest in Akita at 6.2%.

The aging of the population is progressing in line with the decline in population. The percentage of people 65 years old and older in the

CHART 1
Population & 65 years old and older population ratio in 2020



Source: "Population census", Statics Bureau of Japan

total population rose to 28.6% from 26.6% in the previous survey. Looking at the percentage by prefectures, the highest percentages of those who are 65 years old and older were in Akita (37.5%), Kochi (35.5%), and Yamaguchi (34.6%). In contrast, the lowest was in Okinawa (22.6%), then in Tokyo (22.7%) and Aichi (25.3%).

Foreign Population Increasing with Vietnamese Citizens Rising Most

Of the total population of Japan, the Japanese population is 123,398,962 people and the foreign population is 2,747,137 people, making the percentage of the foreign population to the total 2.2%. Compared to five years ago, while the Japanese population decreased by 1,783,253 people, the foreign population increased by 834,607. The Japanese population continues to decline from the 2005 survey when it stood at 125,730,148, and this shows that growth in the foreign population is supporting the total population. It should be noted, however, that the “foreign” population of Japan consists largely of people who were actually born in the country.

Looking at the foreign population by prefectures, Tokyo has the largest at 563,566 people, about 20.5% of the entire foreign population. Foreigners living in the five prefectures of Tokyo, Aichi, Osaka, Kanagawa, and Saitama make up half (53.9%) of the foreign population in Japan. In addition, looking at the percentage of the foreign population in overall prefectural populations, Tokyo has the highest at 4.0%, followed by Aichi (3.4%) and Gunma (3.1%).

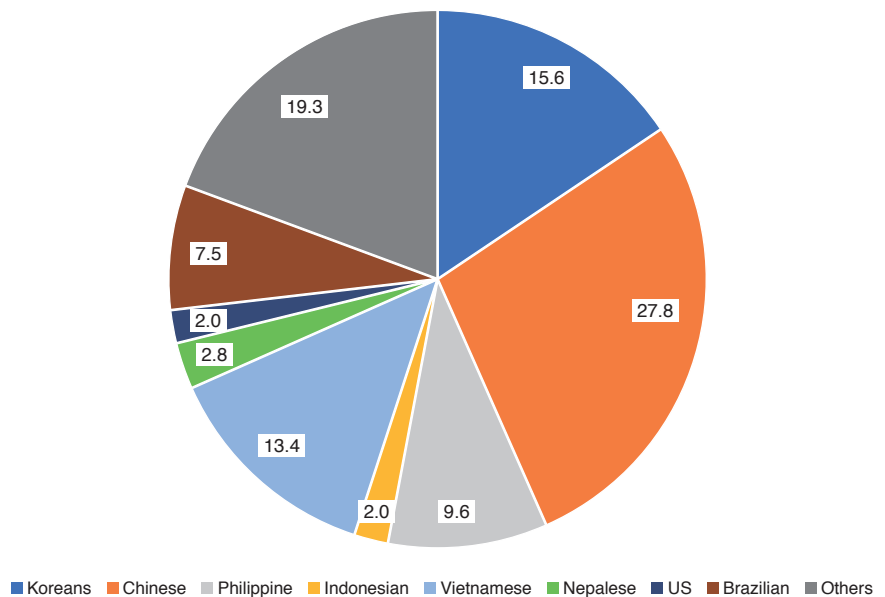
Looking at the foreign population by ethnicity of citizenship, Chinese are highest with 667,475 people, making up 27.8% of the total foreign population. Koreans at 374,593 (15.6%) and Vietnamese at 320,805 (13.4%) are also large proportions (*Chart 2*). Compared to the previous survey, Vietnamese saw the greatest increase by 233,696 people and its percentage of the foreign population has gone up sharply from 5% in the previous survey.

Number of Households & Number of Elderly Living Alone Increasing

The number of Japanese households as of Oct. 1, 2020 was 55,830,154, an increase of 2,381,469 from the previous survey. The number of households is increasing whilst the total population is decreasing, and thus family members per household have continued

CHART 2

Ratio of foreign population by ethnicity/country of citizenship



Source: tbc

to decline for every census survey that has been conducted. The number of members per household for an ordinary household, excluding those living in facilities or elsewhere, was 2.21 persons, declining from 2.33 persons in the previous survey.

Looking at ordinary households by the number of members, those with one member, in other words households with people living alone, stood at 38%. Compared to the previous survey, households with people living alone increased by 14.8%, and approximately one out of every five persons aged 65 years and older lives alone.

One factor behind the increase in the number of those living alone is the rise in the number of unmarried persons. Looking at marital status by gender for those aged 15 and older, the percentage of unmarried persons was 29.5%, up from 28.6% in the previous survey. Unmarried males rose by 1.2 percentage points from the previous survey to 34.6%, and unmarried females rose by 0.7 percentage points from the previous survey to 24.8%.

NOTE: This article was based on available information as of Jan. 24, 2022. **JS**

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Calendar year, Quarter and Month	Real GDP		Nominal GDP		IIP rate of increase over previous year/term (month) (%)	CPI (All terms, less fresh food) rate of increase over previous year/the same term (month) of the previous year (%)
	Amount (trillion yen)	Rate of increase over previous year/term (%)	Amount (trillion yen)	Rate of increase over previous year/term (%)		
2014	529.8	0.3	518.8	2.0	2.0	2.6
2015	538.1	1.6	538.0	3.7	-1.2	0.5
2016	542.1	0.8	544.4	1.2	0.0	-0.3
2017	551.2	1.7	553.1	1.6	3.1	0.5
2018	554.4	0.6	556.3	0.6	1.1	0.9
2019	553.1	-0.2	558.5	0.4	-3.0	0.6
2020	528.2	-4.5	538.2	-3.6	-10.4	-0.2
2021	537.1	1.7	542.3	0.8	5.8	-0.2
2021/1st Qtr.	534.9	-0.5	543.7	-0.4	2.9	-0.5
2nd Qtr.	538.0	0.6	544.8	0.2	1.1	-0.6
3rd Qtr.	534.3	-0.7	539.1	-1.0	-3.7	-0.0
4th Qtr.	541.4	1.3	541.8	0.5	1.0	0.4
2021/May	—	—	—	—	-6.5	-0.6
June	—	—	—	—	6.5	-0.5
July	—	—	—	—	-1.5	-0.2
Aug.	—	—	—	—	-3.6	0.0
Sept.	—	—	—	—	-5.4	0.1
Oct.	—	—	—	—	1.8	0.1
Nov.	—	—	—	—	7.0	0.5
Dec.	—	—	—	—	-1.0	0.5
Sources	"SNA (National Accounts of Japan)", Cabinet Office				"Indices of Industrial Production", Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry	"Consumer Price Index", Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

Calendar year, Quarter and Month	Foreign Trade Statistics									
	Exports amount (trillion yen)	Exports rate of increase over previous year/ the same term (month) of the previous year (%)	Imports amount (trillion yen)	Imports rate of increase over previous year/ the same term (month) of the previous year (%)	Exports amount to US (trillion yen)	Exports to US rate of increase over previous year/ the same term (month) of the previous year (%)	Imports amount from US (trillion yen)	Imports from US rate of increase over previous year/ the same term (month) of the previous year (%)	Exports amount to EU (trillion yen)	Exports to EU rate of increase over previous year/ the same term (month) of the previous year (%)
2014	73.1	4.8	85.9	5.7	13.6	5.6	7.5	10.7	6.4	8.2
2015	75.6	3.4	78.4	-8.7	15.2	11.5	8.1	6.9	6.7	4.4
2016	70.0	-7.4	66.0	-15.8	14.1	-7.1	7.3	-9.2	6.5	-2.8
2017	78.3	11.8	75.4	14.1	15.1	6.9	8.1	10.5	7.1	9.5
2018	81.5	4.1	82.7	9.7	15.5	2.4	9.0	11.4	7.7	7.8
2019	76.9	-5.6	78.6	-5.0	15.3	-1.4	8.6	-4.2	7.4	-3.0
2020	68.4	-11.1	68.0	-13.5	12.6	-17.3	7.5	-13.7	6.3	-15.1
2021	83.1	21.5	84.6	24.3	14.8	17.6	8.9	19.3	7.7	21.4
2021/1st Qtr.	19.2	6.0	18.7	1.9	3.3	-4.9	2.0	-3.4	1.8	2.9
2nd Qtr.	20.7	45.0	20.2	23.6	3.7	70.0	2.3	19.6	1.9	52.0
3rd Qtr.	20.8	24.9	21.6	36.8	3.7	14.5	2.2	31.2	1.9	28.0
4th Qtr.	22.4	15.7	24.0	37.3	4.1	10.6	2.4	33.7	2.0	12.6
2021/May	6.3	49.6	6.5	27.7	1.1	87.9	0.7	28.5	0.6	69.6
June	7.2	48.6	6.8	32.5	1.3	85.7	0.8	27.3	0.7	51.1
July	7.4	37.0	6.9	28.1	1.4	26.8	0.7	24.1	0.6	46.1
Aug.	6.6	26.2	7.2	44.5	1.2	22.8	0.8	33.7	0.6	29.9
Sept.	6.8	13.0	7.5	38.3	1.2	-3.3	0.8	36.0	0.6	12.1
Oct.	7.2	9.4	7.3	26.8	1.3	0.3	0.7	18.6	0.7	12.1
Nov.	7.4	20.5	8.3	43.9	1.3	10.0	0.9	43.1	0.7	16.4
Dec.	7.9	17.5	8.5	41.1	1.5	22.1	0.8	39.6	0.7	9.7
Sources	"Trade Statistics of Japan", Ministry of Finance									

Calendar year, Quarter and Month	Cash salary amount rate of increase over previous year/the same term (month) of the previous year (%)	Active job openings-to-applicants ratio (time(s))	Unemployment rate (%)	M2 rate of increase over previous year/ the same term (month) of the previous year (%)	Balance of payments		Yen/\$ rate (averaged during the term)
					Trade balance (trillion yen)	Current balance (trillion yen)	
2014	0.5	1.09	3.6	3.4	-10.5	3.9	105.8
2015	0.1	1.20	3.4	3.6	-0.9	16.5	121.0
2016	0.6	1.36	3.1	3.4	5.5	21.4	108.8
2017	0.4	1.50	2.8	4.0	4.9	22.8	112.2
2018	1.4	1.61	2.4	2.9	1.1	19.5	110.4
2019	-0.4	1.60	2.4	2.4	0.2	19.2	109.0
2020	-1.2	1.18	2.8	6.5	3.0	15.9	106.8
2021	0.3	1.13	2.8	6.4	1.8	15.4	109.8
2021/1st Qtr.	-0.3	1.10	2.8	9.5	1.4	5.8	105.9
2nd Qtr.	1.0	1.10	2.9	7.7	1.0	3.7	109.4
3rd Qtr.	0.5	1.15	2.8	4.7	0.0	4.2	110.1
4th Qtr.	0.1	1.15	2.7	4.0	-0.6	1.7	113.7
2021/May	1.9	1.09	3.0	8.0	0.0	1.8	109.1
June	0.1	1.13	2.9	5.9	0.6	0.7	110.1
July	0.6	1.15	2.8	5.3	0.6	1.7	110.3
Aug.	0.6	1.14	2.8	4.7	-0.4	1.5	109.8
Sept.	0.2	1.16	2.8	4.2	-0.2	1.0	110.2
Oct.	0.2	1.15	2.7	4.2	0.2	1.2	113.1
Nov.	0.8	1.15	2.8	4.0	-0.4	0.9	114.0
Dec.	-0.2	1.16	2.7	3.7	-0.3	-0.4	113.9
Sources	"Monthly Labour Survey", Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare	"Employment Referrals for General Workers", Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare	"Labour Force Survey", Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications	"Money Stock", Bank of Japan	"Balance of Payments", Ministry of Finance		Bank of Japan

Calendar year, Quarter and Month	Foreign Trade Statistics									
	Imports amount from EU (trillion yen)	Imports from EU rate of increase over previous year/ the same term (month) of the previous year (%)	Exports amount to Asia (excluding China) (trillion yen)	Exports to Asia (excluding China) rate of increase over previous year/ the same term (month) of the previous year (%)	Imports amount from Asia (excluding China) (trillion yen)	Imports from Asia (excluding China) rate of increase over previous year/ the same term (month) of the previous year (%)	Exports amount to China (trillion yen)	Exports to China rate of increase over previous year/ the same term (month) of the previous year (%)	Imports amount from China (trillion yen)	Imports from China rate of increase over previous year/ the same term (month) of the previous year (%)
2014	7.5	6.9	26.1	3.5	19.4	6.2	13.4	6.0	19.2	8.6
2015	7.8	4.6	27.1	3.7	18.9	-2.6	13.2	-1.2	19.4	1.3
2016	7.4	-5.0	24.7	-8.7	16.2	-14.5	12.4	-6.5	17.0	-12.4
2017	8.0	7.0	28.0	13.3	18.6	14.8	14.9	20.5	18.5	8.5
2018	8.8	10.6	28.8	2.9	20.0	7.8	15.9	6.8	19.2	4.0
2019	8.8	0.3	26.6	-7.6	19.0	-5.3	14.7	-7.6	18.5	-3.9
2020	7.8	-12.1	24.1	-9.4	17.2	-9.4	15.1	2.7	17.5	-5.1
2021	9.4	21.3	30.2	25.0	20.7	20.4	18.0	19.2	20.4	16.3
2021/1st Qtr.	2.1	5.4	6.9	7.4	4.8	0.9	4.0	25.4	4.7	23.4
2nd Qtr.	2.4	27.0	7.4	37.9	4.9	24.1	4.6	28.4	5.0	7.0
3rd Qtr.	2.4	29.1	7.7	35.1	5.2	30.5	4.5	14.0	5.0	19.7
4th Qtr.	2.5	24.5	8.2	22.9	5.7	28.7	4.9	12.0	5.6	16.5
2021/May	0.8	38.3	2.2	38.7	1.5	23.6	1.4	23.6	1.6	4.4
June	0.8	28.6	2.5	43.7	1.7	26.9	1.6	27.7	1.6	17.6
July	0.7	13.2	2.6	42.2	1.8	26.4	1.6	18.9	1.6	12.4
Aug.	0.9	54.0	2.5	35.4	1.7	38.0	1.4	12.6	1.6	23.4
Sept.	0.8	23.8	2.6	28.5	1.7	27.8	1.5	10.3	1.8	23.9
Oct.	0.8	18.9	2.6	18.5	1.8	18.2	1.6	9.6	1.7	11.5
Nov.	0.9	39.4	2.7	30.4	1.9	32.9	1.6	16.0	2.0	17.3
Dec.	0.8	16.2	2.8	20.5	2.0	35.0	1.7	10.8	1.9	20.5
Sources	"Trade Statistics of Japan", Ministry of Finance									