

OUTLINE OF THE 2015 POPULATION CENSUS OF JAPAN

Purpose of the Census

In order to clarify the state of Japan's population and households, the population census has been conducted in Japan almost every five years since 1920, with the 2015 Population Census being the twentieth one.

Date of the Census

The 2015 Population Census was taken as of 0:00 a.m., 1 October 2015.

Legal Basis of the Census

The 2015 Population Census was conducted in conformity with provisions of Article 5, Clause 2 of the Statistics Act, 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 Prime Minister's Office Order 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 2015 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 2015 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-Defense 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-Defense Forces were enumerated in the camps. Crews aboard ships of the Self-Defense 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 2015 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) Duration of residency at the current domicile
- (8) Place of 5 years previous residence

- (9) Type of activity
- (10) Name of establishment and kind of business (Industry)
- (11) Kind of work (Occupation)
- (12) Employments status
- (13) 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) Type of building and number of stories

Method of the Census

The 2015 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*) — Super-visors — Enumerators — Households.

Enumeration was done as follows.

1. An enumerator visited every household within his/her enumeration district and delivered an ID and password for online response. Households could respond online from September 10 to September 20.
2. After the period of online response, the enumerator visited households which didn't respond online and delivered paper questionnaires. Households could submit the questionnaire to the enumerator or by post.

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 neighbors.

Tabulation and Publication

The National Statistics Center, Incorporated Administrative Agency, takes charge of the whole tabulation of the census results. The tabulated results are released on the website and in reports by the Statistics Bureau.

The tabulation and publication are scheduled as shown in the following chart.

Tabulation and Release of the 2015 Population Census Results

Tabulation type		Content	Industry	Occupation	Population	Tabulated area	Scheduled release timing for national results
Preliminary tabulation	Preliminary counts of the population and households <div style="border: 1px solid blue; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">based on summary sheets</div>	Early release of population by sex and household counts	—	—	Complete	Whole nation, prefectures, municipalities	February 2016
	Preliminary sample tabulation	Early release of major results on all topics surveyed	Minor group	Minor group	About 1/100	Whole nation, prefectures, cities with 200,000 or more persons	June 2016
Basic complete tabulation	Basic Complete Tabulation on Population and Households	Results on population, households and housing conditions; and on foreigners, elderly persons households, etc.	—	—	Complete	Whole nation, prefectures, municipalities	October 2016
	Basic Complete Tabulation on Labour force	Results on labour force status of population, and on industry and occupation of employed persons and of households of parents and child(ren) etc.	Major group	Major group			April 2017
	Basic Complete Tabulation on Households and Families	Results on mother-child(ren) households, father-child(ren) households and parent-child(ren) households, etc.	Major group	Major group			September 2017
Detailed Sample Tabulation		Detailed results on industry and occupation of employed persons etc.	Minor group	Minor group	Sample	Whole nation, prefectures, municipalities	December 2017
Tabulation on Place of Work or Schooling	Tabulation on Place of Work or Schooling for Population and Labour Force	Results on basic characteristics of population, and on industry and occupation of employed persons by place of work or schooling	Major group	Major group	Complete	Whole nation, prefectures, municipalities	June 2017
	Detailed Sample Tabulation on Place of Work or Schooling	Detailed results on industry and occupation of employed persons by place of work	Medium group	Medium group	Sample	Whole nation, prefectures, cities with 100,000 or more persons	December 2017
Tabulation on Internal Migration	Tabulation on Internal Migration for Population	Results on mobility of population, i.e. change in usual place of residence	—	—	Complete	Whole nation, prefectures, municipalities	January 2017
	Tabulation on Internal Migration for Labour force	Results on population on internal migration by labour force status, industry and occupation	Major group	Major group		Whole nation, prefectures, municipalities	July 2017
Tabulation for Small Areas	Basic Complete Tabulation on Population and Households	Fundamental results on population, households and housing conditions	—	—	Complete	Cho/aza etc., basic unit block, area mesh	Promptly released with confidentiality editing after the corresponding basic complete tabulations etc. are released.
	Basic Complete Tabulation on Labour force	Fundamental results on labour force status of population, and on industry and occupation of employed persons	Major group	Major group			
	Basic Complete Tabulation on Households and Families	Fundamental results on households and families	—	—			
	Tabulation on Place of Work or Schooling for Population and Labour force	Fundamental results on place of work or schooling by usual place of residence	—	—			
	Tabulation on Internal Migration	Fundamental results on usual place of residence five years ago	—	—			

1. The entries in the "industry" and "occupation" columns show that corresponding tabulation results are available.
2. The "tabulated area" column shows the areas for which results are available for the corresponding tabulation types. However, not all of the results cover the whole area.