

Chapter 2. Current Status of the Birth Rate

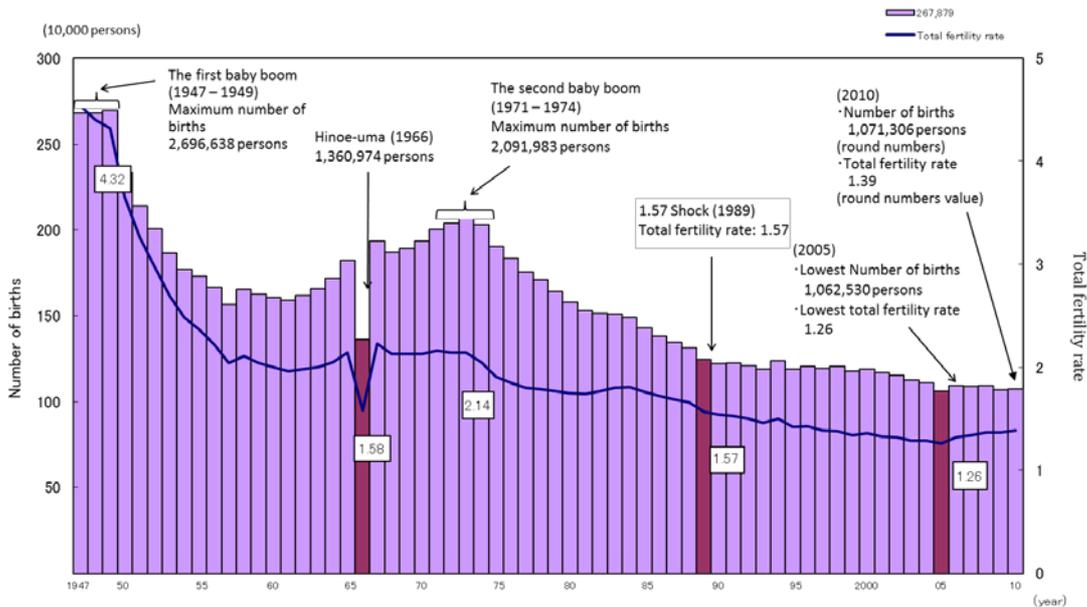
Section 1. Current Status of Low Birthrate

1. Trends in the Number of Births and Birth Rate

(Transition in the number of births and total fertility)

The number of births in 2010 was 1.07 million 1,306 people (1.07 million 35 people in the previous year), and the total fertility rate was 1.39 (1.37 in the previous year).

Figure 1-2-1: Annual transition in the number of births and total fertility



Source: "Demographic Statistics" by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

Note: From 1947 to 1972, not including Okinawa. Birth rate and total fertility rate in 2010 is round numbers.

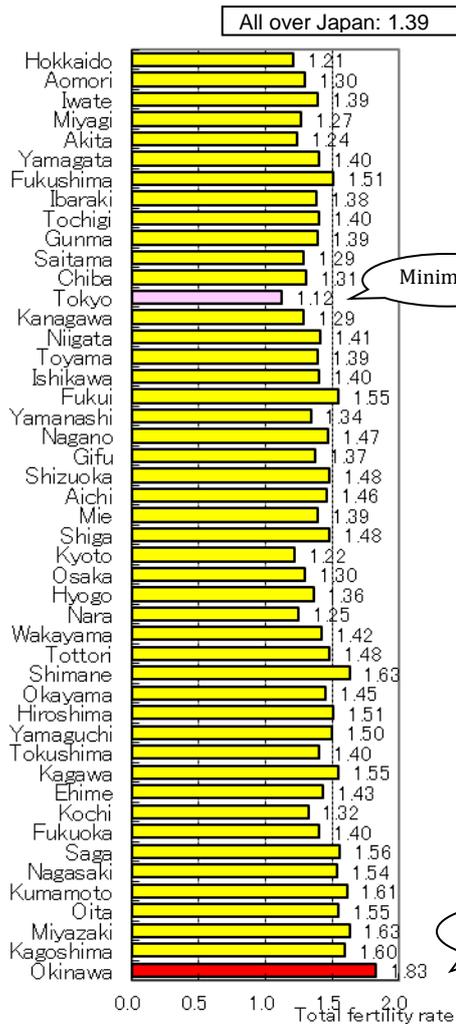
(Changes in young and elderly population)

The percentage of youth (between ages 0~14 years old) in the population of our country is shrinking along with the number of births after the Second World War, and, in 1997, it became even less than the population of senior citizens (above 65 years old). According to the 'Population Estimates' (as of October 1, 2010. Based on the Preliminary Count of the 2010 Population Census.) made by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, the youth population is 16,961,000 (accounting for 13.2 percent of the total population), while the elderly population is 29,578,000 (accounting for 23.1 percent of the total population).

(Total fertility rate by prefecture)

The total fertility rate for the country in 2010 was 1.39. Looking at the status of 47 prefectures reveals that 27 prefectures exceeded this rate and 16 prefectures were below that level. Among all the prefectures, the highest total fertility rate was in Okinawa (1.83) while Tokyo had the lowest (1.12).

Figure 1-2-2: Total fertility rate by prefecture in 2010



Prefectures	2010 (Round numbers value)	2008 (Number of determine)	Widths of Increase or decrease
Hokkaido	1.21	1.19	0.02
Aomori	1.30	1.26	0.04
Iwate	1.39	1.37	0.02
Miyagi	1.27	1.25	0.02
Akita	1.24	1.28	▲ 0.05
Yamagata	1.40	1.39	0.01
Fukushima	1.51	1.49	0.02
Ibaraki	1.38	1.37	0.01
Tochigi	1.40	1.43	▲ 0.03
Gunma	1.39	1.38	0.01
Saitama	1.29	1.28	0.01
Chiba	1.31	1.31	0.00
Tokyo	1.12	1.12	0.00
Kanagawa	1.29	1.28	0.01
Niigata	1.41	1.37	0.04
Toyama	1.39	1.37	0.02
Ishikawa	1.40	1.40	0.00
Fukui	1.55	1.55	0.00
Yamanashi	1.34	1.31	0.03
Nagano	1.47	1.43	0.04
Gifu	1.37	1.37	0.00
Shizuoka	1.48	1.43	0.05
Aichi	1.46	1.43	0.03
Mie	1.39	1.40	▲ 0.01
Shiga	1.48	1.44	0.04
Kyoto	1.22	1.20	0.02
Osaka	1.30	1.28	0.02
Hyogo	1.36	1.33	0.03
Nara	1.25	1.23	0.02
Wakayama	1.42	1.36	0.06
Tottori	1.48	1.46	0.02
Shimane	1.63	1.55	0.08
Okayama	1.45	1.39	0.06
Hiroshima	1.51	1.47	0.04
Yamaguchi	1.50	1.43	0.07
Tokushima	1.40	1.35	0.05
Kagawa	1.55	1.48	0.07
Ehime	1.43	1.41	0.02
Kochi	1.32	1.29	0.03
Fukuoka	1.40	1.37	0.03
Saga	1.56	1.48	0.07
Nagasaki	1.54	1.50	0.04
Kumamoto	1.61	1.58	0.03
Oita	1.55	1.50	0.05
Miyazaki	1.63	1.61	0.02
Kagoshima	1.60	1.56	0.04
Okinawa	1.83	1.79	0.04
National average	1.39	1.37	0.02

Source: "Demographic Statistics" by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
 Note: Total fertility rates by prefecture in 2010 are approximate numeric value.

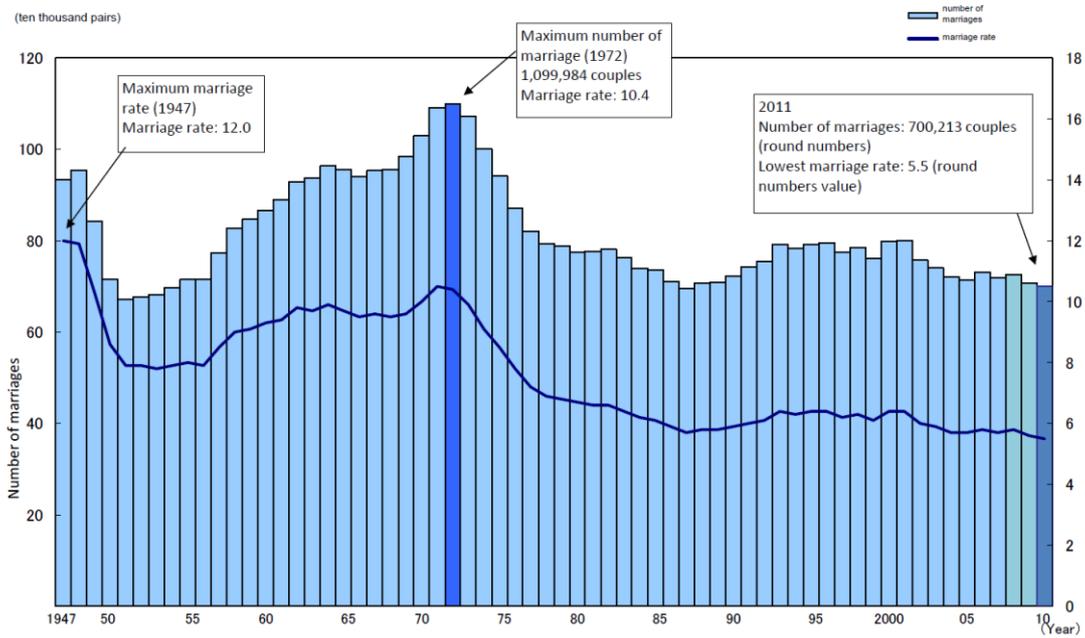
2. Situation of marriage and childbirth

(Progression of unmarried status and non-married status)

The number of marriages from 1970 through 1974 was more than 1 million pairs per year, the marriage rate generally was higher than 10.0 (per 1,000 population). Then, both the number of marriages and the marriage rate tend to decrease, and after 1978 remaining to be with a fluctuated 700,000 pairs per year (only in 1987 being 600,000 pairs). In 2010 the number was lower than the previous year with 700,213 pairs (7,521 pairs down year-on-year) in the approximate value. The rate was the lowest recorded 5.5 (approximate numeric value), 0.1 lower than the previous year's 5.6.

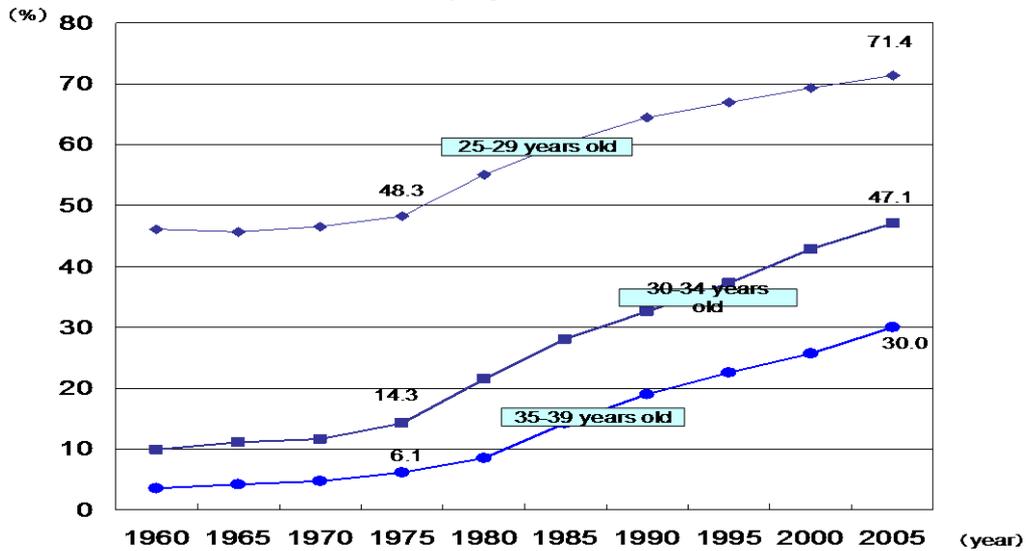
According to the 'Population Census in 2005' made by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, the unmarried rate of both male and female persons aged 25-39 has continued to rise: that of males aged 25-29 being 71.4%, 30-34 47.1%, and 35-39 30.0%, while that of females aged 25-29 59.0%, 30-34 32.0% and 35-39 18.4%. Moreover, if the lifetime unmarried rate is compared to that of 30 years before, it has increased from 2.12% (1975) to 15.96% (2005) for men, and from 4.32% (1975) to 7.25% (2005) for women.

Figure 1-2-3: Annual transition of the number of marriage and its rate



Source: "Demographic Statistics" by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
 Note: Not including Okinawa from 1947~1972. The number of marriage and its rate in 2010 are approximate numeric value.

Figure 1-2-4: Rate of unmarried status by age (men)



Source: "Population Census" by Statistic Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications
 Note: Not including Okinawa from 1960~1970.