

Chapter2. Current Status of the Birth Rate

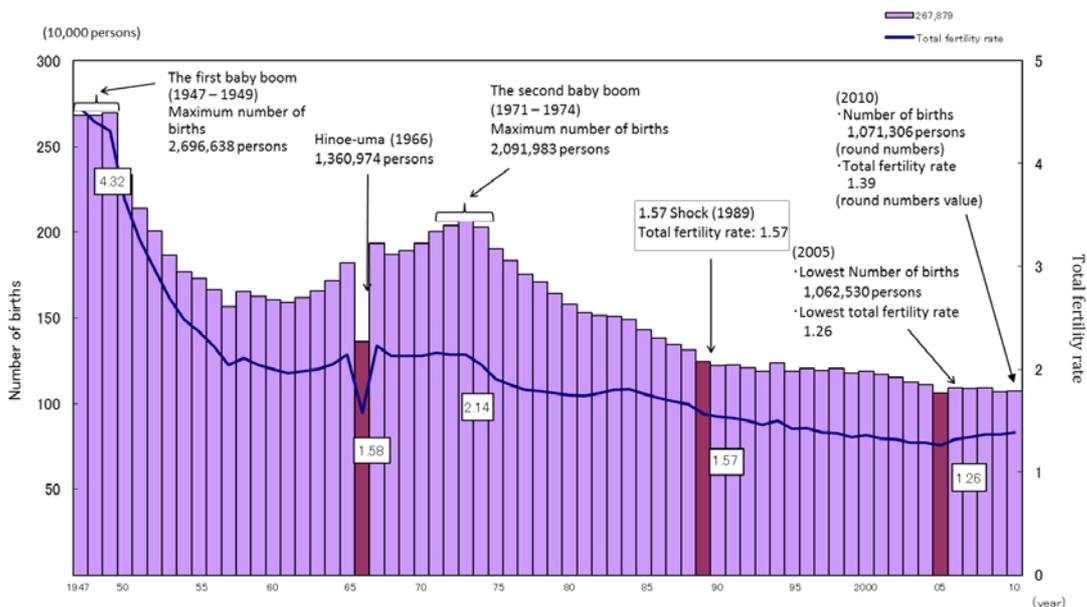
Section 1. Recent status of Birth Rate

1. Trends in the Number of Births and Birthrate

(Transition in the number of births and total fertility rate)

The number of births in 2010 was 1.07 million 1,304 people (1.07 million 0,035 people in the previous year), and the total fertility rate was 1.39 (1.37 in the previous year). Regarding the rising tendency that has begun from 2005, there may be a tendency to loosen the expected movement for the following two main reasons which can be mentioned: (1) as shown in figure 1-2-2, for the generation that was expecting a child in 2005, there was a tendency of giving birth at a relatively high age (30-40 years old) (2) as in figure 1-2-3, we can see the comparison of each generation for factors depressing the birth rate, 1) increase in the percentage of those who do not get married eventually (single life rate), 2) reduction in the number of children born into married life. As we saw in Chapter 1, Section 1, the evaluation of the degree of achievement of the kind of society that we should aim for, that is based on 12 major initiatives for the children and child-rearing vision is still low, so there is a need for measures to promote continuing support for children and childcare, aiming for the realization of a society where people's wishes about parenting, marriage and childbirth, come true.

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



Source: "Demographic Statistics" (2010) by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

Note: From 1947 to 1972, not including Okinawa.

Figure 1-2-2:

Figure 1-2-2 Trends in annual total fertility rate (breakdown by age group)

Age of mother	Total fertility rate								Year-on-year decrease		
	1985	1995	2000	2005	2007	2008	2009	2010	2008 - 2007	2009 - 2008	2010 - 2009
Total number (Total fertility rate)	1.76	1.42	1.36	1.26	1.34	1.37	1.37	1.39	0.03	0.00	0.02
15 ~ 19 y. o.	0.0229	0.0185	0.0269	0.0253	0.0246	0.0256	0.0249	0.0232	0.0010	-0.0007	-0.0017
20 ~ 24	0.3173	0.2022	0.1965	0.1823	0.1831	0.1847	0.1779	0.1781	0.0016	-0.0068	0.0002
25 ~ 29	0.8897	0.5880	0.4967	0.4228	0.4341	0.4378	0.4320	0.4356	0.0037	-0.0058	0.0036
30 ~ 34	0.4397	0.4677	0.4620	0.4285	0.4614	0.4718	0.4756	0.4789	0.0104	0.0038	0.0033
35 ~ 39	0.0846	0.1311	0.1572	0.1761	0.2025	0.2132	0.2217	0.2318	0.0107	0.0085	0.0101
40 ~ 44	0.0094	0.0148	0.0194	0.0242	0.0305	0.0329	0.0354	0.0387	0.0024	0.0025	0.0033
45 ~ 49	0.0003	0.0004	0.0005	0.0008	0.0008	0.0008	0.0009	0.0010	0.0000	0.0001	0.0001

Note: Numbers by age group of mother are calculated for each age total fertility rate, the number of 15-year-old and 49-year-old is calculate including the number of births for less than 15 years old, and more than 50 years old, respectively.

Source: "Population Statistics" Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

Figure 1-2-3:

Figure 1-2-3 Trends in the rate of lifetime unmarried, number of births per couple, and total fertility rate in the estimated population in future

Estimated in December 2006 (average)	Rate of lifetime unmarried(Generation born in 1990) 23.5%	Number of births per couple (Generation born in 1990) 1.70 people	Total fertility rate (FY 2055) 1.26
Estimated in January 2012 (average)	Rate of lifetime unmarried(Generation born in 1995) 20.1%	Number of births per couple (Generation born in 1995) 1.74 people	Total fertility rate (FY 2060) 1.35

Source: created by the Cabinet Office based on the National Social Security / Institute of Population Problems "Population Projections of Japan (December 2006)", "Population Projections of Japan (January 2010)"

(Changes in young and elderly population)

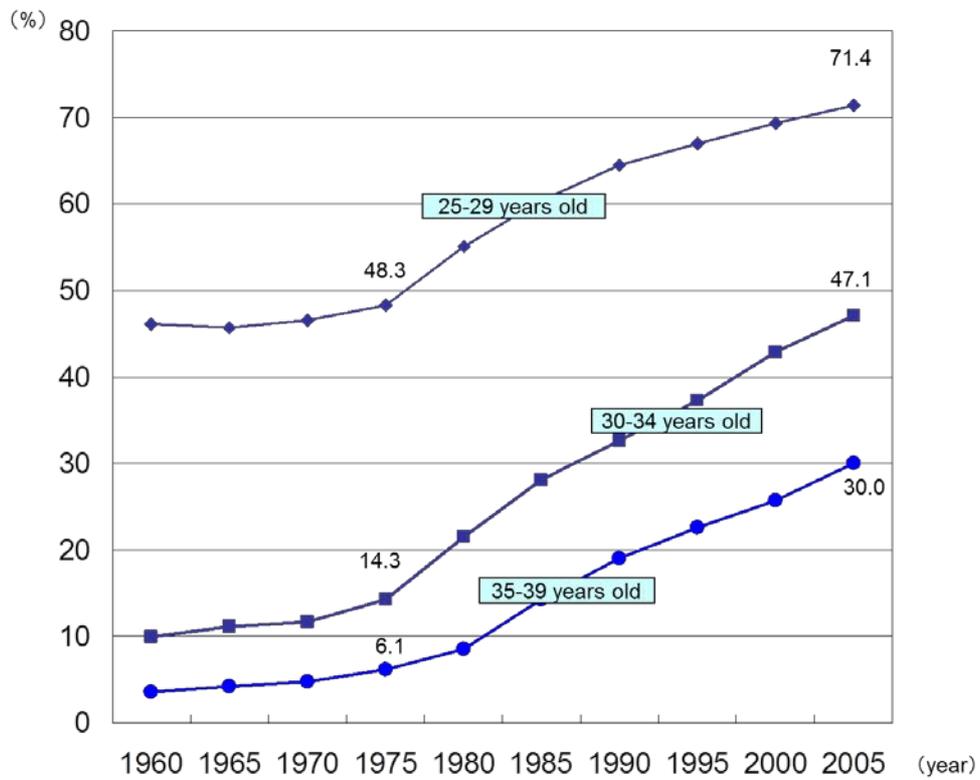
The percentage of youth (between ages 0~14 years old) in the population of our country is shrinking along with the number of births after the Second World War, and, in 1997, it became even less than the population of senior citizens (above 65 years old). According to the 'Population Census in 2010' made by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, the youth population is 16,803,000 (accounting for 13.2 percent of the total population), while the elderly population is 29,246,000 (accounting for 23.0 percent of the total population).

2. Situation of marriage and childbirth

(Progression of unmarried status and non-married status)

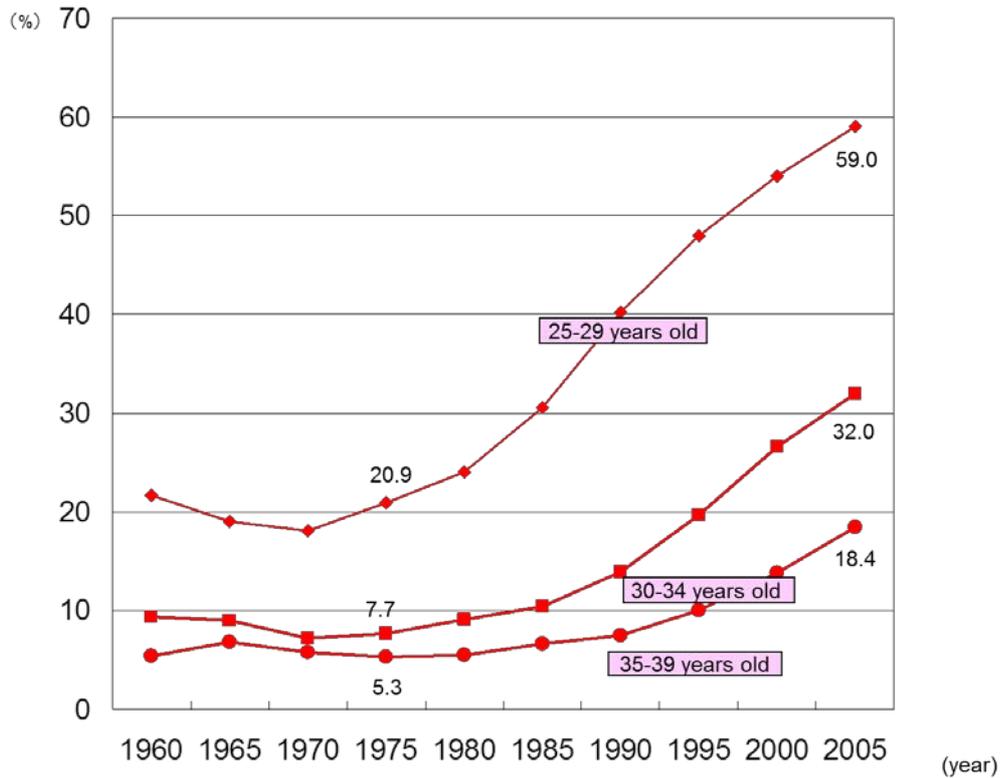
According to the 'Population Census in 2010' made by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, the unmarried rate of both male and female persons aged 25-39 has continued to rise: that of males aged 25-29 being 71.8%, 30-34 47.3%, and 35-39 35.6%, while that of females aged 25-29 60.3%, 30-34 34.5% and 35-39 23.1%. Moreover, if the lifetime unmarried rate is compared to that of 30 years before, it has increased from 2.60% (1980) to 20.14% (2010) for men, and from 4.45% (1980) to 10.61% (2010) for women.

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



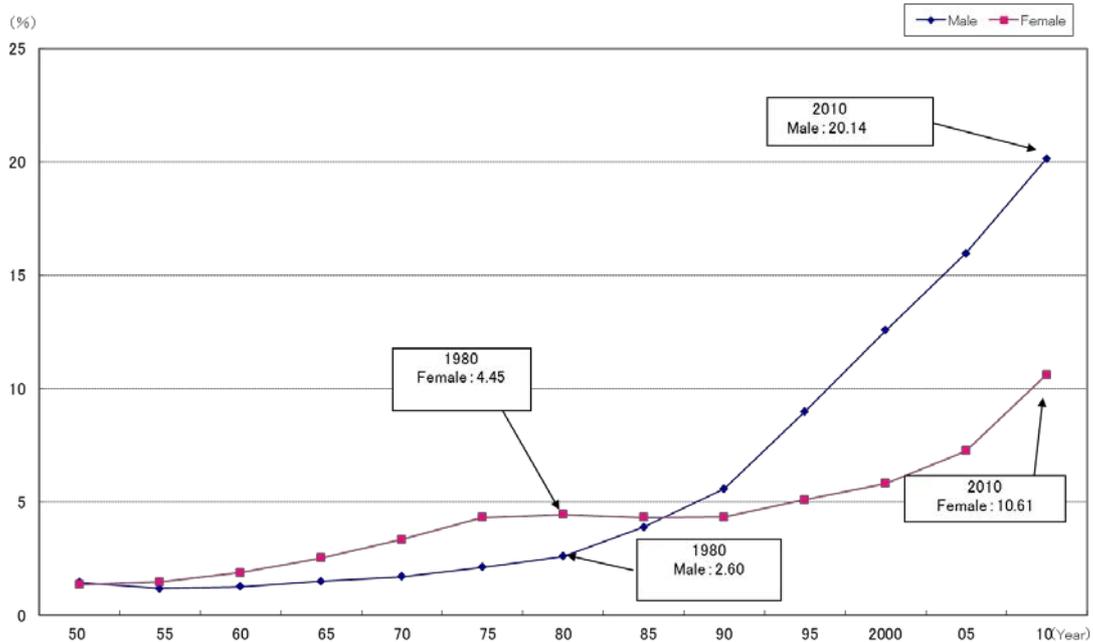
Source: "Population Census" by Statistic Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications
 Note: From 1960 to 1970, not including Okinawa.

Figure 1-2-5: Rate of unmarried status by age (women)



Source: "Population Census" by Statistic Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications
 Note: From 1960 to 1970, not including Okinawa.

Figure 1-2-6: Annual trends of the lifelong unmarried status rate



Source: "Population Statistics (2012)" by National Institute of Population and Social Security
 Note: The lifelong unmarried status rate is the average of unmarried status from 45 years old to 49 and from 50 to 54, and the unmarried status rate in 50.

(Progression of tendencies of late marriages and late childbirths)

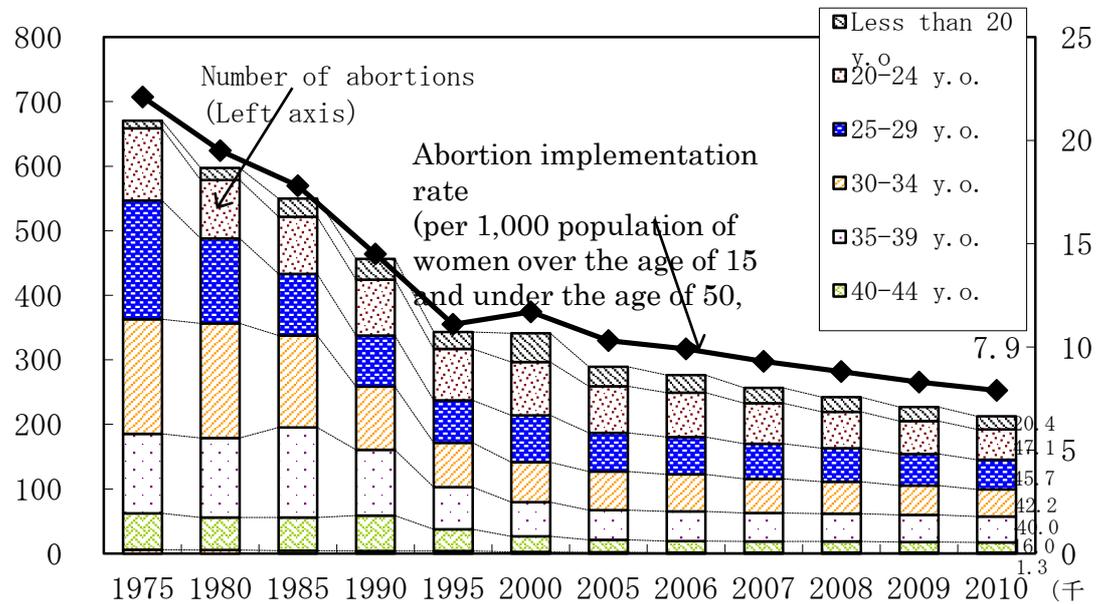
The average age at first marriage of the Japanese continued to raise in 2010, with 30.5-year-old for the husbands (0.1 years rise compared to the previous year), and 28.8 years for the wives (0.2 years rise compared to the previous year), with the

tendency of late marriages at higher age in progress. In 1980, the average age at first marriage for husbands was 27.8-year-old, and for wives 25.2 years, in the 30 year period it has risen by 2.7 years for husbands, and by 3.6 years for wives. Looking at the average age of mothers at the time of the birth, in the case of 2010, the average for the first child is the age of 29.9, for the second child is the age of 31.8, and the third child is the age of 33.2, when it is compared to 1980, 30 years ago, it has increased by 3.5 years, 3.1 years, 2.6 years respectively.

(Status of induced abortions)

If consider the tendencies in the number of induced abortions and the implementation rate of induced abortions (for 1,000 population of women aged above 15 and under the age of 50) up to the year 2010, the number tends to decrease for both the overall number and the rate of induced abortions conducted.

Figure 1-2-7: Rate of induced abortions implementation
 (thousand cases) (per one thousand female population)



Note:1. Data until 2000 is from the "Maternal protection statistical report" by the Ministry of Health and Welfare, after 2005 it is retrieved from the "Cases reported in health administration" by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare.
 2. Due to the impact of the Great East Japan Earthquake, FY 2011 is not included within the jurisdiction of the municipalities of the health and welfare office of Fukushima Prefecture.