

## Chapter 1 Current Status of Declining Birthrate

### Section 1 Recent Changes in Birth Rate

#### 1. Trends in the Number of Live Births and Birthrate

##### (Trends in the number of live births and total fertility rate)

The annual number of live births in Japan was about 2.7 million in the first baby boom, about 2 million in the second baby boom, and in 1975, it fell below 2 million, and has continued to decrease every year since. In 1984, it fell below 1.5 million, and has been on a mild downward trend since 1991, with occasional increases and decreases.

The total fertility rate, which exceeded 4.3 during the first baby boom period has rapidly fallen since 1950. Since then, the rate continues to stand at about 2.1, but began to show a declining trend since it fell below 2.0 in 1975. In 1989, the rate was 1.57 which broke the record low that occurred in 1966 (Hinoeuma:- one of the sexagenary cycle). Yet, in 2005, the rate fell to 1.26, the lowest ever recorded.

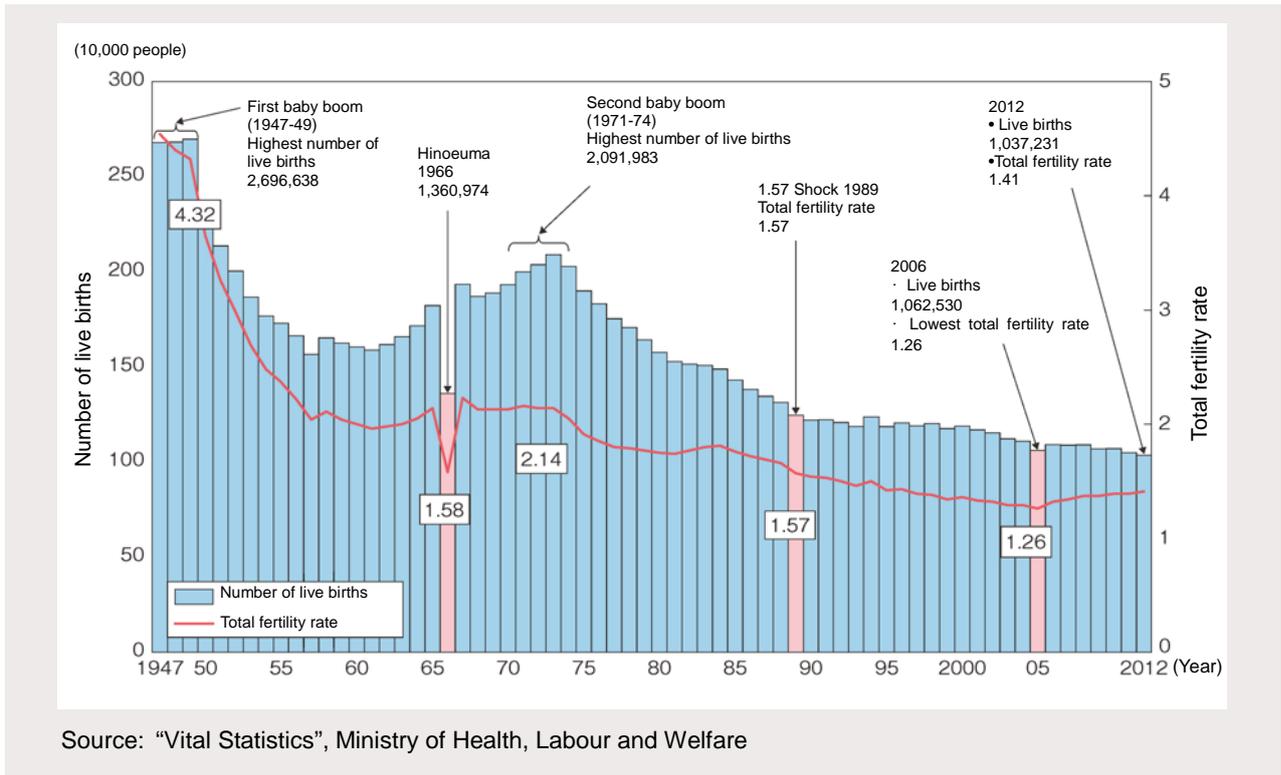
Incidentally, the rate in 2012 was 1.41 (an increase of 0.02 point over the previous year) showing a slight increase, but still rather low when compared to western countries.

#### 2. Decrease in the Number of Total Population and Change in Population Structure

##### (Population 50 years later in Japan)

According to the “Future Population of Japan (January 2012),” it is estimated that the total fertility rate will roughly remain at 1.39 between 2010 and 2014, moderately decrease to 1.33 until 2024, increase to 1.34 in 2030, and barely increase to 1.35 in 2060, as based on the medium variant of population (medium birth rate and medium death rate) which is generally used for projecting future population. When calculated on the basis of this assumption, the total population in Japan will show a long-term declining trend from its 2010 population of 128.06 million people, decreasing to 116.62 million people in 2030, and falling below 100 million people (99.13) in 2048, before reaching only 86.74 million people in 2060, 50 years from now.

**Fig. 1-1-1 Trends in the number of live births and total fertility rates**



### 3. Situation of Marriage and Childbirth

#### (Progress in the number of unmarried people and non-married people)

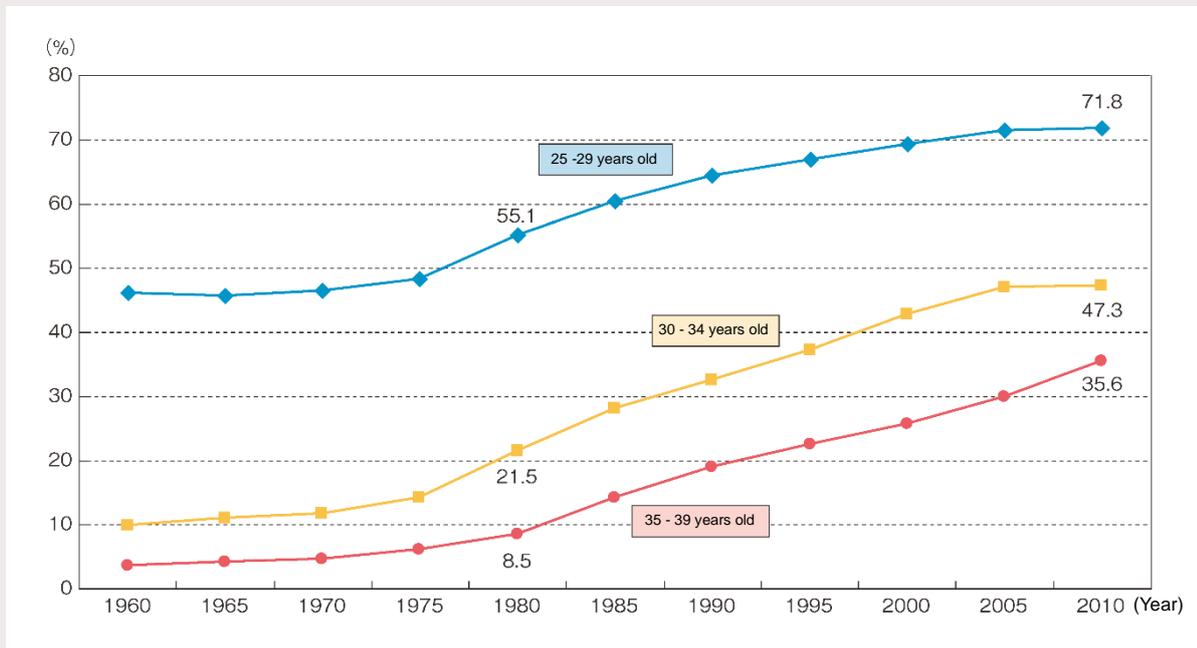
According to the "Population Census" conducted by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications in 2010, the percentage of unmarried men and women aged 25 to 39 years old is still continuing to increase. The percentage of men aged 25 to 29 years old, 30 to 34 years old and 35 to 39 years is 71.8%, 47.3% and 35.6%, respectively, while the percentage of women of 25 to 29 years old, 30 to 34 years old and 35 to 39 years is 60.3%, 34.5% and 23.1%, respectively. Furthermore, when compared with the lifetime unmarried rate of 30 years ago, that of men increased from 2.60% in 1980 to 20.1% in 2010, and that of women increased from 4.5% in 1980 to 10.6% in 2010.

#### (Progress in the number of people who marry later in life and mothers who give birth later in life)

The average age for a first marriage in Japan has been increasing and, in 2012, it was 30.8 years old for men (an increase of 0.1 year over the previous year) and 29.2 years old for women (an increase of 0.2 year over the previous year). As the average age of marriage in 1980 was 27.8 years old for men and 25.2 years old for women, the average age for first marriages has increased by 3.0 years for men and 4.0 years for women over about 30 years.

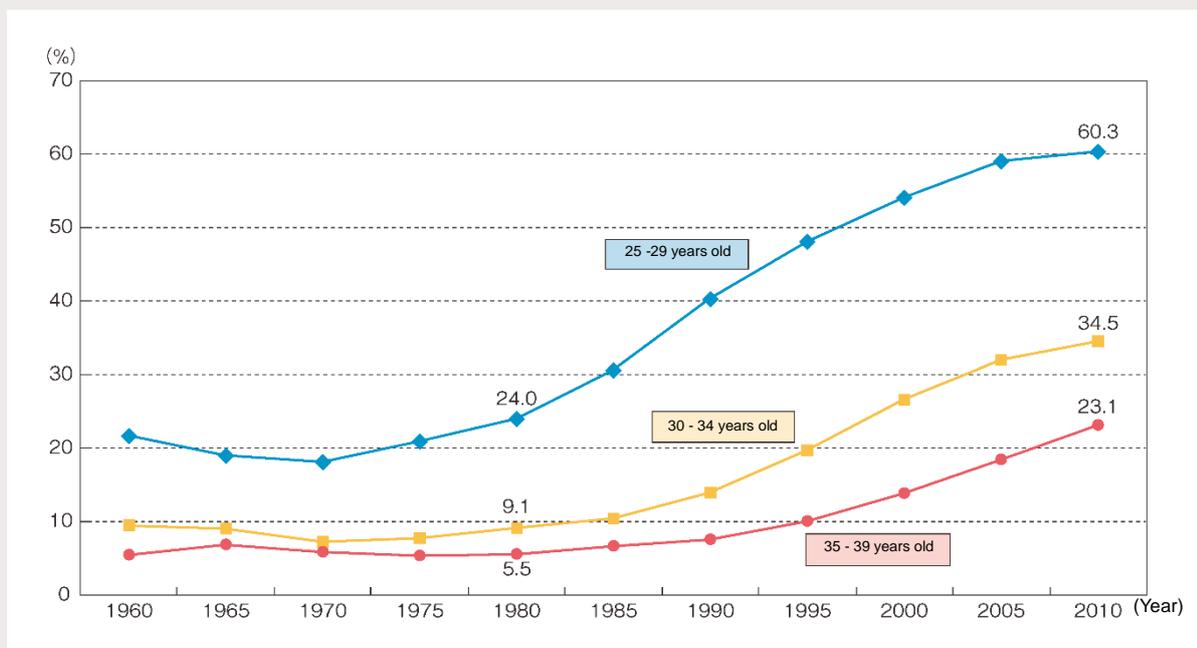
In addition, the average age of mothers who gave birth to their first, second and third child was 30.3 years old, 32.1 years old and 33.3 years, respectively, and the age at which they give birth to their first child has exceeded 30 years old following the previous year.

**Fig. 1-1-2 Changes in the percentage of unmarried people by age group (men)**



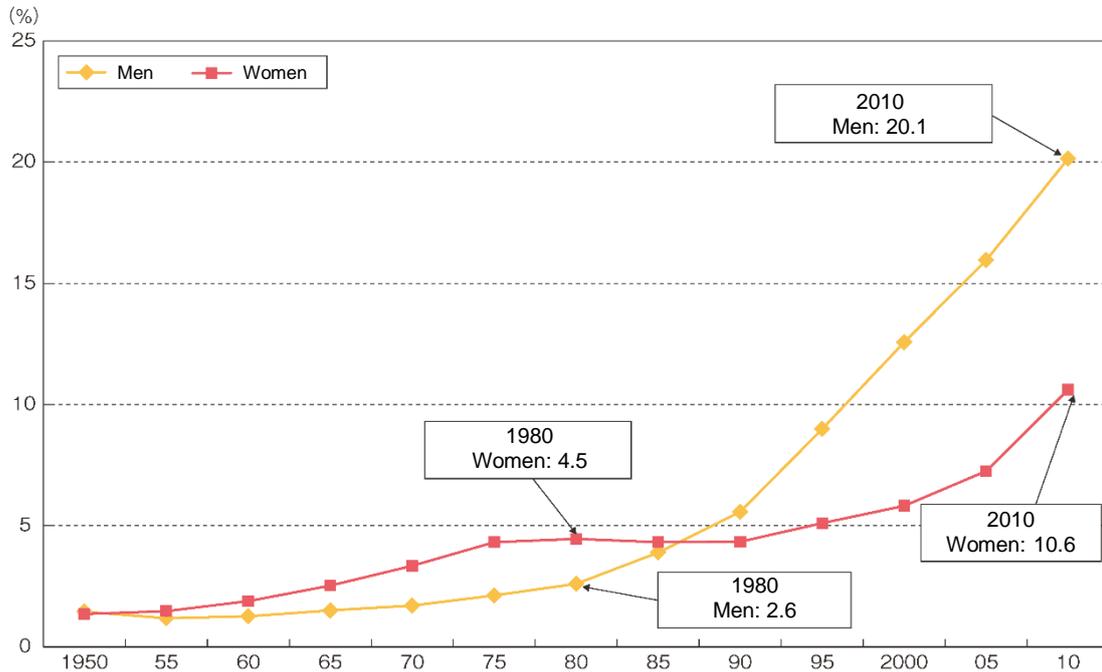
Source: "Population Census", Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (2010)  
 Note: Okinawa prefecture is not included in the data of 1960 to 1970.

**Fig. 1-1-3 Changes in the percentage of unmarried people by age group (women)**



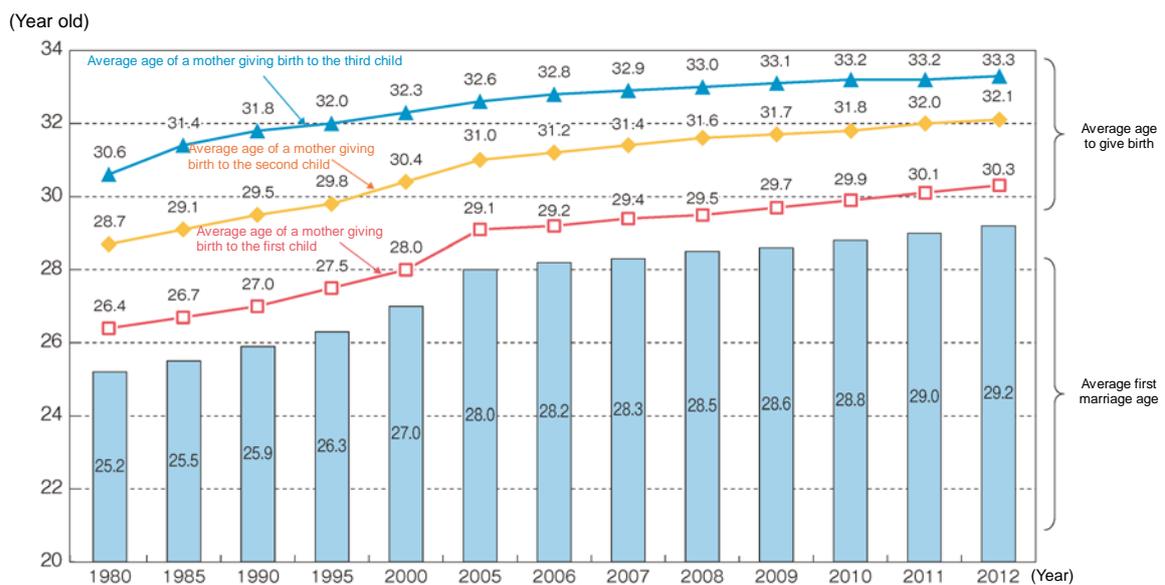
Source: "Population Census", Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (2010)  
 Note: Okinawa prefecture is not included in the data of 1960 to 1970.

**Fig. 1-1-4 Annual changes in the lifetime unmarried rate**



Source: "Population Statistics (2013)", National Institute of Population and Social Security Research  
 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.

**Fig. 1-1-5 Trends in the mean age of first marriage age and mean age of mothers to give birth**



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