

## Chapter 1 Current Status of Declining Birthrate

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

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

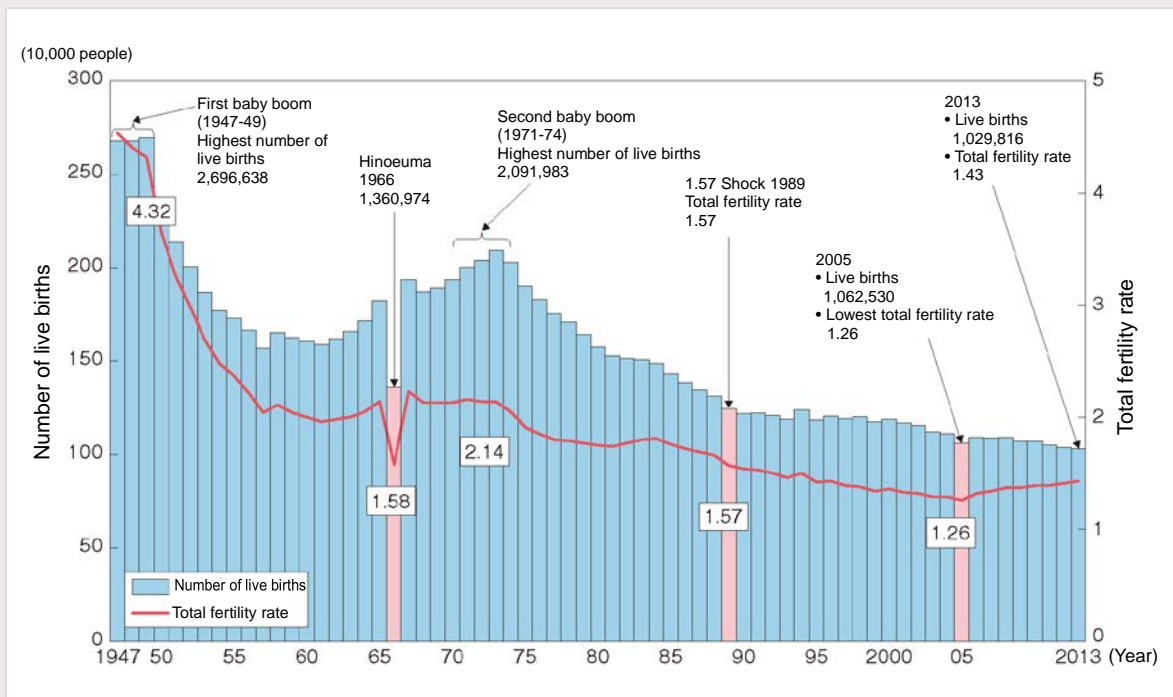
The annual number of live births in Japan was about 2.7 million in the first baby boom, about 2.1 million in the second baby boom, and in 1975, it fell below 2 million, and has continued to decrease every year since. In 1984, it fell below 1.5 million, and has been on a mild downward trend since 1991, with occasional increases and decreases.

In 2013, the number of live births was 1,029,816, declining by 7,415 from 1,037,231 of the previous year.

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 cycles). Yet, in 2005, the rate fell to 1.26, the lowest ever recorded.

Incidentally, the rate in 2013 was 1.43 (an increase of 0.02 point over the previous year) showing a slight increase, but still rather low when compared to western countries.

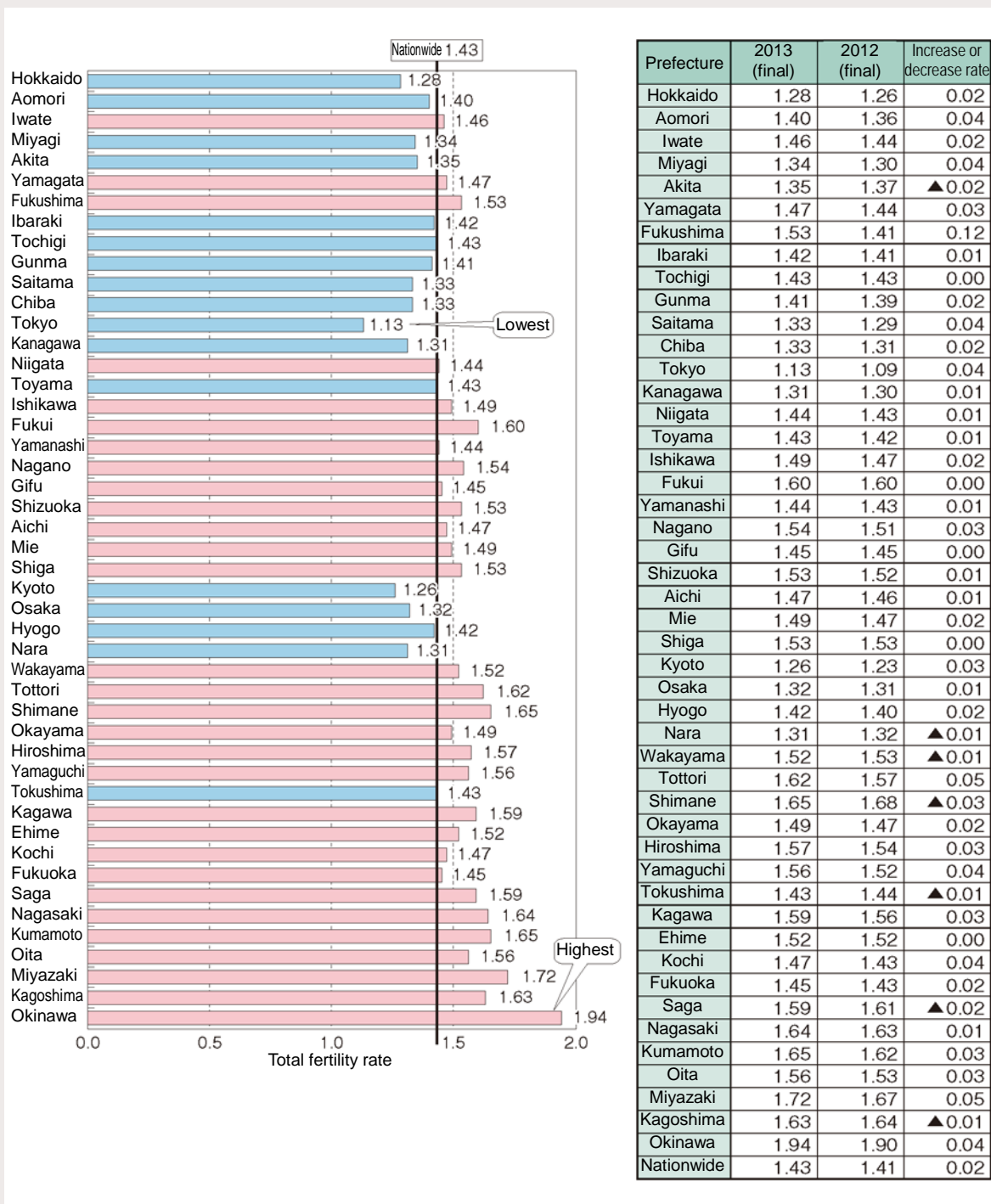
**Fig. 1-1-1 Trends in the number of live births and total fertility rates**



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

The total fertility rate by prefecture (all 47) is the highest in Okinawa (1.94) and the lowest in Tokyo (1.13).

**Fig. 1-1-2 Total fertility rate by prefecture (2013)**



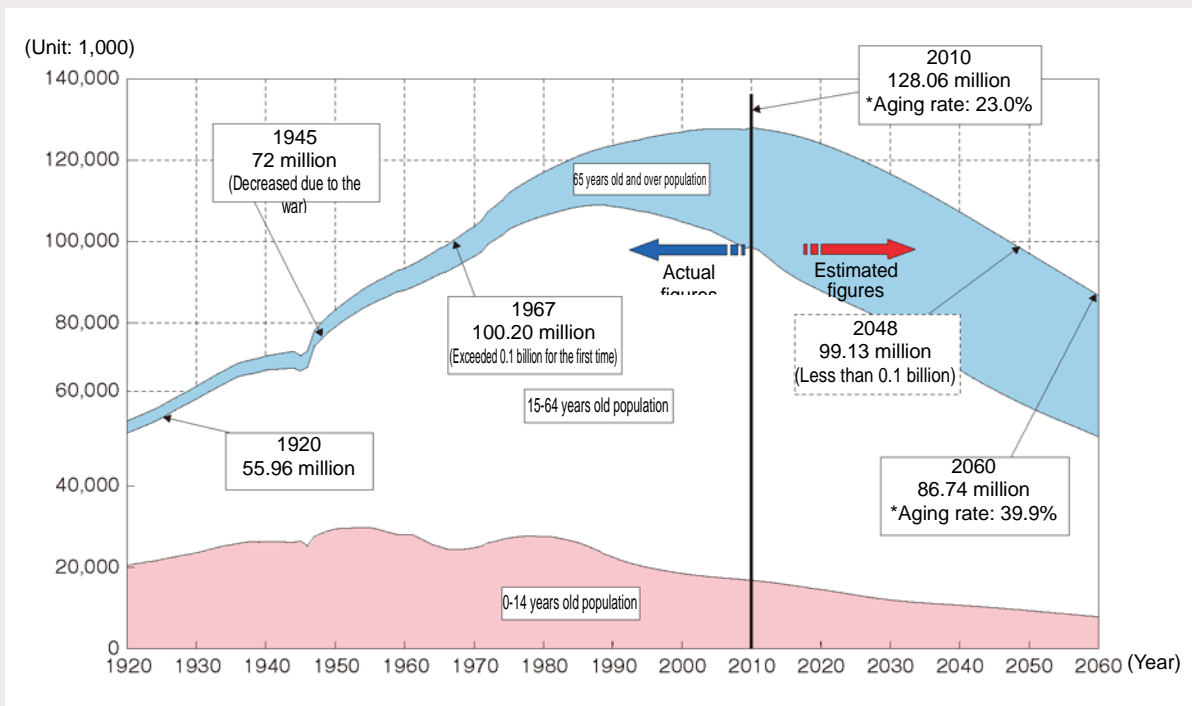
Source: "Vital Statistics," Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (2013)

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

### (Population 50 years later in Japan)

According to the medium variant projections (medium-fertility and -mortality) in Population Projections for Japan (January 2012) (National Institute of Population and Social Security Research), total population of Japan is estimated to steadily decline in the long run from 128.06 million in 2010 to 116.62 million in 2030, to 99.13 million in 2048 and after 50 years to 86.74 million in 2060.

**Fig. 1-1-3 Trends in Japan's demographic structure and estimation**



Source: The numerical values (1920-2010) are based on MIC's "Population Census," "Population Estimates" and "Population estimation of 1945." The estimated values (2011-2060) are based on the moderate-range projection of National Institute of Population and Social Security Research "Japan's future population estimated in January 2012."

Note: As for 1941 - 1943, the population of the years 1940 and 1944 was broken down by age into 3 segments and interpolated on intermediate points. Okinawa pref. is not included in the period of 1945 - 1971. In the census year, unknown age population is included after being prorated to each age population.

### 3. Situation of Marriage and Childbirth

#### (Progress in the number of never married people and non-married people)

According to the “Population Census” conducted by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications in 2010, the percentage of never married 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 old 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 old is 60.3%, 34.5% and 23.1%, respectively. Furthermore, when compared with the lifetime never married rate of 30 years ago (1980), 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 mean age for a first marriage in Japan has been increasing and, in 2013, it was 30.9 years old for groom (an increase of 0.1 year over the previous year) and 29.3 years old for bride (an increase of 0.1 year over the previous year). As the mean age of marriage in 1980 was 27.8 years old for groom and 25.2 years old for bride, the mean age for first marriages has increased by 3.1 years for groom and 4.1 years for bride over about 30 years. In 2013, the mean age of mothers having the first child is 30.4 years old, the second child at 32.3 years old, and the third child at 33.4 years old, showing a rising trend.

**Fig. 1-1-4** Changes in the percentage of never married people by age group (men)

