

# [1] Working Conditions/Labour Relations

## (1) Working Conditions

### Measures for Security and Improvement of Working Conditions

#### Overview

#### Security and Improvement of Working Conditions

Approximately 49.45 million people are working at some 4.09 million offices in Japan (source: Establishment and Enterprise Census 2006, Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications). In order to provide working environment in which workers can work without worries, it is crucial to secure the working conditions stipulated in the Labour Standards Act etc. and take measures to improve working conditions.

As means to achieve this goal, Labour Bureau is established in every prefecture, and Labour Standards Inspection Offices nationwide. On-site inspections are conducted in accordance with labour standards related laws to ensure that employers abide by the statutory working hours, safety and health standards and the minimum wages as well as to secure and improve working conditions.

There are two types of inspections: regular inspection and inspection based on reports filed by workers. The former includes monthly planned inspection and so-called accident site inspection carried out when a serious industrial accident occurs or a workplace disaster such as fire and explosion takes place. Accident site inspection aims to investigate the cause of the accident and prevent recurrence of similar accidents. Inspection based on reports from workers is conducted when a report is filed by workers, etc.

When labour standards inspectors find serious and gross violation case of labour laws on inspection site, they investigate the case, as special judicial police officers, in accordance with the Code of Criminal Procedure to probe criminal liability, and send the case to the public prosecutor's office.

#### Detailed Data 1

#### Changes in Number of Inspections

Year	Number of offices where on-site inspection was conducted			Inspection rate	Violation rate
	Regular inspection	Other inspection	Total		
	case	case	case	%	%
1965	191,053	46,717	237,770	10.9	54.4
1970	233,946	54,198	288,144	10.8	70.4
1975	165,483	40,576	206,059	7.1	65.7
1980	167,850	37,060	204,910	6.4	64.2
1985	173,438	32,777	206,215	5.9	58.9
1990	156,401	22,728	179,129	4.8	57.7
1991	138,286	20,376	158,662	3.6	56.9
1992	154,109	22,298	176,407	4.1	58.6
1993	164,405	25,283	189,688	4.4	56.3
1994	162,366	26,476	188,842	4.3	56.7
1995	175,875	27,036	202,911	4.7	58.8
1996	164,611	26,281	190,892	4.4	54.0
1997	145,041	27,138	172,179	3.8	55.7
1998	153,563	32,534	186,097	4.1	54.6
1999	146,160	34,097	180,257	4.0	59.7
2000	147,773	37,091	184,864	4.1	58.8
2001	134,623	39,068	173,691	3.8	63.4
2002	131,878	41,236	173,114	3.8	62.7
2003	121,031	43,474	164,505	3.6	65.6
2004	122,793	42,835	165,628	3.6	67.1
2005	122,734	41,407	164,141	3.7	66.3
2006	118,872	42,186	161,058	3.6	67.4
2007	126,499	42,234	168,733	4.1	67.9
2008	115,993	43,097	159,090	3.9	68.5
2009	100,535	46,325	146,860	3.6	65.0
2010	128,959	45,574	174,533	4.3	66.7

Source: Labour Standards Bureau, MHLW

(Note) 1. "Violate rate" indicates the percentage of offices which committed violations among offices where regular inspections were conducted.

2. Years indicate calendar years except for 1965, for which the year indicates a fiscal year.

## Detailed Data 2 Changes in Number of Inspection Based on Reports

Year	Cases to be inspected		Cases carried over from the previous year		Cases accepted in the current year	
	Number of cases	Year-on-year change	Number of cases	Year-on-year change	Number of cases	Year-on-year change
1986	27,634	94.6	4,968	95.9	22,666	94.3
1987	24,380	88.2	4,263	85.8	20,117	88.8
1988	20,581	84.4	3,609	84.7	16,972	84.4
1989	16,502	80.2	2,913	80.7	13,790	81.3
1990	15,088	91.4	2,451	84.1	12,637	91.6
1991	15,260	101.1	2,247	91.7	13,013	103.0
1992	18,706	122.6	2,439	108.5	16,267	125.0
1993	23,462	125.4	3,300	135.3	20,162	123.9
1994	24,964	106.4	4,574	138.6	20,390	101.1
1995	25,386	101.7	4,538	99.2	20,848	102.2
1996	25,537	100.6	4,043	89.1	21,494	103.1
1997	27,850	109.1	4,433	109.6	23,417	108.9
1998	33,554	120.5	4,758	107.3	28,796	123.0
1999	35,352	105.4	6,123	128.7	29,229	101.5
2000	38,743	109.6	5,764	94.1	32,979	112.8
2001	41,444	107.0	6,488	112.6	34,956	106.0
2002	43,898	105.9	6,422	99.0	37,476	107.2
2003	46,009	104.8	6,954	108.3	39,055	104.2
2004	43,423	94.4	6,795	97.7	36,628	93.8
2005	41,003	94.4	6,072	89.4	34,931	95.4
2006	40,234	98.1	5,442	89.6	34,792	99.6
2007	40,254	100.0	4,724	86.8	35,530	102.1
2008	44,432	110.4	5,145	108.9	39,287	110.6
2009	48,448	109.0	5,976	116.2	42,472	108.1
2010	44,736	92.3	6,588	110.2	38,148	89.8

Source: Labour Standards Bureau, MHLW

## Detailed Data 3 Changes in Number of Judicial Cases by Major Type of Business

Year	All industries	Manufacturing	Construction	Commerce
1965	1,126 (100.0)	485 (43.1)	406 (36.1)	23 (2.0)
1970	1,726 (100.0)	524 (30.4)	815 (47.2)	49 (2.8)
1975	1,363 (100.0)	410 (30.0)	639 (46.9)	49 (3.6)
1980	1,531 (100.0)	407 (26.6)	780 (51.0)	78 (5.1)
1985	1,328 (100.0)	424 (31.9)	626 (47.1)	75 (5.6)
1990	1,270 (100.0)	325 (25.6)	710 (55.9)	56 (4.4)
1994	1,240 (100.0)	324 (26.1)	654 (52.7)	57 (4.6)
1995	1,310 (100.0)	324 (24.7)	681 (52.0)	76 (5.8)
1996	1,411 (100.0)	349 (24.7)	735 (52.1)	87 (6.2)
1997	1,264 (100.0)	247 (19.5)	676 (53.5)	83 (6.6)
1998	1,209 (100.0)	298 (24.6)	589 (48.7)	83 (6.9)
1999	1,262 (100.0)	316 (25.0)	597 (47.3)	87 (6.9)
2000	1,385 (100.0)	342 (24.7)	637 (46.0)	102 (7.4)
2001	1,346 (100.0)	315 (23.4)	624 (46.4)	106 (7.9)
2002	1,328 (100.0)	322 (24.2)	568 (42.8)	121 (9.1)
2003	1,399 (100.0)	346 (24.7)	593 (42.4)	122 (8.7)
2004	1,339 (100.0)	312 (23.3)	571 (42.6)	113 (8.4)
2005	1,290 (100.0)	303 (23.5)	525 (40.7)	106 (8.2)
2006	1,219 (100.0)	286 (23.5)	470 (38.6)	97 (8.0)
2007	1,277 (100.0)	308 (24.1)	458 (35.9)	122 (9.6)
2008	1,227 (100.0)	295 (24.0)	484 (39.4)	92 (7.5)
2009	1,110 (100.0)	285 (25.7)	375 (33.8)	114 (10.3)
2010	1,157 (100.0)	268 (23.2)	400 (34.6)	102 (8.8)

Source: Labour Standards Bureau, MHLW

(Note) The figures in parentheses indicate the percentage among all industries.