

3. Chronological Table

Year	Prime Minister	Minister of Health and Welfare	Minister of Labour	Background to the Era	Measures, etc.		
1938	Konoe	Kido		1938 Establishment of Ministry of Health and Welfare	1937 Health Center Law		
		Hiranuma			Hirose	1938 National Health Insurance Law	
	Abe	Obara, Akita			1939 Employees Health Insurance Law, Seamen's Insurance Law		
	Yonai	Yoshida			1941 Workers Pension insurance Law		
		Yasui, Kanemitsu			1941 Pacific War	1944 Employees' Pension Insurance Law	
	Konoe	Koizumi (S)					
	Tojo						
	Koiso	Hirose, Aikawa					
	1945	Suzuki (K)			Okada	1945 End of War	1945 Repatriation measures
		Higashikuni			Matsumura		
Shidehara		Ashida					
Yoshida		Kawai, Ichimatsu	1946 Promulgation of Japanese Constitution	1946 Former Public Assistance Law			
				1946 Labour Relations Adjustment Law			
Katayama		Katayama, Ichimatsu	Yonekubo	1947 Establishment of Ministry of Labour			
				1947 First baby boom	1947 New Health Center Law		
Ashida		Takeda	Katou		1947 Food Sanitation Law		
Yoshida		Yoshida	Yoshida		1947 Labour Standards Law		
	Hayashi (J)				Masuda	1947 Workmen's Accident Compensation Insurance Law	
1955	Hatoyama	Tsurumi	Chiba	1947 Employment Security Law	1947 Unemployment Insurance Law		
					Kawasaki	Nishida	1948 Preventive vaccination Law
	Ishibashi	Kobayashi	Kuraishi		1948 Medical Care Law		
					Ishibashi		1948 Medical Doctor Law, Dentist Law, Law for Public Health Nurses, Midwives and Nurses
	Kishi	Kanda	Matsuura	1947 Establishment of Ministry of Labour	1949 Law for the Welfare of People with Physical Disabilities		
					Horiki	Ishida	1949 Trade union Law
	Ikeda	Nakayama	Ishida	1947 First baby boom	1949 Emergency unemployment Measures Law		
					Furui		1950 Mental Hygiene Law
	Sato	Suzuki (Z)	Kodaira	1950 Korean War (Special procurement boom)	1950 New Public Assistance Law		
					Yamate		1951 Tuberculosis Prevention Law
Bo	Sonoda	Ogawa	1952 Peace Treaty	1951 Social Welfare Service Law			
				Saito (N)	Hara	1951 Children's Charter	
Uchida	Nohara			1952 Law for the Relief of War victims and Survivors			
				Saito (N)	Hara	1952 Refuse Law	
Sato	Suzuki (Z)	Kodaira	1954 Refuse Law	1954 Employees' Pension Insurance Law amendment (introduction of a fixed portion and an increase in the pensionable age to the 60)			
				Yamate		1954 Employees' Pension Insurance Law amendment (introduction of a fixed portion and an increase in the pensionable age to the 60)	
Bo	Sonoda	Ogawa	1954 Refuse Law	1957 Water Supply Law			
				Saito (N)	Hara	1958 National Health Insurance Law amendment (insurance coverage for whole population)	
Uchida	Nohara		1952 Peace Treaty	1958 Occupational Training Law			
				Saito (N)	Hara	1959 National Pension Law (pension coverage for whole Population)	
Sato	Suzuki (Z)	Kodaira	1960 Income doubling plan	1960 Law for the Welfare of Mentally Retarded People			
				Yamate		1960 Pharmaceutical Affairs Law	
Bo	Sonoda	Ogawa	1960 Income doubling plan	1961 Child Rearing Allowance Law			
				Saito (N)	Hara	1963 Welfare Law for the Elderly	
Uchida	Nohara		1964 Tokyo Olympics "Izanagi" economic boom	1964 Law for Maternal and Child Welfare			
				Saito (N)	Hara	1964 Law concerning Special Child Rearing Allowance	
Sato	Suzuki (Z)	Kodaira	1964 Tokyo Olympics "Izanagi" economic boom	1965 Employees' Pension Insurance Law amendment (¥10,000 pension, Employees' Pension Fund)			
				Yamate		1965 Maternal and Child Health Law	
Bo	Sonoda	Ogawa	1964 Tokyo Olympics "Izanagi" economic boom	1965 Mental Hygiene Law amendment (introduction of Public-funded hospital visit medical care)			
				Saito (N)	Hara	1966 National Health Insurance Law amendment (70% benefit introduced)	
Uchida	Nohara		1970 Aging rate exceeds 7%.	1966 Employment Measures Law			
				Saito (N)	Hara	1967 Pollution Control Basic Law	
Sato	Suzuki (Z)	Kodaira	1971 Establishment of Environmental Agency	1967 First-Term Basic Employment Measures Plan			
				Yamate		1969 Employees' Pension Insurance Law amendment (¥20,000 pension)	
Bo	Sonoda	Ogawa	1971 Establishment of Environmental Agency	1970 Waste Disposal Law			
				Saito (N)	Hara	1970 Five-Year Plan for the Emergency Provision of Social Welfare Facilities	
Uchida	Nohara		1971 Dollar shock	1970 Industrial Homework Law			
				Saito (N)	Hara	1971 Child Allowance Law	
Sato	Suzuki (Z)	Kodaira	1971 Dollar shock	1971 Law concerning Stabilization of Employment of Older Persons			
				Yamate			

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1975	Tanaka		Tsukahara	1971 Second baby boom	1973 Welfare Law for the Elderly amendment (free medical care for the elderly) 1973 Health Insurance Law amendment (70% benefit for dependents, and high-cost medical care expenses) 1973 Pension system reform (¥50,000 pension, commodity price sliding scale system introduced) 1974 Employment Insurance Law 1977 Employment Insurance Law amendment (start of employment security programs) 1978 National health improvement measures 1979 Pharmaceutical Affairs Law amendment (Stricter new drug approval process, adverse drug reaction recoding system, reevaluation, GMP, etc. are stipulated by law.) 1979 Law on the Drug Fund for Adverse Reaction Relief
		Shiomi	Tamura	1972 Sapporo Olympics	
		Saito (K)	Katou	1973 First year of welfare	
			Hasegawa	1973 Oil shock	
		Fukunaga	Okubo		
	Miki	Tanaka (S)	Hasegawa	1975 International Women's Year	
		Hayakawa	Urano		
	Fukuda	Watanabe (M)	Ishida		
		Ozawa	Fujii		
	Ohira	Hashimoto (Ryutarō)	Fujii		
Kurihara			1979 International Year of the Child		
Noro			Fujinami		
Suzuki (Z)	Saito (K)	Fujio	1980 Baby hotel problem		
	Sonoda		1980 Second Provisional Commission on Administrative Reform (financial reconstruction)		
	Murayama		1981 International Year of Disabled Persons		
	Morishita	Hatsumura	1981 U.S.-Japan Trade Friction		
1985	Nakasone	Hayashi (Y)	Oono	1983 United Nation's Decade for Disabled Persons Population concentration in Tokyo	
		Watabe (K)	Sakamoto		
	Masuoka	Yamaguchi		Appreciation of yen	
		Imai	Hayashi (Y)		
		Saito (J)	Hirai	Steep rise in land price	
1989	Takeshita	Fujimoto	Nakamura	Bubble economy	
		Koizumi (J)	Niwa (H)	1988 Tax reform 1989 Change of era	
	Uno		Horiuchi		
1993	Kaifu	Toida	Fukushima	1990 Iraqi invasion into Kuwait	
		Tsuahima	Tsukahara	1990 Birth of a united Germany	
		Shimojo	Ozato	1990 Total fertility rate marks 1.57.	
	Miyazawa	Yamashita	Kondo	1991 Gulf War	
Niwa (Y)		Murakami	1991 Dissolution of the Soviet union and formulation of Russian Federation and others Land price begins to fall.		
Hosokawa	Ouchi	Sakaguchi			
Hata		Hatoyama (K)			

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1998	Mirayama	Ide	Hamamoto	1994 Aging rate exceeds 14%.	1994 Pension system reform (review of the Old-Age Employees' Pension for people in their early 60s) 1994 Formulation of the Angel Plan 1994 Formulation of the New Gold Plan 1994 New 10-Year Strategy to overcome Cancer 1994 Amendment to the Law concerning Stabilization of Employment of Older Persons (mandatory 60-year-old retirement age; obliging employers to endeavor to continue employment up to 65 years old) 1994 Employment Insurance Law amendment (establishment of continued employment benefit for old age and child-care leave benefit) 1994 Law to promote the implementation of program for water quality conservation of raw water for water systems	
		Morii	Aoki	1995 Great Hanshin/Awaji Earthquake	1995 Law Concerning Support for the Atomic Bomb Exposed 1995 Enactment of the Container and Package Recycling Law 1995 Formulation of the Government Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities 1995 Mental Health Law amendment (establishment of the system to provide a health and welfare handbook for people with Mental disorders; change of the title into the Law on Mental Health and Welfare for people with Mental Disorders) 1995 Child Care Leave Law amendment (establishment of family-care leave system; change of the title into the Law Concerning the Welfare of Workers Who Take Care of Children and other Family Members, Including Child Care Leave and Family Care Leave) 1995 New comprehensive employment measures 1996 Leprosy Prevention Law abolished 1996 Pharmaceutical Affairs Law amendment (improvement of measures to ensure drug safety)	
	Hashimoto (Ryutaro)	Kan	Nagai	Social security reform	1997 Waste Management and Public Cleanliness Law amendment (clarification of procedures for establishing facilities; Countermeasures against illegal dumping, etc.) 1997 Mental Health Welfare Professional Law 1997 Child Welfare Law amendment (child care system reform) 1997 Health Insurance Law amendment (80% benefits for the insured) 1997 Organ Transplantation Law 1997 Long-term Care Insurance Law 1997 Amendment to the Law for Equal Employment Opportunity of Men and Women (to prohibit discrimination against women)	
		Koizumi (J)	Okano	Currency crises in Asia	1998 Agreement between Japan and Germany on social security signed (Effective on February 1, 2000) 1998 Infectious Disease Prevention Law 1998 Comprehensive Plans for vitalizing employment	
	Obuchi	Miyashita	Amari	1998 Nagano Olympics		
			Niwa (Y)	Makino	Sharp rise in total unemployment rate 1999 International Year of Older Persons	1999 Emergency employment measures 1999 Formulation of the new Angel Plan 1999 Mental Health Welfare Professional Law amendment (to add home help and short stay services to in-home welfare) programs; clarification of requirements for involuntary hospitalization for medical care and protection) 2000 Agreement between Japan and United Kingdom on social security signed (Effective on February 1, 2001) 2000 Pension system reform (adjustment of total benefit amount growth, etc.) 2000 Medical Practitioners Law amendment (Clinical training became mandatory.) 2000 Social Welfare Law 2000 Labour Contract Succession Law 2000 Child Abuse Prevention Law 2000 Amendment to the Child Allowance Law (extension of benefit period up to before compulsory education)
	Mori	Tsushima	Yoshikawa			
			Sakaguchi	Sakaguchi		
	Koizumi (J)	Sakaguchi		2001 Inauguration of Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare	2001 Defined Benefits Corporate Pension Law and Defined Contribution Pension Law 2001 Law Concerning the Payment of Compensation to Patients Institutionalized in Hansen's Disease Sanatoriums 2001 Social security system reform outline 2001 Law on Promoting the Resolution of Individual Labour Disputes 2001 Amendment to the Law Concerning the Welfare of Workers Who Take Care of Children and other Family Members, Including Child Care Leave and Family Care Leave (restriction on overtime work) 2001 Comprehensive employment measures 2002 2002 Law on Assistance Dogs for the Disabled 2002 Amendments to the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law and the Bleeding and Blood Donor Supply Service Control Law (improvement of post-marketing safety measures; drastic overhaul of the Blood Law) 2002 Health Promotion Law 2002 2002 Amendment to the Food Sanitation Law (reinforcement of penalty on imported food, etc.) 2002 Law on Special Measures for Self-Sufficiency Support for the Homeless 2002 2002 Programs to accelerate reforms 2002	
		Sakaguchi		2003 Iraq War	2003 Revision of Food Sanitation Law (Review based on the enactment of Food Safety Basic Law) 2003 Law to Promote Measures to Support the Development of the Next Generation 2003 Child Welfare Law amendment (child rearing support programs stipulated by law) 2003 Law Concerning Special Measures to Support Employment of Mothers in Fatherless Families 2003 Basic Law on Measures for Society with Decreasing Birthrate 2003 Law Concerning Medical Treatment and observation of Individuals Who Have Committed Grave Acts against others while in a State of Insanity 2003 Employment Insurance Law amendment (promotion of early reemployment) 2003 New Government Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities 2003 Labour Standards Law amendment (development of rules on dismissal, review on terminable contracts and free time systems) 2003 Infectious Disease Prevention Law and Quarantine Law amendment (improvement and reinforcement of measures against infectious diseases)	
	2003					

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2005		Otsuji		<p>2004 Third-term Comprehensive 10-year Strategy for Cancer Control</p> <p>2004 Agreement between Japan and Republic of Korea on social security signed (Effective on April 1, 2005)</p> <p>2004 Agreement between Japan and the United States of America on social security signed (Effective on October 1, 2005)</p> <p>2004 Law for Special Disability Benefits for Specified Persons with Disabilities</p> <p>2004 Amendment to the Child Abuse Prevention Law (Review of the definition of child abuse, revision of responsibilities of national and local governments, etc.)</p> <p>2004 Outline of countermeasures to society with declining birthrate</p> <p>2004 Amendment to the Child Allowance Law (expanding the eligibility to children who have not completed the third grade of elementary school)</p> <p>2004 Amendment to the Child Welfare Law (Enhancement of child guidance systems)</p> <p>2004 Amendment to the Law Concerning the Welfare of Workers Who Take Care of Children and Other Family Members, Including Child Care Leave and Family Care Leave (Expansion of the scope of workers eligible for leave)</p> <p>2004 Development of specific plans for the implementation of priority measures based on the outline of countermeasures to society with declining birthrate (support plans for children and child-rearing)</p> <p>2004 Water service vision</p> <p>2004 Pension system reform (introduction of mechanisms of fixing upper limit of premiums and of automatic adjustment of benefit levels; establishment of the Pension Reserve Fund Administration and Investment Agency, etc.)</p> <p>2005 Agreement between Japan and Belgium on social security signed (Effective on January 1, 2007)</p> <p>2005 Agreement between Japan and France on social security signed (Effective on June 1, 2007)</p> <p>2005 Basic law on nutritional education</p> <p>2005 Amendment to the Trade Union Law (Improvement of unfair labour practice review process and system)</p> <p>2005 Amendment to the Long-term Care Insurance Law (shift to a system with an emphasis placed on preventive measures, etc.)</p>
		Kawasaki		<p>2005 Enactment of Services and Supports for Persons with Disabilities Act (Creation of a structure which provides services in an integrated manner regardless of the type of disabilities)</p> <p>2006 Act on Asbestos Health Damage Relief</p> <p>2006 Agreement between Japan and Canada on social security signed (Effective on March 1, 2008)</p> <p>2006 Act on Advancement of Comprehensive Service Related to Education, Child Care, etc. of Preschool Children (Institutionalization of authorized daycare centers)</p> <p>2006 Amendments to the Pharmaceutical Affairs Act (revision of sales system, enhancement of illegal drugs countermeasures)</p> <p>2006 Amendments to the Equal Employment Opportunity Act for Men and Women (expansion of prohibition of sexual discrimination)</p> <p>2006 Amendments to the Medical Service Act (establishment of the system to provide good quality medical services)</p> <p>2006 Amendments to the Health Insurance Act</p> <p>2007 Agreement between Japan and Australia on social security signed (Effective on January 1, 2009)</p> <p>2007 Amendments to the Employment Insurance Act (review of eligibility requirements)</p> <p>2007 Amendments to the Act on Improvement, etc. of Employment Management for Part-Time Workers ensuring balanced compensation for part-time workers)</p> <p>2007 Amendments to the Employment Measures Act and the Act on Promotion of Job Opportunities in Certain Regions (mandatory prohibition of age discrimination when accepting applications or hiring)</p> <p>2007 Act on Special Provisions for the Employees' Pension Insurance Act, etc. Incidental to Enforcement of International Social Security Agreements (establishment of a blanket provision in place of special implementation provisions enacted with each country-specific agreement)</p> <p>2007 Japan Pension Organization Act</p> <p>2007 Law to partially amend the National Pension Act to improve operations of public pension businesses</p> <p>2007 Act on Special Provisions concerning Prescription for Insurance Benefit of Employees' Pension Insurance and Benefit of National Pension (special provisions on prescription of entitlement concerning pension record correction)</p> <p>2007 Act on Special Provisions for the Employees' Pension (special provisions concerning employees' pension insurance benefits if it is unclear that the business owner's obligation to pay the withheld insurance premium has not been carried out)</p> <p>2007 Amendments to the Child Abuse Prevention Law (Reinforcement of on-site inspections confirming the safety of children)</p> <p>2008 Agreement between Japan and the Netherlands on social security signed (Effective on March 1, 2009)</p> <p>2008 Agreement between Japan and Czech Republic on social security signed (Effective on June 1, 2009)</p> <p>2008 New employment strategies</p> <p>2008 Agreement between Japan and Spain on social security signed (Effective on December 1, 2010)</p> <p>2008 Amendments to the Labor Standards Act (expansion of pay rate for overtime work)</p> <p>2009 Agreement between Japan and Italy on social security signed</p> <p>2009 Government-Labor-Management Agreement toward realizing stabilization and creation of employment</p> <p>2009 Amendments to the Act on Child or Nursing Care Leave (mandatory system for short-time working)</p> <p>2009 Law concerning addition to benefits for delayed payment (in case that pension records are corrected and decision on the right of receiving benefit is made, the special interest shall be paid on the benefit, whose payment is delayed long, to meet the present value)</p> <p>2009 Act for partial revision of the Act, etc. for partial revision of the National Pension Act, etc. (the basic pension national treasury imposition rate as from FY2009 shall be 1/2)</p> <p>2009 Act for partial revision of the Organ Transplant Law (revision of brain death diagnosis and requirements for organ harvesting, etc.)</p> <p>2009 Agreement between Japan and Ireland on social security signed (Effective on December 1, 2010)</p> <p>2010 Formulation of the Child and Child-Rearing Vision</p> <p>2010 Amendment to the Employment Insurance Act (expanded scope of direct employment, etc.)</p>
2006				
2007	Abe	Yanagisawa		
2008	Fukuda	Masuzoe		
2009	Asou			
2010	Hatoyama	Nagatsuma		

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				2010 Act on Partial Amendment to the National Health Insurance Act, etc. in Ensuring Stable Operation of the Health Care Insurance System (financial support measures necessary to restrain the level of increase in premiums, etc.)
	Kan	Hosokawa (from September)		2010 Agreement between Japan and Brazil on social security signed
				2010 Agreement between Japan and Switzerland on social security signed
				2010 Act on Payment of Child Allowance in Fiscal Year 2010
				2010 Act on Arrangement of Relevant Acts to Support Community Life of Persons with Disabilities, etc. until Health and Welfare Measures for Persons with Disabilities are Reviewed based on the Discussions at Headquarters to Promote Reform of the System for Persons with Disabilities