

3 Chronological Table

Year	Prime Minister	Minister of Health and Welfare	Minister of Labour	Background to the Era	Measures, etc.
1938	Konoe	Kido Hirose Obara, Akita Yoshida Yasui, Kanemitsu S. Koizumi		1938 Establishment of Ministry of Health and Welfare	1937 Health Center Act
	Hiranuma				1938 National Health Insurance Act
	Abe				1939 Employees Health Insurance Act, Seamen's Insurance Act
	Yonai				1941 Workers Pension insurance Act
	Konoe				1944 Employees' Pension Insurance Act
1945	Tojo	Hirose, Aikawa Okada Matsumura Ashida Kawai, Ichimatsu		1945 End of War	1944 Former Public Assistance Act
	Koiso				1946 Labour Relations Adjustment Act
	K. Suzuki				1947 New Health Center Act
	Higashikuni				1947 Food Sanitation Act
	Shidehara				1947 Child Welfare Act
	Katayama	Katayama, Ichimatsu	Yonekubo	1946 Promulgation of Japanese Constitution	1947 Labour Standards Act
					1947 Workmen's Accident Compensation Insurance Act
					1947 Employment Security Act
					1947 Unemployment Insurance Act
					1948 Preventive vaccination Act
	Ashida	Takeda	Katou	1947 Establishment of Ministry of Labour 1947 First baby boom	1948 Medical Care Act
					1948 Medical Doctor Act, Dentist Act, Act for Public Health Nurses, Midwives and Nurses
					1949 Act for the Welfare of People with Physical Disabilities
					1949 Trade union Act
					1949 Emergency unemployment Measures Act
	Yoshida	Yoshida J. Hayashi	Yoshida Masuda	1950 Korean War (Special procurement boom)	1950 Mental Hygiene Act
					1950 New Public Assistance Act
					1951 Tuberculosis Prevention Act
					1951 Social Welfare Service Act
					1951 Children's Charter
	Hatoyama	Tsurumi Kawasaki Kobayashi Ishibashi	Chiba Nishida Kuraishi	1952 Peace Treaty	1952 Act for the Relief of War victims and Survivors
					1954 Refuse Act
					1954 Employees' Pension Insurance Act amendment (introduction of a fixed portion and an increase in the pensionable age to the 60)
					1958 National Health Insurance Act amendment (insurance coverage for whole population)
					1958 Occupational Training Act
	Ishibashi	Kanda	Matsuro	"iwato" economic boom	1959 National Pension Act (pension coverage for whole Population)
					1960 Act for the Welfare of Mentally Retarded People
					1960 Pharmaceutical Affairs Act
					1960 Income doubling plan
					1961 Child Rearing Allowance Act
	Kishi	Horiki Hashimoto (Ryugo) Sakata	Ishida Kuraishi	1964 Tokyo Olympics "zanagi" economic boom	1962 Act for the Welfare of Maternal and Child Welfare
					1964 Act concerning Special Child Rearing Allowance
					1965 Employees' Pension Insurance Act amendment (¥10,000 pension, Employees' Pension Fund)
					1965 Maternal and Child Health Act
					1965 Mental Hygiene Act amendment (introduction of Public-funded hospital visit medical care)
	Ikeda	R. Watanabe Nakayama	Matsuno Ishida	1970 Aging rate exceeds 7%.	1966 National Health Insurance Act amendment (70% benefit introduced)
					1966 Employment Measures Act
					1967 Pollution Control Basic Act
					1967 First-Term Basic Employment Measures Plan
					1969 Employees' Pension Insurance Act amendment (¥ 20,000 pension)
	Sato	Z. Suzuki Bo Sonoda N. Saito	Kodaira Yamate Hayakawa Ogawa Hara	1971 Establishment of Environmental Agency 1971 Dollar shock	1970 Waste Disposal Act
					1970 Five-Year Plan for the Emergency Provision of Social Welfare Facilities
					1970 Industrial Homework Act
					1971 Child Allowance Act
					1971 Act concerning Stabilization of Employment of Older Persons

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1975	Tanaka	Shiomi K. Saito	Tsukahara Tamura Katou Hasegawa	1971 Second baby boom 1972 Sapporo Olympics 1973 First year of welfare 1973 Oil shock	1973 Welfare Act for the Elderly amendment (free medical care for the elderly)
					1973 Health Insurance Act 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 Act
					1975 International Women's Year
	Miki	S. Tanaka Hayakawa M. Watanabe	Hasegawa Urano Ishida	1975 International Year of the Child	1977 Employment Insurance Act amendment (start of employment security program)
					1978 National health improvement measures
					1979 Pharmaceutical Affairs Act amendment (Stricter new drug approval process, adverse drug reaction recording system, reevaluation, GMP, etc. are stipulated by law.)
					1979 Act on the Drug Fund for Adverse Reaction Relief
					1979 International Year of the Child
	Ohira	Hashimoto (Ryutaro) Noro	Fujii Kurihara Fujinami	1980 Baby hotel problem 1980 Second Provisional Commission on Administrative Reform(financial reconstruction)	1981 Child Welfare Act amendment, implementation of extended and evening-and night-hour child care
					1981 International Year of Disabled Persons 1981 U.S.-Japan Trade Friction
					1983 United Nation's Decade for Disabled Persons Population concentration in Tokyo
					1982 Long-term plan concerning measures for people with disabilities 1982 Home helpers (substantial increase, abolition of income restrictions)
					1982 Health and Medical Service Act for the Elderly
	Z. Suzuki	K. Saito Sonoda Murayama	Fujio	1983 Comprehensive 10-Year Strategy for Cancer Control 1984 Health insurance Act amendment (90% benefit for insured persons, and medical care system for the retirees)	1984 Employment Insurance Act amendment (establishment of systems for reemployment allowance and benefits for older job applicants)
					1985 Pension system reform (introduction of Basic Pension, etc.)
					1985 Medical Service Act amendment (medical care plans)
					1985 Human Resources Development Promotion Act
					1985 Worker Dispatch Act
	Nakasone	Y. Hayashi K. Watabe	Oono Sakamoto	Appreciation of yen	1985 Act concerning Stabilization of Employment of Older Persons (Employers are obliged to endeavor to introduce the 60-year-old retirement age.)
					1987 Certified Social Workers and Certified Care Workers Act
					1987 Mental Hygiene Act amendment (human rights protection, social rehabilitation, change of the law title into the Mental Health Act)
					1987 Labour Standards Act amendment (aiming at 40-hour working week)
					1988 Second national health improvement measures
	Masuoka	Yamaguchi	Imai	Steep rise in land price	1988 National Health Insurance Act amendment (stabilization of the insurance system management for municipalities incurring high medical care expenses)
					1989 Act concerning Prevention of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
					1989 Pension system reform (completely automatic commodity price sliding scale system, National Pension Fund)
					1989 Formulation of Gold Plan
					1989 Employment Insurance Act amendment (expansion of scope into part-time workers)
	Takehita	Fujimoto	Nakamura	Bubble economy	1990 National Health Insurance Act amendment (establishment of an insurance base stabilization system)
					1990 Amendment to the eight laws on welfare services for the elderly including Act for the Welfare of the Elderly (clarification of status of in-home welfare service, enhancement of support system for such service; integrated management by municipalities of in-home and facility welfare services; formulation of plans on health and welfare service for the elderly; expansion of the scope of facilities for disabled persons, etc.)
					1990 Act concerning Stabilization of Employment of older Persons (Employers are obliged to endeavor to assure reemployment up to 65 years old.)
					1991 Health and Medical Service Act for the Elderly amendment (home-visit nursing care system)
					1991 Child Care Leave Act
	Uno	Toida	Horiuchi Fukushima	1988 Tax reform 1989 Change of era	1991 Act Concerning the Promotion of Improvement of Employment Management in Smaller Enterprises for Securing Manpower
					1992 Health Insurance Act amendment (introduction of mid-term financial management)
					1992 Medical Service Act amendment (introduction of the idea of providing medical care)
					1992 Act to Promote the Securing of Manpower, Such as Nurses
					1993 Pharmaceutical Affairs Act and the Foundation for Drug Research and Adverse Reaction Relief Act amendment (Promotion of research and development for pharmaceuticals and medical devices for rarely-occurred diseases)
	Kaifu	Tsuhama	Tsukahara	1989 Iraqi invasion into Kuwait 1990 Birth of a united Germany	1993 Act to Promote the Research and Development and the Dissemination of Welfare Devices
					1993 Mental Health Act amendment (provision on group homes introduced in law)
					1993 New Long-term Program for Government Measures for Disabled Persons
					1993 Part-Time Workers Act
					1993 Labour Standards Act amendment (introduction of 40-hour working week in principle; introduction of irregular working hour system)
	J. Koizumi	Shimojo	Ozato	1990 Total fertility rate marks 1.57.	1993 Employment support total programs
					1994 The 21st Century Welfare vision
					1994 Community Health Act (reinforcement of functions of health centers)
					1994 Health Insurance Act amendment (review of a benefit for inpatient dietary therapy, discontinuance of nursing offered by nursing attendants)
					1993 Employment support total programs
	Miyazawa	Y. Niwa	Murakami	1991 Gulf War 1991 Dissolution of the Soviet union and formulation of Russian Federation and others Land price begins to fall.	1994 Health Insurance Act amendment (review of a benefit for inpatient dietary therapy, discontinuance of nursing offered by nursing attendants)
					1993 Labour Standards Act amendment (introduction of 40-hour working week in principle; introduction of irregular working hour system)
					1993 Employment support total programs
					1994 The 21st Century Welfare vision
					1994 Community Health Act (reinforcement of functions of health centers)
	Hosokawa	Ouchi	Sakaguchi	1993 Employment support total programs	1994 Health Insurance Act amendment (review of a benefit for inpatient dietary therapy, discontinuance of nursing offered by nursing attendants)
					1993 Labour Standards Act amendment (introduction of 40-hour working week in principle; introduction of irregular working hour system)
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					1994 Community Health Act (reinforcement of functions of health centers)
	Hata		K. Hatoyama	1993 Employment support total programs	1994 Health Insurance Act amendment (review of a benefit for inpatient dietary therapy, discontinuance of nursing offered by nursing attendants)
					1993 Labour Standards Act amendment (introduction of 40-hour working week in principle; introduction of irregular working hour system)
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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 Act 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)
	Morii	Aoki		1995 Great Hanshin/Awaji Earthquake	1994 Employment Insurance Act amendment (establishment of continued employment benefit for old age and child-care leave benefit)
					1994 Act to promote the implementation of program for water quality conservation of raw water for water systems
					1995 Act Concerning Support for the Atomic Bomb Exposed
					1995 Enactment of the Container and Package Recycling Act
					1995 Formulation of the Government Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities
	Hashimoto (Ryutaro)	Kan	Nagai	Social security reform	1995 Mental Health Act amendment (establishment of the system to provide a health and welfare handbook for people with Mental disorders; change of the title into the Act on Mental Health and Welfare for people with Mental Disorders)
					1995 Child Care Leave Act amendment (establishment of family-care leave system; change of the title into the Act 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 Act abolished
					1996 Pharmaceutical Affairs Act amendment (improvement of measures to ensure drug safety)
	J. Koizumi	Okano		Currency crises in Asia	1997 Waste Management and Public Cleanliness Act amendment (clarification of procedures for establishing facilities; Countermeasures against illegal dumping, etc.)
					1997 Mental Health Welfare Professional Act
					1997 Child Welfare Act amendment (child care system reform)
					1997 Health Insurance Act amendment (80% benefits for the insured)
					1997 Organ Transplantation Act
	Obuchi	Miyashita	Amari	1998 Nagano Olympics	1997 Long-term Care Insurance Act
					1997 Amendment to the Act for Equal Employment Opportunity of Men and Women (to prohibit discrimination against women)
					1997 Agreement between Japan and Germany on social security signed (Effective on February 1, 2000)
					1998 Infectious Disease Prevention Act
					1998 Comprehensive Plans for vitalizing employment
	Mori	Y. Niwa	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 Act 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.)
	J. Koizumi	Tsushima	Yoshikawa	2001 Inauguration of Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare	2000 Medical Practitioners Act amendment (Clinical training became mandatory.)
					2000 Social Welfare Act
					2000 Labour Contract Succession Act
					2000 Child Abuse Prevention Act
					2000 Amendment to the Child Allowance Act (extension of benefit period up to before compulsory education)
	Sakaguchi	Sakaguchi	Sakaguchi	2001 Inauguration of Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare	2001 Defined Benefits Corporate Pension Act and Defined Contribution Pension Act
					2001 Act Concerning the Payment of Compensation to Patients Institutionalized in Hansen's Disease Sanatoriums
					2001 Social security system reform outline
					2001 Act on Promoting the Resolution of Individual Labour Disputes
					2001 Amendment to the Act 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)
	Sato	Uchida	Nohara	2003 Iraq War	2001 Comprehensive employment measures
					2002 Government-Labour-Management Agreement on Work-sharing
					2002 Act on Assistance Dogs for the Disabled
					2002 Amendments to the Pharmaceutical Affairs Act and the Bleeding and Blood Donor Supply Service Control Act (improvement of post-marketing safety measures; drastic overhaul of the Blood Act)
					2002 Health Promotion Act
	Hata		K. Hatoyama	2003 Iraq War	2002 Amendment to the Health Insurance Act (reinforcement of penalty on imported food, etc.)
					2002 Act on Special Measures for Self-Sufficiency Support for the Homeless
					2002 Government-Labour-Management Agreement on Employment
					2002 Programs to accelerate reforms
					2002 Government-Labour-Management Agreement on Diversified Work Patterns and Work-sharing
	Hosokawa	Ouchi	Sakaguchi	2003 Iraq War	2003 Revision of Food Sanitation Act (Review based on the enactment of Food Safety Basic Act)
					2003 Act to Promote Measures to Support the Development of the Next Generation
					2003 Child Welfare Act amendment (child rearing support programs stipulated by law)
					2003 Act Concerning Special Measures to Support Employment of Mothers in Fatherless Families
					2003 Basic Act on Measures for Society with Decreasing Birthrate
	Hata		K. Hatoyama	2003 Iraq War	2003 Act Concerning Medical Treatment and observation of individuals Who Have Committed Grave Acts against others while in a State of insanity
					2003 Employment Insurance Act amendment (promotion of early reemployment)
					2003 New Government Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities
					2003 Labour Standards Act amendment (development of rules on dismissal, review on terminable contracts and free time systems)
					2003 Infectious Disease Prevention Act and Quarantine Act amendment (improvement and reinforcement of measures against infectious diseases)

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2005		Otsuji		2004 Third-term Comprehensive 10-year Strategy for Cancer Control
				2004 Agreement between Japan and Republic of Korea on social security signed (Effective on April 1, 2005)
2006		Kawasaki		2004 Agreement between Japan and the United States of America on social security signed (Effective on October 1, 2005)
				2004 Act for Special Disability Benefits for Specified Persons with Disabilities
2007	Abe	Yanagisawa		2004 Amendment to the Child Abuse Prevention Act (Review of the definition of child abuse, revision of responsibilities of national and local governments, etc.)
				2004 Outline of countermeasures to society with declining birthrate
2008	Fukuda	Masuzoe		2004 Amendment to the Child Allowance Act (expanding the eligibility to children who have not completed the third grade of elementary school)
2009	Asou			2004 Amendment to the Act Concerning the Welfare are 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)
				2004 Water service vision
				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.)
				2005 Agreement between Japan and Belgium on social security signed (Effective on January 1, 2007)
				2005 Agreement between Japan and France on social security signed (Effective on June 1, 2007)
				2005 Basic law on nutritional education
				2005 Amendment to the Trade Union Act (Improvement of unfair labour practice review process and system)
				2005 Amendment to the Long-term Care Insurance Act (shift to a system with an emphasis placed on preventive measures, etc.)
				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)
				2006 Act on Asbestos Health Damage Relief
				2006 Agreement between Japan and Canada on social security signed (Effective on March 1, 2008)
				2006 Act on Advancement of Comprehensive Service Related to Education, Child Care, etc. of Preschool Children (Institutionalization of authorized daycare centers)
				2006 Amendments to the Pharmaceutical Affairs Act (revision of sales system, enhancement of illegal drugs countermeasures)
				2006 Amendments to the Equal Employment Opportunity Act for Men and Women (expansion of prohibition of sexual discrimination)
				2006 Amendments to the Medical Service Act (establishment of the system to provide good quality medical services)
				2006 Amendments to the Health Insurance Act
				2007 Agreement between Japan and Australia on social security signed (Effective on January 1, 2009)
				2007 Amendments to the Employment Insurance Act (review of eligibility requirements)
				2007 Amendments to the Act on Improvement, etc. of Employment Management for Part-Time Workers ensuring balanced compensation for part-time workers)
				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)
				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)
				2007 Japan Pension Organization Act
				2007 Act to partially amend the National Pension Act to improve operations of public pension businesses
				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)
				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)
				2007 Amendments to the Child Abuse Prevention Act (Reinforcement of on-site inspections confirming the safety of children)
				2008 Agreement between Japan and the Netherlands on social security signed (Effective on March 1, 2009)
				2008 Agreement between Japan and Czech Republic on social security signed (Effective on June 1, 2009)
				2008 New employment strategies
				2008 Agreement between Japan and Spain on social security signed
				2008 Amendments to the Labor Standards Act (expansion of pay rate for overtime work)
				2009 Agreement between Japan and Italy on social security signed
				2009 Government-Labor-Management Agreement toward realizing stabilization and creation of employment
				2009 Amendments to the Act on Child or Nursing Care Leave (mandatory system for short-time working)