

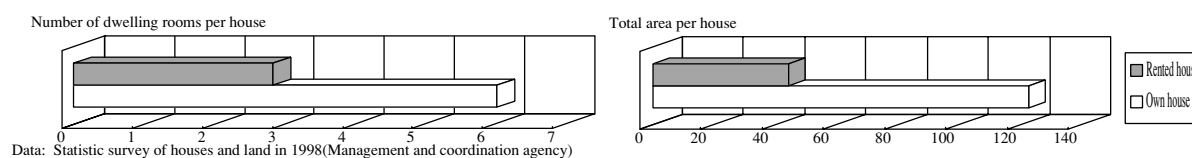
Chapter 5. Promotion of Comfortable Living to Support Better Quality of Life and Promotion of Recreation Activity

[Comfortable living]

○Development and effective use of good-quality residence and housing lots

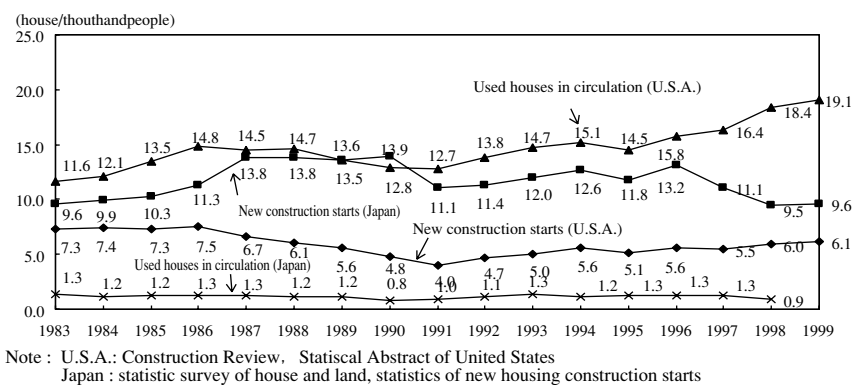
The improvement of housing levels continues to be an important challenge, considering that the quality of rental houses and apartments is not good enough, although the total number of houses has surpassed that of households. It is a major task of MLIT in future to promote the development and utilization of good housing stock through the market, focusing on housing stock as well as newly built houses.

83. (Comparison of living level of owner-occupied and rental houses)



This leads to the active challenge of developing the used housing and renovated housing market. As for rental housing, efforts must be made for smooth spread of term-limited house-rental contracts in the private market as well as for effective use of public rental housing stock. As for owner-occupied housing, too, the formation of high quality stock is guided through loans and housing performance indication system. Furthermore, measures for residential apartment stocks are promoted by facilitating reconstruction of apartments that are too old, which are expected to increase in future, etc.

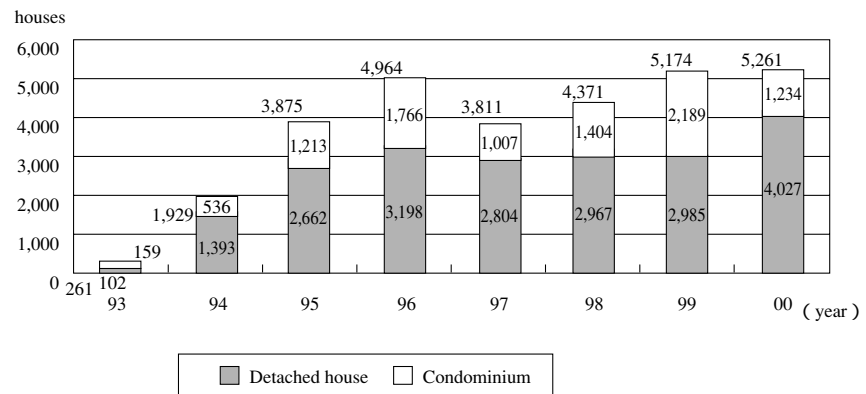
84. (Comparison of the number of American and Japanese new housing construction starts and the distribution quantity of used houses in market per population of 1,000 in both countries)



85. (Achievements in supplying houses with term-limited land- rental rights)

Annual supply achievement of houses with term-limited land- rental right

In regard to residential property, efforts are being made to increase term-limited land- rental rights as well as to promote housing lot supply to help citizens work close to living places and to realize ample living space in association with community building.



Data: Nationwide survey report on achievements in supplying houses with term-limited land- rental rights, July 2001 (Association for promoting spread of term-limited land- rental right)

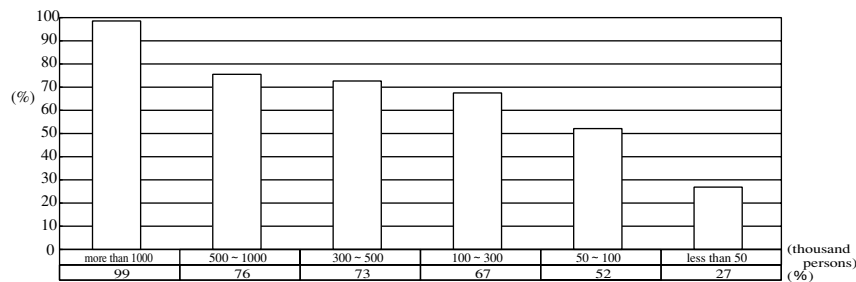
○Promotion of building administration

Building administration, including building inspection, plays an important role in securing the safety and quality of houses and buildings. In particular, after a fire in Shinjuku in September 2001 in a building that housed a number of independent shops, restaurants, etc. measures for fire prevention and safety of similar buildings have been taken in cooperation with fire administrations.

○Promotion of sewerage development

There is a great difference in levels of sewerage development among regions. Therefore, MLIT is working on the promotion of sewer development in small and medium municipalities, trying to promote their efficient spread by adjustment among different kinds of sewerage facilities. MLIT has also promoted measures for storm water control to prevent city inundation, and advanced wastewater treatment to improve water quality in closed water bodies.

86. (Nationwide percentage of sewer - served population (by city size))



Data: Research result by Ministry of Land Infrastructure, and Transport

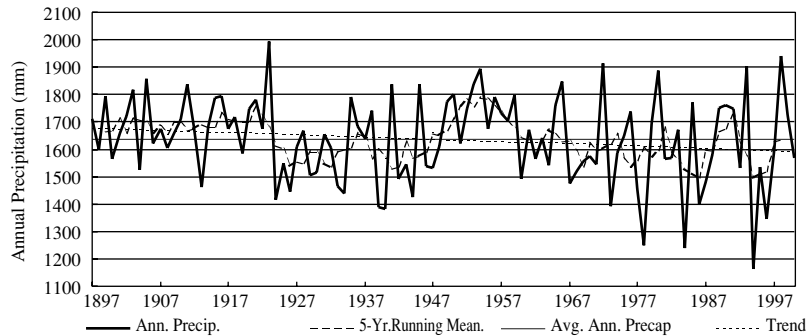
○Development of city parks

City parks are basic facilities to meet the various needs of the people, such as forming a comfortable living environment and enriching recreational activities. Parks should conserve various functions such as offering a place for people to come in contact with natural environment and for children to play actively, and promoting the safety of cities.

○Stable supply of water resources

Water shortage has occurred frequently due to a slight decreasing trend of precipitation in our country where stable water supplies are difficult to maintain for climatic and geographic reasons. Therefore, ensuring the stability of water utilization is being sought for from both software and hardware sides, such as building water resources development facilities, making efficient use of conventional facilities, sharing water, recollecting water, and utilizing water repeatedly, etc.

87. (Changes in Japan's annual precipitation)



Note 1: Calculated by the Water Resources Department of MLIT based on information from the Japan Meteorological Agency. Arithmetic average for 46 locations throughout the nation.
 Note 2: Trend was calculated as a regression line.

[Promotion of recreational activities]

○Development of recreational space

MLIT is making efforts to develop national parks in order to meet the demand for wide-area recreation, and high-quality walking and waterside spaces for health improvement and recreation.

88. (Examples of parks and waterside space)

Environment improvement project by utilizing dam lake



Haji Dam

89. C.C.Z (Coastal Community Zone)

Public coastal open space, familiar with local residents, to communicate with each other.

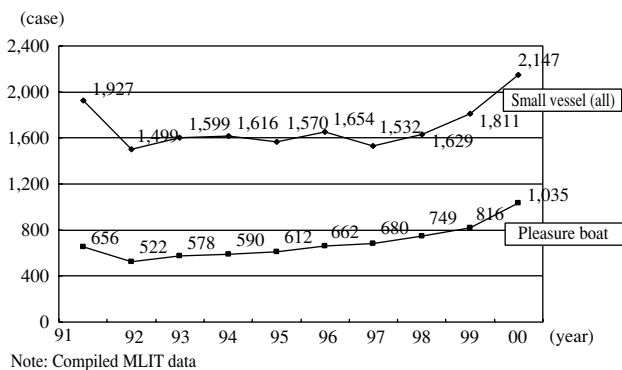


Yakeno Beach in Onoda City, Yamaguchi Prefecture

○Promotion of water recreation and sky leisure

Recently there have been social problems, including frequent occurrence of casualties through disasters and pleasure boat accidents, and the serious problem of boats abandoned by owners. These factors urged us to hold “The round-table conference for proper use of pleasure boats” Overall measures in future concerning the use of pleasure boats have been discussed. Hereafter concrete measures are to be made according to the report from that conference. We are still at work on implementing some practical countermeasures to improve the circumstances for use of pleasure boats, such as establishing a register system for small vessels, reconsidering the license system for small vessel drivers, carrying out campaigns for enlightenment, developing countermeasures for boats abandoned by owners, maintenance of marinas, recycling and reuse, sunken and end of life ships. In regard to sky leisure, securing and promoting safety have been achieved by giving guidance to concerned groups.

90. (Changes in small vessel accidents)



91. (Concrete measures mentioned in the report of meeting)

