

## Road Improvement Conditions in Japan

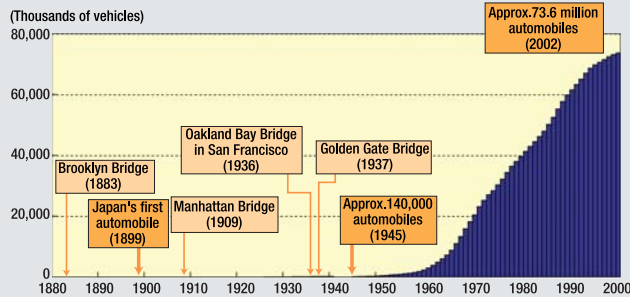
In Japan, road improvement projects were begun in full scale after the end of the Second World War.



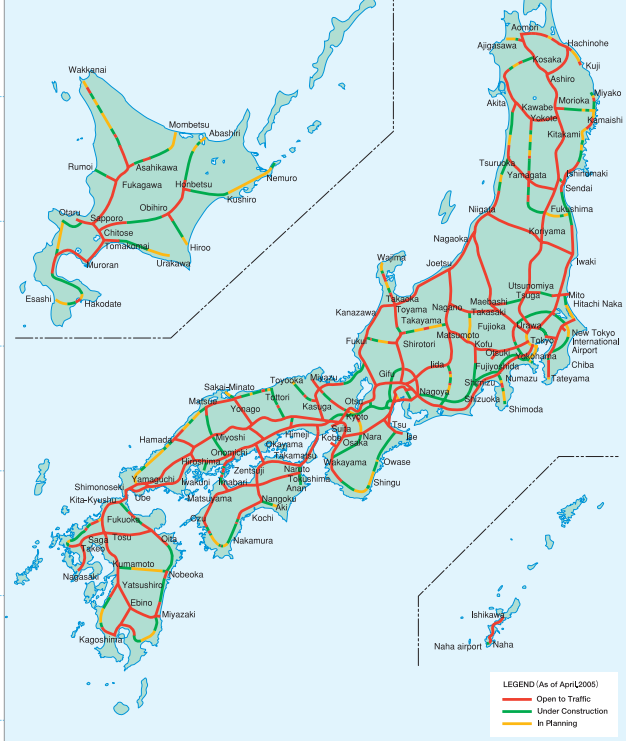
Condition of one of Japan's main roads in 1956

After the war, the number of automobiles owned in Japan increased by about 500 times over about 50 years.

### Changes in number of vehicles owned in Japan



### Arterial High-Standard Highway Network

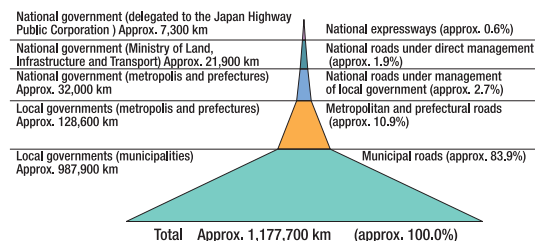


Of the 14,000-km high-standard highway network that was scheduled to be constructed in the early 21st century, completed sections total 8,700 km in length.

Road construction, maintenance and administration responsibilities are divided between the national and local governments according to the functions and role of the roads.

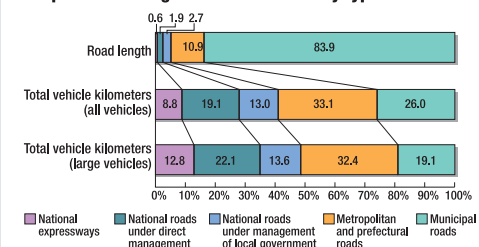
### Composition and roles of road

#### Configuration of roads



\* Data for national expressways are those available as of April 2004; data for others are as of April 1, 2002.

#### Composition of length and distribution by type of road



\* Road length data are those available as of April 1, 2002 (except for national expressways, whose data are available as of January 2004).  
\* Total vehicle kilometer data are based on the 1999 Road Traffic Census.