

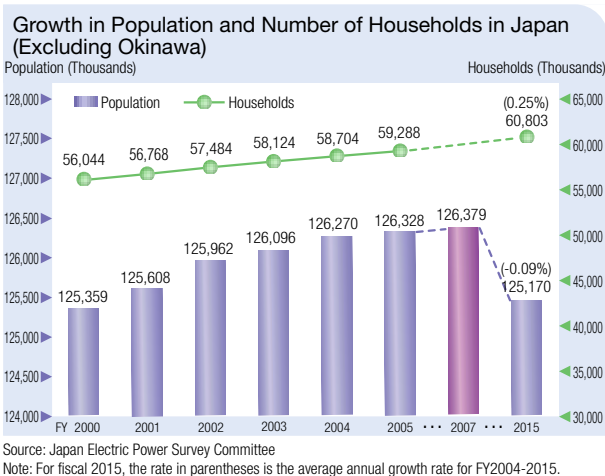
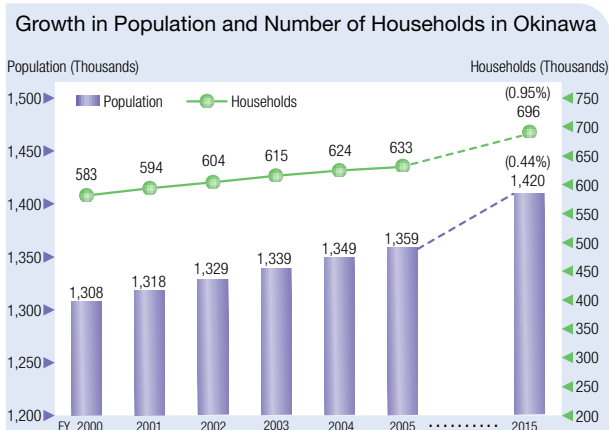
# Economic Overview of Okinawa Prefecture

## Population Growth

The rate of population growth in Okinawa is high compared with Japan as a whole. It is estimated that the average annual growth rate over the period from fiscal 2004 to fiscal 2015 will be 0.47% in Okinawa compared with minus 0.08% for the country as a whole.

Moreover, whereas the population of Japan is forecast to peak in fiscal 2007, that of Okinawa is expected to continue growing until fiscal 2026.

The number of households (residences) in the prefecture is also increasing more rapidly than in Japan as a whole, with the average annual growth rate for the period from fiscal 2004 to fiscal 2015 estimated at 1.00%, well above the national average of 0.32%.



## GDP

As a result of measures implemented under the government's Okinawa Promotion Plan, the GDP of the prefecture is forecast to grow at a faster pace than the GDP of the country as a whole. The average annual GDP

growth for Japan as a whole from fiscal 2003 to fiscal 2012 is projected at 1.6%, compared with 2.6% for Okinawa. In parallel, GDP growth in the prefecture on a per capita basis over the same period is also forecast to exceed the national average, at approximately 3.4% compared with around 2.0% for the whole of Japan.

### GDP Average Annual Growth Rate

	FY 2003	FY 2012	Avg. annual growth rate for 2003-2012
Okinawa	¥3,589,200 million	¥4,531,100 million	2.6%
Nationwide	¥513,177,200 million	¥590,021,600 million	1.6%

Source: Quantitative targets for economic and social development under the Okinawa Promotion and Development Plan, economic statistics for Okinawan residents in fiscal 2002; The Japan Electric Power Survey Committee

### Average Annual Growth Rate of Per Capita Income for Okinawa and Japan as a Whole

	FY 2003	FY 2012	Avg. annual growth rate for 2003-2012
Okinawa	¥2,030,000	¥2,740,000	3.4%
Nationwide	¥2,850,000	¥3,400,000	2.0%

Source: Quantitative targets for economic and social development under the Okinawa Promotion and Development Plan, economic statistics for Okinawan residents in fiscal 2002; The Japan Electric Power Survey Committee

## Tourist Arrivals

Okinawa Prefecture saw a record number of tourist arrivals in 2004, at 5.15 million. The prefecture hopes to continue making effective use of its tourism resources, most notably its pleasant climate, beautiful beaches and sparkling blue waters, as well as its famous historical heritage sites. The prefecture will also continue to develop the potential of its large number of year-round, long-stay resorts, and has set a target figure for tourist arrivals in 2012 of 6.5 million.

### Trends in Tourism in the Region

