

## 001 Tokyo, (Japan)

35,0 million inhabitants according to the UN's *Urban Agglomerations 2003*.

### 1. Territorial Levels, Population and Area

Name	Population	% of total	Area, km <sup>2</sup>	Density, people/km <sup>2</sup>
Tokyo	*8,340,000	6.56	621	13,333
Tokyo Metropolitan Government	**12,310,000	9.69	2,187	5,629
Greater Tokyo Area	**34,050,000	26.68	13,271	2,566
National Capital Region	**41,973,000	32.89	36,346	1,154
Japan	**127,619,000	100	377,835	337

\* Data provided by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government June 2004.

\*\* Estimate by Statistics Office of Government of Japan for October 2003.

## 2. Administrative Designation and Number of Municipalities

Name	Designation	Number of Municipalities
<b>Tokyo</b>	Central Tokyo, <i>Tokubetsuku</i> ,	23 Districts ( <i>ku</i> ): Adachi, Arakawa, Bunkyo, Chiyoda, Chuo, Edogawa, Itabashi, Katsushika, Kita, Koto, Meguro, Minato, Nakano Nerima, Ota, Setagaya, Shibuya, Shinagawa, Shinjuku, Suginami, Sumida, Toshima and Taito.
<b>Tokyo Metropolitan Government</b>	Metropolis of Tokyo, <i>Tokyo-to</i> ,	1 Prefecture: - Central Tokyo: 23 <i>ku</i> ( <i>Tokubetsuku</i> ), - Tama Area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 26 Cities (<i>Shi</i>), larger than 50.000 inhabitants</li> <li>• 5 Towns (<i>Cho</i>)</li> <li>• 8 Villages (<i>Son</i>)</li> </ul>
<b>Greater Tokyo</b>	<i>Greater Tokyo</i>	4 prefectures: Chiba, Kanagawa (Yokohama), Saitama and Tokyo-to
<b>National Capital Region</b>	<i>National Capital Region</i>	8 prefectures: Chiba, Kanagawa, Saitama, Tokyo-to, Yamanashi, Ibaraki, Tochigi and Gumma.
<b>Japan</b>	Japan, <i>Nihon-koku</i>	47 Prefectures, 677 Cities ( <i>-Shi</i> ), larger than 50.000 inhabitants, 1.961 Towns ( <i>-Cho</i> ), 552 Villages ( <i>-son</i> ).

## 3. Institutional framework and political powers

### Tokyo

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#### General Aspects

The Central Tokyo area, *Tokubetsuku*, is made up of 23 special districts called *ku*. The districts differ from those of other cities because they have granted various metropolitan powers to the Tokyo Metropolitan Government (TMG) but have greater managerial autonomy and are de facto municipalities. The *ku* administer most of the municipal services, especially those aimed directly at citizens. The 23 districts have formed a public-health coordination body and a waste management agency. Each district has a District Assembly or Board (*kugikai*) to define policies and a Mayor (*kuchō*) who executes the initiatives of the Assembly. In each district, the people vote directly for the Mayor and the members of the Assembly (numbers vary in accordance with the population but there is a maximum of 56 members per Assembly) for four-year terms of office.

### Tokyo Metropolitan Area

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#### General Aspects

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government (TMG) is part of the prefectural territorial level of Japan and has authority in the following areas: metropolitan urban planning (co-ordination of subordinate local organisations); the environment (waste management, environmental impact assessment, measures against pollution); management of its own social and healthcare services; supervision of private healthcare services; economic and tourist promotion; promotion and management of municipal public housing; management of port infrastructure; public health and universities and education (municipal public schools). It raises its own resources and manages briefs that in other prefectures are the authority of smaller local organisations (*shi* or *cho*).

#### Governor

The governor has metropolitan executive power. He is responsible for absolute control over metropolitan matters within the brief of the government. Directly elected by the public to serve a four-year term.

#### Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly

This is the maximum organisation of the TMG. Able to modify and revoke bylaws. Also approves TMG budgets presented by the Governor. It carries out inspection and investigation functions in the activities of the government and its administration and can even present a motion of censure against the Governor. The citizens in 42 multi-member electoral districts directly choose the 127 members of the Assembly for terms of office in line with the mandate of the Governor.

#### TMG Public Companies

##### Bureau of Transportation

Manages four subway city train lines, the bus and tram systems and the monorail.

## **Bureau of Waterworks**

Manages the water supply infrastructure.

## **Bureau of Sewerage**

Is responsible for the construction and maintenance of the sewerage system and infrastructure.

## **Greater Tokyo Area**

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No administration with political responsibilities specific to this territorial level was identified.

## **Region of the National Capital**

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No administration with political responsibilities specific to this territorial level was identified. The Japanese Government uses multi-year plans for organising the physical, infrastructural, urban, economic and environmental development of the region. The current plan covers the 1999-2015 period.

## **Japan**

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### **Cabinet**

The Cabinet is made up of the Prime Minister and the Ministers and is invested with executive power. It responds as a body to the Diet. Its main functions include the administration of State affairs, the signing of treaties and the preparation of budget bills. The Prime Minister is appointed by the Diet from among its members after the Diet has been established. In turn, the Prime Minister appoints and removes Ministers, although most should be a member of the Diet.

### **Diet (Bicameral Parliament)**

The legislative chamber is made up of the House of Representatives (*Shugi-in*) and the House of Councillors (*Sangi-in*). Its main function is to prepare laws. Both chambers should approve legislation, but the House of Representatives may cancel amendments from the House of Councillors with a two-thirds majority. The House of Representatives also takes priority in approving budgets and appointing the Prime Minister. The 480 members of the House of Representatives have four-year terms of office. 300 of the members are elected by a single-member district plurality system, while the remaining 180 are elected by proportional representation in 11 multi-member regional districts. The 247 members of the House of Councillors serve six-year terms. Half the positions are renewed every three years, 149 in multi-member electoral districts and the remaining 98 by a proportional system.

## 4. Relevant websites and online documents

Tokyo Metropolitan Government: <http://www.metro.tokyo.jp/ENGLISH/index.htm>

Japan Local Government Centre (CLAIR, Sidney Office) <http://www.jlcc.org.au>

Statistics Office of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication  
<http://www.stat.go.jp/english/index.htm>

Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication:

<http://www.soumu.go.jp/english/index.html>

Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport:

<http://www.mlit.go.jp/english/index.html>

Premier and Cabinet Official web site: <http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/index-e.html>

### Documentation:

*White Paper on Land, Infrastructure and Transport in Japan, 2003*  
(<http://www.mlit.go.jp/english/white-paper/mlit03.html>)

The 5th Comprehensive National Development Plan  
<http://www.mlit.go.jp/kokudokeikaku/zs5-e/index.html>