

Table 5.8
Number of Households and Persons Engaged in the Marine Fishery Industry

(Thousands)

Year	Households			Persons		
	Total	Self-employed	Hired	Total	Self-employed	Hired
1995	215	154	61	301	223	78
2000	190	138	53	260	194	66
2003	176	126	50	238	176	63
2004	171	124	47	231	172	59
2005	164	119	45	222	166	56

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

In 2005, the average income of households engaged in coastal fishing (including those engaged in coastal fishing using vessels smaller than 10 tons, small fixed net fishing and surface aquaculture) was 5.84 million yen (including income not related to fishing), down 3.9 percent from the previous year. Of this, the fishing-related income decreased by 0.7 percent from the previous year to 2.80 million yen, and the average income of fishing households was below the national average for five consecutive years.

Self-Sufficiency of Food

Japan's self-sufficiency rate for food (in terms of calories) dropped from 73 percent in fiscal 1965 to 40 percent in fiscal 2005. A major factor behind the substantial decline is that, under the constraint of limited national land, domestic production can no longer satisfy the people's needs given the major changes which have occurred in the Japanese people's eating habits.

In terms of items (on a weight basis), the self-sufficiency rate was 100 percent for rice, 14 percent for wheat, 7 percent for beans, 79 percent for vegetables, 41 percent for fruits, 54 percent for meat and 57 percent for seafood. Although completely self-sufficient in rice, the staple food of the Japanese people, Japan mostly depended on imports for wheat and beans.