

STATISTICAL TRENDS

TABLE XLIII

Inporcorated Denominations, Local Organizations,
Religious Workers, and Adherents
— 1959 and 1960 compared —

1960 figures above. 1959 in parenthesis

Religions	Denominations	Local Organizations	Religious Workers	Adherents
Buddhism	167 (167)	91 677 (91,498)	125 613 (126,928)	54,930,739 (50,977,815)
Christianity	39 (38)	6 154 (5,752)	13,864 (13,003)	669,225 (641,362)
Shinto	144 (144)	117,378 (116,594)	193,636 (195,031)	78,470,338 (78,155,275)
Others	30 (31)	4,955 (4 568)	14,068 (12 845)	4,332,886 (4,036,864)
Total	380 (380)	220,164 (218,412)	347,181 (347,807)	138,403,188 (133,811,316)

TABLE XLIV

Local Organizations
Shrines, Temples, Churches, Propaganda Centers
-- 1959 and 1960 compared --

1960 figures above. 1959 in parenthesis

Religions	Shrines	Temples	Churches	Propaganda Centers	Totals
Buddhism	4 (4)	75 086 (75,337)	4,687 (5,415)	11,900 (10,742)	91,677 (91,498)
Christianity	—	—	3,941 (3,937)	2,213 (1,815)	6,154 (5,752)
Shinto	81,133 (80,664)	2 (4)	24 529 (24,481)	11,714 (11,445)	117,378 (116,594)
Others	2 (6)	6 (5)	1,178 (1,111)	3,769 (3,446)	4,955 (4,568)
Total	81,139 (80,674)	75,094 (75,346)	34 335 (34,944)	29,596 (27,448)	220,164 (218,412)

STATISTICAL SURVEY

TABLE XLV

Religious Workers
— 1959 and 1960 compared —

1960 figures above, 1959 in parenthesis

	Men	Women	Total
Buddhism	106,005 (107,192)	19,608 (19,736)	125,613 (126,928)
Christianity	6,701 (6,379)	7,163 (6,624)	13,864 (13,003)
Shinto	108,620 (110,875)	85,016 (84,156)	193,636 (195,031)
Others	8,190 (7,776)	5,878 (5,069)	14,068 (12,845)
Total	229,516 (232,222)	117,665 (115,585)	347,181 (347,807)

TABLE XLVI

Local Organizations, Religious Workers, and Adherents
affiliated with Denominations Incorporated with
the Ministry of Education
— 1959 and 1960 compared —

1960 figures above, 1959 in parenthesis

	Denomination	Local Organizations	Religious Workers	Adherents
Buddhism	167 (167)	89,980 (89,897)	121,535 (122,157)	52,177,753 (47,275,922)
Christianity	39 (38)	5,747 (5,361)	12,370 (11,784)	620,175 (605,996)
Shinto	144 (144)	115,819 (115,327)	187,857 (189,925)	66,086,750 (65,846,662)
Others	30 (31)	5,747 (4,413)	10,915 (10,162)	3,877,977 (3,685,325)
Total	380 (380)	216,347 (214,998)	332,677 (334,028)	122,762,655 (117,413,905)

STATISTICAL TRENDS

TABLE XLVII

Independent Local Organizations
Religious Workers, and Adherents
Incorporated with Local Prefectures
— 1959 and 1960 compared —

1960 figures above. 1959 in parenthesis

	Independent Local Organizations	Religious Workers	Adherents
Buddhism	1,394 (1,265)	3,352 (3,623)	2,568,237 (3,547,194)
Christianity	400 (338)	1,451 (1,200)	29,965 (34,577)
Shinto	1,283 (1,113)	4,384 (4,155)	12,023,628 (12,016,764)
Others	141 (114)	3,092 (2,613)	422,443 (345,692)
Total	3,218 (2,860)	12,279 (11,591)	15,043,273 (15,944,227)

TABLE XLVIII

Local Organizations, Religious Workers, and Adherents
affiliated with Denominations not Incorporated with the Ministry
— 1959 and 1960 compared —

1960 figures above. 1959 in parenthesis

	Local Organizations	Religious Workers	Adherents
Buddhism	303 (336)	726 (1,148)	184,749 (154,699)
Christianity	7 (53)	43 (19)	19,085 (789)
Shinto	276 (154)	1,395 (951)	359,960 (291,849)
Others	13 (11)	61 (70)	32,466 (5,847)
Total	599 (554)	2,225 (2,188)	596,260 (453,184)

STATISTICAL TENDS

Comments on 1959—1960 statistics

1. *Overall* —Generally speaking there are relatively few changes in the overall statistics for most Japanese religious organizations from year to year. Moreover, such changes as are reported often reveal a fluctuation which raises questions as to whether the figures actually mean what they seem to indicate. In regard to Buddhism special care must always be exercised in order to discover whether the reported changes are due to a shift from counting households to individuals, or *visa versa*. The fact that there are a considerable number of Christian churches that function within the framework of foreign missions and are not incorporated means that the Christian statistics are always uniformly lower here than they would be if all were included.

2. *Denominations* — The number of *incorporated* denominations changes very little from year to year. In Table XLIII, for example, the changes are due entirely to a correction in the categories. Dō-kyō has been transferred from Unclassified Sects to Christianity where it apparently belonged all the time.

3. *Temples, Churches, and Propaganda Centers* — The total number of local organizations increased 1,752 during the year with Buddhism gaining 179, Christianity 402, Shinto 784 (including 461 shrines) and unclassified sects 387. However, the real increase was in propaganda centers which gained 2,148 against a loss of 252 in the number of temples and 509 in the number of churches. Shrines increased by 461.

4. *Religious Workers* — The total number of religious workers decreased by 626 but this was not evenly distributed.

STATISTICAL SURVEY

Buddhist workers decreased 1,315 and Shinto 1,395, but the number of Christian workers in the *incorporated* groups increased 861 and in the unclassified groups 1,223. It is noteworthy that the number of men workers (Table XLV) decreased 2,706 whereas women workers increased by 2,080. In Buddhism there was a decrease in both categories. In Christianity and the unclassified groups both increased. But in Shinto the number of men workers decreased while the number of women workers increased.

5. *Adherents* — The total reported increase in the number of adherents was apparently about 4,592,000 but as will be explained below under Buddhism, the actual gain was only about 900,000. Christian membership in the *incorporated* groups increased about 28,000, Shinto 315,000.

6. *Buddhism* — According to Table XLIII there was an increase of approximately 4.5 million in the number of adherents of all faiths, nearly 4 million of which was in Buddhism. However, there was in fact no such increase. The apparent increase was due to the fact that in 1959 the Jōdo Shin-shū Honganji Sect reported 2,015,872 *adherent-households*, while in 1960 a total of 6,047,616 *individual adherents* was reported. This added 3.9 million to the reported total but, of course, this did not mean an increase in the number of the sect's adherents. The reported total increase in Buddhist adherents was actually about 900,000 for all sects.

The following sects reported remarkable increases (the approximate gains are shown in parenthesis): Bussho Gonen-kai Kyōdan (70,000), Daie-kai Kyōdan (100,000), Fudō-shū (33,000), Honmon Butsuryū-shū (90,000), Kōyasan Shingon-shū (160,000),

STATISTICAL TRENDS

Nichiren Shō-shū (542,000) Nipponzan Myōhōji Daisanga (16,000), Reiyū-kai Kyōdan (100,000), Rinzai Engakuji-ha (68,000), Rinzai Sōkokuji-ha (30,000), Risshō Kōsei Kai (20,000), Shingon-shū Daikakuji-ha (25,000), Singon-shū Omuro-ha (24,000), and Sōtō-shū (40,000). Whether these represent actual gains in every case or simply a changed method of accounting can only be determined by a detailed study of each sect.

The sects reporting notable decreases were : Jōdo-shū Seizan Zenrinji-ha (130,000), Shin Bukkyō Kūkai-shū (216,000), Shingon-shū Daigo-ha (30,000), Shingon-shū Dainichi-ha (88,000), and Shinnyo'en (64,000). The net result of the above was that the total number of adherents for all Buddhist sects remained relatively unchanged.

While the number of temples and churches decreased 251 and 728 respectively, the number of propaganda centers increased 1,158 for a net gain of 179. The increases in such centers were most pronounced in Kōyasan Shingon-shū (622) and Kōdō Kyōdan (215).

7. *Christianity* — The net increase in *incorporated* churches was only four; but, as noted above, this did not include the churches related to missionary societies. In the thirty-nine incorporated bodies there was a reported increase of 402 local churches and preaching centers, 851 workers, ordained and unordained, and 23,000 members.

According to the 1962 Christian Year Book there are ninety Protestant denominational bodies in Japan. If to these are added unaffiliated and independent churches, there are 3,533 churches and 1,568 preaching centers or a total of 5,101 places that are served by 11,119 Japanese church workers. No figures

STATISTICAL SURVEY

are available for the total increase in the number of churches for the year, but for a two-year period (1959—1961) the increase was 530, according to the 1960 and 1962 Christian Year Books. The biennial increase in membership from 1959 to 1961 for Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox churches was approximately 49,000. The Catholic Church increased 24,335 and Protestant churches 27,490.

8. *Shinto* — The number of Shinto shrines increased 469, while Shinto churches and propaganda centers increased 48 and 269 respectively, making a net gain of 784. However, since Tenri-kyō churches increased 317 and its propaganda centers 339, or 656 in all, it is clear that there was net overall loss in the other sects. Konkō-kyō, it should be noted, reported only a very small increase.

Shinto workers decreased 1,395 but, here again, it must be noted that Tenri-kyō increased 2,669 so that the losses were that much heavier in the other Shinto groups. In the Shrine Shinto category the number of men priests decreased 46, while the number of women priests increased 35, making a net loss of only 9.

Shinto parishioners increased 315,000. However, it is not possible to break this down accurately between Shrine-related and sect-related worshippers. This will be possible in the future, because the 1962 Ministry of Education Year Book breaks down the total figure for the first time.

Tenri-kyō reports an increase of about 39,000, Shinto Tai-kyō reported a decrease of about 50,000.

9. *Unclassified* — The unclassified sects reported 67 more churches and 323 propaganda centers, but the House of Growth

STATISTICAL TRENDS

increased the number of its churches and propaganda centers by 131, and the PL Kyōdan by 136.

The total number of workers increased 1,113 with gains in the number of both men and women. The House of Growth gained 163 workers, World Messianity 174, PL Kyōdan 74, and the World Peace Society (Seikai Heiwa Kyōdan) 136.

Among the thirty unclassified sects noticeable gains were registered by the following: Ennō-kyō 13,000, PL Kyōdan 130,000, World Messianity 18,000 and Tenshō Kōtai Jingū-kyō 14,000.

STATISTICAL SURVEY

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STATISTICAL TRENDS

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