

Section 5

Information Flow

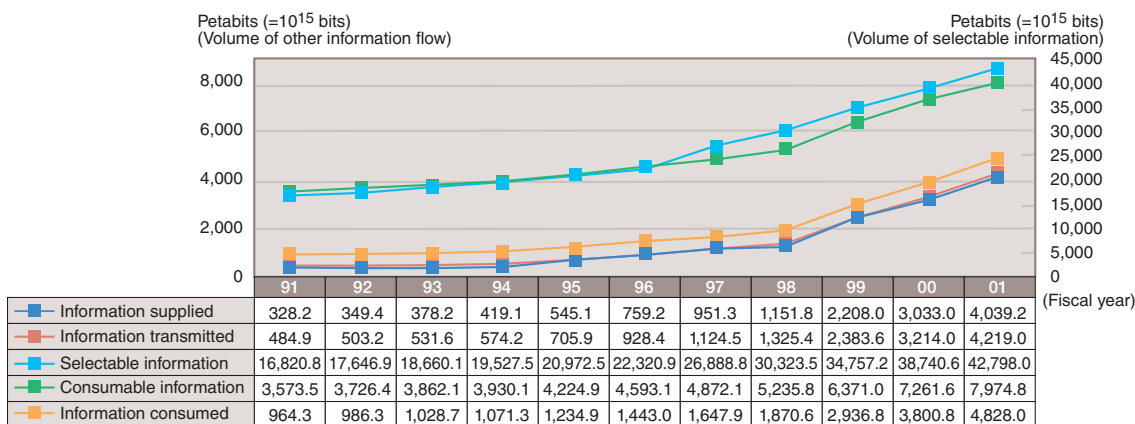
1. Information Flow in Japan

In order to comprehensively and quantitatively understand the volumes of diverse information flows that constitute the information environment, the MPHPT conducts “Census of Information Flow.” The average annual increase rates of information volumes in Japan over the past ten years (from fiscal 1991 to fiscal 2001) was 28.5% for information supplied, 24.2% for information transmitted, 9.8% for selectable information, 8.4% for consumable information, and 17.5% for information consumed. All types of information have consistently increased, and the growth has been particularly remarkable in recent years (Figure 2-9). This is because the volume of information flow in “dedicated service (data transmission)” has been increasing at an accelerating pace due to the development of IT and networks.

2. Regional Information Flows

A breakdown of the share of information transmitted in fiscal 2001 by prefecture shows that Tokyo Metropolis had the largest share with 16.1%, leading Osaka Prefecture that has the second largest share (6.6%) and others by a large margin. As in the category of selectable information, Tokyo Metropolis had the largest share in selectable information with 13.1%, once again leading second place Osaka Prefecture (9.0%) but with a slightly narrower margin than in the former category. In addition, in the category of information consumed the share of Tokyo Metropolis (10.8%) leads second place Osaka Prefecture (6.8%), with the gap between the two being similar to the margin observed in the category of selectable information. Meanwhile, the shares of information consumed indicate relatively smaller regional gaps compared to the cases of information transmitted and selectable information, with the shares of many prefectures distributed around the national average. All of the above suggest that even though the regional gap in information flow is large as far as the transmitting of information is concerned, such a regional gap is relatively narrow when it comes to the consumption of information.

Figure 2-9: Transitions in the Volume of Information Flow in Japan



* The figures show the various types of information converted into bits.

Source: “Census of Information Flow.”