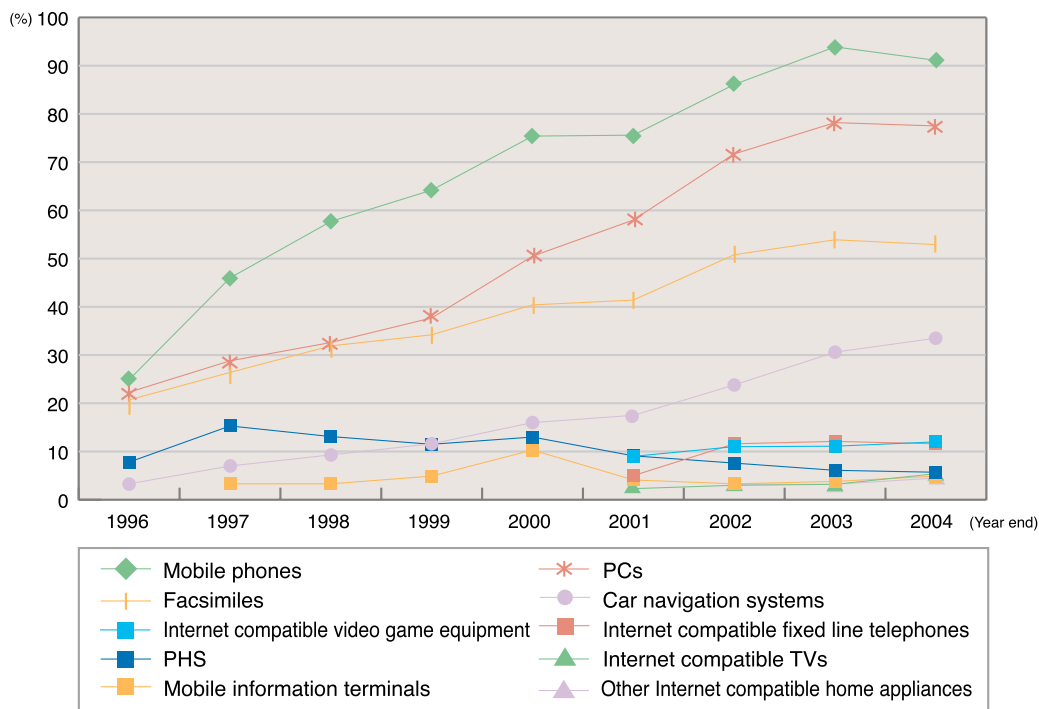


Figure 2-7-1 Transition in the household ownership of main information and communications equipment



Source: MIC, Communications Usage Trend Survey

Section 8

R&D

1 R&D in the information and communications field

In fiscal 2003, spending on science and technology research in Japan totaled 16.8042 trillion yen (a 0.8% increase over the previous fiscal year). Total industrial R&D came to 12.3227 trillion yen, and R&D spending by the information and communications industry accounted for 4.5565 trillion yen of this, or 37.0% of the total.

Research spending in the information and communications field by companies, non-profit organizations, public bodies, and universities in fiscal 2003 came to 2.4921 trillion yen.

2 Patents

Among the four priority fields (life science, information and communications, environment, and nanotechnology/materials) specified in the Science and Technology Basic Plan (approved by the Cabinet in March 2001), the number of patents registered was the largest for the information and communications field at 18,550 (a 4.8% increase over the previous year) in 2004.

The number of information and communications related patents registered in Japan between January and September 2004 totaled 13,271, which is 40.1% of the information and communications patents registered in the United States over the same period, and 2.3 times the number registered in Europe.