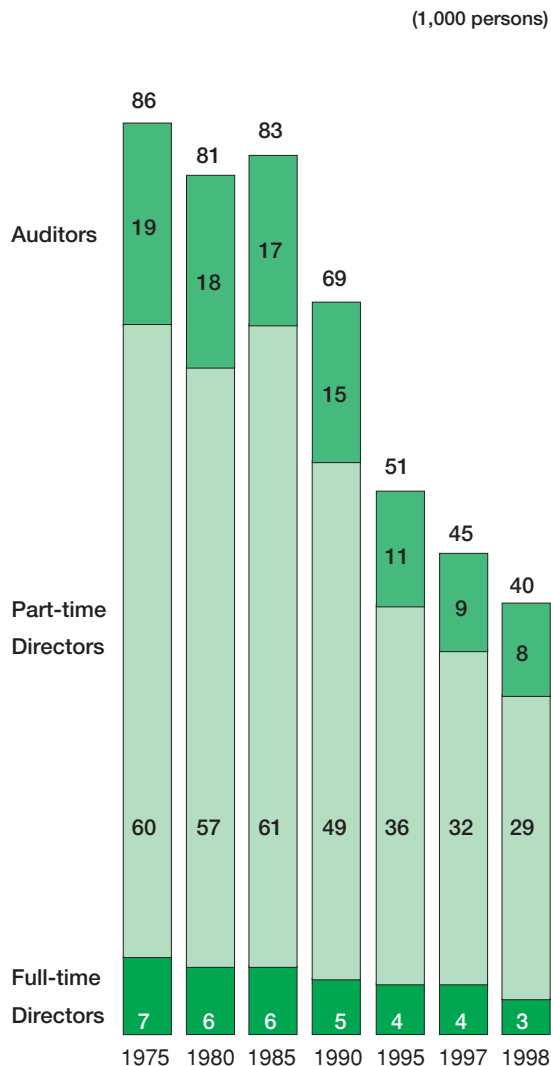


JA Employees and Officials Decreasing in Number

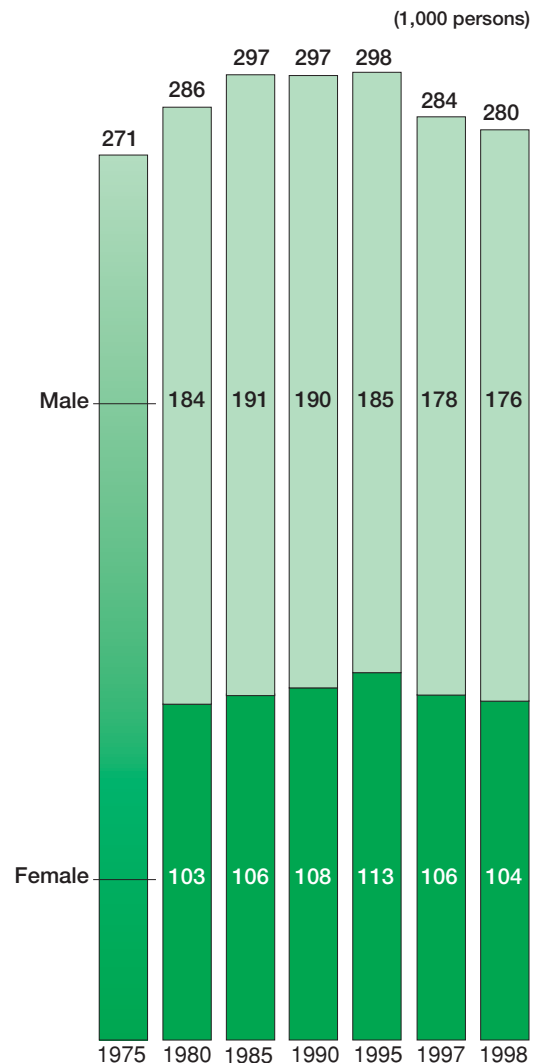
Officials of a JA, who are elected every three years, take responsibility of administrating the JA. The national total of those JA officials has been recently reduced due to JAs' amalgamations, which took place in a wide area covering districts of some municipalities. 50,000 JA officials as of the end of the fiscal year 1995 decreased to 26,000 at the end of the fiscal year 2000. These 26,000 officials are comprised of 2,570 full-time board members, including 990 JAs' presidents, and 930 executive directors who were elected from among staff members in most cases, 17,840 part-time directors, and 5,590 auditors. Female officials accounted 260, showing a slight increase over the past years. And the average number of officials per JA is 25.

The national total of JA employees was about 257,000 as of the end of the fiscal year 2002, which reduced by 40,000 over the previous six years. The figure included female employees of 95,000, sharing 37% of all the staff members of JAs in the country.

Number of JA Officials (National Total)



Number of JA Employees (National Total)



Note: Distinction was not made between male and female employees in the 1975 survey.