

Size of the Machine Tool Industry

According to Survey of Industrial Production, a study conducted by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), machine tools are classified in the general category. General machinery is a category that covers boilers and motors, earthmoving / construction equipment, office equipment, refrigerating equipment, and semiconductor fabricating equipment, etc. In the machine tool industry, METI's study covered business facilities with 50 or more employees.

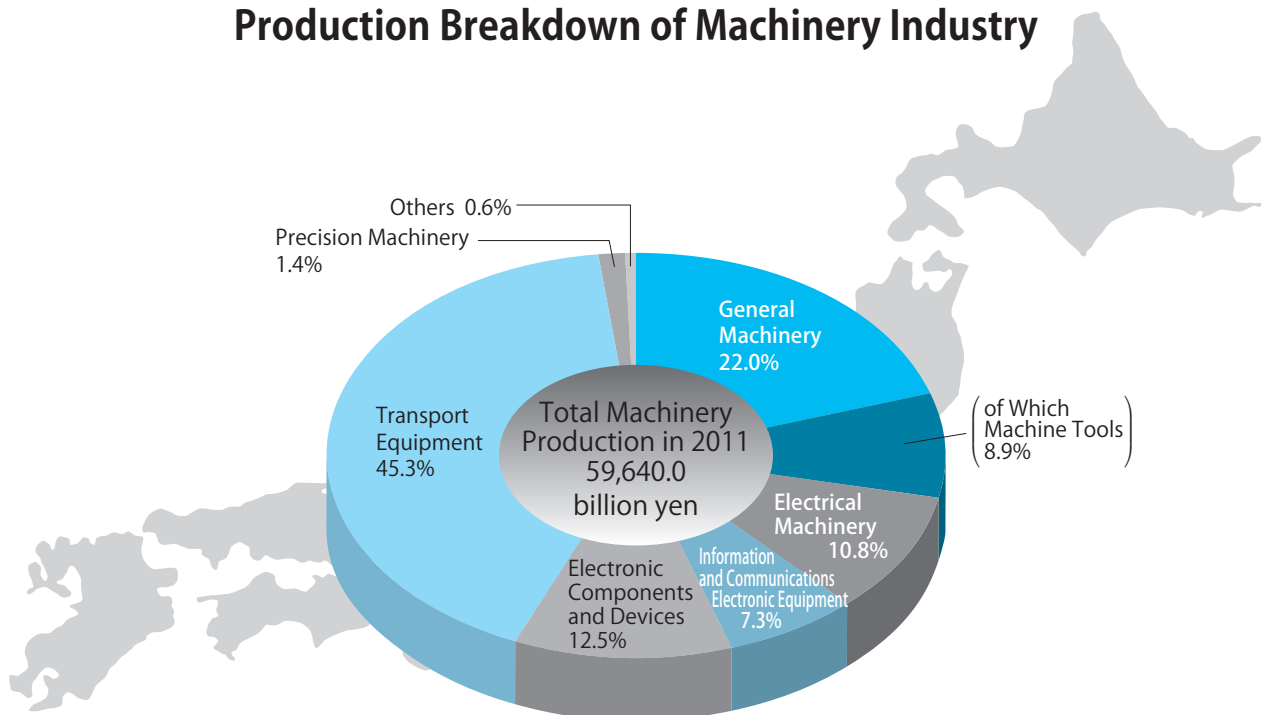
Looking at the industry in terms of the value production, the total 2011 value of production of machine tools amounted to ¥1,172.9 billion. This accounted for about 9% of the value of production of the general machinery industry, which amounted to 13,146.9 billion, and only about 2.0% of the value of production of the entire machinery industry, which amounted to ¥59,646.0 billion.

However, superior machine tools are the crucial factor in manufacturing a wide range of machinery. This is why machine tools are viewed within all sectors of the machinery industry as having a critical presence far greater than their share alone would indicate.

The total value of production of machine tools in 2011 increased 41% from the level of the previous year, and reached to close the performance of 2008 which was the peak. Compared from year 2009 the production fell sharply, they increased about 2.4 times.

Looking at the machine tool industry in terms of employment, the number of employees has been decreasing since its peak in 1992 at 37,975. After bottoming out in 2003 at 22,130 employees, the number began to rise gradually. But ever since the world economic crisis in autumn 2008, the industry has been forced to review its production systems. Each company emphasizes the training of new personnel and the transmission of outstanding skills and technologies from senior to younger employees. Accordingly, the companies make great efforts to sustain employment. As a result, number of employees in 2011 increased 7% from the level of the previous year, thus showing modest growth amounted to 24,943 workers employed.

Production Breakdown of Machinery Industry



Source: METI