



January 18, 2007
The Japan Gas Association

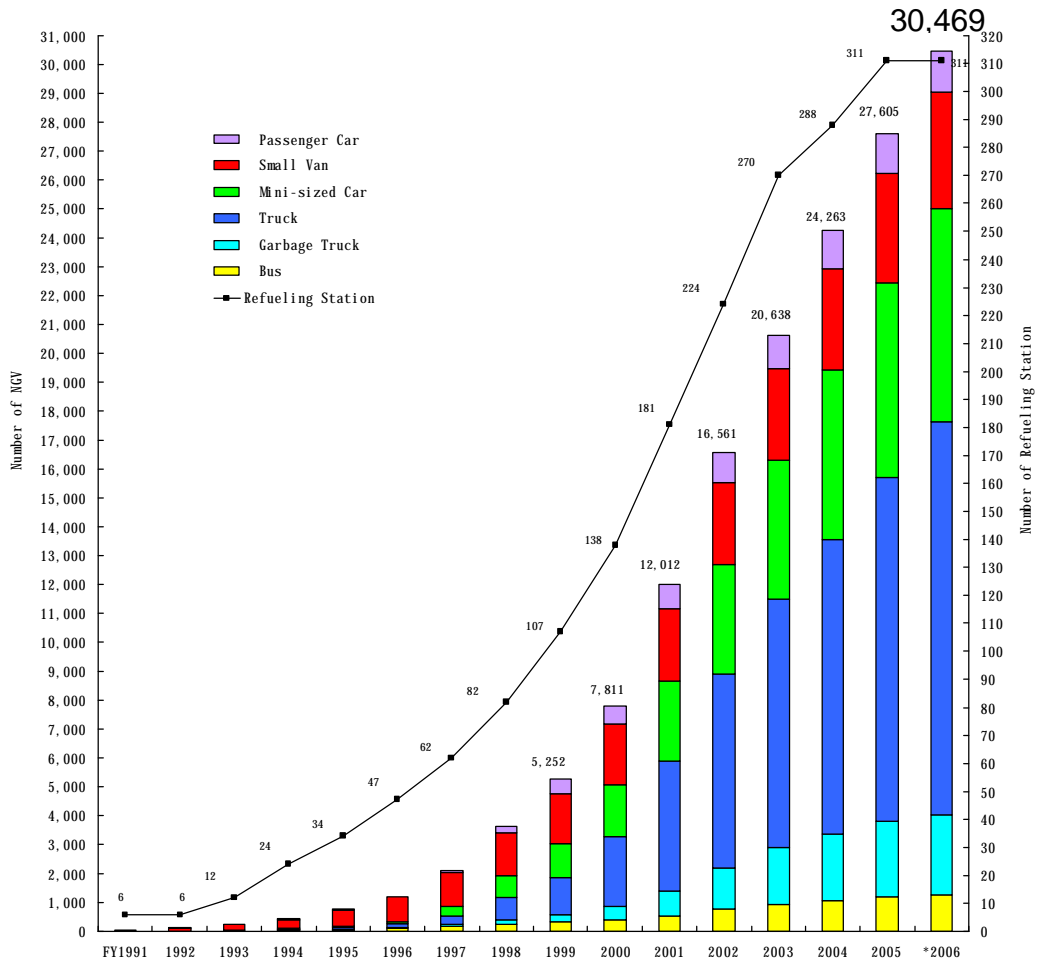
The number of Natural Gas Vehicles used in Japan broke the 30,000 mark.

The Japan Gas Association is supporting the diffusion of environment-friendly natural gas vehicles. In Japan, natural gas vehicles started to penetrate the market in the second half of the 1980s. Since then, the number of natural gas vehicles in Japan has increased steadily, reaching 10,000 by the end of November 2001 and 20,000 by the end of March 2004. By the end of December 2006, the number of natural gas vehicles in Japan exceeded 30,000.

Natural gas vehicles have clean emissions and low environmental impact. They are characterized by no emission at all of black smoke, very little emission of hazardous substances like NO_x, and 10–20% lower CO₂ emissions compared with other fossil fuels.

The city gas industry, in cooperation with automobile manufacturers and container manufacturers, is striving to develop technologies for and bringing down the cost of natural gas vehicles, and is also actively conducting publicity to promote the spread of natural gas refueling stations and natural gas vehicles. These efforts have resulted in high awareness of the environmental compatibility and economic advantages of natural gas vehicles and the accelerated use of natural gas vehicles by customers who are highly conscious of environmental issues. Various types of natural gas vehicles are penetrating the market; of the total number of natural gas vehicles in Japan, 40% are trucks (mainly 2- to 4-ton class); 30% are vehicles like garbage trucks, buses and small vans; and the remaining 30% are mini-size vehicles and passenger cars.

Diffusion of NGV and Refueling Station (as of the end of December 2006)



	1991 (FY)	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	*2006
NGV																
Passenger Car	5	8	12	12	10	25	48	231	476	630	849	1,043	1,173	1,317	1,385	1,421
Small Van	39	103	195	318	566	836	1,182	1,475	1,746	2,126	2,500	2,819	3,174	3,505	3,796	4,051
Mini-sized Car	2	6	11	23	42	95	324	756	1,153	1,783	2,774	3,799	4,776	5,859	6,712	7,355
Truck	3	3	14	42	81	123	303	788	1,308	2,406	4,488	6,697	8,627	10,217	11,924	13,594
Garbage Truck	0	2	8	13	21	46	83	151	237	456	872	1,433	1,951	2,283	2,583	2,780
Bus	0	1	3	13	39	86	153	239	332	410	529	770	937	1,082	1,205	1,268
NGV Total	49	123	243	421	759	1,211	2,093	3,640	5,252	7,811	12,012	16,561	20,638	24,263	27,605	30,469
Refueling Station	6	6	12	24	34	47	62	82	107	138	181	224	270	288	311	311

*as of the end of December 2006