

The number of shaku varies by region, but in practice in Tokyo, the standard height of the opening for modern style doors is 1 830 mm. (See Chapter 7 for more details on standard sizes.)

Market Scale

Housing Starts and Renovation

As shown in Table 1, new housing starts in 1982 were 1.15 million. This figure remained fairly constant until 1987 when, boosted by government policy, housing starts reached 1.67 million units, and rose again slightly to 1.68 million units in 1988.

Table 1
New Housing Starts in Japan
1982 - 1988
('000 units)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Wooden Houses</u>
1982	1146	667
1983	1136	591
1984	1187	594
1985	1236	592
1986	1365	634
1987	1674	742
1988	1685	697

Source: Ministry of Construction.

In 1987, the Japanese government decided to change the economy from an export-orientated to a domestic-oriented structure, to reduce trade friction with the U.S. and other main export partners.

More than 60 per cent of total housing starts are highrise residential buildings and the rest are wooden houses, mostly wooden detached units. These may, however, be either single or multi-family units.

In highrise residential buildings, the use of wooden entrance doors and windows is prohibited due to strict enforcement of fire regulations and building codes. The materials for doors and windows are thus limited to aluminum and steel.