

# Part I

## Immigration Control and Residency Management in Recent Years

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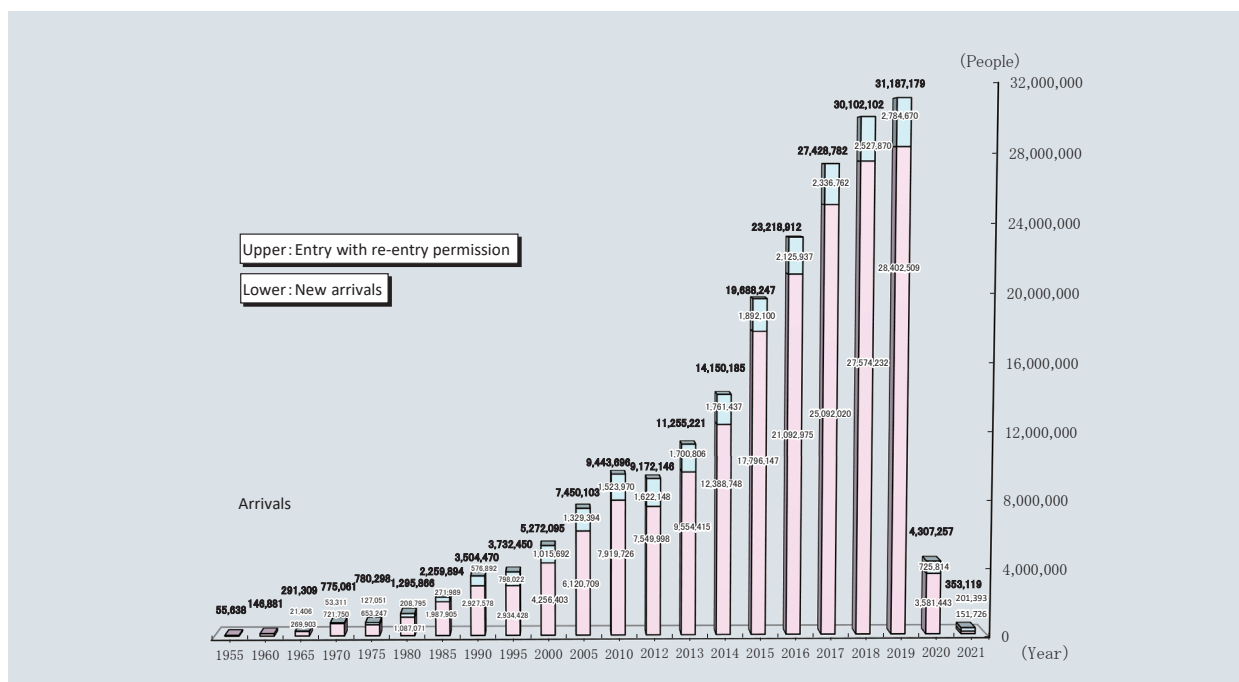
**Chapter 1****Foreign Nationals Entering and Departing from Japan****Section 1****Changes in the Number of Foreign Nationals Entering and Departing from Japan****1 Foreign Nationals Entering Japan****(1) Number of Foreign Nationals Entering Japan**

The number of foreign nationals entering Japan was only about 18,000 in 1950 when the statistics relating to immigration control first began to be recorded. As a result of the enforcement of the “Peace Treaty with Japan” (Treaty No. 5 of 1952) on April 28, 1952, Japan recovered complete sovereignty and acquired the authority to decide whether or not to grant permission for entry based on the Immigration Control Order. The number of foreign nationals entering Japan has experienced an almost consistent upward trend partly as a result of cheaper and more convenient flights, which is achieved through improvements in international transportation such as through the use of larger jumbo jets, exceeding 1 million in 1978, 2 million in 1984, 3 million in 1990, 4 million in 1996, 5 million in 2000, 10 million in 2013, 20 million in 2016 and 30 million in 2018. The number in 2021 significantly decreased for the second year in a row, which was 353,119 persons, a drastic decrease of 3,954,138 (91.8%) compared to the number of 4,307,257 of previous year.

Of the 353,119 foreign nationals entering Japan in 2021, the number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan was 151,726, which was a decrease of 3,429,717 (95.8%) compared to 3,581,443 in the previous year, while the number of foreign nationals re-entering Japan was 201,393, which was a decrease of 524,421 (72.3%) compared to 725,814 in the previous year.

This is thought to have happened because the COVID-19 pandemic forced measures including stricter quarantines, as well as immigration restrictions such as visa restrictions, entry restrictions such as denial of landing, and overseas travel restrictions. These measures caused a significant decrease in international traffic, leading to a drastic decrease in the total number of foreign nationals entering Japan ([Reference 1](#)).

## Reference 1 Changes in the number of foreign nationals entering Japan



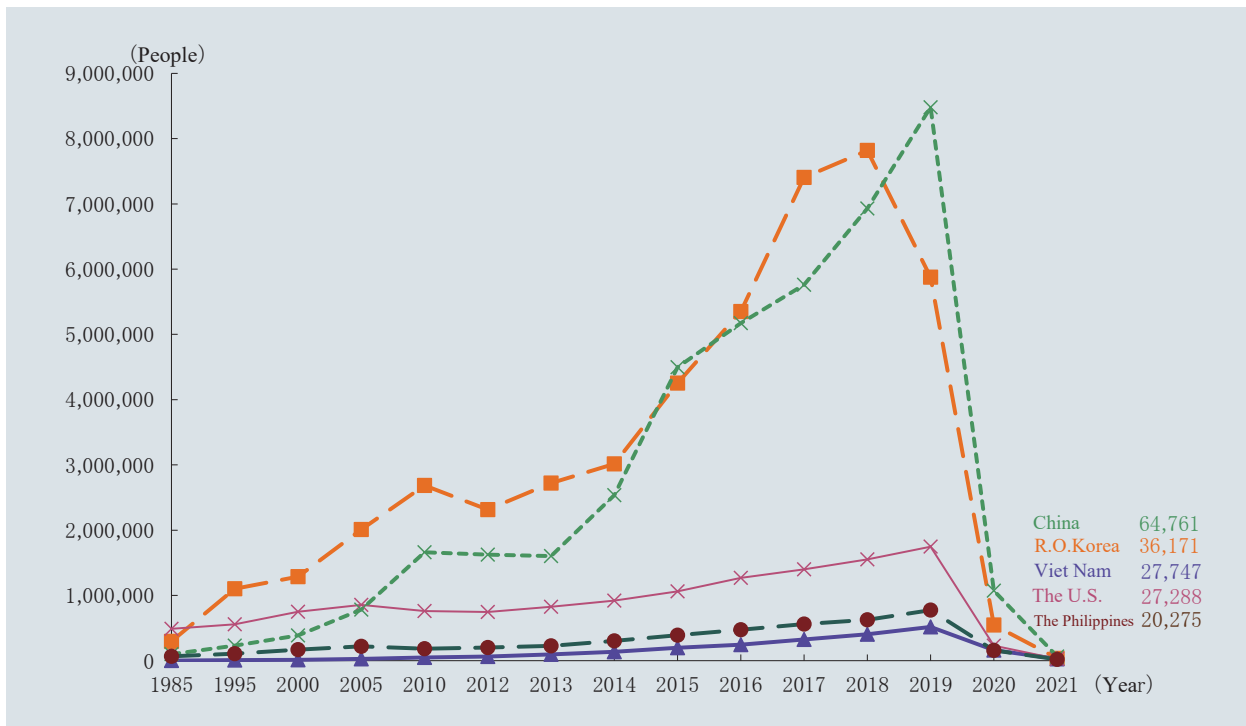
(\*) There are no separate categories for arrivals for 1955 and 1960.

## (2) Number of Foreign Nationals Entering Japan by Nationality/Region

According to the statistics for the number of foreign nationals entering Japan in 2021 by nationality/region, the largest number of foreign nationals came from China at 64,761, accounting for 18.3% of the total. China was followed by the Republic of Korea (R.O.Korea) at 36,171 (10.2%), Viet Nam at 27,747 (7.9%), the U.S at 27,288 (7.7%) and the Philippines at 20,275 (5.7%). These top five countries accounted for 49.9% of the total (Reference 2)\*.

(\*) In immigration-related statistics, mainland China and Taiwan are described as “China” and “Taiwan”, respectively. With respect to Hong Kong, persons of Chinese nationality having a SAR (Special Administrative Region) passport (including persons of Chinese nationality with a certificate of identity within the period of validity issued by the former Hong Kong Government) are described as “China (Hong Kong)”, and persons with the right of residence in Hong Kong having a BNO (British National Overseas) passport (British passport issued only to residents in Hong Kong) (including persons who have a British (Hong Kong) passport issued by the former Hong Kong Government and entered within its period of validity (by June 30, 1997), are described as “U.K. (Hong Kong)”. BNO passports are restricted in respect of renewal, and are in gradual transition to SAR passports. On the other hand, in the statistics relating to foreign residents, the category “China” in the number of alien registrations by 2011 includes Taiwan, but in the figures from 2012, “China” in the number of foreign residents (the total number of mid to long-term residents (see Data Section 1, Section 4, Subsection 1) as well as special permanent residents) includes “Taiwan” except for those having been issued with a residence card or a special permanent resident certificate with “Taiwan” listed in the “nationality/region” box. In addition, BNO passport holders are included in the “U.K.” Moreover, China (others) includes persons of Chinese nationality with a certificate of identity issued by a government except for the government of China and China (Hong Kong) (for example, Macao, etc.).

## Reference 2 Changes in the number of foreign nationals entering Japan by major nationality/region

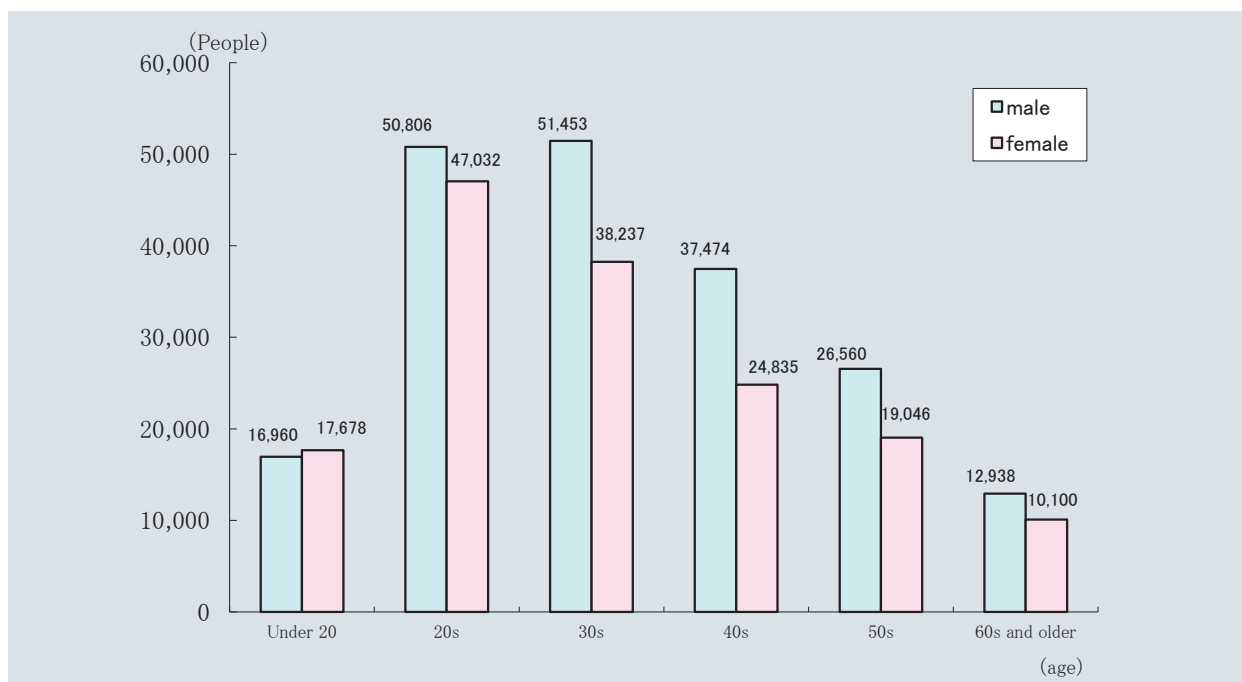


Regarding the top five countries/regions, a comparison of the numbers of foreign nationals entering Japan between 2021 and the previous year shows that all of the countries/regions decreased: China by 1,009,560 (94.0%), R.O.Korea by 509,484 (93.4%), Viet Nam by 132,079 (82.6%), the U.S. by 202,780 (88.1%), and the Philippines by 137,952 (87.2%).

### (3) Number of Foreign Nationals Entering Japan by Gender and Age

Looking at the number of foreign nationals entering in Japan in 2021 by gender, 196,191 were males and 156,928 were females. Males accounted for 55.6% of the total while females accounted for 44.4%, and therefore, more foreign males came to Japan than females in 2021.

Next, according to the statistics by age, foreign nationals in their 20s represented the largest age group, accounting for 27.7% of the total. Moreover, looking at the numbers for males and females in each of the age groups, one particular characteristic is that the percentage of women was higher for those under 20 years old, but the percentage of men was higher for all other age groups ([Reference 3](#)).

**Reference 3** Number of foreign nationals entering Japan by gender and age (2021)**(4) Number of Foreign Nationals Entering Japan by Purpose of Entry (Status of Residence)**

The number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan in 2021 was 151,726. Looking at this reference by purpose of entry (status of residence), the most common status of residence was “Temporary Visitor” standing at 71,771, which accounted for 47.3% of the total number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan, followed by “Technical Intern Training (i)-(b)” at 21,899, accounting for 14.4%, “Student” at 11,651, accounting for 7.7%, and “Dependent” at 11,313, accounting for 7.5% ([Reference 4](#)).

**Reference 4** Changes in the number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan by status of residence

(People)

Status of Residence \ Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	25,092,020	27,574,232	28,402,509	3,581,443	151,726
Diplomat	9,092	9,072	12,206	2,120	2,109
Official	29,684	33,217	42,934	3,708	1,973
Professor	3,166	3,194	3,185	992	921
Artist	394	435	474	117	13
Religious Activities	924	872	949	329	45
Journalist	88	43	69	29	19
Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(a)	16	26	37	26	16
Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(b)	250	432	624	354	74
Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(c)	36	73	118	76	18
Business Manager	1,660	1,790	2,237	1,537	474
Legal/Accounting Services	2	4	5	2	1
Medical Services	63	55	58	38	19
Researcher	380	368	364	155	89
Instructor	2,992	3,432	3,463	1,280	2,757
Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/ International Services	25,063	34,182	43,880	19,705	2,532
Intra-company Transferee	8,665	9,478	9,964	3,188	497
Nursing Care	1	1	4	23	3
Entertainer	39,929	42,703	45,486	7,218	1,570
Skilled Labor	3,692	3,551	4,355	1,729	388
Specified Skilled Worker (i)			563	3,760	1,093
Specified Skilled Worker (ii)			0	0	0
Technical Intern Training (i)-(a)	7,492	6,222	6,300	1,652	218
Technical Intern Training (i)-(b)	120,179	137,973	167,405	74,804	21,899
Technical Intern Training (ii)-(a)	0	12	8	2	0
Technical Intern Training (ii)-(b)	9	242	183	116	23
Technical Intern Training (iii)-(a)	0	64	226	63	3
Technical Intern Training (iii)-(b)	8	5,648	14,750	7,189	1,280
Cultural Activities	3,377	3,539	3,793	815	202
Temporary Visitor	24,617,024	27,054,549	27,810,548	3,360,831	71,771
Student	123,232	124,269	121,637	49,748	11,651
Trainee	16,393	13,389	12,985	2,392	179
Dependent	27,288	27,952	31,788	17,056	11,313
Designated Activities	22,444	27,752	31,712	7,381	3,508
Permanent Resident				166	1,861
Spouse or Child of Japanese National	9,998	10,466	10,694	6,306	7,356
Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident	2,170	2,081	1,990	1,151	1,174
Long-Term Resident	16,309	17,146	17,515	5,385	4,677

(\*1) The status of residence of "Specified Skilled Worker (i) and (ii)" was newly established on April 1, 2019.

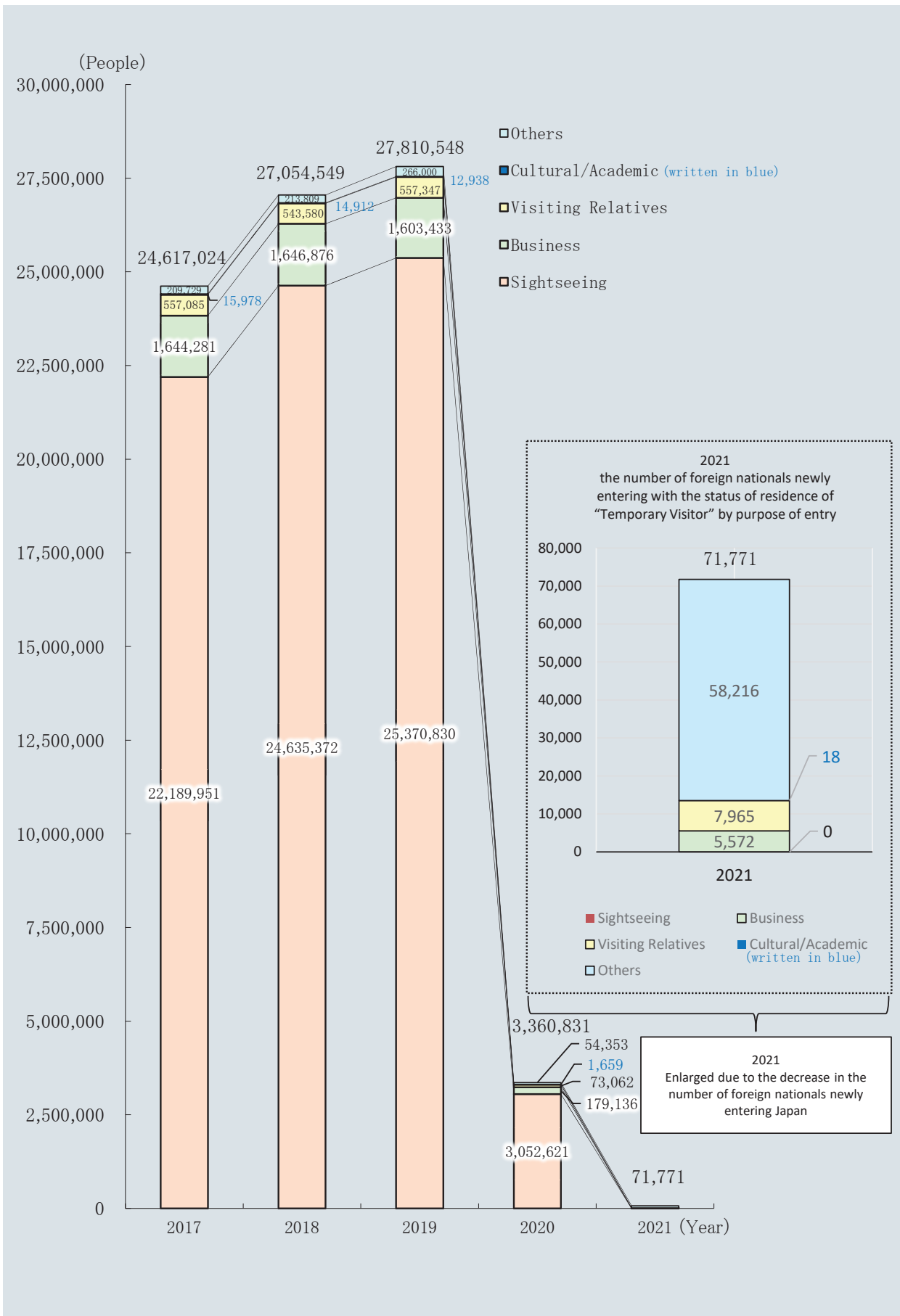
(\*2) In 2020, foreign nationals who were granted the residence status of "permanent resident", as support for permanent residents who had difficulty re-entering Japan within the valid period for a re-entry permit or special re-entry permit, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### A. “Temporary Visitor”

Regarding the number of new entrants to Japan according to the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor” in 2021, by purpose of entry, visiting relatives was 7,965 (11.1%), business was 5,572 (7.8%), cultural/academic was 18 (0.0%). Also, due to the entry of athletes and officials of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games held in July 2021, the number of foreigners with other purposes of entry has increased to 58,216, accounting for 81.1% of the total of new entrants to Japan with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor” ([Reference 5](#)).

Due to countermeasures at the port of entry related to preventing the spread of COVID-19, the number of new entrants to Japan for sightseeing purposes is zero.

**Reference 5** Changes in the number of foreign nationals newly entering with the status of residence of "Temporary Visitor" by purpose of entry

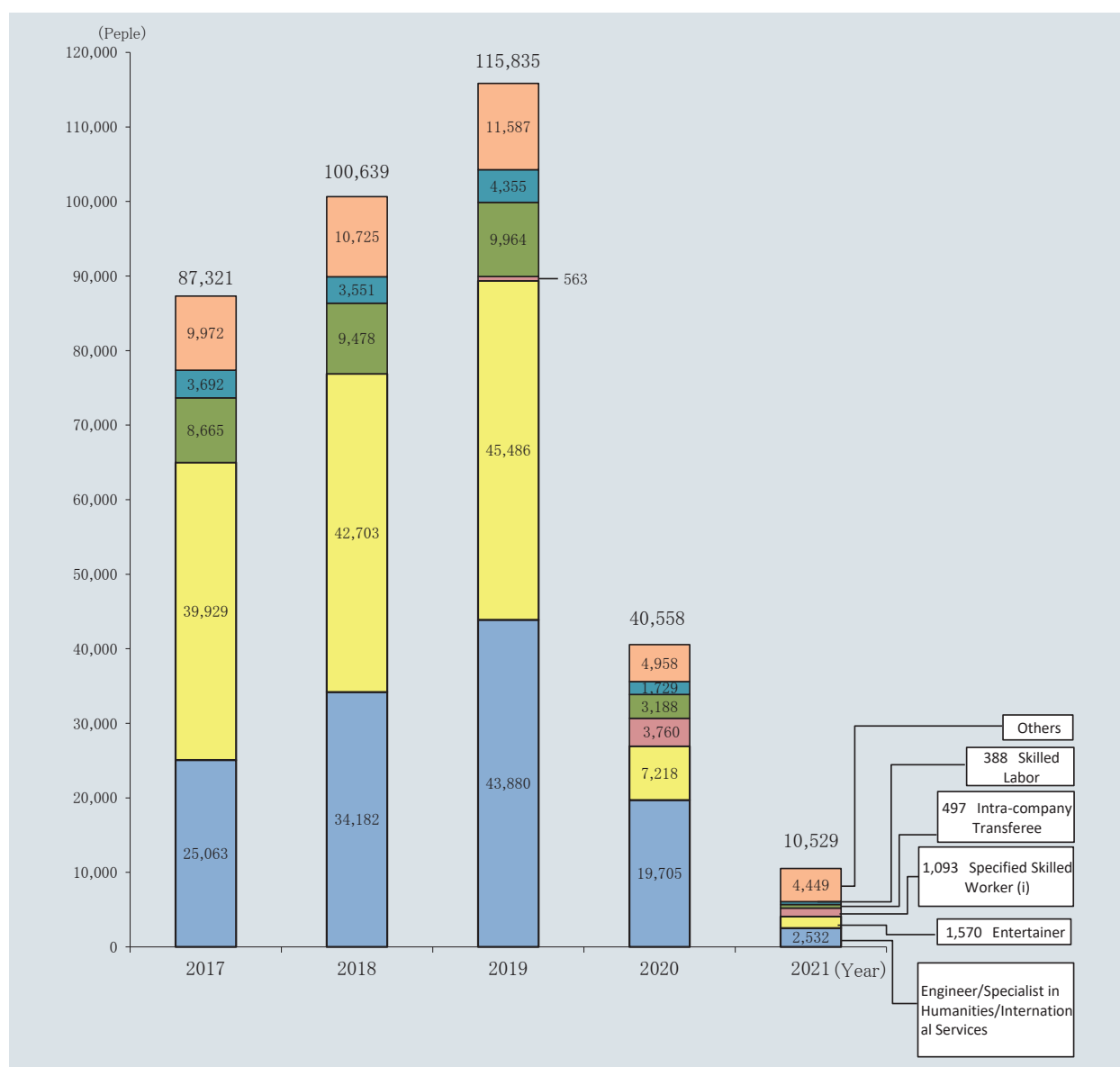




## B. Foreign Nationals Entering Japan for the Purpose of Employment in Professional or Technical Fields

The number of newly entering foreign nationals with a status of residence for employment in professional or technical fields (excluding the statuses of residence of “Diplomat”, “Official” and “Technical Intern Training” in the Appended Tables I (1) and I (2) of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act (hereinafter referred to as “Immigration Control Act”)) in 2021 was 10,529, a decrease of 30,029 (74.0%) compared to the previous year ([Reference 6](#)).

### Reference 6 Changes in the number of foreign nationals newly entering by status of residence for employment in professional or technical fields



(\*) Excludes the statuses of residence of “Diplomat”, “Official”, and “Technical Intern Training” of the Appended Table I (1) and I (2) of the “Immigration Control Act”.

The number of newly entering foreign nationals with a status of residence for employment in professional or technical fields in Japan accounted for 6.9% of the total number of newly entering foreign nationals in 2021.

The characteristic categories of foreign nationals entering Japan for the purpose of employment are as follows.

**(a) “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services” and “Intra-company Transferee” (Data Section 4, Statistics (1) 3-1, 4-1)**

The total number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan with a status of residence corresponding to foreign employees working in companies/organizations in Japan was 3,029 in 2021, consisting of two types of statuses of residence: 2,532 with the status of residence of “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services”, and 497 with the status of residence of “Intra-company Transferee”. Foreign employees with the status of residence of “Engineer/ “Specialist in Humanities/International Services” had decreased by 17,173 (87.2%), and those with the status of “Intra-company Transferee” decreased by 2,691 (84.4%) compared to the previous year.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services” came from Viet Nam at 628 (24.8%), followed by China at 532 (21.0%), R.O. Korea at 242 (9.6%), and the U.S. at 207 (8.2%). Those top four countries accounted for 63.5% of the total number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services”.

Further, with regard to newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Intra-company Transferee”, the statistics by nationality/region show that the largest number came from China at 98 (19.7%), followed by Thailand at 70 (14.1%), Sri Lanka at 49 (9.9%), Viet Nam at 43 (8.7%), and R.O.Korea at 43 (8.7%).

**(b) “Entertainer” (Data Section 4, Statistics (1) 5-1)**

The number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Entertainer” in 2021 was 1,570, decreasing by 5,648 (78.2%) from the previous year.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of foreign nationals newly entering with the status of residence of “Entertainer” in 2021 came from the U.S. at 241 (15.4%) followed by Russia at 117 (7.5%), R.O. Korea at 115 (7.3%), and France at 113 (7.2%).

**(c) “Skilled Labor” (Data Section 4, Statistics (1) 6-1)**

The number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Skilled Labor”, which is granted to workers and the like who are skilled in industrial fields unique to foreign countries, in 2021 was 388, a decrease of 1,341 (77.6%) from the previous year.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Skilled Labor” in 2021 came from China at 147 (37.9%), followed by Nepal at 111 (28.6%), India at 40 (10.3%), and New Zealand at 16 (4.1%). These top four countries accounted for 80.9% of the total number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Skilled Labor”.

**(d) “Specified Skilled Worker (i)” (Data Section 4, Statistics (1)7-1)**

The number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Specified Skilled Worker (i)” in 2021, which was established on April 1, 2019, was 1,093, a decrease of 2,667 (70.9%) compared to the previous year.

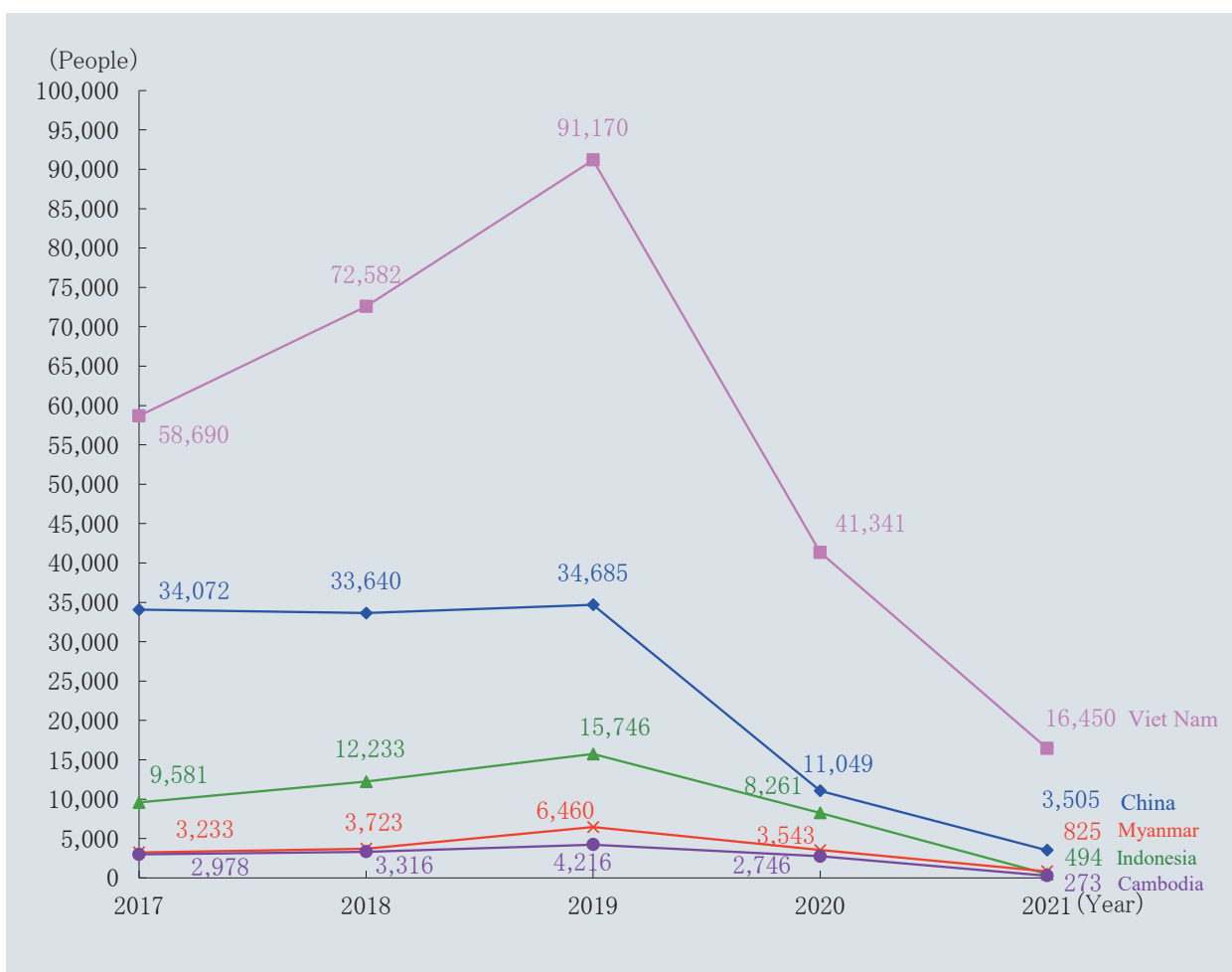
According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Specified Skilled Worker (i)” came from Viet Nam at 765 (70.0%), followed by China at 157 (14.4%), Indonesia at 56 (5.1%) and Myanmar at 42 (3.8%). These top four countries accounted for 93.3% of the total number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Specified Skilled Worker (i)”.

**C. “Technical Intern Training (i)” (Data Section 4, Statistics (1) 8-1)**

The number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Technical Intern Training (i)” was 22,117 in 2021, a decrease of 54,339 (71.1%) compared to the previous year.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Technical Intern Training (i)” came from Viet Nam at 16,450 (74.4%), followed by China at 3,505 (15.8%), Myanmar at 825 (3.7%), Indonesia at 494 (2.2%) and Cambodia at 273 (1.2%) ([Reference 7](#)).

**Reference 7** Changes in the number of foreign nationals newly entering with the status of residence of “Technical Intern Training (i)” by major nationality/region

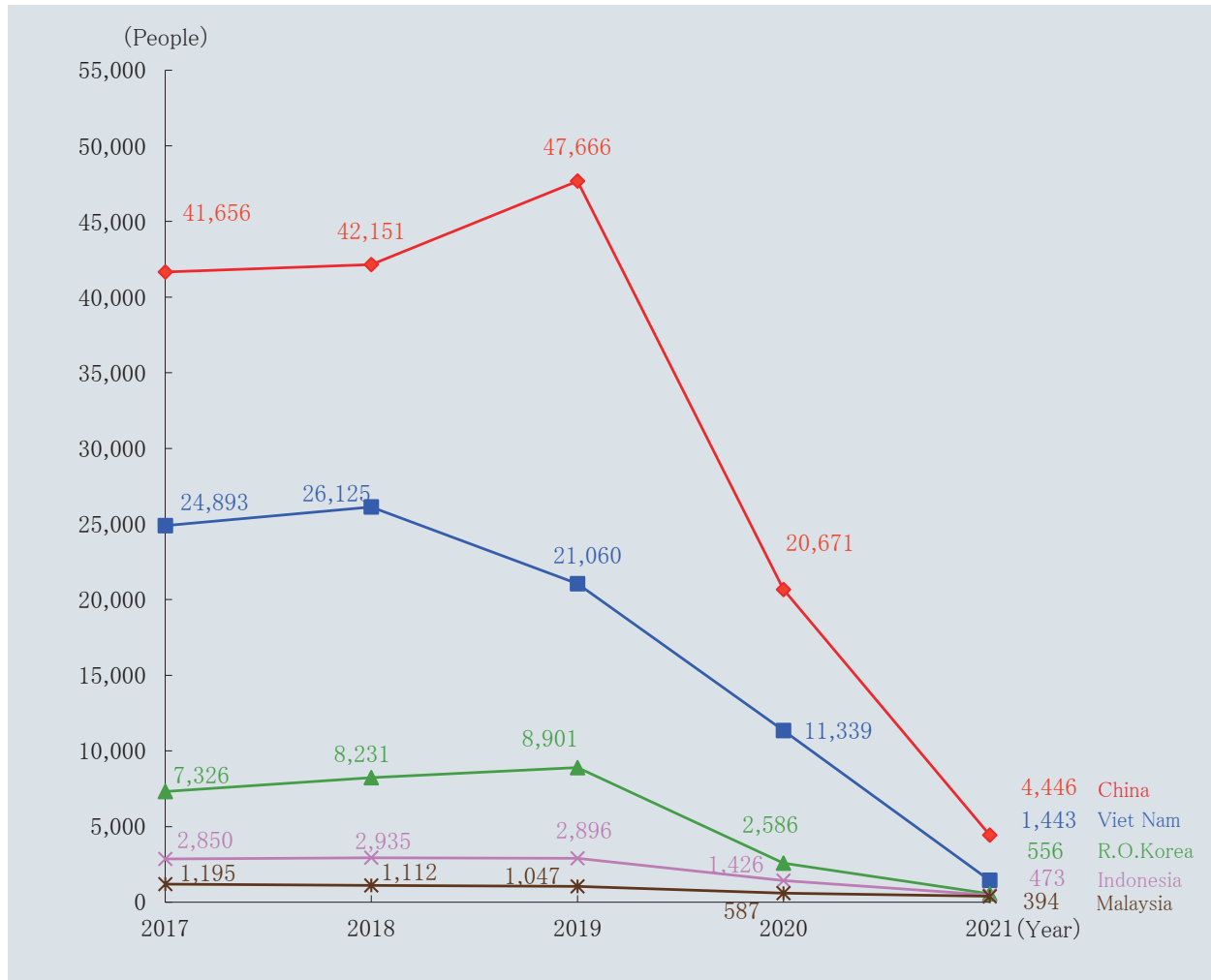


#### D. “Student” (Data Section 4, Statistics (1) 11-1)

The number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan with the status of residence of “Student” in 2021 was 11,651, a decrease of 38,097 (76.6%) when compared to the previous year, with students from Asia accounting for the top five countries/regions (62.8%).

In terms of nationality/region, China stood at 4,446, accounting for 38.2% of the total, followed by Viet Nam at 1,443 (12.4%), R.O. Korea at 556 (4.8%), Indonesia at 473 (4.1%) and Malaysia at 394 (3.4%) ([Reference 8](#)).

#### Reference 8 Changes in the number of foreign nationals newly entering with the status of residence of “Student” by major nationality/region



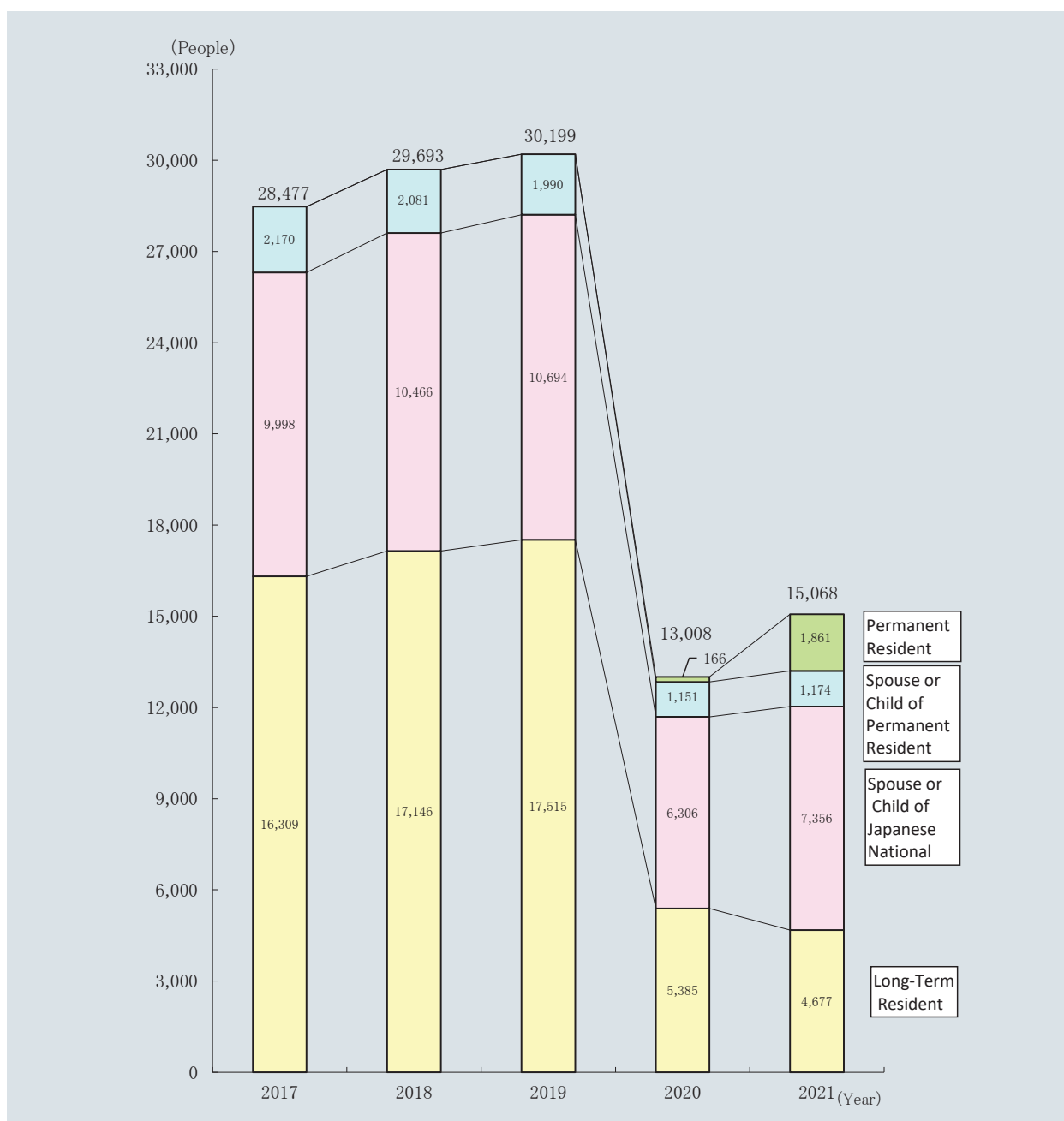
#### E. Foreign Nationals Entering Japan with a Status of Residence for Resident Activities Based on Personal Status or Position (Reference 9, Data Section 4, Statistics (1) 15-1, 16-1)

In 2021, the number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” stood at 7,356, and those with the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident” stood at 1,174, and as those with the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” saw an increase of 1,050 (16.7%), those with the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident” saw an increase of 23 (2.0%) compared to the previous year.

The number of foreign nationals newly entering with the status of residence of “Long-

Term Resident” in 2021 had decreased by 708 (13.1%) to 4,677 compared to the previous year (Reference 9). As a general rule, the status of residence of “Permanent Resident” is excluded from status of residences that can be determined at time of landing permission (Article 7, Paragraph (1), item (ii) of the Immigration Act). We allow new entry to Japan with the status of residence of “permanent resident” for those “permanent residents” who could not re-enter Japan within the valid period of their re-entry permit or special re-entry permit due to COVID-19. In 2021, there were 1,861 new immigrants with the status of residence of “permanent resident”.

### Reference 9 Changes in the number of foreign nationals newly entering by status of residence for activities based on personal status or position



(\*) In 2020, foreign nationals who were newly entering Japan and granted the residence status of "Permanent resident", as support for permanent residents who had difficulty re-entering Japan within the valid period for a re-entry permit or special re-entry permit, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to the statistics for newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” by nationality/region, the largest number came from the Philippines at 1,010 (13.7%). The Philippines was followed by the U.S. at 942 (12.8%) and Brazil at 885 (12.0%).

According to the statistics by nationality/region for newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Long-Term Resident”, the largest number came from the Philippines at 1,709 (36.5%). The Philippines was followed by Brazil at 840 (18.0%) and China at 730 (15.6%).

## 2 Special Landing Permission

The number of cases in which received special landing permission in 2021 was 421,925, a decrease of 497,386 (54.1%) compared to the previous year.

Of these, 421,279 cases were granting of landing permission for crew members, accounting for 99.8% of the total number of cases granted special landing permission (Reference 10).

**Reference 10** Changes in the number of cases of special landing permission (Cases)

Division	Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total		5,502,177	5,364,421	4,961,505	919,311	421,925
Permission for Landing at a Port of Call		13,217	13,331	13,861	7,462	182
Landing Permission for Cruise Ship Tourists		2,449,299	2,337,803	2,026,307	119,960	0
Permission for Landing in Transit		4,979	5,235	7,760	3,003	6
Landing Permission for Crew Members		3,034,126	3,007,588	2,913,001	788,305	421,279
Permission for Emergency Landing		464	444	483	556	415
Landing Permission Due to Distress		90	18	92	24	42
Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge		2	2	1	1	1

The following is the number of cases of special landing permission by category.

### (1) Permission for Landing at a Port of Call

The number of cases being granted “Permission for Landing at a Port of Call” in 2021 was 182, a decrease of 7,280 (97.6%) compared to the previous year.

### (2) Landing Permission for Cruise Ship Tourists

The number of cases in which received “Landing Permission for Cruise Ship Tourists” was zero in 2021, which was a decrease of 119,960 (100%) compared to the previous year.

### (3) Permission for Landing in Transit

The number of cases in which received “Permission for Landing in Transit” in 2021 was six, a decrease of 2,997 (99.8%) compared to the previous year.

### (4) Landing Permission for Crew Members

The number of cases in which received “Landing Permission for Crew Members” in 2021 was 421,279, a decrease of 367,026 (46.6%) compared to the previous year.

**(5) Permission for Emergency Landing**

The number of cases in which received “Permission for Emergency Landing” in 2021 was 415, a decrease of 141 (25.4%) compared to the previous year.

**(6) Landing Permission Due to Distress**

The number of cases in which received “Landing Permission Due to Distress” in 2021 was 42, an increase of 18 (75.0%) compared to the previous year.

**(7) Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge**

The number of cases in which received “Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge” in 2021 was one, there was no change compared to the previous year.

**3 Foreign Nationals Leaving Japan**

The number of foreign nationals simply leaving Japan without having acquired a re-entry permit was 223,728 in 2021, a decrease of 3,896,551 (94.6%) compared to the previous year.

Of these, foreign nationals leaving Japan with a period of stay of more than one year to three years numbered 64,707 (28.9% of the total), and foreign nationals leaving Japan for more than a year numbered 133,657 (59.7% of the total) ([Reference 11](#)).

**Reference 11** Changes in the number of foreign nationals simply leaving Japan by period of stay

Period of Stay \ Year	(People)				
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	24,770,368	27,252,517	28,083,240	4,120,279	223,728
Within 15 days	23,760,799	26,108,961	26,778,686	3,678,125	29,901
More than 15 days to 1 month	539,458	625,674	737,979	163,396	32,251
More than 1 month to 3 months	270,021	286,553	307,985	79,142	13,520
More than 3 months to 6 months	50,125	52,501	56,114	31,705	3,955
More than 6 months to 1 year	46,094	51,650	57,138	53,376	9,200
More than 1 year to 3 years	74,330	87,981	99,183	65,530	64,707
More than 3 years	28,332	37,857	44,733	47,904	68,950
Unknown	1,209	1,340	1,422	1,101	1,244

## Article: At the Front Line of Immigration Control Administration

(Voice of the immigration inspector in charge of immigration examinations)  
(Inspection Coordination Department, Haneda Airport District Immigration Services Office, Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau: Fukunaka Daisuke)

We airport immigration inspectors are in charge of landing examinations for foreigners entering the country by air, as well as confirmation of return to Japan for Japanese nationals, and confirmation of departure for all travelers. Our attitude towards work cultivated with the aim of becoming a tourism-oriented country has required a major shift since the recent COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2021, as in 2020, people in Japan and all over the world were forced to change their lifestyles and common sense due to COVID-19 and countermeasures against it. It was a year in which the ISA continued to struggle, using its originality and ingenuity to restore normal lifestyles and economic activities, while taking measures to prevent the spread of infection so as not to endanger human lives.

Strict immigration restrictions as countermeasures at the port of entry have continued since 2020, but in the midst of that high alert mood, the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics were held in the summer of 2021, and it was necessary to make a flexible response according to the season and situation, such as implementing smooth immigration procedures for athletes and related parties. Since then, every time the immigration restrictions were revised, I spent my days in a process of trial and error, taking three steps forward and two steps back while trying to sense what will happen in the world tomorrow.

Immigration inspectors engaged in immigration inspection work at airports must interact with real people, grasp the needs of the times and follow individual circumstances and situations, as we carry out our duties with great responsibility towards Japanese territory and the people living there beyond or behind the gates we let arrivals pass through.

In this era of diversification, immigration work brings us into contact with various cultures and ways of thinking, so it requires a broad perspective, flexible thinking, comprehension ability, and the ability to logically construct explanations. It is difficult to describe this work with just the word "rewarding", but I would like to continue fulfilling my responsibilities with a calm and compassionate heart while wishing for the peace of everyone living in Japan.

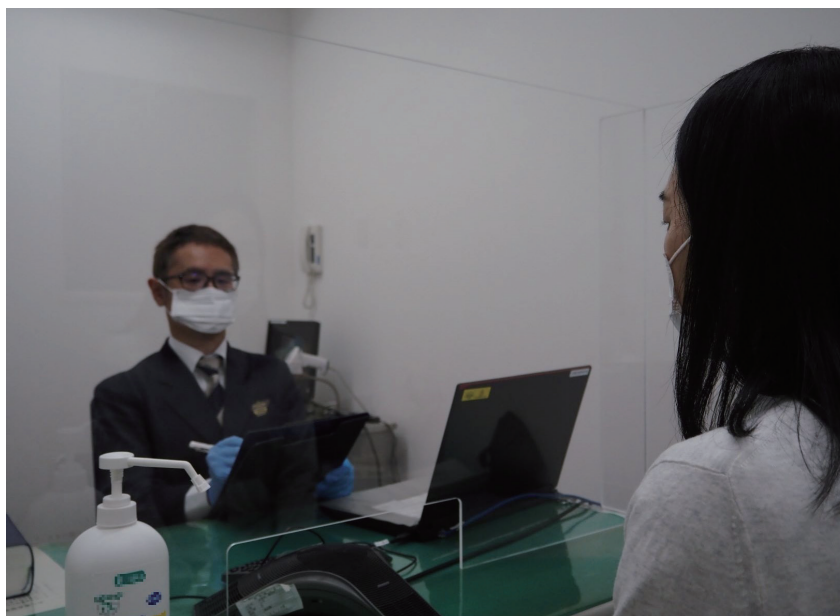


The immigration inspector in charge of immigration examinations



## Section 2 Judgement for Landing

### 1 Receipt and Processing of Hearings for Landing, and Filing of Objections



Hearing for landing

The number of new cases of hearings for landing (the number of cases which were assigned to a special inquiry officer on account of a foreign national not being granted landing permission by an immigration inspector) in 2021 was 4,419, a decrease of 20,637 (82.4%) compared to 2020.

Looking at a breakdown of the number of new cases of hearings for landing, the most common type are cases with suspicions about the purpose of entry, including false applications in which the applicant feigns to be a tourist despite their actual purpose being illegal activities such as unlawful employment (not meeting the conditions provided for in Article 7, paragraph (1), item (ii) of the Immigration Control Act). There were 2,284 such cases in 2021, an increase of 651 cases (39.9%) from 2020, accounting for 51.7% of the total number of new cases. This was followed by cases suspected to fall under one of the grounds for denial of landing (not meeting the conditions provided for in Article 7, paragraph (1), item (iv) of the Immigration Control Act). Such cases numbered 1,445, a decrease of 21,178 cases (93.6%) compared to 2020, accounting for 32.7% of the total number of new cases in 2021. Furthermore, cases which were assigned on account of the foreign national being suspected of not possessing a valid passport or visa, such as those attempting to illegally enter Japan using a forged or altered passport (not meeting the conditions provided for in Article 7, paragraph (1), item (i) of the Immigration Control Act) numbered 690, a decrease of 110 cases (13.8%) compared to 2020, accounting for 15.6% of the total number of new cases in 2021. In addition, the number of cases that foreign nationals refuse to provide the immigration inspector with their Biometric information, which became mandatory by law from November 20, 2007 (coming under paragraph (4) of Article 7 of the Immigration Control Act) was 0 in 2021 ([Reference 12](#)).

**Reference 12** Changes in the number of new cases of hearings for landing by grounds for landing

(Cases)

Conditions for Landing \ Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	9,776	11,756	13,402	25,056	4,419
Using counterfeit passports or visas, etc. (Not conforming to Article 7-(1)-(i))	1,812	1,940	2,206	800	690
False landing application, etc. (Not conforming to Article 7-(1)-(ii))	6,693	8,686	10,240	1,633	2,284
Ineligibility for the period of stay relating to the application (Not conforming to Article 7-(1)-(iii))	—	—	—	—	—
Falling under the grounds for denial of landing (Not conforming to Article 7-(1)-(iv))	1,270	1,128	953	22,623	1,445
Not providing Biometric information (Not conforming to Article 7-(4))	1	2	3	0	0

With regard to results of the hearings for landing in 2021<sup>(\*)</sup>, the number of cases where landing permission was granted as it was found during the hearing that the foreign national conformed to the conditions for landing was 1,484, a decrease of 20,869 (93.4%) compared to 2020.

In addition, cases in which foreign nationals were ordered to depart Japan because they were found not to meet the conditions for landing at the hearing for landing by a special inquiry officer and who later submitted to the findings numbered 11, a decrease of 1,336 (99.2%) compared to 2020. Cases in which foreign nationals filed an objection with the Minister of Justice because they were not satisfied with the findings by the special inquiry officer that they did not meet the conditions for landing numbered 2,791, an increase of 1,863 (200.8%) compared to 2020 ([Reference 13](#)).

**Reference 13** Changes in the processing of the hearings for landing

(Cases)

Division \ Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	9,770	11,763	13,409	25,064	4,420
Landing permission	1,421	1,260	1,197	22,353	1,484
Expulsion order	5,986	7,934	9,440	1,347	11
Filing of objection	1,770	1,911	2,103	928	2,791
Withdrawal of the landing application	481	585	581	360	126
Others	112	73	88	76	8

(\*) "Others" includes cases where the jurisdiction has changed or the application was withdrawn owing to the departure, etc.

(\*) The reason why the total number in the changes in the number of new cases of hearings for landing by grounds for landing (Reference12) and the total number in the changes in the processing of the hearings for landing (Reference13) are inconsistent is because, depending on the case, the processing of the hearing may carry over to the following year, for example, when a case was handed over at the end of the year by an immigration inspector to a special inquiry officer.

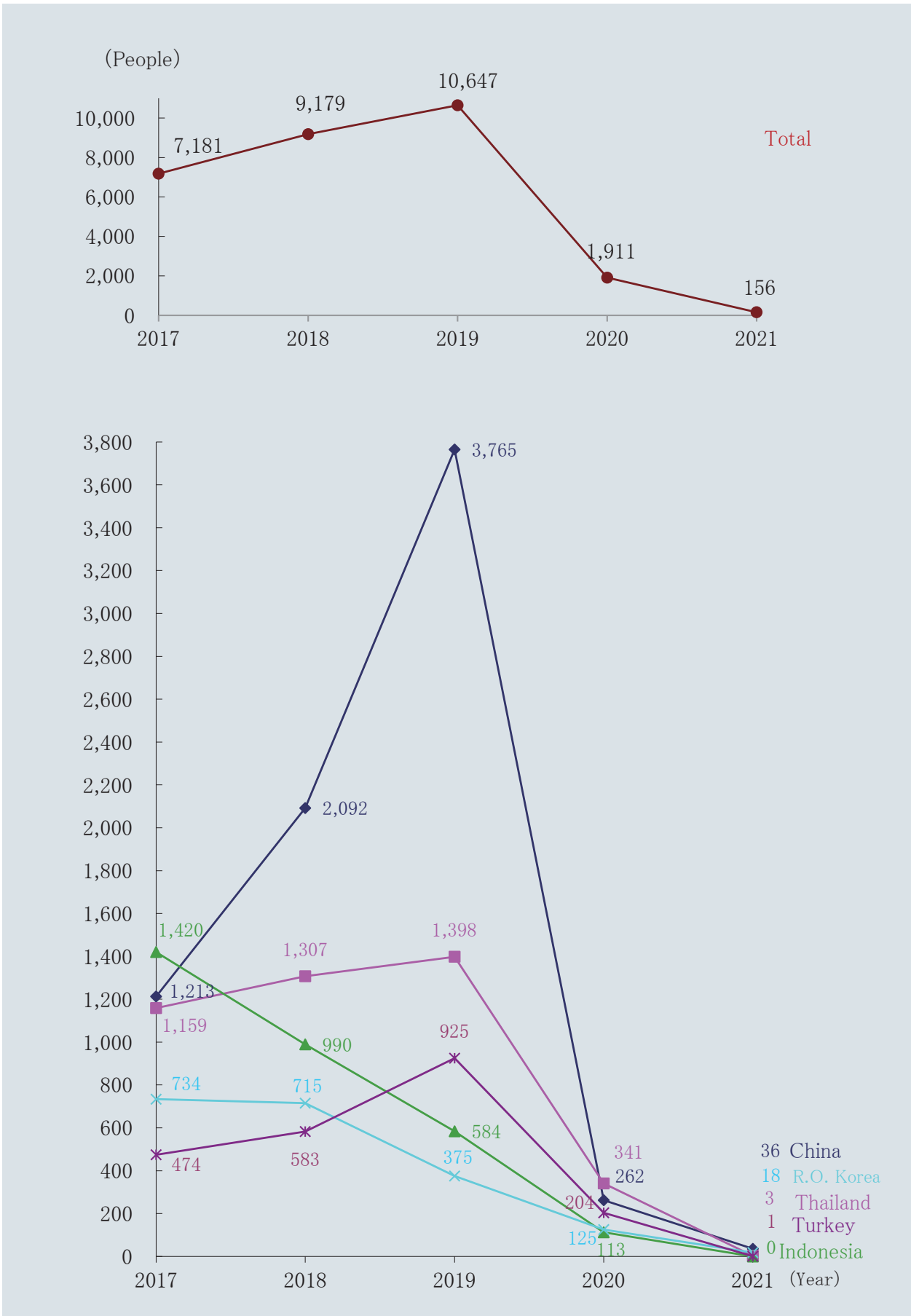
## 2 Foreign Nationals Falling Under Any of the Grounds for Denial of Landing

In principle, foreign nationals denied permission for landing are those who (i) are ordered to depart Japan as a result of a hearing for landing or (ii) are ordered to depart Japan as a result of filing an objection with the Minister of Justice.

The number of foreign nationals denied permission for landing in 2021 was 156, a decrease of 1,755 (91.8%) compared to 2020.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of foreign nationals denied permission for landing came from China standing at 36 (23.1%), followed by Korea at 18 (11.5%) and the Philippines at 13 (8.3%). These top three countries accounted for 42.9% of the total ([Reference 14](#)).

**Reference 14** Changes in the number of foreign nationals who were denied landing by major nationality/region



### 3 Special Permission for Landing

The number of cases in which the Minister of Justice granted special permission for landing to foreign nationals in 2021 was 2,780, a decrease of 1,968 (242.4%) compared to 2020 (Reference 15).

#### Reference 15 Changes in the number of objections filed and decisions by the Minister of Justice

(Cases)

Division		Year					
		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
Filing of Objection (*)		1,781	1,919	2,120	935	2,792	
Decisions	With reason (Landing Permission)	4	5	2	3	1	
	Without reason	Order to depart	439	404	375	70	5
		Special Permission for Landing	1,241	1,333	1,584	812	2,780
Withdrawal		89	160	152	49	6	
Outstanding		8	17	7	1	0	

(\*) "Filing of Objection" includes the number of outstanding cases of the previous year.

## Section 3 Pre-entry Examination

### 1 Advance Consultation for Visa Issuance

The number of cases of advance consultation for visa issuance was 8,931 in 2021, showing an increase of 2,917 (48.5%) compared to the previous year.

### 2 Certificate of Eligibility

The number of cases of applications for Certificates of Eligibility was 306,878 in 2021, a decrease of 103,528 (25.2%) compared to the previous year.

The advance consultation for visa issuance and the examination of Certificates of Eligibility are jointly called pre-entry examinations. In recent years, the number of processed cases of applications for the issuance of a Certificate of Eligibility has steadily accounted for most of the total number of processed cases of pre-entry examinations (Reference 16).

#### Reference 16 Changes in the number of cases of pre-entry examination

(Cases)

Division		Year				
		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Advance consultation for visa issuance		7,875	5,336	4,634	6,014	8,931
Application for a certificate of eligibility		481,120	533,568	591,858	410,406	306,878

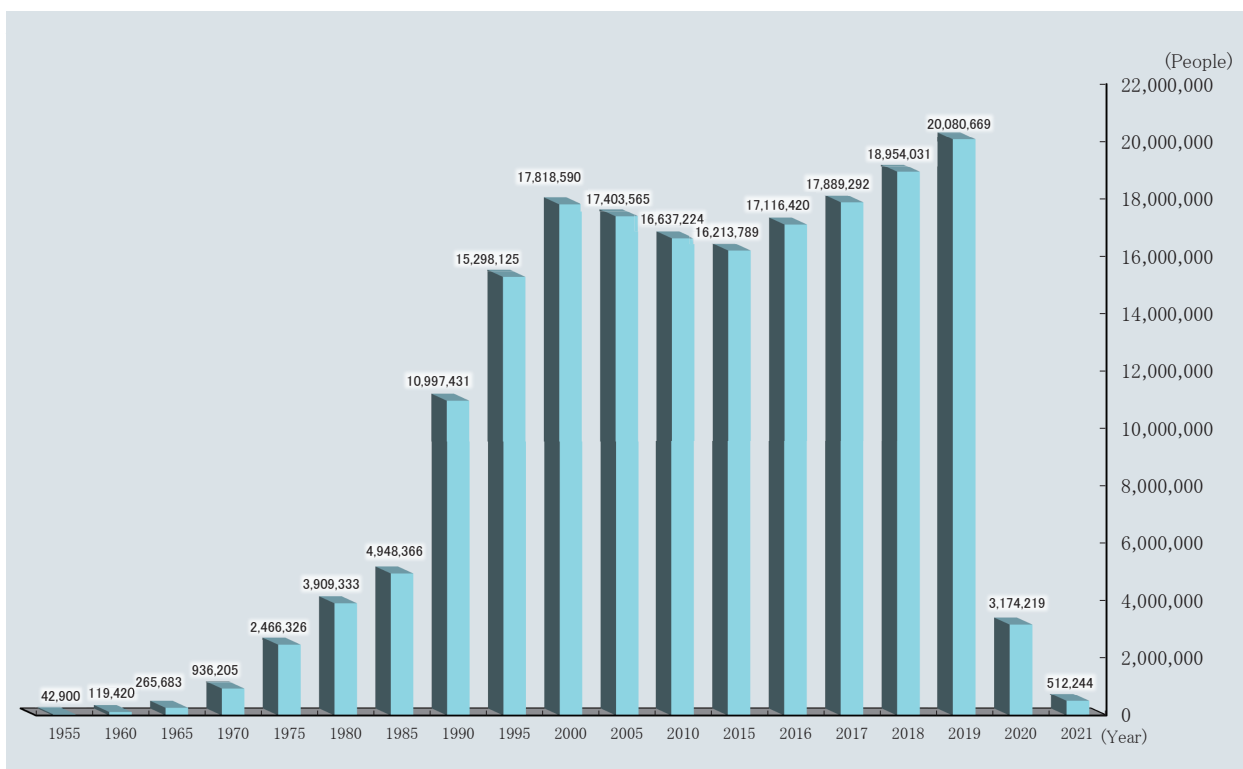
## Chapter 2 Japanese Nationals Departing from and Returning to Japan

### Section 1 Number of Japanese Nationals Departing from Japan

#### 1 Total Number of Japanese Nationals Departing from Japan

The number of Japanese nationals departing from Japan in 2021 was 512,244, a decrease of 2,661,975 (83.9%) compared to the previous year ([Reference 17](#)).

#### Reference 17 Changes in the number of Japanese nationals departing from Japan



#### 2 Number of Japanese Nationals Departing from Japan by Gender and Age

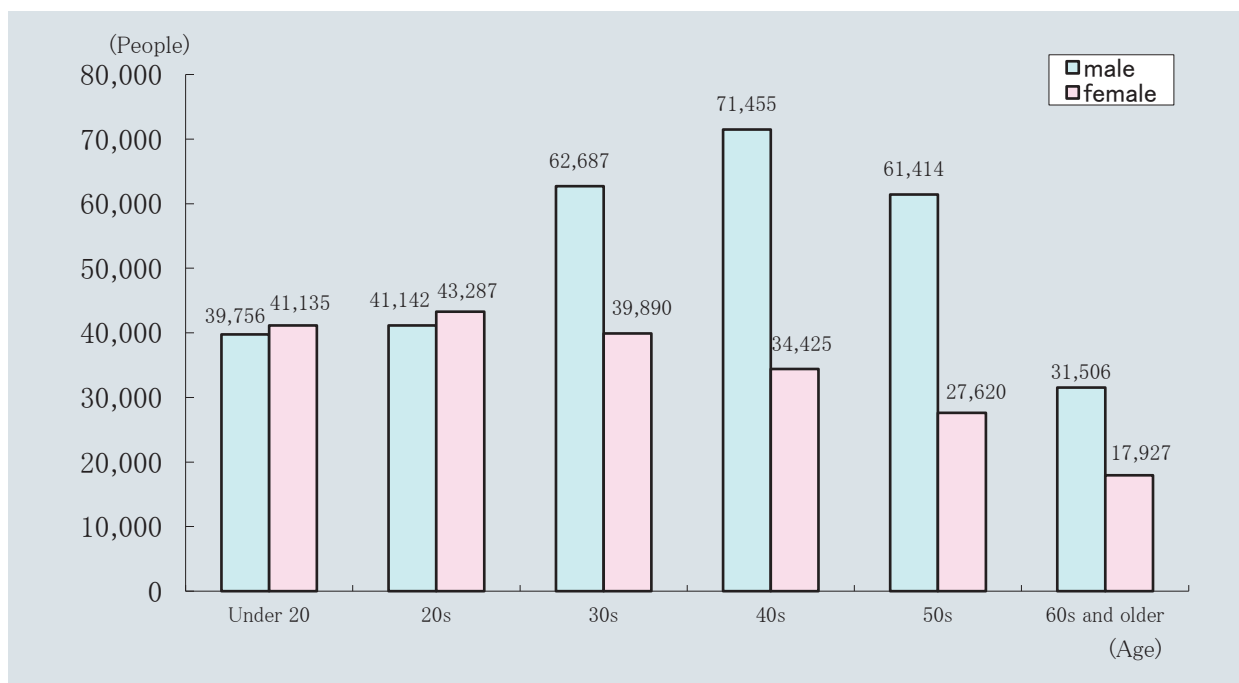
According to the statistics by gender, the number of Japanese nationals departing from Japan in 2021 was composed of 307,960 males and 204,284 females; males accounted for 60.1% of the total and females accounted for 39.9%. There have been no significant changes in the percentages of either males or females since 2001, and the percentage of males continues to exceed that of females.

According to the statistics by age, the number of Japanese nationals departing from Japan in 2021 was composed of 105,880 Japanese nationals in their 40s, which accounted for 20.7% of the total, followed by 102,577 in their 30s, accounting for 20.0%, 89,034 in their 50s, accounting for 17.4%, 84,429 in their 20s, accounting for 16.5%, 80,891 in their under 20, accounting for 15.8% and 49,433 in their 60s, accounting for 9.7%.

According to the statistics on percentages of males and females by age group, the per-

centages of Japanese females ages under 20 and 20s exceeded those of males, but with the other age groups, the percentages of males departing from Japan exceeded that of females. (Reference 18).

### Reference 18 Number of Japanese nationals departing from Japan by gender and age (2021)



### 3 Number of Japanese Nationals Departing from Japan by Airport and Seaport

Looking at the number of Japanese nationals departing from Japan in 2021 by airports and seaport of departure, the number of departing passengers using airports was 511,892, accounting for 99.9% of the total.

Looking at the Japanese nationals departing from Japan using airports in 2021, the number of users of Narita Airport was 237,871, accounting for 46.5% of the total number of departing passengers from airports, the number of users of Haneda Airport was 217,808, accounting for 42.5%, and the number of users of Kansai Airport was 43,970, accounting for 8.6%. These three airports accounted for 97.6% of the total number of departing passengers from airports.

On the other hand, looking at the Japanese nationals departing from Japan using seaports during 2021, the number of Moji Port users was 73, accounting for 20.7% of the total number of departing passengers from seaports, followed by Yokosuka Port at 68 (19.3%), and Shimizu Port at 52 (14.8%). These three seaports accounted for 54.8% of the total number of departing passengers from seaports. Yokohama Port at 24 (6.8%) and Naha Port at 22 (6.3%) followed these three seaports.

## Section 2 Number of Japanese Nationals Returning to Japan

The total number of returning Japanese nationals in 2021 was 500,938. By period of stay in foreign countries after departure, 128,042 Japanese nationals returned to Japan after more than one year to three years of their departure, accounting for 25.6% of the total. Due to countermeasures at the port of entry in each country affected by the spread of COVID-19, overseas travel was restricted, making it a different situation than usual ([Reference 19](#)).

### Reference 19 Changes in the number of Japanese nationals returning to Japan by period of stay

(People)

Peroid of Stay \ Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	17,876,453	18,908,954	20,030,055	3,683,270	500,938
Within 5 days	10,590,134	11,396,585	12,150,774	1,891,374	11,082
More than 5 days to 10 days	4,106,292	4,295,947	4,607,708	890,991	30,675
More than 10 days to 20 days	1,116,348	1,143,763	1,182,976	254,898	36,474
More than 20 days to 1 month	412,805	410,416	416,356	105,794	29,193
More than 1 month to 3 months	686,350	693,432	688,694	191,495	90,899
More than 3 months to 6 months	400,249	402,650	412,104	124,322	61,356
More than 6 months to 1 year	310,126	313,425	318,140	137,036	63,887
More than 1 year to 3 years	122,306	123,677	123,794	51,416	128,042
More than 3 years	10,610	9,193	8,405	2,281	3,811
Unknown	121,233	119,866	121,104	33,663	45,519



# Chapter 3 Foreign Nationals Residing in Japan

## Section 1 Number of Foreign Residents in Japan

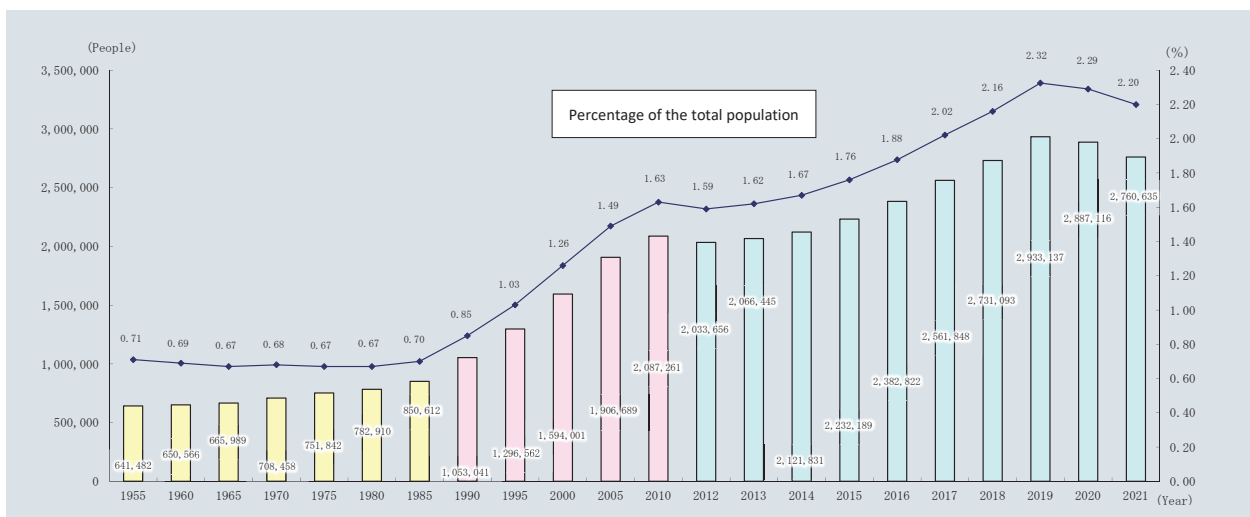
### 1 Number of Foreign Residents in Japan

While the number of foreign nationals entering Japan shows the “flow” of foreign nationals, the number of foreign nationals residing in Japan comprises the statistics on “stock” to show how many foreign nationals reside in Japan at a certain point in time.

At the end of 2021, the number of mid to long-term residents (see Data Section 1, Section 4, Subsection 1) in Japan was 2,464,219 and the number of special permanent residents was 296,416. Adding these two numbers together, the total number of foreign residents was 2,760,635, a decrease of 126,481 (4.4%) compared to the end of the previous year.

In addition, the percentage of foreign nationals residing in Japan was 2.20% out of the total population of Japan which was 125,500,000 as of the end of 2021 (population estimate as of October 1, 2021 (Statistics Bureau of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)), which was 0.09 points lower than the 2.29% at the end of the previous year ([Reference 20](#)).

### Reference 20 Changes in the number of foreign residents, and changes in the number of foreign residents as a percentage of the total population of Japan



(\*1) These numbers are based on the statistics as at the end of December each year.

(\*2) The numbers until 1985 represent the number of alien registrations, the numbers between 1990 and 2011 represent the sum of the number of alien registrations who stayed in Japan with the status of residence eligible for mid to long-term residents and the number of special permanent residents, and the numbers from 2012 onwards represent the number of foreign residents adding together mid to long-term residents and special permanent residents.

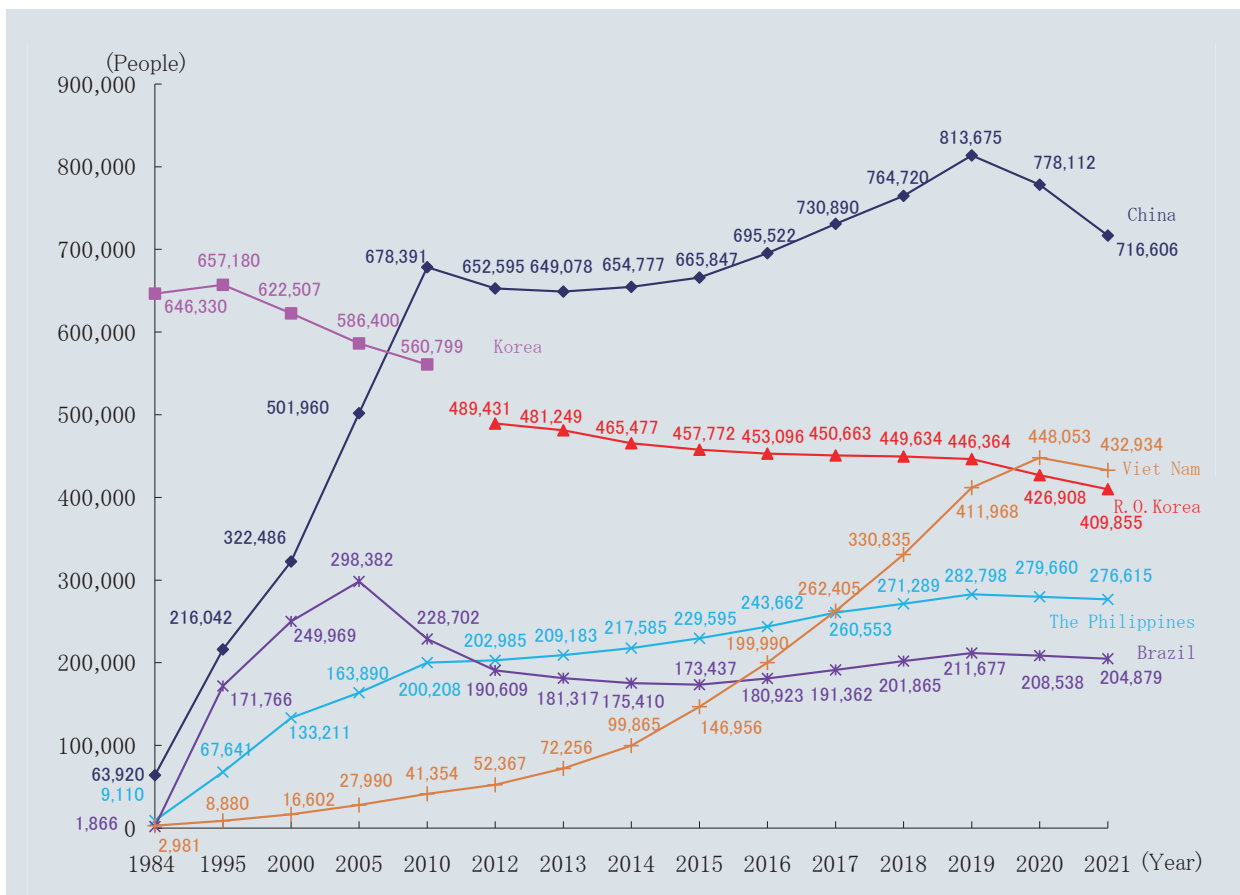
(\*3) The “percentage of the total population of Japan” is calculated based on the population as of October 1 each year taken from the “Population Estimates” and the “Population Census” of the Statistics Bureau of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

## 2 Number of Foreign Residents by Nationality/Region

According to the statistics of the number of foreign residents by nationality/region at the end of 2021, China marked the largest number at 716,606, accounting for 26.0% of the total. China was followed by Viet Nam at 432,934 (15.7%), R.O. Korea at 409,855 (14.8%), the Philippines at 276,615 (10.0%), and Brazil at 204,879 (7.4%).

According to the changes in the number of foreign residents by year, China decreased by 61,506 (7.9%) at the end of 2021 compared to the end of the previous year. Viet Nam was on an upward trend, but this changed to a decrease of 15,119 (3.4%) at the end of 2021 compared to the end of the previous year. R.O.Korea is on a downward trend, with a decrease of 17,053 (4.0%) at the end of 2021 compared to the end of the previous year. The Philippines also decreased, by 3,045 (1.1%) at the end of 2021 compared to the end of the previous year. Brazil also decreased by 3,659 (1.8%) at the end of 2021 compared to the end of the previous year (Reference 21).

**Reference 21** Changes in the number of foreign residents by major nationality/region



- (\*1) The numbers until 2011 represent the number of foreign nationals with alien registrations who stayed in Japan with a status of residence eligible for mid to long-term residents and the number of special permanent residents, and the numbers from 2012 onwards represent the number of foreign nationals adding together mid to long-term residents and special permanent residents.
- (\*2) "China" until 2011 includes Taiwan, and "China" from 2012 onwards excludes those who were issued with residence cards and special permanent resident certificates with "Taiwan" listed in the "nationality/region" box.
- (\*3) Up until the end of 2011, R.O.Korea and Korea used to be calculated jointly as "Korea", but from the end of 2012, they are calculated separately as "R.O.Korea" and "Korea", for the purpose of the statistics.

### 3 Number of Foreign Residents by Purpose (Status of Residence)

#### (1) “Permanent Resident” and “Special Permanent Resident” (Data Section 4, Statistics (1) 14)

According to the statistics for the number of foreign residents by status of residence at the end of 2021, those with the status of “Permanent Resident” (excluding “Special Permanent Residents”) comprised the largest group. The number of those with the status of “Permanent Resident” was 831,157, an increase of 23,640 (2.9%) from the end of the previous year, accounting for 30.1% of the total ([Reference 22](#)).

## Reference 22 Changes in the number of foreign residents by status

(People)

Status		Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total			2,561,848	2,731,093	2,933,137	2,887,116	2,760,635
Mid to long-term resident	Professor		7,403	7,360	7,354	6,647	6,519
	Artist		426	461	489	448	385
	Religious Activities		4,402	4,299	4,285	3,772	3,034
	Journalist		236	215	220	215	207
	Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(a)		1,194	1,576	1,884	1,922	1,885
	Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(b)		6,046	8,774	11,886	13,167	12,257
	Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(c)		257	395	570	676	648
	Highly-Skilled Professional (ii)		171	316	584	789	945
	Business Manager		24,033	25,670	27,249	27,235	27,197
	Legal/Accounting Services		147	147	145	148	139
	Medical Services		1,653	1,936	2,269	2,476	2,482
	Researcher		1,596	1,528	1,480	1,337	1,161
	Instructor		11,524	12,462	13,331	12,241	12,915
	Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/ International Services		189,273	225,724	271,999	283,380	274,740
	Intra-company Transferee		16,486	17,328	18,193	13,415	8,593
	Nursing Care		18	185	592	1,714	3,794
	Entertainer		2,094	2,389	2,508	1,865	1,564
	Skilled Labor		39,177	39,915	41,692	40,491	38,240
	Specified Skilled Labor (i)				1,621	15,663	49,666
	Specified Skilled Labor (ii)				0	0	0
	Technical Intern Training (i)-(a)		5,971	5,128	4,975	1,205	211
	Technical Intern Training (i)-(b)		118,101	138,249	164,408	74,476	24,005
	Technical Intern Training (ii)-(a)		3,424	3,712	4,268	4,490	2,818
	Technical Intern Training (ii)-(b)		146,729	173,873	210,965	258,173	202,006
	Technical Intern Training (iii)-(a)		0	220	605	707	779
	Technical Intern Training (iii)-(b)		8	7,178	25,751	39,149	46,304
	Cultural Activities		2,859	2,825	3,013	1,280	821
	Student		311,505	337,000	345,791	280,901	207,830
	Trainee		1,460	1,443	1,177	174	145
	Dependent		166,561	182,452	201,423	196,622	192,184
	Designated Activities		64,776	62,956	65,187	103,422	124,056
	Permanent Resident		749,191	771,568	793,164	807,517	831,157
Spouse or Child of Japanese National		140,839	142,381	145,254	142,735	142,044	
Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident		34,632	37,998	41,517	42,905	44,522	
Long-Term Resident		179,834	192,014	204,787	201,329	198,966	
Special Permanent Resident		329,822	321,416	312,501	304,430	296,416	

(\*) The status of residence of "Specified Skilled Worker (i) and (ii)" was newly established on April 1, 2019.

Looking at changes in the number of foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Permanent Resident” between the end of 2017 and the end of 2021, there was a steady increase, and the number increased by 81,966 (10.9%) at the end of 2021 from 749,191 at the end of 2017.

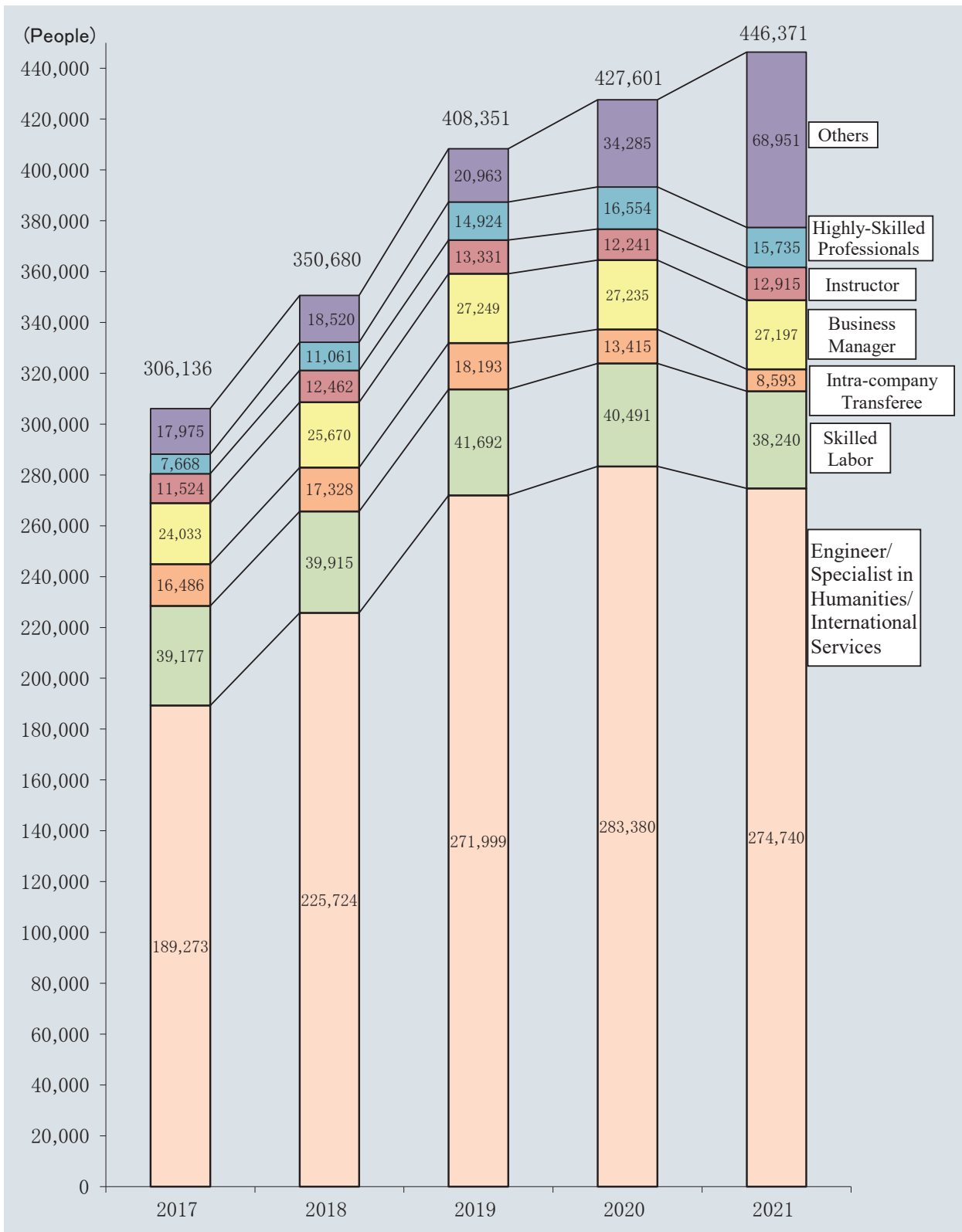
According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Permanent Resident” came from China totaling 296,660 at the end of 2021, followed by the Philippines, Brazil, R.O. Korea, and Peru.

On the other hand, the number of foreign nationals with the status of “Special Permanent Resident” has been decreasing year by year, and therefore its percentage to the total number of foreign residents has also been decreasing accordingly, reaching 10.7% at the end of 2021. Looking at the changes over a longer period, the percentage of foreign nationals equivalent to the status of “Special Permanent Resident” accounted for approximately 90% for two decades just after World War II. However, the decrease in the number of “Special Permanent Residents” itself and the increase in the number of foreign nationals newly visiting Japan for various purposes (so-called “newcomers”) are both driving the percentage of “Special Permanent Residents” down, which clearly shows the changes in the situation of foreign residents in Japan.

## **(2) Foreign Nationals Residing in Japan for the Purpose of Employment in Professional or Technical Fields**

At the end of 2021, the number of mid to long-term residents with a status of residence for the purpose of employment in a professional or technical field (except for “Diplomat”, “Official” and “Technical Intern Training” out of the statuses of residence given in Appended Table I (1) and (2) of the Immigration Control Act) was 446,371 accounting for 16.2% of the total, an increase of 18,770 (4.4%) compared to the end of the previous year, and an upward trend has been continuing since the end of 2012 ([Reference 23](#)).

**Reference 23** Changes in the number of mid to long-term residents by status of residence for employment in professional or technical fields



(\*1) Excludes “Diplomat”, “Official” and “Technical Intern Training” of the Appended Tables I (1) and I (2) of Immigration Control Act.

(\*2) “Highly Skilled Professionals” is the total for “Highly-Skilled Professionals (i)-(a), (b), (c), and Highly Skilled Professionals (ii)”

Trends of the distinctive categories of foreign nationals residing in Japan for the purpose of employment will be described below.

#### **A. “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services” and “Intra-company Transferee” (Data Section 4, Statistics (1) 3-2, 4-2)**

At the end of 2021, the number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services” or “Intra-company Transferee” corresponding to foreign employees working in companies/organizations was 274,740 for “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services” and 8,593 for “Intra-company Transferee”, and when compared to the end of the previous year, the respective numbers have been decreasing 8,640 (3.0%) and have been decreasing 4,822 (35.9%).

At the end of 2021, the percentages of mid to long-term residents with the statuses of residence of “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services” and “Intra-company Transferee” to the total number of mid to long-term residents with a status of residence for the purpose of employment in professional or technical fields were 61.5%, and 1.9%, respectively.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services” came from China at 81,221 (29.6%), followed by Viet Nam at 64,200 (23.4%), R.O. Korea at 22,652 (8.2%), and Nepal at 19,406 (7.1%).

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Intra-company Transferee” came from China at 2,509 (29.2%), followed by R.O. Korea at 811 (9.4%) and the Philippines at 777 (9.0%).

#### **B. “Skilled Labor” (Data Section 4, Statistics (1) 6-2)**

At the end of 2021, the number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Skilled Labor”, which is granted to workers and the like who are skilled in industrial fields unique to foreign countries, was 38,240, a decrease of 2,251 (5.6%) when compared to the end of the previous year.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Skilled Labor” came from China at 15,437 (40.4%), followed by Nepal at 12,112 (31.7%), India at 5,379 (14.1%), and Thailand at 1,140 (3.0%).

#### **C. “Specified Skilled Worker (i)” (Data Section 4, Statistics (1) 7-2)**

At the end of 2021, the number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Specified Skilled Worker”, which is established and operation started on April 1, 2019, was 49,666, an increase of 34,003 (217.1%) compared to the end of the previous year.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of mid to long term residents with the status of residence of “Specified Skilled Worker (i)” came from Viet Nam at 31,721 (63.9%), followed by the Philippines at 4,607 (9.3%), Indonesia at 3,889 (7.8%) and China at 3,694 (7.4%).

**(3) “Technical Intern Training”<sup>(\*)</sup> (Data Section 4, Statistics (1) 8-2, 9, 10-2)**

The number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Technical Intern Training (i)” at the end of 2021 was 24,216, a decrease of 51,465 (68.0%) when compared to the end of the previous year. According to the statistics by nationality/region, the number of those from Viet Nam was 17,793, accounting for 73.5% of the total. Viet Nam was followed by China at 3,644 (15.0%), Myanmar at 937 (3.9%), and Indonesia at 735 (3.0%).

The number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Technical Intern Training (ii)” at the end of 2021 was 204,824, a decrease of 57,839 (22.0%) when compared to the end of the previous year. According to the statistics by nationality/region, the number of those from Viet Nam was 116,646 accounting for 56.9% of the total. Viet Nam was followed by China at 28,790 (14.1%), Indonesia at 20,147 (9.8%) and the Philippines at 16,287 (8.0%).

In addition, with the establishment of the status of residence of “Technical Intern Training (iii)” on November 1, 2017, the number of mid to long-term residents with this status of residence at the end of 2021 was 47,083, an increase of 7,227 (18.1%). According to the statistics by nationality/region, the number of those from Viet Nam was 26,124 accounting for 55.5% of the total. Viet Nam was followed by the Philippines at 6,518 (13.8%), China at 5,055 (10.7%) and Indonesia at 4,125 (8.8%).

**(4) “Student” (Data Section 4, Statistics (1) 11-2)**

The number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Student” at the end of 2021 was 207,830, a decrease of 73,071 (26.0%) compared to the end of the previous year, comprising 7.5% of the total number of foreign residents.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the number from China was 96,594 accounting for 46.5% of the total, followed by Viet Nam at 46,403 (22.3%).

**(5) Foreign Nationals Residing in Japan with a Status of Residence for Resident Activities Based on Personal Status or Position (Data Section 4, Statistics (1) 15-2, 16-2)**

The number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” at the end of 2021 was 142,044, accounting for 5.1% of the total number of foreign residents, a decrease of 691 (0.5%) when compared to the end of the previous year.

Looking at these numbers by nationality/region, China stood at 26,575, accounting for 18.7% of the total, followed by the Philippines at 25,538 (18.0%), and Brazil at 16,544 (11.6%).

At the end of 2021, the number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Long-Term Resident” was 198,966 accounting for 7.2% of the total number of foreign residents, the number at the end of 2021 has decreased by 2,363 (1.2%) compared to the end of the previous year.

Looking at these number by nationality/region, Brazil was 68,492 accounting for 34.4% of the total number, followed by the Philippines at 54,946 (27.6%) and China at 26,624 (13.4%).

(\*) “Technical Intern Training (i)” represents the sum of “Technical Intern Training (i)-(a)” and “Technical Intern Training (i)-(b)”, and “Technical Intern Training (ii)” represents the sum of “Technical Intern Training (ii)-(a)” and “Technical Intern Training (ii)-(b)”, and “Technical Intern Training (iii)” represents the sum of “Technical Intern Training (iii)-(a)” and “Technical Intern Training (iii)-(b)”.



## Section 2 Examination of Statuses of Residence

The total number of applications related to residence examinations was 1,551,001 in 2021, a decrease of 40,576 (2.6%) when compared to the previous year ([Reference 24](#)).

### Reference 24 Changes in the number of permission examined in status of residence examinations

(Cases)

Division \ Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	1,188,257	1,323,871	1,420,031	1,591,577	1,551,001
Permission for change of status of residence	215,599	325,149	269,153	392,415	367,189
Permission for extension of period of stay	610,924	603,043	743,254	873,416	848,305
Permission for permanent residence	28,869	31,451	32,150	29,747	36,691
Permission for special permanent residence	73	75	63	30	67
Permission for acquisition of status of residence	12,976	13,188	14,469	15,720	15,867
Re-entry permission	35,310	37,030	38,232	28,738	41,660
Permission to engage in an activity other than those permitted by the status of residence previously granted	284,506	313,935	322,710	251,511	241,222

- (\*1) "Permission for permanent residence" is the permission provided for in Article 22 of the Immigration Control Act.  
 (\*2) "Permission for special permanent residence" is the permission for special permanent residence provided for in Article 5 of the Special Act on the Immigration Control of Inter Alia, Those Who Have Lost Japanese Nationality on the Basis of the Treaty of Peace with Japan.



Residence examination counter

## 1 Permission for Change in the Status of Residence

In 2021, the number of cases in which obtained permission for a change in the status of residence was 367,189, a decrease of 25,226 (6.4%) when compared to the previous year.

### (1) Permission to Change Status of Residence from the Status of Residence of “Student” to a Status for Employment Purposes

Foreign nationals studying at Japanese universities or vocational/technical schools have the status of residence of “Student”. Not a few of them wish to stay in Japan to work for a company or some other organization in Japan even after finishing their studies at school.

The number of foreign nationals who were granted permission to change their status of residence to a status of residence for the purpose of employment was 28,974 in 2021, a decrease of 715(2.4%) compared to 2020.

According to the statistics by status of residence, the number of foreign nationals who obtained permission to change their status to that of “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services” made up the largest number, totaling 24,861, a decrease of 1,407(5.4%) compared to 2020 ([Reference 25](#)).

#### Reference 25 Changes in the number of cases of permission for change of the status of residence from student, etc. to a status for employment by status of residence

(people)

Status of Residence \ Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	22,419	25,942	30,947	29,689	28,974
Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/ International Services	20,486	24,188	28,595	26,268	24,861
Designated Activities	36	14	316	873	1,696
Professor	626	538	640	785	890
Business Manager	712	560	500	477	554
Instructor	93	137	166	389	198
Medical Services	254	246	280	307	177
Nursing Care	18	83	173	220	240
Highly-Skilled Professional	43	65	156	218	216
Researcher	102	85	81	103	98
Religious Activities	25	15	10	11	19
Artist	9	2	13	9	11
Others	15	9	17	29	14

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of foreign nationals who obtained permission to change their status for employment purposes was from China at 9,331, accounting for 32.2%, followed by Viet Nam at 6,885(23.8%) and Nepal at 4,403(15.2%) ([Reference 26](#)).

**Reference 26** Changes in the number of cases of permission for change of the status of residence from student, etc. to a status for employment by nationality/ region

(People)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	22,419	25,942	30,947	29,689	28,974
China	10,326	10,886	11,580	10,933	9,331
Viet Nam	4,633	5,244	7,030	6,582	6,885
Nepal	2,026	2,934	3,591	3,552	4,403
R.O.Korea	1,487	1,575	1,663	1,376	1,117
Sri Lanka	242	432	704	1,145	1,477
Taiwan	810	1,065	1,259	927	672
Myanmar	212	348	593	672	614
Indonesia	253	362	469	540	608
Bangladesh	110	233	467	501	542
the Philippines	230	319	447	458	411
Others	2,090	2,544	3,144	3,003	2,914

(\*) "China" does not include Taiwan, China (Hong Kong) or China (others).

**(2) Permission to Change Status of Residence in Order to Participate in "Technical Intern Training (ii)" and "Technical Intern Training (iii)"**

The Technical Intern Training Program was established in 1993 to enable foreign nationals to acquire skills etc. through on-the-job training while in employment, thereby contributing to effective technology transfer and human resources development as part of Japan's international contributions.

The Technical Intern Training Program has been transferred to a new program pursuant to the "Act on Proper Technical Intern Training and Protection of Technical Intern Trainees" (Act No. 89 of 2016; hereinafter referred to as "Technical Intern Training Act"), which came into effect on November 1, 2017, and with regard to the old program prior to the enforcement of the Technical Intern Training Act, as under the current program, permission to change the status of residence of "Technical Intern Training (ii)" was required to engage in work requiring the skills, etc. already acquired through "Technical Intern Training (i)" to increase proficiency in the skills, etc.

The skills, etc. in the "Technical Intern Training (ii)" are ones that are publicly evaluated in Japan and also meet demand in the countries sending the trainees. Specifically, as of March 17, 2022, there are 55 job categories such as formwork and machine processing, which can be tested through the evaluation system for the Basic National Trade Skills Test, and 30 job categories such as welding and spinning operations for which there is no national examination but is an official evaluation system approved by the Director-General for Human Resources Development of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, making a total of 85 job categories.

The number of foreign trainees who were permitted to change their status of residence to "Technical Intern Training (ii)" in 2021 had decreased by 83,232 (55.4%) compared to the previous year to 67,001.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of trainees who

obtained permission to change their status of residence to “Technical Intern Training (ii)” in 2021 came from Viet Nam at 37,944 (56.6%), followed by China at 8,495 (12.7%), Indonesia at 6,920 (10.3%), the Philippines at 4,509 (6.7%), and Myanmar at 3,185 (4.8%) (Reference 27).

In addition, “Technical Intern Training (iii)” has been newly established under the current program as a status of residence for those who have completed “Technical Intern Training (ii)” to acquire further proficiency, and only excellent supervising organizations and implementing organizations are able to accept trainees with this status of residence (The total number of applicable skills, etc. was 79 as of March 17, 2022).

The number of foreign trainees who were permitted to change their status of residence to “Technical Intern Training (iii)” in 2021 had increased by 12,465 (86.4%) compared to the previous year to 26,888.

According to the statistics of foreign nationals who received permission to change their status of residence to “Technical Intern Training (iii)” in 2021 by nationality/region, the order was Viet Nam at 15,203 (56.5%) followed by the Philippines at 3,690 (13.7%), Indonesia at 2,602 (9.7%), China at 2,493 (9.3%) and Myanmar at 991 (3.7%) (Reference 28).

According to the statistics of the technical intern training plans accredited in FY2021 by job categories, the largest numbers for technical intern training (ii) were “Ready-made meal manufacturing”, “Crop farming”, “Care worker”, and for technical intern training (iii) were “Ladies’ and children’s dress making”, “Scaffolding”, “Welding” (References 29, 30).

**Reference 27** Changes in the number of trainees who changed to “Technical Intern Training (ii)” by nationality/region

(People)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	89,281	180,475	132,841	150,233	67,001
Viet Nam	39,944	86,892	71,275	83,468	37,944
China	25,749	46,325	27,440	26,137	8,495
Indonesia	6,868	17,994	11,455	13,542	6,920
The Philippines	8,758	14,039	10,986	12,192	4,509
Myanmar	2,146	4,571	3,715	5,824	3,185
Others	5,816	10,654	7,970	9,070	5,948

(\*1) “China ” dose not include Taiwan, China(Hong Kong) or China(others).

(\*2) The number of foreign nationals who were granted permission to change their status of residence to “Technical Intern Training (ii)” includes those who were granted permission to change their status of residence from “Technical Intern Training (i)” or a status of residence other than “Technical Intern Training (i)” to “Technical Intern Training (ii)”. The number of foreign nationals who were granted permission to change their status of residence in 2017 and 2018 includes those who were granted permission to change their status of residence from “Technical Intern Training (ii)” under the old system to “Technical Intern Training (ii)” under the new system in accordance with the implementation of the Technical Intern Training Act.

(\*3) The numbers given in the 2019 version do not include the number of foreign nationals who were granted permission to change their status of residence in (\*2).

**Reference 28** Changes in the number of trainees who changed to “Technical Intern Training (iii)” by nationality/region

(People)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	0	1,708	4,688	14,423	26,888
Viet Nam	0	961	2,573	7,721	15,203
The Philippines	0	222	669	2,151	3,690
Indonesia	0	119	254	1,029	2,602
China	0	243	631	1,928	2,493
Myanmar	0	49	261	607	991
Others	0	114	300	987	1,909

(\*1) “China ” dose not include Taiwan, China (Hong Kong) or China (others).

(\*2) Although the status of residence of “Technical Intern Training (iii) (a) and (b)” was newly established on November 1, 2017, no foreign nationals received permission to change their status of residence to “Technical Intern Training (iii) (a) and (b)” in 2017.

(\*3) The number of foreign nationals who were granted permission to change their status of residence to “Technical Intern Training (iii)” given in the 2019 version represents the number of foreign nationals who were granted permission to change their status of residence from “Technical Intern Training (ii)” to “Technical Intern Training (iii).” This reference table includes the number of foreign nationals who were granted permission to change their status of residence to “Technical Intern Training (iii)” from statuses of residence other than “Technical Intern Training (ii)”.

**Reference 29** Number of accreditations of the technical intern training plan for “Technical Intern Training (ii) ” by job categories

(Cases)

Job categories \ Fiscal year	2019	2020	2021
Total	150,274	137,408	59,558
Ready-made meal manufacturing	14,464	13,382	7,044
Crop farming	11,836	9,308	5,356
Care worker	1,604	5,272	4,282
Scaffolding	8,403	9,765	3,351
Welding	10,008	7,969	2,791
Plastic molding	7,754	6,414	2,632
Construction machinery operations	3,717	4,754	2,230
Manufacturing work for non-heated fishery processed foodstuff	4,879	3,832	2,163
Ladies’ and children’s dress making	6,944	5,119	1,880
Industrial packaging	4,546	4,384	1,782
Others	76,119	67,209	26,047

**Reference 30** Number of accreditations of the technical intern training plan for “Technical Intern Training (iii)” by job categories

(Cases)

Job categories \ Fiscal year	2019	2020	2021
Total	25,842	26,199	38,325
Ladies' and children's dress making	2,733	2,343	2,922
Scaffolding	1,501	1,677	2,570
Welding	1,539	1,433	2,531
Ready-made meal manufacturing	2,485	1,812	2,497
Plastic molding	1,113	1,247	2,442
Crop farming	1,547	1,942	2,114
Painting	1,001	908	1,646
Reinforcing bar construction	932	1,000	1,424
Machining	720	769	1,415
Industrial packaging	554	874	1,338
Others	11,717	12,194	17,426

**(3) Permission to Change Status of Residence to “Specified Skilled Worker (i)” and “Specified Skilled Worker (ii)”**

In 2021, 39,004 people were granted permission to change their status of residence to “Specified Skilled Worker (i)”.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of people who were granted permission to change their status of residence to “Specified Skilled Worker (i)” came from Viet Nam at 25,199 (64.6%), followed by the Philippines at 3,961 (10.2%), Indonesia at 2,838 (7.3%), China at 2,823 (7.2%), and Myanmar at 1,823 (4.7%) ([Reference 31](#)).

There were no cases where permission was granted to change the status of residence to “Specified Skilled Worker (ii)”.

**Reference 31** Changes in the number of people who changed to “Specified Skilled Labor (i)” by nationality/region

(People)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2019	2020	2021
Total	1,062	10,863	39,004
Viet Nam	600	6,986	25,199
The Philippines	110	942	3,961
Indonesia	77	700	2,838
China	95	1,039	2,823
Myanmar	63	404	1,823
Others	117	792	2,360

(\*1) “China” does not include Taiwan, China (Hong Kong) or China (others).

## 2 Permission for Extension of the Period of Stay

The number of cases in which obtained permission for extension of their period of stay in 2021 was 848,305, a decrease of 25,111 (2.9%) compared to the previous year.

## 3 Permission for Permanent Residence

The number of cases in which were granted permission for permanent residence in 2021 was 36,691, an increase of 6,944 (23.3%) when compared to the previous year ([Reference 32](#)).

### Reference 32 Changes in the number of cases of permission for permanent residence by nationality/region

(Cases)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	28,869	31,451	32,150	29,747	36,691
China	12,816	14,626	15,542	14,874	19,426
The Philippines	3,549	3,077	2,998	2,580	2,888
Brazil	2,716	2,255	2,318	2,112	2,551
R.O.Korea	2,241	2,742	2,521	1,966	2,210
Viet Nam	873	1,343	1,405	1,635	1,995
Others	6,674	7,408	7,366	6,580	7,621

(\*1) The number for "China" is the number including China (Hong Kong), China (others), and excluding those who have already received residence cards with "Taiwan" in the nationality/region section.

(\*2) This table does not include the number of permits for special permanent residence.

## 4 Permission for Acquisition of a Status of Residence

The number of cases in which were granted permission for acquisition of a status of residence in 2021 was 15,867, an increase of 147 (0.9%) when compared to the previous year.

## 5 Re-entry Permission

The number of cases in which were granted re-entry permission in 2021 was 41,660, an increase of 12,922 (45.0%) when compared to the previous year.

In addition, the number of foreign nationals who departed from Japan having obtained special re-entry permission in 2021 was 234,720 accounting for 83.5% of the total number of 281,209 foreign nationals who departed from Japan through re-entry permission.

## 6 Permission to Engage in an Activity Other Than Those Permitted by the Status of Residence Previously Granted

The number of cases in which obtained permission to engage in an activity other than those permitted by the status of residence previously granted in 2021 was 241,222, a decrease of 10,289 (4.1%) compared to the previous year.

## Section 3 Number of Issuance of Residence Cards and Special Permanent Resident Certificates

### 1 Residence Cards

The number of residence cards issued in 2021 was 1,432,785. According to the statistics by category, the number of residence cards issued at the time of granting permission relating to landing/status of residence was 1,275,848 accounting for 89.0% of the total, followed by applications for extension of the period of validity at 118,958 (8.3%), reissuance at 34,347 (2.4%), and notification of a change in the registered matters aside from the place of residence at 3,579 (0.2%).

By category of Regional Immigration Services Bureaus, the Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau issued 706,695 residence cards, accounting for 49.3% of the total, followed by Nagoya at 262,985 (18.4%), Osaka at 181,899 (12.7%) and Fukuoka at 130,574 (9.1%) ([Reference 33](#)).

#### Reference 33 Number of issuances of residence cards (2021)

(Cases)

Regional Immigration Service Bureaus	Total	Landing/residency status of residence related permission	Notification of change in the registered matters aside from the place of residence	Extension of the period of validity	Application for reissuance	Others
Total	1,432,785	1,275,848	3,579	118,958	34,347	53
Sapporo	24,974	23,741	33	860	337	3
Sendai	35,642	32,366	58	2,712	506	0
Tokyo	706,695	623,759	1,937	62,040	18,922	37
Nagoya	262,985	230,020	949	26,212	5,804	0
Osaka	181,899	160,944	259	15,799	4,897	0
Hiroshima	63,104	58,390	145	3,475	1,087	7
Takamatsu	26,912	25,496	34	1,065	312	5
Fukuoka	130,574	121,132	164	6,795	2,482	1



## 2 Special Permanent Resident Certificates

The number of special permanent resident certificates issued in 2021 was 68,035. According to the statistics by category, the number of special permanent resident certificates issued at the time of extension of the period of validity was 64,009 accounting for 94.1% of the total, followed by applications for reissuance at 2,988 (4.4%), permission for special permanent resident (Article 4) at 534 (0.8%), and notification of a change in the registered matters aside from the place of residence at 387 (0.6%) ([Reference 34](#)).

**Reference 34** Number of issuances of special permanent resident certificates (2021)  
(Cases)

Permission for special permanent residence (Article 4)	Permission for special permanent residence (Article 5)	Notification of a change in the registered matters aside from the place of residence	Extension of the period of validity	Application for reissuance	Application to switch over to the special permanent resident certificate	Application for new issuance	Application for issuance in advance	Total
534	67	387	64,009	2,988	47	3	0	68,035

**Article: At the Front Line of Immigration Control Administration**

**(Voice of the immigration inspector in charge of status examinations)  
(Status Division, Sapporo Regional Immigration Services Bureau:  
Aizawa Katsutoshi)**

The Status Division, the Sapporo Regional Immigration Services Bureau, divides duties by status of residence, and I am mainly in charge of examining status of residence for "Technical Intern Training". My work mainly consists of examining residence applications related to technical intern training.

The Technical Intern Training Program is intended to enable foreign nationals to come to Japan as technical intern trainees and acquire skills, technology, and knowledge under their respective implementing organizations, developing human resources that will contribute to the economic development of their own countries after returning to their home countries. Technical intern trainees are now accepted nationwide and work to acquire various skills while engaging in a wide range of job categories.

Technical intern trainees engage in activities according to a technical intern plan accredited by the Organization for Technical Intern Training, and if the examination by my department is prolonged, it may hinder practical training, so I try to conduct prompt examinations in my daily work.

Due to the recent impact of COVID-19, special measures have been established in immigration control administration, and there are more opportunities to receive opinions and consultations from related organizations. I myself sometimes receive direct consultation from supervising organizations and implementing organizations to which technical intern trainees belong. When doing so, I of course provide appropriate guidance based on laws, regulations, standards, etc. and I am conscious of how I can solve the problem depending on the content of their consultation and individual circumstances, so I try to respond with consideration for their position.

Finally, I can feel in my daily work that the Technical Intern Training Program is a system that has been established through the cooperation of various related organizations, both public and private. I hope to play a small but important role in supporting the system and doing work to contribute to the benefit of society as a whole.



**The immigration inspector in charge of status examinations**

# Chapter 4 Implementation of the Technical Intern Training Program

## Section 1 Outline of the Program

The Technical Intern Training Program is a program which accepts people from the developing countries or regions for a certain period and enables them to acquire, increase and attain proficiency in (hereinafter referred to as “acquire” in this Chapter) the skills, techniques or knowledge (hereinafter referred to as “skills” in this Chapter) cultivated in Japan, and contributes to “human resource development” which leads to the development of the country or region through such people utilizing these skills acquired in Japan after they have returned to their home country.

The Technical Intern Training Program established in 1993 was a program which enabled foreign nationals who had acquired skills above a certain level through training, to enter into a new employment contract and to further acquire the skills in a more practical way after they had completed the training at the same institution where they had received the training.

In response to criticism that some of the organizations accepting the trainees and technical intern trainees did not fully understand the original purpose of the program, and were treating them in all essence as low wage workers, a new status of residence of “Technical Intern Training” was established in the Act for Partial Amendment of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act and Special Act on the Immigration Control of, Inter Alia, Those Who Have Lost Japanese Nationality Pursuant to the Treaty of Peace with Japan, and Other Related Laws enacted in July 2009, and measures have been taken to legally protect the technical intern trainees and stabilize their legal status such as ensuring that the labor laws and regulations will be applied under an employment relationship from the first year of entry into Japan.

However, while there has still been criticism that for example, there are still those who fail to understand the purpose of the program and misunderstand that this is a way of securing inexpensive labor that makes up for the shortage of labor in Japan, thereby resulting in violations of labor-related laws and regulations and human rights violations, on the other hand, requests have been received for expansion of the Technical Intern Training Program such as expansion of the job categories and extension of the technical intern training period.

For this reason, in order to properly implement the technical intern training for foreign nationals and to protect the technical intern trainees, the Technical Intern Training Act incorporating a program for accreditation of technical intern training plan and license of supervising organization, as well as measures to establish the Organization for Technical Intern Training to conduct the administrative affairs thereof, was enacted on November 18, 2016, promulgated on the 28th of the same month, and entered into effect on November 1, 2017.

## Section 2 Applications and processing of license of supervising organizations

### 1 Applications for license of supervising organizations

From November 1, 2017, in order to accept technical intern trainees through the “supervising-organization-type technical intern training”, juridical persons, which intend to become a supervising organization are required to obtain a license of supervising organization from the competent ministers (Minister of Justice and Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare). The number of new applications for license of supervising organization was 269 in FY 2021 ([Reference 35](#)).

### 2 License of supervising organizations

The number of new license of supervising organizations was 277 in FY 2021 and as of March 31, 2022, there were 3,503 supervising organizations (reflecting discontinuance of supervision businesses and changes of license classification), of which 1,781 organizations have received a license for general supervision business, and 1,722 have received a license for specified supervision business ([Reference 35](#)).

#### Reference 35 Changes in the number of new applications and grant of license of supervising organization

(Cases)

Fiscal year	2019	2020	2021
Number of applications	523	401	269
Number of licenses	422	434	277

(\*) Because the processing of the application may span the fiscal years, the number of permits in each fiscal year is not part of the number of applications in each fiscal year.

## Section 3 Applications and processing of accreditation of technical intern training plans

### 1 Applications for accreditation of technical intern training plans

From November 1, 2017, in order for an implementing organization to accept technical intern trainees, it is necessary for the technical intern training plan prepared for each technical intern trainee to be accredited by the Organization for Technical Intern Training. The number of applications for accreditation of technical intern training plans by FY 2021 was 175,634, of which 2,764 applications were for individual-enterprise-type technical training plans, and 172,870 applications were for supervising-organization-type technical intern training plans ([Reference 36](#)).

## 2 Number of cases of accreditation of the technical intern training plans

The number of cases of accreditation of the technical intern training plans was 171,387 in FY 2021, with the number of cases of accreditation of 2,721 individual-enterprise-type technical training plans and the number of cases of 168,666 supervising-organization-type technical intern training plans ([Reference 36](#)).

### Reference 36 Changes in the number of applications and accreditations of the technical intern training plan

		(Cases)			
		Fiscal year	2019	2020	2021
Number of applications	Individual-enterprise-type		9,809	4,442	2,764
	Supervising-organization-type		360,436	237,510	172,870
	Total		370,245	241,952	175,634
Number of accreditations	Individual-enterprise-type		9,857	4,710	2,721
	Supervising-organization-type		356,310	251,698	168,666
	Total		366,167	256,408	171,387

(\*) Because the processing of the application may span the fiscal years, the number of permits in each fiscal year is not part of the number of applications in each fiscal year.

## Section 4 Responses to Cases of Inappropriate Acceptance

Under the technical intern training program, if there is a violation of the licensing or accreditation criteria, or a violation of the laws or regulations, etc. by a supervising organization or implementing organization, depending on the severity or manner of the violation, the license of the supervising organization or the accreditation of the technical intern training plan may be revoked, an order may be issued for suspension of business (only supervising organizations) or improvement, and the name of such organizations may be published. In addition, supervising organizations and implementing organizations, whose license or accreditation has been revoked, will not be able to continue with the technical intern training, and will not be allowed to accept new technical intern trainees for the next five years. During FY 2021, the accreditation of the technical intern training plans for 177 implementing organizations and the license of 13 supervising organizations was revoked ([Reference 37](#)). Furthermore, the Organization for Technical Intern Training is working to optimize the technical intern training program and protect the technical intern trainees by conducting regular on-site inspections and setting up consultation and reporting desk operated in the native language of the trainees. In FY 2021, 23,701 consultations were provided in the native language and 104 reports were accepted, and in addition, support was given in 39 cases to enable a technical intern trainee to change the implementing organization, and support was given in 117 cases (cumulative from April, 2018 to the end of March, 2022) for accommodation.

The number of technical intern trainees who disappeared from their program increased again, from 5,885 in 2020 to 7,167 in 2021 ([Reference 38](#)). The motives for disappearance are partly due to improper treatment of implementing organizations, but disappearances are often considered to be due to the financial circumstances of technical intern trainees. As such, we are striving to eliminate malicious sending organizations by using the framework of Memorandum of Cooperation with the government of the sending country, and taking other measures such as

giving priority to field surveys of implementing organizations which have experienced disappearances, as well as stopping acceptance of new technical intern trainees for sending organizations and supervising organizations that have frequently caused disappearances, taking into account who bears responsibility, etc.

In response to these disappearances, the “Project Team for Operation of the Technical Intern Training Program”, chaired by the Parliamentary Secretary of Justice, was established on November 16, 2018, on the orders of the Minister of Justice. The project team reviewed the implementation status of the Technical Intern Training Act and considered measures to improve its operation. On November 12, 2019, in order to reduce the number of technical intern trainees disappearing from the program, the Minister of Justice announced additional measures.

Based on this, on March 23, 2020, the Technical Intern Training Act Enforcement Regulations were partially revised. Since April 1 of the same year, the ISA has started measures such as obligating payment of remuneration for technical intern trainees with a method that can be verified by the fact, such as by direct deposit.

Furthermore, for technical intern trainees, the ISA has made efforts to create multilingual videos that introduce the outline of the system and where to seek consultation, create leaflets for preventing disappearances, and stop accepting new technical intern trainees from sending organizations with a high number of technical intern trainees disappearing.

**Reference 37** Changes in the number of administrative dispositions, etc.

(Cases)

Fiscal year		2019	2020	2021
Number of Implementing Organizations	Revocation of technical intern training plans	23	77	177
	Orders for Improvement	2	6	6
Number of Supervising Organizations	Revocation of the license of the supervising organizations	4	13	13
	Orders for Improvement	0	2	10

**Reference 38** Changes in the number of technical intern trainees disappearing by nationality/ region

(People)

Nationality/Region	Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total		7,089	9,052	8,796	5,885	7,167
Viet Nam		3,751	5,801	6,105	3,741	4,772
China		1,594	1,537	1,330	964	896
Cambodia		656	758	462	494	667
Myanmar		446	345	347	250	447
Indonesia		242	339	307	240	208
Others		400	272	245	196	177

(\*) The indication of China in the table does not include Taiwan, China (Hong Kong) or China (others).

## Chapter 5 Deportation Procedures for Foreign Nationals

### Section 1 Foreign Nationals Overstaying Their Authorized Period of Stay



Investigation of violation

Based on the computer statistics of the ISA, the estimated number of foreign nationals who overstayed (those who illegally stay in Japan beyond their authorized period of stay) was 66,759 as of January 1, 2022. This was a decrease of 16,109 (19.4%) when compared to the 82,868 as of January 1, the previous year.

In 2021, the number of new entries to Japan decreased significantly from the previous year due to the spread of COVID-19, which is considered to be the factor behind the decrease in the number of foreign nationals overstaying their authorized period of stay.

#### 1 Number of Foreign Nationals Overstaying Their Authorized Period of Stay by Nationality/Region

At the time of May 1, 1993, when the highest number of foreign nationals overstaying their authorized period of stay was recorded, the nationality / region of the largest number of foreign nationals was Thailand, followed by R.O.Korea, the Philippines, China and Malaysia.

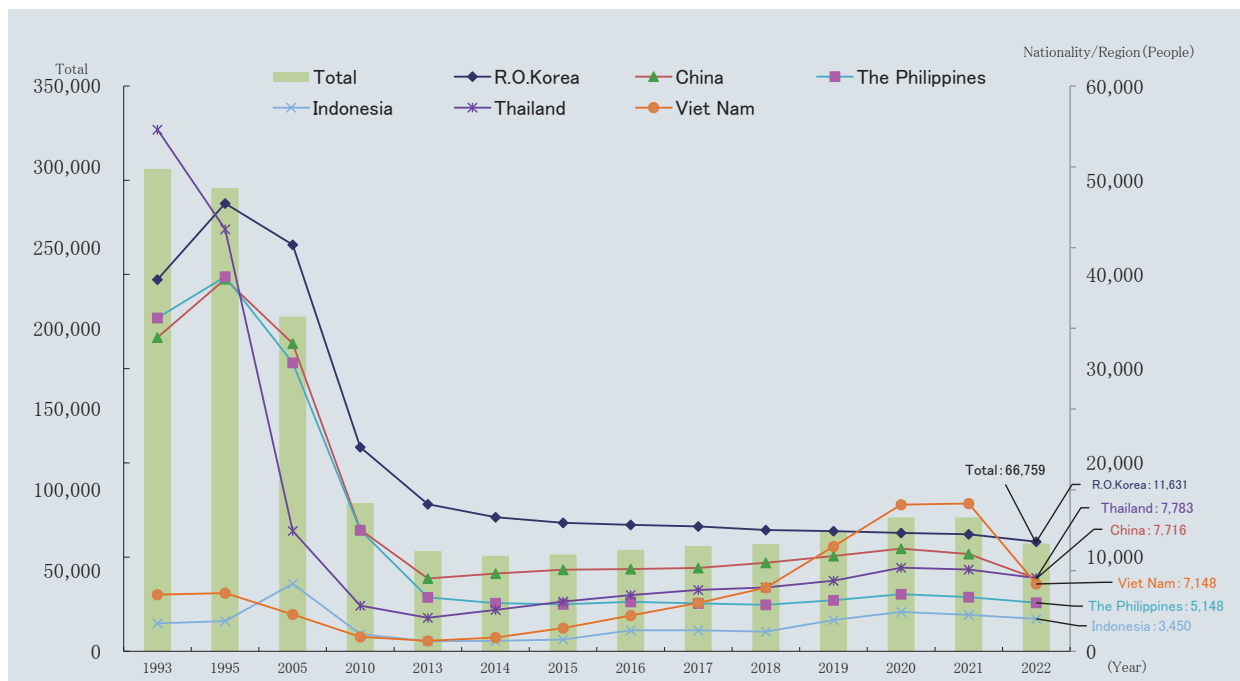
Looking at trends in recent years, the R.O.Korea has consistently been on a declining trend since 1995. Viet Nam had been on the rise since 2013, but as of January 1, 2022, there was a significant decrease to 7,148 (down 54.4% year-on-year). As of January 1, 2022, there were 7,783 (down 10.4% year-on-year) from Thailand, which had been increasing due to the relaxing of the visa requirements and other factors in 2013 ([Reference 39, 40](#)).

**Reference 39** Changes in the estimated number of foreign nationals overstaying the authorized period of stay by nationality/region

(People)

Nationality/ Region	Date				
	January 1 2018	January 1 2019	January 1 2020	January 1 2021	January 1 2022
Total	66,498	74,167	82,892	82,868	66,759
R. O. Korea	12,876	12,766	12,563	12,433	11,631
Thailand	6,768	7,480	8,872	8,691	7,783
China	9,390	10,119	10,902	10,335	7,716
Viet Nam	6,760	11,131	15,561	15,689	7,148
The Philippines	4,933	5,417	6,061	5,761	5,148
Indonesia	2,076	3,323	4,180	3,869	3,450
Taiwan	3,784	3,747	3,730	3,724	3,319
Malaysia	1,784	1,808	1,846	1,826	1,693
Sri Lanka	816	861	1,112	1,287	1,316
Nepal	325	462	759	1,241	977
Others	16,986	17,053	17,306	18,012	16,578

**Reference 40** Changes in the estimated number of foreign nationals overstaying the authorized period of stay by major nationality/region



(\*) It shows the number of foreign nationals overstaying as of May 1 in 1993 and 1995 and as of January 1 in each other year.

**2** Number of Foreign Nationals Overstaying Their Authorized Period of Stay by Status of Residence

Taking a look at the foreign nationals overstaying their authorized period of stay as of January 1, 2022 by status of residence prior to illegally overstaying in Japan, the number of



foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor” continued from January 1, the previous year to make up the largest number at 43,266 accounting for 64.8% of the total number, followed by “Designated Activities” at 5,305 (7.9%), “Technical Intern Training (ii) (b)” at 4,346 (6.5%), “Technical Intern Training (i) (b)” at 3,230 (4.8%), “Student” at 2,436 (3.6%), and “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” at 2,300 (3.4%). In addition, when compared to January 1, the previous year, there was a decrease in the number of foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor” by 6,826 (13.6%), “Designated Activities” by 599 (10.1%), “Technical Intern Training (ii) (b)” by 2,883 (39.9%), “Technical Intern Training (i) (b)” by 2,492 (43.6%), “Student” by 2,605 (51.7%) and “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” by 308 (11.8%) ([Reference 41](#)).

**Reference 41** Changes in the estimated number of foreign nationals overstaying the authorized period of stay by status of residence

(People)

Status of Residence \ Date	January 1 2016	January 1 2017	January 1 2018	January 1 2019	January 1 2020	January 1 2021	January 1 2022
Total	62,818	65,270	66,498	74,167	82,892	82,868	66,759
Temporary Visitor	42,478	44,167	44,592	47,399	51,239	50,092	43,266
Designated Activities	1,633	1,910	2,286	4,224	5,688	5,904	5,305
Technical Intern Training (ii) - (b)	3,413	3,748	3,988	5,318	7,048	7,229	4,346
Technical Intern Training (i) - (b)	2,439	2,741	2,894	4,015	5,309	5,722	3,230
Student	3,422	3,807	4,100	4,708	5,543	5,041	2,436
Spouse or Child of Japanese National	3,433	3,287	3,092	2,946	2,687	2,608	2,300
Others	7,633	7,520	7,832	9,781	5,378	6,272	5,876

(\*) The number of foreign nationals overstaying with the status of residence of “Student” includes the number of foreign nationals whose status of residence was “Pre-college Student” under the previous Immigration Control Act, which was revised on July 1, 2010, at the time when they came to be considered to be overstaying.

## Section 2

### Cases of Violation of the Immigration Control Act Necessitating the Implementation of Deportation Procedures or Departure Orders

#### 1 Outline

The number of foreign nationals against whom deportation procedures or departure orders (hereinafter, “deportation procedures, etc.”) were enforced on account of violation of the Immigration Control Act was 18,012, an increase of 2,137 (13.5%) compared with 2020. Of these, 4,365 were handed over to immigration inspectors as those subject to the departure order system.

The number of foreign nationals violating the Immigration Control Act, which had been on the rise before the outbreak of COVID-19, began to decline in 2020 due to the impact of COVID-19. In 2021, while taking measures to prevent infection, the ISA strengthened the col-

lection and analysis of information related to illegal foreign residents, worked to crack down on the problem, and strived to promote the processing of cases where they have turned themselves in, wishing to return to their home countries.

According to the statistics of the number of foreign nationals by grounds for deportation, the largest number of foreign nationals was deported for overstaying at 16,638 (92.4%), followed by criminal offenses at 574 (3.2%) and illegal entry at 182 (1.0%). Overstaying continued to account for a predominant percentage ([Reference 42](#)).

Looking at the statistics for the number of cases of violation of the Immigration Control Act by nationality/region, the largest number of such foreign nationals was from Viet Nam at 9,668 (53.7%), followed by China at 2,915 (16.2%) and Thailand at 1,064 (5.9%). These top three countries made up 75.8% of the total ([Reference 43](#)).

**Reference 42** Changes in the number of cases of violation of the Immigration Control Act by grounds for deportation

(People)

Grounds for Deportation \ Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	13,686	16,269	19,386	15,875	18,012
Illegal entry	577	409	349	225	182
Illegal landing	151	140	134	56	50
Activity other than those permitted	648	476	255	96	37
Overstay	11,502	14,353	17,627	14,465	16,638
Criminal offenses	470	460	448	504	574
Others	338	431	573	529	531
Illegal worker	9,134	10,086	12,816	10,993	13,255

**Reference 43** Changes in the number of cases of violation of the Immigration Control Act by nationality/region

(People)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	13,686	16,269	19,386	15,875	18,012
Viet Nam	2,931	4,395	6,549	6,286	9,668
China	3,901	4,185	4,256	3,127	2,915
Thailand	2,096	2,101	2,295	1,410	1,064
the Philippines	1,310	1,692	1,566	1,225	804
Indonesia	727	850	1,246	1,059	728
Nepal	198	374	598	490	499
Turkey	127	209	271	237	408
Sri Lanka	145	150	296	170	274
Brazil	232	275	285	316	216
R.O.Korea	440	353	324	242	210
Others	1,579	1,685	1,700	1,313	1,226

(\*) "China" does not include Taiwan, China (Hong Kong) or China (others).

## 2 Number of Cases of Violation of the Immigration Control Act by Grounds for Deportation

### (1) Illegal Entry

Of the foreign nationals against whom the deportation procedures were enforced for being in violation of the Immigration Control Act in 2021, the number of illegal entrants<sup>(\*)</sup> was 182, accounting for 1.0%, a decrease of 43 (19.1%) compared to 2020. Looking at past records, the number increased from 2003 but started to decrease since 2006. The fact that the number of illegal entrants as a percentage of the total number of foreign nationals in violation of the Immigration Control Act is decreasing is one of the reasons to consider that the countermeasures to prevent illegal entry have been quite effective.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number was from the Philippines at 57 (31.3%), followed by China at 46 (25.3%) and R.O. Korea at 24 (13.2%) (Reference 44).

According to the statistics by means of transportation used for illegal entry, the number of illegal entrants using aircraft was 141. Though it showed a decrease of 57 (28.8%) compared to 2020, the percentage of illegal entry using aircraft was still high at 77.5%. In addition, the number of illegal entrants using a vessel was 41, accounting for 22.5%, a decrease of 14 (51.9%) compared to 2020 (Reference 45, 46).

#### Reference 44 Changes in the number of cases of illegal entry by nationality/region

(People)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	577	409	349	225	182
the Philippines	117	128	90	82	57
China	104	99	87	43	46
R.O.Korea	32	32	26	19	24
Peru	20	10	10	2	10
Russia	3	14	10	2	7
Sri Lanka	24	11	11	6	6
Pakistan	24	1	7	1	6
Thailand	20	23	13	13	4
Bangladesh	5	9	4	4	3
Iran	115	16	18	8	3
Others	113	66	73	45	16

(\*) "China" does not include Taiwan, China (Hong Kong) or China (others).

(\*) An illegal entrant means a person who enters Japan in violation of the provisions of Article 3, paragraph (1) of the Immigration Control Act. The provisions in the paragraph stipulate that any foreign national who falls under any of the following items shall not enter Japan: a person who does not possess a valid passport (except for a crew member possessing a valid crew member's pocket-ledger) (item (i)); and a person who intends to land in Japan without receiving a seal of verification for landing or undergoing the recording of the prescribed data pursuant to the provision of Article 9, paragraph (4) of the Immigration Control Act, or without obtaining authorized permission for landing from an immigration inspector (Item (ii)). Any foreign national who violates the provisions is considered an illegal entrant.

**Reference 45** Changes in the number of cases of illegal entry using aircraft by nationality/ region

(People)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	482	332	282	198	141
the Philippines	114	122	86	80	56
China	48	52	50	30	22
R.O.Korea	17	13	12	12	10
Peru	20	10	10	2	10
Russia	3	12	6	1	7
Others	280	123	118	73	36

(\*) "China" does not include Taiwan, China (Hong Kong) or China (others).

**Reference 46** Changes in the number of cases of illegal entry by vessel by nationality/ region

(People)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	95	77	67	27	41
China	56	47	37	13	24
R.O.Korea	15	19	14	7	14
The Philippines	3	6	4	2	1
Others	21	5	12	5	2

(\*) "China" does not include Taiwan, China (Hong Kong) or China (others).

**(2) Illegal Landing**

Of the foreign nationals against whom deportation procedures were enforced owing to violation of the Immigration Control Act during 2021, the number of those who illegally landed in Japan without receiving a seal of verification for landing or undergoing the recording of the prescribed data pursuant to the provisions of Article 9, paragraph (4) of the Immigration Control Act, or without obtaining permission for landing from an immigration inspector was 50 (0.3%), which was a decrease of 6 (10.7%) compared to 2020 ([Reference 47](#)).

**Reference 47** Changes in the number of cases of illegal landing by nationality/  
region

(People)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	151	140	134	56	50
Russia	11	20	9	12	19
United States of America	12	13	22	6	9
China	15	10	16	3	5
the Philippines	3	1	9	0	3
Canada	0	3	2	3	3
Others	110	93	76	32	11

(\*) "China" does not include Taiwan, China (Hong Kong) or China (others).

**(3) Overstay**

Of the foreign nationals against whom deportation procedures were enforced for being in violation of the Immigration Control Act during 2021, the number of those who overstayed the authorized period of stay was 16,638 (92.4%), which was an increase of 2,173 (15.0%) compared to 2020 and still overwhelmingly high.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number was from Viet Nam at 9,232 (55.5%), followed by China at 2,690 (16.2%), Thailand at 1,033 (6.2%), Indonesia at 717 (4.3%), the Philippines at 646 (3.9%) ([Reference 48](#)).

**Reference 48** Changes in the number of cases of foreign nationals overstaying the  
authorized period of stay by nationality/region

(People)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	11,502	14,353	17,627	14,465	16,638
Viet Nam	2,515	3,951	6,156	5,956	9,232
China	3,534	3,819	3,878	2,857	2,690
Thailand	2,017	2,018	2,259	1,375	1,033
Indonesia	619	806	1,208	1,046	717
the Philippines	961	1,401	1,344	1,018	646
Nepal	139	335	531	444	465
Turkey	86	170	238	222	402
Sri Lanka	73	102	250	145	248
R.O.Korea	358	269	274	201	169
Uzbekistan	14	150	150	140	128
Others	1,186	1,332	1,339	1,061	908

(\*) "China" does not include Taiwan, China (Hong Kong) or China (others).

**(4) Activity Other Than Those Permitted by the Status of Residence Previously Granted**

If a foreign national residing in Japan clearly engages solely in working activities, such as the ones for which he/she receives remuneration, other than those permitted for the status of residence previously granted without obtaining the required permission, deportation

procedures will be enforced on grounds of engaging in activities other than those permitted under the status of residence previously granted. Of the foreign nationals against whom deportation procedures were enforced for being in violation of the Immigration Control Act in 2021, the number of foreign nationals against whom the procedures were enforced because of the activity other than those permitted by the status of residence previously granted was 37(0.2%), which was a decrease of 59 (61.5%) compared to 2020.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number was from Viet Nam at 17 (45.9%), followed by the Philippines at 7 (18.9%) and Nepal at 5 (13.5%), and these top three countries accounted for 78.4% of the total (Reference 49).

**Reference 49** Changes in the number of cases of activities other than those permitted under the status of residence previously granted by nationality/region

(People)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	648	476	255	96	37
Viet Nam	280	234	134	45	17
the Philippines	124	39	18	18	7
Nepal	47	22	33	12	5
Cambodia	3	24	2	9	3
China	41	47	21	2	3
Others	153	110	47	10	2

(\*) "China" does not include Taiwan, China (Hong Kong) or China (others).

**3 Illegal Foreign Workers**

**(1) Summary**

Of the foreign nationals against whom deportation procedures were enforced for being in violation of the Immigration Control Act in 2021, the number of those who were considered to be illegally working was 13,255 (73.6%). This indicates that most illegal foreign residents who are hiding out somewhere in Japan are working illegally.

It has been pointed out that illegal foreign workers working for substandard wages, have a serious negative impact on a fair labor market as they, for example, take away employment opportunities from Japanese workers. Moreover, there have been human rights violations against illegal foreign workers. For example, brokers arrange for illegal workers to come to Japan and gain a huge unfair profit by exploiting the wages that should be earned by the foreign workers. Some foreign workers in these conditions are also unable to receive sufficient compensation in the event of an industrial accident. Thus, the ISA promotes crackdown on foreign nationals who encourage illegal work.

**(2) Number of Illegal Foreign Workers by Nationality/Region**

The illegal foreign workers came from 44 countries/regions, mainly from neighboring Asian countries, which indicates that foreign nationals from various countries/regions are still working illegally.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, illegal workers from Viet Nam made up the largest number at 7,845 (59.2%), followed by China at 2,425 (18.3%), Thailand at 975

(7.4%), Indonesia at 678 (5.1%) and the Philippines at 480 (3.6%). These top five countries represented 93.6% of the total (Reference 50).

**Reference 50** Changes in the number of cases of illegal work by nationality/region (People)

Nationality/Region \ Year		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total		9,134	10,086	12,816	10,993	13,255
	Male	6,120	6,754	8,903	7,923	9,634
	Female	3,014	3,332	3,913	3,070	3,621
Viet Nam		2,152	3,035	4,941	4,943	7,845
	Male	1,657	2,259	3,766	3,801	5,893
	Female	495	776	1,175	1,142	1,952
China		2,915	3,112	3,155	2,361	2,425
	Male	1,982	2,170	2,188	1,693	1,745
	Female	933	942	967	668	680
Thailand		1,855	1,868	2,047	1,254	975
	Male	966	903	1,035	631	513
	Female	889	965	1,012	623	462
Indonesia		588	594	1,014	933	678
	Male	514	498	827	780	555
	Female	74	96	187	153	123
the Philippines		711	660	764	649	480
	Male	366	369	398	331	264
	Female	345	291	366	318	216
Nepal		77	71	111	162	176
	Male	52	52	92	126	138
	Female	25	19	19	36	38
R.O.Korea		239	169	163	109	118
	Male	118	69	76	56	42
	Female	121	100	87	53	76
Sri Lanka		53	42	87	71	98
	Male	48	41	81	65	96
	Female	5	1	6	6	2
Mongolia		146	117	91	65	90
	Male	95	70	61	53	63
	Female	51	47	30	12	27
Uzbekistan		7	35	65	90	68
	Male	7	34	64	89	68
	Female	0	1	1	1	0
Others		391	383	378	356	302
	Male	315	289	315	298	257
	Female	76	94	63	58	45

(\*) "China" does not include Taiwan, China (Hong Kong) or China (others).

### (3) Number of Illegal Foreign Workers by Gender

The composition of illegal foreign workers by gender was 9,634 males (72.7%) and 3,621 females (27.3%).

### (4) Number of Illegal Foreign Workers by Type of Work

According to the statistics by type of work, the largest number of illegal foreign workers were construction workers at 3,294 (24.9%), followed by agricultural workers at 3,154 (23.8%) and factory workers at 2,531 (19.1%).

In addition, according to the statistics by gender, the largest number of males worked as construction workers, followed by agricultural workers then factory workers, while the largest number of females worked as agricultural workers, followed by factory workers, and non-restaurant industry service workers ([Reference 51](#)).

#### Reference 51 Changes in the number of cases of illegal work by type of work

(People)

Job Categories \ Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	9,134	10,086	12,816	10,993	13,255
Male	6,120	6,754	8,903	7,923	9,634
Female	3,014	3,332	3,913	3,070	3,621
Construction worker	1,548	1,835	2,569	2,272	3,294
Male	1,529	1,818	2,550	2,241	3,265
Female	19	17	19	31	29
Agricultural worker	2,501	2,504	2,904	2,463	3,154
Male	1,585	1,480	1,646	1,575	1,900
Female	916	1,024	1,258	888	1,254
Factory worker	1,411	1,875	2,454	2,033	2,531
Male	942	1,236	1,686	1,378	1,672
Female	469	639	768	655	859
Other labor worker	1,059	998	1,380	1,156	1,287
Male	811	794	1,089	862	1,003
Female	248	204	291	294	284
Non-restaurant industry workers	495	589	647	493	697
Male	152	213	268	226	358
Female	343	376	379	267	339
Restaurant industry workers	267	275	292	215	266
Male	100	124	129	114	124
Female	167	151	163	101	142
Others	1,853	2,010	2,570	2,361	2,026
Male	1,001	1,089	1,535	1,527	1,312
Female	852	921	1,035	834	714



### (5) Number of Illegal Foreign Workers by Place of Work

Illegal foreign workers are known to be working in 47 prefectures throughout Japan. According to the statistics on the place of work of the illegal foreign workers by prefecture, Chiba prefecture had the largest number at 2,064 (15.6%), followed by Ibaraki prefecture at 1,973 (14.9%), Saitama prefecture at 1,632 (12.3%), Gunma prefecture at 1,439 (10.9%) and Tokyo at 1,287 (9.7%) ([Reference 52](#)).

According to the statistics by region, the number of illegal foreign workers in Tokyo and the six prefectures (Kanagawa, Chiba, Saitama, Ibaraki, Gunma, and Tochigi) in the Kanto district was 9,438 (71.2%), making up most of the total, and the number of illegal workers in the nine prefectures in the Chubu district (Niigata, Nagano, Yamanashi, Toyama, Ishikawa, Fukui, Shizuoka, Gifu and Aichi) was also at a high level of 1,924 (14.5%). Illegal foreign workers in the Kanto and Chubu districts making up 85.7% (11,362) of the total accounted for a substantial percentage of the total number of illegal foreign workers.

#### Reference 52 Changes in the number of cases of illegal foreign workers by area

(People)

Prefecture \ Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	9,134	10,086	12,816	10,993	13,255
Chiba	1,505	1,666	1,878	1,488	2,064
Ibaraki	2,213	1,975	2,126	1,512	1,973
Saitama	765	860	1,290	1,290	1,632
Gunma	453	456	826	851	1,439
Tokyo	1,184	1,437	1,551	1,428	1,287
Aichi	811	912	1,606	1,452	1,265
Osaka	294	317	464	459	587
Kanagawa	446	556	625	534	566
Tochigi	195	274	305	287	477
Hyogo	112	209	297	230	258
Others	1,156	1,424	1,848	1,462	1,707

## 4 Outline of Decisions on Violations

### (1) Receipt and Processing of Cases of Violation

Any foreign national who is suspected of coming under any of the grounds for deportation shall be handed over to an immigration inspector to undergo the procedures for decisions on violations after an investigation by an immigration control officer. These procedures consist of three steps: examination of the violation by an immigration inspector, a hearing by a special inquiry officer, and a decision of the Minister of Justice.



**Decision on violation**

The number of cases which underwent an examination of violations in 2021 was 20,202, an increase of 3,792 (23.1%) compared to the previous year ([Reference 53](#)).

**Reference 53** Changes in the number of cases of receipt and findings of violation examinations by immigration inspectors, hearings by special inquiry officers and decisions of the Minister of Justice

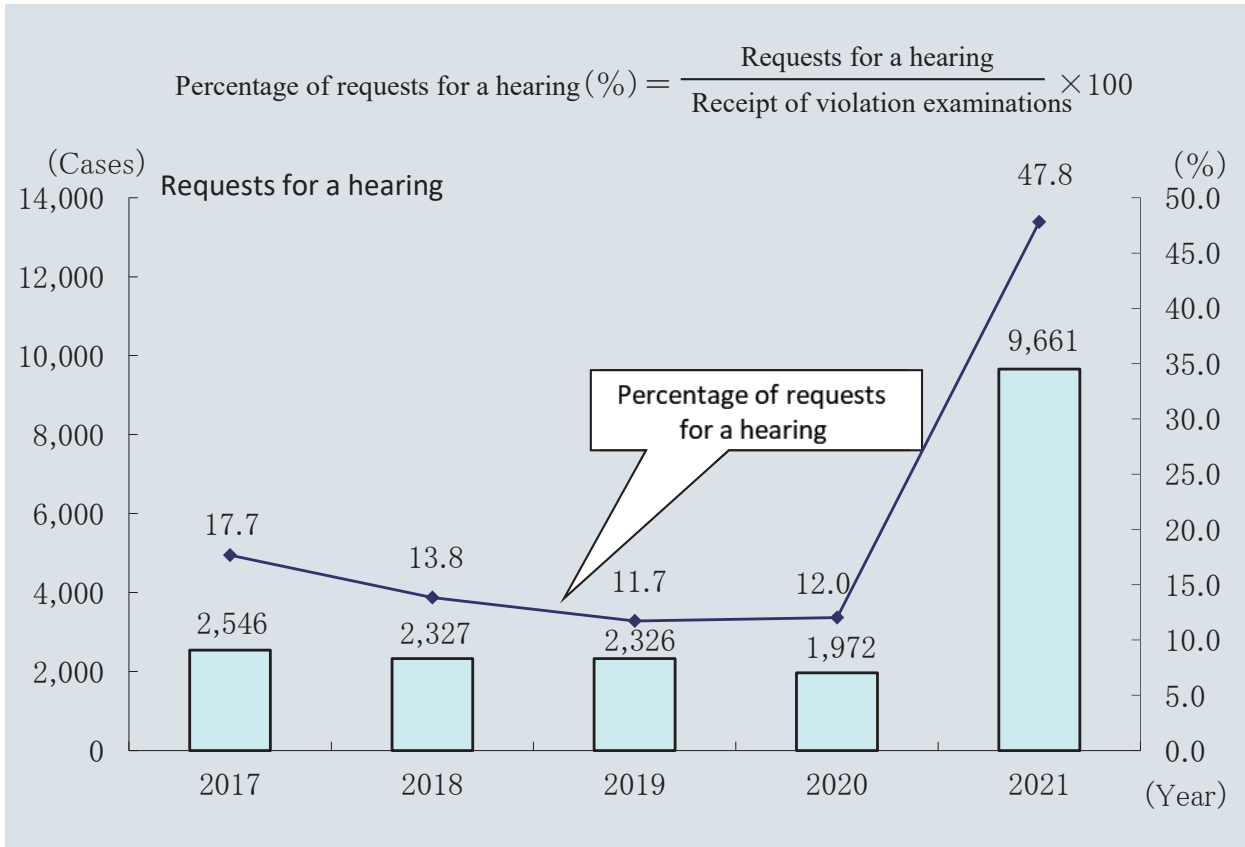
(Cases)

Division		Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
Violation examination by immigration inspector	Receipt		14,407 (414)	16,827 (402)	19,853 (370)	16,410 (393)	20,202 (1,983)	
	Completed	Found not to fall under one of the reasons for deportation		2	1	—	2	2
		Issuance of written deportation order		6,723	7,736	8,306	5,372	5,081
		Request for hearing		2,546	2,327	2,326	1,972	9,661
		Issuance of written departure order		4,423	6,223	8,702	6,898	4,410
		Not completed, others		713	540	519	2,166	1,048
Hearing by special inquiry officer	Receipt		3,273 (653)	2,946 (547)	3,040 (651)	2,631 (616)	10,433 (691)	
	Completed	Error in the findings		1	—	—	1	—
		Issuance of written deportation order		159	114	95	60	81
		Filing of an objection		2,522	2,128	2,256	1,832	9,697
		Issuance of written departure order		—	—	—	—	—
		Not completed, others		591	704	689	738	655
Decision of the Minister of Justice	Receipt		3,352 (818)	2,966 (822)	2,819 (544)	2,368 (518)	10,126 (371)	
	Completed	Objection with reason		1	—	—	—	—
		Objection without reason		2,415	2,331	2,211	1,916	9,174
		Issuance of written departure order		—	—	—	—	—
	Not completed, others		936	635	608	452	952	

(\*) The numbers indicated in parentheses are carry-over cases from the previous year and are included in each of the upper numbers.

The number of requests for a hearing after an examination of the violation in 2021 was 9,661 accounting for 47.8% of the total number of cases which underwent an examination of the violation, an increase of 7,689 (389.9%) compared to the previous year ([Reference 53, 54](#)).

**Reference 54** Changes in the number and percentage of requests for a hearing



The number of objections filed by foreign nationals who were not satisfied with the decision made by the special inquiry officer at the hearing was 9,697 in 2021, an increase of 7,865 (429.3 %) compared to the previous year (Reference 53).

**(2) Issuance of a Written Deportation Order**

The number of written deportation orders issued in 2021 was 5,566. According to the statistics by ground for deportation, the cases of overstay amounted to 4,006, accounting for 72.0% of the total, while the percentage of cases of illegal entry amounted to 130, accounting for 2.3% of the total (Reference 55).

**Reference 55** Changes in the number of issuance of written deportation orders by grounds for deportation

Grounds for Deportation	(Cases)					
	Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total		8,130	8,865	9,218	5,903	5,566
Overstay		5,872	6,658	7,434	4,604	4,006
Illegal entry		503	365	256	132	130
Illegal landing		140	93	127	41	43
Activity other than those permitted		644	480	254	96	33
Criminal offenses		411	426	147	154	504
Others		560	843	1,000	876	850

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number was from Viet Nam at 2,120, accounting for 38.1% of the total, followed by China at 1,170 (21.0%) and Thailand at 546 (9.8%) (Reference 56).

**Reference 56** Changes in the number of issuance of written deportation orders by nationality/ region



**(3) Provisional Release**

The number of cases where foreign nationals who had been detained due to a written detention order were provisionally released in 2021 was 3,506, an increase of 131 (3.9%) compared to the previous year. The number of foreign nationals detained under a written deportation order who were granted provisional release was 4,275, an increase of 1,262 (41.9%) compared to the previous year (Reference 57).

**Reference 57** Changes in the number of cases of permission for provisional release (Cases)

Type of Order \ Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
By written detention order	922	812	1,052	3,375	3,506
By written deportation order	822	523	725	3,013	4,275

#### (4) Special Permission to Stay in Japan

The number of cases in which received special permission to stay in Japan from the Minister of Justice in 2021 was 8,793, an increase of 7,315 (494.9%) when compared to 2020.

Most of the foreign nationals who received special permission to stay in Japan had established close relationships with Japanese nationals such as through marriage. Also in many cases they had settled down in Japan in many respects.

Looking at the foreign nationals who came under the grounds of deportation but were granted special permission to stay in Japan, there were 8,271 (94.1%) staying beyond the authorized period of stay. And there were 132 (1.5%) illegal entry and illegal landing. Overstaying, illegal entry and illegal landing accounted for 95.6% of the total ([Reference 58](#)).

#### Reference 58 Changes in the number of cases of special permission to stay in Japan by grounds for deportation

(Cases)

Grounds for Deportation \ Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	1,255	1,371	1,448	1,478	8,793
Overstay	868	970	1,051	1,142	8,271
Illegal entry/Illegal landing	128	143	128	104	132
Criminal offenses etc.	259	258	269	232	390

According to statistics by nationality/region in 2021, the number of foreign nationals who were granted special permission to stay in Japan was 7,450 (84.7%) for Viet Nam, 350 (4.0%) for the Philippines, 237 (2.7%) for China, 107 (1.2%) for Thailand, and 79 (0.9%) for R.O. Korea/ Korea combined ([Reference 59](#)).

#### Reference 59 Changes in the number of cases of special permission to stay in Japan by nationality/region

(Cases)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	1,255	1,371	1,448	1,478	8,793
Viet Nam	101	102	76	202	7,450
the Philippines	270	349	411	391	350
China	210	248	242	175	237
Thailand	72	63	62	71	107
R.O.Korea/Korea	125	115	108	83	79
Others	477	494	549	556	570

(\*1) "China" does not include Taiwan, China (Hong Kong) or China (others).

(\*2) The nationalities/regions in the chart do not necessarily correspond to the top five countries/regions.

## 5 Outline of Deportation of Foreign Nationals

The number of deportees in 2021 was 4,122, which was a decrease of 1,328 (24.4%) when compared to the previous year.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of deportees was from Viet Nam at 1,781 (43.2%), followed by China at 832 (20.2%), Thailand at 224 (5.4%), the Philippines at 214 (5.2%), and Indonesia at 191 (4.6%) ([Reference 60](#)).

**Reference 60** Changes in the number of deportees by nationality/region

(People)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	8,145	9,369	9,597	5,450	4,122
Viet Nam	2,038	2,698	3,185	2,206	1,781
China	1,954	2,152	1,998	980	832
Thailand	1,224	1,167	1,003	382	224
the Philippines	705	893	737	382	214
Indonesia	549	532	639	295	191
Nepal	196	198	275	197	170
Sri Lanka	127	148	212	141	103
Turkey	70	116	195	111	87
R.O.Korea	248	209	162	106	82
Brazil	94	124	133	72	48
Others	940	1,132	1,058	578	390

(\*) “China” does not include Taiwan, China (Hong Kong) or China (others).

The means of deportation are roughly divided into the three categories of “voluntary departure” where the deportee himself or herself pays for the deportation costs, “deportation at the expense of the Government of Japan” where the Japanese government pays for the deportation costs by reason of the deportee not having the necessary funds for deportation or other reasons, and “deportation in accordance with Article 59 of the Immigration Control Act” where the deportee is deported on the responsibility and at the expense of the carrier operating the aircraft or vessel on which the deportee was brought to Japan.



Deportation

**Reference 61** Changes in the number of deportees by means of deportation

(People)

Measure of Deportation \ Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	8,145	9,369	9,597	5,450	4,122
Voluntary departure	7,622	8,755	8,967	4,705	2,808
Deportation in accordance with Article 59	68	69	72	27	8
Individual deportation at the expense of the government	385	470	516	665	1,292
Group deportation at the expense of the government	43	47	0	44	0
Others	0	0	1	1	0
Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons	27	28	41	8	14

(\*1) "Group deportation at the expense of the government" refers to group deportation through the use of private chartered aircraft paid for by the Japanese government.

(\*2) "Others" are cases of deportation at the expense of the government of the deportees' home country.

**(1) Deportation at the Expense of Foreign National (Voluntary Departure)**

Of the deportees, the number of those deported at their own expense stood at 2,808 (68.1%), which was a decrease of 1,897 (40.3%) when compared to the previous year (References 61, 62).

The ISA deports foreign nationals issued with a written deportation order as soon as the requirements necessary for deportation, such as the passport, air ticket or travel expenses, have been fulfilled. However, with regard to those who do not fulfill the requirements for deportation, the ISA not only enforces the deportation procedures but also instructs deportees to make contact with relevant people in Japan or their home country in order to ask for assistance such as financial assistance for deportation. In cases where deportees do not possess a passport, the ISA asks foreign diplomatic establishments in Japan for the early issuance of a passport for the deportees.

**Reference 62** Changes in the number of deportees through voluntary departure by nationality/region

(People)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	7,622	8,755	8,967	4,705	2,808
China	1,912	2,093	1,925	931	759
Viet Nam	1,968	2,600	3,147	1,726	723
Thailand	1,185	1,156	996	380	213
the Philippines	653	801	648	369	182
Indonesia	530	511	629	281	172
Nepal	178	174	248	177	158
Sri Lanka	98	121	181	95	85
Turkey	59	101	154	103	84
R.O.Korea	229	192	146	100	78
Brazil	45	67	72	53	37
Others	765	939	821	490	317

(\*) "China" does not include Taiwan, China (Hong Kong) or China (others).



## (2) Deportation at the Expense of the Government of Japan

As foreign nationals, who are in violation of the Immigration Control Act tend to stay for a longer period and have more diversified lifestyles than before. There are deportees who do not depart at the expense of the foreign national as they refuse deportation for various reasons, cannot afford the travel expenses for return to their home country, or suffer from illness. Of these foreign nationals, the number of those deported at the expense of the government in consideration of individual circumstances, etc. stood at 1,292 (31.3%) in 2021, which was an increase of 583 (82.2%) compared to 2020 ([Reference 61](#)).

## (3) Deportation at the Expense of and on the Responsibility of Carriers

A carrier who operates an aircraft or vessel that has transported a foreign national who does not meet the requirements for landing is responsible for deporting the deportee at its own expense and on its own responsibility under certain conditions (deportation under Article 59 of the Immigration Control Act)<sup>(\*)</sup>. The number of foreign nationals deported in this way in 2021 was 8 (0.2%), a decrease of 19 (70.4%) compared to 2020 ([Reference 61](#)).

# 6 Departure Orders

## (1) Investigation into Violations

The number of foreign nationals whose cases were handed over from immigration control officers to immigration inspectors through the departure order procedures was 4,365 in 2021, accounting for 24.2% of the total number of foreign nationals in violation of the Immigration Control Act.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number was from China at 1,722 (39.5%), followed by Viet Nam at 651 (14.9%), Thailand at 579 (13.3%), Indonesia at 435 (10.0%) and Nepal at 283 (6.5%), and these top five countries accounted for 84.1% of the total ([Reference 63](#)).

(\*) Carriers are in a position to govern their crew and passengers, and responsibilities and duties are imposed on them under the Immigration Control Act. Among these duties, they are obligated to send foreign nationals falling under certain conditions to an area outside Japan promptly on their own responsibility and at their own expense (Article 59 of the Immigration Control Act).

For example, persons who are denied landing and issued with a written exclusion order but fail to leave, or who have landed with special landing permission but stay longer than the authorized period of stay, fall under the abovementioned category.

**Reference 63** Changes in the number of foreign nationals handed over under a departure order by nationality/region

(People)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	4,410	6,245	8,713	6,874	4,365
China	1,714	1,877	2,081	1,625	1,722
Viet Nam	867	1,677	3,249	2,739	651
Thailand	839	896	1,232	748	579
Indonesia	240	360	634	712	435
Nepal	49	215	352	252	283
the Philippines	289	672	565	376	215
Sri Lanka	17	31	79	37	101
Uzbekistan	8	89	73	45	86
R.O.Korea	116	86	84	54	63
Mongolia	77	65	65	26	51
Others	194	277	299	260	179

(\*) “China” does not include Taiwan, China (Hong Kong) or China (others).

## (2) Examination

### A. Receipt and Processing of Cases

The number of cases of departure orders in 2021 was 4,365, accounting for 21.6% of the total number of cases of examination of the violation. This represented a decrease of 2,509 (36.5%) when compared to the previous year.

As those subject to a departure order voluntarily appear at a regional immigration bureau, wishing to depart from Japan they are promptly processed after their cases are sent by immigration control officers.

### B. Issuance of a Written Departure Order

The number of cases in which were issued with a written departure order having been determined to be eligible for a departure order, was 4,410 in 2021.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number was from China at 1,737, accounting for 39.4% of the total, followed by Viet Nam at 674 (15.3%), Thailand at 582 (13.2%), Indonesia at 434 (9.8%), and Nepal at 284 (6.4%), and the top five countries accounted for 84.1% of the total ([Reference 64](#)).

**Reference 64** Changes in the number of issuances of written departure orders by nationality/ region

(Cases)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	4,423	6,223	8,702	6,898	4,410
China	1,721	1,872	2,079	1,634	1,737
Viet Nam	872	1,668	3,242	2,761	674
Thailand	841	894	1,233	749	582
Indonesia	236	356	633	710	434
Nepal	50	215	351	252	284
the Philippines	288	671	562	377	215
Sri Lanka	18	31	79	36	100
Uzbekistan	8	88	73	45	88
R.O.Korea/Korea	117	86	84	54	63
Mongolia	78	65	65	26	52
Cambodia	1	13	24	23	40
Others	193	264	277	231	141

(\*) "China" does not include Taiwan, China (Hong Kong) or China (others).

### (3) Confirmation of Departure

Foreign nationals who are deemed to be subject to a departure order are required, as with foreign nationals departing within the period of stay, to receive a seal of verification of departure as well as the written departure order that was issued to them.

# Chapter 6 Recognition of Refugee Status

Due to the recognition that it is important for Japan to fulfill its obligations in the international community by accepting refugees, Japan became a signatory to the Refugee Convention in 1981 and the Protocol in 1982 (hereinafter, “the Refugee Convention” and “the Protocol” are referred to together as “the Refugee Convention, etc.”) and as a result, also established a system for recognition of refugee status.

Thereafter, from the perspective of ensuring proper and prompt protection of refugees through fairer procedures, the refugee recognition system has undergone some revisions. The Act to Amend the Immigration Control Act was enforced on May 16, 2005, which included the establishment of a system to permit provisional stay and the refugee examination counselors system.

The ISA has further improved and strengthened its organizational structure and investigation system, and has endeavored to ensure proper implementation of the refugee recognition system to handle applications for refugee status quickly and appropriately.

## Section 1 Applications and Processing for Recognition of Refugee Status

### 1 Application for Recognition of Refugee Status

In 2021, the total number of applicants who applied for recognition of refugee status in Japan was 2,413, which was a decrease of 1,523 (38.7%) when compared to 2020 (Reference 65).

**Reference 65** Changes in the number of applications for recognition of refugee status

	(People)				
Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Applications	19,629	10,493	10,375	3,936	2,413

The number of nationalities/regions of the applicants was 50, and the major nationalities/regions from which applicants came were in descending order: Myanmar at 612 (25.4%), Turkey at 510 (21.1%), Cambodia at 438 (18.2%), Sri Lanka at 156 (6.5%), Pakistan at 89 (3.7%), Bangladesh at 80 (3.3%), Nepal at 69 (2.9%), India at 61 (2.5%), Nigeria at 57 (2.4%), and Cameroon at 31 (1.3%).

The applicants at the time of their applications were composed of 1,870 (77.5%) legal residents and 543 (22.5%) illegal residents.

Among the applicants, 1,248 applicants accounting for 51.7% had applied for recognition of refugee status in the past. These applicants comprised 805 legal residents and 443 illegal residents.

## 2 Processing of Applications for Recognition of Refugee Status

The total number of applicants whose application for recognition of refugee status was processed in 2021 was 6,150, an increase of 711 (13.1%) compared to 2020. The number of applicants who were recognized as refugees was 65<sup>(\*1)</sup> while the number of applicants who were denied recognition of refugee status was 4,196. The number of applicants who withdrew their applications and others was 1,889.

Flexible treatment taking into account various circumstances is accorded within the framework of immigration and residence management administration even to those who do not fall under the definition of refugee as stipulated in the Refugee Convention and are not recognized as refugees, for example, those who will find it difficult to return to their home country due to the circumstances of their home country or those for whom there are special circumstances necessitating permission to stay in Japan to be granted, and 580 foreign nationals were permitted to stay in 2021<sup>(\*2)</sup> ([Reference 66](#)).

### Reference 66 Changes in the number of foreign nationals protected as refugees, etc.

(People)

Division		Year	1978~2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Refugee Status	Recognized as a treaty refugee		688	20	42	44	47	74
	Refugees for resettlement		11,442	29	22	20	—	—
Other asylum			2,543	45	40	37	44	580
Total			14,673	94	104	101	91	654

(\*1) The number of persons recognized as treaty refugees includes those who were denied recognition as a refugee in the primary examination, but were recognized as a result of the filing of an objection.

(\*2) The number of the “Refugees for resettlement” consists of (1) so-called “boat people” who fled from Indo-China countries during the 1970s through to the 1980s and their family/relatives (their legal protection was based on the approval of the Cabinet on April 28, 1978, and June 17, 1980), and (2) accepted Myanmar refugees who had been protected temporarily in Thailand (2010~2014) and Malaysia (2015~) (their legal protection was based on the approval of the Cabinet on December 16, 2008, and January 24, 2015). Therefore, the numbers for the “refugees for resettlement” for before 2006 show the people who fall under category (1) while the numbers for “refugees for resettlement” in and after 2010 indicate the people who fall under category (2) The number includes those who were recognized as treaty refugees after resettling in Japan.

(\*3) The number of “Other asylum” is persons not recognized as refugees but permitted to reside in Japan for humanitarian grounds.

## 3 Implementation of the System for Permission for Provisional Stay

The number of foreign nationals who were granted permission for provisional stay was 29 in 2021, an increase of 14 (93.3%) compared to 2020.

The number of those who underwent an examination as to whether or not they should be granted permission for provisional stay was 625. The major reasons for decisions not granting permission were as follows<sup>(\*2)</sup>:

(\*1) As for the number of applicants who were recognized as refugees as a result of the request for an administrative review, see Section 2, Subsection 2.

(\*2) The number of 580, who were permitted to stay in Japan for humanitarian consideration, includes Myanmar nationals who were permitted before the results of refugee recognition procedures are available, based on the emergency evacuation measures for Myanmar nationals residing in Japan in light of the situation in their home countries started on May 28, 2021.

- (i) Applicants had applied for recognition of refugee status after the deadline of six months from the date of landing in Japan (in the case of those for whom the grounds for being a refugee had arisen during their stay in Japan, the date such fact became known to them): 478 persons.
- (ii) There had been reasonable grounds to believe that the applicants are likely to flee: 120 persons.
- (iii) Applicants had already received a deportation order: 101 persons <sup>(\*1)</sup>.

## Section 2 Request for an Administrative Review (Appeal)

### 1 Number of Request for an Administrative Review

The number of persons who made a request for an administrative review <sup>(\*2)</sup> of a disposition denying recognition of refugee status in 2021 was 4,046, and this was an increase of 1,473 (57.2%) compared with 2020 (Reference 67).

#### Reference 67

 Changes in the number of appeals, and determinations of the Minister of Justice

(People)

Division \ Year		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Not recognized as a refugee		9,742	10,541	4,936	3,477	4,196
Appeal		8,530	9,021	5,130	2,573	4,046
Processing	With reason	1	4	1	1	9
	Without reason	3,084	6,013	6,021	5,271	6,732
	Withdrawn, etc.	1,306	2,154	2,269	1,203	670

### 2 Processing of the Appeal

The number of the appeals processed in 2021 was 7,411, an increase of 936 (14.5%) compared with 2020. The breakdown included 9 person (1 in the previous year) whose appeals were found to be with reasonable grounds (one who was recognized as a refugee), 6,732 persons (5,271 in the previous year) whose appeals were found to be without any reasonable grounds, and 670 persons (1,203 in the previous year) who withdrew their appeals (Reference 67).

(\*1) If one applicant fell under several grounds for denial of permission, all grounds were included.  
 (\*2) Appeals against dispositions that did not recognize the applicant as a refugee were changed from the “filing of an objection” to a “request for administrative review” pursuant to the Amended Immigration Control Act which came into effect on April 1, 2016.

## Section 3 Application and Processing of Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge

In 2021, 3 foreign nationals applied for landing permission for temporary refuge (hereinafter referred to as “temporary refuge landing permission”) in Japan, which was a decrease of 4 compared to 2020. The breakdown for the processing of the applications was 1 case given permission, 3 cases denied permission.

### Reference 68 Changes in the number of applications for Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge

(People)

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Applications	98	55	36	7	3
Permission	2	2	1	1	1
Disapproval	94	49	31	7	3
Withdrawn, etc.	3	4	2	—	—

(\*) Since the processing of applications may span years, the number of applications and the number of processing (total of permission, disapproval, withdrawal, etc.) for each year do not always match.

### Reference 69 Processing status of applications for Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge (2021)

(People)

Nationality	Applications Total	Breakdown of disposal			
		Permission	Disapproval	Termination/ Withdrawn	Discontinuance
Syria	—	1	—	—	—
Turkey	1	—	1	—	—
Russia	1	—	1	—	—
China	1	—	1	—	—
Total	3	1	3	—	—

(\*) Since the processing of applications may span years, the number of applications and the number of processing (total of permission, disapproval, withdrawal, etc.) for each year do not always match.

# Chapter 7 Measures Against Trafficking in Persons and Protection of Foreign Victims of Domestic Violence

## Section 1 Measures Against Trafficking in Persons

### 1 Measures Against Trafficking in Persons

Trafficking in persons is a grave violation of human rights and a prompt and accurate response is called for from a humanitarian perspective. This is due to the fact that trafficking in persons inflicts serious mental and physical pain on the victims, especially on women and children, and it is difficult to recover from such damage. Moreover, human trafficking is an issue of serious concern to the international community since it is a crime which is committed across borders.

The Japanese government formulated the “Action Plan for Measures against Trafficking in Persons” through the relevant ministries and agencies in December 2004 and the “Action Plan for Measures against Trafficking in Persons 2009” through the Ministerial Conference for Measures against Crime in December 2009, and the entire government has been promoting measures up to this point. The “Action Plan for Measures against Trafficking in Persons 2014” was formulated through the same Conference in December 2014 in order to work on more powerful, comprehensive and all-encompassing measures against human trafficking. In June 2022, the “Conference for the Promotion of Measures against Trafficking in Persons” comprising the competent ministers in charge of measures against human trafficking held its eighth meeting, and the relevant government ministries and agencies led by the Conference are currently promoting government-wide efforts against the trafficking of persons.

In addition, based on the “Action Plan for Measures against Trafficking in Persons 2014”, the ISA has also been striving to prevent human trafficking by further strengthening its system of cooperation with the related organizations, has been tracking hidden cases where there is the possibility of human trafficking and has been proactively engaged in eradicating trafficking in persons and offering appropriate protection to the victims.

### 2 Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Persons

The ISA gives full consideration to the position of the victims of trafficking, and grants permission such as extension of the period of stay or a change of the status of residence from the perspective of victim protection, and moreover, if the victim is in violation of the Immigration Control Act such as by staying beyond the authorized period of stay, the legal status of the victim will be stabilized through such means as granting special permission to stay to the victim.

The number of foreign nationals for whom the ISA implemented procedures for protection as victims of trafficking in persons (including support to return to their home country) was 11 in 2021 (eight persons in the previous year). According to the statistics by nationality/region, ten of the victims came from the Philippines, and one from China (in 2020, all of eight



victims came from the Philippines.)

The number of victims who had a status of residence out of the total of 11 victims was ten person (one person in the previous year), and the number of victims who were in violation of the Immigration Control Act such as illegally staying beyond the authorized period of stay was one person (seven persons in the previous year). In addition, the victim who was in violation of the Immigration Control Act was granted special permission to stay in Japan ([Reference 70](#)).

The number of victims has declined significantly since 2005, when the ISA first started collecting statistics and offered protection to 115 victims, and the number has been fluctuating in recent years with around 20 victims at most. This is thought to be because the entire government has been working together on measures under the Action Plan for Measures against Trafficking in Persons, and owing to the fact that measures to prevent and eradicate trafficking in persons, such as the implementation of strict landing examinations have had a certain level of effect ([Reference 71](#)).

#### Reference 70 Number of victims of trafficking in persons (2021)

(People)

Breakdown Nationality/region	Recognized as a victim of trafficking in persons		Total
	Foreign nationals previously in possession of a status of residence	Violators of the Immigration Control Act (Special Permission to Stay in Japan)	
the Philippines	10	0(0)	10
China	0	1(1)	1
Total	10	1(1)	11

(\*1) The breakdown by status of residence of foreign nationals previously in possession of a status of residence was “Entertainer”, 10 persons.

(\*2) The type of violation of the foreign nationals granted special permission to stay was “illegal overstaying”, 1 person.

(\*3) The breakdown by the status of residence, before overstaying the authorized period of stay was “Temporary Visitor”, 1 person.

#### Reference 71 Changes in the number of victims of trafficking in persons

(People)

Breakdown	Year	2005	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total		115	20	9	12	8	11
Foreign nationals previously in possession of a status of residence		68	10	4	7	1	10
Violators of the Immigration Control Act (Special permission to stay in Japan)		47(47)	10(10)	5(5)	5(5)	7(7)	1(1)

### 3 Foreign Nationals Deported for Committing Trafficking in Persons <sup>(\*1)</sup>

In 2014, the National Police Agency, Ministry of Justice, Supreme Public Prosecutors Office, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and the Japan Coast Guard established the “Task Force for the Enforcement of Laws and Regulations Relating to Trafficking in Persons”, and this task force has been conducting improved information sharing and cooperation in order to ensure crackdowns on human trafficking-related offenses, and consequently, no foreign nationals were deported by the ISA as perpetrators of human trafficking in 2021 (zero persons in the previous year).

## Section 2

## Protection of Foreign Domestic Violence Victims

### 1 Outline

Domestic violence, which includes an act that may constitute a crime, is a serious infringement against human rights. Similar to cases of trafficking in persons, an immediate and accurate response is required from a humanitarian point of view.

If the ISA identifies a foreign national as a victim of domestic violence, the Agency will offer secure protection for the physical welfare of the victim in cooperation with the related organizations, and if the victim has applied for an extension of the period of stay or has applied for a change of the status of residence where a change has become necessary owing to domestic violence and the victim finds it difficult to prepare the necessary papers, having suddenly been forced out of his or her home, the ISA will give full consideration to the position of the victim and will respond appropriately in a humanitarian manner such as granting permission taking into account individual circumstances. In addition, with regard to victims who are in violation of the Immigration Control Act such as staying beyond their authorized period of stay due to domestic violence, the ISA gives sufficient consideration to the case and, depending on the case, will take humanitarian measures.

Further, a law to partially amend the Act on the Prevention of Spousal Violence and the Protection of Victims was enforced in January 2008, and the “Basic Policy Relating to Measures to Prevent Spousal Violence and Protect Victims”<sup>(\*2)</sup> was formulated by the relevant ministries and agencies, including the Ministry of Justice, based on this law. In light of this basic policy, the ISA established its own guidelines on the measures in July of the same year (partially re-amended in January 2018 and in January 2022), and training is provided for staff with the cooperation of related organizations, focused on practical matters such as practical knowledge and points of importance regarding the protection of domestic violence victims. In cases where a person is identified as a victim of domestic violence, the ISA, taking into full consideration the fact that the victim has been placed in a harsh situation both physically

(\*1) By the amendment of the Immigration Control Act in 2005, a “person who committed trafficking in persons, or has incited or aided another to commit trafficking in persons” was made subject to deportation (Article 24, item (iv), (c) of the Immigration Control Act).

(\*2) The Act was renamed “The Act on the Prevention of Spousal Violence and the Protection of Victims” in accordance with the partially re-amended act enforced in January 2014. Following this rename, the “Basic Policy Relating to Measures for Prevention of Spousal Violence and the Protection of Victims” was set out along with the enforced Act.

and mentally, deals appropriately according to the physical and mental condition, etc., of the victim, and strives to further protect the victim by cooperating with the Spousal Violence Counseling and Support Center, the Women's Consulting Offices, police and other related organizations.

## **2** **Number of Recognized Foreign Domestic Violence Victims**

The ISA places emphasis the most on the protection of victims and treats the victims properly from a humanitarian perspective by ensuring coordination with the agencies concerned, and gives careful consideration to the wishes and situation of the victims in the procedures for such as examination of the status of residence or the deportation procedures while considering their individual circumstances. The number of foreign domestic violence victims who were recognized in the process of residence examination or the deportation procedures during 2021 was 178 ([Reference 72, 73](#)).

The ISA took into account the individual situations of the victims and permitted in most of the cases extension of the period of stay or change of the status of residence.

**Reference 72** Number of recognized foreign domestic violence victims (2021)

(People)

Nationality/Region	Division	Residence Procedures	Deportation Procedures	Consultations	Others	Total
the Philippines		43	6	14	6	69
China		14	3	7	5	29
Nepal		5	0	4	1	10
Brazil		4	1	0	3	8
Pakistan		4	0	2	1	7
Viet Nam		2	0	4	1	7
Thailand		3	1	1	1	6
Bangladesh		2	0	1	2	5
India		3	0	1	0	4
Peru		4	0	0	0	4
R.O.Korea		3	0	0	0	3
United States of America		1	0	2	0	3
Myanmar		2	0	1	0	3
Indonesia		1	0	1	0	2
Taiwan		2	0	0	0	2
Romania		0	0	1	1	2
Afghanistan		0	0	1	0	1
Algeria		1	0	0	0	1
Ukraine		1	0	0	0	1
Ghana		1	0	0	0	1
Kazakhstan		1	0	0	0	1
Cambodia		1	0	0	0	1
Kenya		1	0	0	0	1
Colombia		1	0	0	0	1
Switzerland		1	0	0	0	1
Tunisia		0	0	0	1	1
Dominica		0	1	0	0	1
Poland		1	0	0	0	1
Mongolia		0	0	1	0	1
Lithuania		0	0	1	0	1
Total		102	12	42	22	178

(\*) "China" does not include Taiwan, China (Hong Kong) or China (others).

**Reference 73** Changes in the number of victims of domestic violence cases recognized by regional immigration Services bureau

(People)

Year	Regional Immigration Bureaus	Sapporo	Sendai	Tokyo	Nagoya	Osaka	Hiroshima	Takamatsu	Fukuoka	Total
2019		—	4	33	22	13	1	3	6	82
2020		3	5	42	25	18	6	0	11	110
2021		—	3	88	52	20	7	1	7	178

(\*) Tokyo, Osaka and Fukuoka include Yokohama, Kobe and Naha respectively.