

# 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

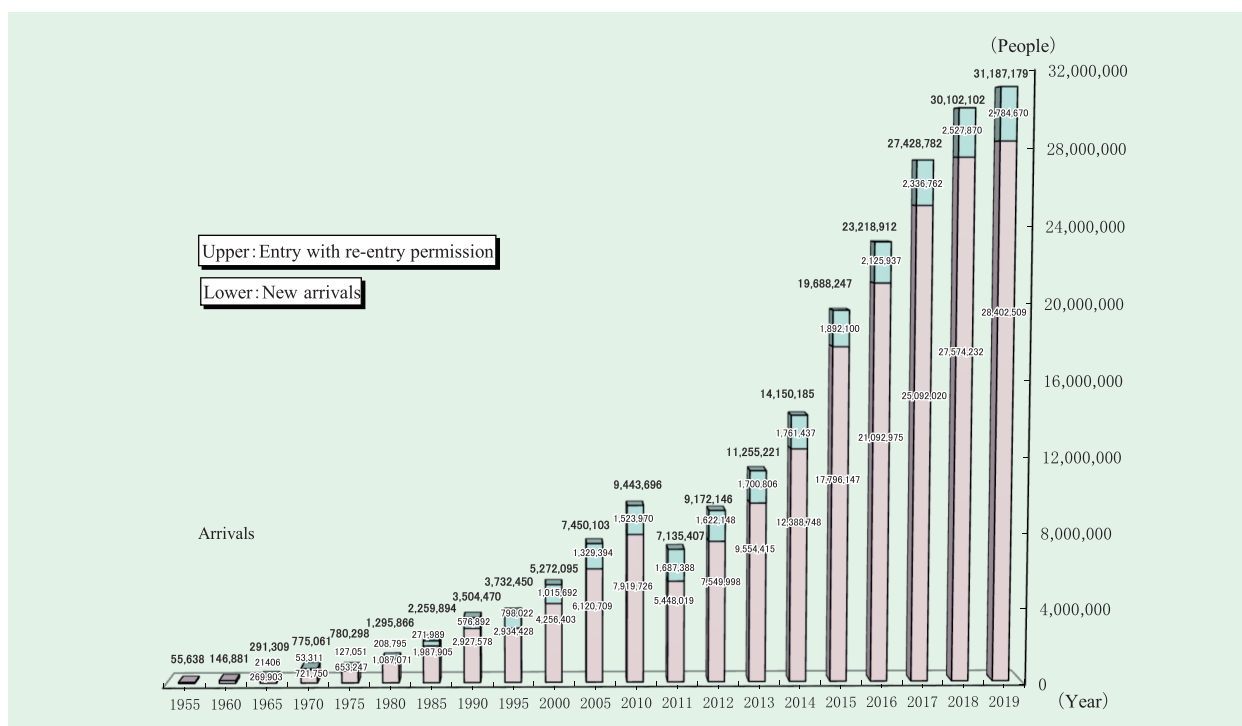
The number of foreign nationals entering Japan was only about 18,000 in 1950 when the statistics relating to immigration control first began to be recorded. As a result of the enforcement of the “Peace Treaty with Japan” (Treaty No. 5 of 1952) on April 28, 1952, Japan recovered complete sovereignty and 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 2019 was 31,187,179 persons, an increase of 1,085,077 (3.6%) compared to the number of 30,102,102 of 2018, hitting a record high.

Of the 31,187,179 foreign nationals entering Japan in 2019, the number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan was 28,402,509, which was an increase of 828,277 (3.0%) compared to 27,574,232 in 2018, while the number of foreign nationals re-entering Japan was 2,784,670, which was an increase of 256,800 (10.2%) compared to 2,527,870 in 2018.

It is thought that this overall increase in the number of foreign nationals entering Japan is led by the efforts toward the realization of Japan as a tourism-oriented country by the entire government working together with private sectors encouraging an increase in tourists ([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

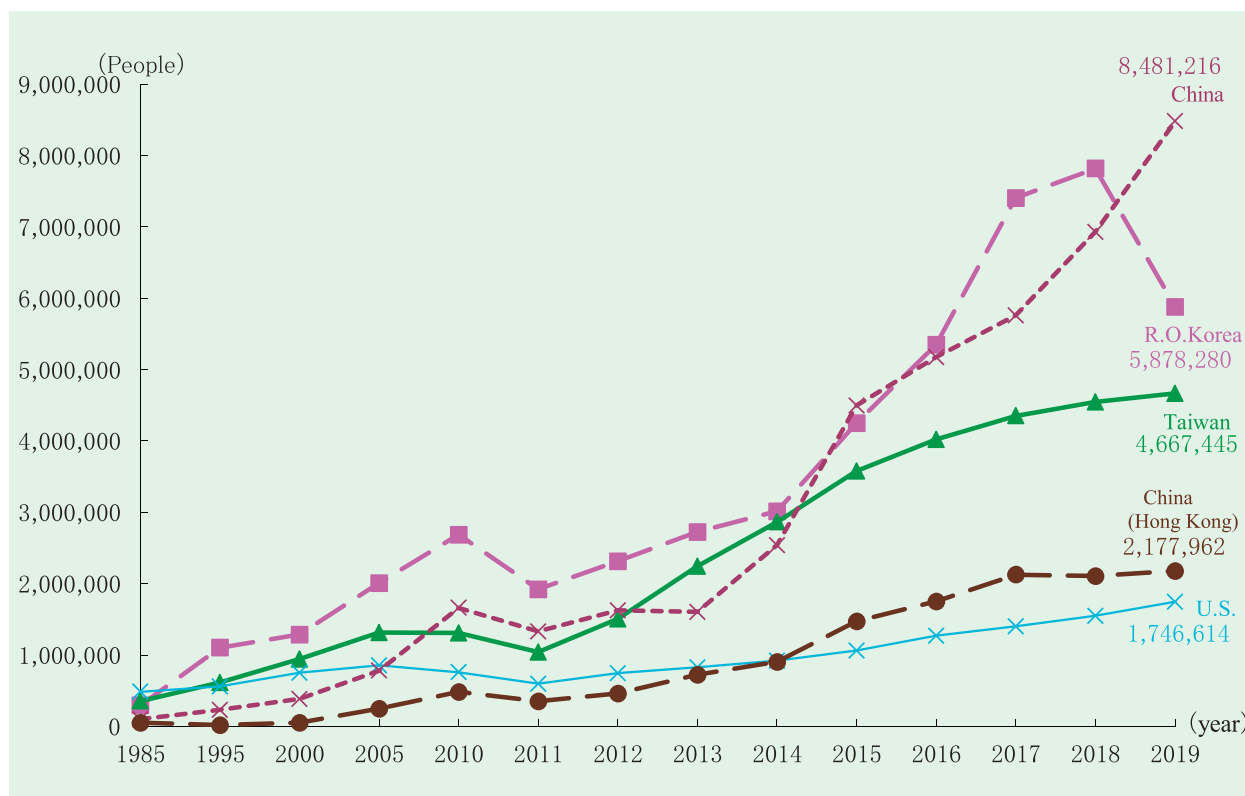
According to the statistics for the number of foreign nationals entering Japan in 2019 by nationality/region, the largest number of foreign nationals came from China at 8,481,216, accounting for 27.2% of the total. The Republic of Korea (R.O. Korea) was followed by China at 5,878,280 (18.8%), Taiwan at 4,667,445 (15.0%), China (Hong Kong) at 2,177,962 (7.0%) and the U.S. at 1,746,614 (5.6%)\*.

Of these numbers, Japan's four neighboring countries/regions: China, R.O. Korea, Taiwan and China (Hong Kong) accounted for more than half of the total number of foreign nationals entering Japan at 68.0% (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

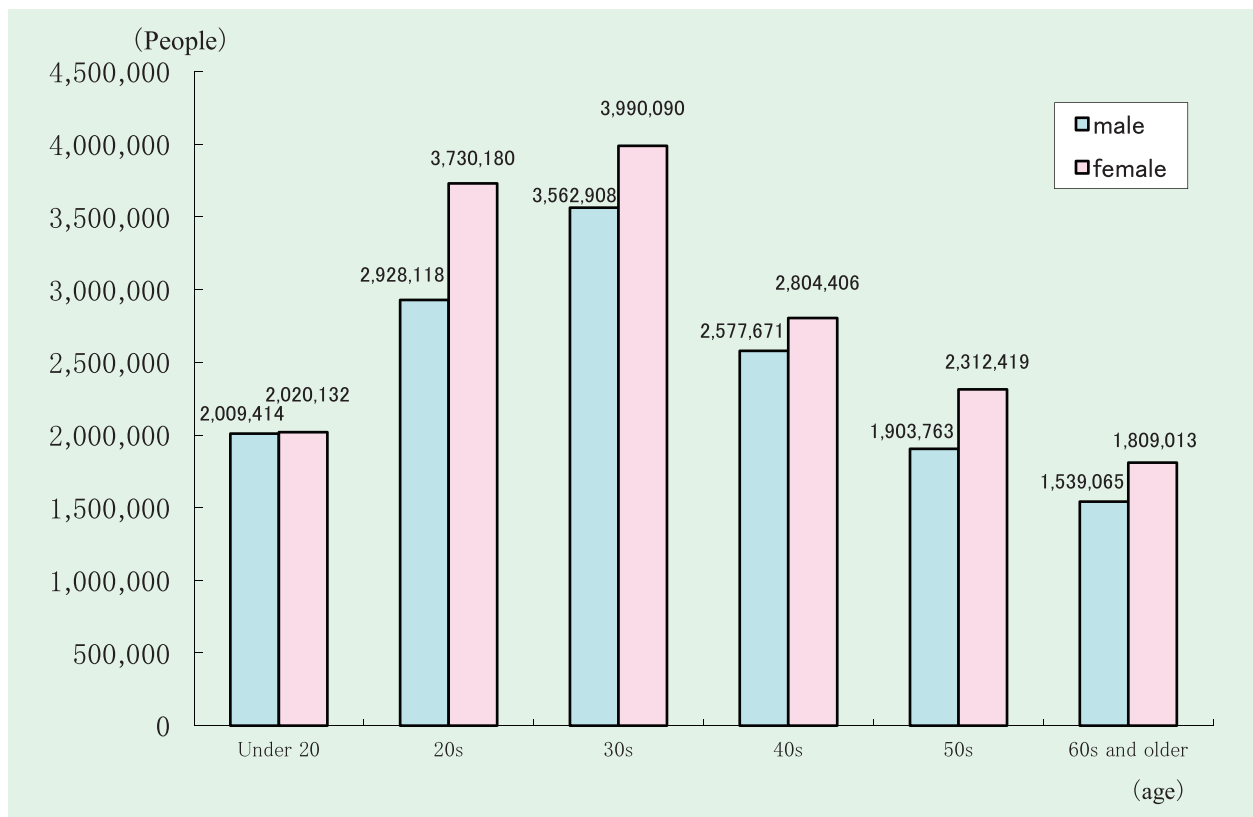
(\*) Please note that incorrect figures were given as shown below for the figures of “Changes in the number of foreign nationals entering Japan by major nationality/region (China (Hong Kong))” published in the 2019 edition.  
 (Correct): 2,107,482  
 (Incorrect): 2,107,037

Regarding the top five countries/regions, a comparison of the numbers of foreign nationals entering Japan between 2018 and 2019 shows that all of the countries/regions: China by 1,550,175 (22.4%), Taiwan by 124,083 (2.7%), China (Hong Kong) by 70,480 (3.3%), and the U.S. by 195,372 (12.6%) increased in four countries/regions, but R.O. Korea by 1,940,272 (24.8%) decreased. The significant decrease of the number from R.O.Korea is considered to be associated with a hold back in holidays to Japan due to the impact of Japan-Korea relations since July 2019.

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

Looking at the number of foreign nationals entering in Japan in 2019 by gender, 14,520,939 were males and 16,666,240 were females. Males accounted for 46.6% of the total while females accounted for 53.4%, and therefore, more foreign females came to Japan than males in 2019.

Next, according to the statistics by age, foreign nationals in their 30s represented the largest age group, accounting for 24.2% of the total. Moreover, looking at the numbers for males and females in each of the age groups, one particular characteristic is that the percentages of females were higher in all age groups (**Reference 3**).

**Reference 3** Number of foreign nationals entering Japan by gender and age (2019)**(4) Number of Foreign Nationals Entering Japan by Purpose of Entry (Status of Residence)**

The number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan in 2019 was 28,402,509. Looking at this Reference by purpose of entry (status of residence), the most common status of residence was “Temporary Visitor” standing at 27,810,548, which accounted for 97.9% of the total number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan, followed by “Technical Intern Training (i) – (b)” at 167,405, accounting for 0.6%, “Student” at 121,637, accounting for 0.4%, and “Entertainer” at 45,486, accounting for 0.2% ([Reference 4](#)).

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

Status of Residence \ Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total	17,796,147	21,092,975	25,092,020	27,574,232	28,402,509
Diplomat	9,526	9,267	9,092	9,072	12,206
Official	25,788	28,282	29,684	33,217	42,934
Professor	3,140	3,172	3,166	3,194	3,185
Artist	360	387	394	435	474
Religious Activities	1,030	1,019	924	872	949
Journalist	81	111	88	43	69
Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(a)	11	32	16	26	37
Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(b)	107	166	250	432	624
Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(c)	18	31	36	73	118
Business Manager	1,352	2,091	1,660	1,790	2,237
Legal/Accounting Services	—	4	2	4	5
Medical Services	29	34	63	55	58
Researcher	356	358	380	368	364
Instructor	3,020	3,042	2,992	3,432	3,463
Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services	17,690	20,940	25,063	34,182	43,880
Intra-company Transferee	7,202	7,652	8,665	9,478	9,964
Nursing Care			1	1	4
Entertainer	37,155	39,057	39,929	42,703	45,486
Skilled Labor	6,421	6,404	3,692	3,551	4,355
Specified Skilled Worker (i)					563
Specified Skilled Worker (ii)					—
Technical Intern Training (i)-(a)	6,680	6,665	7,492	6,222	6,300
Technical Intern Training (i)-(b)	90,307	99,453	120,179	137,973	167,405
Technical Intern Training (ii)-(a)	1	2	—	12	8
Technical Intern Training (ii)-(b)	16	11	9	242	183
Technical Intern Training (iii)-(a)			—	64	226
Technical Intern Training (iii)-(b)			8	5,648	14,750
Cultural Activities	3,467	3,531	3,377	3,539	3,793
Temporary Visitor	17,404,987	20,665,390	24,617,024	27,054,549	27,810,548
Student	99,556	108,146	123,232	124,269	121,637
Trainee	15,702	15,740	16,393	13,389	12,985
Dependent	23,118	26,594	27,288	27,952	31,788
Designed Activities	14,980	18,210	22,444	27,752	31,712
Spouse or Child of Japanese National	9,591	10,188	9,998	10,466	10,694
Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident	2,007	1,959	2,170	2,081	1,990
Long-Term Resident	12,449	15,037	16,309	17,146	17,515

(\*1) The status of residence of "Nursing Care" was newly established on September 1, 2017.

(\*2) The status of residence of "Technical Intern Training (iii) (a) and (b)" was newly established on November 1, 2017.

(\*3) The status of residence of "Specified Skilled Worker (i) and (ii)" was newly established on April 1, 2019.

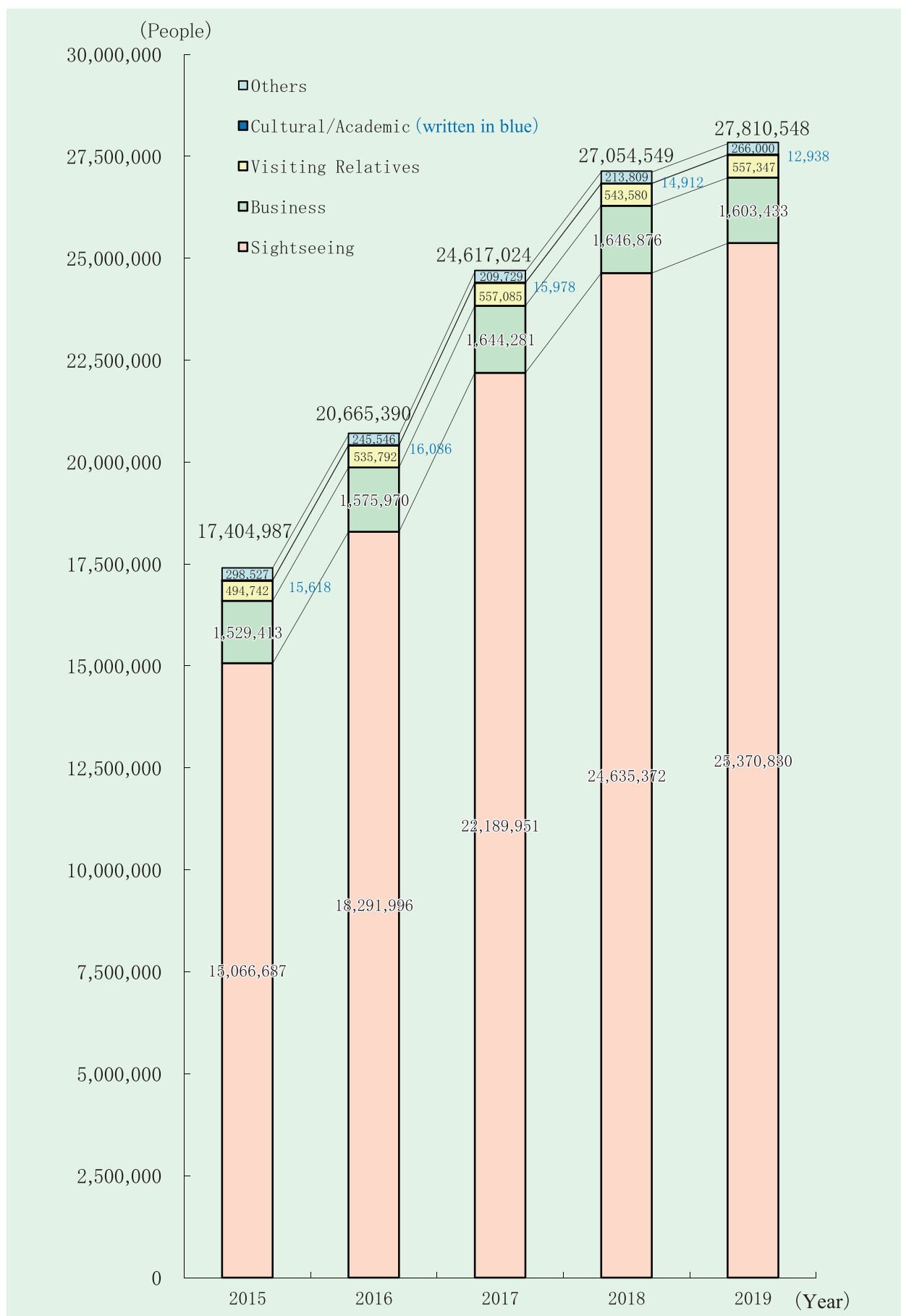
(\*4) 「—」 means that the corresponding number is 「0」. The same here in after.

### A. “Temporary Visitor”

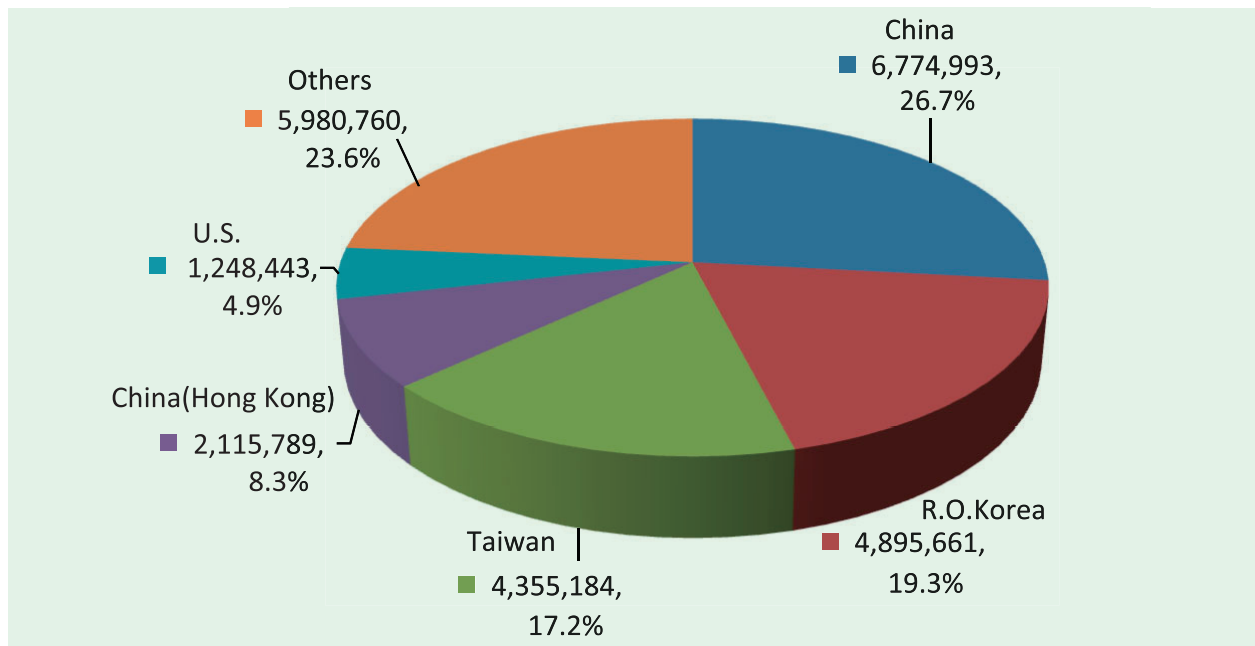
Looking more closely at the number of foreign nationals who newly entered Japan with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor” in 2019, the number of foreign nationals for the purpose of sightseeing was 25,370,830, accounting for 91.2% of the total number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor” ([Reference 5](#)). It is thought that public-private measures toward a tourism-oriented country such as the strategic relaxation of the visa requirements, expansion of the tax exemption system, improvement of the immigration control system, expansion of the airline networks and other public-private measures aimed at realizing a tourism-oriented country contributed to the increase in the number of tourists.

The statistics for foreign nationals newly entering for the purpose of sightseeing by nationality/region show that the largest number of foreign nationals came from China at 6,774,993 (26.7%), followed by R.O. Korea at 4,895,661 (19.3%), Taiwan at 4,355,184 (17.2%), China (Hong Kong) at 2,115,789 (8.3%), and U.S. at 1,248,443 (4.9%). The tourists of these top five countries/regions accounted for about 80% of the total number ([Reference 6](#)).

# Reference 5 Changes in the number of foreign nationals newly entering with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor” by purpose of entry

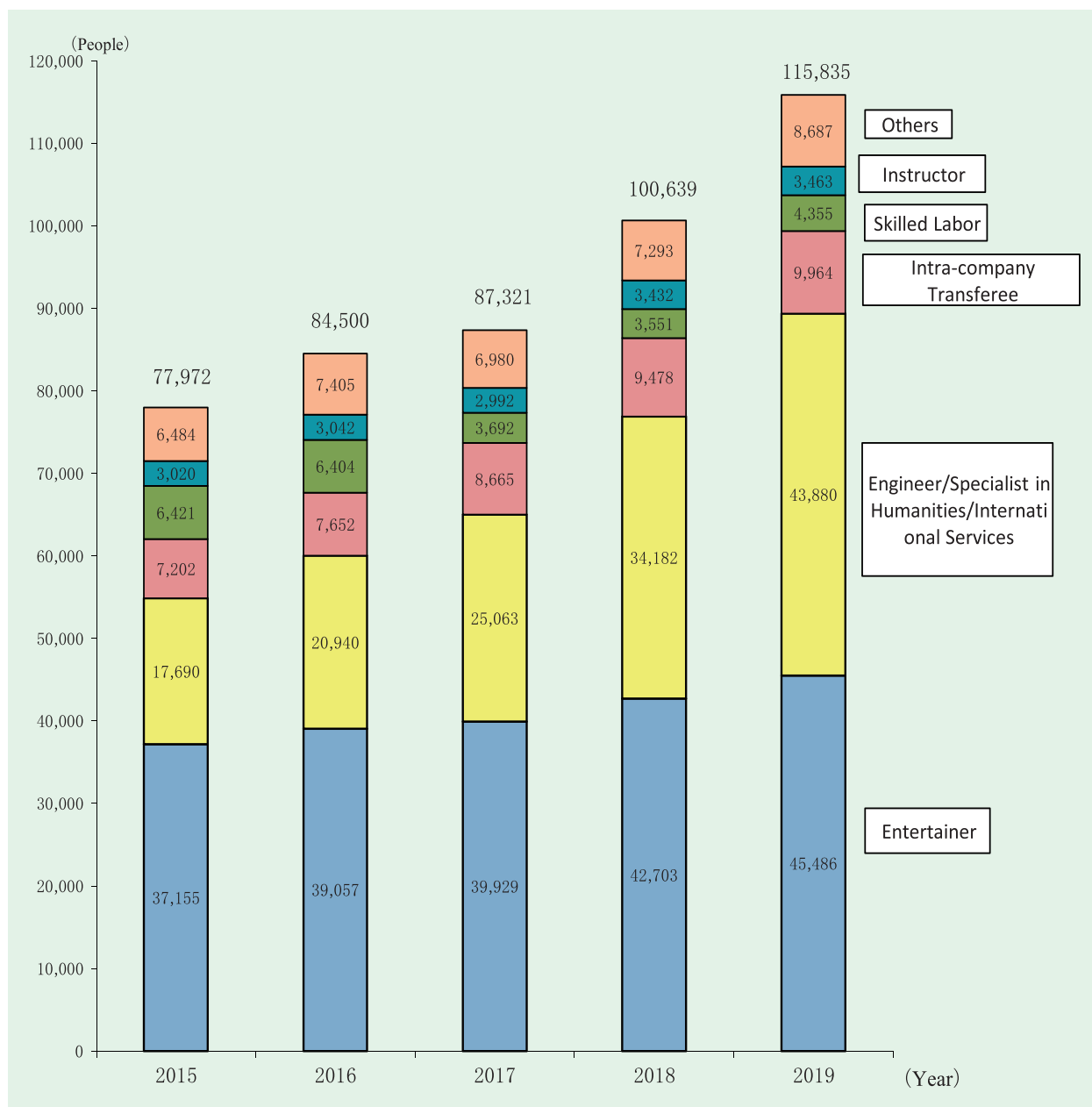


**Reference 6** Number of foreign nationals newly entering for the purpose of sightseeing by nationality/region (2019)



**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 2019 was 115,835, an increase of 15,196 (15.1%) compared to 2018 ([Reference 7](#)).

**Reference 7** 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 0.4% of the total number of newly entering foreign nationals in 2019.

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 53,844 in 2019, consisting of two types of statuses of residence: 43,880 with the status of



residence of “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services”, and 9,964 with the status of residence of “Intra-company Transferee”. Foreign employees with the status of residence of “Engineer/ “Specialist in Humanities/International Services” had increased by 9,698 (28.4%), and those with the status of residence of “Intra-company Transferee” had increased by 486 (5.1%) compared to 2018, respectively.

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 12,245 (27.9%), followed by China at 9,532 (21.7%), R.O. Korea at 4,146 (9.5%), and India at 3,073 (7.0%). Those top four countries accounted for 66.1% 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 2,890 (29.0%), followed by the Philippines at 1,278 (12.8%), Viet Nam at 954 (9.6%), and Thailand at 939 (9.4%).

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

The number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Entertainer” in 2019 was 45,486, increasing by 2,783 (6.5%) from 2018, and accounting for the highest percentage out of the statuses of residence for the purpose of employment in professional or technical fields.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of foreign nationals newly entering with the status of residence of “Entertainer” in 2019 came from R.O. Korea at 9,190 (20.2%), followed by the U.S. at 6,510 (14.3%), the Philippines at 5,632 (12.4%), and the U.K. at 3,763 (8.3%).

#### **(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 2019 was 4,355, an increase of 804 (22.6%) from 2018.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Skilled Labor” in 2019 came from China at 1,641 (37.7%), followed by India at 552 (12.7%), Nepal at 490 (11.3%), and Viet Nam at 200 (4.6%). These top four countries accounted for 66.2% 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 2019, which was established on April 1, 2019, was 563.

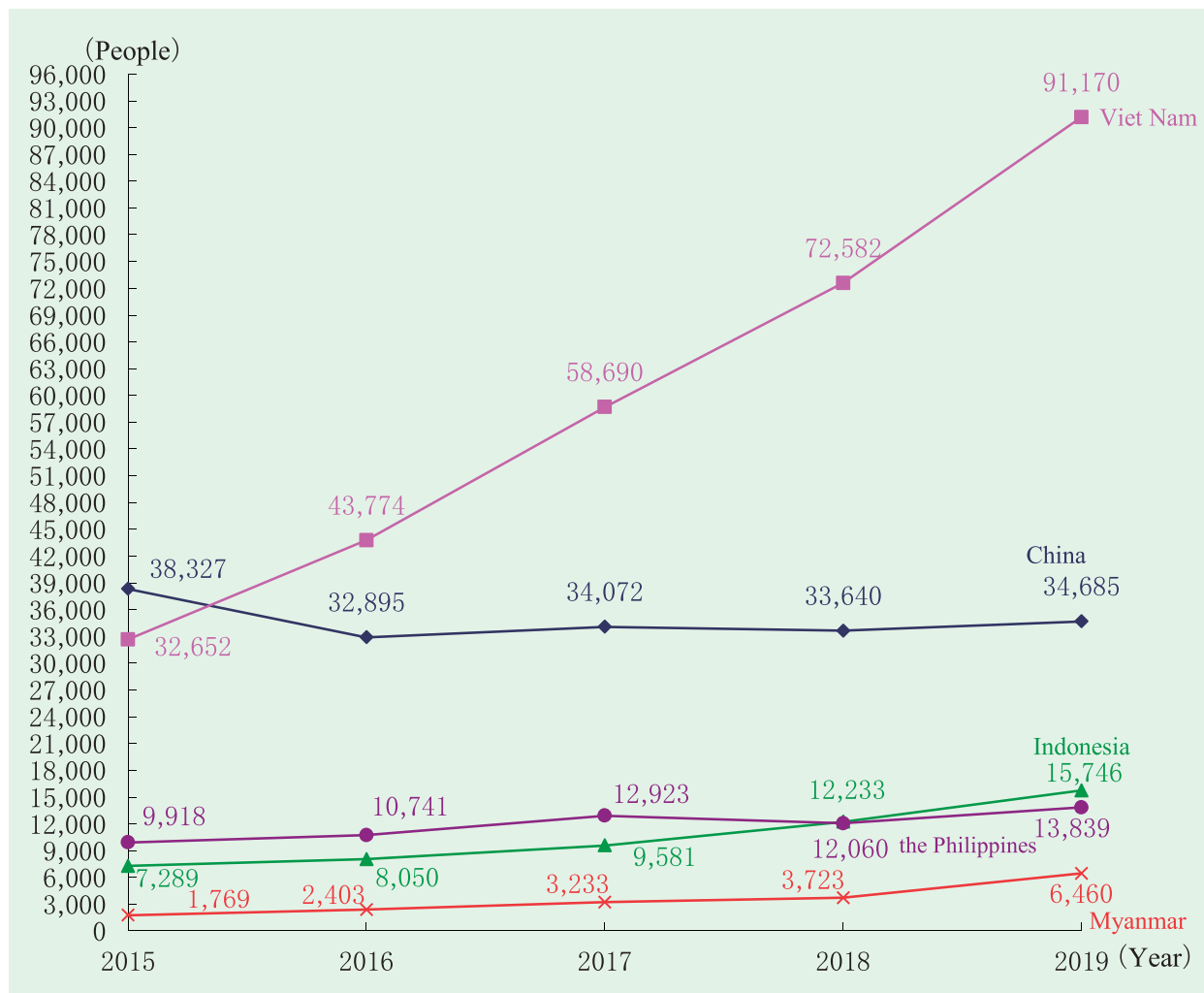
According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Specified Skilled Worker (i)” came from Viet Nam at 304 (54.0%), followed by Indonesia at 112 (19.9%), Cambodia at 59 (10.5%), and Myanmar at 37 (6.6%). These top four countries accounted for 90.9% 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 173,705 in 2019, an increase of 29,510 (20.5%) compared to 2018.

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 91,170 (52.5%), followed by China at 34,685 (20.0%), the Indonesia at 15,746 (9.1%), the Philippines at 13,839 (8.0%) and Myanmar at 6,460 (3.7%) ([Reference 8](#)).

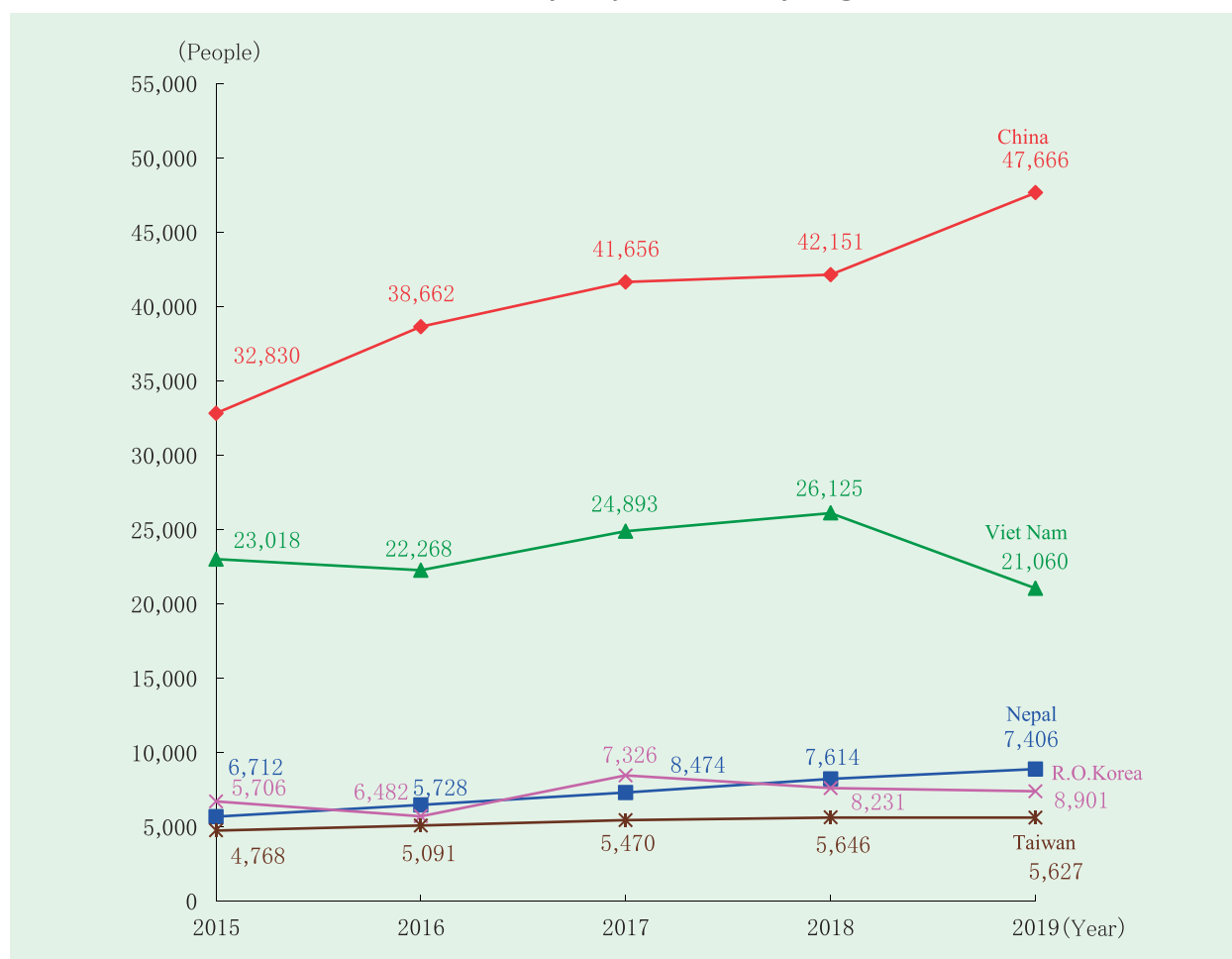
**Reference 8** Changes in the number of foreign nationals newly entering with the status of residence of “Technical Intern Training (i)” by major nationality/region



### 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 2019 was 121,637, a decrease of 2,632 (2.1%) when compared to 2018, with students from Asia accounting for the top five countries/regions (74.5%).

In terms of nationality/region, China stood at 47,666, accounting for 39.2% of the total, followed by Viet Nam at 21,060 (17.3%), R.O. Korea at 8,901 (7.3%), Nepal at 7,406 (6.1%) and Taiwan at 5,627 (4.6%).

**Reference 9** 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 10, Data Section 4, Statistics (1) 15-1, 16-1)**

When foreign nationals enter Japan for activities based on their personal status or position, one of three types of statuses of residence; namely, “Spouse or Child of Japanese National”, “Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident” or “Long-Term Resident” may be granted (Note that the status of residence of “Permanent Resident” shall not be granted to foreign nationals at the time of entry (Article 7, paragraph (1), item (ii) of the Immigration Control Act.)).

In 2019, the number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” stood at 10,694, and those with the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident” stood at 1,990, and while those with the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” saw an increase of 228 (2.2%), those with the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident” saw a decrease of 91 (4.4%) compared to 2018.

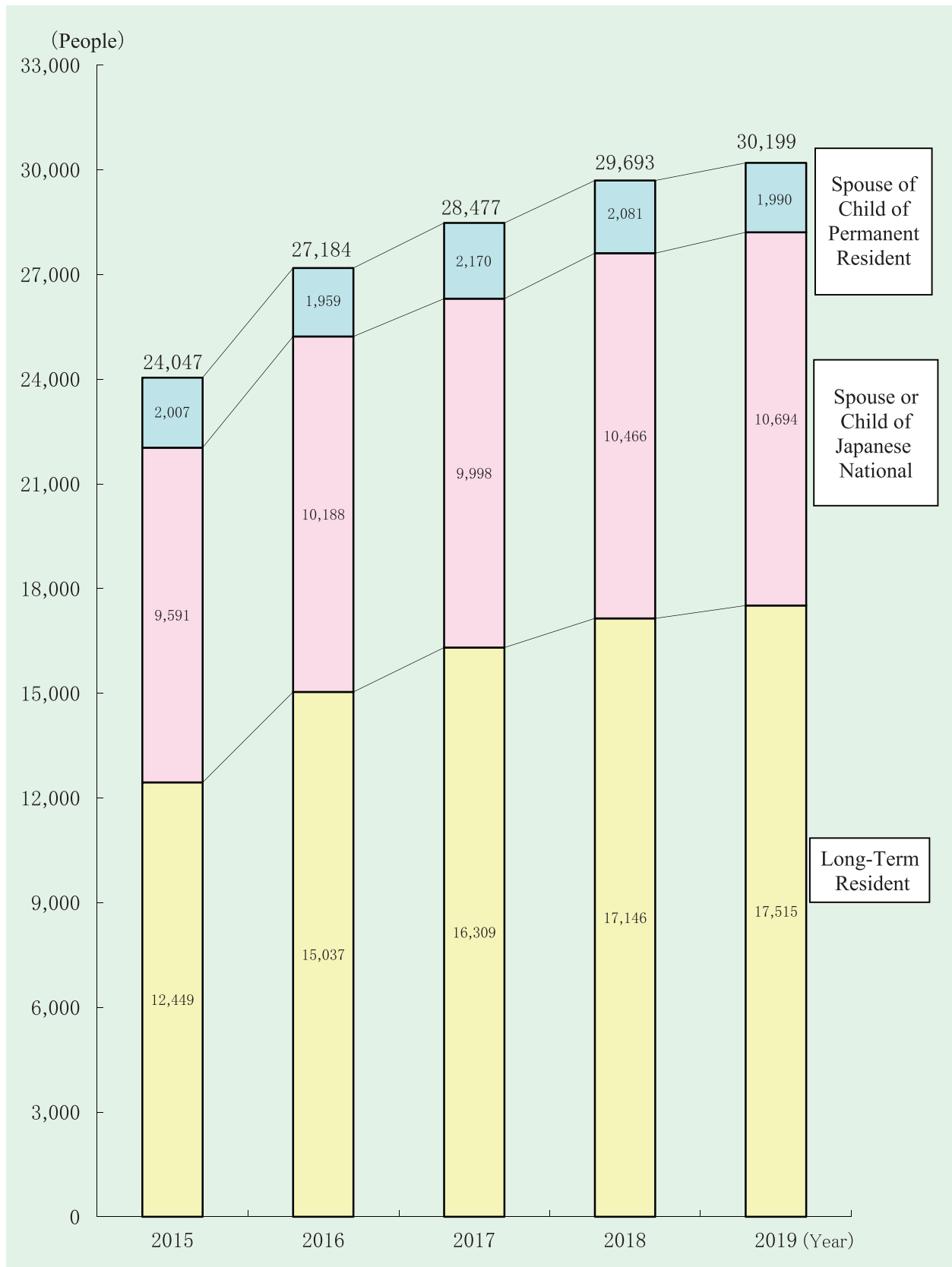
The number of foreign nationals newly entering with the status of residence of “Long-Term Resident” in 2019 had increased by 369 (2.2%) to 17,515 compared to 2018 ([Reference 10](#)).

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 Brazil at 2,384 (22.3%). Brazil was followed by China at 2,017 (18.9%) and the Philippines at

1,850 (17.3%).

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 Brazil at 11,657 (66.6%). Brazil was followed by the Philippines at 2,345 (13.4%) and China at 1,508 (8.6%).

**Reference 10** Changes in the number of foreign nationals newly entering by status of residence for activities based on personal status or position



## 2 Special Landing Permission

The number of cases in which received special landing permission in 2019 was 4,961,505, a decrease of 402,916 (7.5%) compared to 2018.

Among those, the number of cases in which received “Landing Permission for Crew Members” in 2019 was 2,913,001, and the number of cases in which received “Landing Permission for Cruise Ship Tourists” was 2,026,307, which combined accounted for 99.6% of the total number of cases of special landing permission ([Reference 11](#)).

**Reference 11** Changes in the number of cases of special landing permission (Cases)

Division \ Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total	3,527,959	4,749,924	5,502,177	5,364,421	4,961,505
Permission for Landing at a Port of Call	15,944	16,694	13,217	13,331	13,861
Landing Permission for Cruise Ship Tourists	1,071,724	1,936,469	2,449,299	2,337,803	2,026,307
Permission for Landing in Transit	5,150	5,871	4,979	5,235	7,760
Landing Permission for Crew Members	2,434,617	2,790,348	3,034,126	3,007,588	2,913,001
Permission for Emergency Landing	434	473	464	444	483
Landing Permission Due to Distress	86	68	90	18	92
Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge	4	1	2	2	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 2019 was 13,861, an increase of 530 (4.0%) compared to 2018.

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

The number of cases in which received “Landing Permission for Cruise Ship Tourists” was 2,026,307 in 2019, which was a decrease of 311,496 (13.3%) compared to 2018.

The system of landing permission for cruise ship tourists commenced in January 2015.

### (3) Permission for Landing in Transit

The number of cases in which received “Permission for Landing in Transit” in 2019 was 7,760, an increase of 2,525 (48.2%) compared to 2018.

### (4) Landing Permission for Crew Members

The number of cases in which received “Landing Permission for Crew Members” in 2019 was 2,913,001, a decrease of 94,587 (3.1%) compared to 2018.

### (5) Permission for Emergency Landing

The number of cases in which received “Permission for Emergency Landing” in 2019 was 483, an increase of 39 (8.8%) compared to 2018.

### (6) Landing Permission Due to Distress

The number of cases in which received “Landing Permission Due to Distress” in 2019 was 19, a decrease of 74 (411%) compared to 2018.

### (7) Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge

The number of cases in which received “Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge” in 2019 was 1, a decrease of 1 (50.0%) compared to 2018.

## 3 Foreign Nationals Leaving Japan

The number of foreign nationals simply leaving Japan without having acquired a re-entry permit was 28,083,240 in 2019, an increase of 830,723 (3.0%) compared to 2018.

Among them, the number of foreign nationals leaving Japan with a period of stay of within 15 days was 26,778,686, which accounted for a significant 95.4% of the total. Further, the number of foreign nationals leaving Japan with a period of stay of within 3 months was 27,824,650, which accounted for 99.1% of the total ([Reference 12](#)).

**Reference 12** Changes in the number of foreign nationals simply leaving Japan by period of stay (People)

Period of Stay \ Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total	17,506,732	20,808,527	24,770,368	27,252,517	28,083,240
Within 15 days	16,677,056	19,895,977	23,760,799	26,108,961	26,778,686
More than 15 days to 1 month	425,450	483,187	539,458	625,674	737,979
More than 1 month to 3 months	238,018	253,698	270,021	286,553	307,985
More than 3 months to 6 months	41,322	45,730	50,125	52,501	56,114
More than 6 months to 1 year	39,855	41,692	46,094	51,650	57,138
More than 1 year to 3 years	63,822	64,029	74,330	87,981	99,183
More than 3 years	20,183	23,140	28,332	37,857	44,733
Unknown	1,026	1,074	1,209	1,340	1,422



**Article****At the Front Line of Immigration Control Administration**  
(Voice of an immigration inspector in charge of immigration examinations)  
(Inspection Department, the Naha District Immigration Office, the Fukuoka Regional Immigration Services Bureau: Masumoto Katsunori)

The introduction of the system of landing permission for cruise ship tourists in FY 2014 has led to a drastic increase in the number of cruise ships calling port in Japan. Okinawa Prefecture is especially appealing since cruise ships can follow the belt-like sea route stretching from Ishigaki Island to Okinawa Island, enabling visitors to tour a variety of islands scattered around the area, each featuring a different climate and rich in nature, in a short period of time and at a low price. This, combined with the “Caribbean of Asia Concept” promoted by Okinawa Prefecture, has led to a steady increase in cruise ships calling port in the area. In 2019, a total of 574 cruise ships called port in Okinawa Prefecture. In the near future, six quays capable of accommodating cruise ships and five terminals dedicated to cruise ships will be established in Okinawa Prefecture, enabling seven ships to enter port at the same time. The Naha District Immigration Office, Kadena Branch Office, Ishigaki Port Branch Office, and Miyakojima Branch Office will be responsible for the immigration control administration associated with these ships.

The system of landing permission for cruise ship tourists enables thousands of cruise ship passengers to take the immigration examination smoothly in a short period of time. Naturally, however, immigration inspectors are required to perform examinations not only swiftly and smoothly but also strictly. In order to achieve these conflicting goals, we start preliminary examinations of all crew members and passengers once a cruise ship leaves a foreign port. However, in many cases there is not enough time since Okinawa is close to the foreign ports, and for that reason, these preliminary examinations can last until late at night or the next morning. As the ports of call of cruise ships are often changed suddenly between Okinawa Island and remote islands due to natural conditions, such as typhoons, the Naha District Immigration Office and all other branch offices, including airports, under its jurisdiction respond flexibly to station inspectors appropriately and send emergency support teams when necessary.

Since February 2019, the number of cruise ships calling port in Okinawa has decreased due

to the impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic. However, the demand for cruise ship tours has not disappeared. We will enhance our capacity to deal with larger scale, more diverse, and more dispersed cases of cruise ship use, such as cases involving large vessels with a capacity of over 7,000 passengers and “fly & cruise” tours departing from Naha Port, etc., as well as international flights to Okinawa, namely, Naha Airport, New Ishigaki Airport, and Shimojishima Airport



an immigration inspector in charge of immigration examinations



(Miyakojima). All members involved in immigration examinations intend to improve their skills and work with a spirit of “One for all, All for one”.

## 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 2019 was 13,402, an increase of 1,646 (14.0%) compared to 2018.

The most common cases were those in which the foreign national was required to undergo a hearing for landing on suspicion of having submitted a false landing application, such as claiming to be a tourist or others while their real purpose of entry was illegal work or other illegal activities (not meeting the conditions provided for in Article 7, paragraph (1), item (ii) of the Immigration Control Act). Such cases numbered 10,240, an increase of 1,554 (17.9%) compared to 2018, accounting for 76.4% of the total number of new cases in 2019. This was followed by 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). Such cases numbered 2,206, an increase of 266 cases (13.7%) compared to 2018, accounting for 16.5% of the total number of new cases in 2019. Furthermore, 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) numbered 953, a decrease of 175 cases (15.5%) compared to 2018, accounting for 7.1% of the total number of new cases in 2019. 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 3 cases in 2019 ([Reference 13](#)).

### Reference 13 Changes in the number of new cases of hearings for landing by grounds for landing (Cases)

Conditions for Landing \ Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total	8,166	8,880	9,776	11,756	13,402
Using counterfeit passports or visas, etc. (Not conforming to Article 7-(1)-(i))	2,015	1,723	1,812	1,940	2,206
False landing application, etc. (Not conforming to Article 7-(1)-(ii))	5,034	6,014	6,693	8,686	10,240
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))	1,117	1,141	1,270	1,128	953
Not providing Biometric information (Not conforming to Article 7-(4))	—	2	1	2	3

With regard to results of the hearings for landing in 2019(\*), 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 1,197, a decrease of 63 (5.0%) compared to 2018.

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 9,440, an increase of 1,506 (19.0%) compared to 2018. 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 2,103, an increase of 192 (10.0%) compared to 2018 ([Reference 14](#)).

### Reference 14 Changes in the processing of the hearings for landing (Cases)

Division \ Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total	8,164	8,875	9,770	11,763	13,409
Landing permission	1,627	1,740	1,421	1,260	1,197
Expulsion order	3,692	4,846	5,986	7,934	9,440
Filing of objection	2,374	1,827	1,770	1,911	2,103
Withdrawal of the landing application	391	363	481	585	581
Others	80	99	112	73	88

(\*) “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 (Reference 13) and the total number in the changes in the processing of the hearings for landing (Reference 14) 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.

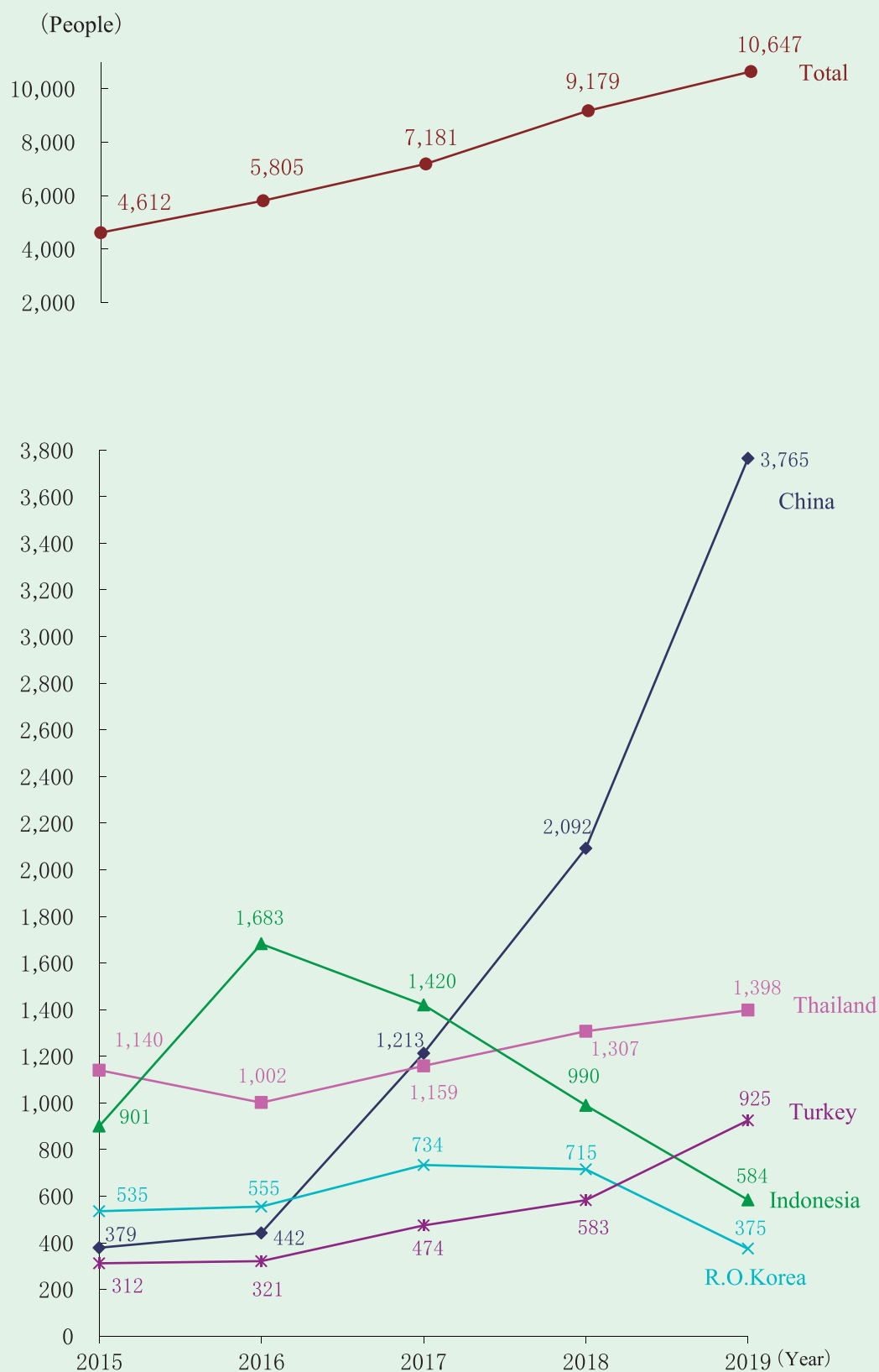
## 2 Foreign Nationals Falling Under Any of the Grounds for Denial of Landing

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 2019 was 10,647, an increase of 1,468 (16.0%) compared to 2018.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of foreign nationals denied permission for landing came from China standing at 3,765 (35.4%), followed by Thailand at 1,398 (13.1%) and Turkey at 925 (8.7%). These top three countries accounted for 57.2% of the total ([Reference 15](#)). Among them, China's large increase is thought to be due to the fact that the number of people eligible for a visa increased through the relaxing of the visa requirements that commenced in May 2017.

**Reference 15** 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 2019 was 1,584, an increase of 251 (18.8%) compared to 2018 ([Reference 16](#)).

#### Reference 16 Changes in the number of objections filed and decisions by the Minister of Justice (Cases)

Division \ Year		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Filing of Objection (*)		2,386	1,845	1,781	1,919	2,120
Decisions	With reason (Landing Permission)	15	12	4	5	2
	without reason					
	Order to depart	348	347	439	404	375
	Special Permission for Landing	1,946	1,418	1,241	1,333	1,584
Withdrawal		59	57	89	160	152
Outstanding		18	11	8	17	7

(\*) "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 4,634 in 2019, showing a decrease of 702 (13.2%) compared to 2018.

### 2 Certificate of Eligibility

The number of cases of applications for Certificates of Eligibility was 591,858 in 2019, an increase of 58,290 (10.9%) compared to 2018.

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 17](#)).

#### Reference 17 Changes in the number of cases of pre-entry examination (Cases)

Division \ Year		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Advance consultation for visa issuance		6,307	6,614	7,875	5,336	4,634
Application for a certificate of eligibility		384,582	418,764	481,120	533,568	591,858

## Chapter 2

# Japanese Nationals Departing from and Returning to Japan

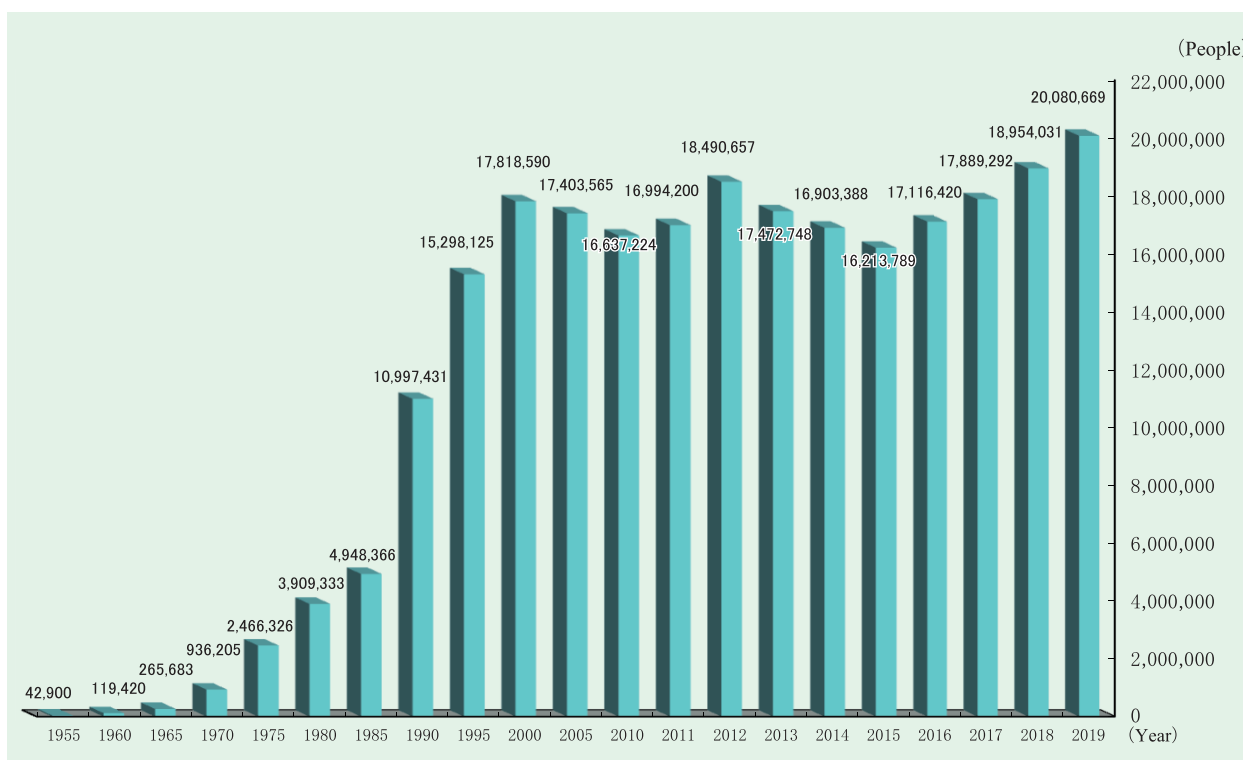
## Section 1

## 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 2019 was 20,080,669, an increase of 1,126,638 (5.9%) compared to 2018 ([Reference 18](#)).

#### Reference 18 Changes in the number of Japanese nationals departing from Japan



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

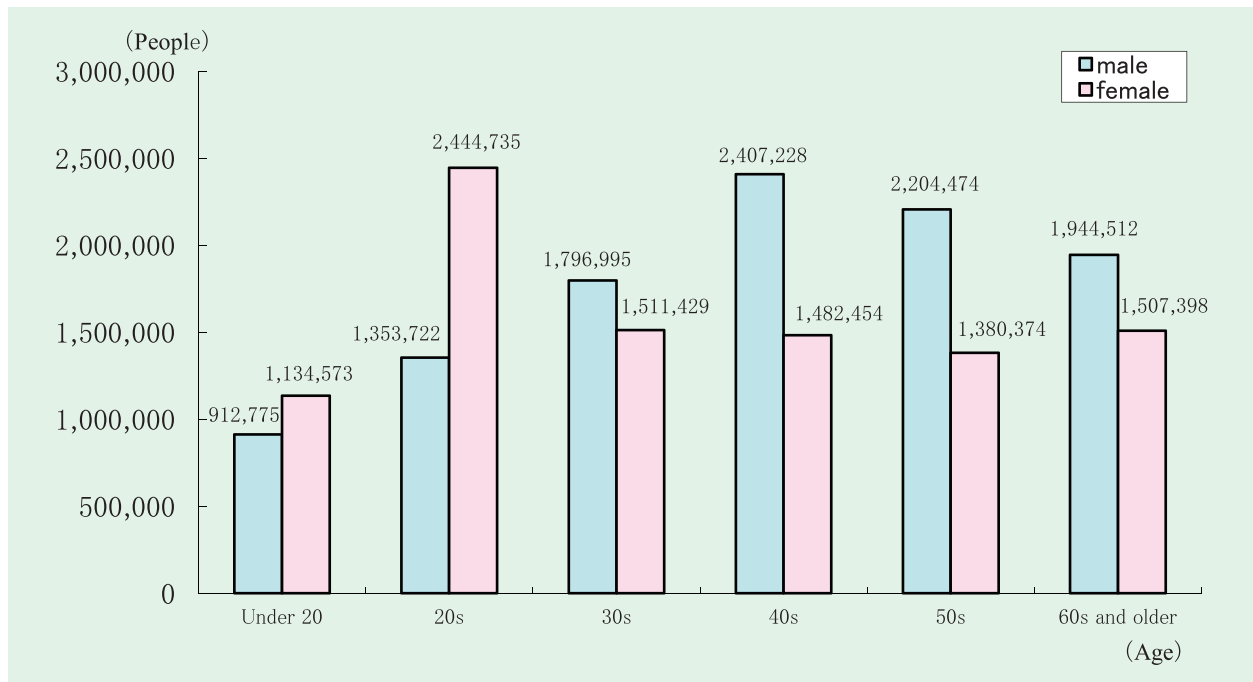
According to the statistics by gender, the number of Japanese nationals departing from Japan in 2019 was composed of 10,619,706 males and 9,460,963 females; males accounted for 52.9% of the total and females accounted for 47.1%. There have been no significant changes in the percentages of either males 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 2019 was composed of 3,889,682 Japanese nationals in their 40s, which accounted for 19.4% of the total, followed by 3,798,457 in their 20s, accounting for 18.9%, 3,584,848 in their 50s,

accounting for 17.9%, 3,451,910 in their 60s and older, accounting for 17.2% and 3,308,424 in their 30s, accounting for 16.5%.

According to the statistics on percentages of males and females by age group, the percentages of Japanese females ages under 20 and 20s exceeded those of males and, in particular, females in their 20s accounted for the extremely high percentage of 64.4%, but with the other age groups, the percentage of males departing from Japan exceeded that of females (Reference 19).

**Reference 19** Number of Japanese nationals departing from Japan by gender and age (2019)



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

Looking at the number of Japanese nationals departing from Japan in 2019 by airports and seaport of departure, the number of departing passengers using airports was 19,864,333, accounting for 98.9% of the total, and when comparing to the 30,644,262 (98.3%) foreign nationals entering Japan using the airports, the percentage of airport users is higher.

Looking at the Japanese nationals departing from Japan using airports in 2019, the number of users of Narita Airport was 7,333,263, accounting for 36.9% of the total number of departing passengers from airports, the number of users of Haneda Airport was 4,907,934, accounting for 24.7%, and the number of users of Kansai Airport was 3,974,123, accounting for 20.0%. These three airports accounted for 81.6% of the total number of departing passengers from airports.

On the other hand, looking at the Japanese nationals departing from Japan using seaports during 2019, the number of Hakata Port users was 51,296, accounting for 23.7% of the total number of departing passengers from seaports, followed by Kanazawa Port at 23,727 (11.0%), and Yokohama Port at 21,746 (10.1%). These three seaports accounted for 44.7% of the total number of departing passengers from seaports. Kanmon (Shimonoseki) Port at 13,113 (6.1%) and Kobe Port at 12,155 (5.6%) followed these three seaports.



## Section 2

## Number of Japanese Nationals Returning to Japan



Airport landing examination

The total number of returning Japanese nationals in 2019 was 20,030,055. By period of stay in foreign countries after departure, the number of persons returning within one month of departure was 18,357,814, which accounted for 91.7% of the total. Of those, the number of persons returning within 10 days was 16,758,482, which accounted for 91.3% of those who returned within one month of departure.

This is thought to be because most Japanese going abroad for a purpose requiring only a short period such as sightseeing and business return promptly. This trend has continued in recent years and no major change has been observed ([Reference 20](#)).

**Reference 20** Changes in the number of Japanese nationals returning to Japan by period of stay

(People)

Period of Stay \ Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total	16,258,889	17,088,252	17,876,453	18,908,954	20,030,055
Within 5 days	9,126,508	10,067,736	10,590,134	11,396,585	12,150,774
More than 5 days to 10 days	4,033,466	3,905,780	4,106,292	4,295,947	4,607,708
More than 10 days to 20 days	1,086,094	1,067,194	1,116,348	1,143,763	1,182,976
More than 20 days to 1 month	402,491	409,434	412,805	410,416	416,356
More than 1 month to 3 months	670,011	678,113	686,350	693,432	688,694
More than 3 months to 6 months	387,233	393,187	400,249	402,650	412,104
More than 6 months to 1 year	305,442	307,247	310,126	313,425	318,140
More than 1 year to 3 years	135,515	129,203	122,306	123,677	123,794
More than 3 years	13,161	12,800	10,610	9,193	8,405
Unknown	98,968	117,558	121,233	119,866	121,104



## Chapter 3

# Foreign Nationals Residing in Japan

## Section 1 Number of Foreign Residents in Japan

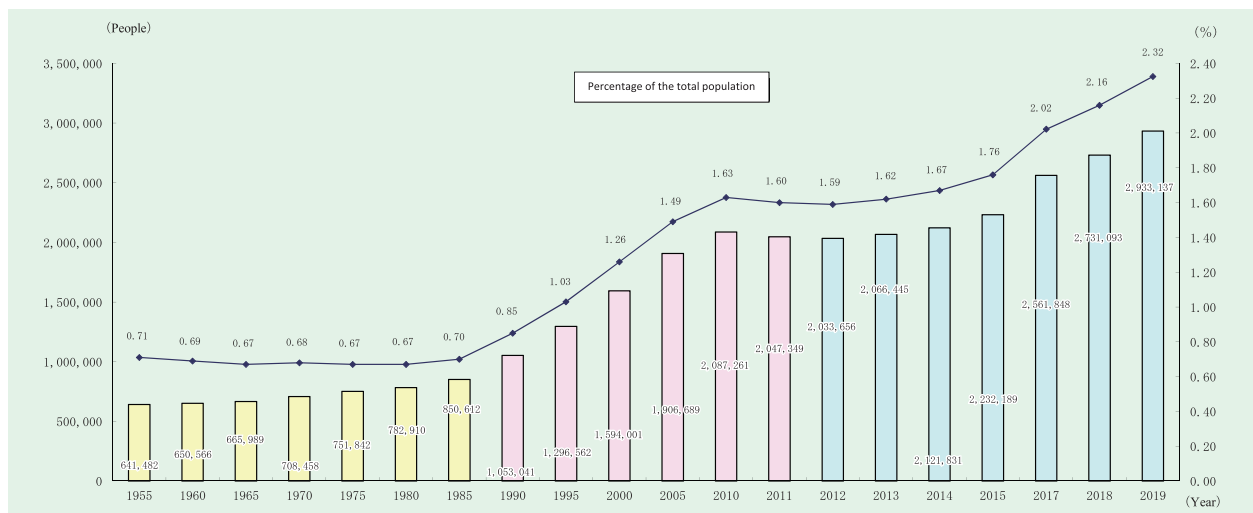
### 1 Number of Foreign Residents in Japan

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 2019, the number of mid to long-term residents (see Data Section 1, Section 4, Subsection 1) in Japan was 2,620,636 and the number of special permanent residents was 312,501. Adding these two numbers together, the total number of foreign residents was 2,933,137, an increase of 202,044 (7.4%) compared to the end of 2018.

In addition, the percentage of foreign nationals residing in Japan was 2.32% out of the total population of Japan which was 126,160,000 as of the end of 2019 (population estimate as of October 1, 2019 (Statistics Bureau of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)), which was 0.16 points higher than the 2.16% at the end of 2018 ([Reference 21](#)).

#### Reference 21 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.

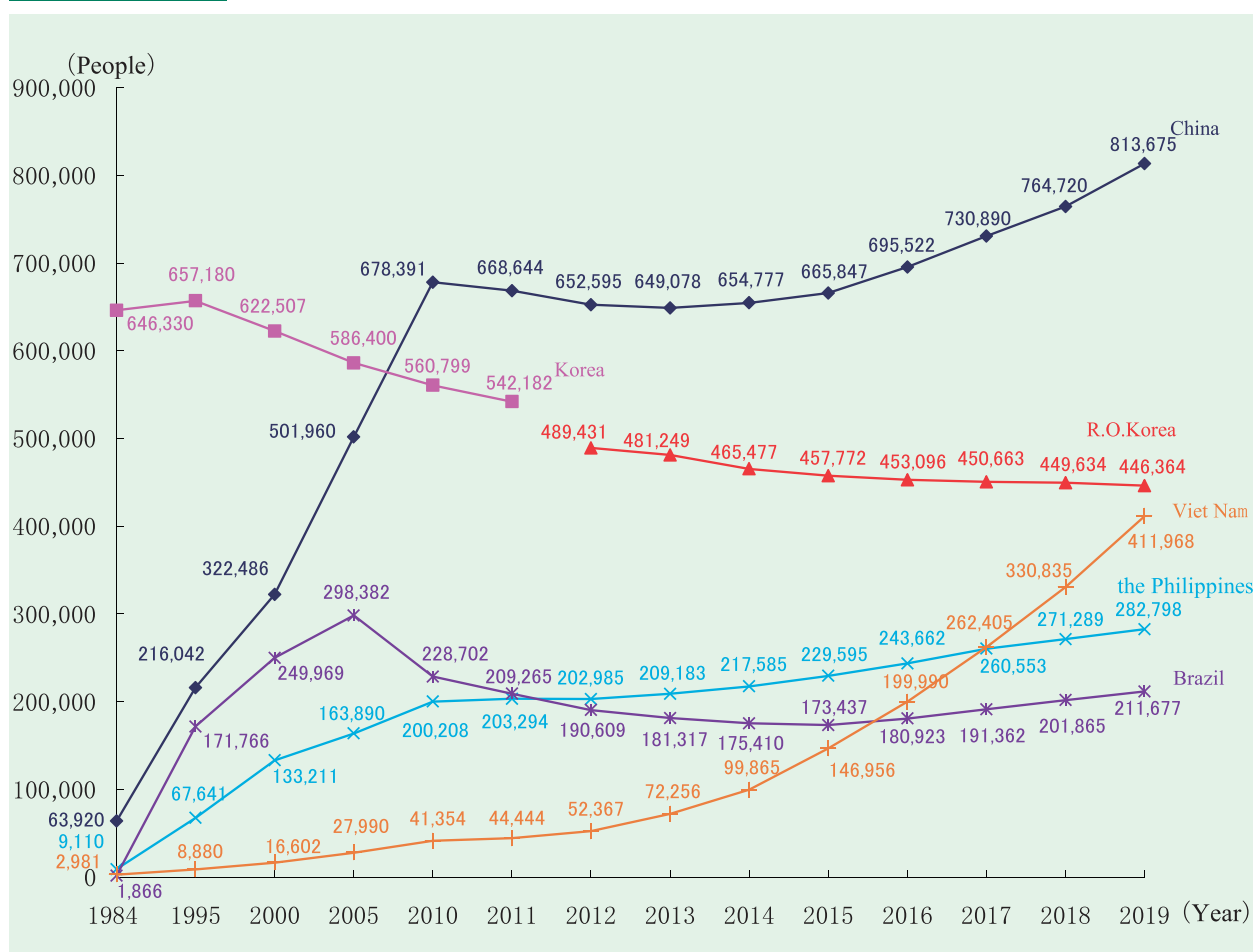
(\*3) The “percentage of the total population of Japan” is calculated based on the population as of October 1 each year taken from the “Population Estimates” and the “Population Census” of the Statistics Bureau of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

## 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 2019, China marked the largest number at 813,675, accounting for 27.7% of the total. China was followed by R.O. Korea at 446,364 (15.2%), Viet Nam at 411,968 (14.0%), the Philippines at 282,798 (9.6%), and Brazil at 211,677 (7.2%).

According to the changes in the number of foreign residents by year, the number of foreign residents from China has been on an upward trend, with an increase of 48,955 (6.4%) at the end of 2019 when compared to the end of 2018. The number of foreign residents from R.O. Korea has been declining with a decrease of 3,270 (0.7%) at the end of 2019 compared to the end of 2018. In addition, Viet Nam has been on an upward trend since the end of 2010, and increased significantly by 81,133 (24.5%) at the end of 2019 compared to the end of 2018, and the Philippines increased by 11,509 (4.2%) at the end of 2019 compared to the end of 2018. In addition, Brazil had continued its decreasing trend since it peaked at the end of 2007, but it has been on an upward trend since the end of 2016, and by the end of 2019 it has increased by 9,812 (4.9%) compared to the end of 2018 ([Reference 22](#)).

**Reference 22** 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 2019, 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 793,164, an increase of 21,596 (2.8%) from the end of 2018, accounting for 27.0% of the total ([Reference 23](#)).

## Reference 23 Changes in the number of foreign residents by status

(People)

Status \ Year		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total		2,232,189	2,382,822	2,561,848	2,731,093	2,933,137
Mid to long-term resident	Professor	7,651	7,463	7,403	7,360	7,354
	Artist	433	438	426	461	489
	Religious Activities	4,397	4,428	4,402	4,299	4,285
	Journalist	231	246	236	215	220
	Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(a)	297	731	1,194	1,576	1,884
	Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(b)	1,144	2,813	6,046	8,774	11,886
	Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(c)	51	132	257	395	570
	Highly-Skilled Professional (ii)	16	63	171	316	584
	Business Manager	18,109	21,877	24,033	25,670	27,249
	Legal/Accounting Services	142	148	147	147	145
	Medical Services	1,015	1,342	1,653	1,936	2,269
	Researcher	1,644	1,609	1,596	1,528	1,480
	Instructor	10,670	11,159	11,524	12,462	13,331
	Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services	137,706	161,124	189,273	225,724	271,999
	Intra-company Transferee	15,465	15,772	16,486	17,328	18,193
	Nursing Care			18	185	592
	Entertainer	1,869	2,187	2,094	2,389	2,508
	Skilled Labor	37,202	39,756	39,177	39,915	41,692
	Specified Skilled Labor (i)					1,621
	Specified Skilled Labor (ii)					—
	Technical Intern Training (i)-(a)	4,815	4,943	5,971	5,128	4,975
	Technical Intern Training (i)-(b)	87,070	97,642	118,101	138,249	164,408
	Technical Intern Training (ii)-(a)	2,684	3,207	3,424	3,712	4,268
	Technical Intern Training (ii)-(b)	98,086	122,796	146,729	173,873	210,965
	Technical Intern Training (iii)-(a)			—	220	605
	Technical Intern Training (iii)-(b)			8	7,178	25,751
	Cultural Activities	2,582	2,704	2,859	2,825	3,013
	Student	246,679	277,331	311,505	337,000	345,791
	Trainee	1,521	1,379	1,460	1,443	1,177
	Dependent	133,589	149,303	166,561	182,452	201,423
	Designated Activities	37,175	47,039	64,776	62,956	65,187
	Permanent Resident	700,500	727,111	749,191	771,568	793,164
	Spouse or Child of Japanese National	140,349	139,327	140,839	142,381	145,254
	Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident	28,939	30,972	34,632	37,998	41,517
	Long-Term Resident	161,532	168,830	179,834	192,014	204,787
Special Permanent Resident		348,626	338,950	329,822	321,416	312,501

(\*1) The status of residence of “Nursing Care” was newly established on September 1, 2017.

(\*2) The status of residence of “Technical Intern Training (iii) (a) and (b)” was newly established on November 1, 2017.

(\*3) The status of residence of “Specified Skilled Worker (i) and (ii)” was newly established on April 1, 2019.

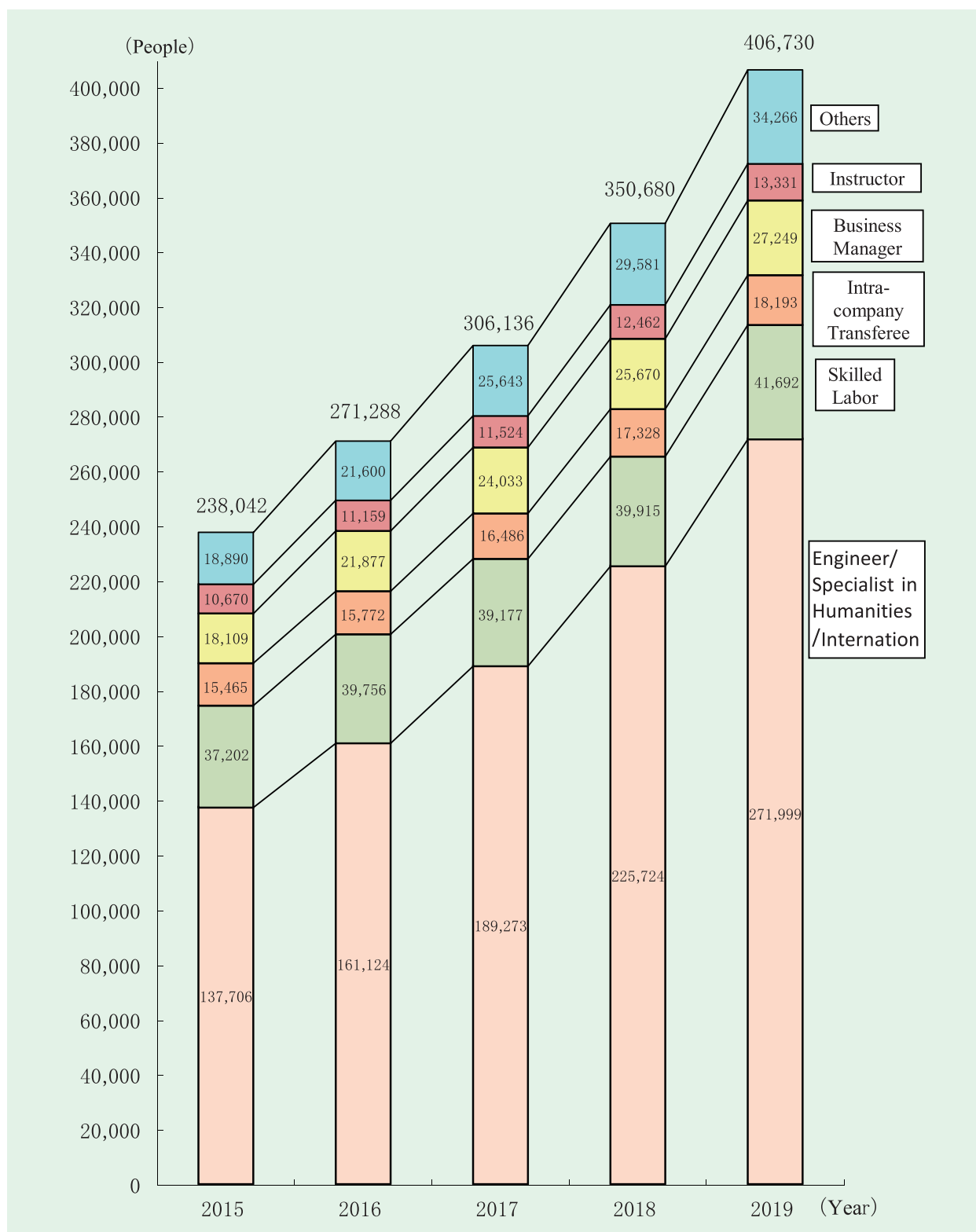
Looking at changes in the number of foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Permanent Resident” between the end of 2015 and the end of 2019, there was a steady increase, and the number increased by 92,664 (13.2%) at the end of 2019 from 700,500 at the end of 2015.

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 273,776 at the end of 2019, 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” which used to account for the largest percentage until 2006 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 2019. 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 2019, 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 406,730 accounting for 13.9% of the total, an increase of 56,050 (16.0%) compared to the end of 2018, and an upward trend has been continuing since 2012 ([Reference 24](#)).

**Reference 24** 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) Please note that incorrect figures were given as shown below for the figures of "Total number" and "Others" of FY2015 for the table of "Changes in the number of mid to long-term residents based on the status of residence for the purpose of employment in specialized and technical fields" published in the 2016 edition.

(Correct figures) 2015: Total number: 238,042, Others: 18,890

(Incorrect figures) 2015: Total number: 236,534, Others: 17,382

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 2019, 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 271,999 for “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services” and 18,193 for “Intra-company Transferee”, and when compared to the end of 2018, the respective numbers have been increasing: 46,275 (20.5%) and 865 (5.0%).

At the end of 2019, 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 66.9%, and 4.5%, 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 90,766 (33.4%), followed by Viet Nam at 51,713 (19.0%), R.O. Korea at 27,388 (10.1%), and Taiwan at 14,140 (5.2%).

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 6,129 (33.7%), followed by the Philippines at 1,658 (9.1%) and R.O.Korea at 1,539 (8.5%).

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

At the end of 2019, 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 41,692, an increase of 1,777 (4.5%) when compared to the end of 2018.

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 16,763 (40.2%), followed by Nepal at 12,679 (30.4%), India at 5,603 (13.4%), and Thailand at 1,283 (3.1%).

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

At the end of 2019, 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 41,692, an increase of 1,777 (4.5%) when compared to the end of 2018.

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 16,763 (40.2%), followed by Nepal at 12,679 (30.4%), India at 5,603 (13.4%), and Thailand at 1,283 (3.1%).

#### (3) “Technical Intern Training”(\*) (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

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(\*) “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)”.

Training (i)” at the end of 2019 was 169,383, an increase of 26,006 (18.1%) when compared to the end of 2018. According to the statistics by nationality/region, the number of those from Viet Nam was 90,776, accounting for 53.6% of the total. Viet Nam was followed by China at 32,489 (19.2%), Indonesia at 15,419 (9.1%), and the Philippines at 13,271 (7.8%).

The number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Technical Intern Training (ii)” at the end of 2019 was 215,233, an increase of 37,648 (21.2%) when compared to the end of 2018. According to the statistics by nationality/region, the number of those from Viet Nam was 113,810 accounting for 52.9% of the total. Viet Nam was followed by China at 45,412 (21.1%), the Philippines at 19,358 (9.0%) and Indonesia at 18,054 (8.4%).

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 2019 was 26,356, according to the statistics by nationality/region, the number of those from Viet Nam was 14,141 accounting for 53.7% of the total. Viet Nam was followed by China at 4,469 (17.0%), the Philippines at 3,245 (12.3%) and Indonesia at 1,931 (7.3%).

#### (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 2019 was 345,791, an increase of 8,791 (2.6%) compared to the end of 2018, comprising 11.8% of the total number of foreign residents. According to the statistics by nationality/region, the number from China was 144,264 accounting for 41.7% of the total, followed by Viet Nam at 79,292 (22.9%).

#### (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 2019 was 145,254, accounting for 5.0% of the total number of foreign residents, an increase of 2,873 (2.0%) when compared to the end of 2018.

Looking at these numbers by nationality/region, China stood at 30,321, accounting for 20.9% of the total, followed by the Philippines at 26,699 (18.4%), and Brazil at 18,427 (12.7%).

At the end of 2019, the number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Long-Term Resident” was 204,787 accounting for 7.0% of the total number of foreign residents, the number at the end of 2019 has increased by 12,773 (6.7%) compared to the end of 2018.

Looking at these number by nationality/region, Brazil was 73,536 accounting for 35.9% of the total number, followed by the Philippines at 54,359 (26.5%) and China at 28,822 (14.1%).

## Section 2 Examination of Statuses of Residence

The total number of applications related to residence examinations was 1,420,031 in 2019, an increase of 96,160 (7.3%) when compared to 2018 ([Reference 25](#)).



## Reference 25 Changes in the number of permission examined in status of residence examinations

(Cases)

Division \ Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total	953,906	1,042,879	1,188,257	1,323,871	1,420,031
Permission for change of status of residence	159,235	180,480	215,599	325,149	269,153
Permission for extension of period of stay	487,440	532,800	610,924	603,043	743,254
Permission for permanent residence	39,726	35,595	28,869	31,451	32,150
Permission for special permanent residence	94	84	73	75	63
Permission for acquisition of status of residence	9,862	12,010	12,976	13,188	14,469
Re-entry permission	37,835	31,553	35,310	37,030	38,232
Permission to engage in an activity other than those permitted by the status of residence previously granted	219,714	250,357	284,506	313,935	322,710

- (※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.
- (※3) "Permission for acquisition of status of residence" includes the permission for permanent residence provided for in Article 22-2 of the Immigration Control Act.
- (※4) Please note that incorrect figures (case numbers) were given as shown below for the figures of "Total number", "Permanent residents" and "Special permanent residents" of 2015 for the table of "Changes in the number of cases of work permission in the work of residence examinations" published in the 2016 edition.  
 (Correct figures) 2015: Total number: 953,906, Permanent Residents: 39,726, Special Permanent Residents: 94  
 (Incorrect figures) 2015: Total number: 954,004, Permanent Residents: 39,820, Special Permanent Residents: 98



Residence examination counter

### 1 Permission for Change in the Status of Residence

In 2019, the number of cases in which obtained permission for a change in the status of residence was 269,153, a decrease of 55,996 (17.2%) when compared to 2018.

### (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 30,947 in 2019, an increase of 5,005 (19.3%) when compared to 2018. The number of these foreign nationals had been steadily increased between 2003 and 2008. Though the number reached a peak in 2008, it started to decline owing to the impact of the global recession. However, the number subsequently started seeing signs of recovery with a record high reached in 2019.

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 28,595 (92.4%), an increase of 4,407 (18.2%) when compared to 2018 ([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 status of residence (people)

Status of Residence \ Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total	15,657	19,435	22,419	25,942	30,947
Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/ International Services	13,791	17,353	20,486	24,188	28,595
Professor	684	598	626	538	640
Business Manager	682	916	712	560	500
Designated Activities	22	19	36	14	316
Medical Services	234	257	254	246	280
Nursing Care			18	83	173
Instructor	73	87	93	137	166
Highly-Skilled Professional	17	27	43	65	156
Researcher	102	87	102	85	81
Artist	18	3	9	2	13
Religious Activities	20	14	25	15	10
Others	14	74	15	9	17

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 11,580, accounting for 37.4%, followed by Viet Nam at 7,030 (22.7%) and Nepal at 3,591 (11.6%) ([Reference 27](#)).

**Reference 27** 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	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total	15,657	19,435	22,419	25,942	30,947
China	9,847	11,039	10,326	10,886	11,580
Viet Nam	1,153	2,488	4,633	5,244	7,030
Nepal	503	1,167	2,026	2,934	3,591
R.O.Korea	1,288	1,422	1,487	1,575	1,663
Taiwan	649	689	810	1,065	1,259
Sri Lanka	121	177	242	432	704
Myanmar	160	183	212	348	593
Indonesia	147	214	253	362	469
Bangladesh	64	90	110	233	467
the Philippines	126	168	230	319	447
Others	1,599	1,798	2,090	2,544	3,144

(\*) “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 is being 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)” is required when engaging 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 May 13, 2020, there are 55 job categories, such as formwork, and machine processing, etc., which can be tested through the evaluation system for the Basic National Trade Skills Test, which is a national examination, and 27 job categories such as melding and spinning operations for which there is no national examination but there 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 82 job categories.

The number of foreign trainees who were permitted to change their status of residence to “Technical Intern Training (ii)” in 2019 had decreased by 47,634 (26.4%) compared to 2018 to 132,841.

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 2019 came from Viet Nam at 71,275 (53.7%), followed by China at 27,440 (20.7%), the Indonesia at 11,455 (8.6%), the Philippines at 10,986 (8.3%), and Myanmar at 3,715 (2.8%) (**References 28**).

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 enable the mastery of 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 75 as of October 1, 2020).

The number of foreign trainees who were permitted to change their status of residence to “Technical Intern Training (iii)” in 2019 had increased by 2,980 (174.5%) compared to 2018 to 4,688.

According to the statistics of foreign nationals who received permission to change their status of residence to “Technical Intern Training (iii)” in 2019 by nationality/region, the order was Viet Nam at 2,573 (54.9%) followed by the Philippines at 669 (14.3%), China at 631 (13.5%), Myanmar at 261 (5.6%) and Indonesia at 254 (5.4%) (**Reference 29**).

According to the statistics of the technical intern training plans accredited in 2019 by job type, the largest numbers for technical intern training (ii) were “Prepared food industry”, “Crop farming”, “Welding”, and for technical intern training (iii) were “Women/Children’s apparel production”, “Prepared food industry”, “Crop farming” (**Reference 30, 31**).

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

(People)

nationality/region \ Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total	63,924	77,550	89,281	180,475	132,841
Viet Nam	17,574	29,494	39,944	86,892	71,275
China	32,135	27,947	25,749	46,325	27,440
Indonesia	5,133	7,978	6,868	17,994	11,455
the Philippines	5,389	6,297	8,758	14,039	10,986
Myanmar	404	1,397	2,146	4,571	3,715
Others	3,289	4,437	5,816	10,654	7,970

(\*1) “China” does 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 29** Changes in the number of trainees who changed to “Technical Intern Training (iii)” by nationality/region (People)

nationality/region \ Year	2017	2018	2019
Total	—	1,708	4,688
Viet Nam	—	961	2,573
the Philippines	—	222	669
China	—	243	631
Myanmar	—	49	261
Indonesia	—	119	254
Others	—	114	300

(※1) “China” does 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 30** Number of accreditations of the technical intern training plan for “Technical Intern Training (ii)” by job categories (2019)

Occupation	(Cases)
Total	150,274
Prepared food industry	14,464
Crop farming	11,836
Welding	10,008
Steeplejack	8,403
Plastic molding	7,754
Women/Children’s apparel production	6,944
Machining	6,109
Painting	4,992
Unheated fishery processing products manufacturing	4,879
Electronics assembly	4,619
Others	70,266

**Reference 31** Number of accreditations of the technical intern training plan for “Technical Intern Training (iii) ” by job categories (2019)

Occupation	(Cases)
Total	25,842
Women/Children’s apparel production	2,733
Prepared food industry	2,485
Crop farming	1,547
Welding	1,539
Steeplejack	1,501
Plastic molding	1,113
Unheated fishery processing products manufacturing	1,102
Painting	1,001
Steel reinforcement construction	932
Mold construction	779
Others	11,110

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

Implementation of the statuses of “Specified Skilled Worker (i)” and “Specified Skilled Worker (ii)” was started on April 1, 2019. In 2019, 1,062 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 600 (56.5%), followed by the Philippines at 110 (10.4%), China at 95 (8.9%), Indonesia at 77 (7.3%), and Myanmar at 63 (5.9%) (see Reference 32).

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

**Reference 32** Changes in the number of cases of permission for change of the status to “Specified Skilled Worker (i)” by nationality/region

		(People)
Nationality/Region	Year	2019
Total		1,062
Viet Nam		600
the Philippines		110
China		95
Indonesia		77
Myanmar		63
Others		117

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

(\*2) The status of residence of “Specified Skilled Worker (i) and (ii)” was newly established on April 1, 2019.

## 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 2019 was 743,254, an increase of 140,211 (23.3%) compared to 2018.

## 3 Permission for Permanent Residence

The number of cases in which were granted permission for permanent residence in 2019 was 32,150, an increase of 699 (2.2%) in 2019 when compared to 2018 ([Reference 33](#)).

**Reference 33** Changes in the number of cases of permission for permanent residence by nationality/region (Cases)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total	39,726	35,595	28,869	31,451	32,150
China	16,635	15,285	12,816	14,626	15,542
the Philippines	5,455	4,795	3,549	3,077	2,998
R.O.Korea	2,978	2,731	2,241	2,742	2,521
Brazil	4,822	3,866	2,716	2,255	2,318
Viet Nam	967	994	873	1,343	1,405
Others	8,869	7,924	6,674	7,408	7,366

(\*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 2019 was 14,469, an increase of 1,281 (9.7%) when compared to 2018.

## 5 Re-entry Permission

The number of cases in which were granted re-entry permission in 2019 was 38,232, an increase of 1,202 (3.2%) when compared to 2018.

In addition, the number of foreign nationals who departed from Japan having obtained special re-entry permission in 2019 was 2,773,885 accounting for 96.7% of the total number of 2,869,247 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 2019 was 322,710, an increase of 8,775 (2.8%) compared to 2018.



## Section 3

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

### 1 Residence Cards

The number of residence cards issued in 2019 was 1,652,773. 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 1,429,415 accounting for 86.5% of the total, followed by applications for extension of the period of validity at 171,571 (10.4%), reissuance at 46,515 (2.8%), and notification of a change in the registered matters aside from the place of residence at 5,258 (0.3%).

By category of Regional Immigration Services Bureaus, the Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau issued 890,121 residence cards, accounting for 53.9% of the total, followed by Nagoya at 284,925 (17.2%), Osaka at 230,136 (13.9%) and Fukuoka at 109,602 (6.6%) (**Reference 34**).

**Reference 34** Number of issuance of residence cards (2019)

(Cases)

Regional Immigration Services 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	Application to switch over to the residence card
Total	1,652,773	1,429,415	5,258	171,571	46,515	14
Sapporo	27,114	25,671	44	936	461	2
Sendai	30,092	24,714	112	4,561	705	—
Tokyo	890,121	767,285	2,607	92,884	27,340	5
Nagoya	284,925	237,264	1,425	39,406	6,829	1
Osaka	230,136	202,764	473	19,950	6,949	—
Hiroshima	61,463	54,140	342	5,736	1,241	4
Takamatsu	19,320	17,317	41	1,578	384	—
Fukuoka	109,602	100,260	214	6,520	2,606	2

### 2 Special Permanent Resident Certificates

The number of special permanent resident certificates issued in 2019 was 36,436. 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 27,453 accounting for 75.3% of the total, followed by notification of a change in the registered matters aside from the place of residence at 4,081 (11.2%), applications for reissuance at 3,532 (9.7%), and permission for special permanent resident (Article 4) at 669 (1.8%) (**Reference 35**).



**Reference 35** Number of issuances of special permanent resident certificates (2019)

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
669	63	4,081	27,453	3,532	625	13	—	36,436

**Article**

## At the Front Line of Immigration Control Administration

(Voice of an immigration inspector in charge of status examinations)  
(Student and Trainee Inspection Department, the Hiroshima Regional Immigration Services Bureau: Katayama Saki)

The Student and Trainee Inspection Department, Hiroshima Regional Immigration Services Bureau, mainly deals with the statuses of residence of “Student” and “Technical Intern Training”, and I am responsible there for tasks related to the “Student” status.

The numbers of foreign nationals both entering and residing with the status of residence of “Student” are increasing year by year. The acceptance of foreign students is important in that it contributes to providing highly-capable students to the labor market, among other reasons, by enabling such students to engage in cultural exchange and be employed by Japanese companies after graduating from university. However, since some try to enter and reside in Japan for the purpose of employment under the pretense of studying, examinations must be performed rigorously. For instance, a residence examination will involve checking whether the foreign student is actually attending a school, and whether he or she is working a part-time job within the permitted hours. If these facts cannot be confirmed, the foreign student will be given a warning, and his or her permission of residence may be rescinded. There are many kinds of foreign students, such as university students, vocational school students, and Japanese language school students. Examinations for students with no special issues are conducted speedily, while cases requiring detailed investigation are conducted with care. We try to balance our efforts in this way.

The Hiroshima Regional Immigration Services Bureau has two inspection departments: the Student and Trainee Inspection Department and the Employment and Permanent Resident Inspection Department. Both departments are responsible for providing services at the office and helping out in examinations related to cruise ships calling port within the jurisdictional area. Although you need to have knowledge about statuses of residence other than those you normally deal with, I think one of the good things about a small-scale bureau is that you can experience various types of work without being confined to a single department.

The Hiroshima Regional Immigration Services Bureau is working hard to achieve a work-life balance for employees, and I try to leave the office on time as far as possible. For this reason, we actively share our task priorities and other information among each other so that business can be conducted smoothly.



**an 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”) cultivated in Japan, and contributes to “human resource development” which leads to the development of the country or region etc. 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 “Association supervised scheme technical intern training”, juridical persons, which intend to become a supervising organization are required to obtain a license of supervising organization from the competent minister (Minister of Justice and Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare). The number of applications and license (cumulative) of supervising organization until 2019 was 3,084 ([Reference 36](#)).

### 2 License of supervising organizations

The number of license (cumulative) of supervising organizations until 2019 was 2,839, of which 1,370 licenses were granted for general supervision business (excellent supervising organizations), and 1,469 licenses were granted for specified supervision business (other supervising organizations) ([Reference 36](#)).

**Reference 36** Changes in the number of applications and grant of license of supervising organization (Cases)

Year		2018	2019
Number of applications		2,573	3,084
Number of licenses	General supervision business	1,064	1,370
	Specified supervision business	1,358	1,469
	Total	2,422	2,839

(\*) The numbers in the table are cumulative values at the end of each 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 in 2019 was 772,819 (cumulative), of which 21,703 applications were for company-arranged scheme technical training plans, and 751,116 applications were for Association supervised scheme technical intern training plans ([Reference 37](#)).

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

The number of cases of accreditation of the technical intern training plans in 2019 was 732,313(cumulative), with the number of cases of accreditation of company-arranged scheme technical training plans at 20,891 and the number of cases of Association supervised scheme technical intern training plans at 711,422 ([Reference 37](#)).

**Reference 37** Changes in the number of applications and accreditations of the technical intern training plan (Cases)

Year		2018	2019
Number of applications	Company-arranged scheme	11,142	21,703
	Association-supervised scheme	367,935	751,116
	Total	379,077	772,819
Number of accreditations	Company-arranged scheme	11,119	20,891
	Association-supervised scheme	366,896	711,422
	Total	378,015	732,313

## 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 2019, the accreditation of the technical intern training plans for fourteen companies was revoked and the license of two supervising organization was revoked ([Reference 38](#)). 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 countered operated in the native language of the trainees. In 2019, 7,452 consultations were provided in the native language and 133 reports were accepted, and in addition, support was given in 54 cases to enable a technical intern trainee to change the implementing organization, and support was given in 71 cases (cumulative from April, 2018 to the end of March, 2019) for accommodation.

On the other hand, the number of technical intern trainees who have absconded from the program has been on an upward trend, and this number surged to 8,796 in 2019 while it was 5,803 in 2015. The motive for the disappearance was partly due to improper treatment on the part of the implementing organization, but since the disappearance was often considered to be due to the financial circumstances of the technical intern trainee, as well as striving to exclude unscrupulous sending organizations under the framework of bilateral agreements, the Organization for

Technical Intern Training rigorously examines the applications for accreditation of technical intern training plans pertaining to the acceptance of technical intern trainees by sending organizations and supervising organizations that have caused a large number of disappearances, and moreover, on-site inspections of implementing organizations which have caused a disappearance are prioritized (Reference 39).

Against this backdrop, 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.

A report containing the survey results and other information was published on March 29, 2019. The report proposed measures to improve the program's operation, including using a payment method which can be verified later, such as wire transfer, when making payments to technical intern trainees.

On November 12, 2019, in order to reduce the number of technical intern trainees absconding from the program, the Minister of Justice announced that sending organizations, supervising organizations, and implementing organizations that have caused numerous cases of disappearance of technical intern trainees will be, in consideration of the disappearance rate, attribution of responsibility, and other factors, barred from accepting new technical intern trainees.

#### Reference 38 Number of administrative dispositions, etc. (2019) (Cases)

Year	2019
Revocation of technical intern training plans	14
Revocation of the license of the supervising organizations	2

#### Reference 39 Changes in the number of technical intern trainees absconding by nationality/region

(People)

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Nationality/Region					
Total	5,803	5,058	7,089	9,052	8,796
Viet Nam	1,705	2,025	3,751	5,801	6,105
China	3,116	1,987	1,594	1,537	1,330
Cambodia	58	284	656	758	462
Myanmar	336	216	446	345	347
Indonesia	252	200	242	339	307
Others	336	346	400	272	245

(\*) 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 Immigration Services Agency, the estimated number of foreign nationals who overstayed (those who illegally stay in Japan beyond their authorized period of stay) was 82,892 as of January 1, 2020. This was an increase of 8,725 (11.8%) when compared to the 74,167 as of January 1, 2019, and as of January 1 each year, it has increased for six consecutive years.

The number of deportation procedures against those who overstayed their authorized period of stay in 2019 was larger than in 2018. Meanwhile, as a result of the entire government's efforts toward a tourism-oriented country that have been taken in recent years, the number of foreign nationals entering Japan has increased significantly, and it is thought that this has had a considerable influence on the increase in the number of foreign nationals who overstayed 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. As of January 1, 2020, the largest number of foreign nationals overstaying their authorized period of stay was from Viet Nam at 15,561 (18.8%), followed by R.O. Korea at 12,563 (15.2%), China at 10,902 (13.2%), Thailand at 8,872 (10.7%), and the Philippines at 6,061 (7.3%).

Taking a look at the changes after May 1, 1993, although the number of foreign nationals

newly entering Japan significantly increased owing to visa waiver being implemented with regard to R.O. Korea for those foreign nationals intending to engage in activities under the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor”, the number of those from R.O. Korea overstaying their period of stay has been consistently decreasing since January 1, 1999. Meanwhile, the number of those from Viet Nam increased by 4,430 (39.8%) to 15,561 compared with January 1, 2019, and this number has been increasing for eight consecutive years. Of the illegal residents from Viet Nam staying beyond their authorized period of stay, “Technical Intern Training” accounted for more than 50% of the total, and it is thought that these technical intern trainees, planning to engage in illegal work, absconded from the technical intern training site and stayed beyond their authorized period of stay. In addition, regarding foreign nationals from Thailand, although this number continued to decline consistently from May 1, 1993, due to the relaxing of the visa requirements in July 2013, the number of new entrants with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor” has been increasing significantly, and saw an increase of 1,392 (18.6%) to 8,872, compared to January 1, 2019, which was an increase of seven consecutive years ([References 40, 41](#)).



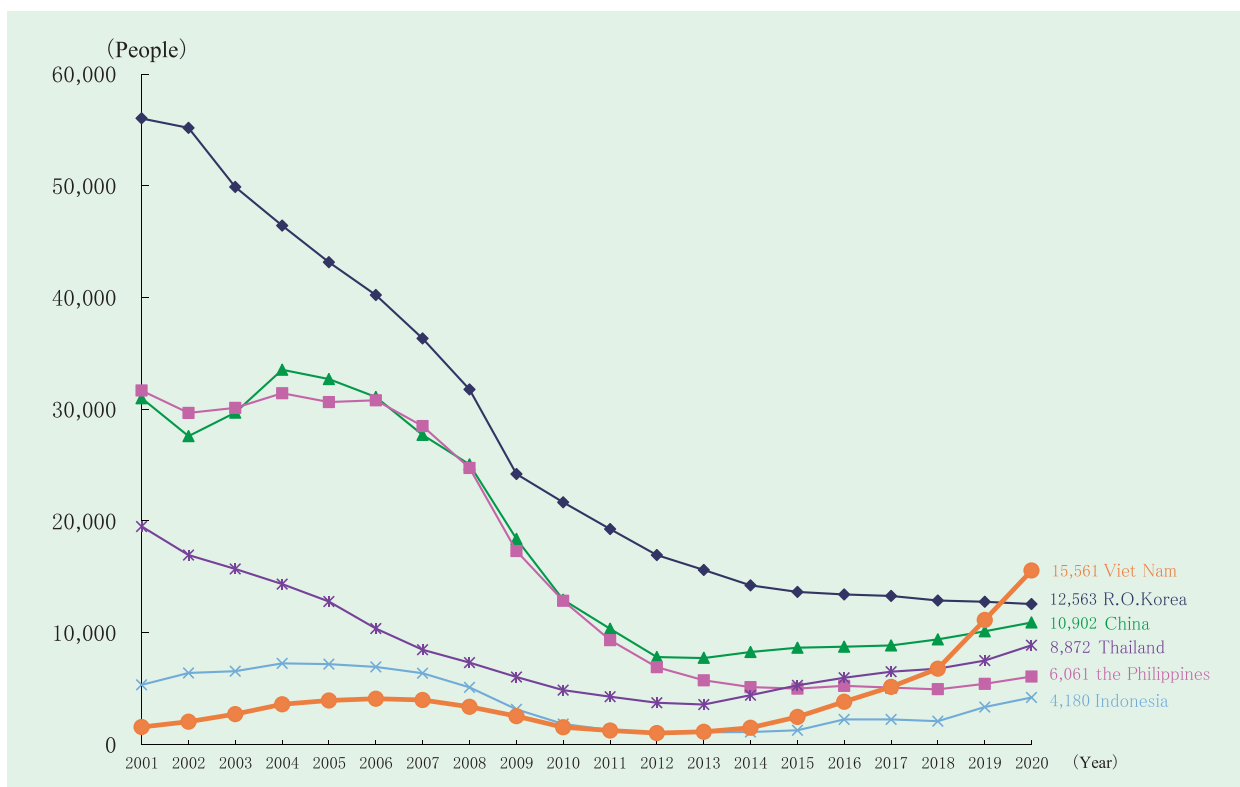
**Reference 40** Changes in the estimated number of foreign nationals overstaying the authorized period of stay by nationality/region

(People)

Date Nationality/ Region	May 1 1993	May 1 1994	May 1 1995	May 1 1996	January 1 1997	January 1 1998	January 1 1999	January 1 2000	January 1 2001	January 1 2002	January 1 2003	January 1 2004	January 1 2005	January 1 2006
Total	298,646	293,800	286,704	284,500	282,986	276,810	271,048	251,697	232,121	224,067	220,552	219,418	207,299	193,745
Viet Nam	852	869	453	448	231	731	880	1,092	1,550	2,021	2,697	3,582	3,916	4,071
R.O. Korea	39,455	43,369	47,544	51,580	52,387	52,123	62,577	60,693	56,023	55,164	49,874	46,425	43,151	40,203
China	33,312	39,738	39,511	39,140	38,296	37,590	34,800	32,896	30,975	27,582	29,676	33,522	32,683	31,074
Thailand	55,383	49,992	44,794	41,280	39,513	37,046	30,065	23,503	19,500	16,925	15,693	14,334	12,787	10,352
the Philippines	35,392	37,544	39,763	41,997	42,547	42,608	40,420	36,379	31,666	29,649	30,100	31,428	30,619	30,777
Indonesia	2,969	3,198	3,205	3,481	3,758	4,692	4,930	4,947	5,315	6,393	6,546	7,246	7,169	6,926
Taiwan	7,457	7,871	7,974	8,502	9,409	9,430	9,437	9,243	8,849	8,990	9,126	7,611	6,760	6,696
Malaysia	30,840	20,313	14,511	11,525	10,390	10,141	9,989	9,701	9,651	10,097	9,442	8,476	7,431	6,822
Sri Lanka	3,763	3,395	2,980	2,783	2,751	3,071	3,734	3,907	3,489	3,730	3,909	4,242	4,209	4,590
Singapore	1,914	2,342	2,600	2,850	2,946	3,027	3,084	3,178	3,302	3,494	3,556	3,216	3,075	3,587
Others	87,309	85,169	83,369	80,914	80,758	76,351	71,132	66,158	61,801	60,022	59,933	59,336	55,499	48,647

Date Nationality/ Region	January 1 2007	January 1 2008	January 1 2009	January 1 2010	January 1 2011	January 1 2012	January 1 2013	January 1 2014	January 1 2015	January 1 2016	January 1 2017	January 1 2018	January 1 2019	January 1 2020
Total	170,839	149,785	113,072	91,778	78,488	67,065	62,009	59,061	60,007	62,818	65,270	66,498	74,167	82,892
Viet Nam	3,959	3,362	2,527	1,531	1,221	1,014	1,110	1,471	2,453	3,809	5,137	6,760	11,131	15,561
R.O. Korea	36,321	31,758	24,198	21,660	19,271	16,927	15,607	14,233	13,634	13,412	13,265	12,876	12,766	12,563
China	27,698	25,057	18,385	12,933	10,337	7,807	7,730	8,257	8,647	8,741	8,846	9,390	10,119	10,902
Thailand	8,460	7,314	6,023	4,836	4,264	3,714	3,558	4,391	5,277	5,959	6,507	6,768	7,480	8,872
the Philippines	28,491	24,741	17,287	12,842	9,329	6,908	5,722	5,117	4,991	5,240	5,082	4,933	5,417	6,061
Indonesia	6,354	5,096	3,126	1,820	1,265	1,037	1,073	1,097	1,258	2,228	2,222	2,076	3,323	4,180
Taiwan	6,347	6,031	4,950	4,889	4,774	4,571	4,047	3,557	3,532	3,543	3,887	3,784	3,747	3,730
Malaysia	6,397	4,804	2,986	2,661	2,442	2,237	2,192	1,819	1,788	1,763	1,761	1,784	1,808	1,846
Sri Lanka	4,042	3,615	2,796	1,952	1,498	1,256	1,084	1,019	932	914	847	816	861	1,112
Singapore	2,241	2,207	2,128	2,107	1,789	1,586	1,304	1,079	1,066	1,055	1,046	1,034	1,021	994
Others	40,529	35,800	28,666	24,547	22,298	20,008	18,582	17,021	16,429	16,154	16,670	16,277	16,494	17,071

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

**Reference 41** 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 January 1 of each 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, 2020 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 2019 to make up the largest number at 51,239 accounting for 61.8% of the total number, followed by “Technical Intern Training (ii) (b)” at 7,048 (8.5%), “Designated Activities” at 5,688 (6.9%) “Student” at 5,543 (6.7%), “Technical Intern Training (i) (b)” at 5,309 (6.4%) and “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” at 2,687 (3.2%). In addition, when compared to the previous year, while there was an increase in the number of foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor” by 3,840 (8.1%), “Technical Intern Training (ii) (b)” by 1,730 (32.5%), “Designated Activities” by 1,464 (34.7%), “Student” by 835 (17.7%) and “Technical Intern Training (i) (b)” by 1,294 (32.2%), there was a decrease in the number of foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” by 259 (8.8%) ([Reference 42](#)).

**Reference 42** 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 2014	January 1 2015	January 1 2016	January 1 2017	January 1 2018	January 1 2019	January 1 2020
Total	59,061	60,007	62,818	65,270	66,498	74,167	82,892
Temporary Visitor	41,403	41,090	42,478	44,167	44,592	47,399	51,239
Technical Intern Training (ii) – (b)	1,699	2,831	3,413	3,748	3,988	5,318	7,048
Designated Activities	1,707	1,636	1,633	1,910	2,286	4,224	5,688
Student	2,777	2,806	3,422	3,807	4,100	4,708	5,543
Technical Intern Training (i) – (b)	1,089	1,799	2,439	2,741	2,894	4,015	5,309
Spouse or Child of Japanese National	3,719	3,709	3,433	3,287	3,092	2,946	2,687
Others	8,374	7,772	7,633	7,520	7,832	9,781	5,378

(\*) 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

### 1 Outline

In 2019, the number of foreign nationals against whom deportation procedures were enforced on account of violation of the Immigration Control Act was 19,386 an increase of 3,117 (19.2%) when compared to 2018. Of these, 8,713 were handed over to immigration inspectors as those subject to the departure order system. Although the number of foreign nationals in violation of the Immigration Control Act had been steadily decreasing since 2005, in recent years, there has been an increase in the number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan owing to the implementation of measures such as visa waiver, and this has contributed to an increase in the number of foreign nationals overstaying their authorized period of stay, and it has increased for the five consecutive year.

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 17,627 (90.9%), followed by criminal offenses at 448 (2.3%) and illegal entry at 349 (1.8%). Overstaying continued to account for a predominant percentage ([Reference 43](#)).

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 6,549 (33.8%), followed by China at 4,256 (22.0%) and Thailand at 2,295 (11.8%). These top three countries made up 67.6% of the total ([Reference 44](#)).

**Reference 43** Changes in the number of cases of violation of the Immigration Control Act by grounds for deportation (People)

Grounds for Deportation \ Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total	12,272	13,361	13,686	16,269	19,386
Illegal entry	752	599	577	409	349
Illegal landing	268	238	151	140	134
Activity other than those permitted	399	511	648	476	255
Overstay	9,982	11,198	11,502	14,353	17,627
Criminal offenses	397	432	470	460	448
Others	474	383	338	431	573
Illegal worker	7,973	9,003	9,134	10,086	12,816

**Reference 44** Changes in the number of cases of violation of the Immigration Control Act by nationality/region (People)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total	12,272	13,361	13,686	16,269	19,386
Viet Nam	1,643	2,273	2,931	4,395	6,549
China	4,311	3,979	3,901	4,185	4,256
Thailand	1,475	1,770	2,096	2,101	2,295
the Philippines	1,467	1,452	1,310	1,692	1,566
Indonesia	507	1,059	727	850	1,246
Nepal	146	185	198	374	598
R.O. Korea	704	599	440	353	324
Sri Lanka	182	153	145	150	296
Brazil	296	268	232	275	285
Turkey	124	125	127	209	271
Others	1,417	1,498	1,579	1,685	1,700

(\*) "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 2019, the number of illegal entrants<sup>(\*)</sup> was 349, accounting for 1.8%, a decrease of 60 (14.7%) compared to 2018. 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 countermeas-

(\*) 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.

ures to prevent illegal entry have been quite effective.

Accordingly to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number was from the Philippines at 90 (25.8%), followed by China at 87 (24.9%) and R.O. Korea at 26 (7.4%) (**Reference 45**).

According to the statistics by means of transportation used for illegal entry, the number of illegal entrants using aircraft was 282. Though it showed a decrease of 50 (15.1%) compared to 2018, the percentage of illegal entry using aircraft was still high at 80.8%. In addition, the number of illegal entrants using a vessel was 67, accounting for 19.2%, a decrease of 10 (13.0%) compared to 2018 (**Reference 46, 47**).

**Reference 45** Changes in the number of cases of illegal entry by nationality/region (People)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total	752	599	577	409	349
the Philippines	166	143	117	128	90
China	211	143	104	99	87
R.O. Korea	50	45	32	32	26
Iran	64	76	115	16	18
Thailand	31	21	20	23	13
Sri Lanka	18	13	24	11	11
Peru	26	29	20	10	10
Russia	6	5	3	14	10
Viet Nam	34	14	14	9	9
Indonesia	27	29	23	10	8
Others	119	81	105	57	67

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

**Reference 46** Changes in the number of cases of illegal entry using aircraft by nationality/region (People)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total	594	488	482	332	282
the Philippines	158	138	114	122	86
China	96	67	48	52	50
Iran	61	74	108	16	17
R.O. Korea	22	23	17	13	12
Thailand	31	20	20	22	11
Others	226	166	175	107	106

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

**Reference 47** Changes in the number of cases of illegal entry using vessel by nationality/region

(People)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total	158	111	95	77	67
China	115	76	56	47	37
R.O. Korea	28	22	15	19	14
the Philippines	8	5	3	6	4
Russia	0	0	0	2	4
Thailand	0	1	0	1	2
Others	7	7	21	2	6

(\*) "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 2019, 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 134 (0.7%), which was a decrease of 6 (4.3%) compared to 2018 ([Reference 48](#)).

**Reference 48** Changes in the number of cases of illegal landing by nationality/region

(People)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total	268	238	151	140	134
United States of America	2	11	12	13	22
Turkey	90	82	34	33	22
China	6	7	15	10	16
the Philippines	2	5	3	1	9
Russia	20	16	11	20	9
Uganda	0	2	2	2	6
Sri Lanka	95	39	38	10	6
Pakistan	6	5	6	8	6
Others	47	71	30	43	38

(\*) "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 2019, the number of those who overstayed the authorized period of stay was 17,627 (90.9%), which was an increase of 3,274 (22.8%) compared to 2018 and still overwhelmingly high.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number was from Viet Nam at 6,156 (34.9%), followed by China at 3,878 (22.0%), Thailand at 2,259 (12.8%), the Philippines at 1,344 (7.6%), and Indonesia at 1,208 (6.9%) ([Reference 49](#)).

**Reference 49** Changes in the number of cases of foreign nationals overstaying the authorized period of stay by nationality/region

(People)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total	9,982	11,198	11,502	14,353	17,627
Viet Nam	1,422	1,994	2,515	3,951	6,156
China	3,623	3,488	3,534	3,819	3,878
Thailand	1,389	1,699	2,017	2,018	2,259
the Philippines	1,139	1,157	961	1,401	1,344
Indonesia	465	935	619	806	1,208
Nepal	63	93	139	335	531
R.O. Korea	559	473	358	269	274
Sri Lanka	59	84	73	102	250
Turkey	30	40	86	170	238
Brazil	227	181	132	182	184
Others	1,006	1,054	1,068	1,300	1,305

(\*) “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 2019, 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 255 (1.3%), which was a decrease of 221 (46.4%) compared to 2018.

Accordingly to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number was from Viet Nam at 134 (52.5%), followed by Nepal at 33 (12.9%) and Indonesia at 22 (8.6%), and these top three countries accounted for 74.1% of the total (**Reference 50**).

**Reference 50** 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	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total	399	511	648	476	255
Viet Nam	104	154	280	234	134
Nepal	31	67	47	22	33
Indonesia	10	76	70	18	22
China	145	91	41	47	21
the Philippines	41	24	124	39	18
Myanmar	—	17	19	16	11
Sri Lanka	4	11	4	8	7
R.O. Korea	35	28	7	8	3
Cambodia	—	5	3	24	2
Others	29	38	53	60	4

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



Detection of violator



### 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 2019, the number of those who were considered to be illegally working was 12,816 (66.1%). 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 Immigration Services Agency promotes crack down on foreign nationals who encourage illegal work.

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

The illegal foreign workers came from 55 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 4,941 (38.6%), followed by China at 3,155 (24.6%), Thailand at 2,047 (16.0%), Indonesia at 1,014 (7.9%) and the Philippines at 764 (6.0%). These top five countries represented 93.0% of the total.

The percentage of illegal foreign workers from Viet Nam has recently been increasing; therefore Viet Nam currently accounts for the largest number of illegal foreign workers followed by China, which used to account for the largest number of illegal foreign workers. ([Reference 51](#)).

**Reference 51** Changes in the number of cases of illegal work by nationality/region (People)

Year		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Nationality/Region						
Total		7,973	9,003	9,134	10,086	12,816
	Male	5,167	6,093	6,120	6,754	8,903
	Female	2,806	2,910	3,014	3,332	3,913
Viet Nam		1,160	1,638	2,152	3,035	4,941
	Male	873	1,246	1,657	2,259	3,766
	Female	287	392	495	776	1,175
China		3,266	3,080	2,915	3,112	3,155
	Male	2,166	2,130	1,982	2,170	2,188
	Female	1,100	950	933	942	967
Thailand		1,215	1,536	1,855	1,868	2,047
	Male	699	850	966	903	1,035
	Female	516	686	889	965	1,012
Indonesia		396	819	588	594	1,014
	Male	338	699	514	498	827
	Female	58	120	74	96	187
the Philippines		756	830	711	660	764
	Male	341	426	366	369	398
	Female	415	404	345	291	366
R.O. Korea		435	359	239	169	163
	Male	167	167	118	69	76
	Female	268	192	121	100	87
Nepal		68	95	77	71	111
	Male	51	76	52	52	92
	Female	17	19	25	19	19
Mongolia		81	133	146	117	91
	Male	51	90	95	70	61
	Female	30	43	51	47	30
Sri Lanka		57	68	53	42	87
	Male	54	67	48	41	81
	Female	3	1	5	1	6
Uzbekistan		5	11	7	35	65
	Male	5	11	7	34	64
	Female	—	—	—	1	1
Others		534	434	391	383	378
	Male	422	331	315	289	315
	Female	112	103	76	94	63

(\*) "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 8,903 males (69.5%) and 3,913 females (30.5%).

### (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 agricultural workers at 2,904 (22.7%), followed by construction workers at 2,569 (20.0%) and factory workers at 2,454 (19.1%).

In addition, according to the statistics by gender, the largest number of males worked as factory workers, followed by agricultural workers then factory workers, while the largest number of females worked as agricultural workers, followed by factory workers, then worker in other service industry ([Reference 52](#)).

**Reference 52** Changes in the number of cases of illegal work by type of work

(People)

Job Categories \ Year		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total		7,973	9,003	9,134	10,086	12,816
	Male	5,167	6,093	6,120	6,754	8,903
	Female	2,806	2,910	3,014	3,332	3,913
Agricultural worker		1,744	2,215	2,501	2,504	2,904
	Male	1,113	1,438	1,585	1,480	1,646
	Female	631	777	916	1,024	1,258
Construction worker		1,638	1,713	1,548	1,835	2,569
	Male	1,622	1,697	1,529	1,818	2,550
	Female	16	16	19	17	19
Factory worker		1,342	1,410	1,411	1,875	2,454
	Male	857	1,008	942	1,236	1,686
	Female	485	402	469	639	768
Other labor worker		686	1,076	1,059	998	1,380
	Male	543	837	811	794	1,089
	Female	143	239	248	204	291
Worker in other service industry		425	453	495	589	647
	Male	118	127	152	213	268
	Female	307	326	343	376	379
Cook		218	182	182	205	299
	Male	140	124	115	162	202
	Female	78	58	67	43	97
Others		1,920	1,954	1,938	2,080	2,563
	Male	774	862	986	1,051	1,462
	Female	1,146	1,092	952	1,029	1,101

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

Illegal foreign workers are known to be working in 46 prefectures throughout Japan. According to the statistics on the place of work of the illegal foreign workers by prefecture, Ibaraki prefecture had the largest number at 2,126 (16.6%) as in 2018, followed by Chiba prefecture at 1,878 (14.7%), Aichi prefecture at 1,606 (12.5%), Tokyo at 1,551 (12.1%) and Saitama prefecture at 1,290 (10.1%) ([Reference 53](#)).

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 8,601 (67.1%), 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 2,316 (18.1%). Illegal foreign workers in the Kanto and Chubu districts making up 85.2% (10,917) of the total accounted for a substantial percentage of the total number of illegal foreign workers.

**Reference 53** Changes in the number of cases of illegal foreign workers by area (People)

Prefecture \ Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total	7,973	9,003	9,134	10,086	12,816
Ibaraki	1,714	2,038	2,213	1,975	2,126
Chiba	1,238	1,559	1,505	1,666	1,878
Aichi	757	891	811	912	1,606
Tokyo	1,086	1,187	1,184	1,437	1,551
Saitama	595	716	765	860	1,290
Gunma	451	453	453	456	826
Kanagawa	638	602	446	556	625
Osaka	252	226	294	317	464
Tochigi	193	224	195	274	305
Hyogo	104	131	112	209	297
Others	945	976	1,156	1,424	1,848

## 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 2019 was 19,853, which has continued to increase since 2018 ([Reference 54](#)).

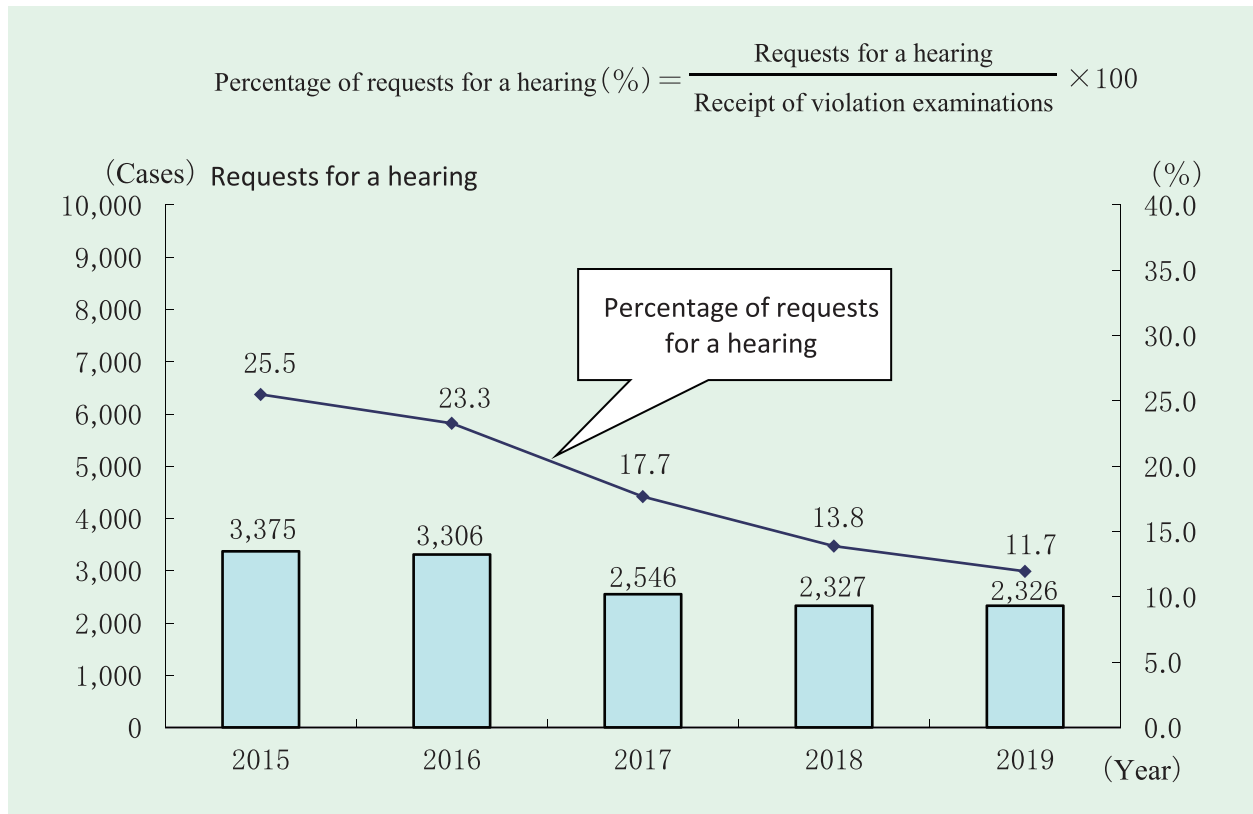
**Reference 54** Changes in the number of cases of receipt and findings of violation examinations by immigration inspectors, hearings by special inquiry officers and decisions of the Minister of Justice

(Cases)

Year			2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Division			2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Violation examination by immigration inspector	Receipt		13,233 (594)	14,198 (484)	14,407 (414)	16,827 (402)	19,853 (370)
	Completed	Found not to fall under one of the reasons for deportation	5	3	2	1	—
		Issuance of written deportation order	5,409	6,008	6,723	7,736	8,306
		Request for hearing	3,375	3,306	2,546	2,327	2,326
		Issuance of written departure order	3,573	4,101	4,423	6,223	8,702
	Not completed, others		871	780	713	540	519
Hearing by special inquiry officer	Receipt		3,871 (476)	3,945 (568)	3,273 (653)	2,946 (547)	3,040 (651)
	Completed	Error in the findings	1	—	1	—	—
		Issuance of written deportation order	77	145	159	114	95
		Filing of an objection	3,163	3,078	2,522	2,128	2,256
		Issuance of written departure order	—	—	—	—	—
	Not completed, others		630	722	591	704	689
Decision of the Minister of Justice	Receipt		3,526 (357)	3,478 (376)	3,352 (818)	2,966 (822)	2,819 (544)
	Completed	Objection with reason	—	1	1	—	—
		Objection without reason	3,110	2,588	2,415	2,331	2,211
		Issuance of written departure order	—	—	—	—	—
	Not completed, others		416	889	936	635	608

(\*) 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 2019 was 2,326 accounting for 11.7% of the total number of cases which underwent an examination of the violation, a decrease of 1 (0.04%) compared to 2018 ([Reference 54, 55](#)).

**Reference 55** 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 2,256 in 2019, an increase of 128 (6.0%) compared to 2018 ([Reference 54](#)).

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

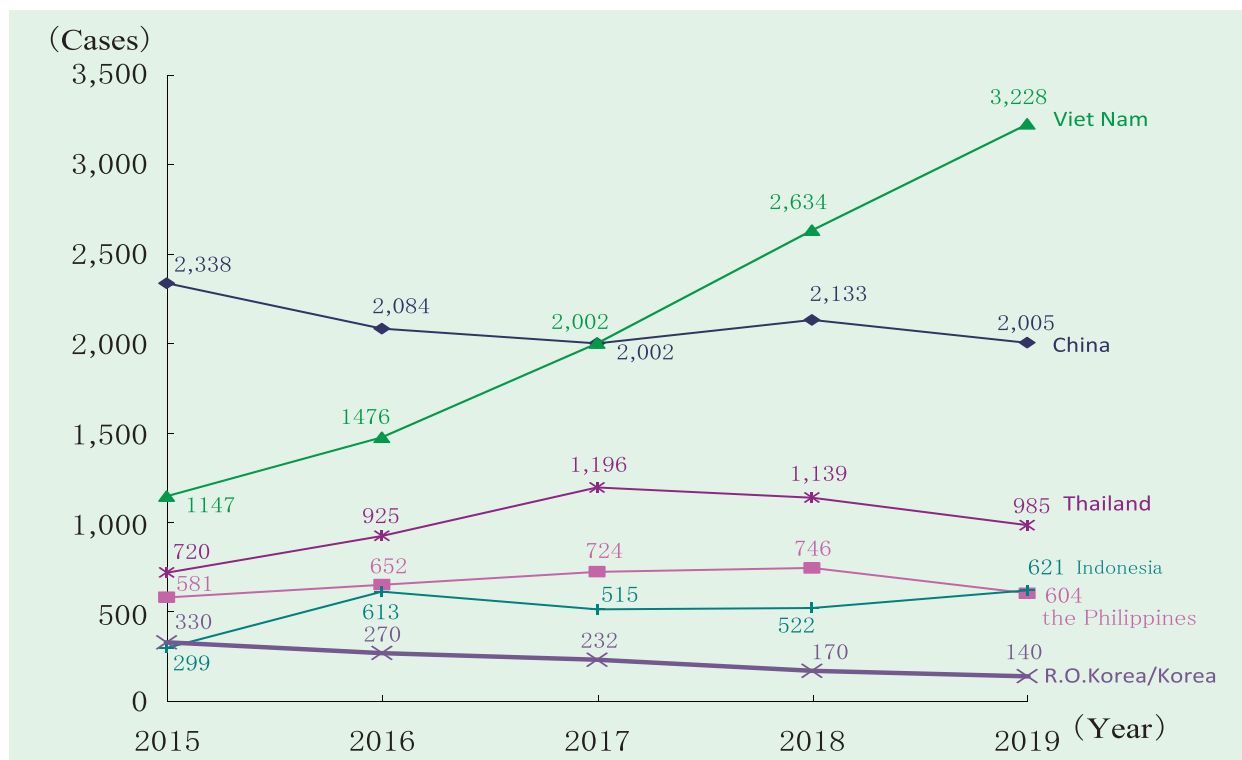
The number of written deportation orders issued in 2019 was 9,218. According to the statistics by ground for deportation, the cases of overstay amounted to 7,434, accounting for 80.6% of the total, while the percentage of cases of illegal entry amounted to 256, accounting for 2.8% of the total ([Reference 56](#)).

**Reference 56** Changes in the number of issuance of written deportation orders by grounds for deportation

		(Cases)				
Grounds for Deportation	Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total		6,589	7,241	8,130	8,865	9,218
Overstay		4,218	4,981	5,872	6,658	7,434
Illegal entry		638	495	503	365	256
Illegal landing		223	233	140	93	127
Activity other than those permitted		374	497	644	480	254
Criminal offenses		472	428	411	426	147
Others		664	607	560	843	1,000

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number was from Viet Nam at 3,228, accounting for 35.0% of the total, followed by China at 2,005 (21.8%) and Thailand at 985 (10.7%) ([Reference 57](#)).

**Reference 57** Changes in the number of issuance of written deportation orders by nationality/region



(\*) Please note that incorrect figures (case numbers) were given as shown below for the figures of “Viet Nam” of 2016 for the table of “Changes in the number of issuance of written deportation orders by nationality/region” published in the 2019 edition.

(Correct figures) 2016 Viet Nam: 1,476

(Incorrect figures) 2016 Viet Nam: 1,147

### (3) Provisional Release

The number of cases where foreign nationals who had been detained due to a written detention order were provisionally released in 2019 was 1,052, an increase of 240 (29.6%) compared to 2018. The number of foreign nationals detained under a written deportation order who were granted provisional release was 725, an increase of 202 (38.6%) compared to 2018 ([Reference 58](#)).

**Reference 58** Changes in the number of cases of permission for provisional release (Cases)

Type of Order \ Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
By written detention order	1,293	1,491	922	812	1,052
By written deportation order	1,063	1,160	822	523	725



#### (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 2019 was 1,448, an increase of 77 (5.6%) when compared to 2018.

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, the grounds for the largest number in 2019 was staying beyond the authorized period of stay at 1,051 (72.6%), followed by illegal entry and illegal landing at 128 (8.8%). Overstaying, illegal entry and illegal landing accounted for 81.4% of the total ([Reference 59](#)).

**Reference 59** Changes in the number of cases of special permission to stay in Japan by grounds for deportation (Cases)

Year Grounds for Deportation	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total	2,023	1,552	1,255	1,371	1,448
Overstay	1,504	1,106	868	970	1,051
Illegal entry/Illegal landing	155	130	128	143	128
Criminal offenses etc.	364	316	259	258	269

According to statistics by nationality/region in 2019, the largest number of foreign nationals who were granted special permission to stay in Japan came from the Philippines at 411 (28.4%), followed by China at 242 (16.7%), R.O. Korea/Korea combined at 108 (7.5%), Viet Nam at 76 (5.2%), and Thailand at 62 (4.3%) ([Reference 60](#)).

**Reference 60** Changes in the number of cases of special permission to stay in Japan by nationality/region (Cases)

Year Nationality/Region	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total	2,023	1,552	1,255	1,371	1,448
the Philippines	517	413	270	349	411
China	393	284	210	248	242
R.O. Korea/Korea	222	166	125	115	108
Viet Nam	84	84	101	102	76
Thailand	104	79	72	63	62
Others	703	526	477	494	549

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

## 5 Outline of Deportation of Foreign Nationals

The number of deportees in 2019 was 9,597, which was an increase of 228 (2.4%) when compared to 2018.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of deportees was from Viet Nam at 3,185 (33.2%), followed by China at 1,998 (20.8%), Thailand at 1,003 (10.5%), the Philippines at 737 (7.7%), and Indonesia at 639 (6.7%) ([Reference 61](#)).

**Reference 61** Changes in the number of deportees by nationality/region (People)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total	6,174	7,014	8,145	9,369	9,597
Viet Nam	1,064	1,412	2,038	2,698	3,185
China	2,296	2,058	1,954	2,152	1,998
Thailand	707	914	1,224	1,167	1,003
the Philippines	593	618	705	893	737
Indonesia	287	561	549	532	639
Nepal	82	113	196	198	275
Sri Lanka	69	115	127	148	212
Turkey	49	62	70	116	195
R.O. Korea	328	288	248	209	162
Brazil	65	74	94	124	133
Others	634	799	940	1,132	1,058

(\*) “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” 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 62** Changes in the number of deportees by means of deportation

(People)

Measure of Deportation \ Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total	6,174	7,014	8,145	9,369	9,597
Voluntary departure	5,853	6,575	7,622	8,755	8,967
Deportation in accordance with Article 59	49	63	68	69	72
Individual deportation at the expense of the government	206	308	385	470	516
Group deportation at the expense of the government	22	30	43	47	—
Others	1	—	—	—	1
Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons	43	38	27	28	41

(\*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 8,967 (93.4%), which was an increase of 212 (2.4%) when compared to 2018 ([References 62, 63](#)).

The Immigration Services Agency 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 Immigration Services Agency 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 Immigration Services Agency asks foreign diplomatic establishments in Japan for the early issuance of a passport for the deportee.

**Reference 63** Changes in the number of deportees through voluntary departure by nationality/region

(People)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total	5,853	6,575	7,622	8,755	8,967
Viet Nam	1,046	1,358	1,968	2,600	3,147
China	2,262	2,015	1,912	2,093	1,925
Thailand	699	909	1,185	1,156	996
the Philippines	555	578	653	801	648
Indonesia	277	552	530	511	629
Nepal	64	96	178	174	248
Sri Lanka	67	77	98	121	181
Trukey	29	37	59	101	154
R.O. Korea	311	267	229	192	146
Malaysia	50	34	62	95	76
Others	493	652	748	911	817

(\*) "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 516 (5.4%) in 2019, which was a decrease of 1 (0.2%) compared to 2018 ([Reference 62](#)).

**(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) (\*). The number of foreign nationals deported in this way in 2019 was 72 (0.8%), an increase of 3 (4.3%) compared to 2018 ([Reference 62](#)).

**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 8,713 in 2019, accounting for 44.9% of the total number of foreign nationals in violation of the Immigration

(\*) 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.

Control Act.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number was from Viet Nam at 3,249 (37.3%), followed by China at 2,081 (23.9%), Thailand at 1,232 (14.1%), Indonesia at 634 (7.3%) and the Philippines 565 (6.5%), and these top five countries accounted for 89.1% of the total (**Reference 64**).

**Reference 64** Changes in the number of foreign nationals handed over under a departure order by nationality/region (People)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total	3,571	4,094	4,410	6,245	8,713
Viet Nam	387	629	867	1,677	3,249
China	1,660	1,695	1,714	1,877	2,081
Thailand	641	765	839	896	1,232
Indonesia	187	257	240	360	634
the Philippines	299	322	289	672	565
Nepal	13	23	49	215	352
R.O. Korea	169	154	116	86	84
Sri Lanka	22	15	17	31	79
Uzbekistan	3	9	8	89	73
Mongolia	50	70	77	65	65
Others	140	155	194	277	299

(\*) "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 2019 was 8,713, accounting for 43.9% of the total number of cases of examination of the violation. This represented an increase of 2,468 (39.5%) when compared to 2018.

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 8,702 in 2019.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number was from Viet Nam at 3,242, accounting for 37.3% of the total, followed by China at 2,079 (23.9%), Thailand at 1,233 (14.2%), Indonesia at 633 (7.3%), and the Philippines at 562 (6.5%), and the top five countries accounted for 89.0% of the total (**Reference 65**).

**Reference 65** Changes in the number of issuances of written departure orders by nationality/region

(Cases)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total	3,573	4,101	4,423	6,223	8,702
Viet Nam	387	627	872	1,668	3,242
China	1,662	1,701	1,721	1,872	2,079
Thailand	641	766	841	894	1,233
Indonesia	188	256	236	356	633
the Philippines	298	326	288	671	562
Nepal	13	23	50	215	351
R.O. Korea/Korea	169	154	117	86	84
Sri Lanka	22	15	18	31	79
Uzbekistan	3	9	8	88	73
Mongolia	51	69	78	65	65
Others	139	155	194	277	301

(\*) "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 Immigration Services Agency 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 2019, the total number of applicants who applied for recognition of refugee status in Japan was 10,375, which was a decrease of 118 (1.1%) when compared to 2018 ([Reference 66](#)).

#### Reference 66 Changes in the number of applications for recognition of refugee status

		(People)				
	Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
	Applications	7,586	10,901	19,629	10,493	10,375

The number of nationalities/regions of the applicants was 76, and the major nationalities/regions from which applicants came were in descending order: Sri Lanka at 1,530 (14.7%), Turkey at 1,331 (12.8%), Cambodia at 1,321 (12.7%), Nepal at 1,256 (12.1%), Pakistan at 971 (9.4%), Myanmar at 788 (7.6%), India at 730 (7.0%), Bangladesh at 662 (6.4%), Cameroon at 234 (2.3%), and Senegal at 223 (2.1%).

The applicants at the time of their applications were composed of 10,073 (97.1%) legal residents and 302 (2.9%) illegal residents.

Among the applicants, 461 applicants accounting for 4.4% had applied for recognition of refugee status in the past. These applicants comprised 291 legal residents and 170 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 2019 was 7,131, a decrease of 6,731 (47.2%) compared to 2018. The number of applicants who were recognized as refugees was 43<sup>(\*)</sup> while the number of applicants who were denied recognition of refugee status was 4,936. The number of applicants who withdrew their applications and others was 2,152.

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 37 foreign nationals were permitted to stay in 2019 (Reference 67).

### Reference 67 Changes in the number of foreign nationals protected as refugees, etc.

(People)

Division \ Year		1978~2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Refugee Status	Recognized as a treaty refugee	633	27	28	20	42	44
	Refugees for resettlement	11,405	19	18	29	22	20
Others		2,367	79	97	45	40	37
Total		14,405	125	143	94	104	101

(\*) 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.

(\*) 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.

(\*) The number of "Others" includes those who were denied recognition as a refugee in the primary examination but were later found to have enough grounds for being granted special permission to stay in Japan by the Minister of Justice, in accordance with Article 61-2-2 (2) of the Immigration Control Act.

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

The number of foreign nationals who were granted permission for provisional stay was 25 in 2019, a decrease of 13 (34.2%) compared to 2018.

The number of those who underwent an examination as to whether or not they should be granted permission for provisional stay was 733. The major reasons for decisions not granting permission were as follows<sup>(\*)</sup>:

(i) Applicants had applied for recognition of refugee status after the deadline of six months

(\*) 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.

(\*) If one applicant fell under several grounds for denial of permission, all grounds were included.



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): 450 persons.

(ii) There had been Reasonable grounds to believe that the foreign national will flee: 284 persons.

(iii) Applicants had already received a deportation order: 206 persons.

## 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>(\*)</sup> of a disposition denying recognition of refugee status in 2019 was 5,130, and this was a decrease of 3,891 (43.1%) compared with 2018 (Reference 68).

### 2 Processing of the Appeal

The number of the appeals processed in 2019 was 8,291, an increase of 120 (1.5%) compared with 2018. The breakdown included 1 person (4 in the previous year) whose appeals were found to be with reasonable grounds (one who was recognized as a refugee), 6,021 persons (6,013 in the previous year) whose appeals were found to be without any reasonable grounds, and 2,269 persons (2,154 in the previous year) who withdrew their appeals (Reference 68).

#### Reference 68 Changes in the number of appeals, and decisions of the Minister of Justice

(People)

Division \ Year		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Not recognized as a refugee		3,411	7,492	9,736	10,541	4,936
Appeal		3,120	5,197	8,530	9,021	5,130
Processing	With reason	8	2	1	4	1
	Without reason	1,763	2,112	3,084	6,013	6,021
	Withdrawn, etc.	504	822	1,306	2,154	2,269

(\*) 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 2019, 36 foreign nationals applied for landing permission for temporary refuge (hereinafter referred to as “temporary refuge landing permission”) in Japan, which was a decrease of 19 compared to 2018. The breakdown for the processing of the applications was 1 case given permission, 31 cases denied permission and 2 cases withdrawn, etc.

### Reference 69 Changes in the number of applications for Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge (People)

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Applications	171	110	98	55	36
Permission	4	1	2	2	1
Disapproval	166	104	94	49	31
Withdrawn, etc.	1	4	3	4	2

(\*1) The processing number in 2017 includes the number of application in 2016 which was processed in 2017.

(\*2) The number of applications in 2019 includes two cases whose procedures were carried over to 2020.

### Reference 70 Processing status of applications for Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge (2019) (People)

Nationality	Applications Total	Breakdown of disposal			
		Permission	Disapproval	Termination/ Withdrawn	Discontinuance
Yemen	2	—	—	—	—
Iraq	1	1	—	—	—
Iran	8	—	8	—	—
Uganda	1	—	1	—	—
Egypt	3	—	3	—	—
Ghana	2	—	2	—	—
Cameroon	1	—	1	—	—
Sri Lanka	5	—	5	—	—
Somalia	1	—	1	—	—
China	1	—	1	—	—
China (Hong Kong)	1	—	1	—	—
Tunisia	1	—	1	—	—
Germany	1	—	1	—	—
Turkey	1	—	1	—	—
Nigeria	3	—	2	1	—
Pakistan	2	—	1	1	—
Moldova	2	—	2	—	—
Total	36	1	31	2	—

(\*) The procedures pertaining to the two Yemen applications were carried over to 2020.

## 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 May 2020, the “Conference for the Promotion of Measures against Trafficking in Persons” comprising the competent ministers in charge of measures against human trafficking held its sixth meeting (conduct the approval of the document by turns), 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 Immigration Services Agency 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 Immigration Services Agency 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 Immigration Services Agency implemented procedures for protection as victims of trafficking in persons (including support to return to

their home country) was 12 in 2019 (9 persons in the previous year). According to the statistics by nationality/region, All of the victims came from the Philippines (in the previous year, there were 5 victims came from the Philippines and 4 victims came from Thailand).

The number of victims who had a status of residence out of the total of 12 victims was 7 persons (4 persons 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 5 persons (5 persons in the previous year). In addition, all of the victims who were in violation of the Immigration Control Act were granted special permission to stay in Japan (Reference 71).

The number of victims has declined significantly since 2005, when the Immigration Services Agency 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 revision of the ordinance on landing criteria pertaining to the status of residence of “Entertainer” made in the same year and following years and the implementation of strict landing examinations have had a certain level of effect (Reference 72).

**Reference 71** Number of victims of trafficking in persons (2019)

(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	7	5(5)	12
Total	7	5(5)	12

(\*1) The breakdown by status of residence of foreign nationals previously in possession of a status of residence was “Spouse or Child of Japanese National”, 1 person; and “Entertainer”, 6 persons.

(\*2) The type of violation of the foreign nationals granted special permission to stay was “illegal overstaying”, 5 persons.

(\*3) The breakdown by the status of residence, before overstaying the authorized period of stay was “Temporary Visitor”, 5 persons.

**Reference 72** Changes in the number of victims of trafficking in persons

(People)

Breakdown	Year	2005	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total		115	26	21	20	9	12
Foreign nationals previously in possession of a status of residence		68	15	11	10	4	7
Violators of the Immigration Control Act (Special permission to stay in Japan)		47(47)	11(11)	10(10)	10(10)	5(5)	5(5)

### 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 Immigration Services Agency as perpetrators of human trafficking in 2019 (2 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 Immigration Services Agency 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 Immigration Services Agency 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 Immigration Services Agency gives sufficient consideration to the case and, depending on the case, will take humanitarian measures, such as granting special permission to stay.

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 Immigration Services Agency established its own guidelines on the measures in July of the same year, and in cases where a person is identified as a victim of domestic violence, the Immigration Services Agency, taking into full consideration the fact that the victim has been placed in a harsh situation both physically and mentally, deals appropriately according to the physical and mental condition, etc., of the victim, and strives to further protect the victim by

(\*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.

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 Immigration Services Agency 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 2019 was 82 (Reference 73, 74).

The Immigration Services Agency took into account the individual situations of the victims and permitted in most of the cases extension of the period of stay or granted special permission to stay.

**Reference 73** Number of recognized foreign domestic violence victims (2019) (People)

Division Nationality/Region	Residence Procedures	Deportation Procedures	Consultations	Others	Total
the Philippines	29	4	6	1	40
China	7	1	1	1	10
Brazil	1	1	4	—	6
Indonesia	3	—	—	—	3
Thailand	1	1	1	—	3
Peru	1	1	1	—	3
Nepal	1	—	—	1	2
Bangladesh	2	—	—	—	2
Pakistan	1	—	1	—	2
Afghanistan	1	—	—	—	1
Iran	1	—	—	—	1
Netherlands	1	—	—	—	1
Canada	—	—	1	—	1
R.O. Korea	1	—	—	—	1
Kenya	1	—	—	—	1
Paraguay	—	—	1	—	1
Viet Nam	1	—	—	—	1
Myanmar	—	—	1	—	1
Morocco	1	—	—	—	1
Russia	1	—	—	—	1
Total	54	8	17	3	82

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

**Reference 74** Changes in the number of victims of domestic violence cases recognized by Regional Immigration Services Bureau (People)

Regional Immigration Services Bureaus Year	Sapporo	Sendai	Tokyo	Nagoya	Osaka	Hiroshima	Takamatsu	Fukuoka	Total
2017	—	1	42	22	11	8	—	10	94
2018	—	4	54	25	14	5	—	6	108
2019	—	4	33	22	13	1	3	6	82

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