

Part I

Immigration Control and Residency Management in Recent Years

- Chapter 1** Foreign Nationals Entering and Departing from Japan
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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**

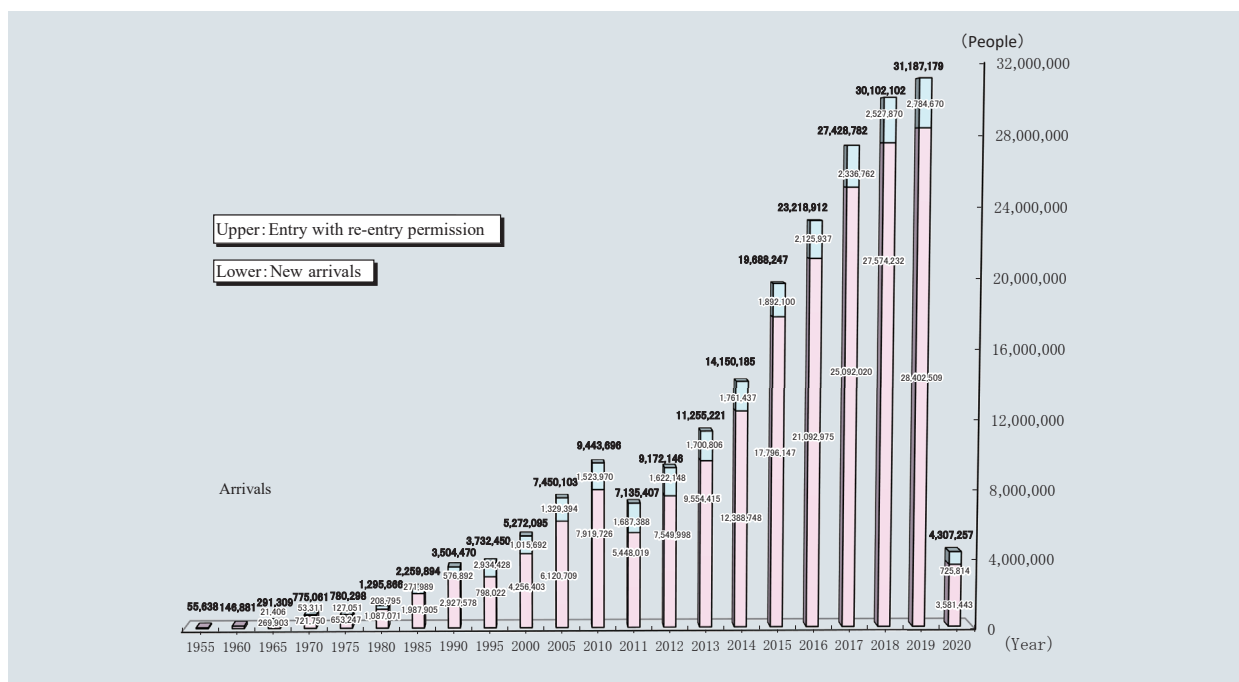
(1) Number of Foreign Nationals Entering Japan

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 2020 was 4,307,257 persons, a drastic decrease of 26,879,922 (86.2%) compared to the number of 31,187,179 of 2019.

Of the 4,307,257 foreign nationals entering Japan in 2020, the number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan was 3,581,443, which was an decrease of 24,821,066 (87.4%) compared to 28,402,509 in 2019, while the number of foreign nationals re-entering Japan was 725,814, which was a decrease of 2,058,856 (73.9%) compared to 2,784,670 in 2019.

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

Reference 1 Changes in the number of foreign nationals entering Japan



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

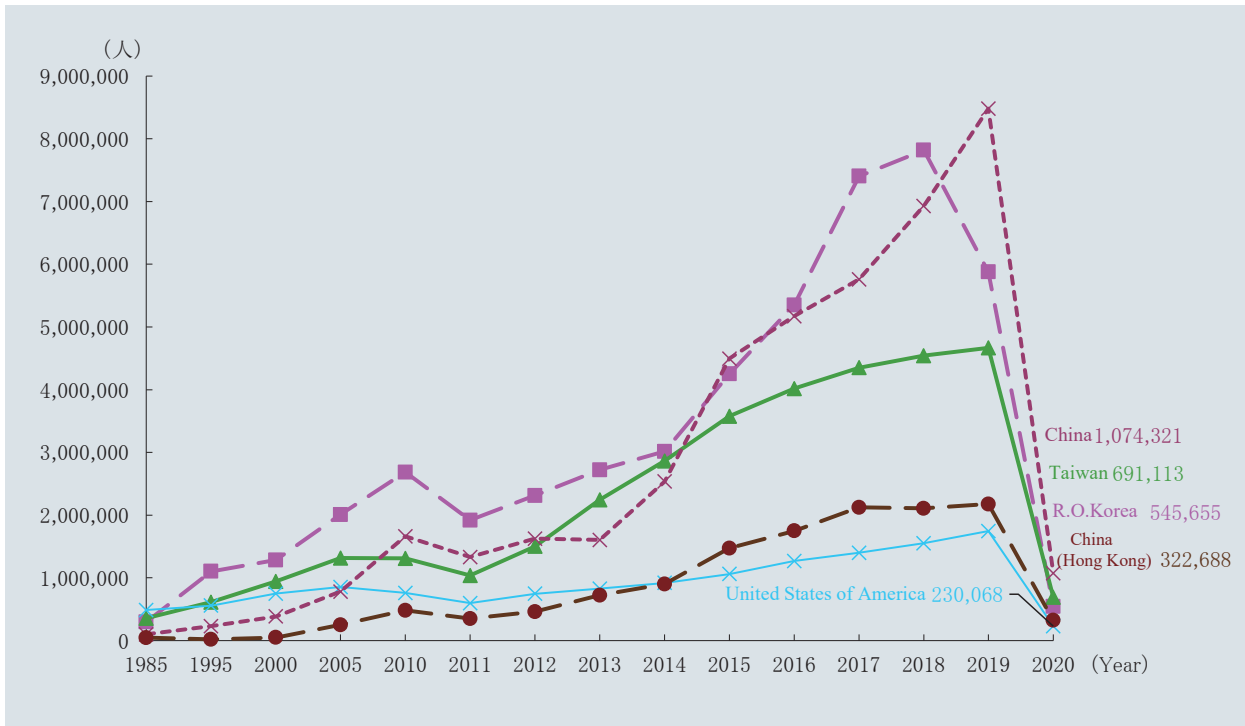
(2) Number of Foreign Nationals Entering Japan by Nationality/Region

According to the statistics for the number of foreign nationals entering Japan in 2020 by nationality/region, the largest number of foreign nationals came from China at 1,074,321, accounting for 24.9% of the total. Taiwan was followed by China at 691,113 (16.0%), The Republic of Korea (R.O. Korea) at 545,655 (12.7%), China (Hong Kong) at 322,688 (7.5%) and the U.S. at 230,068 (5.3%).(*)

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 61.1% (Reference 2).

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

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



Regarding the top five countries/regions, a comparison of the numbers of foreign nationals entering Japan between 2019 and 2020 shows that all of the countries/regions: China by 7,406,895 (87.3%), R.O.Korea by 5,332,625(90.7%),Taiwan by 3,976,332 (85.2%), China (Hong Kong) by 1,855,274 (85.2%), and the U.S. by 1,516,546 (86.8%) decreased in all of the countries/regions.

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

Looking at the number of foreign nationals entering in Japan in 2020 by gender, 2,138,616 were males and 2,168,641 were females. Males accounted for 49.7% of the total while females accounted for 50.3%, and therefore, more foreign females came to Japan than males in 2020.

Next, according to the statistics by age, foreign nationals in their 20s represented the largest age group, accounting for 24.8% of the total. Moreover, looking at the numbers for males and females in each of the age groups, one particular characteristic is that the percentage of men was higher for those under 20 years old and those in their 40s, but the percentage of women was higher for all other age groups (Reference 3).

Reference 3 Number of foreign nationals entering Japan by gender and age(2020)**(4) Number of Foreign Nationals Entering Japan by Purpose of Entry (Status of Residence)**

The number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan in 2020 was 3,581,443. Looking at this reference by purpose of entry (status of residence), the most common status of residence was “Temporary Visitor” standing at 3,360,831, which accounted for 93.8% of the total number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan, followed by “Technical Intern Training (i)-(b)” at 74,804, accounting for 2.1%, “Student” at 49,748, accounting for 1.4%, and “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services” at 19,705, accounting for 0.6% ([Reference 4](#)).

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

(People)

Status of Residence \ Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	21,092,975	25,092,020	27,574,232	28,402,509	3,581,443
Diplomat	9,267	9,092	9,072	12,206	2,120
Official	28,282	29,684	33,217	42,934	3,708
Professor	3,172	3,166	3,194	3,185	992
Artist	387	394	435	474	117
Religious Activities	1,019	924	872	949	329
Journalist	111	88	43	69	29
Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(a)	32	16	26	37	26
Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(b)	166	250	432	624	354
Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(c)	31	36	73	118	76
Business Manager	2,091	1,660	1,790	2,237	1,537
Legal/Accounting Services	4	2	4	5	2
Medical Services	34	63	55	58	38
Researcher	358	380	368	364	155
Instructor	3,042	2,992	3,432	3,463	1,280
Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/ International Services	20,940	25,063	34,182	43,880	19,705
Intra-company Transferee	7,652	8,665	9,478	9,964	3,188
Nursing Care		1	1	4	23
Entertainer	39,057	39,929	42,703	45,486	7,218
Skilled Labor	6,404	3,692	3,551	4,355	1,729
Specified Skilled Worker (i)				563	3,760
Specified Skilled Worker (ii)				0	0
Technical Intern Training (i)-(a)	6,665	7,492	6,222	6,300	1,652
Technical Intern Training (i)-(b)	99,453	120,179	137,973	167,405	74,804
Technical Intern Training (ii)-(a)	2	0	12	8	2
Technical Intern Training (ii)-(b)	11	9	242	183	116
Technical Intern Training (iii)-(a)		0	64	226	63
Technical Intern Training (iii)-(b)		8	5,648	14,750	7,189
Cultural Activities	3,531	3,377	3,539	3,793	815
Temporary Visitor	20,665,390	24,617,024	27,054,549	27,810,548	3,360,831
Student	108,146	123,232	124,269	121,637	49,748
Trainee	15,740	16,393	13,389	12,985	2,392
Dependent	26,594	27,288	27,952	31,788	17,056
Designed Activities	18,210	22,444	27,752	31,712	7,381
Permanent Resident					166
Spouse or Child of Japanese National	10,188	9,998	10,466	10,694	6,306
Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident	1,959	2,170	2,081	1,990	1,151
Long-Term Resident	15,037	16,309	17,146	17,515	5,385

(*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.

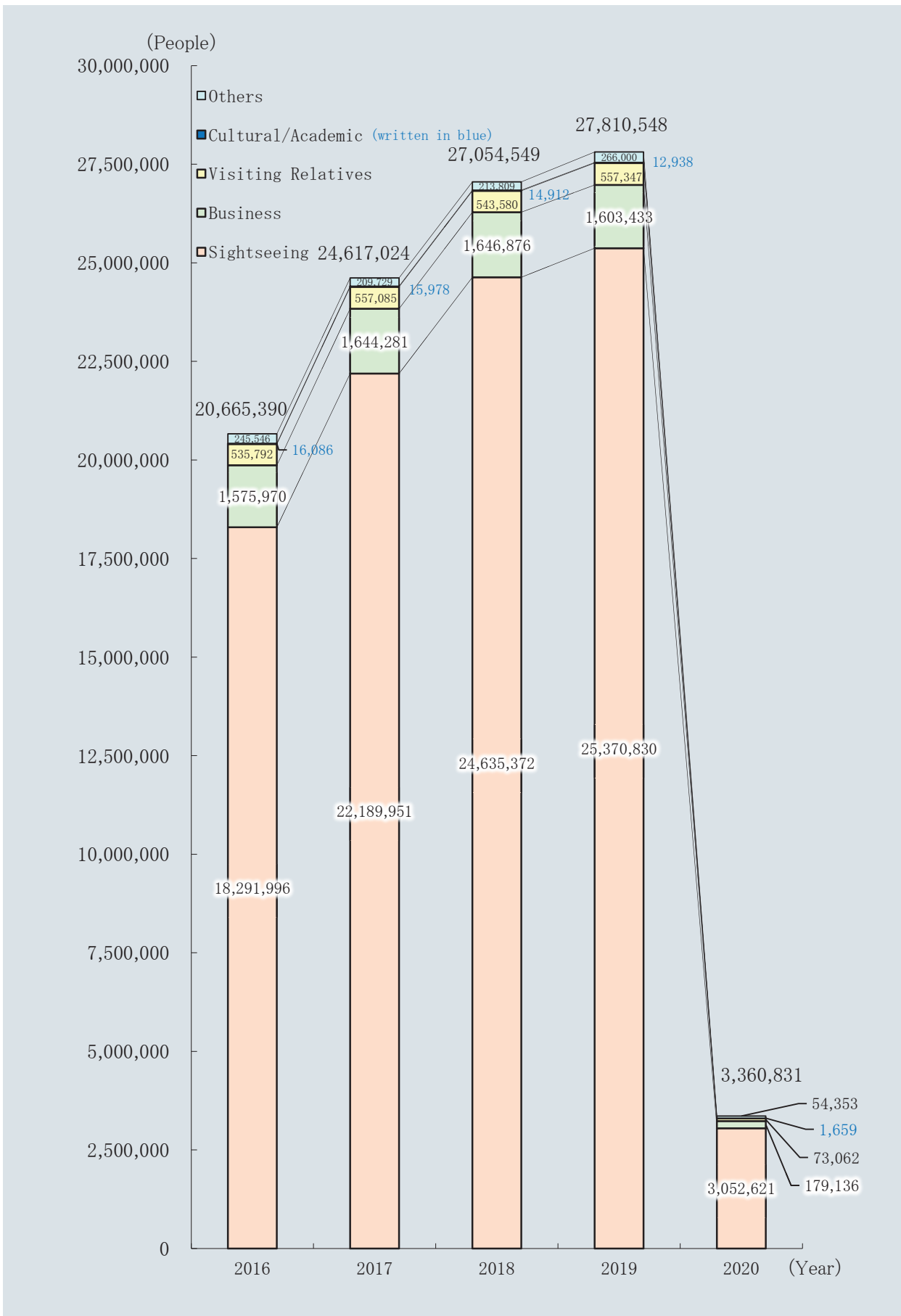
(*4) In 2020, foreign nationals who were granted the residence status of "permanent resident", as support for permanent residents who had difficulty re-entering Japan within the valid period for a re-entry permit or special re-entry permit, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A. “Temporary Visitor”

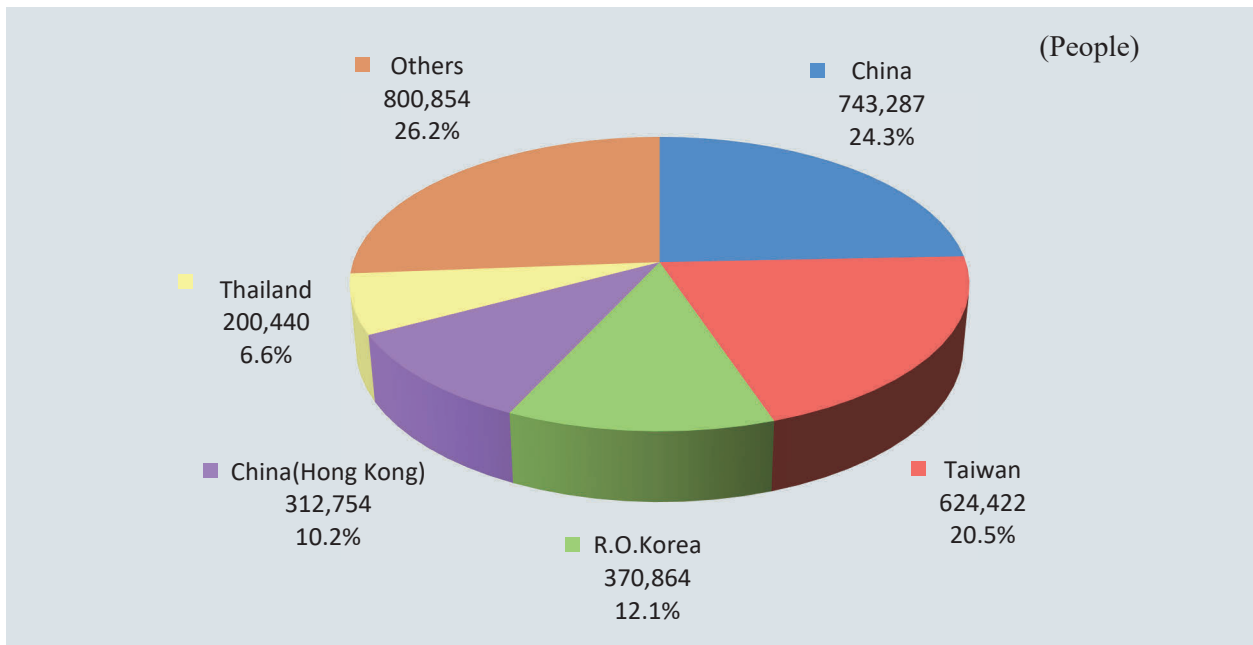
Looking more closely at the number of foreign nationals who newly entered Japan with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor” in 2020, the number of foreign nationals for the purpose of sightseeing was 3,052,621, accounting for 90.8% of the total number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor”, and the rate is high ([Reference 5](#)). The majority of newly entering foreign nationals who came with the purpose of sightseeing entered Japan before February 2020, when countermeasures at ports of entry were started in order to stop the spread of COVID-19, drastically reducing the number newly entering foreign nationals.

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 743,287 (24.3%), followed by Taiwan at 624,422 (20.5%), R.O. Korea at 370,864 (12.1%), China (Hong Kong) at 312,754 (10.2%), and Thailand at 200,440 (6.6%). The tourists of these top five countries/regions accounted for about 70% 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



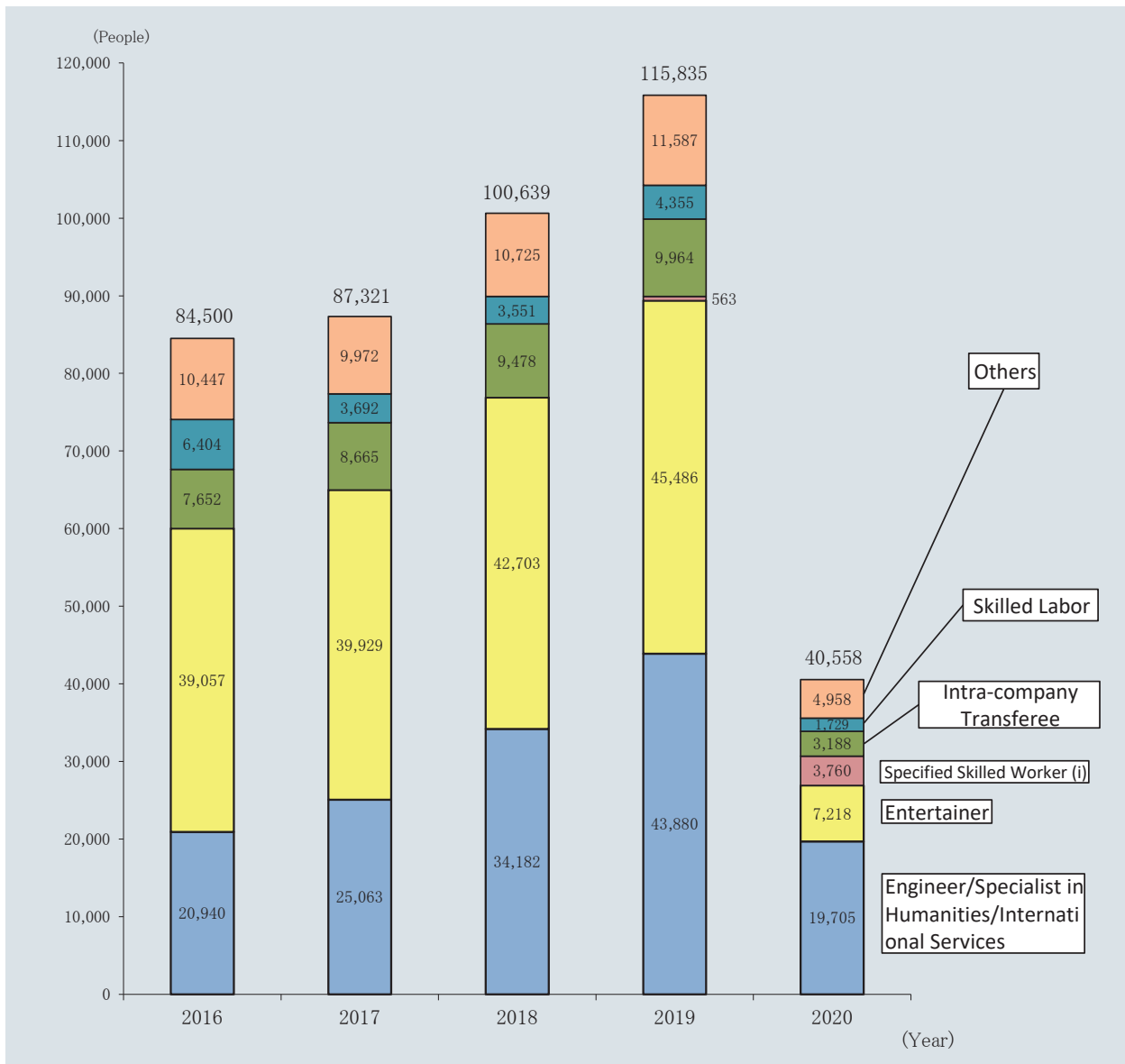
Reference 6 Number of foreign nationals newly entering for the purpose of sightseeing by nationality/region (2020)



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 2020 was 40,558, a decrease of 75,277 (65.0%) compared to 2019 ([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 1.1% of the total number of newly entering foreign nationals in 2020.

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 22,893 in 2020, consisting of two types of statuses of residence: 19,705 with the status of residence of “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services”, and 3,188 with the status of

residence of “Intra-company Transferee”. Foreign employees with the status of residence of “Engineer/ “Specialist in Humanities/International Services” had decreased by 24,175 (55.1%), and those with the status of “Intra-company Transferee” decreased by 6,776 (68.0%) compared to 2019, respectively, so “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services” accounts for the largest proportion of status of residences with the purpose of working in specialist/technical fields.

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 6,484 (32.9%), followed by China at 2,702 (13.7%), R.O. Korea at 1,533 (7.8%), and India at 1,018 (5.2%). Those top four countries accounted for 59.6% 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 548 (17.2%), followed by the Philippines at 412 (12.9%), Viet Nam at 329 (10.3%), and Sri Lanka at 276 (8.7%).

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

The number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Entertainer” in 2020 was 7,218, decreasing by 38,268 (84.1%) from 2019.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of foreign nationals newly entering with the status of residence of “Entertainer” in 2020 came from the Philippines at 1,918 (26.6%) followed by R.O. Korea at 1,063 (14.7%), the U.S. at 949 (13.1%), and the U.K. at 415 (5.7%).

(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 2020 was 1,729, a decrease of 2,626 (60.3%) from 2019.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Skilled Labor” in 2020 came from China at 555 (32.1%), followed by Nepal at 336 (19.4%), India at 308 (17.8%), and Viet Nam at 83 (4.8%). These top four countries accounted for 74.1% 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 2020, which was established on April 1, 2019, was 3,760 for an increase of 3,197 (567.9%) compared to 2019.

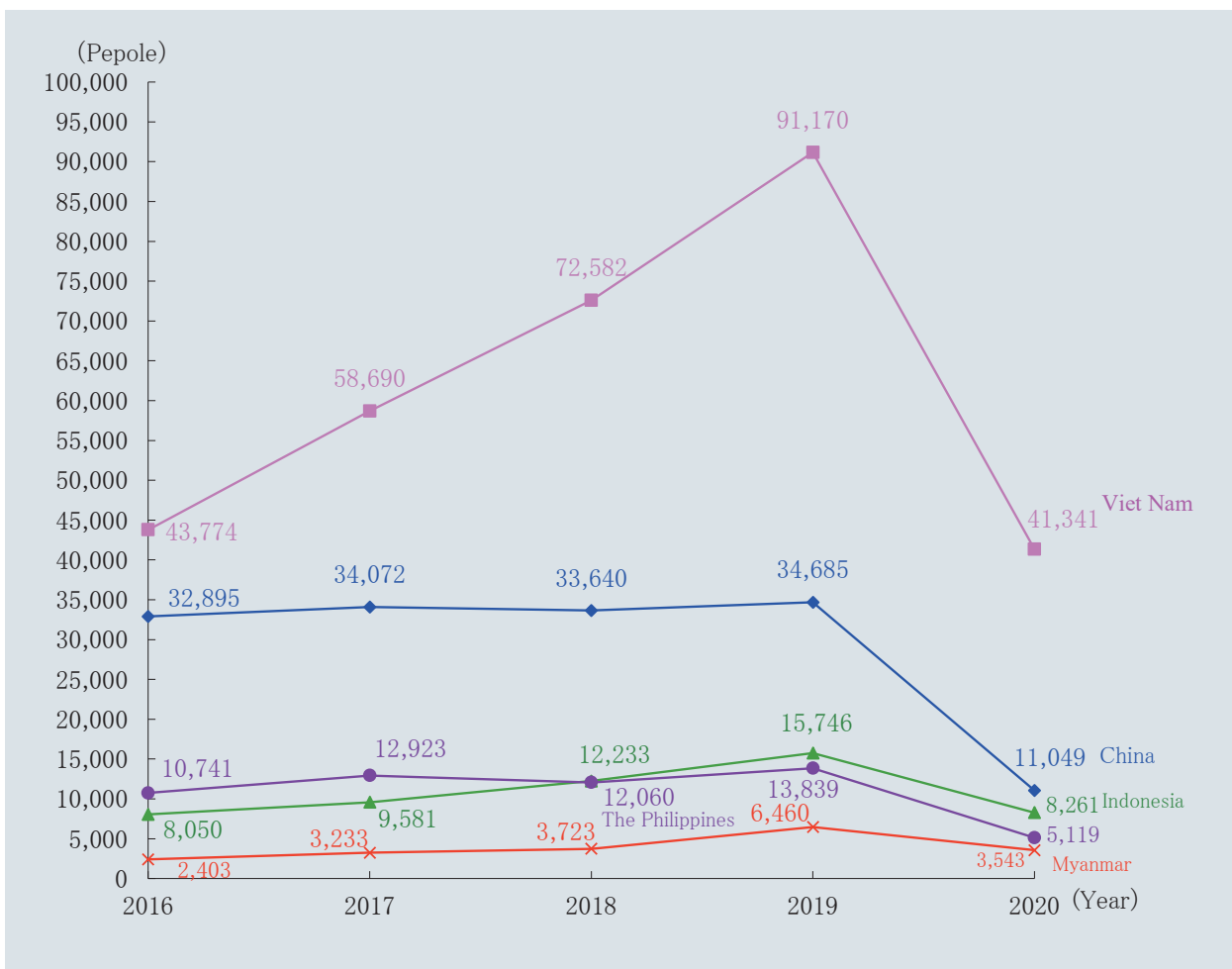
According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Specified Skilled Worker (i)” came from Viet Nam at 1,816 (48.3%), followed by Indonesia at 717 (19.1%), China at 503 (13.4%) and Cambodia at 235 (6.3%). These top four countries accounted for 87.1% 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 76,456 in 2020, a decrease of 97,249 (56.0%) compared to 2019.

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 41,341 (54.1%), followed by China at 11,049 (14.5%), Indonesia at 8,261 (10.8%), the Philippines at 5,119 (6.7%) and Myanmar at 3,543 (4.6%) (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 2020 was 49,748, a decrease of 71,889 (59.1%) when compared to 2019, with students from Asia accounting for the top five countries/regions (75.2%).

In terms of nationality/region, China stood at 20,671, accounting for 41.6% of the total, followed by Viet Nam at 11,339 (22.8%), R.O. Korea at 2,586 (5.2%), the Indonesia at 1,426 (2.9%) and Taiwan at 1,405 (2.8%) (Reference 9).

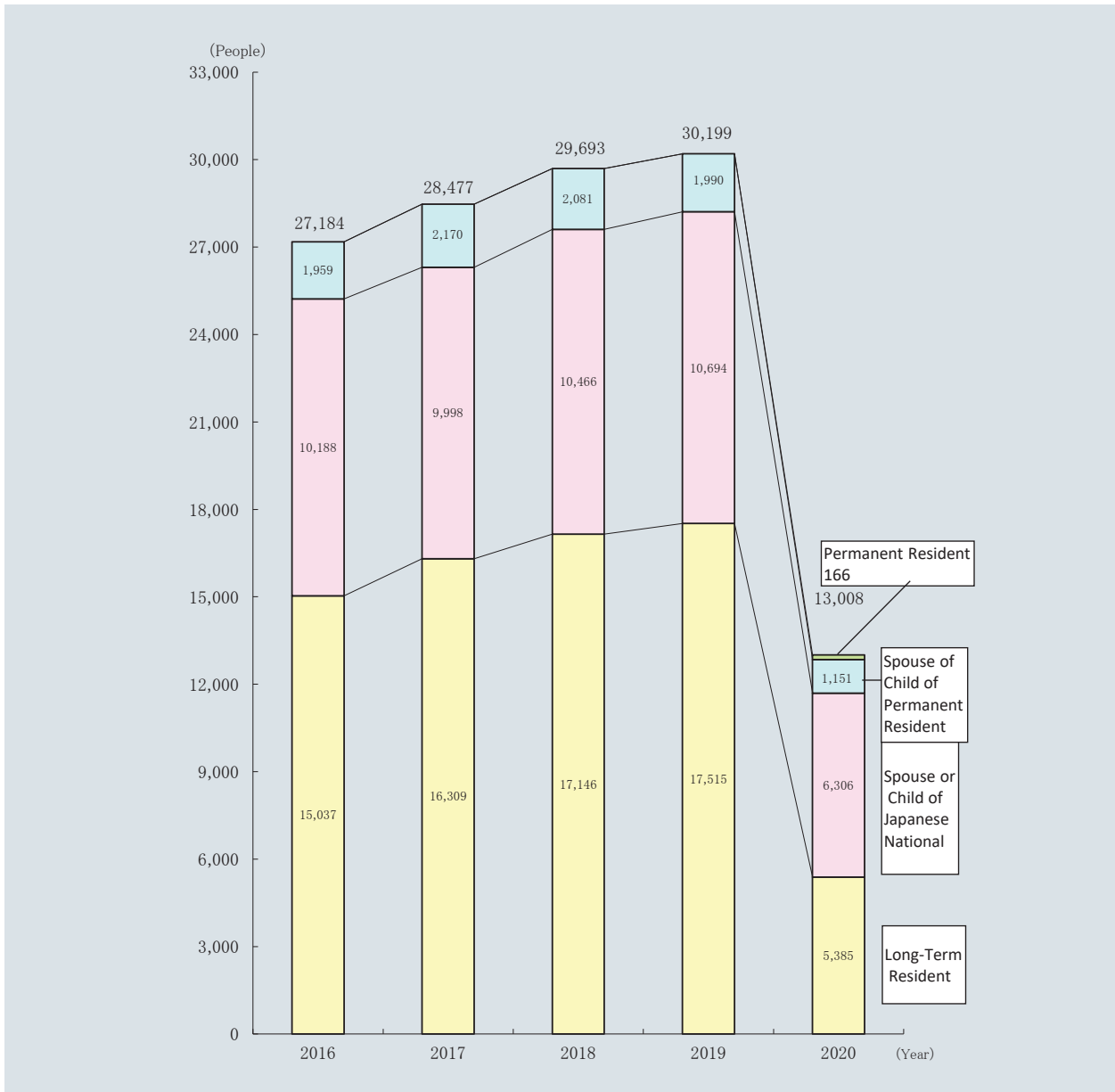
Reference 9 Changes in the number of foreign nationals newly entering with the status of residence for "Student" by major nationality/region

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)

In 2020, the number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of "Spouse or Child of Japanese National" stood at 6,306, and those with the status of residence of "Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident" stood at 1,151, and while those with the status of residence of "Spouse or Child of Japanese National" saw a decrease of 4,388 (41.0%), those with the status of residence of "Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident" saw a decrease of 12,130 (69.3%) compared to 2019.

The number of foreign nationals newly entering with the status of residence of "Long-Term Resident" in 2020 had decreased by 12,130 (69.3%) to 5,385 compared to 2019 ([Reference 10](#)). As a general rule, the status of residence of "Permanent Resident" is excluded from status of residences that can be determined at time of landing permission (Article 7, Paragraph (1), item (ii) of the Immigration Act). We allow new entry to Japan with the status of residence of "permanent resident" for those "permanent residents" who could not re-enter Japan within the valid period of their re-entry permit or special re-entry permit due to COVID-19. In 2020, there were 166 new immigrants with the status of residence of "permanent resident".

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



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

According to the statistics for newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of "Spouse or Child of Japanese National" by nationality/region, the largest number came from the Philippines at 1,057 (16.8%). The Philippines was followed by China at 998 (15.8%) and Brazil at 657 (10.4%).

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 2,709 (50.3%). Brazil was followed by the Philippines at 914 (17.0%) and China at 680 (12.6%).

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 2,709 (50.3%). Brazil was followed by the Philippines at 914 (17.0%) and China at 680 (12.6%).

2 Special Landing Permission

The number of cases in which received special landing permission in 2020 was 919,311, a decrease of 4,042,194 (81.5%) compared to 2019.

Among those, the number of cases in which received “Landing Permission for Crew Members” in 2020 was 788,305, and the number of cases in which received “Landing Permission for Cruise Ship Tourists” was 119,960, which combined accounted for 98.8% 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	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total		4,749,924	5,502,177	5,364,421	4,961,505	919,311
Permission for Landing at a Port of Call		16,694	13,217	13,331	13,861	7,462
Landing Permission for Cruise Ship Tourists		1,936,469	2,449,299	2,337,803	2,026,307	119,960
Permission for Landing in Transit		5,871	4,979	5,235	7,760	3,003
Landing Permission for Crew Members		2,790,348	3,034,126	3,007,588	2,913,001	788,305
Permission for Emergency Landing		473	464	444	483	556
Landing Permission Due to Distress		68	90	18	92	24
Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge		1	2	2	1	1

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

(1) Permission for Landing at a Port of Call

The number of cases being granted “Permission for Landing at a Port of Call” in 2020 was 7,462, a decrease of 6,399 (46.2%) compared to 2019.

(2) Landing Permission for Cruise Ship Tourists

The number of cases in which received “Landing Permission for Cruise Ship Tourists” was 119,960 in 2020, which was a decrease of 1,906,347 (94.1%) compared to 2019.

(3) Permission for Landing in Transit

The number of cases in which received “Permission for Landing in Transit” in 2020 was 3,003, a decrease of 4,757 (61.3%) compared to 2019.

(4) Landing Permission for Crew Members

The number of cases in which received “Landing Permission for Crew Members” in 2020 was 788,305, a decrease of 2,124,696 (72.9%) compared to 2019.

(5) Permission for Emergency Landing

The number of cases in which received “Permission for Emergency Landing” in 2020 was 556, an increase of 73 (15.1%) compared to 2019.

(6) Landing Permission Due to Distress

The number of cases in which received “Landing Permission Due to Distress” in 2020 was

24, a decrease of 68 (73.9%) compared to 2019.

(7) Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge

The number of cases in which received “Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge” in 2020 was 1, there was no change compared to 2019.

3 Foreign Nationals Leaving Japan

The number of foreign nationals simply leaving Japan without having acquired a re-entry permit was 4,120,279 in 2020, a decrease of 23,962,961 (85.3%) compared to 2019.

Among them, the number of foreign nationals leaving Japan with a period of stay of within 15 days was 3,678,125, which accounted for a significant 89.3% of the total. Further, the number of foreign nationals leaving Japan with a period of stay of within 3 months was 3,920,663, which accounted for 95.2% 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	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	20,808,527	24,770,368	27,252,517	28,083,240	4,120,279
Within 15 days	19,895,977	23,760,799	26,108,961	26,778,686	3,678,125
More than 15 days to 1 month	483,187	539,458	625,674	737,979	163,396
More than 1 month to 3 months	253,698	270,021	286,553	307,985	79,142
More than 3 months to 6 months	45,730	50,125	52,501	56,114	31,705
More than 6 months to 1 year	41,692	46,094	51,650	57,138	53,376
More than 1 year to 3 years	64,029	74,330	87,981	99,183	65,530
More than 3 years	23,140	28,332	37,857	44,733	47,904
Unknown	1,074	1,209	1,340	1,422	1,101

Article: At the Front Line of Immigration Control Administration

**(Voice of an immigration inspector in charge of immigration examinations)
(Narita Airport District Immigration Office, the Tokyo Regional Services Bureau: Kawafuchi Hanako)**

As an immigration inspector, I mainly do immigration inspections of foreign nationals at Narita Airport. Ports of entry and exit are places where you can truly feel the movement of people across borders. Narita Airport where I work is Japan's largest gateway to the sky, and it is used by people of many different nationalities when they enter or exit Japan. In these conditions, it is necessary to both realize the smooth intake of foreign nationals and reliably prevent undesirable foreign nationals from entering Japan.

In order to achieve these seemingly contradictory goals, I try to properly communicate with foreign travelers. A wide variety of people undergo immigration inspection, so I work converse not only with words but with gestures. Properly communicating with foreign travelers not only enables smoother immigration inspections, but also leads to stricter immigration inspections, to determine if the traveler is exhibiting suspicious behavior.

The global COVID-19 pandemic that started in 2020 has significantly changed the face of immigration inspection work. Severe restrictions have been placed on foreign nationals in order for them to be allowed entry to Japan, with an emphasis placed on countermeasures at the point of entry.

In addition, ports of entry and exit are places where people who cross back and forth across national borders come into frequent contact with immigration officials, so officials like myself must also strengthen measures to avoid COVID-19 infection.

The role of immigration inspectors will not change, as we continue managing the entry and exit of all people fairly, in order to protect the safety and security of Japan. With this role in mind, as an immigration inspector working at a port of entry and exit where I can feel the movement of people across national borders, I will continue to learn through trial and error how to deal with changes in world affairs and crises.



an immigration inspector in charge of immigration examinations

Section 2 Judgement for Landing

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



Hearing for landing

The number of new cases of hearings for landing (the number of cases which were assigned to a special inquiry officer on account of a foreign national not being granted landing permission by an immigration inspector) in 2020 rose to 25,056, an increase of 11,654 (87.0%) compared to 2019. This was partly because most foreign nationals were subject to hearings for landing as cases suspected to fall under one of the grounds for denial of landing (non-compliance with Article 7, Paragraph (1), item (iv) of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act), due to landing refusal measures in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19, which have been implemented since February 2020.

Looking at a breakdown of the number of new cases of hearings for landing, the most common were cases suspected to fall under one of the grounds for denial of landing. There were 22,623 such cases in 2020, an increase of 21,670 cases (2,273.9%) from 2019, accounting for 90.3% of the total number of new cases. 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 1,633, a decrease of 8,607 cases (84.1%) compared to 2019, accounting for 6.5% of the total number of new cases in 2020. 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 800, a decrease of 1,406 cases (63.7%) compared to 2019, accounting for 3.2% of the total number of new cases in 2020. In addition, the number of cases that foreign nationals refuse to provide the immigration inspector with their Biometric information, which became mandatory by law from November 20, 2007 (coming under paragraph (4) of Article 7 of the Immigration Control Act) was 0 cases in 2020 ([Reference 13](#)).

Reference 13 Changes in the number of new cases of hearings for landing by grounds for landing

(Cases)

Conditions for Landing \ Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	8,880	9,776	11,756	13,402	25,056
Using counterfeit passports or visas, etc. (Not conforming to Article 7-(1)-(i))	1,723	1,812	1,940	2,206	800
False landing application, etc. (Not conforming to Article 7-(1)-(ii))	6,014	6,693	8,686	10,240	1,633
Ineligibility for the period of stay relating to the application (Not conforming to Article 7-(1)-(iii))	0	0	0	0	0
Falling under the grounds for denial of landing (Not conforming to Article 7-(1)-(iv))	1,141	1,270	1,128	953	22,623
Not providing Biometric information (Not conforming to Article 7-(4))	2	1	2	3	0

With regard to results of the hearings for landing in 2020^(*), 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 22,353, an increase of 21,156 (1,767.4%) compared to 2019.

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 1,347, a decrease of 8,093 (85.7%) compared to 2019. 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 928, a decrease of 1,175 (55.9%) compared to 2019 ([Reference 14](#)).

Reference 14 Changes in the processing of the hearings for landing

(Cases)

Division \ Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	8,875	9,770	11,763	13,409	25,064
Landing permission	1,740	1,421	1,260	1,197	22,353
Expulsion order	4,846	5,986	7,934	9,440	1,347
Filing of objection	1,827	1,770	1,911	2,103	928
Withdrawal of the landing application	363	481	585	581	360
Others	99	112	73	88	76

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

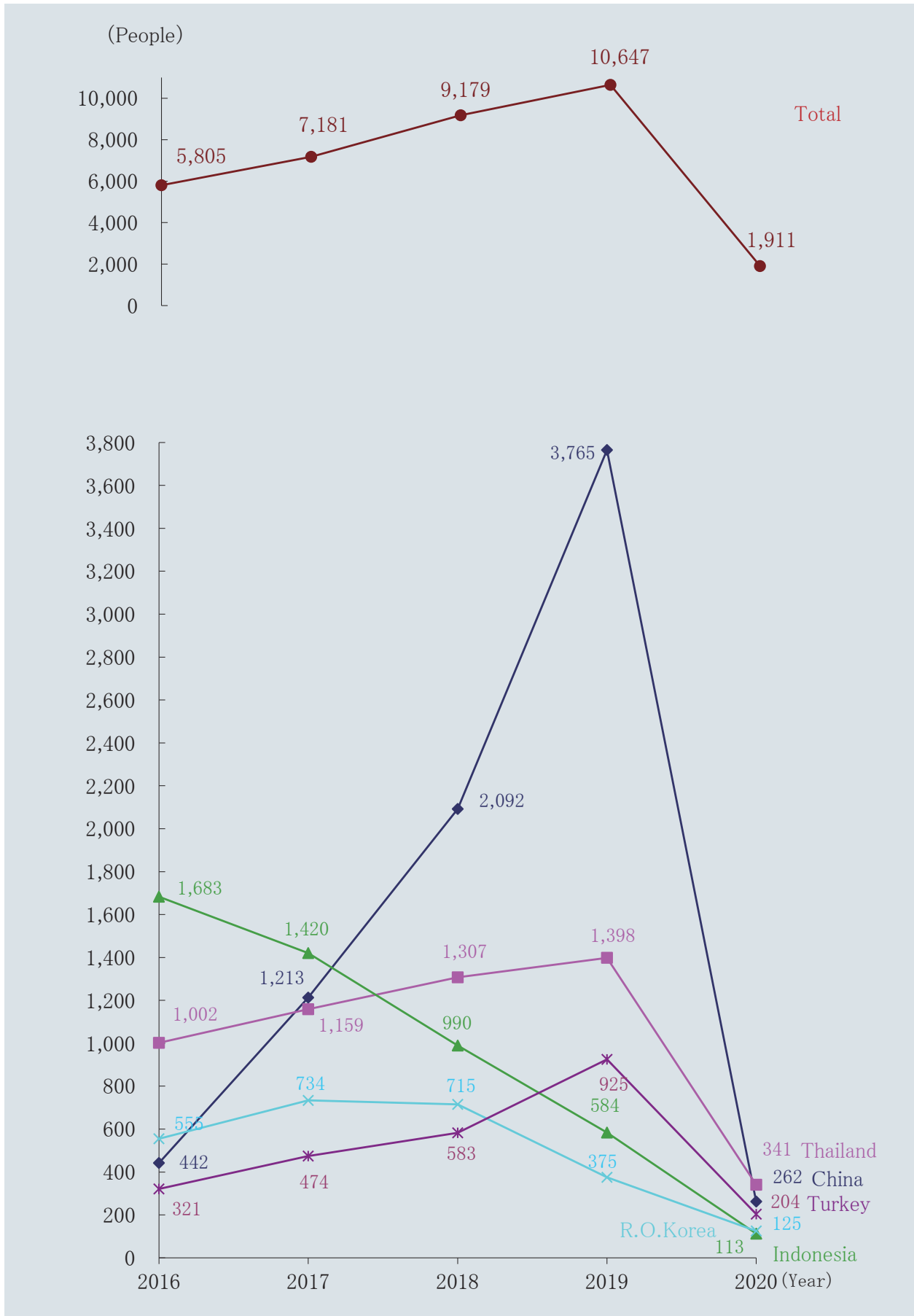
(*) The reason why the total number in the changes in the number of new cases of hearings for landing by grounds for landing (Reference 13) and the total number in the changes in the processing of the hearings for landing (Reference 14) are inconsistent is because, depending on the case, the processing 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 2020 was 1,911, a decrease of 8,736 (82.1%) compared to 2019.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of foreign nationals denied permission for landing came from Thailand standing at 341 (17.8%), followed by China at 262 (13.7%) and Turkey at 204 (10.7%). These top three countries accounted for 42.2% of the total ([Reference 15](#)). The reason that the number of landing refusals has decreased overall is that the number of foreign nationals entering Japan has decreased significantly due to countermeasures at points of entry started in February 2020 in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

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 2020 was 812, a decrease of 772 (48.7%) compared to 2019 ([Reference 16](#)).

Reference 16 Changes in the number of objections filed and decisions by the Minister of Justice

(Cases)

Division		Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Filing of Objection (*)			1,845	1,781	1,919	2,120	935
Decisions	With reason (Landing Permission)		12	4	5	2	3
	Without reason	Order to depart	347	439	404	375	70
		Special Permission for Landing	1,418	1,241	1,333	1,584	812
Withdrawal			57	89	160	152	49
Outstanding			11	8	17	7	1

(*) "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 6,014 in 2020, showing a decrease of 1,380 (29.8%) compared to 2019.

2 Certificate of Eligibility

The number of cases of applications for Certificates of Eligibility was 410,406 in 2020, a decrease of 181,452 (30.7%) compared to 2019.

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	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Advance consultation for visa issuance			6,614	7,875	5,336	4,634	6,014
Application for a certificate of eligibility			418,764	481,120	533,568	591,858	410,406

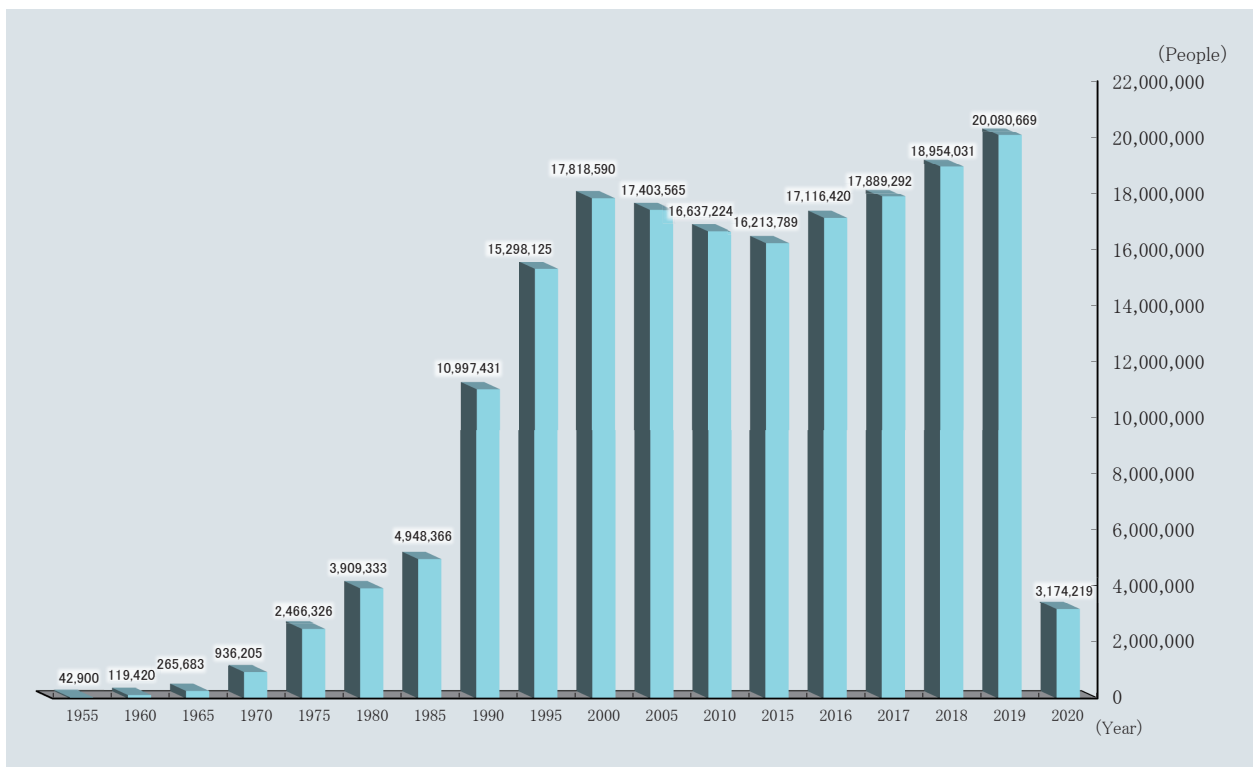
Chapter 2 Japanese Nationals Departing from and Returning to Japan

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 2020 was 3,174,219, a decrease of 16,906,450 (84.2%) compared to 2019 ([Reference 18](#)).

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



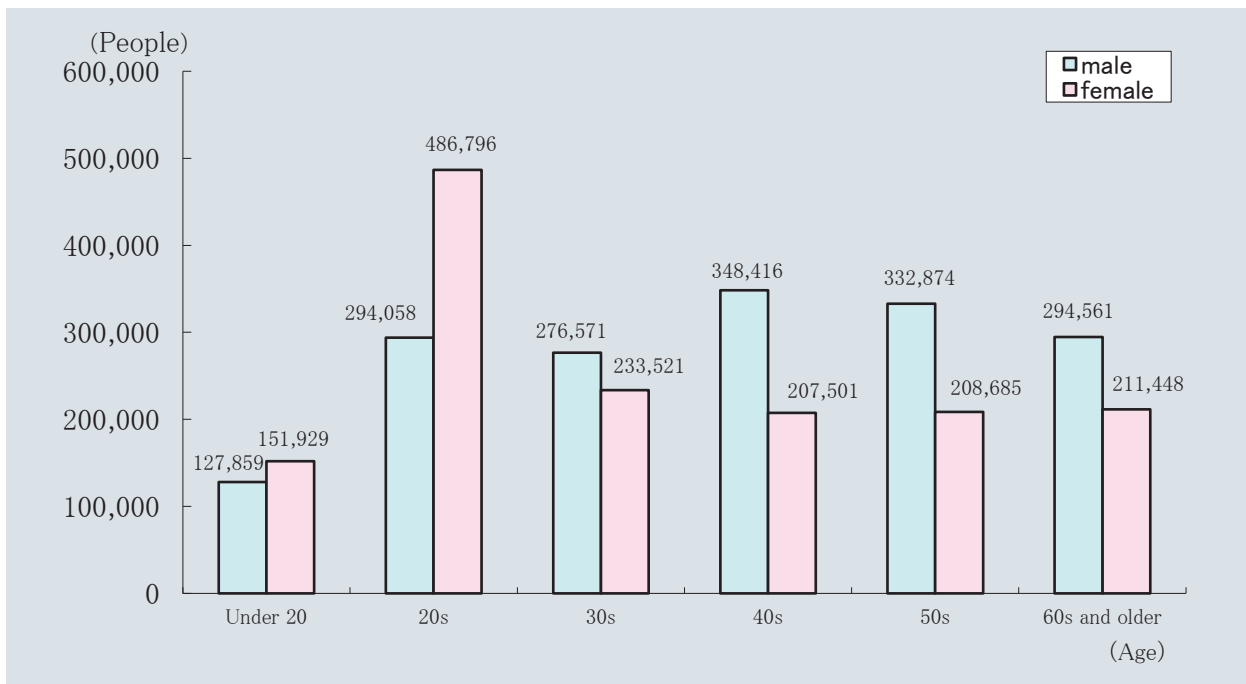
2 Number of Japanese Nationals Departing from Japan by Gender and Age

According to the statistics by gender, the number of Japanese nationals departing from Japan in 2020 was composed of 1,674,339 males and 1,499,880 females; males accounted for 52.7% of the total and females accounted for 47.3%. 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 2020 was composed of 780,854 Japanese nationals in their 20s, which accounted for 24.6% of the total, followed by 555,917 in their 40s, accounting for 17.5%, 541,559 in their 50s, accounting for 17.1%, 510,092 in their 30s and older, accounting for 16.1%, 506,009 in their 60s, accounting for 15.9% and 279,788 in their under 20, accounting for 8.8%.

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 62.3%, 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 (2020)



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

Looking at the number of Japanese nationals departing from Japan in 2020 by airports and seaport of departure, the number of departing passengers using airports was 3,164,992, accounting for 99.7% of the total, and when comparing to the 4,278,167 (99.3%) 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 2020, the number of users of Narita Airport was 1,309,205, accounting for 41.4% of the total number of departing passengers from airports, the number of users of Haneda Airport was 769,646, accounting for 24.3%, and the number of users of Kansai Airport was 603,957, accounting for 19.1%. These three airports accounted for 84.8% of the total number of departing passengers from airports.

On the other hand, looking at the Japanese nationals departing from Japan using seaports during 2020, the number of Hakata Port users was 5,539, accounting for 60.0% of the total number of departing passengers from seaports, followed by Kagoshima Port at 1,308 (14.2%), and Osaka Port at 433 (4.7%). These three seaports accounted for 78.9% of the total number of departing passengers from seaports. Yokohama Port at 396 (4.3%) and Hitakatsu Port at 317 (3.4%) followed these three seaports.

Section 2 Number of Japanese Nationals Returning to Japan



Airport landing examination

The total number of returning Japanese nationals in 2020 was 3,683,270. By period of stay in foreign countries after departure, the number of persons returning within one month of departure was 3,143,057, which accounted for 85.3% of the total. Of those, the number of persons returning within 10 days was 2,782,365, which accounted for 88.5% of those who returned within one month of departure ([Reference 20](#)).

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

(People)

Peroid of Stay \ Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	17,088,252	17,876,453	18,908,954	20,030,055	3,683,270
Within 5 days	10,067,736	10,590,134	11,396,585	12,150,774	1,891,374
More than 5 days to 10 days	3,905,780	4,106,292	4,295,947	4,607,708	890,991
More than 10 days to 20 days	1,067,194	1,116,348	1,143,763	1,182,976	254,898
More than 20 days to 1 month	409,434	412,805	410,416	416,356	105,794
More than 1 month to 3 months	678,113	686,350	693,432	688,694	191,495
More than 3 months to 6 months	393,187	400,249	402,650	412,104	124,322
More than 6 months to 1 year	307,247	310,126	313,425	318,140	137,036
More than 1 year to 3 years	129,203	122,306	123,677	123,794	51,416
More than 3 years	12,800	10,610	9,193	8,405	2,281
Unknown	117,558	121,233	119,866	121,104	33,663

Chapter 3 Foreign Nationals Residing in Japan

Section 1 Number of Foreign Residents in Japan

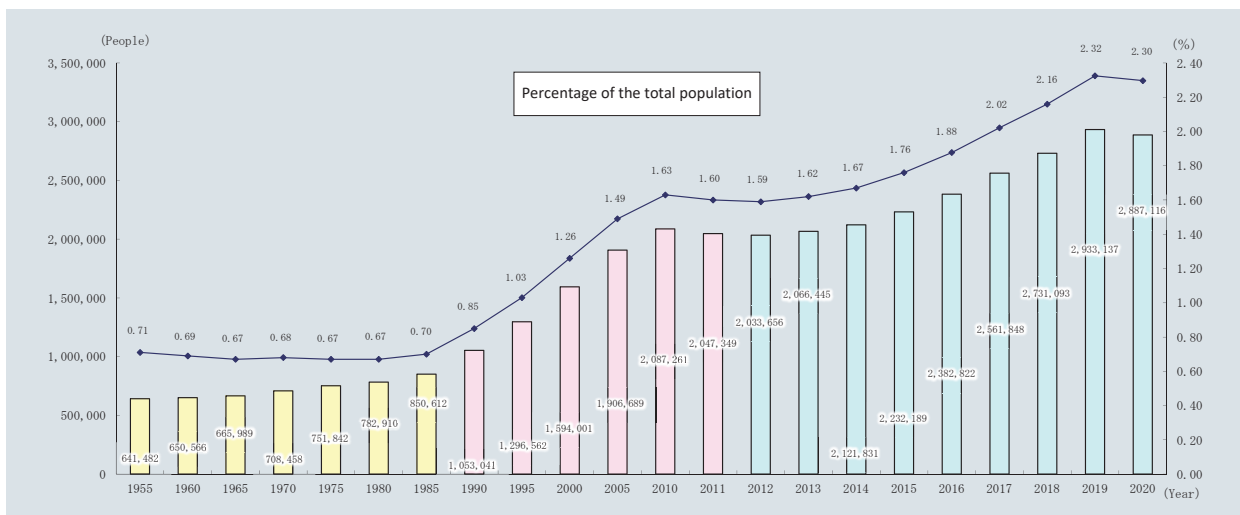
1 Number of Foreign Residents in Japan

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 2020, the number of mid to long-term residents (see Data Section 1, Section 4, Subsection 1) in Japan was 2,582,686 and the number of special permanent residents was 304,430. Adding these two numbers together, the total number of foreign residents was 2,887,116, an increase of 46,021 (1.6%) compared to the end of 2019.

In addition, the percentage of foreign nationals residing in Japan was 2.30% out of the total population of Japan which was 125,700,000 as of the end of 2020 (population estimate as of October 1, 2020 (Statistics Bureau of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)), which was 0.02 points lower than the 2.32% at the end of 2019 ([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



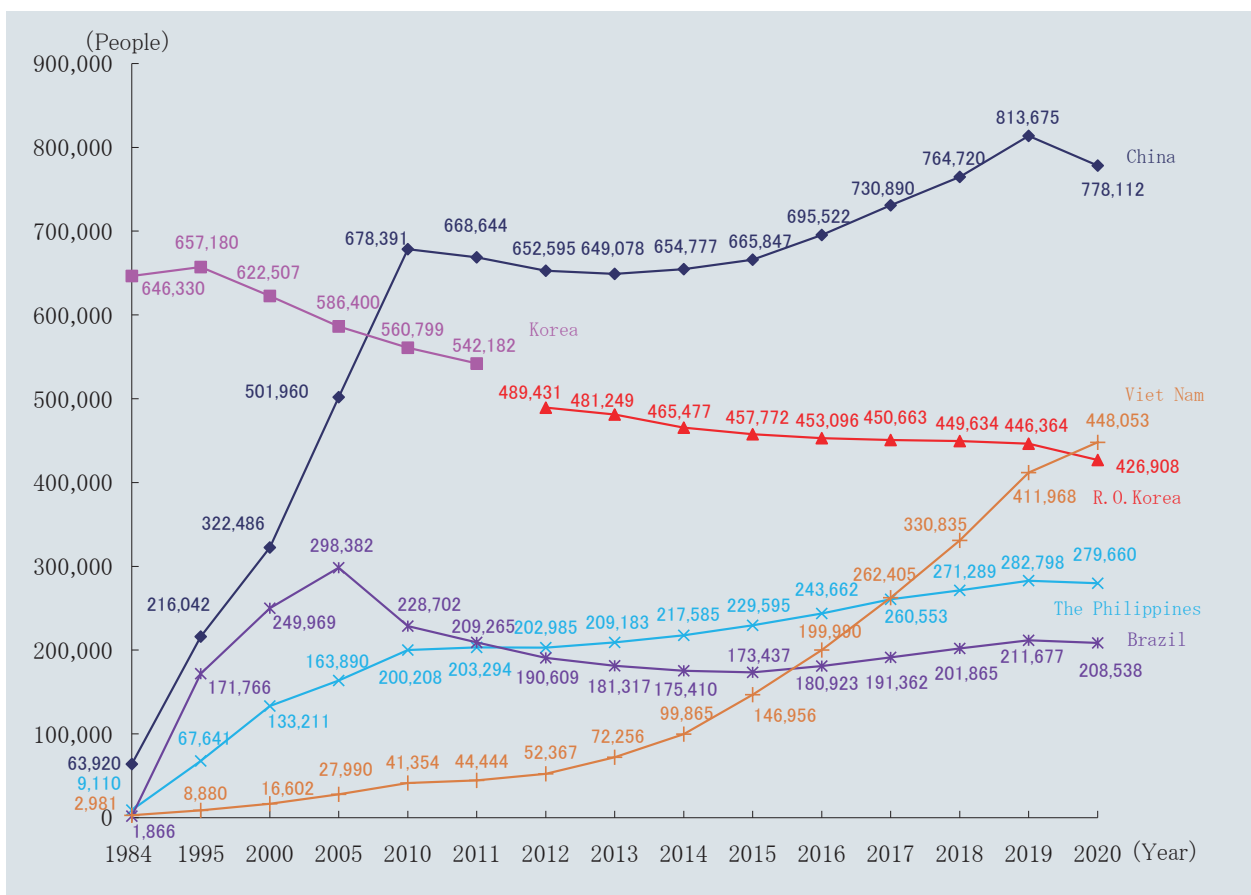
- (*1) These numbers are based on the statistics as at the end of December each year.
- (*2) The numbers until 1985 represent the number of alien registrations, the numbers between 1990 and 2011 represent the sum of the number of alien registrations who stayed in Japan with the status of residence eligible 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 2020, China marked the largest number at 778,112, accounting for 27.0% of the total. China was followed by Viet Nam at 448,053 (15.5%), R.O.Korea at 426,908 (14.8%), the Philippines at 279,660 (9.7%), and Brazil at 208,538 (7.2%).

According to the changes in the number of foreign residents by year, China was on an upward trend, but this changed to a decrease of 35,563 (4.4%) at the end of 2020 compared to the end of 2019. Vietnam has continued its upward trend since the end of 2010, with an increase of 36,085 (8.8%) at the end of 2020 compared to the end of 2019, overtaking the Republic of Korea to reach 2nd place. The Republic of Korea ranked 3rd, but is on a downward trend, with a decrease of 19,456 (4.4%) at the end of 2020 compared to the end of 2019. The Philippines also decreased, by 3,138 (1.1%) at the end of 2020 compared to the end of 2019. Brazil was on an upward trend from the end of 2016 to the end of 2019, but it decreased by 3,139 (1.5%) at the end of 2020 compared to the end of 2019 ([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 2020, 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 807,517, an increase of 14,353 (1.8%) from the end of 2019, accounting for 28.0% of the total ([Reference 23](#)).

Reference 23 Changes in the number of foreign residents by status

(People)

Status	Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total		2,382,822	2,561,848	2,731,093	2,933,137	2,887,116
Mid to long-term resident	Professor	7,463	7,403	7,360	7,354	6,647
	Artist	438	426	461	489	448
	Religious Activities	4,428	4,402	4,299	4,285	3,772
	Journalist	246	236	215	220	215
	Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(a)	731	1,194	1,576	1,884	1,922
	Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(b)	2,813	6,046	8,774	11,886	13,167
	Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(c)	132	257	395	570	676
	Highly-Skilled Professional (ii)	63	171	316	584	789
	Business Manager	21,877	24,033	25,670	27,249	27,235
	Legal/Accounting Services	148	147	147	145	148
	Medical Services	1,342	1,653	1,936	2,269	2,476
	Researcher	1,609	1,596	1,528	1,480	1,337
	Instructor	11,159	11,524	12,462	13,331	12,241
	Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/ International Services	161,124	189,273	225,724	271,999	283,380
	Intra-company Transferee	15,772	16,486	17,328	18,193	13,415
	Nursing Care		18	185	592	1,714
	Entertainer	2,187	2,094	2,389	2,508	1,865
	Skilled Labor	39,756	39,177	39,915	41,692	40,491
	Specified Skilled Labor (i)				1,621	15,663
	Specified Skilled Labor (ii)				0	0
	Technical Intern Training (i)-(a)	4,943	5,971	5,128	4,975	1,205
	Technical Intern Training (i)-(b)	97,642	118,101	138,249	164,408	74,476
	Technical Intern Training (ii)-(a)	3,207	3,424	3,712	4,268	4,490
	Technical Intern Training (ii)-(b)	122,796	146,729	173,873	210,965	258,173
	Technical Intern Training (iii)-(a)		0	220	605	707
	Technical Intern Training (iii)-(b)		8	7,178	25,751	39,149
	Cultural Activities	2,704	2,859	2,825	3,013	1,280
	Student	277,331	311,505	337,000	345,791	280,901
	Trainee	1,379	1,460	1,443	1,177	174
	Dependent	149,303	166,561	182,452	201,423	196,622
	Designated Activities	47,039	64,776	62,956	65,187	103,422
	Permanent Resident	727,111	749,191	771,568	793,164	807,517
	Spouse or Child of Japanese National	139,327	140,839	142,381	145,254	142,735
Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident	30,972	34,632	37,998	41,517	42,905	
Long-Term Resident	168,830	179,834	192,014	204,787	201,329	
Special Permanent Resident	338,950	329,822	321,416	312,501	304,430	

(*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 2016 and the end of 2020, there was a steady increase, and the number increased by 80,406 (11.1%) at the end of 2020 from 727,111 at the end of 2016.

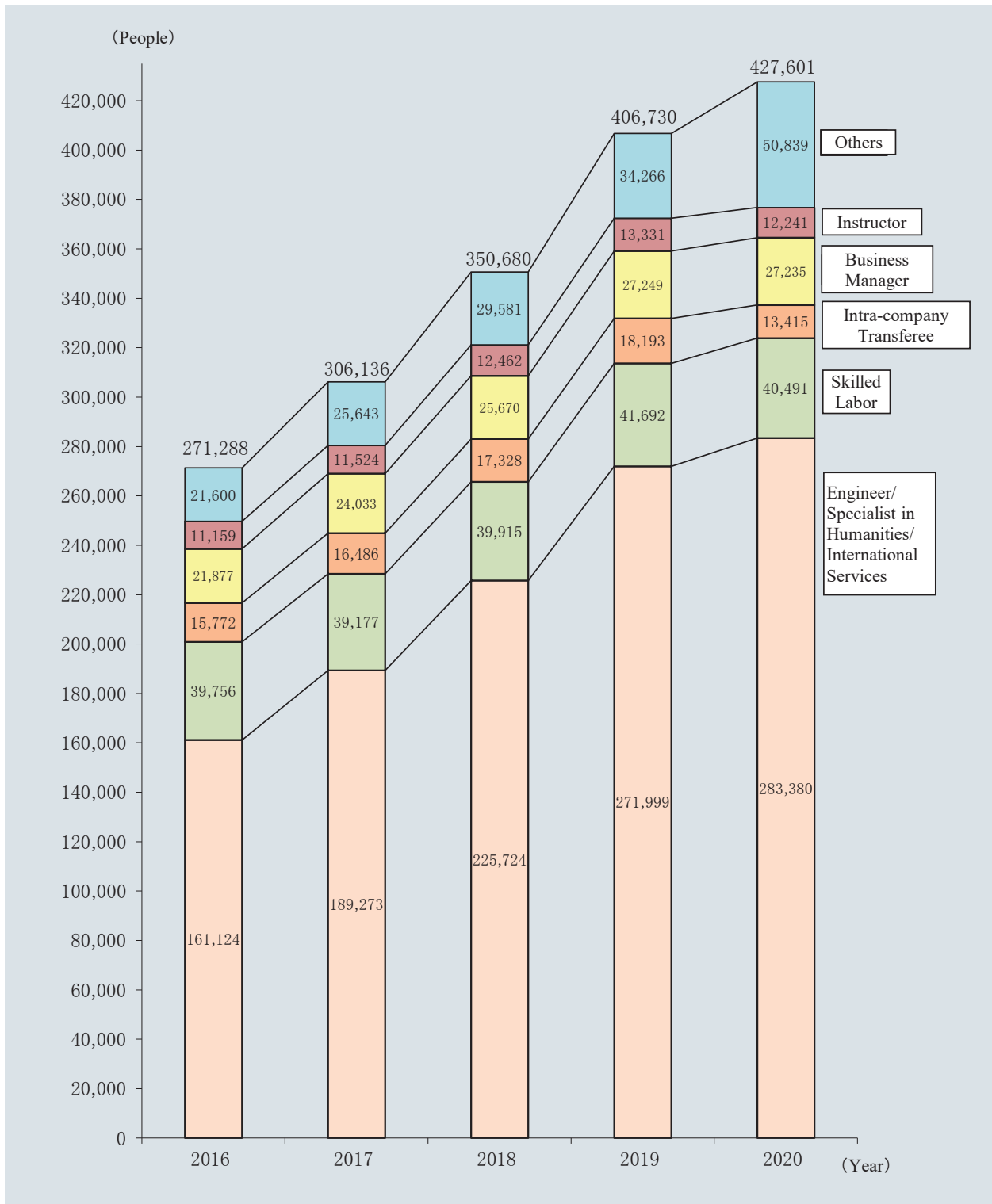
According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Permanent Resident” came from China totaling 283,281 at the end of 2020, followed by the Philippines, Brazil, R.O. Korea, and Peru.

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 10.5% at the end of 2020. 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 2020, 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 427,601 accounting for 14.8% of the total, an increase of 20,871 (5.1%) compared to the end of 2019, 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.

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 2020, 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 283,380 for “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services” and 13,415 for “Intra-company Transferee”, and when compared to the end of 2019, the respective numbers have been increasing 11,381 (4.2%) and have been decreasing 4,778 (26.3%).

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 66.3%, and 3.1%, 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 88,662 (31.3%), followed by Viet Nam at 61,181 (21.6%), R.O.Korea at 25,760 (9.1%), and Nepal at 15,581 (5.5%).

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 4,078 (30.4%), followed by the Philippines at 1,272 (9.5%) and R.O.Korea at 1,209 (9.0%).

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

At the end of 2020, 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 40,491, a decrease of 1,201 (2.9%) when compared to the end of 2019.

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 16,469 (40.7%), followed by Nepal at 12,524 (30.9%), India at 5,592 (13.8%), and Thailand at 1,229 (3.0%).

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

At the end of 2020, the number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Specified Skilled Worker”, which is established and operation started on April 1, 2019, was 15,663, an increase of 14,042 (866.3%) compared to the end of 2019.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of mid to long term residents with the status of residence of “Specified Skilled Worker (i)” came from Viet Nam at 9,412 (60.1%), followed by China at 1,575 (10.1%), Indonesia at 1,514 (9.7%) and the Philippines at 1,059 (6.8%).

(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 Training (i)” at the end of 2020 was 75,681, a decrease of 93,702 (55.3%) when compared to the end of 2019. According to the statistics by nationality/region, the number of those from Viet Nam was 41,564, accounting for 54.9% of the total. Viet Nam was followed by China at 10,891 (14.4%), Indonesia at 8,030 (10.6%), and the Philippines at 4,818 (6.4%).

The number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Technical Intern Training (ii)” at the end of 2020 was 262,663, an increase of 47,430 (22.0%) when compared to the end of 2019. According to the statistics by nationality/region, the number of those from Viet Nam was 146,143 accounting for 55.6% of the total. Viet Nam was followed by China at 46,924 (17.9%), Indonesia at 23,441 (8.9%) and the Philippines at 21,417 (8.2%).

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 2020 was 39,856, an increase of 13,500 (51.2%). According to the statistics by nationality/region, the number of those from Viet Nam was 21,172 accounting for 53.1% of the total. Viet Nam was followed by China at 5,926 (14.9%), the Philippines at 5,413 (13.6%) and Indonesia at 2,988 (7.5%).

(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 2020 was 280,901, a decrease of 64,890 (18.8%) compared to the end of 2019, comprising 9.7% of the total number of foreign residents.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the number from China was 125,328 accounting for 44.6% of the total, followed by Viet Nam at 65,653 (23.4%).

(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 2020 was 142,735, accounting for 4.9% of the total number of foreign residents, a decrease of 2,519 (1.7%) when compared to the end of 2019.

Looking at these numbers by nationality/region, China stood at 28,313, accounting for 19.8% of the total, followed by the Philippines at 26,022 (18.2%), and Brazil at 17,225 (12.1%).

At the end of 2020, the number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Long-Term Resident” was 201,329 accounting for 7.0% of the total number of foreign residents, the number at the end of 2020 has decreased by 3,458 (1.7%) compared to the end of 2019.

Looking at these number by nationality/region, Brazil was 71,832 accounting for 35.7% of the total number, followed by the Philippines at 53,941 (26.8%) and China at 27,436 (13.6%).

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

Section 2 Examination of Statuses of Residence

The total number of applications related to residence examinations was 1,591,577 in 2020, an increase of 171,546 (12.1%) when compared to 2019 ([Reference 25](#)).

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

(Cases)

Division \ Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	1,042,879	1,188,257	1,323,871	1,420,031	1,591,577
Permission for change of status of residence	180,480	215,599	325,149	269,153	392,415
Permission for extension of period of stay	532,800	610,924	603,043	743,254	873,416
Permission for permanent residence	35,595	28,869	31,451	32,150	29,747
Permission for special permanent residence	84	73	75	63	30
Permission for acquisition of status of residence	12,010	12,976	13,188	14,469	15,720
Re-entry permission	31,553	35,310	37,030	38,232	28,738
Permission to engage in an activity other than those permitted by the status of residence previously granted	250,357	284,506	313,935	322,710	251,511

- (*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 pursuant to the Treaty of Peace with Japan.



Residence examination counter

1 Permission for Change in the Status of Residence

In 2020, the number of cases in which obtained permission for a change in the status of residence was 392,415, an increase of 123,262 (45.8%) when compared to 2019.

(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 29,689 in 2020, a decrease of 1,258 (4.1%) compared to 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 26,268(88.5%), a decrease of 2,327(8.1%) compared to 2019 ([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

Status of Residence	Year					(people)
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Total	19,435	22,419	25,942	30,947	29,689	
Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/ International Services	17,353	20,486	24,188	28,595	26,268	
Designated Activities	19	36	14	316	873	
Professor	598	626	538	640	785	
Business Manager	916	712	560	500	477	
Instructor	87	93	137	166	389	
Medical Services	257	254	246	280	307	
Nursing Care		18	83	173	220	
Highly-Skilled Professional	27	43	65	156	218	
Researcher	87	102	85	81	103	
Religious Activities	14	25	15	10	11	
Artist	3	9	2	13	9	
Others	74	15	9	17	29	

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 10,933, accounting for 36.8%, followed by Viet Nam at 6,582(22.2%) and Nepal at 3,552 (12.0%) ([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	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	19,435	22,419	25,942	30,947	29,689
China	11,039	10,326	10,886	11,580	10,933
Viet Nam	2,488	4,633	5,244	7,030	6,582
Nepal	1,167	2,026	2,934	3,591	3,552
R.O.Korea	1,422	1,487	1,575	1,663	1,376
Sri Lanka	177	242	432	704	1,145
Taiwan	689	810	1,065	1,259	927
Myanmar	183	212	348	593	672
Indonesia	214	253	362	469	540
Bangladesh	90	110	233	467	501
The Philippines	168	230	319	447	458
Others	1,798	2,090	2,544	3,144	3,003

(*) “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 March 16, 2021, 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 30 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 85 job categories.

The number of foreign trainees who were permitted to change their status of residence to “Technical Intern Training (ii)” in 2020 had increased by 17,392 (13.1%) compared to 2019 to 150,233.

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 2020 came from Viet Nam at 83,468 (55.6%), followed by China at 26,137 (17.4%), the Indonesia at 13,542 (9.0%), the Philippines at 12,192 (8.1%), and Myanmar at 5,824 (3.9%) ([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 77 as of March 16, 2021).

The number of foreign trainees who were permitted to change their status of residence to “Technical Intern Training (iii)” in 2020 had increased by 9,735 (207.7%) compared to 2019 to 14,423.

According to the statistics of foreign nationals who received permission to change their status of residence to “Technical Intern Training (iii)” in 2020 by nationality/region, the order was Viet Nam at 7,721 (53.5%) followed by the Philippines at 2,151 (14.9%), China at 1,928 (13.4%), Indonesia at 1,029 (7.1%) and Myanmar at 607 (4.2%) ([Reference 29](#)).

According to the statistics of the technical intern training plans accredited in 2020 by job type, the largest numbers for technical intern training (ii) were “Prepared food industry”, “Scaffolding”, “Crop farming”, and for technical intern training (iii) were “Women/Children’s apparel production”, “Crop farming”, “Prepared food industry” ([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	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	77,550	89,281	180,475	132,841	150,233
Viet Nam	29,494	39,944	86,892	71,275	83,468
China	27,947	25,749	46,325	27,440	26,137
Indonesia	7,978	6,868	17,994	11,455	13,542
The Philippines	6,297	8,758	14,039	10,986	12,192
Myanmar	1,397	2,146	4,571	3,715	5,824
Others	4,437	5,816	10,654	7,970	9,070

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

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

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

Reference 29 Changes in the number of trainees who changed to “Technical Intern Training (iii)” by nationality/region

(People)

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

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

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

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

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

(Cases)

Occupation	2019	2020
Total	150,274	137,408
Prepared food industry	14,464	13,382
Steeplejack	8,403	9,765
Crop farming	11,836	9,308
Welding	10,008	7,969
Plastic molding	7,754	6,414
Nursing Care	1,604	5,272
Women/Children’s apparel production	6,944	5,119
Construction machinery and construction	3,717	4,754
Painting	4,992	4,659
Industrial packaging	4,546	4,384
Others	76,006	66,382

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

(Cases)

Occupation	2019	2020
Total	25,842	26,199
Women/Children’s apparel production	2,733	2,343
Crop farming	1,547	1,942
Prepared food industry	2,485	1,812
Steeplejack	1,501	1,677
Welding	1,539	1,433
Plastic molding	1,113	1,247
Steel reinforcement construction	932	1,000
Painting	1,001	908
Industrial packaging	554	874
Unheated fishery processing products manufacturing	1,102	835
Others	11,335	12,128

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

In 2020, 10,863 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 6,986 (64.3%), followed by China at 1,039 (9.6%), the Philippines at 942 (8.7%), Indonesia at 700 (6.4%), and Myanmar at 404 (3.7%) (**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 people who changed to “Specified Skilled Labor (i)” by nationality/region

(People)

Nationality/Region	Year	
	2019	2020
Total	1,062	10,863
Viet Nam	600	6,986
China	95	1,039
The Philippines	110	942
Indonesia	77	700
Myanmar	63	404
Others	117	792

(*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 2020 was 873,416, an increase of 130,162 (17.5%) compared to 2019.

3 Permission for Permanent Residence

The number of cases in which were granted permission for permanent residence in 2020 was 29,747, a decrease of 2,403 (7.5%) in 2020 when compared to 2019 ([Reference 33](#)).

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

(Cases)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	35,595	28,869	31,451	32,150	29,747
China	15,285	12,816	14,626	15,542	14,874
The Philippines	4,795	3,549	3,077	2,998	2,580
Brazil	3,866	2,716	2,255	2,318	2,112
R.O.Korea	2,731	2,241	2,742	2,521	1,966
Viet Nam	994	873	1,343	1,405	1,635
Others	7,924	6,674	7,408	7,366	6,580

(*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 2020 was 15,720, an increase of 1,251 (8.6%) in 2020 when compared to 2019.

5 Re-entry Permission

The number of cases in which were granted re-entry permission in 2020 was 28,738, a decrease of 9,494 (24.8%) when compared to 2019.

In addition, the number of foreign nationals who departed from Japan having obtained special re-entry permission in 2020 was 525,197 accounting for 93.3% of the total number of 562,796 foreign nationals who departed from Japan through re-entry permission.

(*) Please note that the following incorrect numbers were given for the overall ratio of “foreign nationals who departed from Japan having obtained re-entry permission” and “foreign nationals who departed from Japan having obtained special re-entry permission” in 2019, listed in the 2020 edition.

(Right) 2019 Foreign nationals who departed from Japan having obtained re-entry permission: 2,877,264

Overall Ratio: 96.4%

(Wrong) 2019 Foreign nationals who departed from Japan having obtained re-entry per-

mission: 2,869,247
Overall Ratio: 96.7%

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 2020 was 251,511, a decrease of 71,199 (22.1%) compared to 2019.

Section 3

Number of Issuance of Residence Cards and Special Permanent Resident Certificates

1 Residence Cards

The number of residence cards issued in 2020 was 1,527,288. 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 1,341,784 accounting for 87.9% of the total, followed by applications for extension of the period of validity at 146,284 (9.6%), reissuance at 36,092 (2.4%), and notification of a change in the registered matters aside from the place of residence at 3,085 (0.2%).

By category of Regional Immigration Services Bureaus, the Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau issued 792,780 residence cards, accounting for 51.9% of the total, followed by Nagoya at 278,105 (18.2%), Osaka at 202,498 (13.3%) and Fukuoka at 104,872 (6.9%) ([Reference 34](#)).

Reference 34 Number of issuance of residence cards (2020)

(Cases)

Regional Immigration Service Bureaus	Total	Landing/residency status of residence related permission	Notification of change in the registered matters aside from the place of residence	Extension of the period of validity	Application for reissuance	Others
Total	1,527,288	1,341,784	3,085	146,284	36,092	43
Sapporo	24,560	23,173	17	969	394	7
Sendai	37,007	32,772	49	3,590	596	0
Tokyo	792,780	690,176	1,477	80,753	20,367	7
Nagoya	278,105	238,206	947	33,135	5,817	0
Osaka	202,498	179,631	251	17,189	5,427	0
Hiroshima	62,162	56,592	219	4,212	1,111	28
Takamatsu	25,304	23,746	22	1,217	318	1
Fukuoka	104,872	97,488	103	5,219	2,062	0

2 Special Permanent Resident Certificates

The number of special permanent resident certificates issued in 2020 was 27,444. 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 21,297 accounting for 77.6% of the total, followed by applications for reissuance at 2,946 (10.7%), notification of a change in the registered matters aside from the place of residence at 2,545 (9.3%), and permission for special permanent resident (Article 4) at 576 (2.1%) ([Reference 35](#)).

Reference 35 Number of issuance of special permanent resident certificates (2020)
(Cases)

Permission for special permanent residence (Article 4)	Permission for special permanent residence (Article 5)	Notification of a change in the registered matters aside from the place of residence	Extension of the period of validity	Application for reissuance	Application to switch over to the special permanent resident certificate	Application for new issuance	Application for issuance in advance	Total
576	30	2,545	21,297	2,946	35	15	0	27,444

Article: At the Front Line of Immigration Control Administration

(Voice of an immigration inspector in charge of status examinations)
(Inspection Coordination Department, the Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau: Ichinomiya Yuki)

Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau is in charge of the 10 prefectures in the Kanto and Koshinetsu area, and processes residence-related applications for foreign nationals residing in the area. In particular, services provided by the Inspection Coordination Department encompasses a wide range of fields, including liaison and coordination with relevant internal and external departments and institutions, immigration inspections, comprehensive reception and issuance counters for various residence applications, and applications and notifications for residence cards.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of visitors to Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau increased, and our facilities have become exceedingly crowded since April 2020. In particular, there was a drastic increase in the number of foreign nationals who have difficulty in returning to their home country and apply to extend their period of stay with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor”, we have taken various measures, such as “entry regulations” to limit the number of visitors entering facilities, in order to avoid the 3Cs, closed spaces, crowded places, and close-contact settings.

Another measures unique to Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau are, keeping the bureau open on holidays to stagger the visitors, and introducing an online application reservation system. Also, at the general issuance counter, we started doing “delayed issuance procedures for residence cards”, which allows applicants to receive their residence card by coming to the bureau again on a date specified by the bureau, or receive their residence card by post.

In particular, with regard to the “online application reservation system” and “delayed issuance procedures for residence cards”, we have achieved shortening waiting times by limiting applications only to “application proxy”, which accounts for more than 30% of all the applications for residence, and setting up service desk counters for each. I was in charge of building and introducing the “online application reservation system” and “delayed issuance procedures for residence cards”, and I felt those were truly meaningful efforts contributing to solve the problem of congestion in the bureau.

Roughly a year and a half has passed since the outbreak of COVID-19, but still there is no sign of containment. At Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau, we will take measures for the further shortening of waiting time and solving the congestion. Hope that Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau will be the place easier for visitors to use, and conducts fair and appropriate residence inspection.



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 number of new permit applications) of supervising organization by FY 2020 was 3,625 (Reference 36).

2 License of supervising organizations

The number of license (cumulative number of new permits) of supervising organizations by FY 2020 was 3,376, of which 768 licenses were granted for general supervision business (excellent supervising organizations), and 2,608 licenses were granted for specified supervision business (other supervising organizations) (Reference 36).

As of March 30, 2021, there were 3,276 supervising organizations (reflecting discontinuance of supervision businesses and changes of license classification), of which 1,673 organizations have received a license for general supervision business, and 1,603 have received a license for specified supervision business.

Reference 36 Changes in the number of new applications and grant of license of supervising organization

(Cases)

		Year		
		2018	2019	2020
Number of applications		2,701	3,224	3,625
Number of licenses	General supervision business	767	768	768
	Specified supervision business	1,753	2,174	2,608
	Total	2,520	2,942	3,376

(*) The numbers in the table are cumulative values at the end of each fiscal year.

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

1 Applications for accreditation of technical intern training plans

From November 1, 2017, in order for an implementing organization to accept technical intern trainees, it is necessary for the technical intern training plan prepared for each technical intern trainee to be accredited by the Organization for Technical Intern Training. The number of applications for accreditation of technical intern training plans by FY 2020 was 1,097,755 (cumulative), of which 28,373 applications were for company-arranged scheme

technical training plans, and 1,069,382 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 by FY 2020 was 1,075,523 (cumulative), with the number of cases of accreditation of company-arranged scheme technical training plans at 27,998 and the number of cases of Association supervised scheme technical intern training plans at 1,047,525 ([Reference 37](#)).

Reference 37 Changes in the number of applications and accreditations of the technical intern training plan

(Cases)

		2018	2019	2020
Number of applications	Company-arranged scheme	14,127	23,936	28,373
	Association-supervised scheme	471,393	831,851	1,069,382
	Total	485,520	855,787	1,097,755
Number of accreditations	Company-arranged scheme	13,431	23,288	27,998
	Association-supervised scheme	439,517	795,827	1,047,525
	Total	452,948	819,115	1,075,523

(*) The numbers in the table are cumulative values at the end of each fiscal year.

Section 4 Responses to Cases of Inappropriate Acceptance

Under the technical intern training program, if there is a violation of the licensing or accreditation criteria, or a violation of the laws or regulations, etc. by a supervising organization or implementing organization, depending on the severity or manner of the violation, the license of the supervising organization or the accreditation of the technical intern training plan may be revoked, an order may be issued for suspension of business (only supervising organizations or improvement), and the name of such organizations may be published. In addition, supervising organizations and implementing organizations whose license or accreditation has been revoked, will not be able to continue with the technical intern training, and will not be allowed to accept new technical intern trainees for the next five years. During 2020, the accreditation of the technical intern training plans for 66 implementing organizations was revoked and the license of 8 supervising organizations 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 FY 2020, 13,353 consultations were provided in the native language and 82 reports were accepted, and in addition, support was given in 49 cases to enable a technical intern trainee to change the implementing organization, and support was given in 93 cases (cumulative from April, 2018 to the end of March, 2020) for accommodation.

The number of technical intern trainees who disappeared from their program was 5,885 in 2020, which was significantly less than the number of 8,796 in 2019, but still demands we pay close attention ([Reference 39](#)). The motives for disappearance was partly due to improper

treatment on the part of implementing organizations, but disappearances were often considered to be due to the financial circumstances of technical intern trainees. As such, we are striving to eliminate malicious sending organizations using the framework of Memorandum of Cooperation with the government of the sending country, and taken other measures such as giving priority to field surveys of implementing organizations which have experienced disappearances, as well as stopping acceptance of new technical intern trainees for sending organizations and supervising organizations that have frequently caused disappearances, taking into account who bears responsibility, etc.

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

Based on this, on March 23, 2020, the Technical Intern Training Act Enforcement Regulations were partially revised. On April 1, 2020, it was mandated that payments of remuneration to technical intern trainees be made with methods that can be verified after the fact, such as bank account transfers. Furthermore, it was decided to suspend acceptance of new technical intern trainees by supervising organizations and implementing organizations, who are responsible for disappearances, for a set period of time.

Reference 38 Number of administrative dispositions, etc

(Cases)

		Year	2019	2020
Number of implementing organizations	Revocation of technical intern training plans		14	66
	Orders for Improvement		3	6
Number of Supervising Organizations	Revocation of the license of the supervising organizations		2	8
	Orders for Improvement		0	1

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

(People)

Nationality/Region	Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total		5,058	7,089	9,052	8,796	5,885
Viet Nam		2,025	3,751	5,801	6,105	3,741
China		1,987	1,594	1,537	1,330	964
Cambodia		284	656	758	462	494
Myanmar		216	446	345	347	250
Indonesia		200	242	339	307	240
Others		346	400	272	245	196

(*) 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 82,868 as of January 1, 2021. This was a decrease of 24 (0.03%) when compared to the 82,892 as of January 1, 2020 .

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, 2021, the largest number of foreign nationals overstaying their authorized period of stay was from Viet Nam at 15,689 (18.9%), followed by R.O. Korea at 12,433 (15.0%), China at 10,335 (12.5%), Thailand at 8,691 (10.5%), and the Philippines at 5,761 (7.0%).

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 128 (0.8%) to 15,689 compared with January 1, 2020, and this number has been increasing for nine 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, while the number had been rising in recent years, as of January 1, 2021, it had actually decreased by 181 (2.0%) from January 1, 2020, down to just 8,691 (References 40, 41).

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

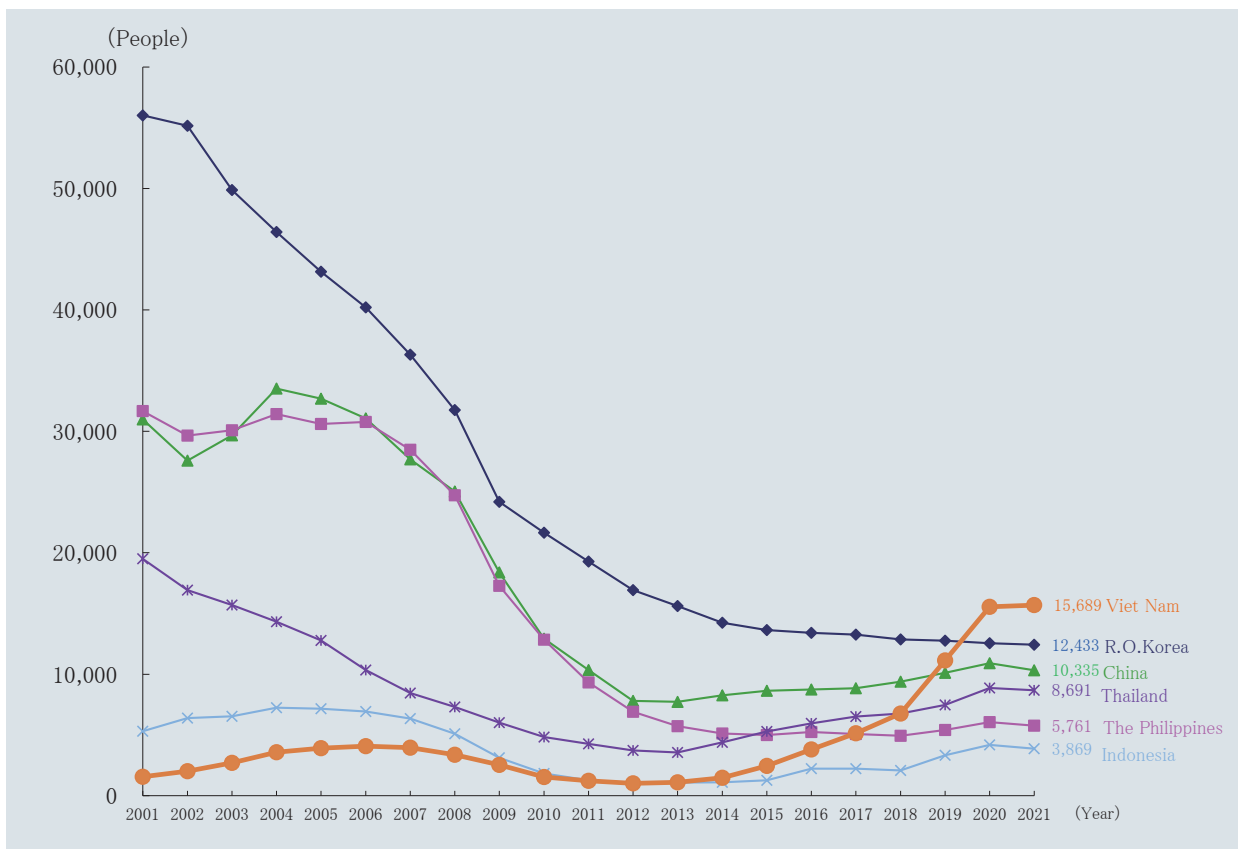
(People)

Nationality/ Region	Date														
	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	January 1 2007
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	170,839
Viet Nam	852	869	453	448	231	731	880	1,092	1,550	2,021	2,697	3,582	3,916	4,071	3,959
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	36,321
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	27,698
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	8,460
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	28,491
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	6,354
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	6,347
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	6,397
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	4,042
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	2,241
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	40,529

Nationality/ Region	Date													
	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	January 1 2021
Total	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	82,868
Viet Nam	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	15,689
R.O.Korea	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	12,433
China	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	10,335
Thailand	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	8,691
The Philippines	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	5,761
Indonesia	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	3,869
Taiwan	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	3,724
Malaysia	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	1,826
Sri Lanka	3,615	2,796	1,952	1,498	1,256	1,084	1,019	932	914	847	816	861	1,112	1,287
Singapore	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	1,004
Others	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	18,249

(*) “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, 2021 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 2020 to make up the largest number at 50,092 accounting for 60.4% of the total number, followed by “Technical Intern Training (ii) (b)” at 7,229 (8.7%), “Designated Activities” at 5,904 (7.1%) “Technical Intern Training (i) (b)” at 5,722 (6.9%) , “Student” at 5,041 (6.1%), and “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” at 2,608 (3.1%). 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 “Technical Intern Training (ii) (b)” by 181 (2.6%), “Designated Activities” by 216 (3.8%) , and “Technical Intern Training (i) (b)” by 413 (7.8%), there was a decrease in the number of foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor” by 1,147 (2.2%), “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” by 79 (2.9%) , and “Student” by 502 (9.1%) (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 2015	January 1 2016	January 1 2017	January 1 2018	January 1 2019	January 1 2020	January 1 2021
Total	60,007	62,818	65,270	66,498	74,167	82,892	82,868
Temporary Visitor	41,090	42,478	44,167	44,592	47,399	51,239	50,092
Technical Intern Training (ii)-(b)	2,831	3,413	3,748	3,988	5,318	7,048	7,229
Designated Activities	1,636	1,633	1,910	2,286	4,224	5,688	5,904
Technical Intern Training (i)-(b)	1,799	2,439	2,741	2,894	4,015	5,309	5,722
Student	2,806	3,422	3,807	4,100	4,708	5,543	5,041
Spouse or Child of Japanese National	3,709	3,433	3,287	3,092	2,946	2,687	2,608
Others	7,772	7,633	7,520	7,832	9,781	5,378	6,272

(*) 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 and Departure Orders

1 Outline

The number of foreign nationals against whom deportation procedures and departure orders (hereinafter, "deportation procedures, etc.") were enforced on account of violation of the Immigration Control Act was 15,875, a decrease of 3,511 (18.1%) compared with 2019. Of these, 6,874 were handed over to immigration inspectors as those subject to the departure order system. The number of foreign nationals violating the Immigration Control Act increased for the fifth consecutive year since 2016, partially because the number of new entries increasing due to the implementation of visa exemption measures, followed by a growing number of overstayers. However, in 2020 that number began to decrease due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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 14,465 (91.1%), followed by criminal offenses at 504 (3.2%) and illegal entry at 225 (1.4%). 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 6,286 (39.6%), followed by China at 3,127 (19.7%) and Thailand at 1,410 (8.9%). These top three countries made up 68.2% 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	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	13,361	13,686	16,269	19,386	15,875
Illegal entry	599	577	409	349	225
Illegal landing	238	151	140	134	56
Activity other than those permitted	511	648	476	255	96
Overstay	11,198	11,502	14,353	17,627	14,465
Criminal offenses	432	470	460	448	504
Others	383	338	431	573	529
Illegal worker	9,003	9,134	10,086	12,816	10,993

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

(People)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	13,361	13,686	16,269	19,386	15,875
Viet Nam	2,273	2,931	4,395	6,549	6,286
China	3,979	3,901	4,185	4,256	3,127
Thailand	1,770	2,096	2,101	2,295	1,410
The Philippines	1,452	1,310	1,692	1,566	1,225
Indonesia	1,059	727	850	1,246	1,059
Nepal	185	198	374	598	490
Brazil	268	232	275	285	316
R.O.Korea	599	440	353	324	242
Turkey	125	127	209	271	237
Sri Lanka	153	145	150	296	170
Others	1,498	1,579	1,685	1,700	1,313

(*) "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 2020, the number of illegal entrants^(*) was 225, accounting for 1.4%, a decrease of 124 (35.5%) compared to 2019. Looking at past

(*) 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.

records, the number increased from 2003 but started to decrease since 2006. The fact that the number of illegal entrants as a percentage of the total number of foreign nationals in violation of the Immigration Control Act is decreasing is one of the reasons to consider that the countermeasures to prevent illegal entry have been quite effective.

Accordingly to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number was from the Philippines at 82 (36.4%), followed by China at 43 (19.1%) and R.O. Korea at 19 (8.4%) (Reference 45).

According to the statistics by means of transportation used for illegal entry, the number of illegal entrants using aircraft was 198. Though it showed a decrease of 84 (29.8%) compared to 2019, the percentage of illegal entry using aircraft was still high at 88.0%. In addition, the number of illegal entrants using a vessel was 27, accounting for 12.0%, a decrease of 40 (59.7%) compared to 2019 (Reference 46, 47).

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

Nationality/Region \ Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	599	577	409	349	225
The Philippines	143	117	128	90	82
China	143	104	99	87	43
R.O.Korea	45	32	32	26	19
Thailand	21	20	23	13	13
Colombia	8	2	3	3	10
Iran	76	115	16	18	8
Indonesia	29	23	10	8	8
Sri Lanka	13	24	11	11	6
Nepal	4	2	5	3	6
United States of America	8	4	4	5	4
Others	109	134	78	85	26

(*) "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	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	488	482	332	282	198
The Philippines	138	114	122	86	80
China	67	48	52	50	30
R.O.Korea	23	17	13	12	12
Thailand	20	20	22	11	12
Colombia	8	2	3	3	10
Others	232	281	120	120	54

(*) "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	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	111	95	77	67	27
China	76	56	47	37	13
R.O.Korea	22	15	19	14	7
The Philippines	5	3	6	4	2
Russia	0	0	2	4	1
Thailand	1	0	1	2	1
Others	7	21	2	6	3

(*) "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 2020, 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 56 (0.4%), which was a decrease of 78 (58.2%) compared to 2019 ([Reference 48](#)).

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

(People)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	238	151	140	134	56
Russia	16	11	20	9	12
Turkey	82	34	33	22	11
United States of America	11	12	13	22	6
Ukraine	0	0	0	0	6
China	7	15	10	16	3
R.O.Korea	4	2	4	0	3
Canada	2	0	3	2	3
Others	116	77	57	63	12

(*) "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 2020, the number of those who overstayed the authorized period of stay was 14,465 (91.1%), which was a decrease of 3,162 (17.9%) compared to 2019 and still overwhelmingly high.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number was from Viet Nam at 5,956 (41.2%), followed by China at 2,857 (19.8%), Thailand at 1,375 (9.5%), Indonesia at 1,046 (7.2%), the Philippines at 1,018 (7.0%) ([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	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	11,198	11,502	14,353	17,627	14,465
Viet Nam	1,994	2,515	3,951	6,156	5,956
China	3,488	3,534	3,819	3,878	2,857
Thailand	1,699	2,017	2,018	2,259	1,375
Indonesia	935	619	806	1,208	1,046
The Philippines	1,157	961	1,401	1,344	1,018
Nepal	93	139	335	531	444
Turkey	40	86	170	238	222
R.O.Korea	473	358	269	274	201
Brazil	181	132	182	184	167
Sri Lanka	84	73	102	250	145
Others	1,054	1,068	1,300	1,305	1,034

(*) "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 2020, 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 96(0.6%), which was a decrease of 159 (62.4%) compared to 2019.

Accordingly to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number was from Viet Nam at 45 (46.9%), followed by the Philippines at 18 (18.8%) and Nepal at 12 (12.5%) , and these top three countries accounted for 78.1% 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	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	511	648	476	255	96
Viet Nam	154	280	234	134	45
The Philippines	24	124	39	18	18
Nepal	67	47	22	33	12
Cambodia	5	3	24	2	9
Czech	3	0	0	0	3
Others	258	194	157	68	9



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 2020, the number of those who were considered to be illegally working was 10,993 (69.2%). 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 53 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 4,943 (45.0%), followed by China at 2,361 (21.5%), Thailand at 1,254 (11.4%), Indonesia at 933 (8.5%) and the Philippines at 649 (5.9%). These top five countries represented 92.2% 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)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	9,003	9,134	10,086	12,816	10,993
Male	6,093	6,120	6,754	8,903	7,923
Female	2,910	3,014	3,332	3,913	3,070
Viet Nam	1,638	2,152	3,035	4,941	4,943
Male	1,246	1,657	2,259	3,766	3,801
Female	392	495	776	1,175	1,142
China	3,080	2,915	3,112	3,155	2,361
Male	2,130	1,982	2,170	2,188	1,693
Female	950	933	942	967	668
Thailand	1,536	1,855	1,868	2,047	1,254
Male	850	966	903	1,035	631
Female	686	889	965	1,012	623
Indonesia	819	588	594	1,014	933
Male	699	514	498	827	780
Female	120	74	96	187	153
The Philippines	830	711	660	764	649
Male	426	366	369	398	331
Female	404	345	291	366	318
Nepal	95	77	71	111	162
Male	76	52	52	92	126
Female	19	25	19	19	36
R.O.Korea	359	239	169	163	109
Male	167	118	69	76	56
Female	192	121	100	87	53
Uzbekistan	11	7	35	65	90
Male	11	7	34	64	89
Female	0	0	1	1	1
Sri Lanka	68	53	42	87	71
Male	67	48	41	81	65
Female	1	5	1	6	6
Turkey	4	18	28	51	69
Male	4	17	28	51	69
Female	0	1	0	0	0
Others	563	519	472	418	352
Male	417	393	331	325	282
Female	146	126	141	93	70

(*) "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 7,923 males (72.1%) and 3,070 females (27.9%).

(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 2,463 (22.4%), followed by construction workers at 2,272 (20.7%) and factory workers at 2,033 (18.5%).

In addition, according to the statistics by gender, the largest number of males worked as construction workers, followed by agricultural workers then factory workers, while the largest number of females worked as agricultural workers, followed by factory workers, and laborers ([Reference 52](#)).

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

(People)

Job Categories \ Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	9,003	9,134	10,086	12,816	10,993
Male	6,093	6,120	6,754	8,903	7,923
Female	2,910	3,014	3,332	3,913	3,070
Agricultural worker	2,215	2,501	2,504	2,904	2,463
Male	1,438	1,585	1,480	1,646	1,575
Female	777	916	1,024	1,258	888
Construction worker	1,713	1,548	1,835	2,569	2,272
Male	1,697	1,529	1,818	2,550	2,241
Female	16	19	17	19	31
Factory worker	1,410	1,411	1,875	2,454	2,033
Male	1,008	942	1,236	1,686	1,378
Female	402	469	639	768	655
Other labor worker	1,076	1,059	998	1,380	1,156
Male	837	811	794	1,089	862
Female	239	248	204	291	294
Worker in other service industry	453	495	589	647	493
Male	127	152	213	268	226
Female	326	343	376	379	267
Transport worker	133	152	139	266	305
Male	125	146	129	250	288
Female	8	6	10	16	17
Others	2,003	1,968	2,146	2,596	2,271
Male	861	955	1,084	1,414	1,353
Female	1,142	1,013	1,062	1,182	918

(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 1,512 (13.8%) as in 2019, followed by Chiba prefecture at 1,488 (13.5%), Aichi prefecture at 1,452 (13.2%), Tokyo at 1,428 (13.0%) and Saitama prefecture at 1,290 (11.7%) ([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 7,390 (67.2%), making up most of the total, and the number of illegal workers in the nine prefectures in the Chubu district (Niigata, Nagano, Yamanashi, Toyama, Ishikawa, Fukui, Shizuoka, Gifu and Aichi) was also at a high level of 2,012 (18.3%). Illegal foreign workers in the Kanto and Chubu districts making up 85.5% (9,402) 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	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	9,003	9,134	10,086	12,816	10,993
Ibaraki	2,038	2,213	1,975	2,126	1,512
Chiba	1,559	1,505	1,666	1,878	1,488
Aichi	891	811	912	1,606	1,452
Tokyo	1,187	1,184	1,437	1,551	1,428
Saitama	716	765	860	1,290	1,290
Gunma	453	453	456	826	851
Kanagawa	602	446	556	625	534
Osaka	226	294	317	464	459
Tochigi	224	195	274	305	287
Hyogo	131	112	209	297	230
Others	976	1,156	1,424	1,848	1,462

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 2020 was 16,410, a decrease of 3,443 (17.3%) compared to 2019 ([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

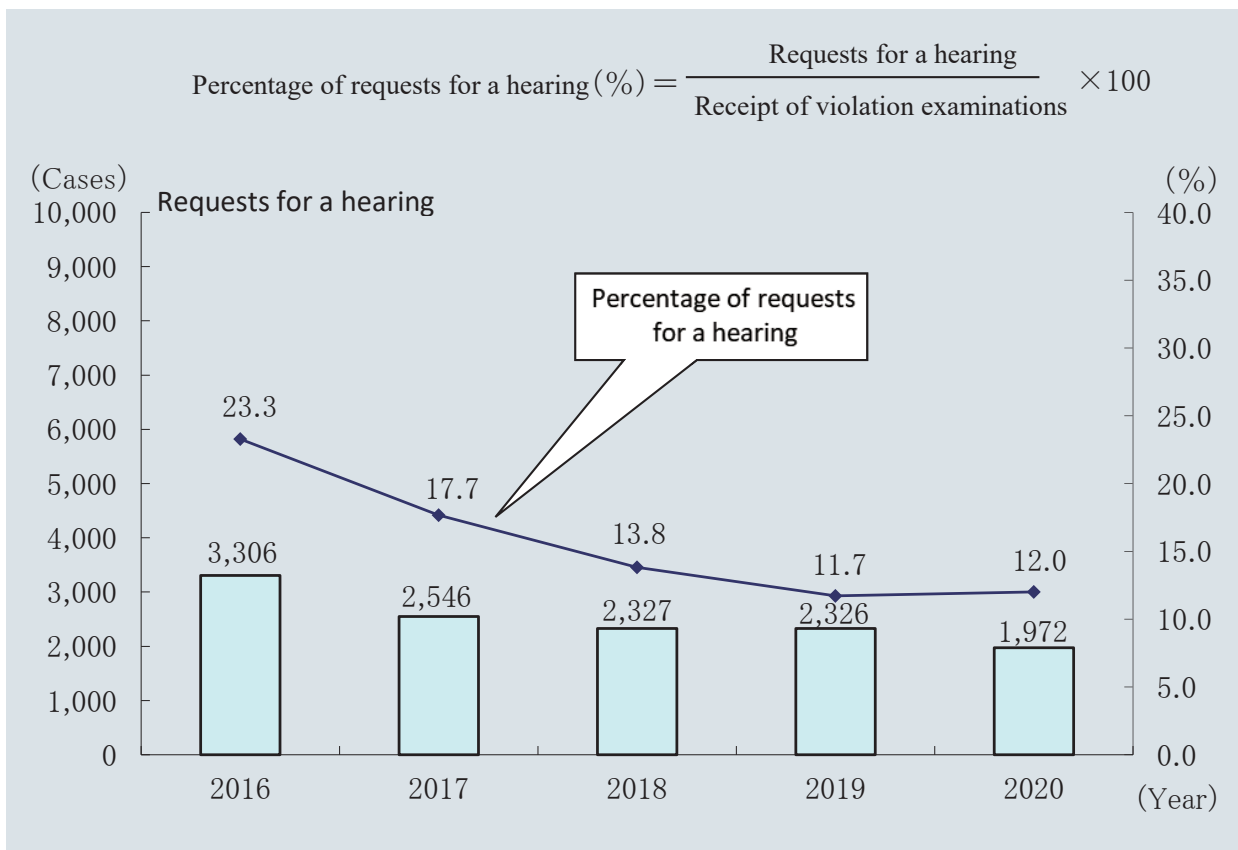
(Cases)

Division		Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Violation examination by immigration inspector	Receipt		14,198 (484)	14,407 (414)	16,827 (402)	19,853 (370)	16,410 (393)	
	Completed	Found not to fall under one of the reasons for deportation		3	2	1	0	2
		Issuance of written deportation order		6,008	6,723	7,736	8,306	5,372
		Request for hearing		3,306	2,546	2,327	2,326	1,972
		Issuance of written departure order		4,101	4,423	6,223	8,702	6,898
		Not completed, others		780	713	540	519	2,166
Hearing by special inquiry officer	Receipt		3,945 (568)	3,273 (653)	2,946 (547)	3,040 (651)	2,631 (616)	
	Completed	Error in the findings		0	1	0	0	1
		Issuance of written deportation order		145	159	114	95	60
		Filing of an objection		3,078	2,522	2,128	2,256	1,832
		Issuance of written departure order		0	0	0	0	0
	Not completed, others		722	591	704	689	738	
Decision of the Minister of Justice	Receipt		3,478 (376)	3,352 (818)	2,966 (822)	2,819 (544)	2,368 (518)	
	Completed	Objection with reason		1	1	0	0	0
		Objection without reason		2,588	2,415	2,331	2,211	1,916
		Issuance of written departure order		0	0	0	0	0
	Not completed, others		889	936	635	608	452	

(*) 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 2020 was 1,972 accounting for 12.0% of the total number of cases which underwent an examination of the violation, a decrease of 354 (15.2%) compared to 2019 ([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 1,832 in 2020, a decrease of 424 (18.8%) compared to 2019 (Reference 54).

(2) Issuance of a Written Deportation Order

The number of written deportation orders issued in 2020 was 5,903. According to the statistics by ground for deportation, the cases of overstay amounted to 4,604, accounting for 78.0% of the total, while the percentage of cases of illegal entry amounted to 132, accounting for 2.2% of the total (Reference 56).

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

Grounds for Deportation	(Cases)					
	Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total		7,241	8,130	8,865	9,218	5,903
Overstay		4,981	5,872	6,658	7,434	4,604
Illegal entry		495	503	365	256	132
Illegal landing		233	140	93	127	41
Activity other than those permitted		497	644	480	254	96
Criminal offenses		428	411	426	147	154
Others		607	560	843	1,000	876

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number was from Viet Nam at 2,494, accounting for 42.2% of the total, followed by China at 1,097 (18.6%) and Thailand at 405 (6.9%) ([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 2020 was 3,375, an increase of 2,323 (220.8%) compared to 2019. The number of foreign nationals detained under a written deportation order who were granted provisional release was 3,013, an increase of 2,288 (315.6%) compared to 2019 ([Reference 58](#)).

Reference 58 Changes in the number of cases of permission for provisional release

(Cases)

Type of Order \ Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
By written detention order	1,491	922	812	1,052	3,375
By written deportation order	1,160	822	523	725	3,013

(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 2020 was 1,478, an increase of 30 (2.1%) when compared to 2019.

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 2020 was staying beyond the authorized period of stay at 1,142 (77.3%), followed by illegal entry and illegal landing at 104(7.0%). Overstaying, illegal entry and illegal landing accounted for 84.3% 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)

Grounds for Deportation \ Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	1,552	1,255	1,371	1,448	1,478
Overstay	1,106	868	970	1,051	1,142
Illegal entry/Illegal landing	130	128	143	128	104
Criminal offenses etc.	316	259	258	269	232

According to statistics by nationality/region in 2020, the largest number of foreign nationals who were granted special permission to stay in Japan came from the Philippines at 391 (26.5%), followed by Viet Nam at 202 (13.7%), China at 175 (11.8%), R.O. Korea/Korea combined at 83 (5.6%), and Thailand at 71 (4.8%) ([Reference 60](#)).

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

(Cases)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	1,552	1,255	1,371	1,448	1,478
The Philippines	413	270	349	411	391
Viet Nam	84	101	102	76	202
China	284	210	248	242	175
R.O.Korea/Korea	166	125	115	108	83
Thailand	79	72	63	62	71
Others	526	477	494	549	556

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

5 Outline of Deportation of Foreign Nationals

The number of deportees in 2020 was 5,450, which was a decrease of 4,147 (43.2%) when compared to 2019, due to the impact of COVID-19.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of deportees was from Viet Nam at 2,206 (40.5%), followed by China at 980 (18.0%), Thailand at 382 (7.0%),

the Philippines at 382 (7.0%), and Indonesia at 295 (5.4%) ([Reference 61](#)).

Reference 61 Changes in the number of deportees by nationality/region

(People)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	7,014	8,145	9,369	9,597	5,450
Viet Nam	1,412	2,038	2,698	3,185	2,206
China	2,058	1,954	2,152	1,998	980
Thailand	914	1,224	1,167	1,003	382
The Philippines	618	705	893	737	382
Indonesia	561	549	532	639	295
Nepal	113	196	198	275	197
Sri Lanka	115	127	148	212	141
Turkey	62	70	116	195	111
R.O.Korea	288	248	209	162	106
Brazil	74	94	124	133	72
Others	799	940	1,132	1,058	578

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

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



Deportation

Reference 62 Changes in the number of deportees by means of deportation

(People)

Measure of Deportation \ Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	7,014	8,145	9,369	9,597	5,450
Voluntary departure	6,575	7,622	8,755	8,967	4,705
Deportation in accordance with Article 59	63	68	69	72	27
Individual deportation at the expense of the government	308	385	470	516	665
Group deportation at the expense of the government	30	43	47	0	44
Others	0	0	0	1	1
Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons	38	27	28	41	8

(*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 4,705 (86.3%), which was a decrease of 4,262 (47.5%) when compared to 2019 ([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	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	6,575	7,622	8,755	8,967	4,705
Viet Nam	1,358	1,968	2,600	3,147	1,726
China	2,015	1,912	2,093	1,925	931
Thailand	909	1,185	1,156	996	380
The Philippines	578	653	801	648	369
Indonesia	552	530	511	629	281
Nepal	96	178	174	248	177
Turkey	37	59	101	154	103
R.O.Korea	267	229	192	146	100
Sri Lanka	77	98	121	181	95
Uzbekistan	4	5	53	76	67
Others	682	805	953	817	476

(*) "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 709 (13.0%) in 2020, which was an increase of 193 (37.4%) compared to 2019 ([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 2020 was 27 (0.5%), a decrease of 45 (62.5%) compared to 2019 ([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 6,874 in 2020, accounting for 43.3 % of the total number of foreign nationals in violation of the Immigration Control Act.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number was from Viet Nam at 2,739 (39.8%), followed by China at 1,625 (23.6%), Thailand at 748 (10.9%), Indonesia at 712 (10.4%) and the Philippines 376 (5.5%), and these top five countries accounted for 90.2% of the total ([Reference 64](#)).

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

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

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

(People)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	4,094	4,410	6,245	8,713	6,874
Viet Nam	629	867	1,677	3,249	2,739
China	1,695	1,714	1,877	2,081	1,625
Thailand	765	839	896	1,232	748
Indonesia	257	240	360	634	712
The Philippines	322	289	672	565	376
Nepal	23	49	215	352	252
Turkey	0	11	31	55	73
R.O.Korea	154	116	86	84	54
Uzbekistan	9	8	89	73	45
Sri Lanka	15	17	31	79	37
Others	225	260	311	309	213

(*) “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 2020 was 6,874, accounting for 41.9% of the total number of cases of examination of the violation. This represented a decrease of 1,839 (21.1%) when compared to 2019.

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 6,898 in 2020.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number was from Viet Nam at 2,761, accounting for 40.0% of the total, followed by China at 1,634 (23.7%), Thailand at 749 (10.9%), Indonesia at 710 (10.3%), and the Philippines at 377 (5.5%), and the top five countries accounted for 90.3% of the total ([Reference 65](#)).

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

(Cases)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	4,101	4,423	6,223	8,702	6,898
Viet Nam	627	872	1,668	3,242	2,761
China	1,701	1,721	1,872	2,079	1,634
Thailand	766	841	894	1,233	749
Indonesia	256	236	356	633	710
The Philippines	326	288	671	562	377
Nepal	23	50	215	351	252
Turkey	0	11	31	56	68
R.O.Korea/Korea	154	117	86	84	54
Uzbekistan	9	8	88	73	45
Myanmar	7	50	39	32	36
Sri Lanka	15	18	31	79	36
Others	217	211	272	278	176

(*) "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 2020, the total number of applicants who applied for recognition of refugee status in Japan was 3,936, which was a decrease of 6,439 (62.1%) when compared to 2019 (Reference 66).

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

		(People)				
Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Applications	10,901	19,629	10,493	10,375	3,936	

The number of nationalities/regions of the applicants was 67, and the major nationalities/regions from which applicants came were in descending order: Turkey at 836 (21.2%), Myanmar at 602 (15.3%), Nepal at 466 (11.8%), Cambodia at 414 (10.5%), Sri Lanka at 370 (9.4%), Pakistan at 326 (8.3%), Bangladesh at 266 (6.8%), India at 130 (3.3%), Senegal at 53 (1.3%), and Cameroon at 48 (1.2%).

The applicants at the time of their applications were composed of 3,721 (94.5%) legal residents and 215 (5.5%) illegal residents.

Among the applicants, 415 applicants accounting for 10.5% had applied for recognition of refugee status in the past. These applicants comprised 291 legal residents and 124 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 2020 was 5,439, a decrease of 1,692 (23.7%) compared to 2019. The number of applicants who were recognized as refugees was 46^(*) while the number of applicants who were denied recognition of refugee status was 3,477. The number of applicants who withdrew their applications and others was 1,916.

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 44 foreign nationals were permitted to stay in 2020 (Reference 67).

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

(People)

Division		Year	1978~2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Refugee Status	Recognized as a treaty refugee		660	28	20	42	44	47
	Refugees for resettlement		11,424	18	29	22	20	0
Other asylum			2,446	97	45	40	37	44
Total			14,530	143	94	104	101	91

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

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

(*3) The number of "Other asylum" is persons not recognized as refugees but permitted to reside in Japan for humanitarian reasons (those who have received special permission to stay in Japan by the Minister of Justice or permission to change their status of residence under 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 15 in 2020, a decrease of 10 (40.0%) compared to 2019.

The number of those who underwent an examination as to whether or not they should be granted permission for provisional stay was 440. The major reasons for decisions not granting permission were as follows^(*):

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

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

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

months from the date of landing in Japan (in the case of those for whom the grounds for being a refugee had arisen during their stay in Japan, the date such fact became known to them): 245 persons.

- (ii) There had been reasonable grounds to believe that the foreign national will flee: 193 persons.
- (iii) Applicants had already received a deportation order: 94 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 ^(*) of a disposition denying recognition of refugee status in 2020 was 2,573, and this was a decrease of 2,557 (49.8%) compared with 2019 (Reference 68).

Reference 68 Changes in the number of appeals, and determinations of the Minister of Justice (People)

Division \ Year		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Not recognized as a refugee		7,492	9,736	10,541	4,936	3,477
Appeal		5,197	8,530	9,021	5,130	2,573
Processing	With reason	2	1	4	1	1
	Without reason	2,112	3,084	6,013	6,021	5,271
	Withdrawn, etc.	822	1,306	2,154	2,269	1,203

2 Processing of the Appeal

The number of the appeals processed in 2020 was 6,475, a decrease of 1,816 (21.9%) compared with 2019. The breakdown included 1 person (1 in the previous year) whose appeals were found to be with reasonable grounds (one who was recognized as a refugee), 5,271 persons (6,021 in the previous year) whose appeals were found to be without any reasonable grounds, and 1,203 persons (2,269 in the previous year) who withdrew their appeals (Reference 68).

Section 3 Application and Processing of Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge

In 2020, 7 foreign nationals applied for landing permission for temporary refuge (hereinafter referred to as “temporary refuge landing permission”) in Japan, which was a decrease of 29

(*) 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.

compared to 2019. The breakdown for the processing of the applications was 1 case given permission, 7 cases denied permission and 7 cases withdrawn, etc.

Reference 69 Changes in the number of applications for Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge

(People)

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Applications	110	98	55	36	7
Permission	1	2	2	1	1
Disapproval	104	94	49	31	7
Withdrawn, etc.	4	3	4	2	0

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

Reference 70 Processing status of applications for Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge (2020)

(People)

Nationality	Applications Total	Breakdown of disposal			
		Permission	Disapproval	Termination/ Withdrawn	Discontinuance
Yemen	1	0	3	0	0
Iran	3	0	3	0	0
Cameroon	1	0	1	0	0
Syria	1	0	0	0	0
South Sudan	1	1	0	0	0
Total	7	1	7	0	0

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

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

Section 1 Measures Against Trafficking in Persons

1 Measures Against Trafficking in Persons

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

The Japanese government formulated the “Action Plan for Measures against Trafficking in Persons” through the relevant ministries and agencies in December 2004 and the “Action Plan for Measures against Trafficking in Persons 2009” through the Ministerial Conference for Measures against Crime in December 2009, and the entire government has been promoting measures up to this point. The “Action Plan for Measures against Trafficking in Persons 2014” was formulated through the same Conference in December 2014 in order to work on more powerful, comprehensive and all-encompassing measures against human trafficking. In June 2021, the “Conference for the Promotion of Measures against Trafficking in Persons” comprising the competent ministers in charge of measures against human trafficking held its seventh 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 8 in 2020 (12 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 12 victims came from the Philippines).

The number of victims who had a status of residence out of the total of 8 victims was 1 person (7 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 7 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 (2020)

(People)

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	1	7(7)	8
Total	1	7(7)	8

(*1) The breakdown by status of residence of foreign nationals previously in possession of a status of residence was “Intra-company Transferee”, 1 person.

(*2) The type of violation of the foreign nationals granted special permission to stay was “illegal overstaying”, 7 persons.

(*3) The breakdown by the status of residence, before overstaying the authorized period of stay was “Temporary Visitor”, 7 persons.

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

(People)

Breakdown	Year	2005	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total		115	21	20	9	12	8
Foreign nationals previously in possession of a status of residence		68	11	10	4	7	1
Violators of the Immigration Control Act (Special permission to stay in Japan)		47(47)	10(10)	10(10)	5(5)	5(5)	7(7)

3 Foreign Nationals Deported for Committing Trafficking in Persons^(*1)

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 2020 (0 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”^(*2) 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

(*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.

further protect the victim by cooperating with the Spousal Violence Counseling and Support Center, the Women's Consulting Offices, police and other related organizations.

2 Number of Recognized Foreign Domestic Violence Victims

The 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 2020 was 110 ([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 (2020)

(People)

Nationality/Region	Division	Residence Procedures	Deportation Procedures	Consultations	Others	Total
The Philippines		35	0	8	1	44
China		7	0	5	1	13
Brazil		6	0	2	0	8
Viet Nam		5	0	1	1	7
Peru		4	0	1	1	6
Nepal		1	0	1	2	4
Indonesia		2	0	0	0	2
R.O.Korea		2	0	0	0	2
Sri Lanka		1	0	1	0	2
Pakistan		1	0	1	0	2
United States of America		2	0	0	0	2
Azerbaijan		1	0	0	0	1
Afghanistan		1	0	0	0	1
Iran		0	0	0	1	1
Ukraine		0	0	1	0	1
Australia		1	0	0	0	1
Cambodia		1	0	0	0	1
Congo (DRC)		1	0	0	0	1
Syria		1	0	0	0	1
Thailand		1	0	0	0	1
Taiwan		0	0	0	1	1
Germany		1	0	0	0	1
Nigeria		0	0	1	0	1
Poland		1	0	0	0	1
Bolivia		0	0	1	0	1
Malaysia		0	0	1	0	1
Myanmar		1	0	0	0	1
Rumania		1	0	0	0	1
Russia		1	0	0	0	1
Total		78	0	24	8	110

(*) "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 bureau

(People)

Year	Regional Immigration Bureaus	Sapporo	Sendai	Tokyo	Nagoya	Osaka	Hiroshima	Takamatsu	Fukuoka	Total
2018		0	4	54	25	14	5	0	6	108
2019		0	4	33	22	13	1	3	6	82
2020		3	5	42	25	18	6	0	11	110

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