

Part I

Immigration Control and Residency Management in Recent Years

- Chapter 1 Foreign Nationals Entering and Departing from Japan
- Chapter 2 Japanese Nationals Departing from and Returning to Japan
- Chapter 3 Foreign Nationals Residing in Japan
- Chapter 4 Situation of Implementation of Technical Intern Training Program and Specified Skilled Worker System
- Chapter 5 Deportation Procedures for Foreign Nationals
- Chapter 6 Recognition of Refugee Status, etc.
- Chapter 7 Measures Against Trafficking in Persons and Protection of Foreign Victims of Domestic Violence

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

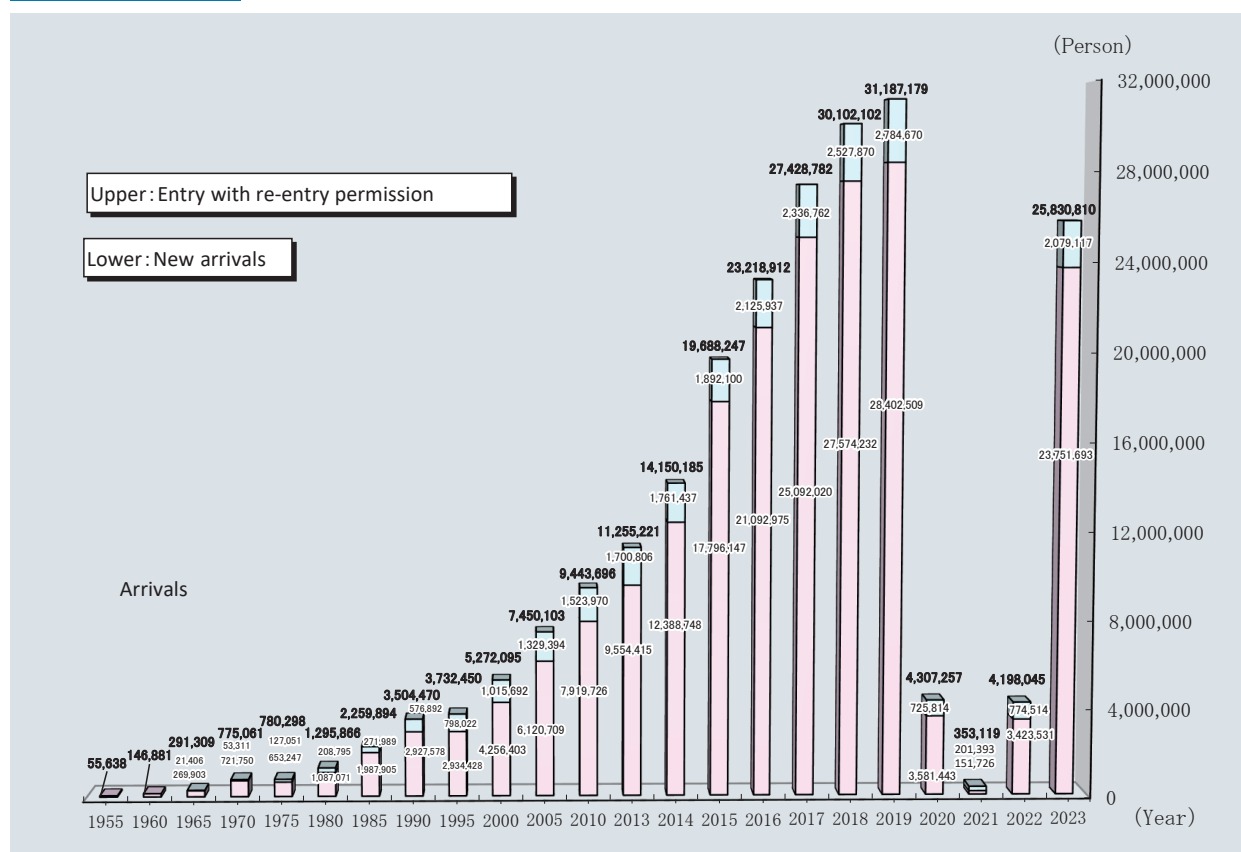
(1) Number of Foreign Nationals Entering

The number of foreign nationals entering Japan was only about 18,000 in 1950 when Japan started recording the statistics relating to immigration control. The number exceeded 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 2023 was 25,830,810, a drastic increase of 21,632,765 (515.3%) from the previous year.

Of the foreign nationals entering Japan in 2023, the number of new entrants was 23,751,693, which was an increase of 203,28,162 (593.8%) from the previous year, while the number of foreign nationals re-entering Japan was 2,079,117, which was an increase of 1,304,603 (168.4%) from the previous year.

From March 2022, the number of foreign nationals entering Japan has recovered to 83.6% of that in 2019 before the COVID-19 pandemic. This is because the number of international commercial flights and voyages, which fell sharply in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, has recovered thanks to the government's measures, such as easing immigration restrictions and gradually lifting the cap on the number of people entering Japan ([Reference 1](#)).

Reference 1 Changes in the number of foreign nationals entering Japan

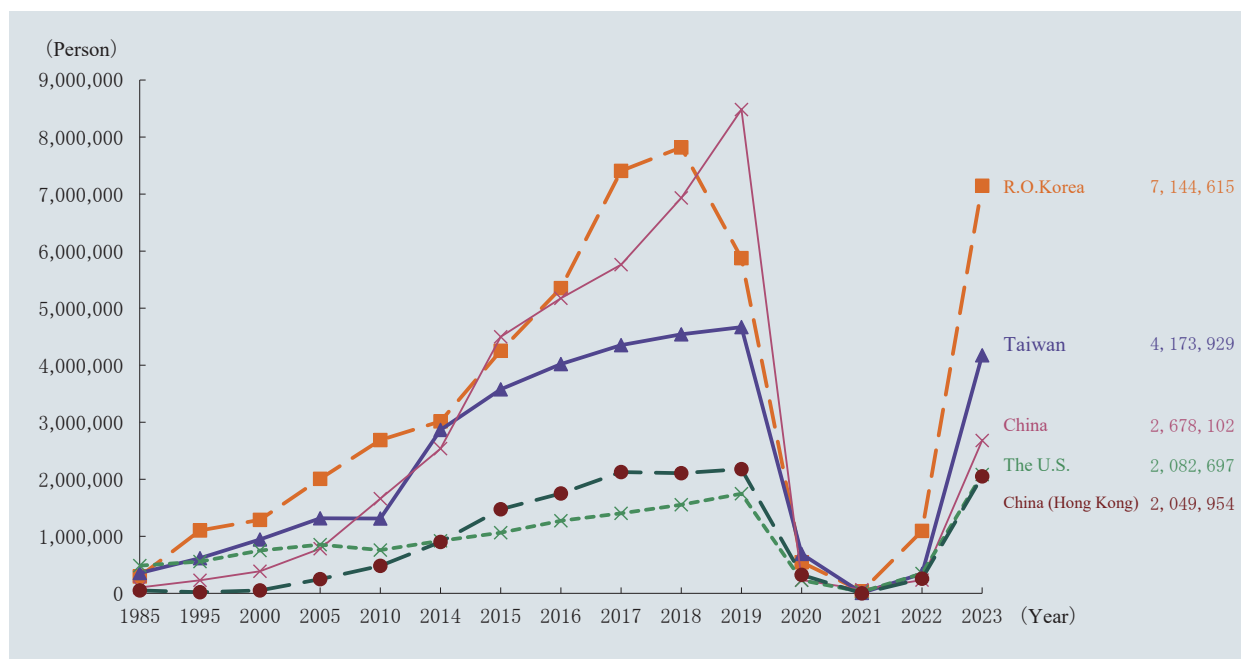


(2) Number of Foreign Nationals Entering Japan by Nationality/Region

According to the statistics for the number of foreign nationals entering Japan in 2023 by nationality/region, the largest number of foreign nationals came from Republic of Korea (R.O. Korea) at 7,144,615, accounting for 27.7% of the total. Republic of Korea (R.O. Korea) was followed by Taiwan at 4,173,929 (16.2%), China at 2,678,102 (10.4%), the U.S. at 2,082,697 (8.1%) and China (Hong Kong) at 2,049,954 (7.9%)^(※).

These top five countries accounted for 70.2% of the total ([Reference 2](#)).

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



(※) 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 an 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).”

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 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.”

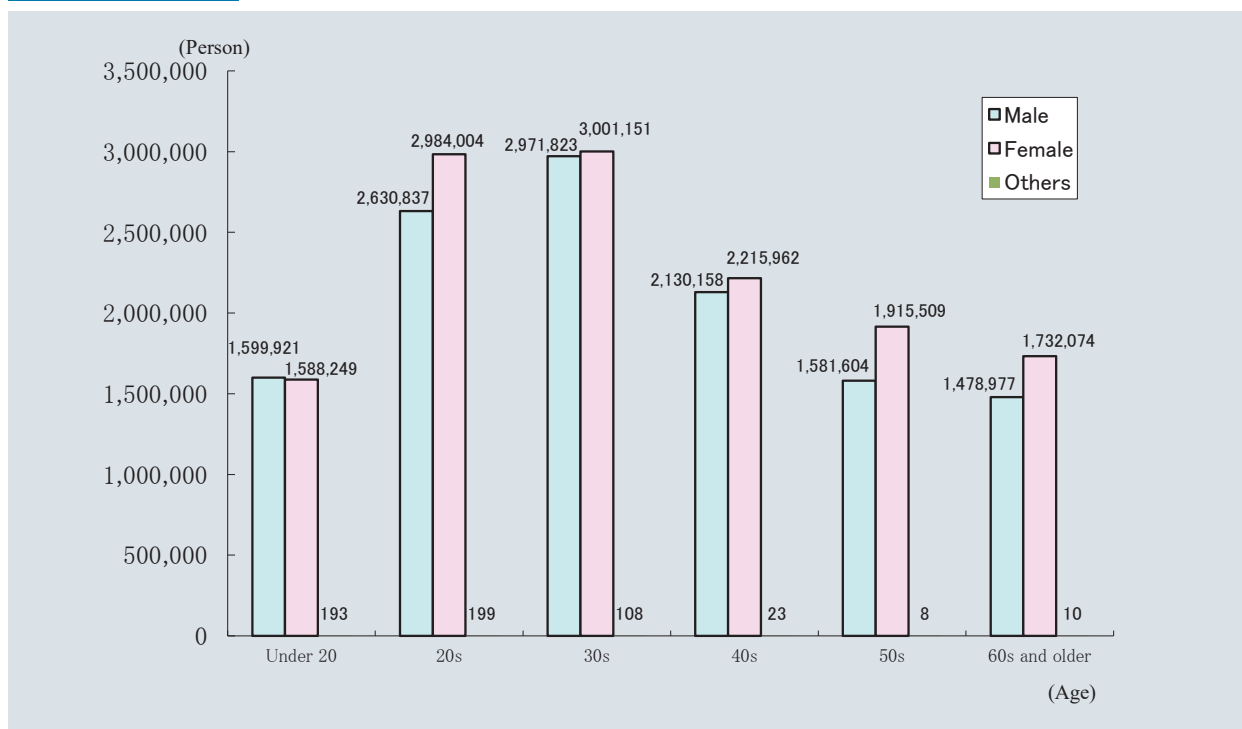
Moreover, China (others) includes persons of Chinese nationality with a certificate of identity issued by a government except for the governments of China and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (for example, Macao Special Administrative Region).

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

As for the number of foreign nationals entering Japan in 2023 by gender, 12,393,320 were males, 13,436,949 were females, and 541 did not specify their gender when entering Japan.

Next, according to the statistics by age, foreign nationals in their 30s represented the largest age group, accounting for 23.1% of the total ([Reference 3](#)).

Reference 3 Number of foreign nationals entering Japan by gender and age (2023)



(4) Number of Foreign Nationals Entering Japan by Purpose of Entry (Status of Residence)

As for the number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan in 2023 by purpose of entry (status of residence), the most common status of residence was “Temporary Visitor” at 23,132,035, which accounted for 97.4% of the total number, followed by “Technical Intern Training” at 183,030 (0.8%), “Student” at 139,574 (0.6%), and “Dependent” at 47,989 (0.2%) ([Reference 4](#)).

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

Status of Residence \ Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	28,402,509	3,581,443	151,726	3,423,531	23,751,693
Diplomat	12,206	2,120	2,109	4,849	7,300
Official	42,934	3,708	1,973	11,811	26,544
Professor	3,185	992	921	2,645	2,423
Artist	474	117	13	280	378
Religious Activities	949	329	45	1,280	783
Journalist	69	29	19	44	30
Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(a)	37	26	16	55	40
Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(b)	624	354	74	1,225	1,386
Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(c)	118	76	18	393	947
Highly-Skilled Professional (ii)	0	0	0	0	0
Business Manager	2,237	1,537	474	4,346	5,295
Legal/Accounting Services	5	2	1	8	5
Medical Services	58	38	19	57	82
Researcher	364	155	89	364	253
Instructor	3,463	1,280	2,757	3,041	3,454
Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/ International Services	43,880	19,705	2,532	35,711	43,787
Intra-company Transferee	9,964	3,188	497	7,798	8,443
Nursing Care	4	23	3	42	55
Entertainer	45,486	7,218	1,570	24,404	33,646
Skilled Labor	4,355	1,729	388	4,075	5,269
Specified Skilled Worker (i)	563	3,760	1,093	20,418	43,626
Specified Skilled Worker (ii)	0	0	0	0	0
Technical Intern Training (i)-(a)	6,300	1,652	218	3,575	4,008
Technical Intern Training (i)-(b)	167,405	74,804	21,899	163,882	169,774
Technical Intern Training (ii)-(a)	8	2	0	8	3
Technical Intern Training (ii)-(b)	183	116	23	120	190
Technical Intern Training (iii)-(a)	226	63	3	148	138
Technical Intern Training (iii)-(b)	14,750	7,189	1,280	11,299	8,917
Cultural Activities	3,793	815	202	2,784	2,850
Temporary Visitor	27,810,548	3,360,831	71,771	2,861,731	23,132,035
Student	121,637	49,748	11,651	167,128	139,574
Trainee	12,985	2,392	179	3,859	10,731
Dependent	31,788	17,056	11,313	47,389	47,989
Designated Activities	31,712	7,381	3,508	10,006	23,523
Permanent Resident		166	1,861	4,225	4,260
Spouse or Child of Japanese National	10,694	6,306	7,356	9,143	7,965
Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident	1,990	1,151	1,174	1,760	2,467
Long-Term Resident	17,515	5,385	4,677	13,628	13,523

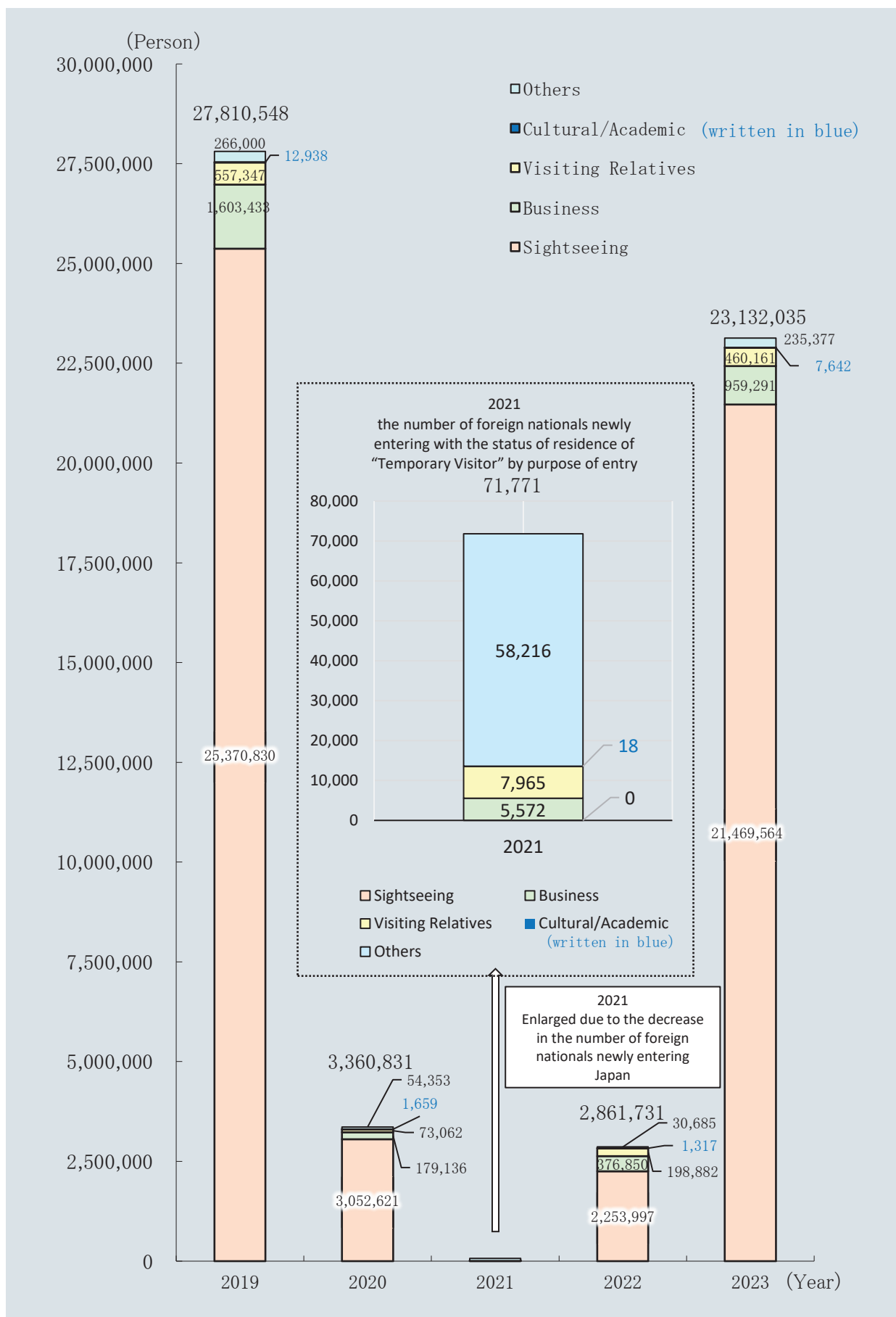
(*1) The status of residence of "Specified Skilled Worker (i) and (ii)" was newly established on April 1, 2019.

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

A. “Temporary Visitor”

In 2023, the most common purpose of entry for new entrants with a “Temporary Visitor” status was “sightseeing” with 21,469,564 people (92.8%), followed by “business” with 959,291 (4.1%) and “visiting relatives” with 460,161 (2.0%) ([Reference 5](#)).

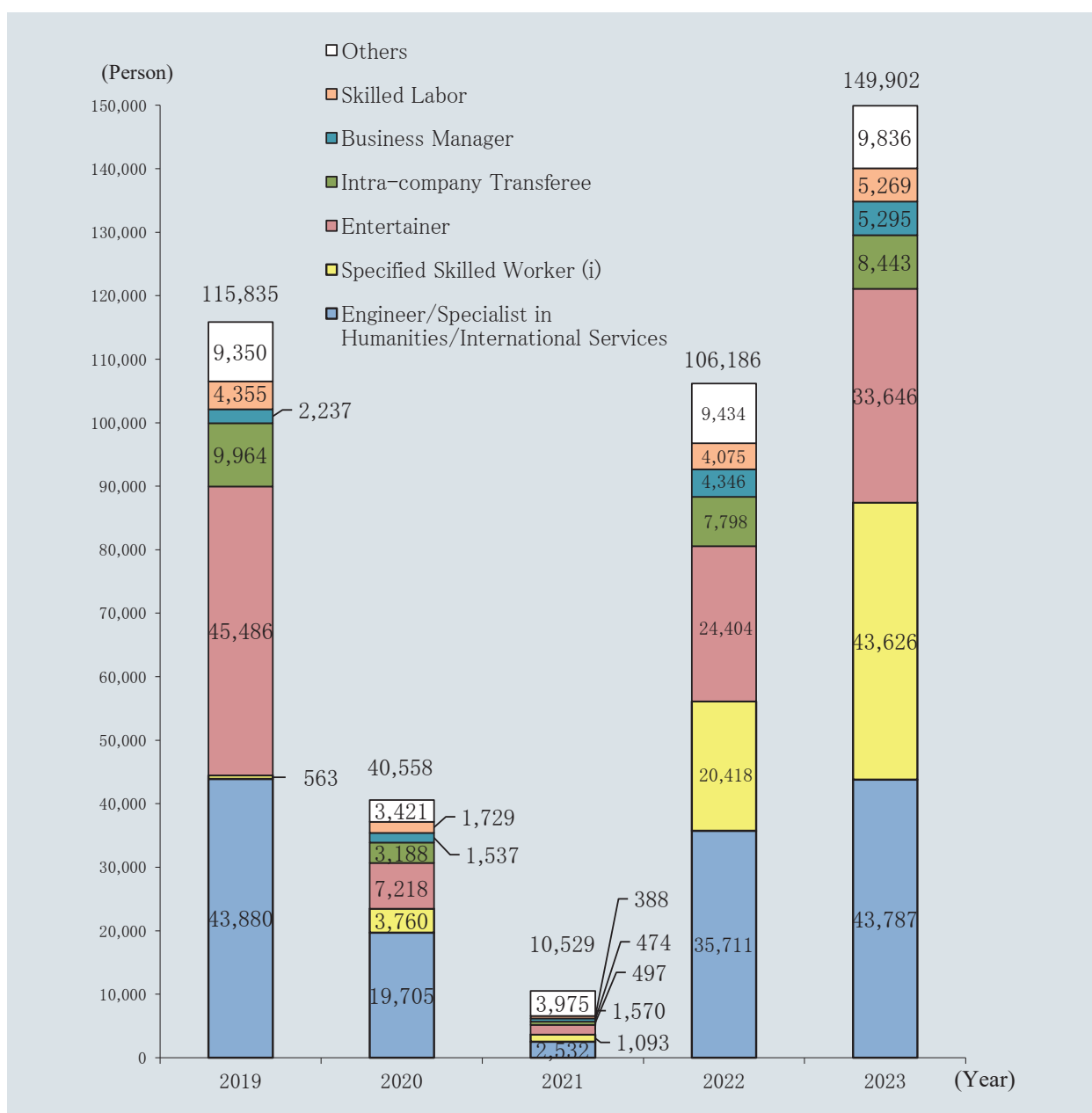
Reference 5 Changes in the number of foreign nationals newly entering with the status of residence of "Temporary Visitor" by purpose of entry



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

The number of newly entering foreign nationals with a status of residence for employment in professional or technical fields (excluding the statuses of residence of “Diplomat,” “Official” and “Technical Intern Training” in the Appended Tables I (1) and I (2) of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act (hereinafter referred to as “Immigration Control Act”)) in 2023 was 149,902, an increase of 43,716 (41.2%) compared to the previous year ([Reference 6](#)).

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



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

The number of newly entering foreign nationals with a status of residence for employment in professional or technical fields in Japan accounted for 0.63% of the total number of newly entering foreign nationals in 2023.

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”

In 2023, the total number of newly entering foreign nationals with a status of residence corresponding to foreign employees working in companies/organizations in Japan was 52,230, and it consists of two types of statuses of residence: 43,787 with the status of residence of “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services” and 8,443 with the status of residence of “Intra-company Transferee.” Compared to the previous year, foreign employees with the former status increased by 8,076 (22.6%), and those with the latter status increased by 645 (8.3%).

(b) “Specified Skilled Worker (i)”

In 2023, the number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Specified Skilled Worker (i)” was 43,626, an increase of 23,208 (113.7%) compared to the previous year.

(c) “Entertainer”

In 2023, the number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Entertainer” was 33,646, an increase of 9,242 (37.9%) compared to the previous year.

(d) “Business/Management”

In 2023, the number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Business/Management” was 5,295, an increase of 949 (21.8%) compared to the previous year.

(e) “Skilled Labor”

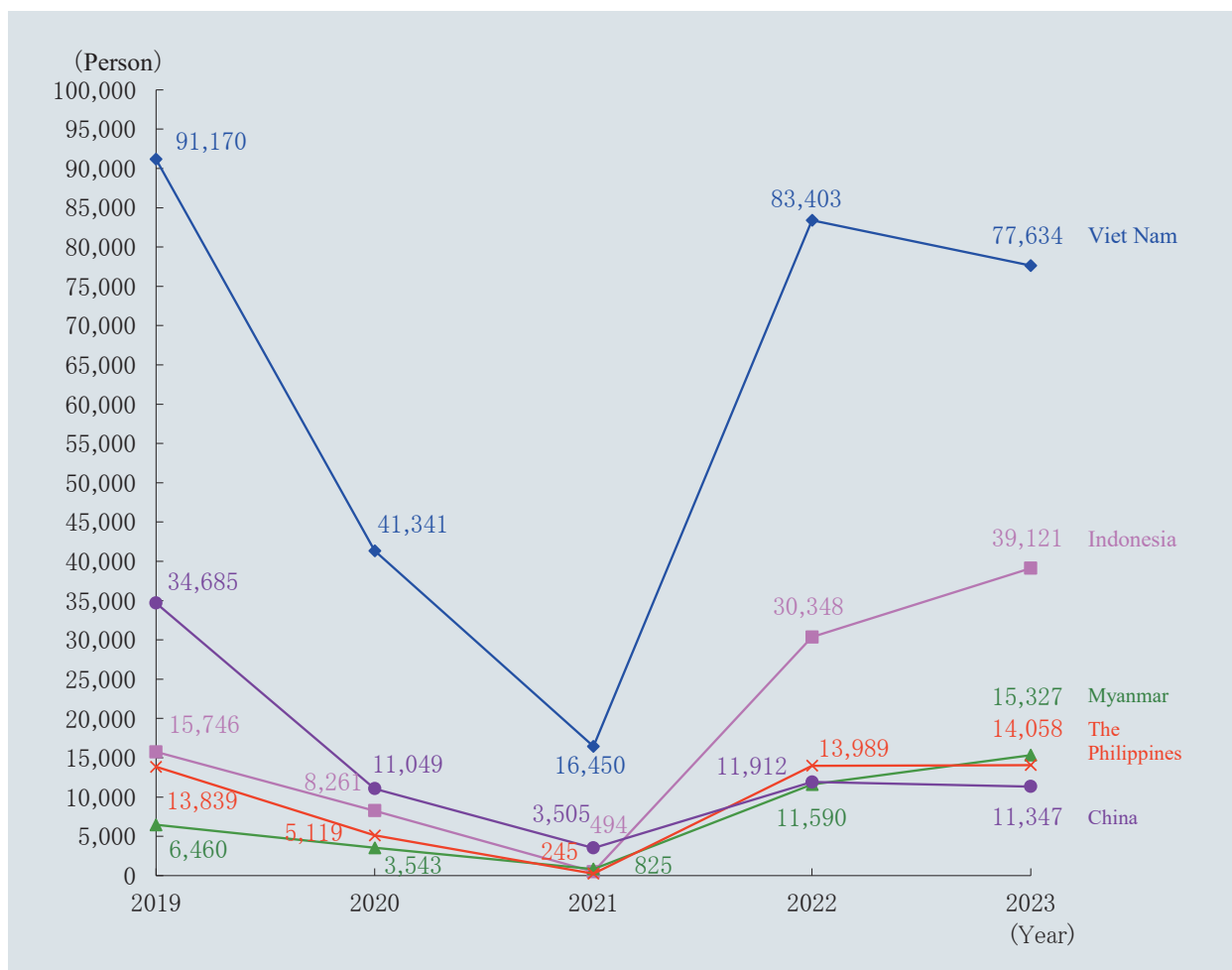
In 2023, the number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Skilled Labor,” which is granted to workers and the like who are skilled in industrial fields unique to foreign countries, was 5,269, an increase of 1,194 (29.3%) compared to the previous year.

C. “Technical Intern Training (i)”

The number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Technical Intern Training (i)” was 173,782 in 2023, an increase of 6,325 (3.8%) compared to the previous year.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of newly entering foreign nationals with this status of residence came from Viet Nam at 77,634 (44.7%), followed by Indonesia at 39,121 (22.5%), Myanmar at 15,327 (8.8%), the Philippines at 14,058 (8.1%), and China at 1,347 (6.5%) ([Reference 7](#)).

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

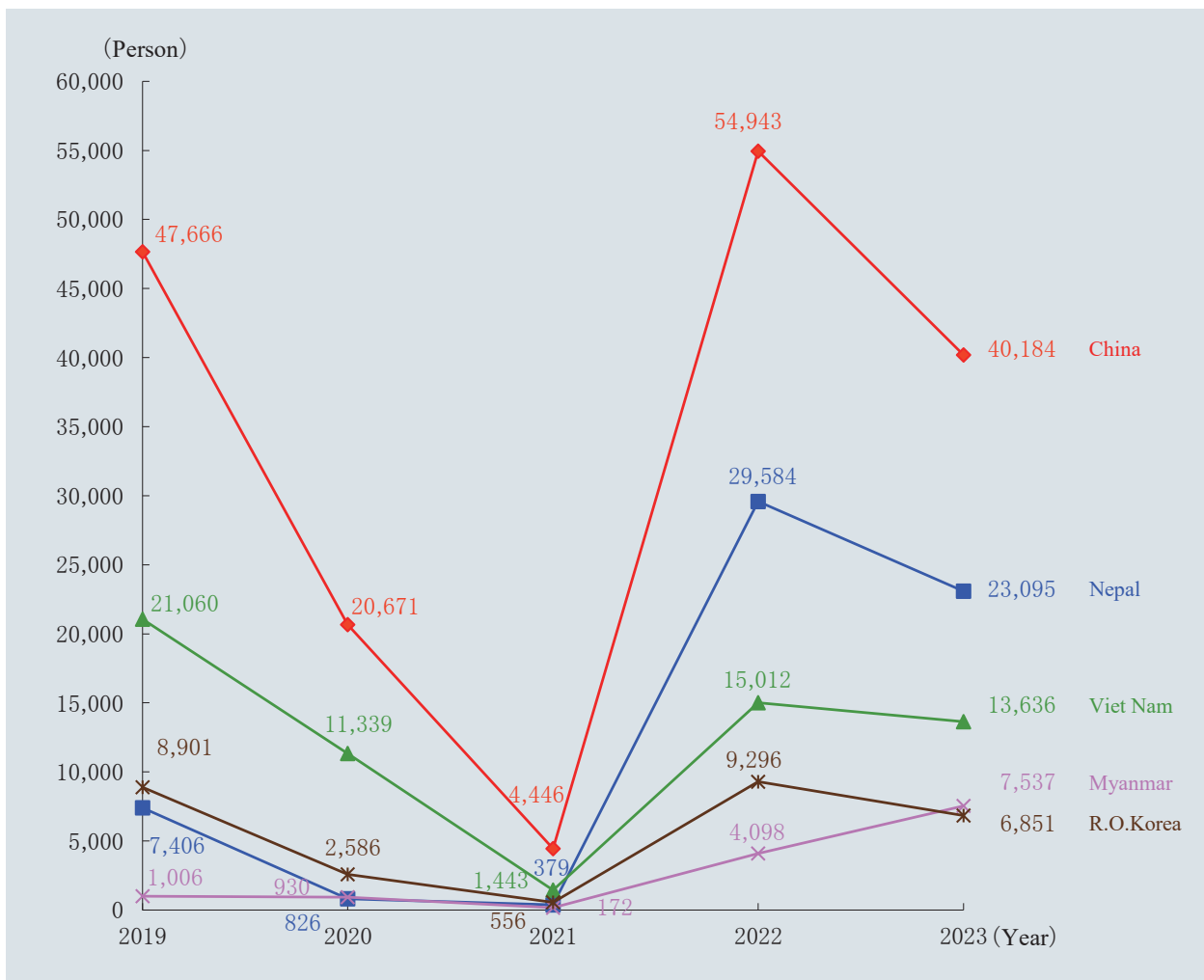


D. “Student”

In 2023, the number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Student” was 139,574, a decrease of 27,554 (16.5%) compared to the previous year, with students from Asia accounting for the top five countries/regions (65.4%).

In terms of nationality/region, China stood at 40,184, accounting for 28.8% of the total, followed by Nepal at 23,095 (16.5%), Viet Nam at 13,636 (9.8%), Myanmar at 7,537 (5.4%), and R.O. Korea at 6,851 (4.9%) ([Reference 8](#)).

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



E. Foreign Nationals Entering Japan with a Status of Residence for Resident Activities Based on Personal Status or Position

In 2023, the number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” stood at 7,965, and those with the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident” stood at 2,467. Compared to the previous year, those with the former status decreased by 1,178 (12.9%), and those with the latter status increased by 707 (40.2%).

The number of foreign nationals newly entering with the status of residence of “Long-Term Resident” in 2023 had decreased by 105 (0.8%) to 13,523 compared to the previous year ([Reference 9](#)).

As a general rule, the status of residence of “Permanent Resident” is excluded from statuses of residence determined when landing permission was given (Article 7, paragraph (1), item (ii) of the Immigration Control Act). Permanent residents who could not re-enter Japan within the valid period of their re-entry permission or special re-entry permission due to the COVID-19 pandemic were allowed to newly enter Japan with their status of residence. In 2023, 4,260 permanent residents were allowed to newly enter Japan. However, with the easing of the countermeasures at the port of entry, this special treatment was terminated, with the final permission given to former permanent residents whose re-

entry permission (including a special re-entry permission) would expire by April 30, 2023 and who had applied for a “Long-Term Resident” visa at a Japanese overseas diplomatic establishment by that date.

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



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

2 Special Landing

Permission number of cases in which received special landing permission in 2023 was 1,651,344, an increase of 1,168,775 (242.2%) compared to the previous year.

Of these, 1,445,326 cases were granting of landing permission for crew members, accounting for 87.5% of the total number of cases granted special landing permission ([Reference 10](#)).

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

Division \ Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	4,961,505	919,311	421,925	482,569	1,651,344
Permission for Landing at a Port of Call	13,861	7,462	182	2,085	29,953
Landing Permission for Cruise Ship Tourists	2,026,307	119,960	0	0	166,460
Permission for Landing in Transit	7,760	3,003	6	869	9,214
Landing Permission for Crew Members	2,913,001	788,305	421,279	479,152	1,445,326
Permission for Emergency Landing	483	556	415	398	352
Landing Permission Due to Distress	92	24	42	63	28
Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge	1	1	1	2	11

3 Foreign Nationals Leaving Japan

In 2023, the number of foreign nationals simply leaving Japan without having acquired a re-entry permission was 23,041,290, an increase of 20,349,946 (756.1%) compared to the previous year.

Of these, foreign nationals leaving Japan with a period of stay of 15 days or less numbered 21,650,924 (94.0%) ([Reference 11](#)).

Reference 11 Changes in the number of foreign nationals simply leaving Japan by period of stay (Person)

Period of Stay \ Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	28,083,240	4,120,279	223,728	2,691,344	23,041,290
Within 15 days	26,778,686	3,678,125	29,901	2,344,237	21,650,924
More than 15 days to 1 month	737,979	163,396	32,251	115,328	924,301
More than 1 month to 3 months	307,985	79,142	13,520	62,139	280,505
More than 3 months to 6 months	56,114	31,705	3,955	14,758	52,654
More than 6 months to 1 year	57,138	53,376	9,200	6,138	38,446
More than 1 year to 3 years	99,183	65,530	64,707	52,891	32,053
More than 3 years	44,733	47,904	68,950	94,477	61,239
Unknown	1,422	1,101	1,244	1,376	1,168

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 2023 was 12,249, an increase of 4,447 (57.0%) compared to 2022.

Looking at a breakdown of the number of new cases of hearings for landing, the most common type are cases with suspicions about the purpose of entry, including false applications in which the applicant feigns to be a tourist despite their actual purpose being illegal activities such as unlawful employment (not meeting the conditions provided for in Article 7, paragraph (1), item (ii) of the Immigration Control Act). There were 10,291 such cases in 2023, an increase of 4,290 cases (71.5%) from 2022, accounting for 84.0% of the total number of new cases. This was followed by cases that were assigned on account of a 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 1,231, a decrease of 169 (12.1%) compared to 2022, accounting for 10.0% of the total number of new cases in 2023. 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 727, an increase of 326 (81.3%) compared to 2022, accounting for 5.9% of the total number of new cases in 2023. In addition, the number of cases that foreign nationals refuse to provide the immigration inspector with their Biometric information, which became mandatory by law from November 20, 2007 (coming under paragraph (4) of Article 7 of the Immigration Control Act) was 0 in 2023 ([Reference 12](#)).

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

(Cases)

Conditions for Landing \ Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	13,402	25,056	4,419	7,802	12,249
Using counterfeit passports or visas, etc. (Not conforming to Article 7-(1)-(i))	2,206	800	690	1,400	1,231
False landing application, etc. (Not conforming to Article 7-(1)-(ii))	10,240	1,633	2,284	6,001	10,291
Ineligibility for the period of stay relating to the application (Not conforming to Article 7-(1)-(iii))	—	—	—	—	—
Falling under the grounds for denial of landing (Not conforming to Article 7-(1)-(iv))	953	22,623	1,445	401	727
Not providing Biometric information (Not conforming to Article 7-(4))	3	0	0	0	0

With regard to results of the hearings for landing in 2023^(※), 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 764, an increase of 211 (38.2%) compared to 2022.

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 5,080, an increase of 3,926 (340.2%) compared to 2022. 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 5,910, an increase of 120 (2.1%) compared to 2022 ([Reference 13](#)).

Reference 13 Changes in the processing of the hearings for landing

(Cases)

Division \ Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	13,409	25,064	4,420	7,791	12,252
Landing permission	1,197	22,353	1,484	553	764
Order to depart	9,440	1,347	11	1,154	5,080
Filing of objection	2,103	928	2,791	5,790	5,910
Withdrawal of the landing application	581	360	126	275	465
Others	88	76	8	19	33

(※) "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 conditions for landing (Reference 12) and the total number in the changes in the processing of the hearings for landing (Reference 13) 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.

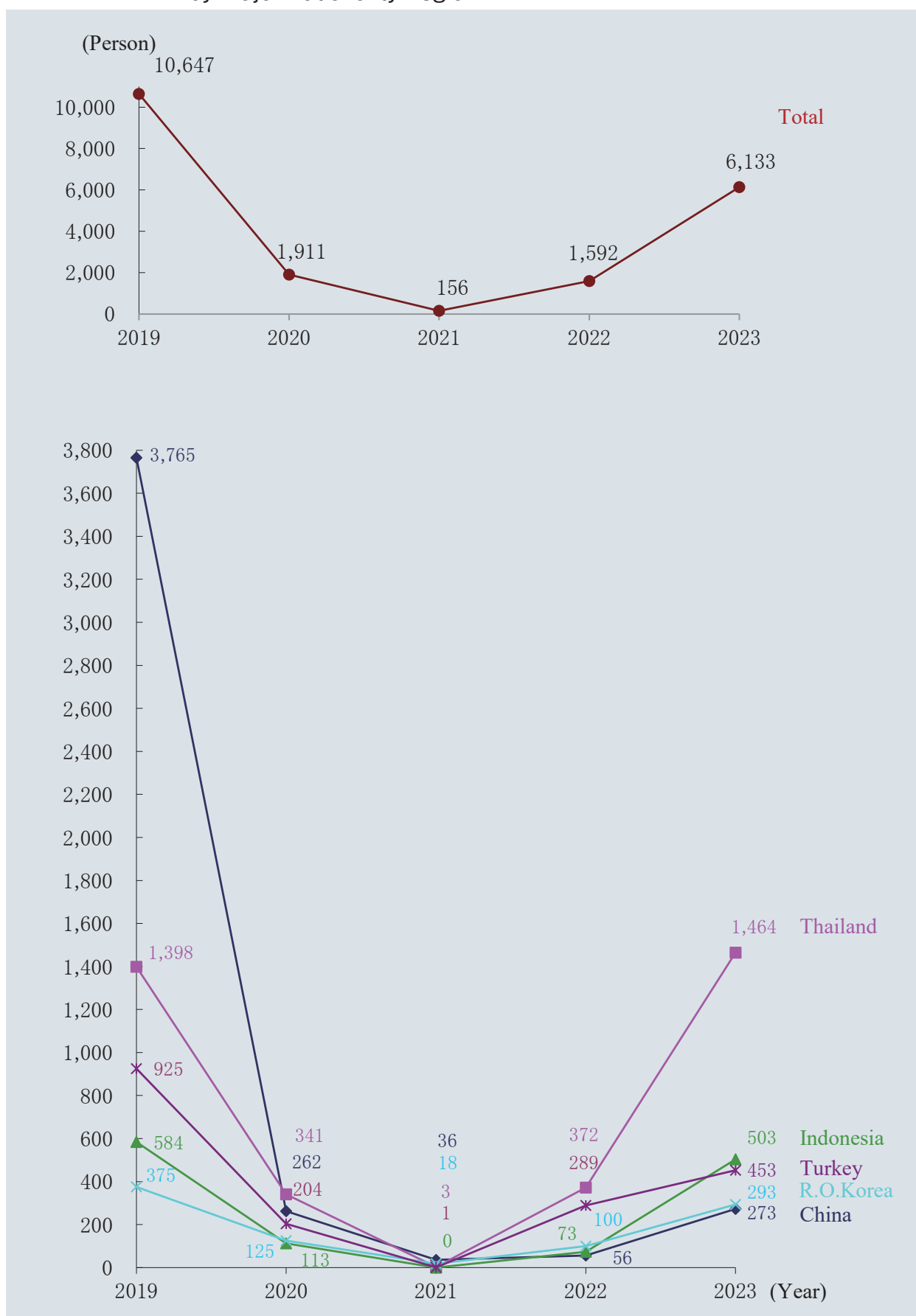
2 Foreign Nationals Denied Permission for Landing

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 2023 was 6,133, an increase of 4,541 (285.2%) compared to 2022.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of foreign nationals denied permission for landing came from Thailand at 1,464 (23.9%), followed by Pakistan at 561 (9.1%) and Indonesia at 503 (8.2%). These top three countries accounted for 41.2% of the total ([Reference 14](#)).

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



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

3 Special Permission for Landing

The number of cases in which the Minister of Justice granted special permission for landing to foreign nationals in 2023 was 5,357, a decrease of 279 (5.0%) compared to 2022 ([Reference 15](#)).

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

(Cases)

Division \ Year		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Filing of Objection (*)		2,120	935	2,792	5,790	5,918
Decisions	With reason (Landing Permission)	2	3	1	3	6
	Without reason					
	Order to depart	375	70	5	105	374
	Special Permission for Landing	1,584	812	2,780	5,636	5,357
Withdrawal		152	49	6	38	174
Outstanding		7	1	0	8	7

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

Section 3 Pre-entry Examination

1 Advance Consultation for Visa Issuance

In 2023, the number of cases of advance consultation for visa issuance was 12,659, an increase of 2,493 (24.5%) compared to the previous year.

2 Certificate of Eligibility

In 2023, the number of processed applications for Certificates of Eligibility was 647,393, an increase of 222,148 (52.2%) compared to the previous year.

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

In March 2023, the Japanese government started to electronically issue Certificates of Eligibility and allow foreign nationals to submit a copy of their Certificate of Eligibility for application for landing permission to improve their convenience.

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

(Cases)

Division \ Year		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Advance consultation for visa issuance		4,634	6,014	8,931	10,166	12,659
Application for a certificate of eligibility		591,858	410,406	306,878	425,245	647,393

Chapter 2 Japanese Nationals Departing from and Returning to Japan

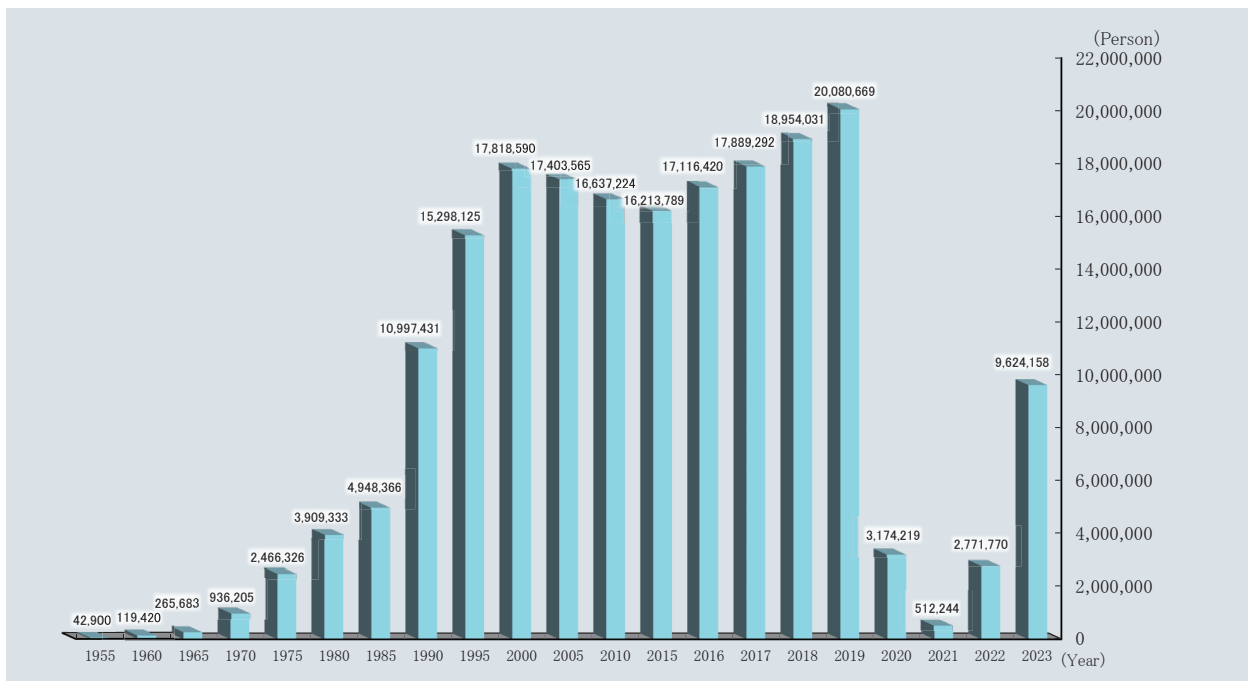
Section 1 Number of Japanese Nationals Departing from Japan

1 Total Number of Japanese Nationals Departing from Japan

The number of Japanese nationals departing from Japan in 2023 was 9,624,158, an increase of 6,852,388 (247.2%) compared to the previous year.

Japan saw this significant increase in Japanese nationals departing from Japan, which is thought to have happened because the number of international commercial flights and voyages, which had significantly decreased in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, has recovered from March 2022 thanks to the government's measures, such as the easing of immigration restrictions and the gradual lifting of the cap on the number of people entering Japan ([Reference 17](#)).

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



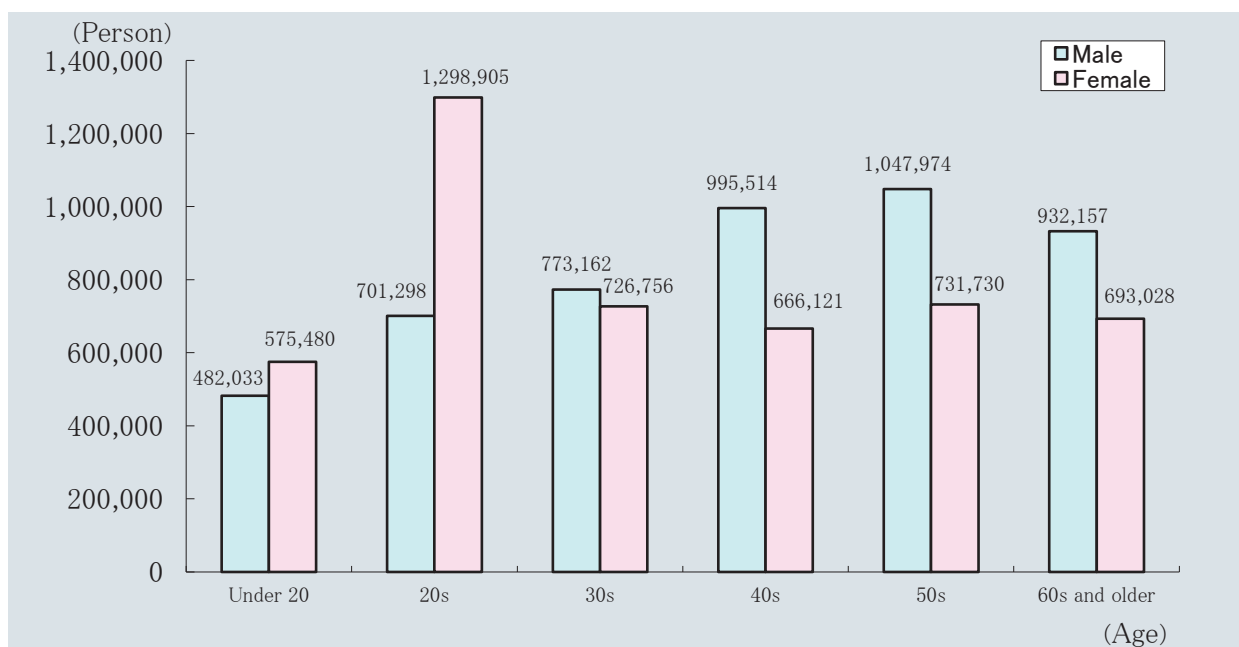
2 Number of Japanese Nationals Departing from Japan by Gender and Age

According to the statistics by gender, the number of Japanese nationals departing from Japan in 2023 consists of 4,932,138 males and 4,692,020 females; males accounted for 51.2% of the total, and females accounted for 48.8%. 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 2023 was composed of 2,000,203 Japanese nationals in their 20s, which accounted for 20.8%

of the total, followed by 1,779,704 in their 50s, accounting for 18.5%, 1,661,635 in their 40s, accounting for 17.3%, 1,625,185 in their 60s, accounting for 16.9%, 1,499,918 in their 30s, accounting for 15.6% and 1,057,513 in their under 20, accounting for 11.0% ([Reference 18](#)).

Reference 18 Number of Japanese nationals departing from Japan by gender and age (2023)



Section 2

Number of Japanese Nationals Returning to Japan

The total number of returning Japanese nationals in 2023 was 9,464,984. By period of stay in foreign countries after departure, 5,004,286 Japanese nationals returned to Japan within five days of their departure, accounting for 52.9% of the total ([Reference 19](#)).

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

Period of Stay					(Person)
Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Peroid of Stay					
Total	20,030,055	3,683,270	500,938	2,662,840	9,464,984
Within 5 days	12,150,774	1,891,374	11,082	684,262	5,004,286
More than 5 days to 10 days	4,607,708	890,991	30,675	602,179	2,133,198
More than 10 days to 20 days	1,182,976	254,898	36,474	292,457	717,260
More than 20 days to 1 month	416,356	105,794	29,193	131,706	255,848
More than 1 month to 3 months	688,694	191,495	90,899	226,915	428,454
More than 3 months to 6 months	412,104	124,322	61,356	169,226	314,735
More than 6 months to 1 year	318,140	137,036	63,887	147,376	302,432
More than 1 year to 3 years	123,794	51,416	128,042	204,131	105,810
More than 3 years	8,405	2,281	3,811	44,780	61,285
Unknown	121,104	33,663	45,519	159,808	141,676

Chapter 3 Foreign Nationals Residing in Japan

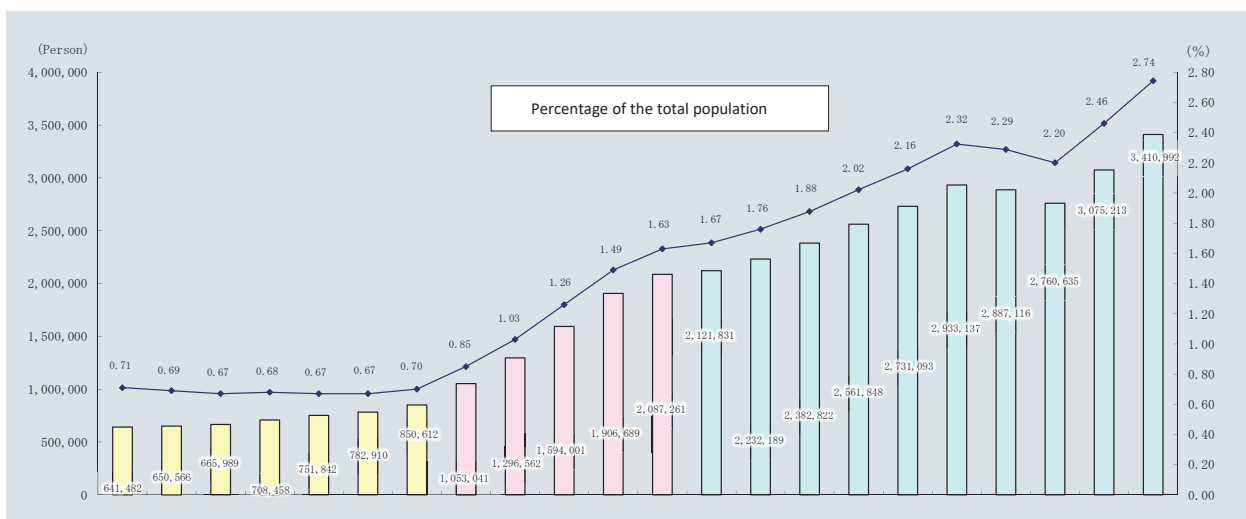
Section 1 Number of Foreign Residents in Japan

1 Number of Foreign Residents in Japan

As of the end of 2023, the number of mid to long-term residents (see Section 4, Subsection 1 of the Data Section) in Japan was 3,129,774, and the number of special permanent residents was 281,218. Adding these two numbers together, the total number of foreign residents was 3,410,992, an increase of 335,779 (10.9%) compared to the end of the previous year.

Foreign residents accounted for 2.74% of Japan's total population of 124,350,000 as of the end of 2023 (based on the population estimate as of October 1, 2023 (the Statistics Bureau of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)). This figure represents a 0.28 points increase from the end of the previous year ([Reference 20](#)).

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



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

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

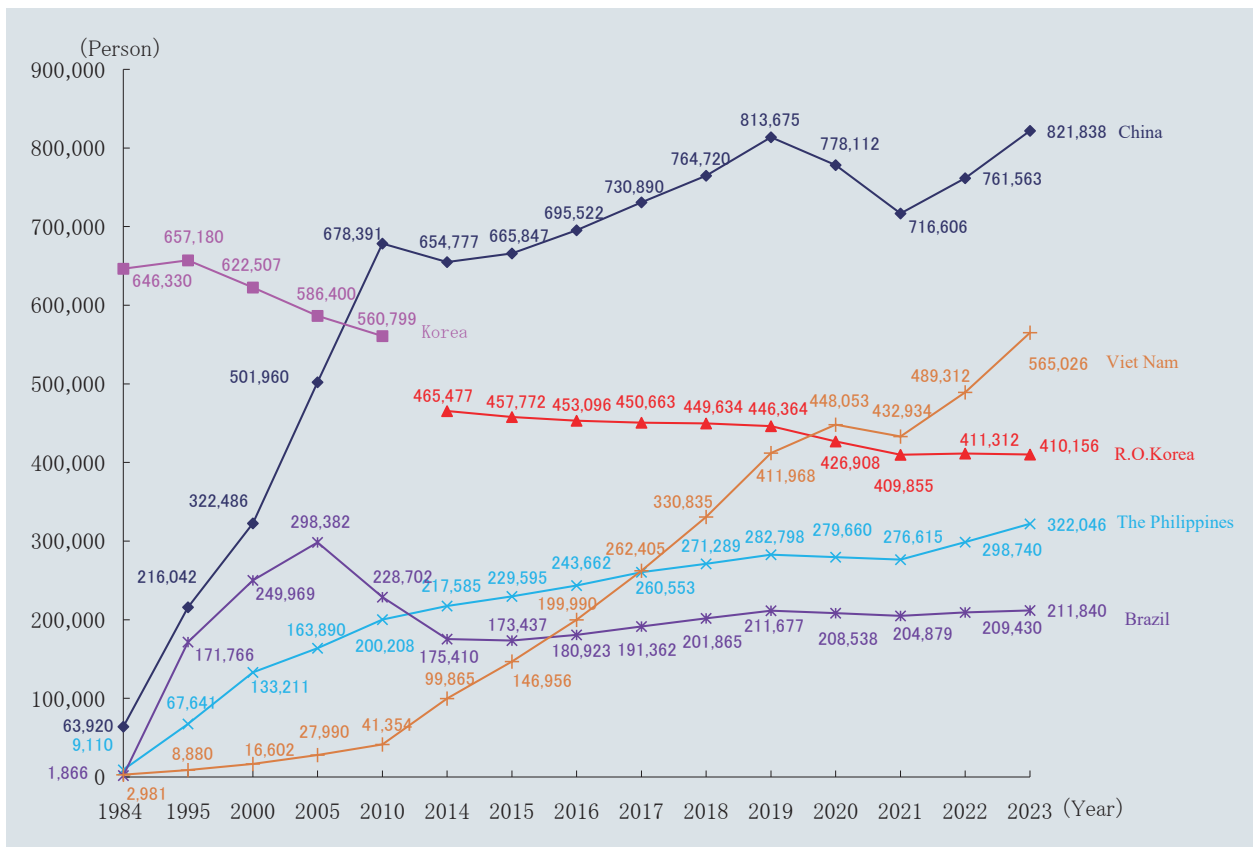
(*3) The "percentage of the total population of Japan" is calculated based on the population as of October 1 each year taken from the "Population Estimates" and the "Population Census" of the Statistics Bureau of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

2 Number of Foreign Residents by Nationality/Region

According to the statistics of the number of foreign residents by nationality/region at the end of 2023, China marked the largest number at 821,838, accounting for 24.1% of the total. China was followed by Viet Nam at 565,026 (16.6%), R.O. Korea at 410,156 (12.0%), the Philippines at 322,046 (9.4%), and Brazil at 211,840 (6.2%).

According to year-on-year changes in the number of foreign residents at the end of 2023, China saw an increase of 60,275 (7.9%) compared to the end of the previous year. Viet Nam is on an upward trend, with an increase of 75,714 (15.5%) compared to the end of the previous year. R.O. Korea is on a downward trend, and saw a decrease of 1,156 (0.3%) compared to the end of the previous year. The Philippines saw an increase of 23,306 (7.8%) compared to the end of the previous year, while Brazil saw an increase of 2,410 (1.2%) compared to the end of the previous year ([Reference 21](#)).

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



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

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

(1) “Permanent Resident” and “Special Permanent Resident”

According to the statistics for the number of foreign residents by status of residence at the end of 2023, those with the status of “Permanent Resident” (excluding “Special Permanent Residents”) comprised the largest group. The number of people with the status of residence of “Permanent Resident” was 891,569, an increase of 27,633 (3.2%) from the end of the previous year, accounting for 26.1% of the total ([Reference 22](#)).

Reference 22 Changes in the number of foreign residents by status

(Person)

Status \ Year		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total		2,933,137	2,887,116	2,760,635	3,075,213	3,410,992
Mid to long-term resident	Professor	7,354	6,647	6,519	7,343	7,226
	Artist	489	448	385	502	580
	Religious Activities	4,285	3,772	3,034	3,964	4,143
	Journalist	220	215	207	210	212
	Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(a)	1,884	1,922	1,885	2,030	2,281
	Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(b)	11,886	13,167	12,257	13,972	17,978
	Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(c)	570	676	648	1,116	2,219
	Highly-Skilled Professional (ii)	584	789	945	1,197	1,480
	Business Manager	27,249	27,235	27,197	31,808	37,510
	Legal/Accounting Services	145	148	139	151	159
	Medical Services	2,269	2,476	2,482	2,467	2,547
	Researcher	1,480	1,337	1,161	1,314	1,301
	Instructor	13,331	12,241	12,915	13,413	14,157
	Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/ International Services	271,999	283,380	274,740	311,961	362,346
	Intra-company Transferee	18,193	13,415	8,593	13,011	16,404
	Nursing Care	592	1,714	3,794	6,284	9,328
	Entertainer	2,508	1,865	1,564	2,214	2,505
	Skilled Labor	41,692	40,491	38,240	39,775	42,499
	Specified Skilled Worker (i)	1,621	15,663	49,666	130,915	208,425
	Specified Skilled Worker (ii)	–	0	0	8	37
	Technical Intern Training (i)-(a)	4,975	1,205	211	3,310	3,531
	Technical Intern Training (i)-(b)	164,408	74,476	24,005	161,683	167,734
	Technical Intern Training (ii)-(a)	4,268	4,490	2,818	878	2,255
	Technical Intern Training (ii)-(b)	210,965	258,173	202,006	83,508	163,274
	Technical Intern Training (iii)-(a)	605	707	779	1,206	982
	Technical Intern Training (iii)-(b)	25,751	39,149	46,304	74,355	66,780
	Cultural Activities	3,013	1,280	821	2,400	2,581
	Student	345,791	280,901	207,830	300,638	340,883
	Trainee	1,177	174	145	497	714
	Dependent	201,423	196,622	192,184	227,857	266,020
	Designated Activities	65,187	103,422	124,056	83,380	73,774
	Permanent Resident	793,164	807,517	831,157	863,936	891,569
	Spouse or Child of Japanese National	145,254	142,735	142,044	144,993	148,477
	Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident	41,517	42,905	44,522	46,999	50,995
	Long-Term Resident	204,787	201,329	198,966	206,938	216,868
Special Permanent Resident		312,501	304,430	296,416	288,980	281,218

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

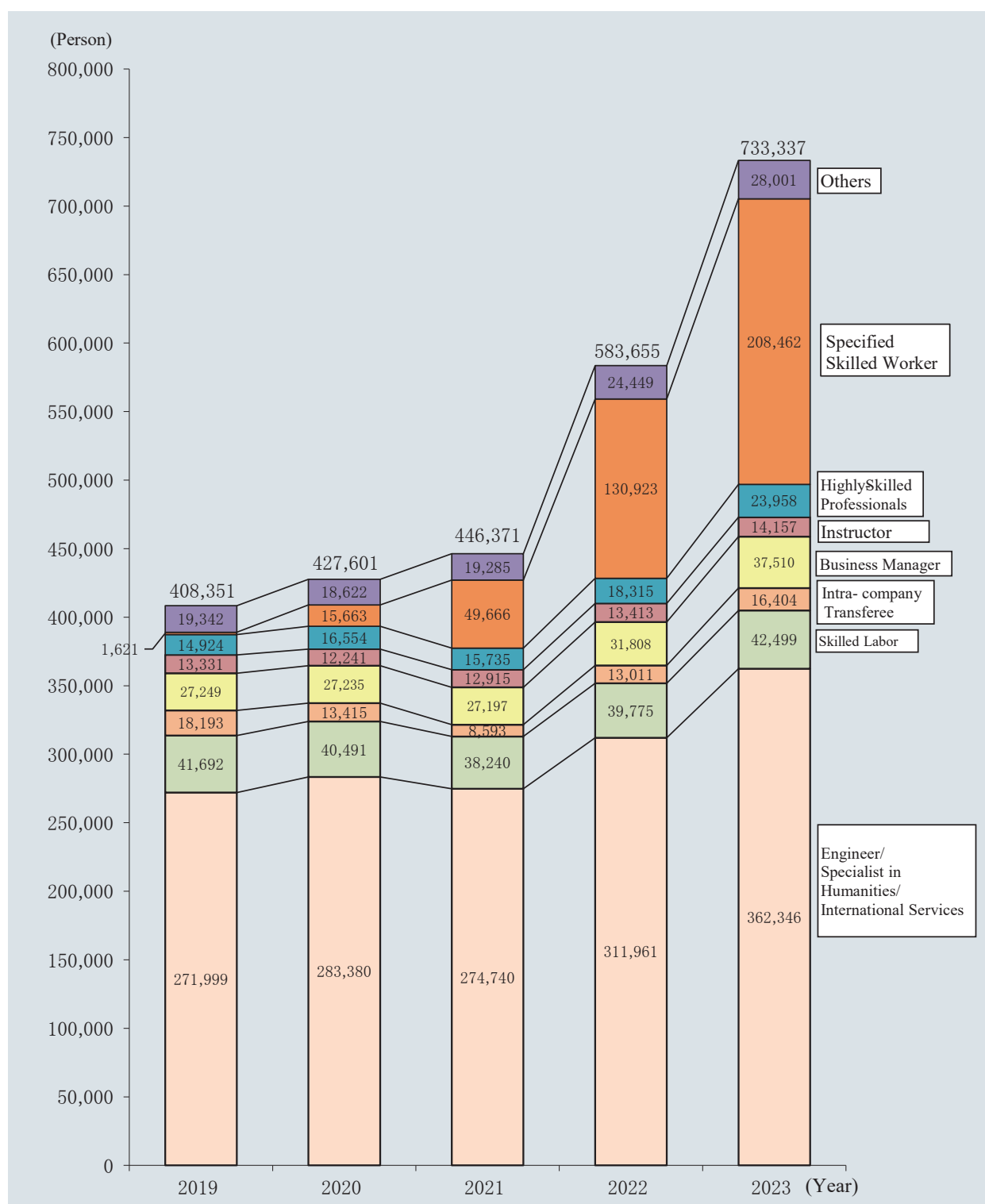
From the end of 2019 to the end of 2023, the number of foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Permanent Resident” increased steadily by 98,405 (12.4%).

On the other hand, the number of foreign nationals with the status of “Special Permanent Resident” has been decreasing year by year, and therefore its percentage to the total number of foreign residents has also been decreasing accordingly, reaching 8.2% at the end of 2023. 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 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

As of the end of 2023, 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) reached 733,337, an increase of 149,682 (25.6%) compared to the end of the previous year. The number is continuing its upward trend ([Reference 23](#)).

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



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

(*2) "Highly Skilled Professionals" is the total for "Highly-Skilled Professionals (i)-(a), (b), (c)" and "Highly Skilled Professionals (ii)."

(*3) "Specified Skilled Worker" is the total for "Specified Skilled Worker (i) and (ii)."

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

A. “Highly-Skilled Professional”^(※1)

As of the end of 2023, the number of residents with the status of residence of “Highly Skilled Professional” was 23,958, an increase of 5,643 (30.8%) compared to the end of the previous year.

B. “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services” and “Intra-company Transferee”

As of the end of 2023, 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 362,346 for “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services” and 16,404 for “Intra-company Transferee.” Compared to the end of the previous year, residents with the former status increased by 50,385 (16.2%), and those with the latter status increased by 3,393 (26.1%).

C. “Skilled Labor”

As of the end of 2023, 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 42,499, an increase of 2,724 (6.8%) compared to the end of the previous year.

D. “Specified Skilled Worker”

As of the end of 2023, the number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Specified Skilled Worker (i)” was 208,425, an increase of 77,510 (59.2%) compared to the end of the previous year.

As of the end of 2023, the number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Specified Skilled Worker (ii)” was 37, an increase of 29 (362.5%) compared to the end of the previous year. The number has shown the largest increase since the status was newly established on April 1, 2019.

(3) “Technical Intern Training”^(※2)

The number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Technical Intern Training (i)” at the end of 2023 was 171,265, an increase of 6,272 (3.8%) when compared to the end of the previous year.

The number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Technical Intern Training (ii)” at the end of 2023 was 165,529, an increase of 81,143 (96.2%) when compared to the end of the previous year.

The number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Technical

(※1) The number of “Highly Skilled Professional” is the total of “Highly Skilled Professional (i)-(a),” “Highly Skilled Professional (i)-(b),” “Highly Skilled Professional (i)-(c),” and “Highly Skilled Professional (ii).”

(※2) The number of “Technical Intern Training (i)” is the total of “Technical Intern Training (i)-(a)” and “Technical Intern Training (i)-(b).” The number of “Technical Intern Training (ii)” is the total of “Technical Intern Training (ii)-(a)” and “Technical Intern Training (ii)-(b).” The number of “Technical Intern Training (iii)” is the total of “Technical Intern Training (iii)-(a)” and “Technical Intern Training (iii)-(b).”

Intern Training (iii)” at the end of 2023 was 67,762, a decrease of 7,799 (10.3%) when compared to the end of the previous year.

(4) “Student”

The number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Student” at the end of 2023 was 340,883, an increase of 40,245 (13.4%) compared to the end of the previous year.

(5) Foreign Nationals Residing in Japan with a Status of Residence for Resident Activities Based on Personal Status or Position

As of the end of 2023, the number of residents with the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” was 148,477, an increase of 3,484 (2.4%) compared to the end of the previous year.

As of the end of 2023, the number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Long-Term Resident” was 216,868, an increase of 9,930 (4.8%) compared to the end of the previous year.

Section 2 Examination of Statuses of Residence

In 2023, the total number of permission related to residence examinations was 1,707,383, an increase of 133,682 (8.5%) compared to the previous year ([Reference 24](#)).

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

		(Cases)				
Division \ Year	Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total		1,420,031	1,591,577	1,551,001	1,573,701	1,707,383
Permission for change of status of residence		269,153	392,415	367,189	359,755	429,562
Permission for extension of period of stay		743,254	873,416	848,305	753,923	839,362
Permission for permanent residence		32,150	29,747	36,691	37,992	33,470
Permission for special permanent residence		63	30	67	81	71
Permission for acquisition of status of residence		14,469	15,720	15,867	14,245	16,638
Re-entry permission		38,232	28,738	41,660	50,629	53,699
Permission to engage in an activity other than those permitted by the status of residence previously granted		322,710	251,511	241,222	357,076	334,581

(*1) “Permission for permanent residence” is the permission provided for in Article 22 of the Immigration Control Act.

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



Residence examination counter

1 Permission for Change in the Status of Residence

In 2023, the number of permissions granted for a change in the status of residence was 429,562, an increase of 69,807 (19.4%) compared to the previous year.

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

Many of 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.

In 2023, the number of foreign nationals who were permitted to change their status of residence to another status of residence for the purpose of employment was 41,400.

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 34,078, followed by “Designated Activities” at 2,334 and “Specified Skilled Worker” at 1,948.

Furthermore, from 2023, the status of residence “Specified Skilled Worker” will be added to the statistics and about the status of residence “Designated Activities”, preparation activities which target transition to “Specified Skilled Worker(i)” are also added ([Reference 25](#)).

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

(Person)

Status of Residence \ Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	30,947	29,689	28,974	33,415	41,400
Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/ International Services	28,595	26,268	24,861	28,853	34,078
Designated Activities	316	873	1,696	2,087	2,334
Specified Skilled Worker					1,948
Professor	640	785	890	934	981
Highly-Skilled Professional	156	218	216	362	833
Business Manager	500	477	554	430	548
Medical Services	280	307	177	172	245
Instructor	166	389	198	131	141
Researcher	81	103	98	86	110
Nursing Care	173	220	240	313	67
Artist	13	9	11	14	35
Religious Activities	10	11	19	11	25
Others	17	29	14	22	55

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of foreign nationals who obtained permission to change their status for employment purposes was China at 13,592, accounting for 33.7%, followed by Viet Nam at 10,343 (25.0%) and Nepal at 5,996 (14.5%) ([Reference 26](#)).

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

(Person)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	30,947	29,689	28,974	33,415	41,400
China	11,580	10,933	9,331	10,182	13,952
Viet Nam	7,030	6,582	6,885	8,406	10,343
Nepal	3,591	3,552	4,403	5,769	5,996
R.O.Korea	1,663	1,376	1,117	1,212	1,558
Sri Lanka	704	1,145	1,477	1,347	855
Taiwan	1,259	927	672	740	1,075
Myanmar	593	672	614	719	713
Indonesia	469	540	608	672	1,088
Bangladesh	467	501	542	711	651
The Philippines	447	458	411	501	504
Others	3,144	3,003	2,914	3,156	4,665

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

(2) Permission to Change Status of Residence to “Technical Intern Training (ii)” and “Technical Intern Training (iii)”

The Technical Intern Training Program has a status of “Technical Intern Training (ii)” to increase trainees’ proficiency in skills, techniques, or knowledge (hereinafter referred to as “skills, etc.”) that have been acquired through “Technical Intern Training (i).”

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 October 31, 2023, there are 55 job categories, such as formwork, and machine processing, which can be tested through the evaluation system for the Basic Level of the Trade Skills Test, and 35 job categories such as welding and spinning operations for which there is no national examination but is an official evaluation system approved by the Director-General for Human Resources Development of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, making a total of 90 job categories.

In 2023, the number of foreign residents who were permitted to change their status of residence to “Technical Intern Training (ii)” was 145,385, an increase of 121,764 (515.5%) compared to the previous year.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, Viet Nam had the largest number of residents who were permitted to change their status of residence to “Technical Intern Training (ii)” at 74,251 (51.1%), followed by Indonesia at 26,818 (18.4%), the Philippines at 12,705 (8.7%), Myanmar at 9,575 (6.6%), and China at 8,530 (5.9%) ([Reference 27](#)).

The Technical Intern Training Program also has a status of “Technical Intern Training (iii)” for those who have completed “Technical Intern Training (ii)” to acquire further proficiency. Only excellent supervising organizations and implementing organizations are allowed to accept trainees with this status of residence (The total number of applicable skills, etc., was 81 as of October 31, 2023).

In 2023, the number of foreign residents who were permitted to change their status of residence to “Technical Intern Training (iii)” was 12,299, a decrease of 26,011 (67.9%) compared to the previous year.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, Viet Nam had the largest number of residents who were permitted to change their status of residence to “Technical Intern Training (iii)” at 6,647 (54.0%), followed by the Philippines at 1,390 (11.3%), Indonesia at 1,281 (10.4%), China at 1,187 (9.7%), and Cambodia at 629 (5.1%) ([Reference 28](#)).

According to the statistics of the technical intern training plans accredited in FY 2023 by job categories, the largest numbers for technical intern training (ii) were “Ready-made meal manufacturing,” “Crop farming,” “Scaffolding,” and for technical intern training (iii) were “Ladies’ and children’s dress making,” “Scaffolding,” “Plastic molding” ([References 29, 30](#)).

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

(Person)

Nationality/region \ Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	132,841	150,233	67,001	23,621	145,385
Viet Nam	71,275	83,468	37,944	17,497	74,251
Indonesia	11,455	13,542	6,920	756	26,818
The Philippines	10,986	12,192	4,509	429	12,705
Myanmar	3,715	5,824	3,185	945	9,575
China	27,440	26,137	8,495	3,303	8,530
Others	7,970	9,070	5,948	691	13,506

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

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

(Person)

Nationality/region \ Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	4,688	14,423	26,888	38,310	12,299
Viet Nam	2,573	7,721	15,203	22,292	6,647
The Philippines	669	2,151	3,690	4,750	1,390
Indonesia	254	1,029	2,602	3,822	1,281
China	631	1,928	2,493	3,780	1,187
Cambodia	122	496	795	1,176	629
Others	439	1,098	2,105	2,490	1,165

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

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

(Cases)

Job categories	2021	2022	2023
Total	59,558	60,420	155,554
Ready-made meal manufacturing	7,044	7,157	16,022
Crop farming	5,357	5,281	10,307
Scaffolding	3,351	2,649	9,684
Welding	2,792	2,987	8,008
Plastic molding	2,632	2,993	7,063
Care worker	4,282	3,268	6,816
Application of construction equipment	2,230	1,612	6,354
Manufacturing work for non-heated fishery processed foodstuff	2,163	2,458	6,194
Industrial packaging	1,782	2,158	5,509
Ladies' and children's dress making	1,880	1,563	5,070
Others	26,045	28,294	74,527

(*) The reference “Number of accreditations of the technical intern training plan for ‘Technical Intern Training (ii)’ by job categories” in the 2022 and 2023 versions had some errors, which have been corrected as follows:

(Correct) 2021 Crop farming: 5,357

(Wrong) 2021 Crop farming: 5,356

2021 Welding: 2,792

2021 Welding: 2,791

2021 Ladies' and children's dress making: 1,880

2021 Ladies' and children's dress making: 1,890

2021 Others: 26,045

2021 Others: 26,037

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

(Cases)

Job categories	2021	2022	2023
Total	38,325	42,819	15,623
Ladies' and children's dress making	2,922	4,591	2,440
Scaffolding	2,570	3,569	1,288
Plastic molding	2,451	2,670	1,041
Ready-made meal manufacturing	2,497	2,331	770
Crop farming	2,114	1,878	725
Welding	2,531	2,676	697
Painting	1,648	1,962	679
Industrial packaging	1,338	1,669	618
Application of construction equipment	1,064	1,323	573
Steel reinforcement construction	1,424	1,367	501
Others	17,766	18,783	6,291

(*) The reference “Number of accreditations of the technical intern training plan for ‘Technical Intern Training (iii)’ by job categories” in the 2022 and 2023 versions had some errors, which have been corrected as follows:

(Correct) 2021 Plastic molding: 2,451

(Wrong) 2021 Plastic molding: 2,442

2021 Painting: 1,648

2021 Painting: 1,646

2021 Others: 17,766

2021 Others: 17,777

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

In 2023, the number of foreign residents who were permitted to change their status of

residence to “Specified Skilled Worker (i)” was 83,526, an increase of 1,535 (1.9%) compared to the previous year.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, Viet Nam had the largest number of residents who were permitted to change their status of residence to “Specified Skilled Worker (i)” at 53,939 (64.6%), followed by Indonesia at 9,358 (11.2%), the Philippines at 6,137 (7.3%), China at 4,622 (5.5%), and Myanmar at 3,473 (4.2%) ([Reference 31](#)). In 2023, 29 foreign residents were permitted to change their status of residence to “Specified Skilled Worker (ii)” ([Reference 32](#)).

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

(Person)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	1,062	10,863	39,004	81,991	83,526
Viet Nam	600	6,986	25,199	56,313	53,939
Indonesia	77	700	2,838	6,178	9,358
The Philippines	110	942	3,961	6,255	6,137
China	95	1,039	2,823	4,920	4,622
Myanmar	63	404	1,823	3,705	3,473
Others	117	792	2,360	4,620	5,997

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

Reference 32 Changes in the number of people who changed to “Specified Skilled Worker (ii)” by nationality/region

(Person)

Nationality/region \ Year	2022	2023
Total	8	29
Viet Nam	2	18
China	6	6
The Philippines	0	3
Indonesia	0	2

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

2 Permission for Extension of the Period of Stay

In 2023, the number of permissions granted to extend the period of stay was 839,362, an increase of 85,439 (11.3%) compared to the previous year.

3 Permission for Permanent Residence

In 2023, the number of permissions granted for permanent residence was 33,470, a decrease of 4,522 (11.9%) compared to the previous year ([Reference 33](#)).

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

(Cases)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	32,150	29,747	36,691	37,992	33,470
China	15,542	14,874	18,302	18,943	15,891
Brazil	2,318	2,112	2,551	2,824	2,873
The Philippines	2,998	2,580	2,888	2,760	2,648
Viet Nam	1,405	1,635	1,995	2,344	2,458
R.O.Korea/Korea	2,521	1,966	2,210	2,354	1,802
Others	7,366	6,580	8,745	8,767	7,798

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

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

(*3) The reference "Changes in the number of permissions granted for permanent residence by nationality/region" in the 2022 version had some errors, which have been corrected as follows:

(Correct) 2021 China: 18,302 (Wrong) 2021 China: 19,426
 2021 Others: 8,745 2021 Others: 7,621

4 Permission for Acquisition of a Status of Residence

In 2023, the number of permissions granted for acquisition of a status of residence was 16,638, an increase of 2,393 (16.8%) compared to the previous year.

5 Re-entry Permission

In 2023, the number of granted re-entry permissions was 53,699, an increase of 3,070 (6.1%) compared to the previous year.

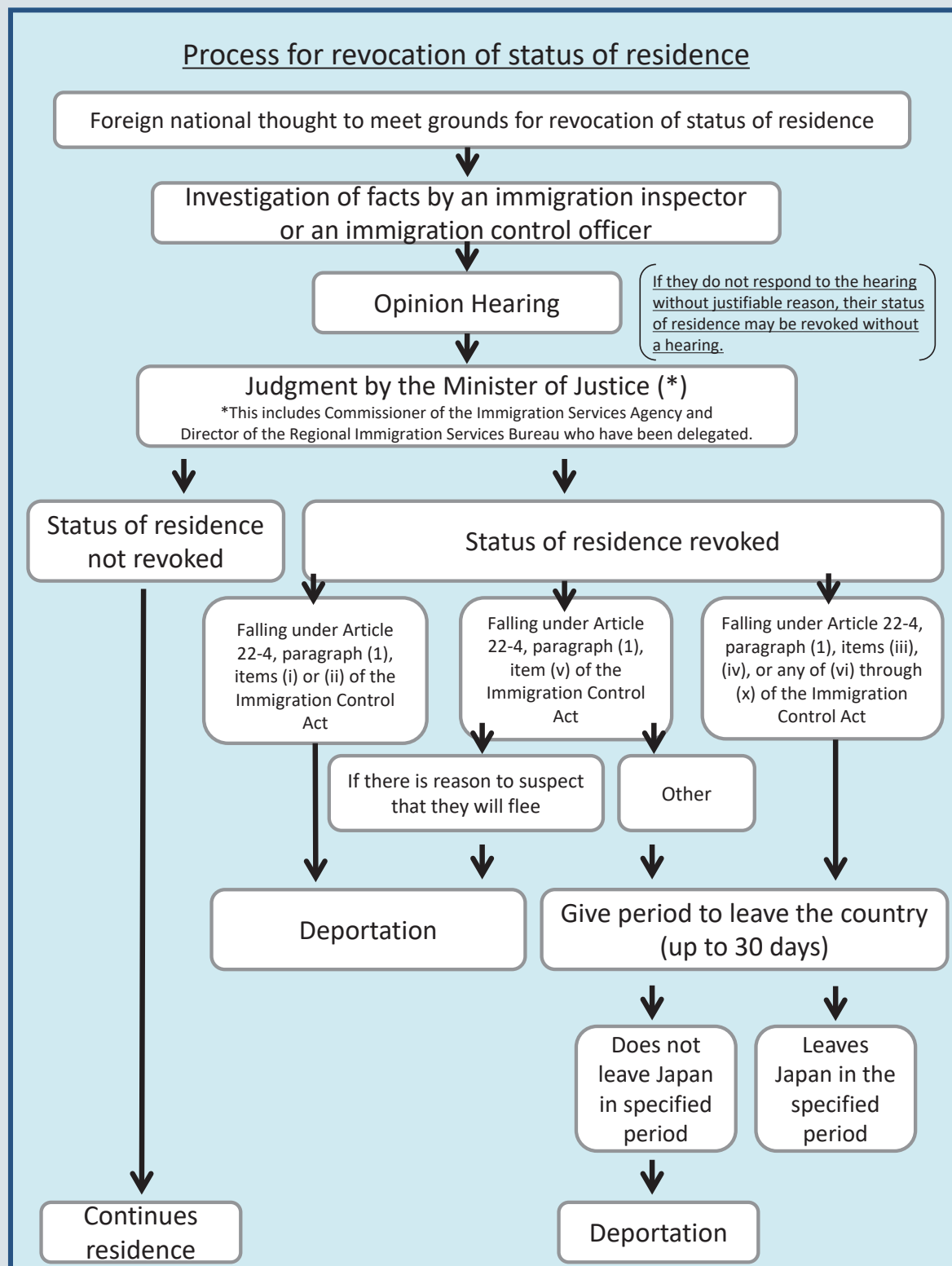
6 Permission to Engage in an Activity Other Than Those Permitted by the Status of Residence Previously Grante

In 2023, the number of granted permissions to engage in activity other than those permitted by the status of residence previously granted was 334,581, a decrease of 22,495 (6.3%) compared to the previous year.

Section 3 Implementation Status of Procedures to Revoke Statuses of Residence**1 Outline of the System**

The status of residence revocation system revokes the status of residence of a foreign resident who is found to have obtained a seal of landing permission by deception or other wrongful means, has stayed in Japan without engaging in the activities permitted by their status of residence for a certain period, or meets any of the statutory conditions for revocation. The status of residence of a foreign resident may be revoked if their act is found to meet any of the statutory conditions for revocation through a hearing of their opinions (Article 22-4, paragraph (2) of the Immigration Control Act) and other processes ([Reference 34](#)).

Reference 34 Flowchart of the procedures to revoke a status of residence



Information on the status of residence revocation system is available at
https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/procedures/torikeshi_00002.html

2 Implementation Status of Procedures

In 2023, the number of revoked statuses of residence increased to 1,240 (up by 10.2%) from 1,125 in the previous year.

According to the statistics by status of residence, “Technical Intern Training” accounted for the largest number of revocations with 983 (79.3%), followed by “Student” with 183 (14.8%) and “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services” with 32 (2.6%) ([Reference 35](#)).

According to the statistics by nationality/region, Viet Nam accounted for the largest number of revocations with 812 (65.5%), followed by China with 220 (17.7%) and Indonesia with 57 (4.6%) ([Reference 36](#)).

According to the statistics by grounds for revocation, item (vi) accounted for the largest number of revocations with 1,049 (84.6%), followed by item (v) with 128 (10.3%) and item (ii) with 42 (3.4%) ([Reference 37](#)).

Reference 35 Changes in the number of revocation of status of residence by status of residence

(Cases)

Status of Residence \ Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services	51	29	11	23	32
Technical Intern Training(i)-(b)	60	117	54	8	622
Technical Intern Training(ii)-(b)	272	427	517	847	272
Technical Intern Training(iii)-(b)	2	17	10	44	89
Student	427	524	157	163	183
Spouse or Child of Japanese National	51	28	18	14	16
Others	130	68	33	26	26
Total	993	1,210	800	1,125	1,240

Reference 36 The number of revocation of status of residence by nationality/region (2023)

(Cases)

Status of residence \ Nationality/Region	Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services	Technical Intern Training (i)-(b)	Technical Intern Training (ii)-(b)	Technical Intern Training (iii)-(b)	Student	Spouse or Child of Japanese National	Others	Total
Viet Nam	9	384	222	65	121	2	9	812
China	12	139	28	13	17	8	3	220
Indonesia	2	41	1	4	8	—	1	57
Cambodia	—	24	15	5	—	—	—	44
Nepal	1	3	1	—	12	—	2	19
Philippines	—	10	—	1	—	5	1	17
Sri Lanka	4	—	1	—	7	—	4	16
Others	4	21	4	1	18	1	6	55
Total	32	622	272	89	183	16	26	1,240

(*) This "China" do not include Taiwan, China (Hong Kong) and China (Others).

Reference 37 The number of revocation of status of residence by grounds for revocation (2023)

(Cases)

grounds for revocation \ Status of residence	Engineer/ Specialist in Humanities/ International Services	Technical Intern Training (i)-(b)	Technical Intern Training (ii)-(b)	Technical Intern Training (iii)-(b)	Student	Spouse or Child of Japanese National	Others	Total
(i)	2	—	—	—	—	1	5	8
(ii)	19	2	—	1	—	14	5	41
(iii)	5	—	—	—	1	—	5	11
(v)	5	41	12	10	56	—	4	128
(vi)	—	579	260	78	126	—	6	1,049
(vii)	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Juxtaposed (ii)-(viii)	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total	32	622	272	89	183	16	26	1,240

Section 4
Number of Issuance of Residence Cards and Special Permanent Resident Certificates
1 Residence Cards

The number of residence cards issued in 2023 was 1,878,461. 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 1,765,930 accounting for 94.0% of the total, followed by reissuance at 55,316 (2.9%), applications for extension of the period of validity at 53,156 (2.8%), and notification of a change in the registered matters aside from the place of residence at 4,058 (0.2%).

By category of Regional Immigration Services Bureaus, the Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau issued 975,174 residence cards, accounting for 51.9% of the total, followed by Nagoya at 302,215 (16.1%), Osaka at 301,082 (16.0%) and Fukuoka at 149,994 (8.0%) ([Reference 38](#)).

Reference 38 Number of issuances of residence cards (2023)

(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	1,878,461	1,765,930	4,058	53,156	55,316	1
Sapporo	31,938	30,877	54	371	636	0
Sendai	33,385	31,784	48	834	719	0
Tokyo	975,174	913,766	2,026	29,415	29,966	1
Nagoya	302,215	281,199	1,100	12,297	7,619	0
Osaka	301,082	283,003	417	6,231	11,431	0
Hiroshima	60,696	57,573	179	1,520	1,424	0
Takamatsu	23,977	23,022	57	455	443	0
Fukuoka	149,994	144,706	177	2,033	3,078	0

2 Special Permanent Resident Certificates

The number of special permanent resident certificates issued in 2023 was 30,738. According to the statistics by category, the number of special permanent resident certificates issued at the time of extension of the period of validity was 27,406 accounting for 89.2% of the total, followed by applications for reissuance at 2,348 (7.6%), permission for special permanent resident (Article 4) at 439 (1.4%), and notification of a change in the registered matters aside from the place of residence at 425 (1.4%) ([Reference 39](#)).

Reference 39 Number of issuances of special permanent resident certificates (2023)

(Cases)

Total	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	Others
30,738	439	71	425	27,406	2,348	49

Chapter 4 Situation of Implementation of Technical Intern Training Program and Specified Skilled Worker System

Section 1 Situation of Implementation of Technical Intern Training Program

1 Outline

The Technical Intern Training Program is a program established for the purpose of transferring the skills, techniques, or knowledge (hereinafter referred to as “skills, etc.” in this Chapter) cultivated in Japan to developing countries or regions, thereby cooperating in “human resource development” that leads to the economic development of those developing countries or regions.

The Technical Intern Training Program established in 1993 was a program which enabled foreign nationals who had acquired skills, etc. above a certain level through training to enter into a new employment contract and to further acquire the skills, etc. 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 that technical intern trainees did not fully understand the original purpose of the program, and were treating the trainees and technical intern trainees 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 enacted in July 2009. Furthermore, measures have been taken to legally protect the technical intern trainees and stabilize their legal status in ways 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, 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, the Act on Proper Technical Intern Training and Protection of Technical Intern Trainees (the “Technical Intern Training Act”) was established on November 18, 2016, promulgated on the 28th of the same month, and enforced on November 1, 2017.

The government’s new initiatives under the Technical Intern Training Act include the following:

- Requiring technical intern training plans to be accredited

- Licensing supervising organizations
- Establishing the Organization for Technical Intern Training
- Providing support services in trainees' native languages at the Organization for Technical Intern Training
- Extending the training periods of excellent supervising organizations (Technical Intern Training (iii))
- Establishing and holding meetings for business councils and regional councils
- Concluding bilateral agreements

Video about the Technical Intern Training Program
(<https://youtu.be/XuvcuUfcQIY>)

2 Applications and Processing of License of Supervising Organizations

(1) Applications for License of Supervising Organizations

From November 1, 2017, in order to accept technical intern trainees through the “supervising-organization-type technical intern training,” juridical persons, which intend to become a supervising organization are required to obtain a license of supervising organization from the competent ministers (Minister of Justice and Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare). The number of new applications for license of supervising organization was 162 in FY 2023 ([Reference 40](#)).

(2) Number of Licenses Granted to Supervising Organizations

The number of new license of supervising organizations was 168 in FY 2023 and as of March 31, 2024, there were 3,718 supervising organizations (reflecting discontinuance of supervision businesses and changes of license classification), of which 2,035 organizations have received a license for general supervision business, and 1,683 have received a license for specified supervision business.

Reference 40 Changes in the number of applications and grant of license of supervising organization

(Cases)

Fiscal Year	2021	2022	2023
Number of applications	265	205	162
Number of licenses	277	223	168

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

(*2) The reference “Changes in the number of applications and grant of license of supervising organization” in the 2022 and 2023 versions had some errors, which have been corrected as follows:

(Correct) 2021 number of applications: 265 (Wrong) 2021 number of applications: 269

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 2023 was

329,754, of which 6,449 applications were for individual-enterprise-type technical intern training plans, and 323,305 applications were for supervising-organization-type technical intern training plans ([Reference 41](#)).

(2) Number of Cases of Accreditation of the Technical Intern Training Plans

The number of applications for accreditation of technical intern training plans by FY 2023 was 350,026, of which 6,821 applications were for individual-enterprise-type technical intern training plans, and 343,205 applications were for supervising-organization-type technical intern training plans ([Reference 41](#)).

Reference 41 Changes in the number of applications and accreditations of the technical intern training plan

(Cases)

Fiscal Year		2021	2022	2023
Number of applications	Individual-enterprise-type	2,764	5,381	6,449
	Supervising-organization-type	172,870	289,834	323,305
	Total	175,634	295,215	329,754
Number of accreditations	Individual-enterprise-type	2,721	4,483	6,821
	Supervising-organization-type	168,666	241,777	343,205
	Total	171,387	246,260	350,026

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

4 Responses to Cases of Inappropriate Acceptance

Under the Technical Intern Training Program, the Organization for Technical Intern Training conducts on-site inspections of supervising and implementing organizations. If an on-site inspection finds a violation of the licensing or accreditation criteria or applicable laws or regulations, the Organization for Technical Intern Training is supposed to revoke the license of the supervising organization or the accreditation of the technical intern training plan, or order the supervising organization to suspend its operations or the supervising and implementing organization to take corrective action, depending on the severity or manner of the violation, and to publish the names of such organizations.

If the license or the accreditation of the technical intern training plan is revoked, the supervising or implementing organization will not be allowed to continue with the technical intern training or accept new technical intern trainees for the next five years. In FY 2023, the Organization for Technical Intern Training conducted 21,616 on-site inspections on implementing organizations and 4,537 on-site inspections on supervising organizations ([Reference 42](#)), and the competent minister and other competent authorities revoked the accreditation of the technical intern training plans of 120 implementing organizations and the licenses of 5 supervising organizations ([Reference 43](#)).

The number of technical intern trainees who disappeared from their program increased to 9,753 in 2023 from 9,006 in 2022 ([Reference 44](#)).

Reference 42 Changes in the number of on-site inspections conducted

(Cases)

Fiscal Year	2021	2022	2023
Number of on-site inspections on implementing organizations	24,105	22,025	21,616
Number of on-site inspections on supervising organizations	4,162	4,634	4,537

Reference 43 Changes in the number of administrative dispositions, etc.

(Cases)

Fiscal Year		2021	2022	2023
Number of administrative dispositions, etc. against implementing organizations	Revocation of accreditation of technical intern training plans	177	114	120
	Orders for improvement	6	0	0
Number of administrative dispositions, etc. against supervising organizations	Revocation of licenses of supervising organizations	13	12	5
	Orders for improvement	10	15	5

Reference 44 Changes in the number of technical intern trainees disappearing by nationality/region

(Person)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	8,796	5,885	7,167	9,006	9,753
Viet Nam	6,105	3,741	4,772	6,016	5,481
Myanmar	347	250	447	607	1,765
China	1,330	964	896	922	816
Cambodia	462	494	667	829	694
Indonesia	307	240	208	367	662
Others	245	196	177	265	335

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

5 Protection of Technical Intern Trainees

The Organization for Technical Intern Training has established a reporting and support section for technical intern trainees (by telephone, email, or letter) by providing various support services. As efforts to protect technical intern trainees, the Organization opened a section for providing advice and support related to violence, intimidation, and other human rights violations (Emergency Consultation Desk for Technical Intern Trainees) on April 21, 2021 and started online support services to enable those without a telephone number to seek support on April 12, 2023.

A technical intern trainee who has difficulty continuing their training due to the operational reasons of the implementing organization, human rights violations, or other circumstances can change the implementing organization if they want to continue their training elsewhere. The Organization for Technical Intern Training helps such technical intern trainees, refers them to other implementing organizations through a website assisting supervising organizations in changing training places, and provides temporary accommodations to those who cannot continue staying at the accommodations provided by their supervising organizations.

In FY 2023, through those support efforts, the Organization received 14,307 inquiries in native languages and 85 reports from technical intern trainees, helped 70 technical intern trainees change the implementing organization, and found accommodations for 166 trainees (the total from April 2018 to the end of March 2024).

In addition, every new technical intern trainee is given the Technical Intern Trainee Handbook by an immigration inspector when their landing is permitted. This handbook includes information on the Organization's support services and information useful for living in Japan. It is also available as a smartphone application from July 2021 (both the handbook and application are available in nine languages, including Vietnamese and Chinese).

Section 2 Situation of Implementation of Specified Skilled Worker System

1 Outline

The statuses of residence of "Specified Skilled Worker (i)" and "Specified Skilled Worker (ii)" were established following the promulgation of Act for Partial Amendment of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act and the Act for Establishment of the MOJ on December 8, 2018, in the 197th Diet, and operation started on April 1, 2019.

The system of Specified Skilled Workers is a system that was established for the acceptance of work-ready foreign nationals who have a certain degree of expertise and skills in the industrial fields where it is still difficult to secure human resources even if efforts have been made to improve productivity and secure domestic human resources in order to cope with the worsening labor shortages being experienced by small to medium-size business enterprises.

2 Acceptance of Specified Skilled Workers

According to the preliminary figures as of the end of June 2024, the number of specified skilled workers was 251,747 (including 251,594 workers with the status of Specified Skilled Worker (i) and 153 workers with the status of Specified Skilled Worker (ii)). The top five industrial fields were the food and beverage manufacturing industry with 70,213 specified skilled workers, the machine parts and tooling, industrial machinery, and electric, electronics, and information industries with 44,067, the nursing care industry with 36,719, the construction industry with 31,919, and the agricultural industry with 27,807.

From the start of the system until the end of June 2024, 113,398 Certificates of Eligibility related to specified skilled workers have been issued, 261,152 permissions for a change of a status of residence have been granted, and 9,828 registered support organizations have been registered.

The number of specified skilled workers increased by 20.8% from 208,462 at the end of December 2023 to 251,747 at the end of June 2024 and is expected to continue growing steadily.

3 Registration Status of Registered Support Organizations

A registered support organization is an organization registered with the Commissioner of

the ISA that supports workers with the status of Specified Skilled Worker (i) at the request of organizations accepting them. As of the end of June 2024, there are 9,780 registered support organizations, including companies (stock companies, limited liability companies, and other companies) (56.0%), business cooperatives of small and medium-sized businesses (25.0%), certified administrative procedures legal specialists (individuals) (6.8%), general incorporated associations (2.4%), Certified Administrative Procedures Legal Specialist Corporation (1.0%), and other individuals/organizations (8.8%).

4 Implementation Status of Specified Skilled Worker Exams

The ISA, in cooperation with the relevant ministries and agencies, has promoted the implementation of specified skilled worker exams in Japan and abroad. By the end of June 2024, exams in 12 fields (Nursing care; Building cleaning management; Machine parts and tooling/Industrial machinery/Electric, electronics, and information industries; Construction industry; Shipbuilding and ship machinery industry; Automobile repair and maintenance; Aviation industry; Accommodation industry; Agriculture; Fishery, and aquaculture; Manufacture of food and beverages; Food service industry) are implemented in Japan and 12 other countries (the Philippines, Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, Mongolia, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam, Sri Lanka, India, Uzbekistan, and Bangladesh).

The number of foreign nationals who have passed the skill exam has increased steadily to 311,883 (preliminary figure) as of the end of June 2024.

The ISA will continue to promote the expansion of test sites and number of tests conducted both in Japan and overseas, the implementation of efforts to improve sending procedures, and matching support based on the actual situation in various fields, in order to encourage the smooth acceptance of foreign nationals with the status of residence of Specified Skilled Worker.

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 (ISA), the estimated number of foreign nationals who overstayed (those who illegally stay in Japan beyond their authorized period of stay) was 79,113 as of January 1, 2024. This was an increase of 8,622 (12.2%) when compared to the 70,491 as of January 1, the previous year.

One possible factor behind the increase is that the number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan, which had significantly decreased since February 2020 in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, has recovered from March 2022 thanks to the gradual lifting of the countermeasures at the port of entry, including the easing of immigration restrictions.

Another possible factor is the termination of the special treatment related to statuses of residence, which was initiated in 2020 to help foreign nationals who had difficulty returning home due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

As for the number of foreign nationals overstaying their authorized period of stay as of January 1, 2024 by nationality/region, Viet Nam had the highest figure of 15,806, accounting for 20.0% of all illegal foreign residents. Viet Nam was followed by Thailand with 11,494 (14.5%), R. O. Korea with 10,869 (13.7%), China with 6,881 (8.7%), and the Philippines with 5,069 (6.4%). When it comes to the trends of the top three countries/regions, Viet Nam, which had seen a rise since 2013, showed a significant decrease of 7,148 (down 54.4% from the previous year) as of January 1, 2022 but a significant increase of 15,806 (up 15.3% from the previous year) as of January 1, 2024.

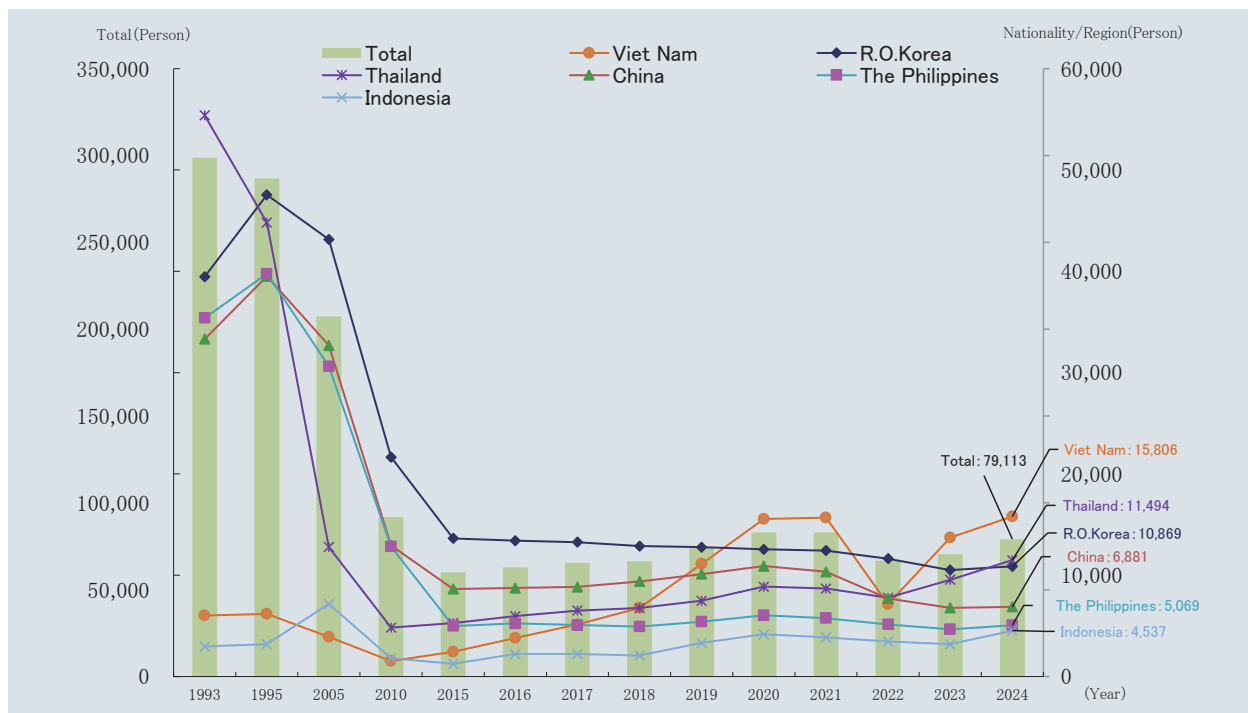
R. O. Korea had seen a consistent decrease since 1995, but it showed a slight increase of 10,869 (up 3.4% from the previous year) as of January 1, 2024. Thailand, which had seen a rise due to the relaxing of the visa requirements in 2013 and other factors, started to show a decrease as of January 1, 2020 but showed an increase again as of January 1, 2023 ([References 45, 46](#)).

Reference 45 Changes in the estimated number of foreign nationals overstaying the authorized period of stay by nationality/region

(Person)

Nationality/ Region	Date	January 1 2020	January 1 2021	January 1 2022	January 1 2023	January 1 2024
Total		82,892	82,868	66,759	70,491	79,113
Viet Nam		15,561	15,689	7,148	13,708	15,806
Thailand		8,872	8,691	7,783	9,549	11,494
R. O. Korea		12,563	12,433	11,631	10,508	10,869
China		10,902	10,335	7,716	6,782	6,881
The Philippines		6,061	5,761	5,148	4,662	5,069
Indonesia		4,180	3,869	3,450	3,185	4,537
Taiwan		3,730	3,724	3,319	2,873	3,191
Sri Lanka		1,112	1,287	1,316	1,595	2,001
Cambodia		121	266	491	1,185	1,731
Malaysia		1,846	1,826	1,693	1,474	1,387
Others		17,944	18,987	17,064	14,970	16,147

Reference 46 Changes in the estimated number of foreign nationals overstaying the authorized period of stay by major nationality/region



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

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

Looking at the number of overstayers as of January 1, 2024 for each status of residence immediately before they became overstayers shows that the top statuses of residence did not change after January 1 of the previous year. “Temporary Visitor” remained the most common status of residence with 49,801 overstayers, accounting for 62.9% of the total number, followed by “Designated Activities” at 8,189 (10.4%), “Technical Intern Training (i)-(b)” at 6,055 (7.7%), “Technical Intern Training (ii)-(b)” at 4,695 (5.9%), “Student” at 2,288 (2.9%), and “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” at 1,880 (2.4%). The statuses of residence that showed a significant increase from the previous year were “Technical Intern Training (i)-(b)” with 2,983 (up 97.1% from the previous year) and “Technical Intern Training (iii)-(b)” with 204 (up 91.5% from the previous year) ([Reference 47](#)).

Reference 47 Changes in the estimated number of foreign nationals overstaying the authorized period of stay by status of residence

(Person)

Status of Residence \ Date	January 1 2020	January 1 2021	January 1 2022	January 1 2023	January 1 2024
Total	82,892	82,868	66,759	70,491	79,113
Temporary Visitor	51,239	50,092	43,266	46,590	49,801
Designated Activities	5,688	5,904	5,305	6,215	8,189
Technical Intern Training (i)-(b)	5,309	5,722	3,230	3,072	6,055
Technical Intern Training(ii)-(b)	7,048	7,229	4,346	4,658	4,695
Student	5,543	5,041	2,436	2,465	2,288
Spouse or Child of Japanese National	2,687	2,608	2,300	1,937	1,880
Others	5,378	6,272	5,876	5,554	6,205

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

Section 2

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

1 Outline

The number of foreign nationals against whom deportation procedures or departure orders (hereinafter, “deportation procedures, etc.”) were enforced on account of violation of the Immigration Control Act in 2023 was 18,198, an increase of 7,898 (76.7%) compared with 2022. Of these, 9,197 were handed over to immigration inspectors as those subject to the departure order system. In recent years, the number of foreign nationals violating the Immigration Control Act decreased temporarily because the number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan decreased due to COVID-19 countermeasures at the border. In 2023, the number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan increased for reasons such as the end of those countermeasures, resulting in a rise in the number of foreign nationals appearing before authorities for violations of the Act. This is considered to be one of the reasons why the number of foreign nationals violating the Immigration Control Act grew compared to 2022. In addition, those reasons are also considered to include the strengthened collection and analysis of information on illegal foreign residents and the promotion of detection. According to the statistics of the number of foreign nationals by grounds for deportation, the largest number of foreign nationals was deported for illegal remaining at 16,949 (93.1%), followed by criminal offenses at 422 (2.3%) and Activity other than those permitted at 175 (1.0%). Illegal remaining continued to account for a predominant percentage ([Reference 48](#)).

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 6,953 (38.2%), followed by Thailand at 3,171 (17.4%) and China at 2,059 (11.3%). These top three countries made up 66.9% of the total ([Reference 49](#)).

Reference 48 Changes in the number of cases of violation of the Immigration Control Act by grounds for deportation

(Person)

Grounds for Deportation \ Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	19,386	15,875	18,012	10,300	18,198
Illegal entry	349	225	182	176	168
Illegal landing	134	56	50	69	172
Activity other than those permitted	255	96	37	44	175
Illegal remaining	17,627	14,465	16,638	9,137	16,949
Criminal offenses	448	504	574	527	422
Others	573	529	531	347	312
Illegal worker	12,816	10,993	13,255	6,355	12,384

Reference 49 Changes in the number of cases of violation of the Immigration Control Act by nationality/region

(Person)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	19,386	15,875	18,012	10,300	18,198
Viet Nam	6,549	6,286	9,668	3,568	6,953
Thailand	2,295	1,410	1,064	868	3,171
China	4,256	3,127	2,915	1,967	2,059
Cambodia	69	94	111	297	1,033
Indonesia	1,246	1,059	728	585	920
The Philippines	1,566	1,225	804	785	914
Sri Lanka	296	170	274	277	483
Turkey	271	237	408	270	391
Nepal	598	490	499	289	384
Brazil	285	316	216	213	261
Others	1,955	1,461	1,325	1,181	1,629

(*) “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 2023, the number of illegal entrants^(*) was 168, accounting for 0.9%, a decrease of 8 (4.5%) compared to 2022. Looking at past records, the number increased from 2003 but started to decrease since 2006. The fact that the number of illegal entrants as a percentage of the total number of foreign nationals in violation of the Immigration Control Act is decreasing is one of the reasons to consider that the countermeasures to prevent illegal entry have been quite effective.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number was from the Philippines at 46 (27.4%), followed by China at 25 (14.9%) and Iran at 20 (11.9%) (**Reference 50**). According to the statistics by means of transportation used for illegal entry, the number of illegal entrants using aircraft was 144. Though it showed an increase of 1 (0.7%) compared to 2022, the percentage of illegal entry using aircraft was still high at 85.7%. In addition, the number of illegal entrants using a vessel was 24, accounting for 14.3%, a decrease of 9 (27.3%) compared to 2022 (**References 51, 52**).

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

Reference 50 Changes in the number of cases of illegal entry by nationality/region
(Person)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	349	225	182	176	168
The Philippines	90	82	57	53	46
China	87	43	46	30	25
Iran	18	8	3	9	20
R.O.Korea	26	19	24	14	15
Thailand	13	13	4	10	10
Peru	10	2	10	10	9
Pakistan	7	1	6	1	7
Nigeria	5	0	1	2	6
Indonesia	8	8	1	2	4
Russia	10	2	7	4	3
Others	75	47	23	41	23

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

Reference 51 Changes in the number of cases of illegal entry using aircraft by nationality/region
(Person)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	282	198	141	143	144
The Philippines	86	80	56	47	41
Iran	17	7	3	8	20
China	50	30	22	12	16
Thailand	11	12	4	9	10
Peru	10	2	10	10	9
Others	108	67	46	57	48

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

Reference 52 Changes in the number of cases of illegal entry by vessel by nationality/region
(Person)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	67	27	41	33	24
China	37	13	24	18	9
R.O.Korea	14	7	14	4	9
The Philippines	4	2	1	6	5
Taiwan	0	0	0	1	1
Others	12	5	2	4	0

(*) "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 2023, 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 172 (0.9%), which was an increase of 103 (149.3%) compared to 2022 ([Reference 53](#)).

Reference 53 Changes in the number of cases of illegal landing by nationality/region

(Person)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	134	56	50	69	172
Turkey	22	11	1	16	92
Russia	9	12	19	19	10
China	16	3	5	1	9
Pakistan	6	0	0	1	8
United States of America	22	6	9	8	7
Others	59	24	16	24	46

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

(3) Illegal remaining

Of the foreign nationals against whom deportation procedures, etc., were enforced in 2023 for violating the Immigration Control Act, the number of people who overstayed the authorized period of stay was 16,949 (93.1%), even though it is an increase of 7,812 (85.5%) from 2022, the number is still overwhelmingly high. According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number was from Viet Nam at 6,647 (39.2%), followed by Thailand at 3,136 (18.5%), China at 1,885 (11.1%), Cambodia at 993 (5.9%), Indonesia at 900 (5.3%) ([Reference 54](#)).

Reference 54 Changes in the number of cases of foreign nationals overstaying the authorized period of stay by nationality/region

(Person)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	17,627	14,465	16,638	9,137	16,949
Viet Nam	6,156	5,956	9,232	3,236	6,647
Thailand	2,259	1,375	1,033	836	3,136
China	3,878	2,857	2,690	1,773	1,885
Cambodia	40	62	92	284	993
Indonesia	1,208	1,046	717	573	900
The Philippines	1,344	1,018	646	650	788
Sri Lanka	250	145	248	244	444
Nepal	531	444	465	278	351
Turkey	238	222	402	247	287
Uzbekistan	150	140	128	83	227
Others	1,573	1,200	985	933	1,291

(*) "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 2023, 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 175 (1.0%), which was an increase of 131 (297.7%) compared to 2022.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, Viet Nam had the largest number at 79 (45.1%), followed by Cambodia at 27 (15.4%) and Nepal at 17 (9.7%), and these top three countries accounted for 70.3% of the total ([Reference 55](#)).

Reference 55 Changes in the number of cases of activities other than those permitted under the status of residence previously granted by nationality/region

(Person)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	255	96	37	44	175
Viet Nam	134	45	17	27	79
Cambodia	2	9	3	0	27
Nepal	33	12	5	0	17
The Philippines	18	18	7	7	15
Sri Lanka	7	1	0	1	10
Others	61	11	5	9	27

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 2023, the number of those who were considered to be illegally working was 12,384 (68.1%). This indicates that most illegal foreign residents who are hiding out somewhere in Japan are working illegally.

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

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

The illegal foreign workers came from 35 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 5,530 (44.7%), followed by Thailand at 2,691 (21.7%), China at 1,315 (10.6%), Indonesia at 829 (6.7%) and Cambodia at 671 (5.4%). These top five countries represented 89.1% of the total ([Reference 56](#)).

Reference 56 Changes in the number of cases of illegal work by nationality/region (Person)

Nationality/Region \ Year		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total		12,816	10,993	13,255	6,355	12,384
	Male	8,903	7,923	9,634	4,664	8,928
	Female	3,913	3,070	3,621	1,691	3,456
Viet Nam		4,941	4,943	7,845	2,522	5,530
	Male	3,766	3,801	5,893	2,101	4,608
	Female	1,175	1,142	1,952	421	922
Thailand		2,047	1,254	975	751	2,691
	Male	1,035	631	513	392	1,332
	Female	1,012	623	462	359	1,359
China		3,155	2,361	2,425	1,360	1,315
	Male	2,188	1,693	1,745	909	844
	Female	967	668	680	451	471
Indonesia		1,014	933	678	535	829
	Male	827	780	555	451	687
	Female	187	153	123	84	142
Cambodia		31	51	66	142	671
	Male	25	35	52	113	486
	Female	6	16	14	29	185
The Philippines		764	649	480	442	495
	Male	398	331	264	232	272
	Female	366	318	216	210	223
Nepal		111	162	176	103	228
	Male	92	126	138	78	172
	Female	19	36	38	25	56
Sri Lanka		87	71	98	93	176
	Male	81	65	96	92	171
	Female	6	6	2	1	5
R.O.Korea		163	109	118	91	90
	Male	76	56	42	40	48
	Female	87	53	76	51	42
Uzbekistan		65	90	68	48	60
	Male	64	89	68	47	60
	Female	1	1	0	1	0
Others		438	370	326	268	299
	Male	351	316	268	209	248
	Female	87	54	58	59	51

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

(3) Number of Illegal Foreign Workers by Gender

The composition of illegal foreign workers by gender was 8,928 males (72.1%) and 3,456 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 4,066 (32.8%), followed by construction workers at 3,160 (25.5%) and factory workers at 1,717 (13.9%).

In addition, according to the statistics by gender, the largest number of males worked as construction workers, followed by agricultural workers then other labor workers, while the largest number of females worked as agricultural workers, followed by factory workers, and non-restaurant industry service workers ([Reference 57](#)).

Reference 57 Changes in the number of cases of illegal work by type of work

(Person)

Job Categories \ Year		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total		12,816	10,993	13,255	6,355	12,384
	Male	8,903	7,923	9,634	4,664	8,928
	Female	3,913	3,070	3,621	1,691	3,456
Agricultural worker		2,904	2,463	3,154	1,826	4,066
	Male	1,646	1,575	1,900	1,164	2,290
	Female	1,258	888	1,254	662	1,776
Construction worker		2,569	2,272	3,294	1,764	3,160
	Male	2,550	2,241	3,265	1,749	3,126
	Female	19	31	29	15	34
Factory worker		2,454	2,033	2,531	796	1,717
	Male	1,686	1,378	1,672	543	1,118
	Female	768	655	859	253	599
Other labor worker		1,380	1,156	1,287	484	1,555
	Male	1,089	862	1,003	391	1,346
	Female	291	294	284	93	209
Non-restaurant industry workers		647	493	697	329	414
	Male	268	226	358	132	175
	Female	379	267	339	197	239
Restaurant industry workers		292	215	266	94	162
	Male	129	114	124	39	71
	Female	163	101	142	55	91
Others		2,570	2,361	2,026	1,062	1,310
	Male	1,535	1,527	1,312	646	802
	Female	1,035	834	714	416	508

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

Illegal foreign workers are known to be working in 47 prefectures throughout Japan. According to the statistics on the place of work of the illegal foreign workers by prefecture, Ibaraki prefecture had the largest number at 2,748 (22.2%), followed by Chiba prefecture at 1,915 (15.5%), Gunma prefecture at 1,333 (10.8%), Saitama prefecture at 1,172 (9.5%) and Aichi prefecture at 1,050 (8.5%) ([Reference 58](#)).

According to the statistics by region, the number of illegal foreign workers in Tokyo and the six prefectures (Tokyo, Kanagawa, Chiba, Saitama, Ibaraki, Gunma, and Tochigi) in the Kanto district was 8,983 (72.5%), making up most of the total, and the number of illegal workers in the nine prefectures in the Chubu district (Niigata, Nagano, Yamanashi, Toyama, Ishikawa, Fukui, Shizuoka, Gifu and Aichi) was also at a high level of 1,662 (13.4%). Illegal foreign workers in the Kanto and Chubu districts making up 86.0% (10,645) of the total accounted for a substantial percentage of the total number of illegal foreign workers.

Reference 58 Changes in the number of cases of illegal foreign workers by area

(Person)

Prefecture \ Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	12,816	10,993	13,255	6,355	12,384
Ibaraki	2,126	1,512	1,973	1,283	2,748
Chiba	1,878	1,488	2,064	890	1,915
Gunma	826	851	1,439	536	1,333
Saitama	1,290	1,290	1,632	558	1,172
Aichi	1,606	1,452	1,265	701	1,050
Tokyo	1,551	1,428	1,287	529	831
Osaka	464	459	587	283	530
Tochigi	305	287	477	238	509
Kanagawa	625	534	566	269	475
Hyogo	297	230	258	143	236
Others	1,848	1,462	1,707	925	1,585

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 2023 was 18,784, an increase of 7,679 (69.1%) compared to the previous year ([Reference 59](#)).

Reference 59

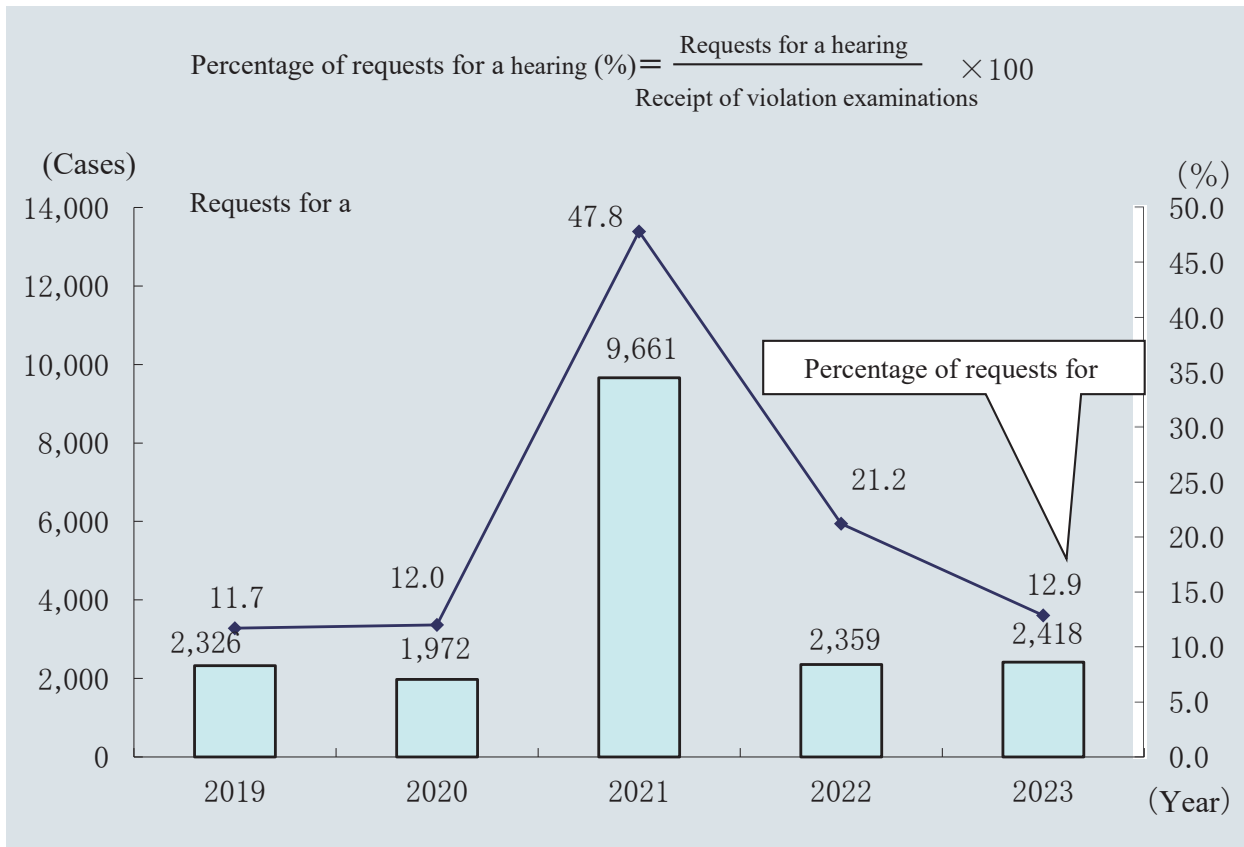
Changes in the number of cases of receipt and findings of violation examinations by immigration inspectors, hearings by special inquiry officers and decisions of the Minister of Justice

(Cases)

Division \ Year		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Violation examination by immigration inspector	Receipt	19,853 (370)	16,410 (393)	20,202 (1,983)	11,105 (563)	18,784 (367)
	Completed	Found not to fall under one of the reasons for deportation	—	2	1	—
		Issuance of written deportation order	8,306	5,372	4,168	6,683
		Request for hearing	2,326	1,972	2,359	2,418
		Issuance of written departure order	8,702	6,898	3,881	9,176
	Not completed, others		519	2,166	696	507
Hearing by special inquiry officer	Receipt	3,040 (651)	2,631 (616)	10,433 (691)	3,004 (597)	2,735 (269)
	Completed	Error in the findings	—	1	—	1
		Issuance of written deportation order	95	60	42	86
		Filing of an objection	2,256	1,832	2,644	2,401
		Issuance of written departure order	—	—	—	—
	Not completed, others		689	738	318	247
Decision of the Minister of Justice	Receipt	2,819 (544)	2,368 (518)	10,126 (371)	3,570 (889)	3,431 (988)
	Completed	Objection with reason	—	—	—	1
		Objection without reason	2,211	1,916	2,403	2,139
		Issuance of written departure order	—	—	—	—
	Not completed, others		608	452	1,167	1,291

(*) 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 2023 was 2,418 accounting for 12.9% of the total number of cases which underwent an examination of the violation, an increase of 59 (2.5%) compared to the previous year ([References 59, 60](#)).

Reference 60 Changes in the number and percentage of requests for a hearing

The number of objections filed by foreign nationals who were not satisfied with the decision made by the special inquiry officer at the hearing was 2,401 in 2023, a decrease of 243 (9.2%) compared to the previous year ([Reference 59](#)).

(2) Issuance of a Written Deportation Order

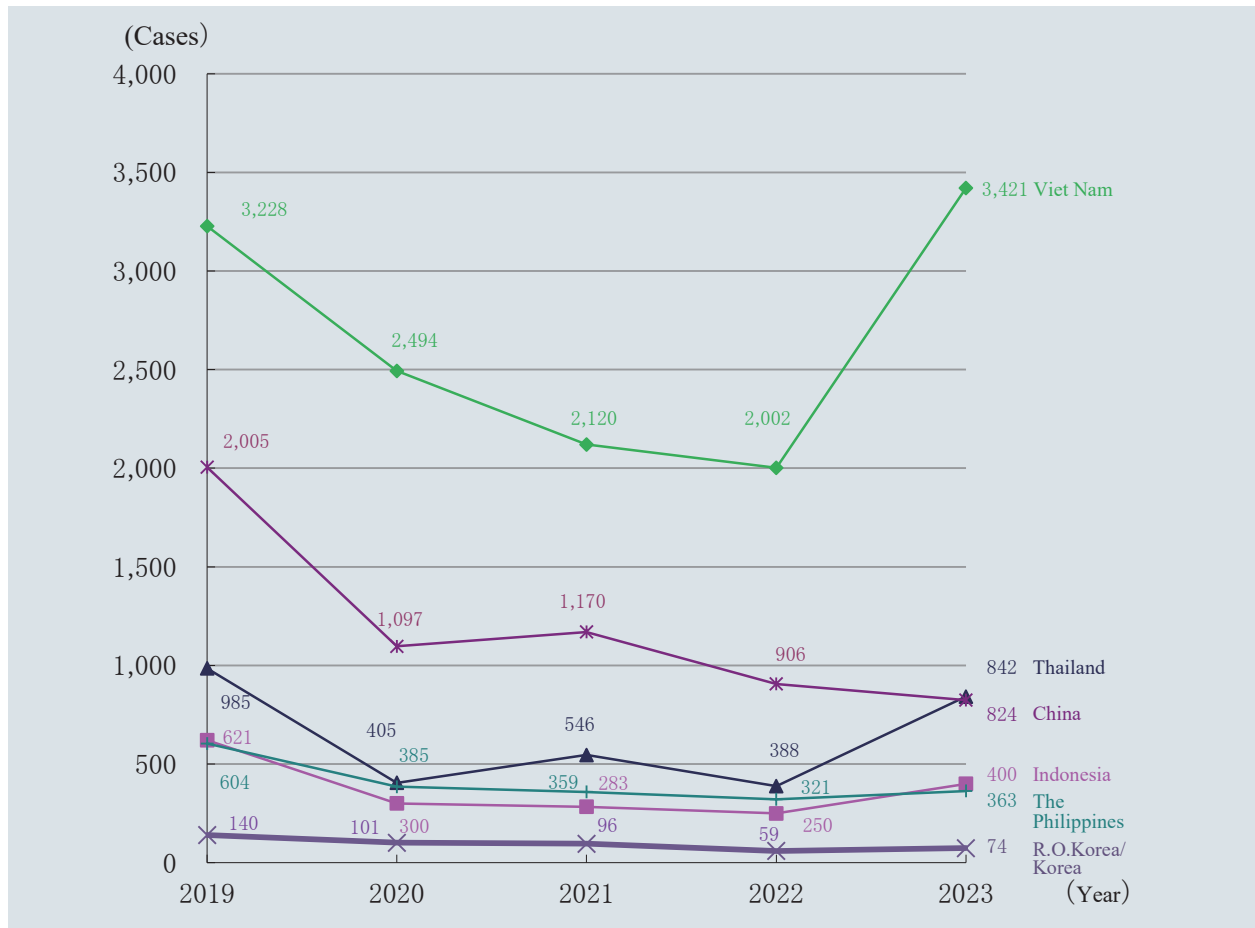
The number of written deportation orders issued in 2023 was 7,826. According to the statistics by ground for deportation, the cases of overstay amounted to 6,754, accounting for 86.3% of the total, while the percentage of cases of illegal entry amounted to 117, accounting for 1.5% of the total ([Reference 61](#)).

Reference 61 Changes in the number of issuance of written deportation orders by grounds for deportation

		(Cases)				
Grounds for Deportation	Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total		9,218	5,903	5,566	5,134	7,826
Illegal remaining		7,434	4,604	4,006	3,968	6,754
Illegal entry		256	132	130	118	117
Illegal landing		127	41	43	43	126
Activity other than those permitted		254	96	33	43	168
Criminal offenses		147	154	504	444	142
Others		1,000	876	850	518	519

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number was from Viet Nam at 3,421, accounting for 43.7% of the total, followed by Thailand at 842 (10.8%) and China at 824 (10.5%) (Reference 62).

Reference 62 Changes in the number of issuance of written deportation orders by nationality/region



(3) Provisional Release

The number of cases where foreign nationals who had been detained due to a written detention order were provisionally released in 2023 was 1,208, a decrease of 1,018 (45.7%) compared to the previous year. The number of foreign nationals detained under a written deportation order who were granted provisional release was 1,477, a decrease of 1,161 (44.0%) compared to the previous year (Reference 63).

Reference 63 Changes in the number of cases of permission for provisional release (Cases)

Type of Order \ Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
By written detention order	1,052	3,375	3,506	2,226	1,208
By written deportation order	725	3,013	4,275	2,638	1,477

(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 2023 was 1,160, a decrease of 365 (23.9%) when compared to 2022.

Most of the foreign nationals who received special permission to stay in Japan had established close relationships with Japanese nationals such as through marriage. Also in many cases they had settled down in Japan in many respects. Looking at the foreign nationals who came under the grounds of deportation but were granted special permission to stay in Japan, there were 927 (79.9%) staying beyond the authorized period of stay in 2023. And there were 79 (6.8%) illegal entry and illegal landing. Illegal remaining, illegal entry and illegal landing accounted for 86.7% of the total ([Reference 64](#)).

Reference 64 Changes in the number of cases of special permission to stay in Japan by grounds for deportation

(Cases)

Grounds for Deportation \ Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	1,448	1,478	8,793	1,525	1,160
Illegal remaining	1,051	1,142	8,271	1,089	927
Illegal entry/Illegal landing	128	104	132	105	79
Criminal offenses etc.	269	232	390	331	154

According to statistics by nationality/region in 2023, the number of foreign nationals who were granted special permission to stay in Japan was 271 (23.4%) for the Philippines, 194 (16.7%) for China, 91 (7.8%) for Thailand, 61 (5.3%) for Viet Nam, and 59 (5.1%) for R.O. Korea/Korea combined ([Reference 65](#)).

Reference 65 Changes in the number of cases of special permission to stay in Japan by nationality/region

(Cases)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	1,448	1,478	8,793	1,525	1,160
The Philippines	411	391	350	293	271
China	242	175	237	233	194
Thailand	62	71	107	106	91
Viet Nam	76	202	7,450	255	61
R.O.Korea/Korea	108	83	79	78	59
Others	549	556	570	560	484

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

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

5 Outline of Deportation of Foreign Nationals

The number of deportees in 2023 was 8,024, which was an increase of 3,229 (67.3%) when compared to the previous year.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of deportees was from Viet Nam at 3,513 (43.8%), followed by China at 1,041 (13.0%), Thailand at 897 (11.2%), Indonesia at 418 (5.2%) and the Philippines at 410 (5.1%) ([Reference 66](#)).

Reference 66 Changes in the number of deportees by nationality/region

(Person)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	9,597	5,450	4,122	4,795	8,024
Viet Nam	3,185	2,206	1,781	2,014	3,513
China	1,998	980	832	784	1,041
Thailand	1,003	382	224	448	897
Indonesia	639	295	191	238	418
The Philippines	737	382	214	321	410
Cambodia	47	49	35	86	349
Nepal	275	197	170	172	222
Sri Lanka	212	141	103	122	195
Turkey	195	111	87	77	190
Uzbekistan	81	68	32	48	90
Others	1,225	639	453	485	699

(*) “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 67 Changes in the number of deportees by means of deportation

(Person)

Measure of Deportation \ Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	9,597	5,450	4,122	4,795	8,024
Voluntary departure	8,967	4,705	2,808	3,935	7,127
Deportation in accordance with Article 59	72	27	8	11	52
Government-funded deportation (without escort officials)	313	633	1,277	724	695
Government-funded deportation (with escort officials)	203	76	15	96	119
Individual deportation (for those who attempt to evade deportation)	201	30	11	88	113
Individual deportation (for those who claim to have medical conditions)	2	2	4	8	6
Group deportation	0	44	0	0	0
Others	1	1	0	2	1
Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons	41	8	14	27	30

- (*1) "Government-funded deportation (without escort officials)" refers to the deportation of a foreign national not accompanied by an escort official that is fully or partially funded by the Japanese government (for those who intend to return home but cannot afford to do so).
- (*2) "Group deportation" refers to group deportation through the use of private chartered aircraft paid for by the Japanese government.
- (*3) "Others" are cases of deportation at the expense of the government of the deportees' home country.
- (*4) "Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons" refers to the number of foreign nationals who left Japan in accordance with a written deportation order under the Act on the Transnational Transfer of Sentenced Persons."

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

Of the deportees, the number of those deported at their own expense stood at 7,127 (88.8%), which was an increase of 3,192 (81.1%) when compared to the previous year ([References 67, 68](#)).

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

Reference 68 Changes in the number of deportees through voluntary departure by nationality/region

(Person)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	8,967	4,705	2,808	3,935	7,127
Viet Nam	3,147	1,726	723	1,629	3,260
China	1,925	931	759	697	948
Thailand	996	380	213	391	847
Indonesia	629	281	172	195	378
the Philippines	648	369	182	250	350
Cambodia	44	49	32	74	340
Nepal	248	177	158	152	188
Turkey	154	103	84	52	142
Sri Lanka	181	95	85	95	139
Uzbekistan	76	67	28	44	72
Others	919	527	372	356	463

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

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

With violators of the Immigration Control Act increasingly staying longer in more diverse ways than before, some deportees attempt to evade deportation under various excuses, cannot afford to return home, or claim to have medical conditions that make it difficult for them to return home. Those who intend to return home but cannot afford to do so are deported at the full or partial expense of the Japanese government, and are not accompanied by escort officials (government-funded deportation without escort officials). On the other hand, those who claim to have medical conditions or attempt to evade deportation are deported at the expense of the Japanese government and are accompanied by escort officials (government-funded deportation with escort officials). The number of foreign nationals subject to government-funded deportation without escort officials was 695 (8.7%), a decrease of 29 (4.0%) compared to 2022. The number of foreign nationals subject to government-funded deportation with escort officials was 119 (1.5%), an increase of 23 (24.0%) compared to 2022 ([Reference 67](#)).

(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 2023 was 52 (0.6%), an increase of 41 (372.7%) compared to 2022 ([Reference 67](#)).

(※) 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.

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 9,197 in 2023, accounting for 50.5% 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 3,524 (38.3%), followed by Thailand at 2,257 (24.5%), China at 1,087 (11.8%), Cambodia at 591 (6.4%) and Indonesia at 516 (5.6%), and these top five countries accounted for 86.7% of the total ([Reference 69](#)).

Reference 69 Changes in the number of foreign nationals handed over under a departure order by nationality/region

(Person)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	8,713	6,874	4,365	3,877	9,197
Viet Nam	3,249	2,739	651	1,350	3,524
Thailand	1,232	748	579	387	2,257
China	2,081	1,625	1,722	933	1,087
Cambodia	24	23	39	153	591
Indonesia	634	712	435	315	516
The Philippines	565	376	215	223	321
Sri Lanka	79	37	101	77	206
Nepal	352	252	283	134	176
Uzbekistan	73	45	86	23	89
Turkey	55	73	21	17	71
Others	369	244	233	265	359

(*) "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 2023 was 9,197, accounting for 49.0% of the total number of cases of examination of the violation. This represented a decrease of 5,320 (137.2%) when compared to the previous year.

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

B. Issuance of a Written Departure Order

The number of cases in which were issued with a written departure order having been determined to be eligible for a departure order, was 9,176 in 2023. According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number was from Viet Nam at 3,508, accounting for 38.2% of the total, followed by Thailand at 2,257 (24.6%), China at 1,084 (11.8%), Cambodia at 590 (6.4%), and Indonesia at 516 (5.6%), and the top five countries accounted for 86.7% of the total ([Reference 70](#)).

Reference 70 Changes in the number of issuances of written departure orders by nationality/region

(Cases)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	8,702	6,898	4,410	3,881	9,176
Viet Nam	3,242	2,761	674	1,350	3,508
Thailand	1,233	749	582	389	2,257
China	2,079	1,634	1,737	935	1,084
Cambodia	24	23	40	152	590
Indonesia	633	710	434	315	516
The Philippines	562	377	215	224	321
Sri Lanka	79	36	100	77	205
Nepal	351	252	284	134	176
Uzbekistan	73	45	88	23	89
Turkey	56	68	22	17	71
Others	370	243	234	265	359

(*) "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.

7 Overview of Immigration Control and Residency Management Lawsuits

Most administrative and other lawsuits related to the ISA (“immigration control and residency management lawsuits”) are actions for revoking the issuance of a written deportation order against an illegal foreign resident and actions for revoking a decision not to recognize a refugee status. The number of such actions filed and accepted (merits cases) in 2023 was 175 (126 in the previous year) ([Reference 71](#)).

In addition to the above two types of actions, recent immigration control and residency management lawsuits include actions that require a special permission be granted to stay in Japan, actions that provisionally require permission of provisional release, and actions for injunction or provisional injunction against issuance of a written detention order.

In 2023, a total of 206 judgments were handed down for immigration control and residency management lawsuits (merits cases), consisting of 198 wins and 8 losses of the government^(※).

Reference 71 Changes in the number of immigration control and residency management lawsuits accepted and concluded (merits cases) (as of the end of 2023)

(Cases)

Category \ Year		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Administrative case	Action for revocation or annulment related to deportation procedures	146	75	43	58	110
	Action for revocation or annulment related to denied permission concerning residence examinations	24	12	9	20	15
	Action for revocation or annulment related to denied issuance of a Certificate of Eligibility	3	1	1	0	1
	Action for revocation or annulment related to refugee recognition procedures	58	29	41	25	40
	Others	7	6	7	15	3
	(Subtotal)	238	123	101	118	169
Civil case		10	4	6	8	6
Habeas corpus petition		0	1	1	0	0
Number of actions accepted (total)		248	128	108	126	175
Number of actions concluded		237	181	157	137	130

(※) These numbers represent the total count of judgment documents. If more than one judgment is handed down on a case by a district court, a high court, or elsewhere within the same year, each of these judgments is counted as one case. Where more than one person files an action regarding a case, and a single judgment is handed down on the case, if any of the actions results in the government's loss, the case is counted as one instance of the government's loss. Where multiple actions regarding a case are joined, and a single judgment is handed down on the case, if any of the actions results in the government's loss, the case is counted as one instance of the government's loss. (The government's win refers to a case where all claims are dismissed or denied in an immigration control and residency management lawsuit (merits case) filed to seek the revocation of an administrative action or for other purposes, while the government's loss refers to a case where the claim of any of the plaintiffs or any of multiple claims is sustained, even if partially, for a single case.)

Chapter 6 Recognition of Refugee Status, etc.

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.

Furthermore, the Amendment Act of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act came into force on December 1, 2023, providing for matters including the establishment of a system for recognizing eligibility for complementary protection for the purpose of securely protecting displaced persons from conflict and other similar persons who are not “refugees” under the Refugee Convention but need protection in the same way as “refugees.”

The ISA has further improved and strengthened its organizational structure and investigation system, and has endeavored to ensure proper implementation of the refugee recognition system, including the system for recognizing eligibility for complementary protection, to handle applications for refugee status and the like promptly, and appropriately.

Section 1

Applications and Processing for Recognition of Refugee Status, etc.

1 Application for Recognition of Refugee Status and Eligibility for Complementary Protection

(1) Application for Recognition of Refugee Status

In 2023, the total number of applicants who applied for recognition of refugee status in Japan was 13,823, which was an increase of 10,051 (about 266%) when compared to 2022 ([Reference 72](#)).

Reference 72 Changes in the number of applications for recognition of refugee status

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Applications	10,493	10,375	3,936	2,413	3,772	13,823

(Person)

The number of nationalities/regions of the applicants was 87, including Sri Lanka with 3,778 applicants (27.3%), Türkiye with 2,406 (17.4%), Pakistan with 1,062 (7.7%), India with 934 (6.8%), Cambodia with 888 (6.4%), Nepal 697 (5.0%), Bangladesh with 538 (3.9%), Uzbekistan with 473 (3.4%), Myanmar with 324 (2.3%), and Afghanistan with 259 (1.9%).

The applicants at the time of their applications were composed of 12,983 (93.9%) legal

residents and 840 (6.1%) illegal residents.

Among the applicants, 1,661 applicants accounting for 12.0% had applied for recognition of refugee status in the past. These applicants comprised 1,080 legal residents and 581 illegal residents.

(2) Application for Recognition of Eligibility for Complementary Protection

With respect to the system for recognizing eligibility for complementary protection that commenced on December 1, 2023, the number of applicants who applied for recognition of persons under complementary protection in Japan was 678 in 2023.

The number of nationalities/regions of the applicants was six, namely Ukraine with 669 applicants (98.7%), Russia with 5 (0.7%), Uzbekistan with 1 (0.1%), UK with 1 (0.1%), Syria with 1 (0.1%), and Sri Lanka with 1 (0.1%).

The applicants at the time of their applications comprised 677 (99.9%) legal residents and 1 (0.1%) illegal resident.

Among the 678 applicants, one applicant had applied for recognition of refugee status in the past.

2 Processing of Applications for Recognition of Refugee Status and Eligibility for Complementary Protection

In 2023, the number of applicants whose application for refugee status was processed was 8,184, an increase of 947 (13.1%) compared to 2022. of these applicants, 289 were recognized as refugees^(※), 5,045 were not recognized as refugees (including 2 who were not recognized as refugees but recognized as eligible for persons under complementary protection), and 2,850 withdrew their applications or took other action.

The number of applicants whose application for recognition of eligibility for complementary protection was processed in 2023 was 0.

Flexible treatment with consideration to various circumstances is accorded within the framework of immigration and residence management administration even to those who are not recognized as refugees or people eligible for complementary protection. This may happen if, for example, they will find it difficult to return to their home country due to the situation in their home country or there are special circumstances necessitating permission to stay in Japan to be granted, and 1,005 foreign nationals were permitted to stay in 2023 ([Reference 73](#)).

(※) 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.

Reference 73 Status of refugee protection in Japan

(Person)

Division \ Year		1978~2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Refugee Status	Recognized as convention refugees	708	42	44	47	74	202	303
	Refugees for resettlement	11,471	22	20	—	—	35	47
Persons under complementary protection		—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Other asylum		2,588	40	37	44	580	1,760	1,005
Total		14,767	104	101	91	654	1,997	1,357

- (*)1 The number of persons recognized as convention 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 “Refugees for resettlement” consists of (1) so-called “boat people” who fled from Indo-Chinese countries during the 1970s through to the 1980s and their family/relatives (their legal protection was based on Cabinet approval on April 28, 1978 and June 17, 1980, respectively), and (2) accepted refugees who had been protected temporarily in Thailand (2010~2014) and Malaysia (2015 onward) (their legal protection was based on Cabinet approval on December 16, 2008 and January 24, 2015, respectively). Therefore, the numbers for “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 convention refugees after resettling in Japan.
- (*)3 The number of “Persons under complementary protection” is the number of foreign nationals recognized as persons under complementary protection under the Immigration Control Act (including those not recognized as refugees).
- (*)4 The number of “Other asylum” is persons not recognized as refugees nor persons subject to complementary protection but permitted to reside in Japan for humanitarian reasons.

3 Implementation of the System for Permission for Provisional Stay

The number of foreign nationals who were granted permission for provisional stay was 148 in 2023, an increase of 89 (66.3%) compared to 2022.

The number of those who underwent an examination as to whether or not they should be granted permission for provisional stay was 914. 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 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): 594 persons.
- (ii) Applicants had already received a deportation order: 295 persons.
- (iii) There had been reasonable grounds to believe that the applicants are likely to flee: 131 persons^(*).

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

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 2023 was 5,247, and this was an increase of 786 (17.6%) compared with 2022 ([Reference 74](#)).

The number of persons who made a request for an administrative review of a disposition denying recognition of eligibility for complementary protection in 2023 was 0.

Reference 74 Changes in the number of appeals, and determinations of the Minister of Justice

(Person)

Division \ Year		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Not recognized as a refugee		4,936	3,477	4,196	5,418	5,045
Appeal		5,130	2,573	4,046	4,461	5,247
Processing	With reason (Recognized as a refugee)	1	1	9	15	14
	With reason (Recognized as a complementary protection)	—	—	—	—	0
	Without reason	6,021	5,271	6,732	4,725	2,582
	Withdrawn, etc.	2,269	1,203	670	492	863

2 Processing of the Appeal

The number of the appeals processed in 2023 was 3,459, a decrease of 1,773 (33.9%) compared with 2022. The breakdown included 14 person (15 in the previous year) whose appeals were found to be with reasonable grounds (one who was recognized as a refugee), 2,582 persons (4,725 in the previous year) whose appeals were found to be without any reasonable grounds, and 863 persons (492 in the previous year) who withdrew their appeals ([Reference 74](#)).

Among those whose appeals were found to be with reasonable grounds in 2023, the number of persons who were recognized as eligible for persons under complementary protection was 0.

(※) Appeals against dispositions that did not recognize the applicant as a refugee were changed from the “filing of an objection” to a “request for administrative review” pursuant to the Amended Immigration Control Act which came into effect on April 1, 2016.

Section 3 Application and Processing of Landing Permission for Temporary

In 2023, 48 foreign nationals applied for landing permission for temporary refuge (hereinafter referred to as “temporary refuge landing permission”) in Japan, which was an increase of 36 compared to 2022. The breakdown for the processing of applications was 11 cases given permission, 34 cases denied permission, and 2 cases of withdrawn application.

Reference 75 Changes in the number of applications for Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge

(Person)

Division \ Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Applications	36	7	3	12	48
Permission	1	1	1	2	11
Disapproval	31	7	3	10	34
Withdrawn, etc.	2	—	—	—	2

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

Reference 76 Processing status of applications for Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge (2023)

(Person)

Nationality	Applications Total	Breakdown of processing			
		Permission	Disapproval	Termination/ Withdrawn	Discontinuance
Iran	17	—	15	1	—
China	9	1	8	—	—
Yemen	8	8	—	—	—
Turkey	2	—	2	—	—
United Kingdom	2	—	2	—	—
Uganda	2	1	1	—	—
India	1	—	1	—	—
Democratic Republic of Congo	1	—	1	—	—
Cuba	1	—	1	—	—
Sudan	1	1	—	—	—
Sri Lanka	1	—	1	—	—
Nigeria	1	—	1	—	—
Mexico	1	—	1	—	—
Mauritania	1	—	—	1	—
Total	48	11	34	2	—

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

Chapter 7

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 serious human rights abuses and requires a prompt and appropriate response from a humanitarian perspective. This is because trafficking in persons causes serious psychological and physical suffering to its victims, especially on women and children, and recovering from the damage is extremely difficult. 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 has promoted comprehensive and integrated government-wide measures against trafficking in persons. In December 2004, the Inter-Ministerial Liaison Committee regarding measures to combat trafficking in persons formulated the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons. The Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime formulated the 2009, Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons in December 2009, the 2014 Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons in December 2014, and the 2022 Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons in December 2022. In June 2023, the Council for the Promotion of Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons, which is composed of the relevant ministers held its ninth meeting.

Based on the “2022 Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons,” the ISA has also been striving to prevent human trafficking by further strengthening its system of cooperation with the related organizations, has been tracking hidden cases where there is the possibility of human trafficking and has been proactively engaged in eradicating trafficking in persons and offering appropriate protection to the victims.

Information on the government's measures against trafficking in persons
(https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/publications/materials/zinsin_index.html)

2 Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Persons

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

In 2023, the ISA implemented protection procedures (including supporting the victim's return to the home country) for 8 foreign nationals as victims of trafficking in persons (two persons in the previous year). All victims were Philippine (one Philippine and one Thai in the previous year).

In addition, all eight victims had a status of residence (one person in the previous year), and the number of victims who were in violation of the Immigration Control Act such as illegally staying beyond the authorized period of stay was 0 (one person in the previous year) ([Reference 77](#)).

The number of victims has declined significantly since 2005, when the ISA first started collecting statistics and offered protection to 115 victims, and the number has been fluctuating in recent years with a little more than 10 victims at most. This is thought to be because the entire government has been working together on measures under the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons, and owing to the fact that measures to prevent and eradicate trafficking in persons, such as the implementation of strict landing examinations have had a certain level of effect ([Reference 78](#)).

Reference 77 Number of victims of trafficking in persons (2023)

(Person)

Breakdown Nationality/region	Recognized as a victim of trafficking in persons		Total
	Foreign nationals previously in possession of a status of residence	Violators of the Immigration Control Act (Special Permission to Stay in Japan)	
The Philippines	8	0(0)	8
Total	8	0(0)	8

(*) The breakdown by status of residence of foreign nationals previously in possession of a status of residence was "Entertainer," 8 person.

Reference 78 Changes in the number of victims of trafficking in persons

(Person)

Breakdown \ Year	2005	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	115	12	8	11	2	8
Foreign nationals previously in possession of a status of residence	68	7	1	10	1	8
Violators of the Immigration Control Act (Special permission to stay in Japan)	47(47)	5(5)	7(7)	1(1)	1(1)	0(0)

3 Foreign Nationals Deported for Committing Trafficking in Persons (※)

In 2014, the National Police Agency, Ministry of Justice, Supreme Public Prosecutors Office, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and the Japan Coast Guard established the “Task Force for the Enforcement of Laws and Regulations Relating to Trafficking in Persons,” and this task force has been conducting improved information sharing and cooperation in order to ensure crackdowns on human trafficking-related offenses, and consequently, no foreign nationals were deported by the ISA as perpetrators of human trafficking in 2023 (zero persons in the previous year).

Section 2 Protection of Foreign Domestic Violence Victims

1 Outline

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

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

In January 2008, a law to partially amend the Act on the Prevention of Spousal Violence and the Protection of Victims was enforced. Following this enforcement, the Basic Policy

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

Relating to Measures to Prevent Spousal Violence and Protect Victims^(※) was formulated by relevant ministries and agencies, including the Ministry of Justice. Under this basic policy, the ISA established its own guidelines on measures in July 2008 (which were partially revised in January 2018, in January 2022, and in June 2024). In cooperation with relevant organizations, the ISA also provides its staff with practical training in protecting domestic violence victims, including practical knowledge and key considerations. In cases where a person is identified as a victim of domestic violence, the ISA, taking into full consideration the fact that the victim has been placed in a harsh situation both physically and mentally, deals appropriately according to the physical and mental condition, etc., of the victim, and strives to further protect the victim by cooperating with the Spousal Violence Counseling and Support Center, the Women's Counseling and Support Center, police and other related organizations.

2 Number of Recognized Foreign Domestic Violence Victims

The ISA places emphasis the most on the protection of victims and treats the victims properly from a humanitarian perspective by ensuring coordination with the agencies concerned, and gives careful consideration to the wishes and situation of the victims in the procedures for such as examination of the status of residence or the deportation procedures while considering their individual circumstances. The number of foreign domestic violence victims who were recognized in the process of residence examination or the deportation procedures during 2023 was 235 ([References 79, 80](#)).

Taking into account the individual situations of recognized victims, the ISA reported their cases to relevant authorities, permitted extension of their periods of stay, and took other actions.

(※) 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.

Reference 79 Number of recognized foreign domestic violence victims (2023)

(Person)

Nationality/Region	Division	Residence Procedures	Deportation Procedures	Consultations	Others	Total
The Philippines		64	3	27	2	96
China		8	0	11	3	22
Brazil		7	2	6	1	16
Viet Nam		6	1	5	1	13
Nepal		3	0	7	1	11
Peru		1	0	6	2	9
R.O.Korea		4	0	3	0	7
Sri Lanka		2	0	4	0	6
Thailand		5	1	0	0	6
Ukraine		0	0	4	0	4
Bangladesh		1	0	2	1	4
Russia		1	0	3	0	4
Indonesia		3	0	0	0	3
Congo (DRC)		2	1	0	0	3
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland		1	0	1	0	2
Ghana		1	0	0	1	2
Syria		1	0	0	1	2
Taiwan		2	0	0	0	2
Nigeria		0	0	1	1	2
Pakistan		0	0	0	2	2
United States of America		1	0	1	0	2
Bolivia		1	0	1	0	2
Myanmar		2	0	0	0	2
Afghanistan		0	0	1	0	1
India		0	0	1	0	1
Uganda		0	1	0	0	1
Ethiopia		0	0	1	0	1
Kazakhstan		0	0	1	0	1
Cambodia		1	0	0	0	1
Kenya		0	0	1	0	1
Colombia		1	0	0	0	1
Turkey		0	0	1	0	1
Paraguay		1	0	0	0	1
Venezuela		0	0	0	1	1
Jordan		1	0	0	0	1
Rumania		0	0	1	0	1
Total		120	9	89	17	235

Reference 80 Changes in the number of victims of domestic violence cases recognized by Immigration Services Offices

(Person)

Year	Immigration Services Offices	Head Office	Sapporo	Sendai	Tokyo	Nagoya	Osaka	Hiroshima	Takamatsu	Fukuoka	Total
2021		—	—	3	88	52	20	7	1	7	178
2022		1	2	7	122	84	10	11	—	12	249
2023		1	3	3	110	56	32	6	2	22	235

(*) The numbers for the Tokyo Regional Bureau, the Osaka Regional Bureau, and the Fukuoka Regional Bureau include the numbers for the Yokohama District Office, the Kobe District Office, and the Naha District Office, respectively.