

# 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
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- 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**

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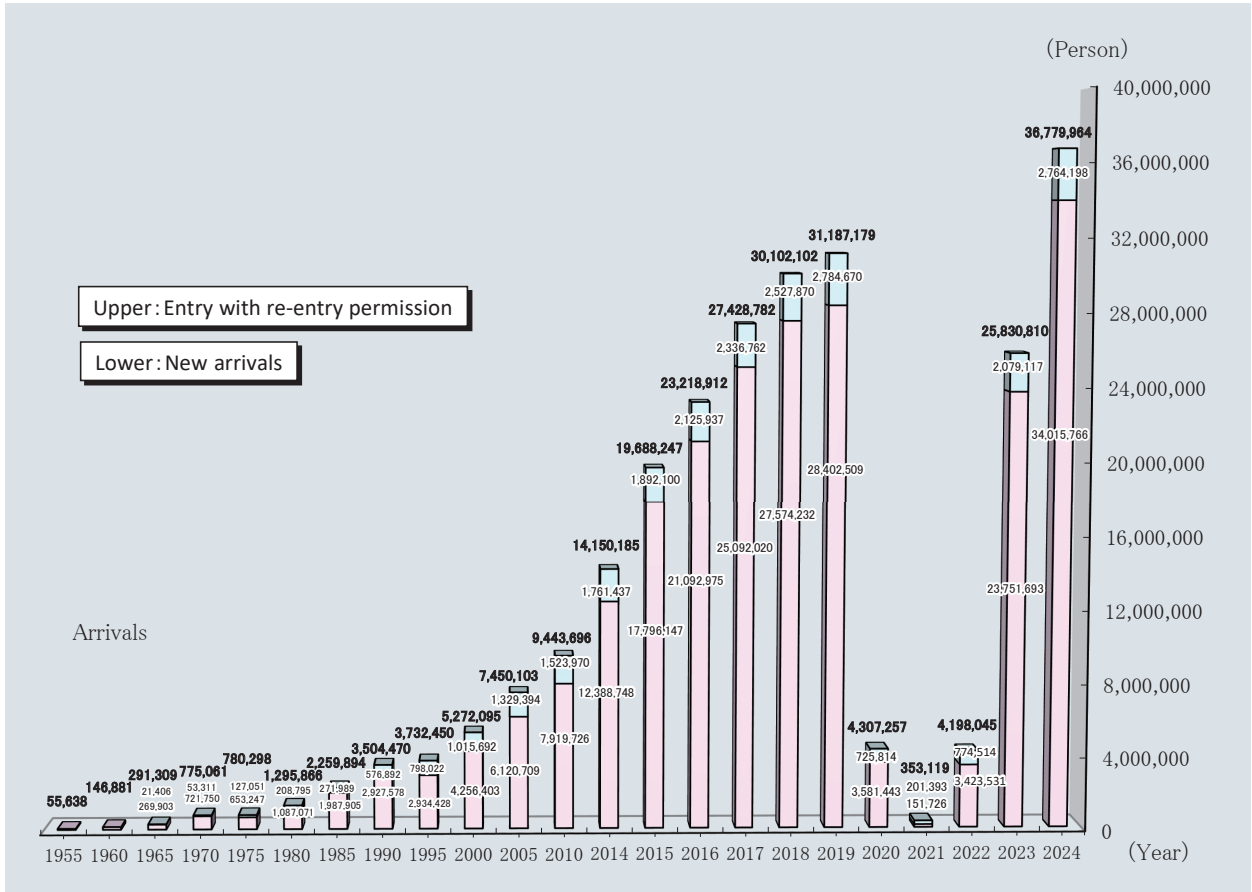
**(1) Number of Foreign Nationals Entering**

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 2024 was 36,779,964, a drastic increase of 10,949,154 (42.4%) from the previous year.

Of the foreign nationals entering Japan in 2024, the number of new entrants was 34,015,766, which was an increase of 10,264,073 (43.2%) from the previous year, while the number of foreign nationals re-entering Japan was 2,764,198, which was an increase of 685,081 (33.0%) from the previous year.

From March 2022, the number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan has increased by 19.8% as compared to 2019 before the COVID-19 pandemic, reaching a record-high number. 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



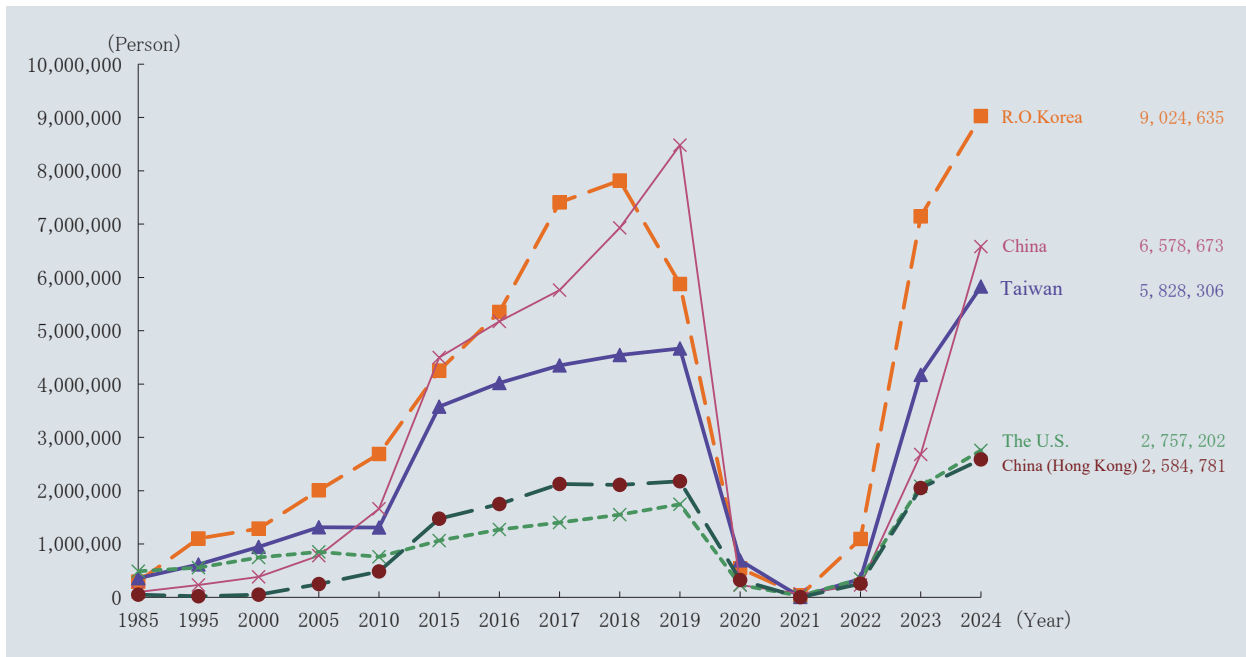
(\*) There are no separate categories for arrivals for 1955 and 1960.

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

According to the statistics for the number of foreign nationals entering Japan in 2024 by nationality/region, the largest number of foreign nationals came from Republic of Korea (R.O. Korea) at 9,024,635, accounting for 24.5% of the total. China, at 6,578,673 (17.9%), was followed by Taiwan at 5,828,306 (15.8%), the U.S. at 2,757,202 (7.5%), and China (Hong Kong) at 2,584,781 (7.0%)<sup>(\*)</sup>.

These top five countries accounted for 72.8% 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.”

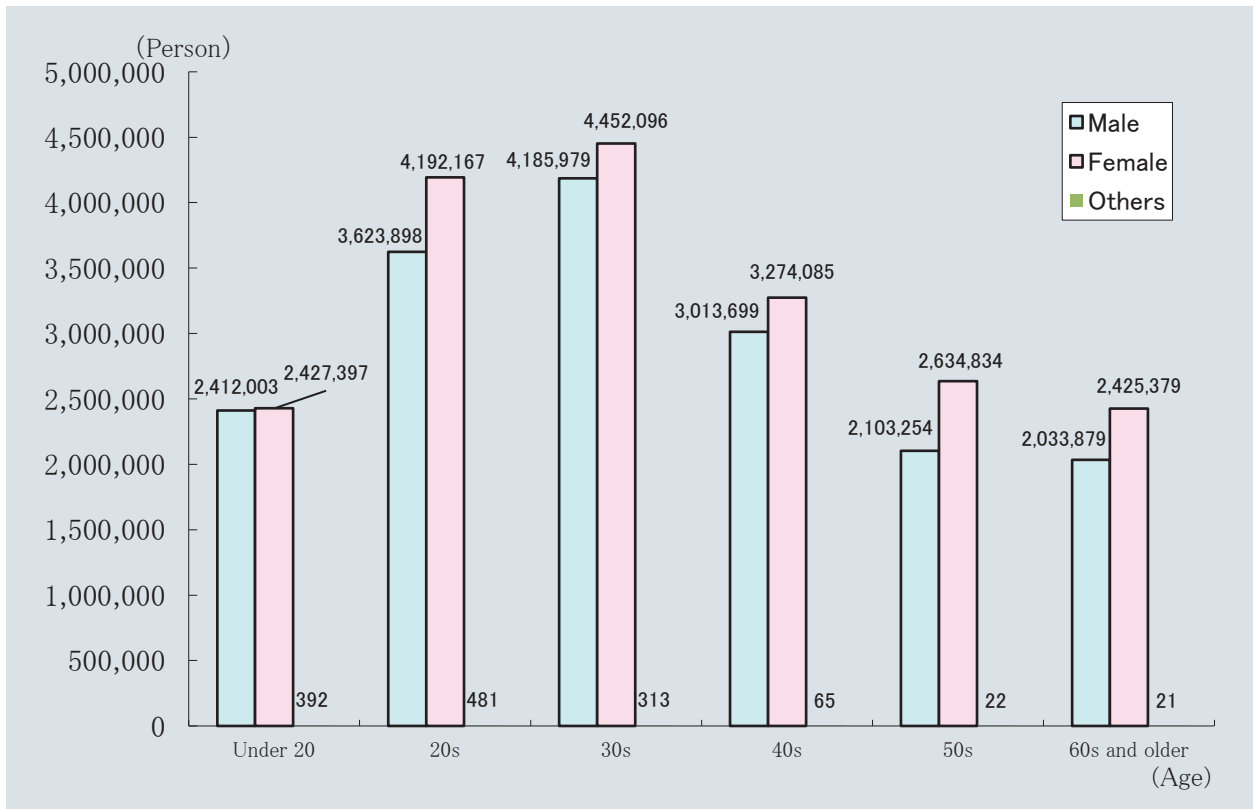
Moreover, China(Others) includes persons of Chinese nationality with a certificate of identity issued by a government except for the governments of China and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (for example, Macao Special Administrative Region).

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

As for the number of foreign nationals entering Japan in 2024 by gender, 17,372,712 were males, 19,405,958 were females, and 1,294 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 23.5% of the total ([Reference 3](#)).

#### Reference 3 Number of foreign nationals entering Japan by gender and age (2024)



### (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 2024 by purpose of entry (status of residence), the most common status of residence was “Temporary Visitor” at 33,358,681, which accounted for 98.1% of the total number, followed by “Student” at 167,087 (0.5%), “Technical Intern Training” at 147,922 (0.4%), and “Specified Skill Worker” at 64,626 (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	2024
Total	28,402,509	3,581,443	151,726	3,423,531	23,751,693	34,015,766
Diplomat	12,206	2,120	2,109	4,849	7,300	6,282
Official	42,934	3,708	1,973	11,811	26,544	27,024
Professor	3,185	992	921	2,645	2,423	2,606
Artist	474	117	13	280	378	426
Religious Activities	949	329	45	1,280	783	1,373
Journalist	69	29	19	44	30	30
Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(a)	37	26	16	55	40	29
Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(b)	624	354	74	1,225	1,386	1,247
Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(c)	118	76	18	393	947	899
Highly-Skilled Professional (ii)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Business Manager	2,237	1,537	474	4,346	5,295	4,483
Legal/Accounting Services	5	2	1	8	5	5
Medical Services	58	38	19	57	82	62
Researcher	364	155	89	364	253	290
Instructor	3,463	1,280	2,757	3,041	3,454	3,715
Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/ International Services	43,880	19,705	2,532	35,711	43,787	56,532
Intra-company Transferee	9,964	3,188	497	7,798	8,443	8,765
Nursing Care	4	23	3	42	55	54
Entertainer	45,486	7,218	1,570	24,404	33,646	39,948
Skilled Labor	4,355	1,729	388	4,075	5,269	6,994
Specified Skilled Worker (i)	563	3,760	1,093	20,418	43,626	64,626
Specified Skilled Worker (ii)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Technical Intern Training (i)-(a)	6,300	1,652	218	3,575	4,008	3,544
Technical Intern Training (i)-(b)	167,405	74,804	21,899	163,882	169,774	140,621
Technical Intern Training (ii)-(a)	8	2	0	8	3	2
Technical Intern Training (ii)-(b)	183	116	23	120	190	199
Technical Intern Training (iii)-(a)	226	63	3	148	138	61
Technical Intern Training (iii)-(b)	14,750	7,189	1,280	11,299	8,917	3,495
Cultural Activities	3,793	815	202	2,784	2,850	3,072
Temporary Visitor	27,810,548	3,360,831	71,771	2,861,731	23,132,035	33,358,681
Student	121,637	49,748	11,651	167,128	139,574	167,087
Trainee	12,985	2,392	179	3,859	10,731	10,471
Dependent	31,788	17,056	11,313	47,389	47,989	50,564
Designated Activities	31,712	7,381	3,508	10,006	23,523	32,042
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	7,345
Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident	1,990	1,151	1,174	1,760	2,467	1,944
Long-Term Resident	17,515	5,385	4,677	13,628	13,523	11,248

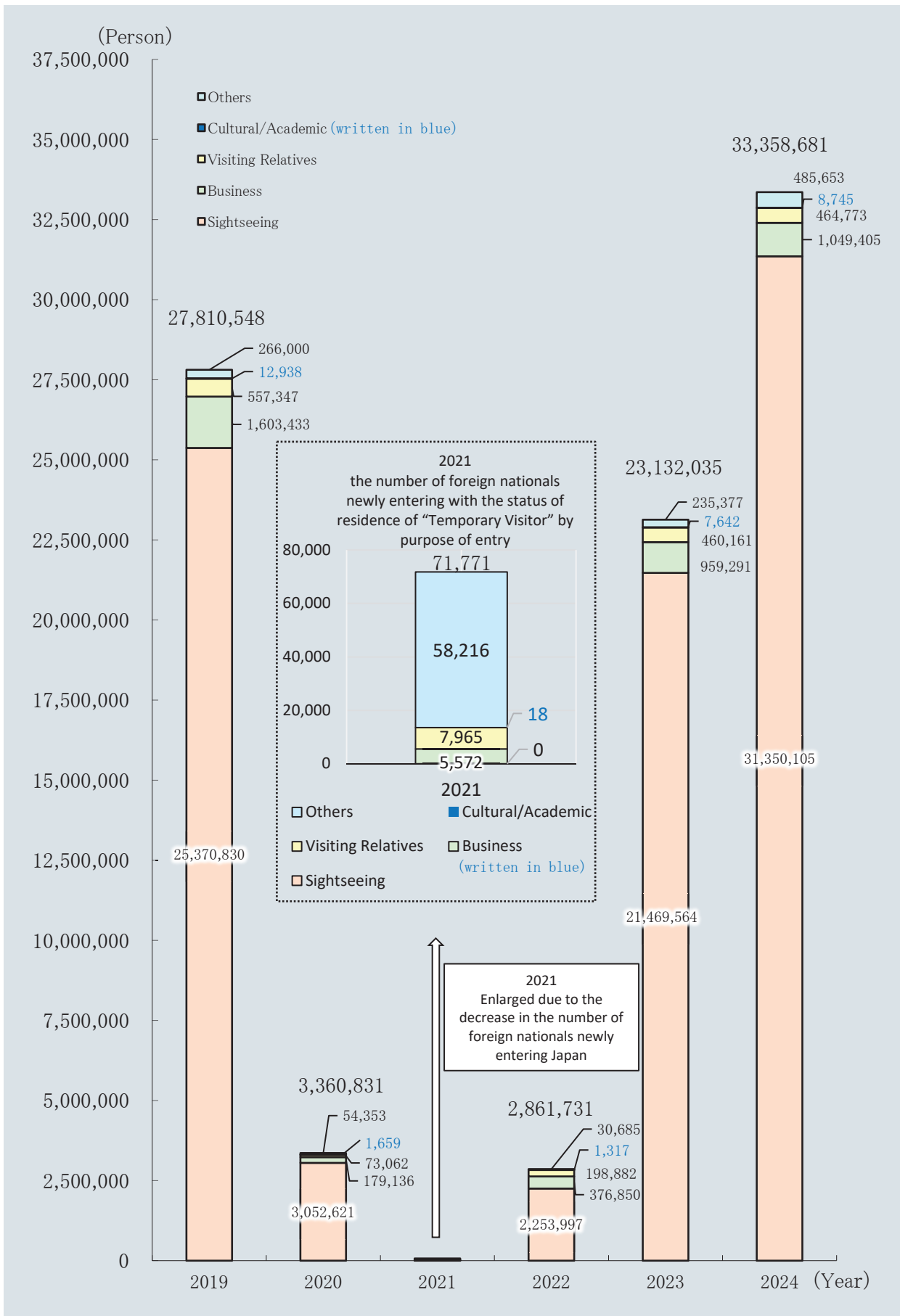
(\*1) The status of residence of "Specified Skilled Worker (i) and (ii)" was newly established on April 1, 2019.

(\*2) From 2020 to 2023, former permanent residents who applied for a "Long-Term Resident" visa by April 30, 2023, were granted the status of residence of "Permanent Resident" as a way to support 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. Use of this special measure has now ended.

### A. “Temporary Visitor”

In 2024, the most common purpose of entry for new entrants with a “Temporary Visitor” status was “sightseeing” with 31,350,105 people (94.0%), followed by “business” with 1,049,405 (3.1%) and “visiting relatives” with 464,773 (1.4%) ([Reference 5](#)).

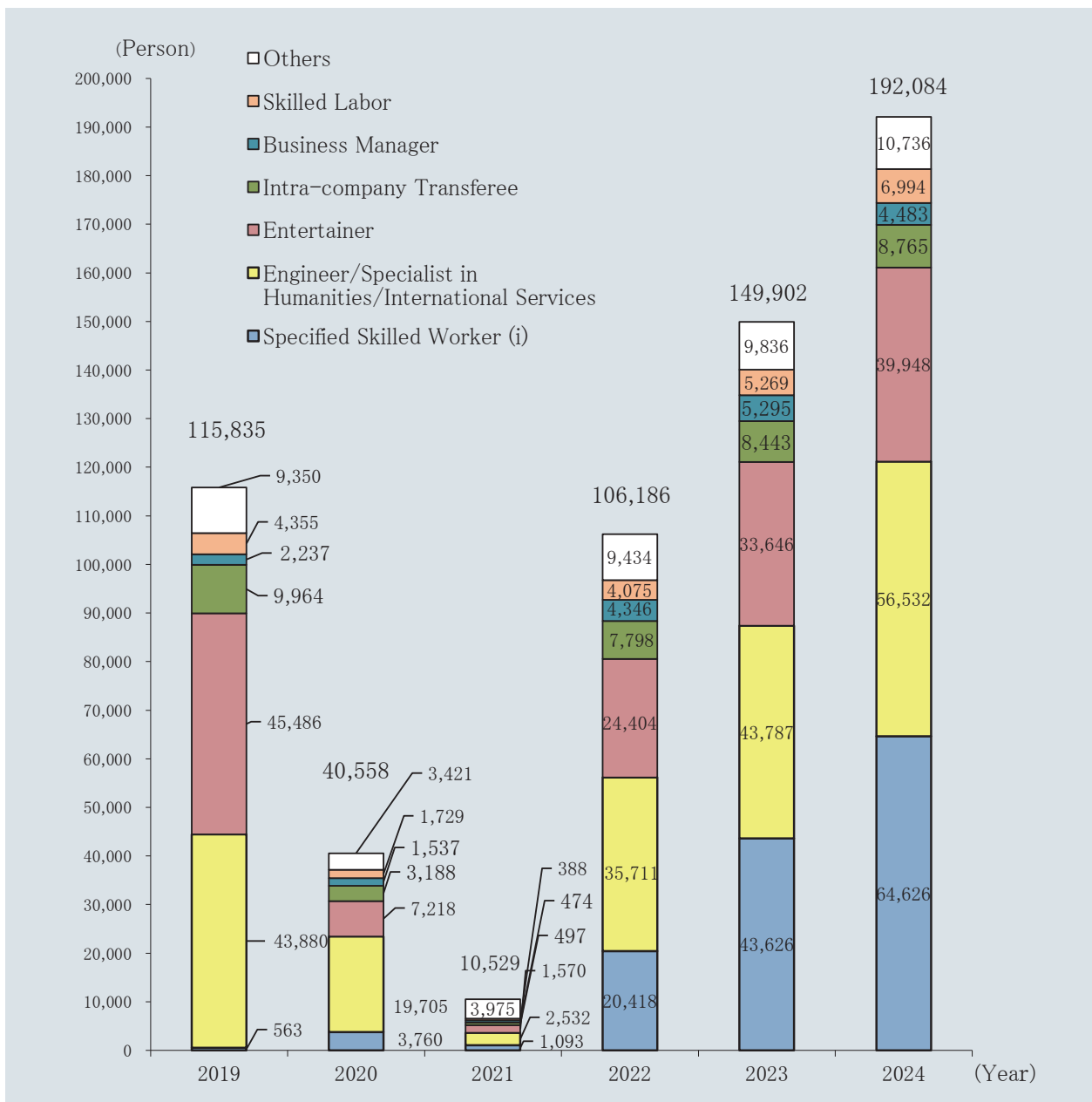
**Reference 5** Changes in the number of foreign nationals newly entering with the status of residence of "Temporary Visitor" by purpose of entry



## 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 2024 was 192,084, an increase of 42,182 (28.1%) 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 0.56% of the total number of newly entering foreign nationals in 2024.

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

**(a) “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services” and “Intra-company Transferee”**

In 2024, the total number of newly entering foreign nationals with a status of residence corresponding to foreign employees working in companies/organizations in Japan was 65,297, and it consists of two types of statuses of residence: 56,532 with the status of residence of “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services” and 8,765 with the status of residence of “Intra-company Transferee.” Compared to the previous year, foreign employees with the former status increased by 12,745 (29.1%), and those with the latter status increased by 322 (3.8%).

**(b) “Specified Skilled Worker (i)”**

In 2024, the number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Specified Skilled Worker (i)” was 64,626, an increase of 21,000 (48.1%) compared to the previous year.

**(c) “Entertainer”**

In 2024, the number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Entertainer” was 39,948, an increase of 6,302 (18.7%) compared to the previous year.

**(d) “Business/Management”**

In 2024, the number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Business/Management” was 4,483, a decrease of 812 (15.3%) compared to the previous year.

**(e) “Skilled Labor”**

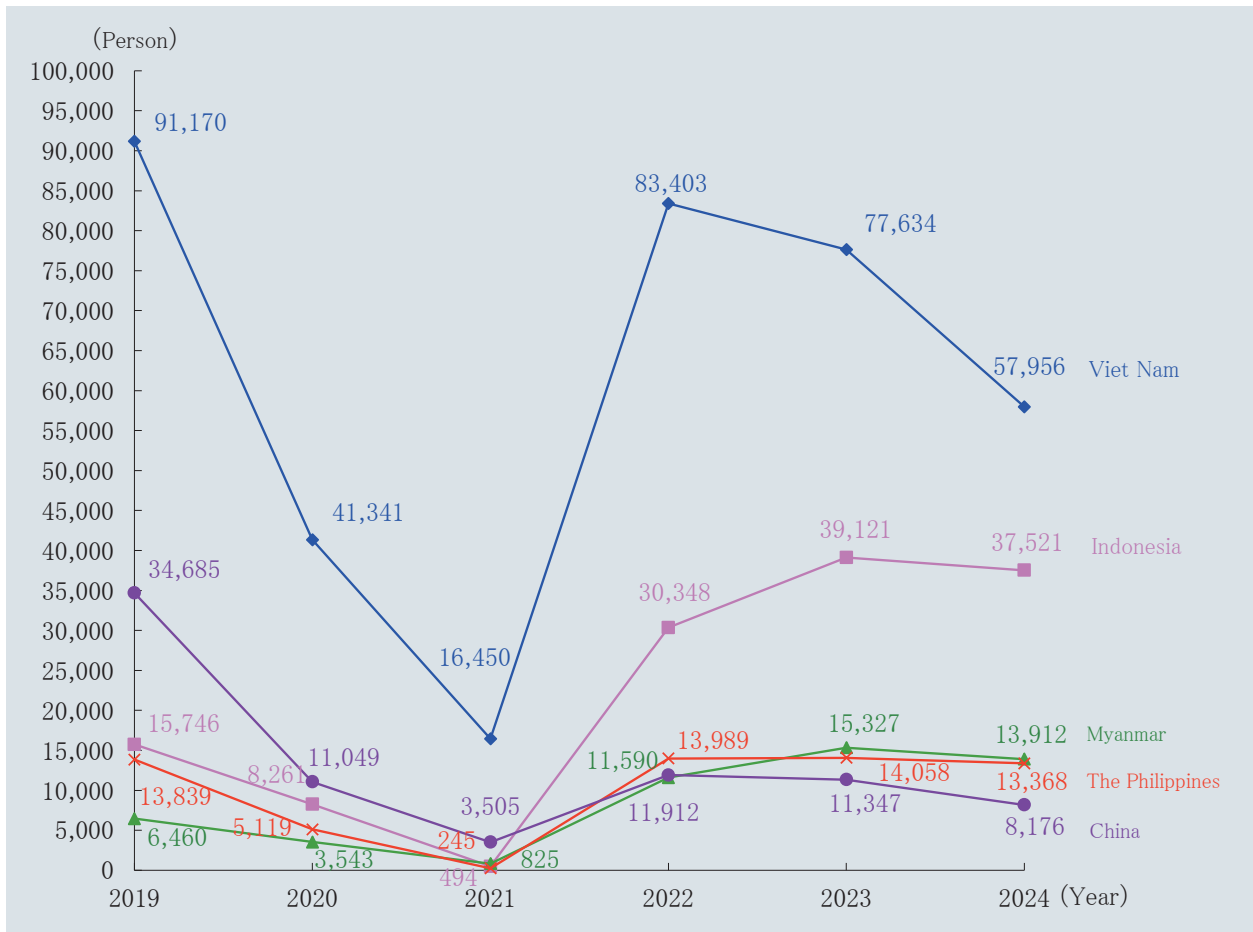
In 2024, the number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Skilled Labor,” which is granted to workers and the like who are skilled in industrial fields unique to foreign countries, was 6,994, an increase of 1,725 (32.7%) compared to the previous year.

**C. “Technical Intern Training (i)”**

The number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Technical Intern Training (i)” was 144,165 in 2024, a decrease of 29,617 (17.0%) 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 57,956 (40.2%), followed by Indonesia at 37,521 (26.0%), Myanmar at 13,912 (9.7%), the Philippines at 13,368 (9.3%), and China at 8,176 (5.7%) ([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

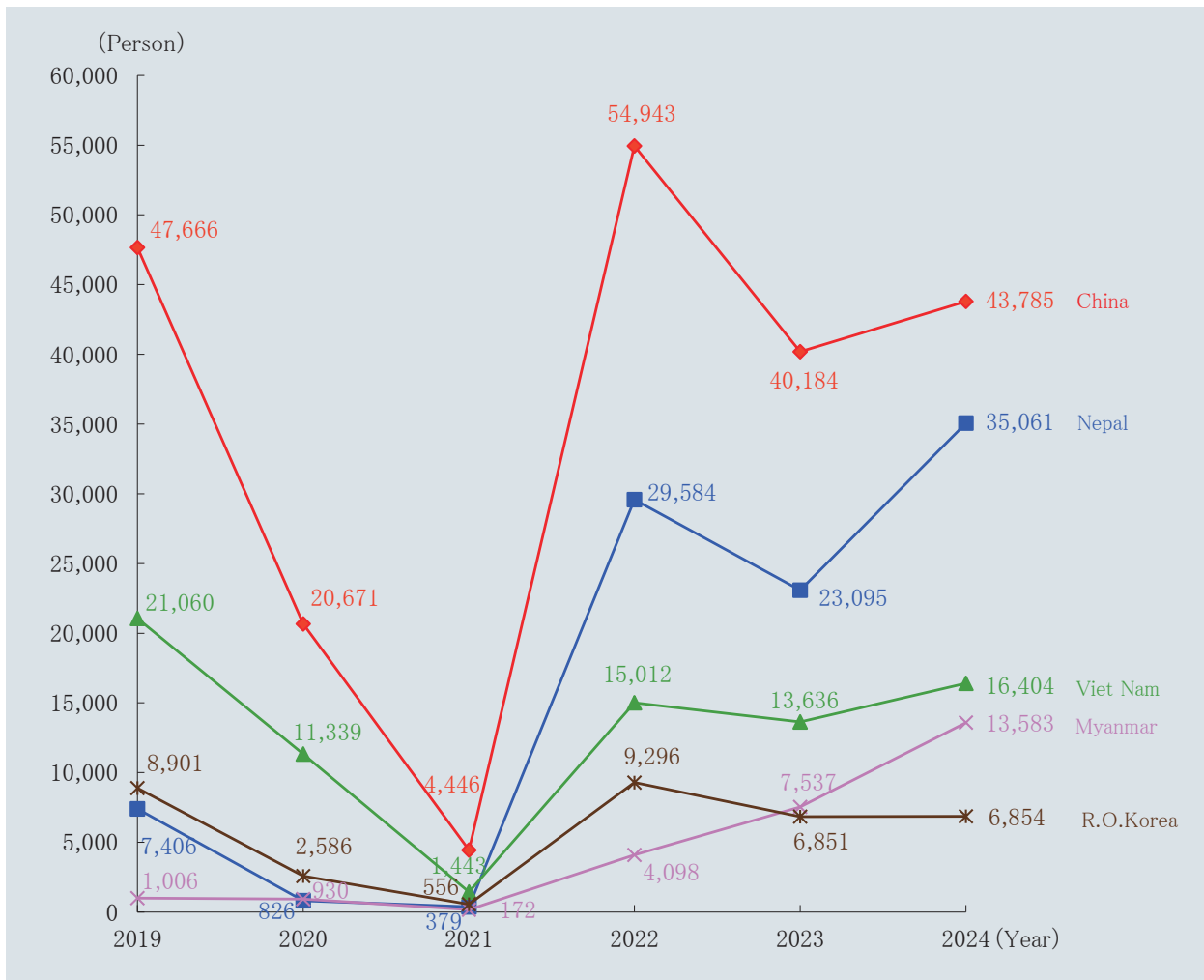


#### D. “Student”

In 2024, the number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Student” was 167,087, an increase of 27,513 (19.7%) compared to the previous year. The top five countries in this category, all in Asia, accounted for 69.2% of the total.

In terms of nationality/region, China stood at 43,785, accounting for 26.2% of the total, followed by Nepal at 35,061 (21.0%), Viet Nam at 16,404 (9.8%), Myanmar at 13,583 (8.1%), and R.O. Korea at 6,854 (4.1%) ([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

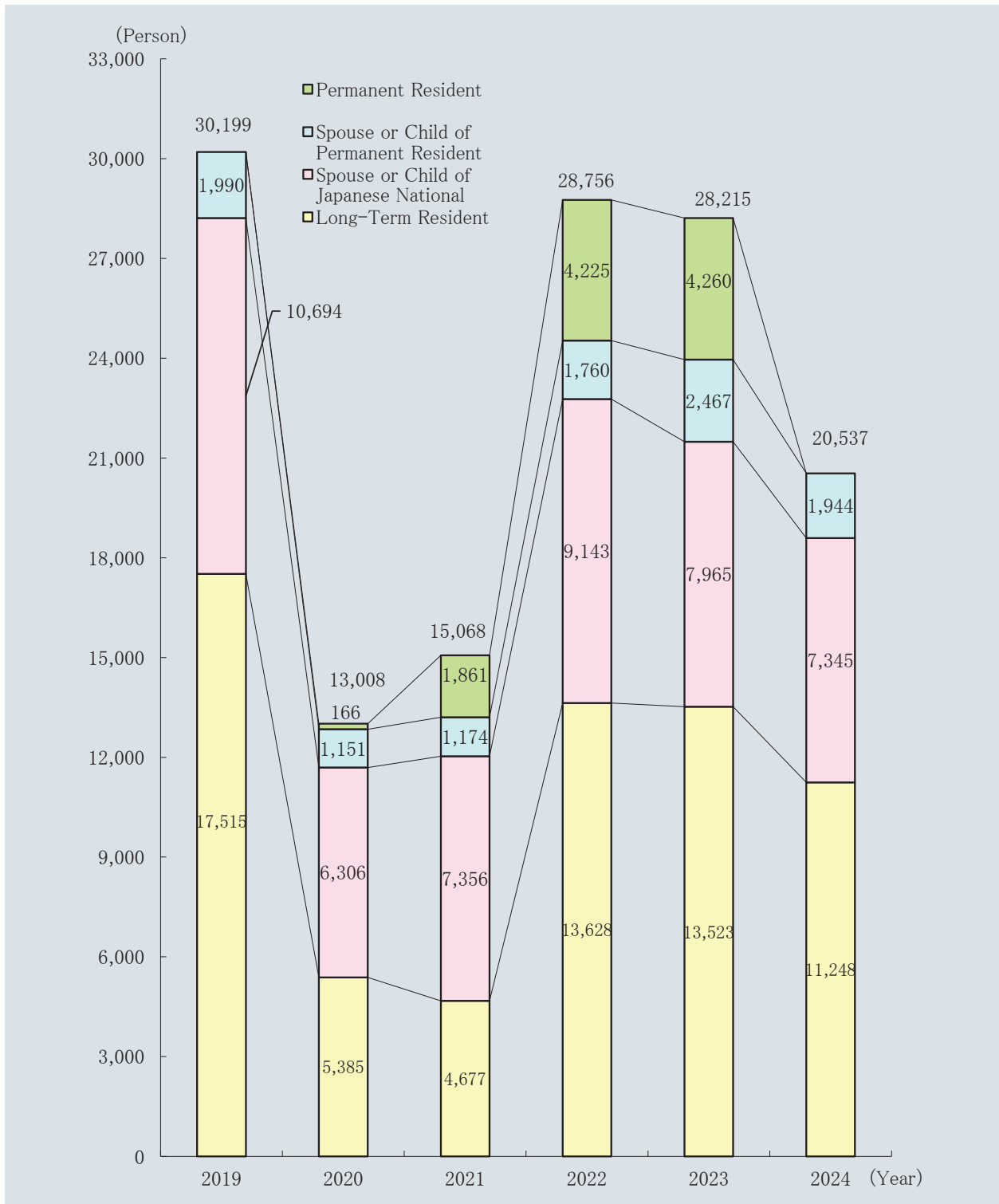
In 2024, the number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” stood at 7,345, and those with the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident” stood at 1,944. Compared to the previous year, those with the former status decreased by 620 (7.8%), and those with the latter status decreased by 523 (21.2%).

The number of foreign nationals newly entering with the status of residence of “Long-Term Resident” in 2024 had decreased by 2,275 (16.8%) to 11,248 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. 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 ex-

pire by April 30, 2023 and who had applied for a “Long-Term Resident” visa at a Japanese overseas diplomatic establishment by that date. As a result, the number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Permanent Resident” was 0 in 2024.

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



(\*) From 2020 to 2023, former permanent residents who applied for a “Long-Term Resident” visa by April 30, 2023, were granted the status of residence of “Permanent Resident” as a way to support 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. Use of this special measure has now ended.

## 2 Special Landing

The number of cases in which special landing permission was granted in 2024 was 3,561,010, an increase of 1,909,666 (115.6%) compared to the previous year.

Of these, 2,260,676 cases were granting of landing permission for crew members, accounting for 63.5% 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	2024
Total	4,961,505	919,311	421,925	482,569	1,651,344	3,561,010
Permission for Landing at a Port of Call	13,861	7,462	182	2,085	29,953	33,715
Landing Permission for Cruise Ship Tourists	2,026,307	119,960	0	0	166,460	1,256,518
Permission for Landing in Transit	7,760	3,003	6	869	9,214	9,614
Landing Permission for Crew Members	2,913,001	788,305	421,279	479,152	1,445,326	2,260,676
Permission for Emergency Landing	483	556	415	398	352	420
Landing Permission Due to Distress	92	24	42	63	28	62
Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge	1	1	1	2	11	5

## 3 Foreign Nationals Leaving Japan

In 2024, the number of foreign nationals simply leaving Japan without having acquired a re-entry permission was 33,419,010, an increase of 10,377,720 (45.0%) compared to the previous year.

Of these, foreign nationals leaving Japan with a period of stay of 15 days or less numbered 31,611,882 (94.6%) ([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	2024
Total	28,083,240	4,120,279	223,728	2,691,344	23,041,290	33,419,010
Within 15 days	26,778,686	3,678,125	29,901	2,344,237	21,650,924	31,611,882
More than 15 days to 1 month	737,979	163,396	32,251	115,328	924,301	1,277,769
More than 1 month to 3 months	307,985	79,142	13,520	62,139	280,505	338,010
More than 3 months to 6 months	56,114	31,705	3,955	14,758	52,654	52,006
More than 6 months to 1 year	57,138	53,376	9,200	6,138	38,446	43,909
More than 1 year to 3 years	99,183	65,530	64,707	52,891	32,053	46,744
More than 3 years	44,733	47,904	68,950	94,477	61,239	47,495
Unknown	1,422	1,101	1,244	1,376	1,168	1,195

## 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 2024 was 9,677, a decrease of 2,572 (21.0%) compared to 2023.

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 7,568 such cases in 2024, a decrease of 2,723 cases (26.5%) from 2023, accounting for 78.2% 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 1,253, an increase of 22 (1.8%) compared to 2023, accounting for 12.9% of the total number of new cases in 2024. 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 856, an increase of 129 (17.7%) compared to 2023, accounting for 8.8% of the total number of new cases in 2024. In addition, the number of cases that foreign nationals refused 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 2024 ([Reference 12](#)).

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

(Cases)

Conditions for Landing \ Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total	25,056	4,419	7,802	12,249	9,677
Using counterfeit passports or visas, etc. (Not conforming to Article 7-(1)-(i))	800	690	1,400	1,231	1,253
False landing application, etc. (Not conforming to Article 7-(1)-(ii))	1,633	2,284	6,001	10,291	7,568
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))	22,623	1,445	401	727	856
Not providing Biometric information (Not conforming to Article 7-(4))	0	0	0	0	0

With regard to results of the hearings for landing in 2024<sup>(\*)</sup>, the number of cases where landing permission was granted as it was found during the hearing that the foreign national conformed to the conditions for landing was 871, an increase of 107 (14.0%) compared to 2023.

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 6,623, an increase of 1,543 (30.4%) compared to 2023. 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 1,538, a decrease of 4,372 (74.0%) compared to 2023 ([Reference 13](#)).

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

(Cases)

Division \ Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total	25,064	4,420	7,791	12,252	9,684
Landing permission	22,353	1,484	553	764	871
Order to depart	1,347	11	1,154	5,080	6,623
Filing of objection	928	2,791	5,790	5,910	1,538
Withdrawal of the landing application	360	126	275	465	613
Others	76	8	19	33	39

(\*) "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 2024 was 7,879, an increase of 1,746 (28.5%) compared to 2023.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of foreign nationals denied permission for landing came from Thailand at 1,415 (18.0%), followed by China at 802 (10.2%) and Sri Lanka at 686 (8.7%). These top three countries accounted for 36.8% of the total ([Reference 14](#)).

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

(Person)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total	1,911	156	1,592	6,133	7,879
Thailand	341	3	372	1,464	1,415
China	262	36	56	273	802
Sri Lanka	18	4	79	490	686
India	19	5	40	384	647
Pakistan	144	12	25	561	645
Indonesia	113	0	73	503	612
Türkiye	204	1	289	453	382
R.O.Korea	125	18	100	293	382
Nepal	23	4	21	317	339
Bangladesh	63	6	39	319	326
Others	599	67	498	1,076	1,643

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

## 3 Special Permission for Landing

The number of cases in which the Minister of Justice granted special permission for landing to foreign nationals in 2024 was 936, a decrease of 4,421 (82.5%) compared to 2023 ([Reference 15](#)).

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

(Cases)

Division		Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Filing of Objection (*)			935	2,792	5,790	5,918	1,545
Decisions	With reason (Landing Permission)		3	1	3	6	10
	Without reason	Order to depart	70	5	105	374	364
		Special Permission for Landing	812	2,780	5,636	5,357	936
Withdrawal			49	6	38	174	233
Outstanding			1	0	8	7	2

(\*) "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 2024, the number of cases of advance consultation for visa issuance was 8,164, a decrease of 4,495 (35.5%) compared to the previous year.

**2 Certificate of Eligibility**

In 2024, the number of processed applications for Certificates of Eligibility was 690,681, an increase of 43,288 (6.7%) 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	2024
Advance consultation for visa issuance		4,634	6,014	8,931	10,166	12,659	8,164
Application for a certificate of eligibility		591,858	410,406	306,878	425,245	647,393	690,681

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

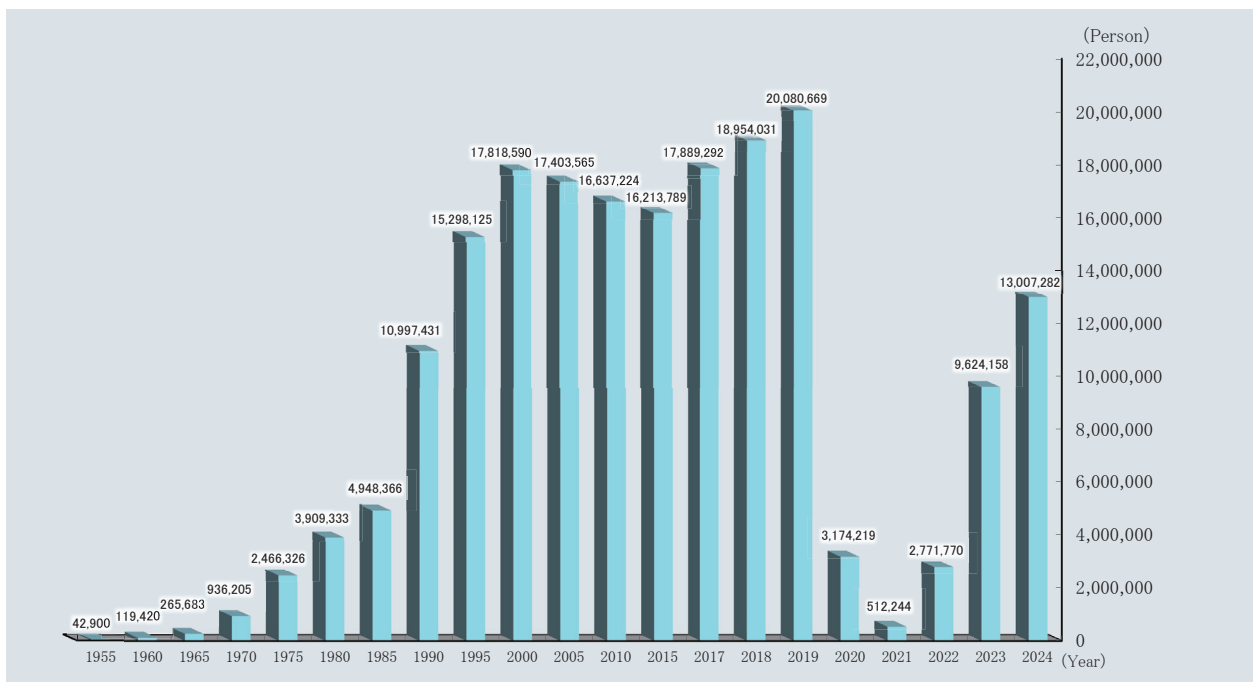
### Section 1 Number of Japanese Nationals Departing from Japan

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

The number of Japanese nationals departing from Japan in 2024 was 13,007,282, an increase of 3,383,124 (35.2%) compared to the previous year.

Japan saw this 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



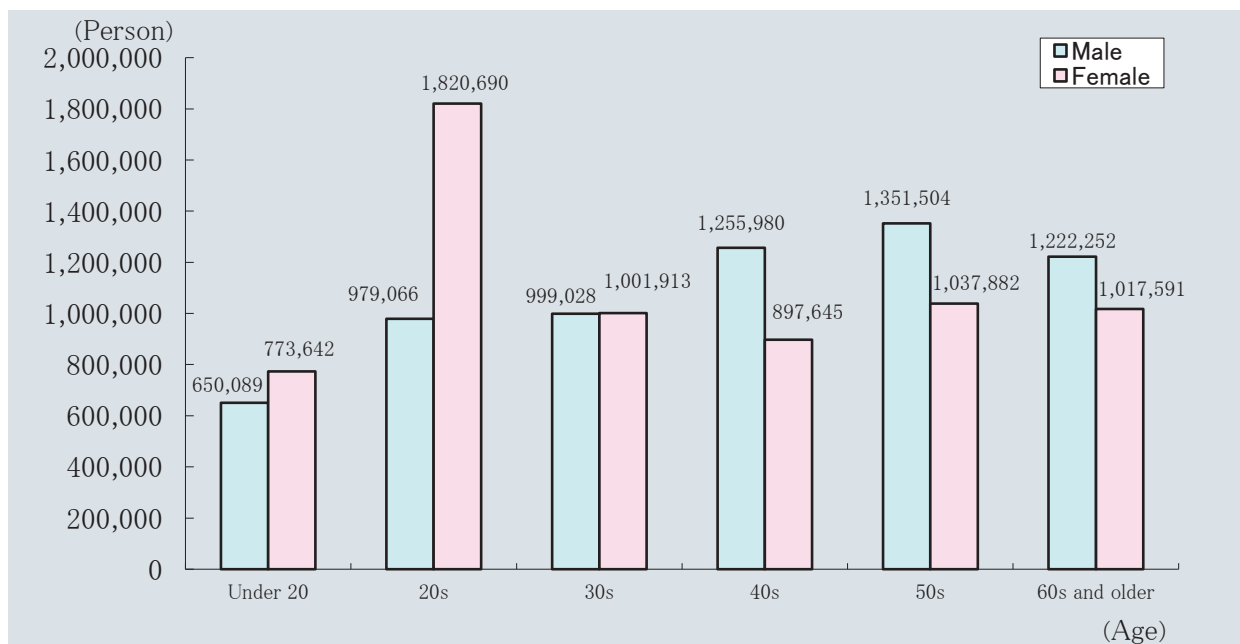
#### 2 Number of Japanese Nationals Departing from Japan by Gender and Age

According to the statistics by gender, the number of Japanese nationals departing from Japan in 2024 consists of 6,457,919 males and 6,549,363 females; males accounted for 49.6% of the total, and females accounted for 50.4%. For the first time since 2001, the percentage of females exceeded that of males.

According to the statistics by age, the number of Japanese nationals departing from Japan in 2024 was composed of 2,799,756 Japanese nationals in their 20s, which accounted for 21.5% of the total, followed by 2,389,386 in their 50s, accounting for 18.4%, 2,239,843 in their 60s, accounting for 17.2%, 2,153,625 in their 40s, accounting for 16.6%, 2,000,941 in their 30s, ac-

counting for 15.4% and 1,423,731 under 20, accounting for 10.9% ([Reference 18](#)).

### Reference 18 Number of Japanese nationals departing from Japan by gender and age (2024)



## Section 2

### Number of Japanese Nationals Returning to Japan

The total number of returning Japanese nationals in 2024 was 12,913,738. By period of stay in foreign countries after departure, 7,461,345 Japanese nationals returned to Japan within five days of their departure, accounting for 57.8% of the total ([Reference 19](#)).

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

Period of Stay	Year					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total	20,030,055	3,683,270	500,938	2,662,840	9,464,984	12,913,738
Within 5 days	12,150,774	1,891,374	11,082	684,262	5,004,286	7,461,345
More than 5 days to 10 days	4,607,708	890,991	30,675	602,179	2,133,198	2,810,970
More than 10 days to 20 days	1,182,976	254,898	36,474	292,457	717,260	866,837
More than 20 days to 1 month	416,356	105,794	29,193	131,706	255,848	297,091
More than 1 month to 3 months	688,694	191,495	90,899	226,915	428,454	512,087
More than 3 months to 6 months	412,104	124,322	61,356	169,226	314,735	366,131
More than 6 months to 1 year	318,140	137,036	63,887	147,376	302,432	334,098
More than 1 year to 3 years	123,794	51,416	128,042	204,131	105,810	137,729
More than 3 years	8,405	2,281	3,811	44,780	61,285	16,422
Unknown	121,104	33,663	45,519	159,808	141,676	111,028

## Chapter 3

## Foreign Nationals Residing in Japan

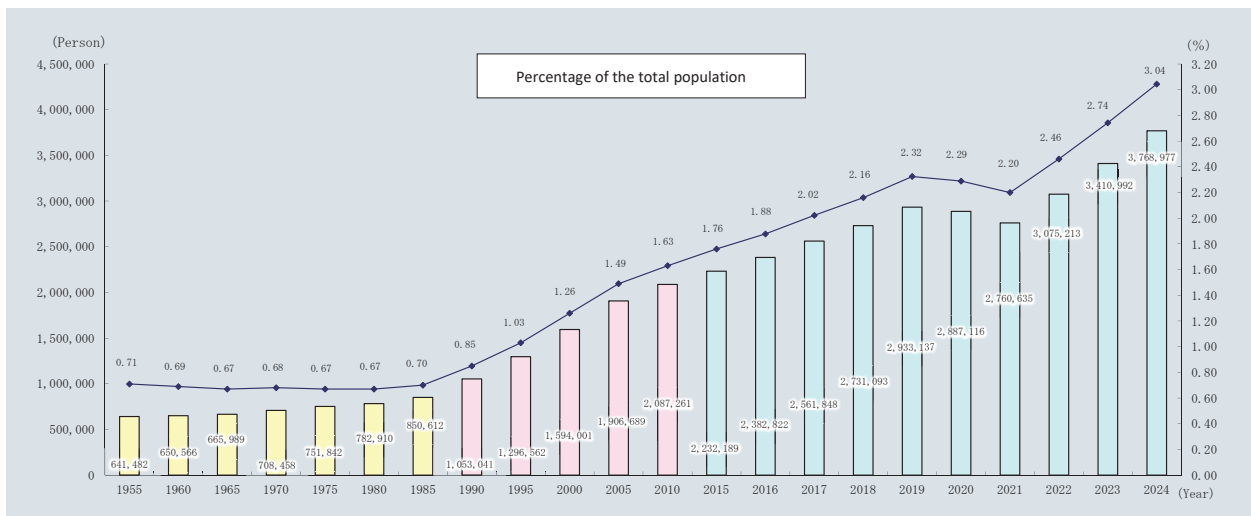
## Section 1 Number of Foreign Residents in Japan

## 1 Number of Foreign Residents in Japan

As of the end of 2024, the number of mid to long-term residents (see Section 4, Subsection 1 of the Data Section) in Japan was 3,494,954, and the number of special permanent residents was 274,023. Adding these two numbers together, the total number of foreign residents was 3,768,977, an increase of 357,985 (10.5%) compared to the end of the previous year.

Foreign residents accounted for 3.04% of Japan's total population of 123,800,000 as of the end of 2024 (based on the population estimate as of October 1, 2024 (the Statistics Bureau of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)). This figure represents a 0.3 points increase from the end of the previous year (References 20, 21).

### 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

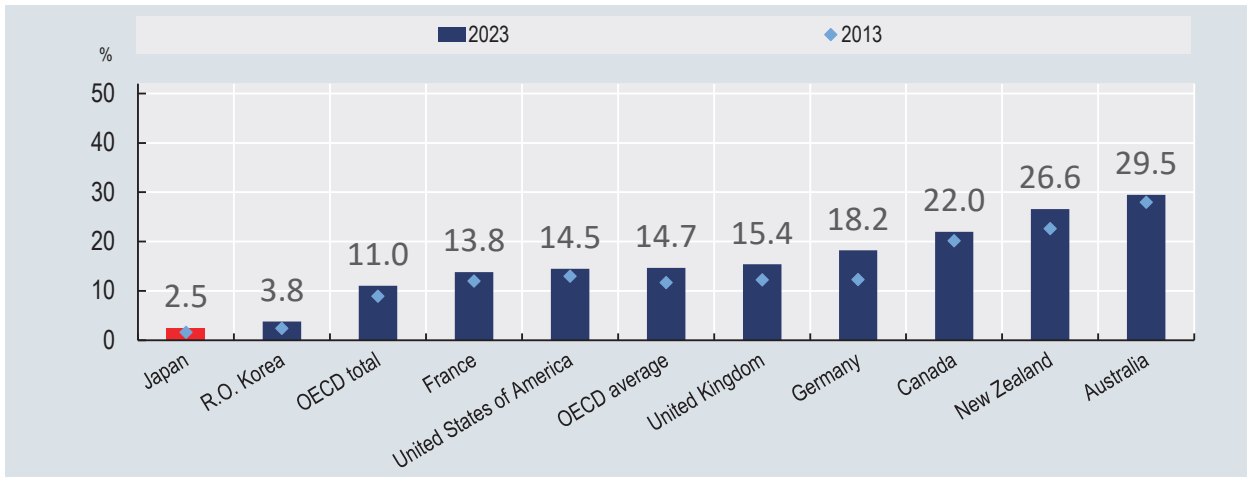


(\*1) These numbers are based on the statistics as at the end of December each year.

(\*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.

**Reference 21** International comparison of ratios of foreign nationals, etc. to total population



(\*1) Created based on the OECD's "International Migration Outlook 2024"

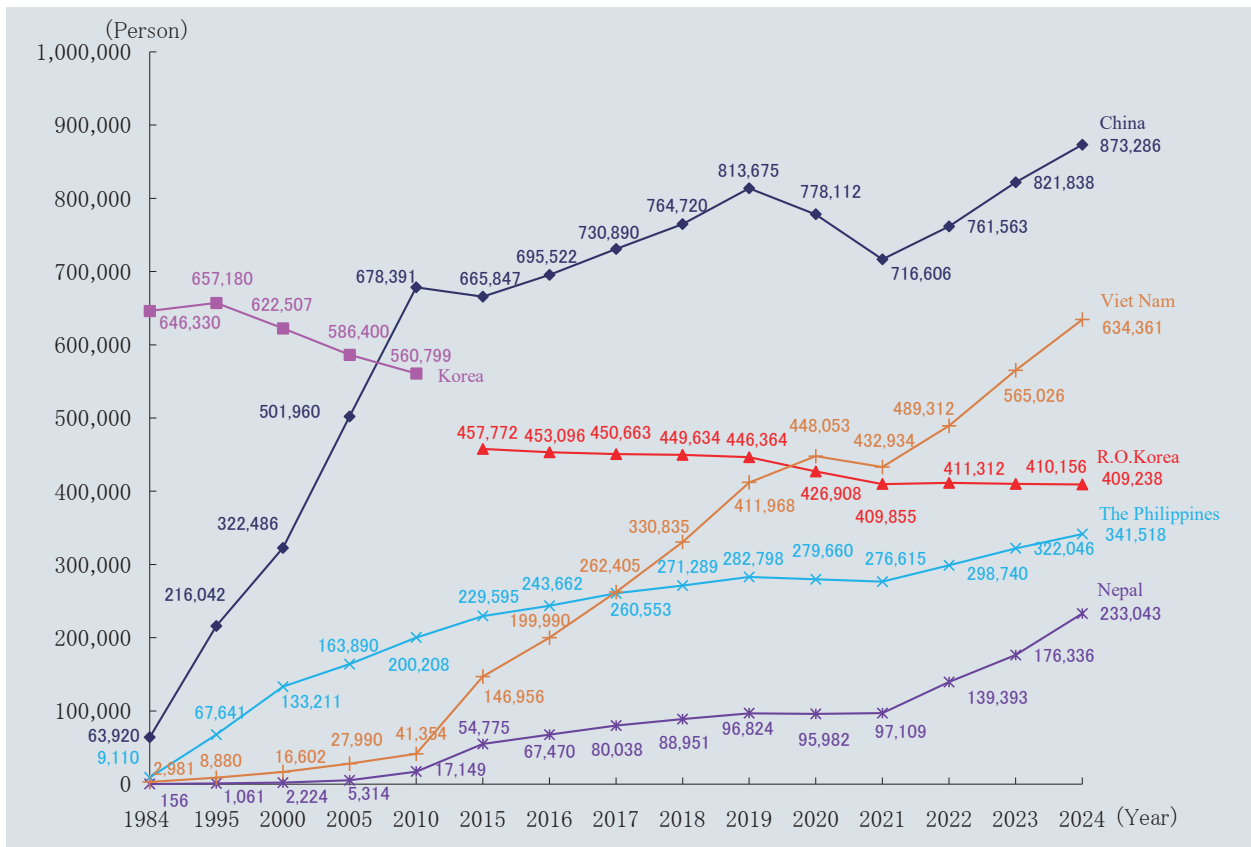
(\*2) The values for Japan and R.O. Korea represent the ratio of foreign nationals to the country's total population, while those for the other countries are the ratios of foreign-born residents to the country's total population.

**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 2024, China marked the largest number at 873,286, accounting for 23.2% of the total. China was followed by Viet Nam at 634,361 (16.8%), R.O. Korea at 409,238 (10.9%), the Philippines at 341,518 (9.1%), and Nepal, which replaced Brazil as the fifth-ranking country, at 233,043 (6.2%).

According to year-on-year changes in the number of foreign residents at the end of 2024, China saw an increase of 51,448 (6.3%) compared to the end of the previous year. Viet Nam and Nepal are on an upward trend, with increases of 69,335 (12.3%) and 56,707 (32.2%), respectively, compared to the end of the previous year. R.O. Korea is on a downward trend, and saw a decrease of 918 (0.2%) compared to the end of the previous year. The Philippines saw an increase of 19,472 (6.0%) compared to the end of the previous year ([Reference 22](#)).

## Reference 22 Changes in the number of foreign residents by major nationality/region



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

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

#### (1) "Permanent Resident" and "Special Permanent Resident"

According to the statistics for the number of foreign residents by status of residence at the end of 2024, 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 918,116, an increase of 26,547 (3.0%) from the end of the previous year, accounting for 24.4% of the total ([Reference 23](#)).

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

(Person)

Status	Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	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	7,488
	Artist	489	448	385	502	580	669
	Religious Activities	4,285	3,772	3,034	3,964	4,143	4,805
	Journalist	220	215	207	210	212	198
	Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(a)	1,884	1,922	1,885	2,030	2,281	2,528
	Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(b)	11,886	13,167	12,257	13,972	17,978	21,094
	Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(c)	570	676	648	1,116	2,219	3,338
	Highly-Skilled Professional (ii)	584	789	945	1,197	1,480	1,748
	Business Manager	27,249	27,235	27,197	31,808	37,510	41,615
	Legal/Accounting Services	145	148	139	151	159	159
	Medical Services	2,269	2,476	2,482	2,467	2,547	2,591
	Researcher	1,480	1,337	1,161	1,314	1,301	1,323
	Instructor	13,331	12,241	12,915	13,413	14,157	14,929
	Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/ International Services	271,999	283,380	274,740	311,961	362,346	418,706
	Intra-company Transferee	18,193	13,415	8,593	13,011	16,404	18,375
	Nursing Care	592	1,714	3,794	6,284	9,328	12,227
	Entertainer	2,508	1,865	1,564	2,214	2,505	2,635
	Skilled Labor	41,692	40,491	38,240	39,775	42,499	46,712
	Specified Skilled Worker (i)	1,621	15,663	49,666	130,915	208,425	283,634
	Specified Skilled Worker (ii)	—	0	0	8	37	832
	Technical Intern Training (i)-(a)	4,975	1,205	211	3,310	3,531	2,826
	Technical Intern Training (i)-(b)	164,408	74,476	24,005	161,683	167,734	139,475
	Technical Intern Training (ii)-(a)	4,268	4,490	2,818	878	2,255	4,049
	Technical Intern Training (ii)-(b)	210,965	258,173	202,006	83,508	163,274	280,723
	Technical Intern Training (iii)-(a)	605	707	779	1,206	982	368
	Technical Intern Training (iii)-(b)	25,751	39,149	46,304	74,355	66,780	29,154
	Cultural Activities	3,013	1,280	821	2,400	2,581	2,712
	Student	345,791	280,901	207,830	300,638	340,883	402,134
	Trainee	1,177	174	145	497	714	754
	Dependent	201,423	196,622	192,184	227,857	266,020	305,598
	Designated Activities	65,187	103,422	124,056	83,380	73,774	95,508
	Permanent Resident	793,164	807,517	831,157	863,936	891,569	918,116
	Spouse or Child of Japanese National	145,254	142,735	142,044	144,993	148,477	150,896
	Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident	41,517	42,905	44,522	46,999	50,995	53,624
Long-Term Resident	204,787	201,329	198,966	206,938	216,868	223,411	
Special Permanent Resident	312,501	304,430	296,416	288,980	281,218	274,023	

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

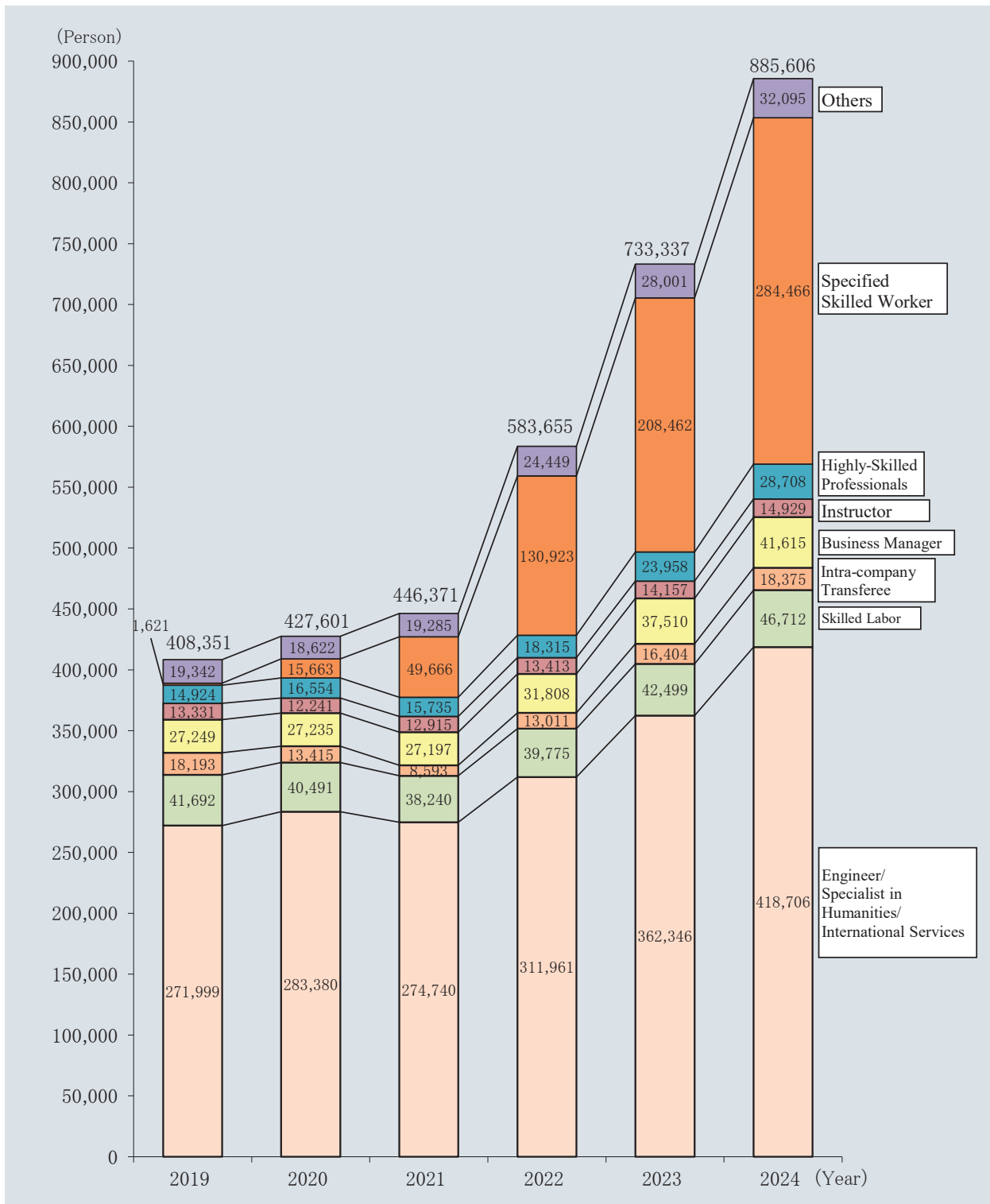
From the end of 2019 to the end of 2024, the number of foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Permanent Resident” increased steadily by 124,952 (15.8%).

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 7.3% at the end of 2024. 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 2024, 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 885,606, an increase of 152,269 (20.8%) compared to the end of the previous year. The number is continuing its upward trend ([Reference 24](#)).

**Reference 24** Changes in the number of mid to long-term residents by status of residence for employment in professional or technical fields



(\*1) Excludes “Diplomat,” “Official,” and “Technical Intern Training” of the Appended Tables I (1) and I (2) of 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”<sup>(※1)</sup>

As of the end of 2024, the number of residents with the status of residence of “Highly Skilled Professional” was 28,708, an increase of 4,750 (19.8%) compared to the end of the previous year.

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

As of the end of 2024, 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 418,706 for “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services” and 18,375 for “Intra-company Transferee.” Compared to the end of the previous year, residents with the former status increased by 56,360 (15.6%), and those with the latter status increased by 1,971 (12.0%).

#### C. “Skilled Labor”

As of the end of 2024, 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 46,712, an increase of 4,213 (9.9%) compared to the end of the previous year.

#### D. “Specified Skilled Worker”

As of the end of 2024, the number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Specified Skilled Worker (i)” was 283,634, an increase of 75,209 (36.1%) compared to the end of the previous year.

As of the end of 2024, the number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Specified Skilled Worker (ii)” was 832, an increase of 795 (2,148.6%) 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”<sup>(※2)</sup>

The number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Technical Intern Training (i)” at the end of 2024 was 142,301, a decrease of 28,964 (16.9%) 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 2024 was 284,772, an increase of 119,243 (72.0%) 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 2024 was 29,522, a decrease of 38,240 (56.4%) 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 2024 was 402,134, an increase of 61,251 (18.0%) 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 2024, the number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” was 150,896, an increase of 2,419 (1.6%) compared to the end of the previous year.

As of the end of 2024, the number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Long-Term Resident” was 223,411, an increase of 6,543 (3.0%) compared to the end of the previous year.

## Section 2 Examination of Statuses of Residence

In 2024, the total number of permissions related to residence examinations was 2,064,670, an increase of 357,287 (20.9%) compared to the previous year ([Reference 25](#)).

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

(Cases)

Division \ Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total	1,420,031	1,591,577	1,551,001	1,573,701	1,707,383	2,064,670
Permission for change of status of residence	269,153	392,415	367,189	359,755	429,562	423,505
Permission for extension of period of stay	743,254	873,416	848,305	753,923	839,362	1,131,093
Permission for permanent residence	32,150	29,747	36,691	37,992	33,470	36,766
Permission for special permanent residence	63	30	67	81	71	52
Permission for acquisition of status of residence	14,469	15,720	15,867	14,245	16,638	19,652
Re-entry permission	38,232	28,738	41,660	50,629	53,699	42,287
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	411,315

(\*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 2024, the number of permissions granted for a change in the status of residence was 423,505, a decrease of 6,057 (1.4%) 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 2024, 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 39,766.

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 31,393, followed by “Specified Skilled Worker (i)” at 2,517 and “Designated Activities” at 2,394 ([Reference 26](#)).

Furthermore, from 2023, the status of residence “Specified Skilled Worker (i)” was added to the statistics. Regarding the status of residence “Designated Activities,” preparation activities for transitioning to “Specified Skilled Worker (i)” were also added.

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

(Person)

Status of Residence \ Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total	29,689	28,974	33,415	41,400	39,766
Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/ International Services	26,268	24,861	28,853	34,078	31,393
Specified Skilled Worker (i)				1,948	2,517
Designated Activities	873	1,696	2,087	2,334	2,394
Professor	785	890	934	981	1,032
Highly-Skilled Professional	218	216	362	833	1,032
Business Manager	477	554	430	548	731
Medical Services	307	177	172	245	208
Instructor	389	198	131	141	156
Researcher	103	98	86	110	126
Artist	9	11	14	35	51
Entertainer	11	5	11	22	37
Nursing Care	220	240	313	67	31
Religious Activities	11	19	11	25	17
Others	18	9	11	33	41

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 14,511, accounting for 36.5%, followed by Viet Nam at 8,484 (21.3%) and Nepal at 3,909 (9.8%) (Reference 27).

**Reference 27** Changes in the number of cases of permission for change of the status of residence from student, etc. to a status for employment by nationality/region

(Person)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total	29,689	28,974	33,415	41,400	39,766
China	10,933	9,331	10,182	13,952	14,511
Viet Nam	6,582	6,885	8,406	10,343	8,484
Nepal	3,552	4,403	5,769	5,996	3,909
R.O.Korea	1,376	1,117	1,212	1,558	1,688
Indonesia	540	608	672	1,088	1,331
Taiwan	927	672	740	1,075	1,258
Myanmar	672	614	719	713	1,228
Sri Lanka	1,145	1,477	1,347	855	845
The Philippines	458	411	501	504	688
Bangladesh	501	542	711	651	685
Others	3,003	2,914	3,156	4,665	5,139

(\*) "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 March 7, 2025, there are 56 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 91 job categories.

In 2024, the number of foreign residents who were permitted to change their status of residence to “Technical Intern Training (ii)” was 152,338, an increase of 6,953 (4.8%) 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 70,910 (46.5%), followed by Indonesia at 34,600 (22.7%), Myanmar at 13,052 (8.6%), the Philippines at 12,781 (8.4%), and China at 7,524 (4.9%) ([Reference 28](#)).

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 82 as of March 7, 2025).

In 2024, the number of foreign residents who were permitted to change their status of residence to “Technical Intern Training (iii)” was 3,580, a decrease of 8,719 (70.9%) 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 2,523 (70.5%), followed by China at 468 (13.1%), the Philippines at 174 (4.9%), Indonesia at 164 (4.6%), and Myanmar at 93 (2.6%) ([Reference 29](#)).

According to the statistics of the technical intern training plans accredited in FY 2024 by job categories, the largest numbers for technical intern training (ii) were “Ready-made meal manufacturing,” “Scaffolding,” and “Crop farming,” and for technical intern training (iii) were “Ladies’ and children’s dress making,” “Ready-made meal manufacturing,” and “Plastic molding” ([References 30, 31](#)).

**Reference 28** 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	2024
Total	132,841	150,233	67,001	23,621	145,385	152,338
Viet Nam	71,275	83,468	37,944	17,497	74,251	70,910
Indonesia	11,455	13,542	6,920	756	26,818	34,600
Myanmar	3,715	5,824	3,185	945	9,575	13,052
The Philippines	10,986	12,192	4,509	429	12,705	12,781
China	27,440	26,137	8,495	3,303	8,530	7,524
Others	7,970	9,070	5,948	691	13,506	13,471

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

**Reference 29** 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	2024
Total	4,688	14,423	26,888	38,310	12,299	3,580
Viet Nam	2,573	7,721	15,203	22,292	6,647	2,523
China	631	1,928	2,493	3,780	1,187	468
The Philippines	669	2,151	3,690	4,750	1,390	174
Indonesia	254	1,029	2,602	3,822	1,281	164
Myanmar	122	607	991	877	401	93
Others	439	987	1,909	2,789	1,363	158

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

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

(Cases)

Job categories	2022	2023	2024
Total	60,420	155,554	151,562
Ready-made meal manufacturing	7,157	16,022	15,253
Scaffolding	2,649	9,684	11,148
Crop farming	5,281	10,307	8,601
Welding	2,987	8,008	7,943
Application of construction equipment	1,612	6,354	6,826
Care worker	3,268	6,816	6,630
Plastic molding	2,993	7,063	6,232
Manufacturing work for non-heated fishery processed foodstuff	2,458	6,194	5,743
Industrial packaging	2,158	5,509	5,589
Ladies' and children's dress making	1,563	5,070	5,032
Others	28,294	74,527	72,565

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

(Cases)

Job categories	2022	2023	2024
Total	42,819	15,623	11,918
Ladies' and children's dress making	4,591	2,440	1,640
Ready-made meal manufacturing	2,331	770	874
Plastic molding	2,670	1,041	791
Scaffolding	3,569	1,288	671
Crop farming	1,878	725	610
Industrial packaging	1,669	618	551
Painting	1,962	679	482
Application of construction equipment	1,323	573	411
Welding	2,676	697	405
Steel reinforcement construction	1,367	501	349
Others	18,783	6,291	5,134

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

In 2024, the number of foreign residents who were permitted to change their status of residence to “Specified Skilled Worker (i)” was 80,048, a decrease of 3,478 (4.2%) 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 47,866 (59.8%), followed by Indonesia at 11,501 (14.4%), the Philippines at 5,817 (7.3%), China at 4,881 (6.1%), and Myanmar at 3,604 (4.5%) ([Reference 32](#)).

In 2024, the number of foreign residents who were permitted to change their status of

residence to “Specified Skilled Worker (ii)” was 803, an increase of 774 (2,669.0%) 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 (ii)” at 543 (67.6%), followed by China at 104 (13.0%), the Philippines at 52 (6.5%), and Indonesia at 40 (5.0%) (Reference 33).

**Reference 32** 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	2024
Total	1,062	10,863	39,004	81,991	83,526	80,048
Viet Nam	600	6,986	25,199	56,313	53,939	47,866
Indonesia	77	700	2,838	6,178	9,358	11,501
The Philippines	110	942	3,961	6,255	6,137	5,817
China	95	1,039	2,823	4,920	4,622	4,881
Myanmar	63	404	1,823	3,705	3,473	3,604
Others	117	792	2,360	4,620	5,997	6,379

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

**Reference 33** Changes in the number of people who changed to “Specified Skilled Worker (ii)” by nationality/region

(Person)

Nationality/region \ Year	2022	2023	2024
Total	8	29	803
Viet Nam	2	18	543
China	6	6	104
The Philippines	0	3	52
Indonesia	0	2	40
Myanmar	0	0	11
Others	0	0	53

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

**2 Permission for Extension of the Period of Stay**

In 2024, the number of permissions granted to extend the period of stay was 1,131,093, an increase of 291,731 (34.8%) compared to the previous year.

**3 Permission for Permanent Residence**

In 2024, the number of permissions granted for permanent residence was 36,766, a increase of 3,296 (9.8%) compared to the previous year (Reference 34).

### Reference 34 Changes in the number of cases of permission for permanent residence by nationality/region

(Cases)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total	32,150	29,747	36,691	37,992	33,470	36,766
China	15,542	14,874	18,302	18,943	16,064	16,072
Viet Nam	2,318	1,635	1,995	2,344	2,458	3,845
Brazil	2,998	2,112	2,551	2,824	2,873	3,379
The Philippines	1,405	2,580	2,888	2,760	2,648	3,134
R.O.Korea/Korea	2,521	1,966	2,210	2,354	1,802	1,781
Others	7,366	6,580	8,745	8,767	7,625	8,555

(\*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) The reference “Changes in the number of permissions granted for permanent residence by nationality/region” in the 2024 version had some errors, which have been corrected as follows:

(Correct) 2023 China: 16,064 (Wrong) 2023 China: 15,891  
2023 Others: 7,625 2023 Others: 7,798

## 4 Permission for Acquisition of a Status of Residence

In 2024, the number of permissions granted for acquisition of a status of residence was 19,652, an increase of 3,014 (18.1%) compared to the previous year.

## 5 Re-entry Permission

In 2024, the number of granted re-entry permissions was 42,287, a decrease of 11,412 (21.3%) compared to the previous year.

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

In 2024, the number of granted permissions to engage in activity other than those permitted by the status of residence previously granted was 411,315, an increase of 76,734 (22.9%) compared to the previous year.

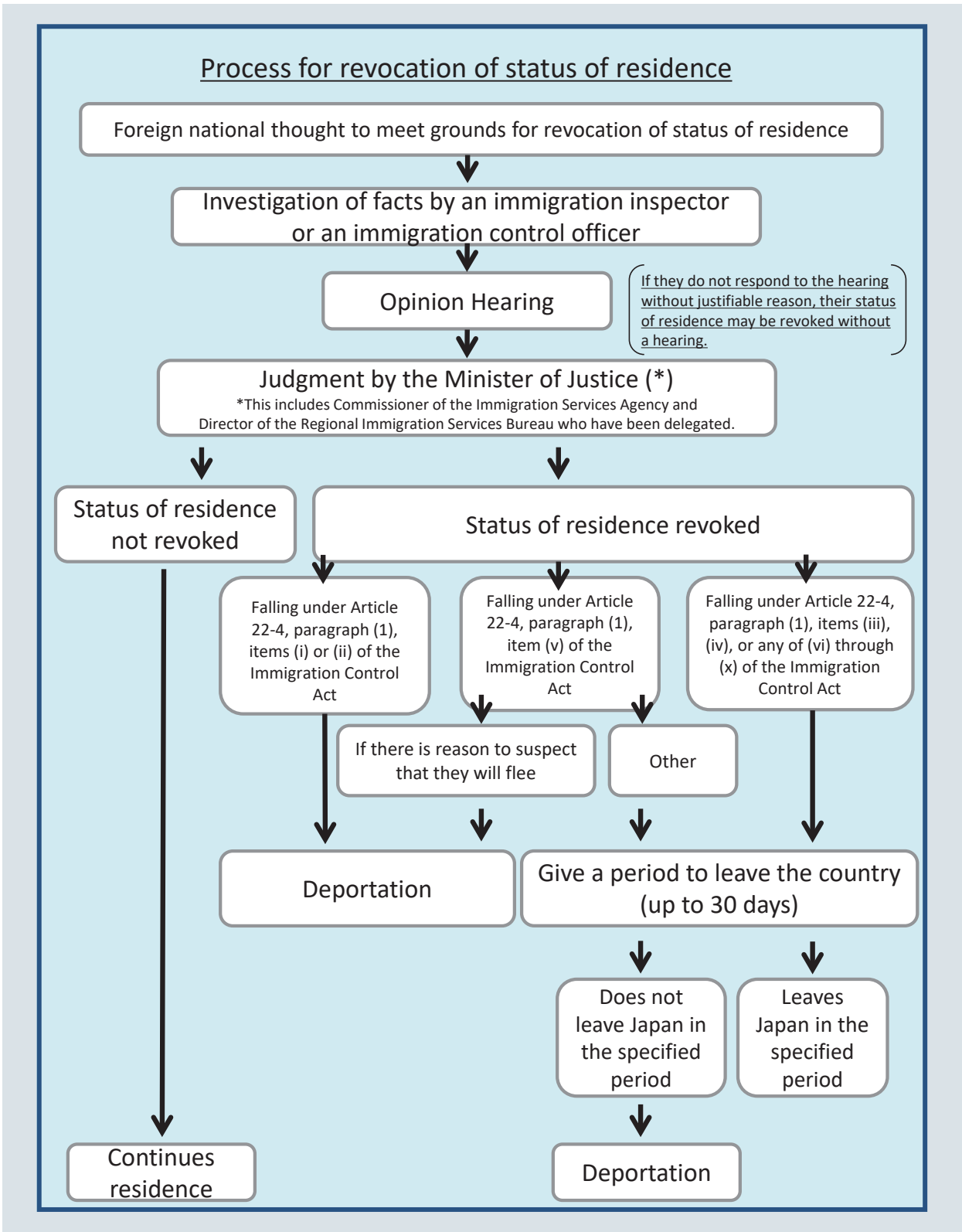
# Section 3 Implementation Status of Procedures to Revoke a Status of Residence

## 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 35).

**Reference 35** 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](https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/procedures/torikeshi_00002.html))

## 2 Implementation Status of Procedures

In 2024, the number of revoked statuses of residence decreased to 1,184 (down by 4.5%) from 1,240 in the previous year.

According to the statistics by status of residence, “Technical Intern Training” accounted for the largest number of revocations with 710 (60.0%), followed by “Student” with 312 (26.4%) and “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services” with 69 (5.8%) (Reference 36).

According to the statistics by nationality/region, Viet Nam accounted for the largest number of revocations with 784 (66.2%), followed by China<sup>(\*)</sup> with 109 (9.2%) and Nepal with 60 (5.1%) (Reference 37).

According to the statistics by grounds for revocation, item (vi) accounted for the largest number of revocations with 761 (64.3%), followed by item (v) with 303 (25.6%) and item (ii) with 72 (6.1%) (Reference 38).

### Reference 36 Changes in the number of revocation of status of residence by status of residence

(Cases)

Status of Residence \ Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services	29	11	23	32	69
Technical Intern Training(i)-(b)	117	54	8	622	188
Technical Intern Training(ii)-(b)	427	517	847	272	491
Technical Intern Training(iii)-(b)	17	10	44	89	31
Student	524	157	163	183	312
Spouse or Child of Japanese National	28	18	14	16	21
Others	68	33	26	26	72
Total	1,210	800	1,125	1,240	1,184

### Reference 37 The number of revocation of status of residence by nationality/region (2024)

(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	17	129	387	22	212	—	17	784
China <sup>(*)</sup>	12	29	28	6	12	8	14	109
Nepal	13	2	2	—	23	—	20	60
Indonesia	1	13	29	—	4	—	2	49
Cambodia	—	4	28	1	—	—	—	33
Sri Lanka	12	3	1	1	10	3	3	33
Uzbekistan	2	2	3	—	25	—	—	32
Others	12	6	13	1	26	10	16	84
Total	69	188	491	31	312	21	72	1,184

(\*) This “China” do not include Taiwan, China (Hong Kong) and China (Others).

**Reference 38** The number of revocation of status of residence by grounds for revocation (2024)

(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)	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	6
(ii)	41	—	—	—	1	16	14	72
Former (iii) (*)	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4
(iii)	16	—	—	—	—	3	15	34
(v)	7	46	70	7	163	—	10	303
(vi)	5	142	421	24	148	—	21	761
(vii)	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	4
Total	69	188	491	31	312	21	72	1,184

(\*) Act to amend part of Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act(2016 Act No.88) combined former( ii ) and former( iii ) into current( ii ), but foreigners who get landing permission etc. before January 1, 2017 are applied to former( iii )

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

### 1 Residence Cards

The number of residence cards issued in 2024 was 2,212,278. 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 2,104,796 accounting for 95.1% of the total, followed by reissuance at 58,305 (2.6%), applications for extension of the period of validity at 45,192 (2.0%), and notification of a change in the registered matters aside from the place of residence at 3,985 (0.2%).

By category of Regional Immigration Services Bureaus, the Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau issued 1,108,035 residence cards, accounting for 50.1% of the total, followed by Nagoya at 373,773 (16.9%), Osaka at 346,626 (15.7%) and Fukuoka at 185,069 (8.4%) ([Reference 39](#)).

**Reference 39** Number of issuances of residence cards (2024)

(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	2,212,278	2,104,796	3,985	45,192	58,305	0
Sapporo	45,547	44,395	17	396	739	0
Sendai	43,035	41,464	73	698	800	0
Tokyo	1,108,035	1,050,336	1,968	23,816	31,915	0
Nagoya	373,773	353,756	1,172	10,642	8,203	0
Osaka	346,626	329,217	354	5,891	11,164	0
Hiroshima	79,114	75,935	169	1,444	1,566	0
Takamatsu	31,079	30,082	42	445	510	0
Fukuoka	185,069	179,611	190	1,860	3,408	0

**2** Special Permanent Resident Certificates

The number of special permanent resident certificates issued in 2024 was 36,893. 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 33,144 accounting for 89.8% of the total, followed by applications for reissuance at 2,764 (7.5%), notification of a change in the registered matters aside from the place of residence at 525 (1.4%), and permission for special permanent residence (Article 4) at 366 (1.0%) ([Reference 40](#)).

**Reference 40** Number of issuances of special permanent resident certificates (2024)

(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
36,893	366	52	525	33,144	2,764	42

**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 that 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 122 in FY 2024 (Reference 41).

### (2) Number of Licenses Granted to Supervising Organizations

The number of new license of supervising organizations was 105 in FY 2024 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 41 Changes in the number of applications and grant of license of supervising organization

Fiscal Year	2022	2023	2024
Number of applications	205	162	122
Number of licenses	223	168	105

(\*) 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.

## 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 2024 was 326,387, of which 5,964 applications were for individual-enterprise-type technical intern training plans, and 320,423 applications were for supervising-organization-type technical intern

training plans ([Reference 42](#)).

## (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 2024 was 318,572, of which 5,933 applications were for individual-enterprise-type technical intern training plans, and 312,639 applications were for supervising-organization-type technical intern training plans ([Reference 42](#)).

### Reference 42 Changes in the number of applications and accreditations of the technical intern training plan

(Cases)

Fiscal Year		2022	2023	2024
Number of applications	Individual-enterprise-type	5,381	6,449	5,964
	Supervising-organization-type	289,834	323,305	320,423
	Total	295,215	329,754	326,387
Number of accreditations	Individual-enterprise-type	4,483	6,821	5,933
	Supervising-organization-type	241,777	343,205	312,639
	Total	246,260	350,026	318,572

(\*) 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 2024, the Organization for Technical Intern Training conducted 21,241 on-site inspections on implementing organizations and 4,457 on-site inspections on supervising organizations ([Reference 43](#)), and the competent minister and other competent authorities revoked the accreditation of the technical intern training plans of 55 implementing organizations and the licenses of 6 supervising organizations ([Reference 44](#)).

The number of technical intern trainees who disappeared from their program decreased to 6,510 in 2024 from 9,753 in 2023 ([Reference 45](#)).

**Reference 43** Changes in the number of on-site inspections conducted

(Cases)

Fiscal Year	2022	2023	2024
Number of implementing organizations	22,025	21,616	21,241
Number of supervising organizations	4,634	4,537	4,457

**Reference 44** Changes in the number of administrative dispositions, etc.

(Cases)

Fiscal Year		2022	2023	2024
Number of Implementing Organizations	Revocation of Accreditation of Technical Intern Training Plans	114	120	55
	Orders for Improvement	0	0	0
Number of Supervising Organizations	Revocation of Licenses of Supervising Organizations	12	5	6
	Orders for Improvement	15	5	0

**Reference 45** Changes in the number of technical intern trainees disappearing by nationality/region

(Person)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total	5,885	7,167	9,006	9,753	6,510
Viet Nam	3,741	4,772	6,016	5,481	3,865
Myanmar	250	447	607	1,765	1,263
Indonesia	240	208	367	662	520
China	964	896	922	816	335
Cambodia	494	667	829	694	275
Others	196	177	265	335	252

(\*) 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 2024, through those support efforts, the Organization received 14,009 inquiries in native languages and 70 reports from technical intern trainees, helped 45 technical intern trainees change the implementing organization, and found accommodations for 176 trainees

(the total from April 2018 to the end of March 2025).

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 2025, the number of specified skilled workers was 336,196 (including 333,123 workers with the status of Specified Skilled Worker (i) and 3,073 workers with the status of Specified Skilled Worker (ii)). The top five industrial fields were the food and beverage manufacturing industry with 84,892 specified skilled workers, the nursing care industry with 54,916, the industrial product manufacturing with 51,473, the construction industry with 44,160, and the food service industry with 36,281.

From the start of the system until the end of June 2025, 191,628 Certificates of Eligibility related to specified skilled workers have been issued, 354,233 permissions for a change of status of residence have been granted, and 10,352 registered support organizations have been registered.

The number of specified skilled workers increased by 18.2% from 284,466 at the end of December 2024 to 336,196 at the end of June 2025 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 2025, there are 10,305 registered support organizations, including companies (stock companies, limited liability companies, and other companies) (56.1%), business cooperatives of small and medium-sized businesses

(25.8%), certified administrative procedures legal specialists (individuals) (6.5%), general incorporated associations (2.0%), Certified Administrative Procedures Legal Specialist Corporation (1.0%), and other individuals/organizations (8.5%).

#### **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 2025, exams in 16 fields (Nursing care; Building cleaning management; Industrial product manufacturing; Construction industry; Shipbuilding and ship machinery industry; Automobile repair and maintenance; Aviation industry; Accommodation industry; Automobile transportation business; Railway; Agriculture; Fishery and aquaculture; Manufacture of food and beverages; Food service industry; Forestry; and Wood industry) are implemented in Japan and 15 other countries (the Philippines, Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, Mongolia, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam, Sri Lanka, India, Uzbekistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Malaysia, and Laos).

The number of foreign nationals who have passed the skill exam has increased steadily to 510,016 (preliminary figure) as of the end of June 2025.

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 ISA, the estimated number of foreign nationals who overstayed (those who illegally stay in Japan beyond their authorized period of stay) was 74,863 as of January 1, 2025. This was a decrease of 4,250 (5.4%) when compared to the 79,113 as of January 1, the previous year.

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

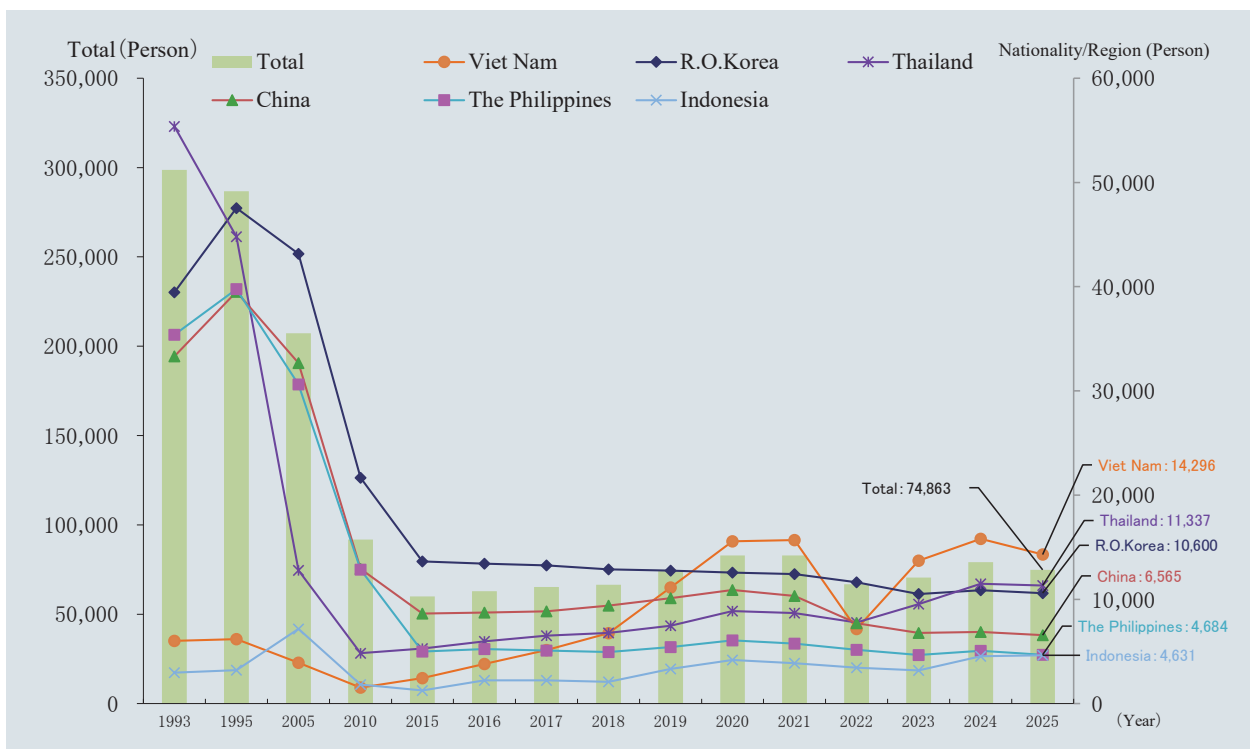
As for the number of foreign nationals overstaying their authorized period of stay as of January 1, 2025 by nationality/region, Viet Nam had the highest figure of 14,296, accounting for 19.1% of all overstayers. Viet Nam was followed by Thailand with 11,337 (15.1%), R.O. Korea with 10,600 (14.2%), China with 6,565 (8.8%), and the Philippines with 4,684 (6.3%). 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 since that year. As of January 1, 2025, the number remains relatively high, albeit down 1,510 from the same date of the previous year. 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 from January 1, 2023 onward. As of January 1, 2025, the number remains above 11,000, as it was on the same date of the previous year. R.O. Korea has seen a consistent decrease since 1995. As of January 1, 2025, the number was 10,600 (down 2.5% from the previous year) ([References 46, 47](#)).

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

(Person)

Nationality/ Region	Date				
	January 1 2021	January 1 2022	January 1 2023	January 1 2024	January 1 2025
Total	82,868	66,759	70,491	79,113	74,863
Viet Nam	15,689	7,148	13,708	15,806	14,296
Thailand	8,691	7,783	9,549	11,494	11,337
R. O. Korea	12,433	11,631	10,508	10,869	10,600
China	10,335	7,716	6,782	6,881	6,565
The Philippines	5,761	5,148	4,662	5,069	4,684
Indonesia	3,869	3,450	3,185	4,537	4,631
Taiwan	3,724	3,319	2,873	3,191	2,983
Sri Lanka	1,287	1,316	1,595	2,001	2,043
Cambodia	266	491	1,185	1,731	1,380
Türkiye	665	928	1,082	1,289	1,372
Others	20,148	17,829	15,362	16,245	14,972

**Reference 47** 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, 2025 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 45,734 overstayers, accounting for 61.1% of the total number, followed by “Designated Activities” at 7,569 (10.1%), “Technical Intern Training (i)-(b)” at 6,353 (8.5%), “Technical Intern Training (ii)-(b)” at 4,690 (6.3%), “Student” at 2,245 (3.0%), and “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” at 1,750 (2.3%). The status of residence that showed a significant decrease from the previous year was “Temporary Visitor” with 4,067 (down 8.2% from the previous year) ([Reference 48](#)).

### Reference 48 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 2021	January 1 2022	January 1 2023	January 1 2024	January 1 2025
Total		82,868	66,759	70,491	79,113	74,863
Temporary Visitor		50,092	43,266	46,590	49,801	45,734
Designated Activities		5,904	5,305	6,215	8,189	7,569
Technical Intern Training (i)-(b)		5,722	3,230	3,072	6,055	6,353
Technical Intern Training (ii)-(b)		7,229	4,346	4,658	4,695	4,690
Student		5,041	2,436	2,465	2,288	2,245
Spouse or Child of Japanese National		2,608	2,300	1,937	1,880	1,750
Others		6,272	5,876	5,554	6,205	6,522

(\*) 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 2024 was 18,908, an increase of 710 (3.9%) compared with 2023. Of these, 10,131 were handed over to immigration inspectors as those subject to the departure order system. 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 17,746 (93.9%), followed by criminal offenses at 384 (2.0%) and Activity other than those permitted at 188 (1.0%). Illegal remaining continued to account for a predominant percentage ([Reference 49](#)).

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 6,996 (37.0%), followed by Thailand at 3,400 (18.0%) and China at 1,929 (10.2%). These top three countries made up 65.2% of the total ([Reference 50](#)).

#### Reference 49 Changes in the number of cases of violation of the Immigration Control Act by grounds deportation

(Person)

Grounds for Deportation	Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	Total		15,875	18,012	10,300	18,198
Illegal Entry		225	182	176	168	188
Illegal Landing		56	50	69	172	146
Activity other than those permitted		96	37	44	175	90
Illegal remaining		14,465	16,638	9,137	16,949	17,746
Criminal offenses		504	574	527	422	384
Others		529	531	347	312	354
Illegal worker		10,993	13,255	6,355	12,384	14,453

**Reference 50** Changes in the number of cases of violation of the Immigration Control Act by nationality/region

(Person)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Total	15,875	18,012	10,300	18,198	18,908
Viet Nam	6,286	9,668	3,568	6,953	6,996
Thailand	1,410	1,064	868	3,171	3,400
China	3,127	2,915	1,967	2,059	1,929
Indonesia	1,059	728	585	920	1,609
The Philippines	1,225	804	785	914	925
Cambodia	94	111	297	1,033	902
Sri Lanka	170	274	277	483	516
Türkiye	237	408	270	391	471
Nepal	490	499	289	384	346
Uzbekistan	151	138	88	234	306
Others	1,626	1,403	1,306	1,656	1,508

(\*) “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 2024, the number of illegal entrants<sup>(\*)</sup> was 188, accounting for 1.0%, an increase of 20 (11.9%) compared to 2023. 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 remains at a low level 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 43 (22.9%), followed by Iran at 35 (18.6%) and China at 21 (11.2%) (Reference 51). According to the statistics by means of transportation used for illegal entry, the number of illegal entrants using aircraft was 168. Though it showed an increase of 24 (16.7%) compared to 2023, the percentage of illegal entry using aircraft was still high at 89.4%. In addition, the number of illegal entrants using a vessel was 19, accounting for 10.1%, a decrease of 5 (20.8%) compared to 2023 (References 52, 53).

(\*) 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 51** Changes in the number of cases of illegal entry by nationality/region  
(Person)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total	225	182	176	168	188
The Philippines	82	57	53	46	43
Iran	8	3	9	20	35
China	43	46	30	25	21
Sri Lanka	6	6	7	2	15
R.O.Korea	19	24	14	15	13
Thailand	13	4	10	10	10
Indonesia	8	1	2	4	7
Russia	2	7	4	3	5
Viet Nam	3	2	2	1	5
Peru	2	10	10	9	5
Others	39	22	35	33	29

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

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

Nationality/Region \ Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total	198	141	143	144	168
The Philippines	80	56	47	41	42
Iran	7	3	8	20	35
China	30	22	12	16	13
Thailand	12	4	9	10	8
Peru	2	10	10	9	5
Others	67	46	57	48	65

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

**Reference 53** Changes in the number of cases of illegal entry by vessel by nationality/region  
(Person)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total	27	41	33	24	19
China	13	24	18	9	8
R.O.Korea	7	14	4	9	5
Thailand	1	0	1	0	2
Sri Lanka	0	0	0	0	2
The Philippines	2	1	6	5	1
Others	4	2	4	2	1

(\*) "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 2024, 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 146 (0.8%), which was a decrease of 26 (15.1%) compared to 2023 ([Reference 54](#)).

### Reference 54 Changes in the number of illegal landing by nationality/region

(Person)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total	56	50	69	172	146
Türkiye	11	1	16	92	45
Sri Lanka	0	0	1	6	18
China	3	5	1	9	11
Russia	12	19	19	10	7
Ghana	0	0	0	2	7
Others	30	25	32	53	58

(\*) "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 2024 for violating the Immigration Control Act, the number of people who overstayed the authorized period of stay was 17,746 (93.9%), even though it is an increase of 797 (4.7%) from 2023, the number is still overwhelmingly high. According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number was from Viet Nam at 6,723 (37.9%), followed by Thailand at 3,360 (18.9%), China at 1,760 (9.9%), Indonesia at 1,576 (8.9%), and Cambodia at 885 (5.0%) ([Reference 55](#)).

### Reference 55 Changes in the number of cases of foreign nationals overstaying the authorized period of stay by nationality/region

(Person)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total	14,465	16,638	9,137	16,949	17,746
Viet Nam	5,956	9,232	3,236	6,647	6,723
Thailand	1,375	1,033	836	3,136	3,360
China	2,857	2,690	1,773	1,885	1,760
Indonesia	1,046	717	573	900	1,576
Cambodia	62	92	284	993	885
The Philippines	1,018	646	650	788	820
Sri Lanka	145	248	244	444	454
Türkiye	222	402	247	287	421
Nepal	444	465	278	351	316
Uzbekistan	140	128	83	227	296
Others	1,200	985	933	1,291	1,135

(\*) "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 2024, 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 90 (0.5%), which was a decrease of 85 (48.6%) compared to 2023.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, Viet Nam had the largest number at 48 (53.3%), followed by Cambodia at 10 (11.1%) and Indonesia at 9 (10.0%), and these top three countries accounted for 74.4% of the total ([Reference 56](#)).

**Reference 56** 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	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total	96	37	44	175	90
Viet Nam	45	17	27	79	48
Cambodia	9	3	0	27	10
Indonesia	0	0	1	8	9
Thailand	0	0	0	4	7
China	2	3	8	7	7
Others	40	14	8	50	9

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

### 3 Illegal Foreign Workers

#### (1) Summary

Of the foreign nationals against whom deportation procedures were enforced for being in violation of the Immigration Control Act in 2024, the number of those who were considered to be illegally working was 14,453 (76.4%). 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 46 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 6,200 (42.9%), followed by Thailand at 3,171 (21.9%), Indonesia at 1,463 (10.1%), China at 1,296 (9.0%) and Cambodia at 751 (5.2%). These top five countries represented 89.1% of the total ([Reference 57](#)).

**Reference 57** Changes in the number of cases of illegal work by nationality/region (Person)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Total	10,993	13,255	6,355	12,384	14,453
Male	7,923	9,634	4,664	8,928	10,324
Female	3,070	3,621	1,691	3,456	4,129
Viet Nam	4,943	7,845	2,522	5,530	6,200
Male	3,801	5,893	2,101	4,608	5,091
Female	1,142	1,952	421	922	1,109
Thailand	1,254	975	751	2,691	3,171
Male	631	513	392	1,332	1,435
Female	623	462	359	1,359	1,736
Indonesia	933	678	535	829	1,463
Male	780	555	451	687	1,221
Female	153	123	84	142	242
China	2,361	2,425	1,360	1,315	1,296
Male	1,693	1,745	909	844	868
Female	668	680	451	471	428
Cambodia	51	66	142	671	751
Male	35	52	113	486	547
Female	16	14	29	185	204
The Philippines	649	480	442	495	586
Male	331	264	232	272	333
Female	318	216	210	223	253
Sri Lanka	71	98	93	176	251
Male	65	96	92	171	239
Female	6	2	1	5	12
Nepal	162	176	103	228	238
Male	126	138	78	172	182
Female	36	38	25	56	56
Uzbekistan	90	68	48	60	90
Male	89	68	47	60	85
Female	1	0	1	0	5
Mongolia	65	90	65	59	77
Male	53	63	41	43	54
Female	12	27	24	16	23
Others	414	354	294	330	330
Male	319	247	208	253	269
Female	95	107	86	77	61

(\*) "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 10,324 males (71.4%) and 4,129 females (28.6%).

### (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 5,497 (38.0%), followed by construction workers at 4,153 (28.7%) and factory workers at 1,456 (10.1%).

In addition, according to the statistics by gender, the largest number of males worked as construction workers at 4,110 (39.8%), followed by agricultural workers at 3,093 (30.0%), and then other labor workers at 1,031 (10.0%), while the largest number of females worked as agricultural workers at 2,404 (58.2%), followed by factory workers at 543 (13.2%), and other labor workers at 253 (6.1%) ([Reference 58](#)).

#### Reference 58 Changes in the number of cases of illegal work by type of work

(Person)

Job Categories	Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total		10,993	13,255	6,355	12,384	14,453
	Male	7,923	9,634	4,664	8,928	10,324
	Female	3,070	3,621	1,691	3,456	4,129
Agricultural worker		2,463	3,154	1,826	4,066	5,497
	Male	1,575	1,900	1,164	2,290	3,093
	Female	888	1,254	662	1,776	2,404
Construction worker		2,272	3,294	1,764	3,160	4,153
	Male	2,241	3,265	1,749	3,126	4,110
	Female	31	29	15	34	43
Factory worker		2,033	2,531	796	1,717	1,456
	Male	1,378	1,672	543	1,118	913
	Female	655	859	253	599	543
Other labor worker		1,156	1,287	484	1,555	1,284
	Male	862	1,003	391	1,346	1,031
	Female	294	284	93	209	253
Non Restaurant industry worker		493	697	329	414	402
	Male	226	358	132	175	153
	Female	267	339	197	239	249
Transportation labor worker		305	223	91	167	181
	Male	288	211	87	158	170
	Female	17	12	4	9	11
Others		2,271	2,069	1,065	1,305	1,480
	Male	1,353	1,225	598	715	854
	Female	918	844	467	590	626

### (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 3,452 (23.9%), followed by Chiba prefecture at 2,257 (15.6%), Gunma prefecture at 1,799 (12.4%), Saitama prefecture at 1,438 (9.9%) and

Aichi prefecture at 1,184 (8.2%) ([Reference 59](#)).

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 11,080 (76.7%), 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 1,775 (12.3%). Illegal foreign workers in the Kanto and Chubu districts making up 88.9% (12,855) of the total accounted for a substantial percentage of the total number of illegal foreign workers.

**Reference 59** Changes in the number of cases of illegal foreign workers by area

(Person)

Prefecture \ Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total	10,993	13,255	6,355	12,384	14,453
Ibaraki	1,512	1,973	1,283	2,748	3,452
Chiba	1,488	2,064	890	1,915	2,257
Gunma	851	1,439	536	1,333	1,799
Saitama	1,290	1,632	558	1,172	1,438
Aichi	1,452	1,265	701	1,050	1,184
Tokyo	1,428	1,287	529	831	917
Tochigi	287	477	238	509	645
Kanagawa	534	566	269	475	572
Osaka	459	587	283	530	542
Hyogo	230	258	143	236	223
Others	1,462	1,707	925	1,585	1,424

**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 2024 was 19,452, an increase of 668 (3.6%) compared to the previous year ([Reference 60](#)).

**Reference 60** 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

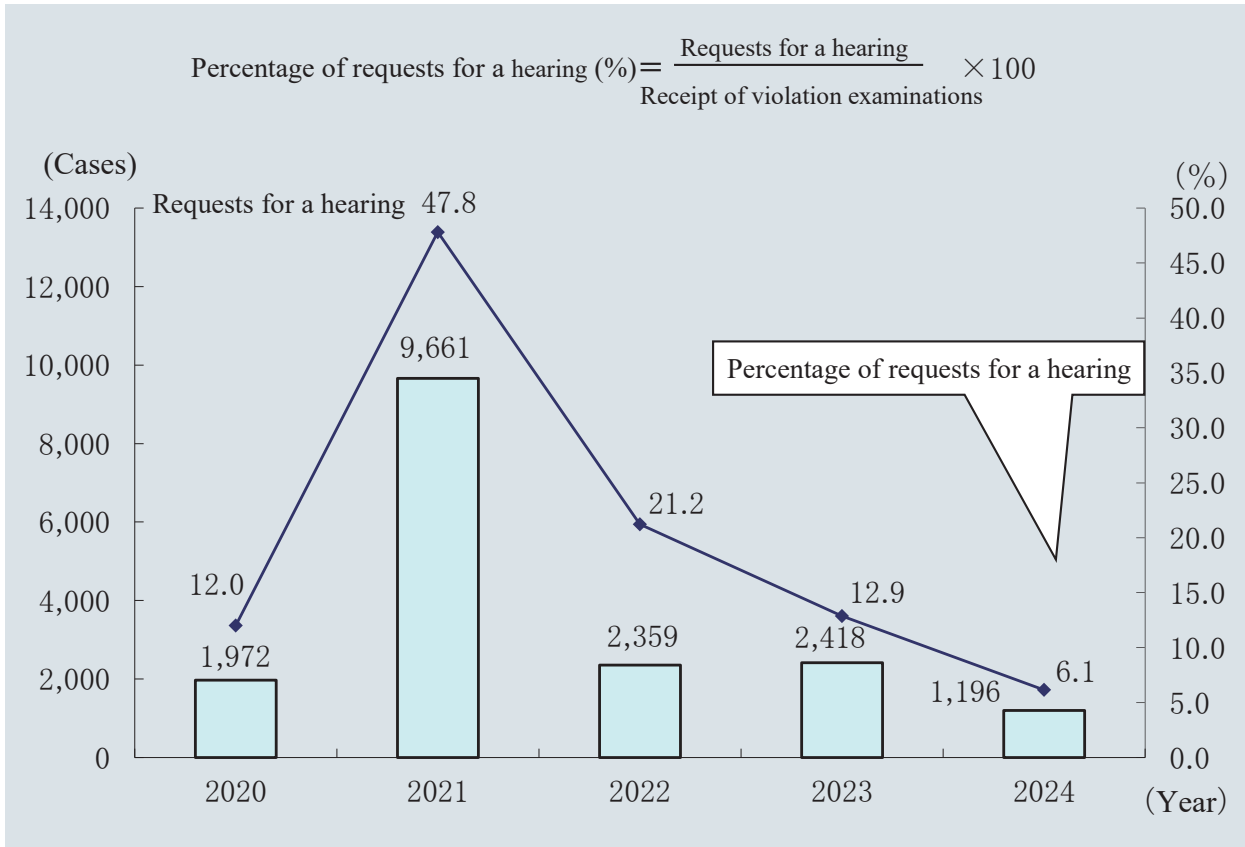
(Cases)

Division		Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Violation examination by immigration inspector	Receipt		16,410 (393)	20,202 (1,983)	11,105 (563)	18,784 (367)	19,452 (332)	
	Completed	Found not to fall under one of the reasons for deportation		2	2	1	—	1
		Issuance of written deportation order		5,372	5,081	4,168	6,683	6,807
		Request for hearing		1,972	9,661	2,359	2,418	1,196
		Issuance of written departure order		6,898	4,410	3,881	9,176	10,382
	Not completed, others		2,166	1,048	696	507	1,066	
Hearing by special inquiry officer	Receipt		2,631 (616)	10,433 (691)	3,004 (597)	2,735 (269)	1,464 (204)	
	Completed	Error in the findings		1	—	—	1	—
		Issuance of written deportation order		60	81	42	86	119
		Filing of an objection		1,832	9,697	2,644	2,401	978
		Issuance of written departure order		—	—	—	—	—
	Not completed, others		738	655	318	247	367	
Decision of the Minister of Justice	Receipt		2,368 (518)	10,126 (371)	3,570 (889)	3,431 (988)	2,131 (1,036)	
	Completed	Objection with reason		—	—	—	1	—
		Objection without reason		1,916	9,174	2,403	2,139	1,198
		Issuance of written departure order		—	—	—	—	—
	Not completed, others		452	952	1,167	1,291	933	

(\*) 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 2024 was 1,196 accounting for 6.1% of the total number of cases which underwent an examination of the violation, a decrease of 1,222 (50.5%) compared to the previous year ([References 60, 61](#)).

**Reference 61** 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 978 in 2024, a decrease of 1,423 (59.3%) compared to the previous year (Reference 60).

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

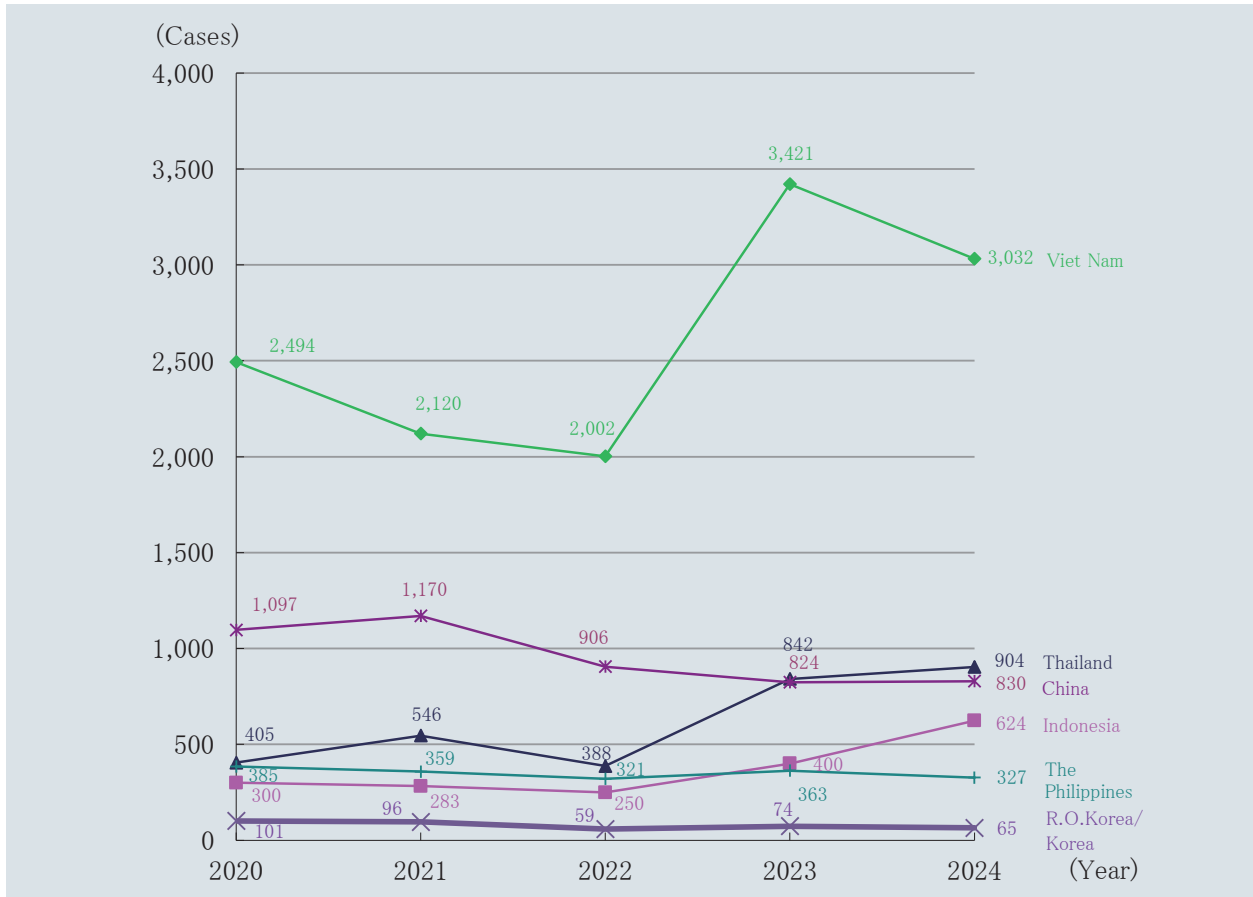
The number of written deportation orders issued in 2024 was 7,618. According to the statistics by grounds for deportation, the cases of overstay amounted to 6,578, accounting for 86.3% of the total, while the percentage of cases of illegal entry amounted to 159, accounting for 2.1% of the total (Reference 62).

**Reference 62** Changes in the number of issuance of written deportation orders by grounds for deportation

Grounds for Deportation	(Cases)					
	Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total		5,903	5,566	5,134	7,826	7,618
Illegal remaining		4,604	4,006	3,968	6,754	6,578
Illegal Entry		132	130	118	117	159
Illegal Landing		41	43	43	126	100
Activity other than those permitted		96	33	43	168	81
Criminal offenses		154	504	444	142	107
Others		876	850	518	519	593

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number was from Viet Nam at 3,032, accounting for 39.8% of the total, followed by Thailand at 904 (11.9%) and China at 830 (10.9%) ([Reference 63](#)).

**Reference 63** Changes in the number of issuance of written deportation orders by nationality/region



**(3) Decision to Shorten the Period of Denial of Landing**

From June 10, 2024, to the end of December 2024, the number of applications for decisions to shorten the period of denial of landing was 199.

According to processing statistics, 154 applications (77.4%) have resulted in an official decision (approval), 40 (20.1%) in a non-decision (rejection), and 1 (0.5%) in a withdrawal.

**(4) Sponsorship**

In 2024, the number of persons placed under a Sponsorship prior to the issuance of a written deportation order was 647, while the number of persons placed under a Sponsorship after the issuance of a written deportation order was 476 ([Reference 64](#)).

**Reference 64** Number of persons placed under a Sponsorship

Type	Year	
	(Cases)	
	2024	
Before issuance of written deportation order	647	
After issuance of written deportation order	476	

### (5) Provisional Release

The number of cases where foreign nationals who had been detained due to a written detention order were provisionally released in 2024 was 650, a decrease of 558 (46.2%) compared to the previous year. The number of foreign nationals detained under a written deportation order who were granted provisional release was 812, a decrease of 665 (45.0%) compared to the previous year ([Reference 65](#)).

#### Reference 65 Changes in the number of cases of permission for provisional release (Cases)

Type of Order \ Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
By written detention order	3,375	3,506	2,226	1,208	650
By written deportation order	3,013	4,275	2,638	1,477	812

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

The total number of cases in which the Minister of Justice granted special permission to stay in Japan during each step of an examination of violation, a hearing and a decision in 2024 was 989, a decrease of 171 (14.7%) when compared to 2023.

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 782 (79.1%) staying beyond the authorized period of stay in 2024. And there were 60 (6.1%) illegal entry and illegal landing. Illegal remaining, illegal entry and illegal landing accounted for 85.1% of the total ([Reference 66](#)).

From June 10, 2024, to the end of December 2024, the number of applications for special permission to stay in Japan was 2,048. According to processing statistics, 469 applications (22.9%) have been given permission, 370 (18.1%) have been denied permission, and 46 (2.2%) have been withdrawn.

#### Reference 66 Changes in the number of cases of special permission to stay in Japan by grounds for deportation (Cases)

Grounds for Deportation \ Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total	1,478	8,793	1,525	1,160	989
Illegal remaining	1,142	8,271	1,089	927	782
Illegal Entry/Illegal Landing	104	132	105	79	60
Criminal offenses etc.	232	390	331	154	147

According to statistics by nationality/region in 2024, the number of foreign nationals who were granted special permission to stay in Japan was 206 (20.8%) for the Philippines, 158 (16.0%) for China, 61 (6.2%) for Viet Nam, 48 (4.9%) for Thailand, and 45 (4.6%) for R.O. Korea/Korea combined ([Reference 67](#)).

**Reference 67** Changes in the number of cases of special permission to stay in Japan by nationality/region

(Cases)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total	1,478	8,793	1,525	1,160	989
The Philippines	391	350	293	271	206
China	175	237	233	194	158
Thailand	71	107	106	91	61
Viet Nam	202	7,450	255	61	48
R.O.Korea/Korea	83	79	78	59	45
Others	556	570	560	484	471

(\*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 2024 was 7,698, which was a decrease of 326 (4.1%) when compared to the previous year.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number was from Viet Nam at 3,123 (40.6%), followed by Thailand at 912 (11.8%), China at 826 (10.7%), Indonesia at 628 (8.2%), and Cambodia at 368 (4.8%) ([Reference 68](#)).

**Reference 68** Changes in the number of deportees by nationality/region

(Person)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total	5,450	4,122	4,795	8,024	7,698
Viet Nam	2,206	1,781	2,014	3,513	3,123
Thailand	382	224	448	897	912
China	980	832	784	1,041	826
Indonesia	295	191	238	418	628
Cambodia	49	35	86	349	368
The Philippines	382	214	321	410	351
Sri Lanka	141	103	122	195	283
Nepal	197	170	172	222	174
Türkiye	111	87	77	190	167
Uzbekistan	68	32	48	90	164
Others	639	453	485	699	702

(\* ) "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 69** Changes in the number of deportees by means of deportation

(Person)

Measure of Deportation \ Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total	5,450	4,122	4,795	8,024	7,698
Voluntary departure	4,705	2,808	3,935	7,127	6,808
Deportation in accordance with Article 59	27	8	11	52	32
Government-funded deportation (without escort officials)	633	1,277	724	695	581
Government-funded deportation (with escort officials)	76	15	96	119	249
Individual depotation (for those who attempt to evade depotation)	30	11	88	113	237
Individual depotation (for those who claim to have medical conditions)	2	4	8	6	12
Group deportation	44	0	0	0	0
Others	1	0	2	1	0
Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons	8	14	27	30	28

- (\*1) "Government-funded deportation (without escort)" refers to the depotation 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 depotation 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 Person.

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

Of the deportees, the number of those deported at their own expense stood at 6,808 (88.4%), which was a decrease of 319 (4.7%) when compared to the previous year (References 69, 70).

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

(Person)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total	4,705	2,808	3,935	7,127	6,808
Viet Nam	1,726	723	1,629	3,260	2,944
Thailand	380	213	391	847	862
China	931	759	697	948	742
Cambodia	49	32	74	340	353
Indonesia	281	172	195	378	537
The Philippines	369	182	250	350	299
Sri Lanka	95	85	95	139	205
Nepal	177	158	152	188	155
Uzbekistan	67	28	44	72	138
Türkiye	103	84	52	142	122
Others	527	372	356	463	451

(\*) "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 581 (7.5%), a decrease of 114 (16.4%) compared to 2023. The number of foreign nationals subject to government-funded deportation with escort officials was 249 (3.2%), an increase of 130 (109.2%) compared to 2023 ([Reference 71](#)).

**Reference 71** Changes in the number of deportees deported on government funding with escort officials by nationality/region

(Person)

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total	32	15	96	119	249
The Philippines	6	2	20	17	37
China	2	0	3	9	33
Sri Lanka	0	4	11	9	31
Türkiye	2	1	15	14	28
Brazil	2	0	7	8	16
Others	20	8	40	62	104

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

(\*2) Total number of persons evading deportation or claiming to have medical conditions (from Figure 69).

The Amended Immigration Control Act that was enacted in 2023 and brought into effect on June 10, 2024, included new exceptional provisions on the suspensive effect on deportation (Article 61-2-9, paragraph (4), items (i) and (ii)). In 2024, 19 persons were subject to these provisions. Of these 19 persons, 17 had reapplied for recognition of refugee status or other recognition for the third time or more (persons falling under item (i) of paragraph (4)). According to the statistics by nationality/region, Sri Lanka had the largest number at 6, followed by Türkiye at 4, India and Nepal at 2 each, and China, Bangladesh, and Pakistan at 1 each. There were also two persons who had been sentenced to imprisonment for life or a period of three years or longer, etc. (persons falling under item (ii) of paragraph (4)). According to the statistics by nationality/region, Sri Lanka and Nigeria had 1 case each.

In addition, there was one person, a Cambodian, for whom deportation procedures were planned but ultimately canceled because the person submitted materials with reasonable grounds on which they should be recognized as a refugee, etc.

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

A carrier who operates an aircraft or vessel that has transported a foreign national who does not meet the requirements for landing is responsible for deporting the deportee at its own expense and on its own responsibility under certain conditions (deportation under Article 59 of the Immigration Control Act)<sup>(\*)</sup>. The number of foreign nationals deported in this way in 2024 was 32 (0.4%), a decrease of 20 (38.5%) compared to 2023 (Reference 69).

## 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 10,131 in

(\*) 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.

2024, accounting for 53.6% of the total number of foreign nationals in violation of the Immigration Control Act.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, illegal workers from Viet Nam made up the largest number at 3,859 (38.1%), followed by Thailand at 2,444 (24.1%), China at 975 (9.6%), Indonesia at 971 (9.6%) and Cambodia at 498 (4.9%). These top five countries represented 86.3% of the total ([Reference 72](#)).

**Reference 72** Changes in the number of foreign nationals handed over under a departure order by nationality/region

(Person)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total	6,874	4,365	3,877	9,197	10,131
Viet Nam	2,739	651	1,350	3,524	3,859
Thailand	748	579	387	2,257	2,444
China	1,625	1,722	933	1,087	975
Indonesia	712	435	315	516	971
Cambodia	23	39	153	591	498
The Philippines	376	215	223	321	417
Sri Lanka	37	101	77	206	216
Nepal	252	283	134	176	160
Türkiye	73	21	17	71	146
Uzbekistan	45	86	23	89	96
Others	244	233	265	359	349

(\*) "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 2024 was 10,131, accounting for 52.1% of the total number of cases of examination of the violation. This represented an increase of 934 (10.2%) 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 foreign nationals were issued with a written departure order, having been determined to be eligible for a departure order, was 10,382 in 2024. According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number was from Viet Nam at 3,968, accounting for 38.2% of the total, followed by Thailand at 2,462 (23.7%), China at 1,001 (9.6%), Indonesia at 983 (9.5%), and Cambodia at 517 (5.0%), and the top five countries accounted for 86.0% of the total ([Reference 73](#)).

**Reference 73** Changes in the number of issuances of written departure orders by nationality/region

(Cases)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total	6,898	4,410	3,881	9,176	10,382
Viet Nam	2,761	674	1,350	3,508	3,968
Thailand	749	582	389	2,257	2,462
China	1,634	1,737	935	1,084	1,001
Cambodia	23	40	152	590	983
Indonesia	710	434	315	516	517
The Philippines	377	215	224	321	423
Sri Lanka	36	100	77	205	233
Nepal	252	284	134	176	177
Uzbekistan	45	88	23	89	145
Türkiye	68	22	17	71	109
Others	243	234	265	359	364

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

(\*2) The number of 2024 include both Article 24-3 item (i) (a) of the Immigration Control Act (The foreign national voluntarily appears at an immigration services office with the intention to promptly depart from Japan before an investigation into the violation commences.) and Article 24-3 item (i) (b) of the Immigration Control Act (The foreign national expresses to an immigration inspector or an immigration control officer the intention to promptly depart from Japan after the commencement of an investigation into the violation before receiving a notice of recognition from an immigration inspector.) .

### (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 2024 was 141 (175 in the previous year) ([Reference 74](#)).

In 2024, a total of 256 judgments were handed down for immigration control and residency management lawsuits (merits cases), consisting of 245 wins and 11 losses of the government<sup>(\*)</sup>.

(\*) 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.) .

**Reference 74** Changes in the number of immigration control and residency management lawsuits accepted and concluded (merits cases) (as of the end of 2024)

(Cases)

Category		Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Administrative case	Action for revocation or annulment related to deportation procedures		75	43	58	110	98
	Action for revocation or annulment related to denied permission concerning residence examinations		12	9	20	15	11
	Action for revocation or annulment related to denied issuance of a Certificate of Eligibility		1	1	0	1	1
	Action for revocation or annulment related to refugee recognition procedures		29	41	25	40	24
	Others		6	7	15	3	5
	(Subtotal)		123	101	118	169	139
Civil case			4	6	8	6	2
Habeas corpus petition			1	1	0	0	0
Number of actions accepted (total)			128	108	126	175	141
Number of actions concluded			181	157	137	130	153

## 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 2024, the total number of applicants who applied for recognition of refugee status in Japan was 12,373, which was a decrease of 1,450 (about 10.5%) when compared to 2023 ([Reference 75](#)).

#### Reference 75 Changes in the number of applications for recognition of refugee status

(Person)

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Applications	10,375	3,936	2,413	3,772	13,823	12,373

The number of nationalities/regions of the applicants was 92, including Sri Lanka with 2,455 applicants (about 19.8%), Thailand with 2,128 (about 17.2%), Türkiye with 1,223 (about 9.9%), India with 951 (about 7.7%), Pakistan with 700 (about 5.7%), Myanmar with 627 (about 5.1%), Bangladesh with 568 (about 4.6%), Nepal with 506 (about 4.1%), Cambodia with 364 (about 2.9%), and Uzbekistan with 265 (about 2.1%).

The applicants at the time of their applications comprised 11,625 (about 94.0%) legal residents and 748 (about 6.0%) illegal residents.

Among the applicants, 1,355 applicants accounting for about 11.0% had applied for recognition of refugee status in the past. These applicants comprised 849 legal residents and 506 illegal residents.

## (2) Application for Recognition of Eligibility for Complementary Protection

In 2024, the number of applicants for recognition of eligibility for complementary protection in Japan was 1,273, an increase of 595 (about 87.8%) compared to 2023.

The number of nationalities/regions of the applicants was 12, namely Ukraine with 1,239 applicants (about 97.3%), Syria with 14 (about 1.1%), Myanmar with 5 (about 0.4%), Lebanon with 5 (about 0.4%), Israel with 2 (about 0.2%), Russia with 2 (about 0.2%), and Afghanistan, Canada, Sudan, China, Pakistan, and the Philippines, each with 1 (about 0.1%).

The applicants at the time of their applications comprised 1,269 (about 99.7%) legal residents and 4 (about 0.3%) illegal residents.

Among the 1,273 applicants, 11 applicants had applied for recognition of refugee status or recognition of eligibility for complementary protection in the past.

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

In 2024, the number of applicants whose application for refugee status was processed was 8,377, an increase of 193 (about 2.4%) compared to 2023. Of these applicants, 176 were recognized as refugees<sup>(※)</sup>, 5,117 were not recognized as refugees (including 45 who were not recognized as refugees but recognized as eligible for persons under complementary protection), and 3,084 withdrew their applications or took other action.

The number of applicants whose application for recognition of eligibility for complementary protection was processed in 2024 was 1,654. Of the total, 1,616 applications were accepted, 5 denied, and 33 withdrawn, etc.

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 335 foreign nationals were permitted to stay in 2024 ([References 76, 77](#)).

(※) 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.

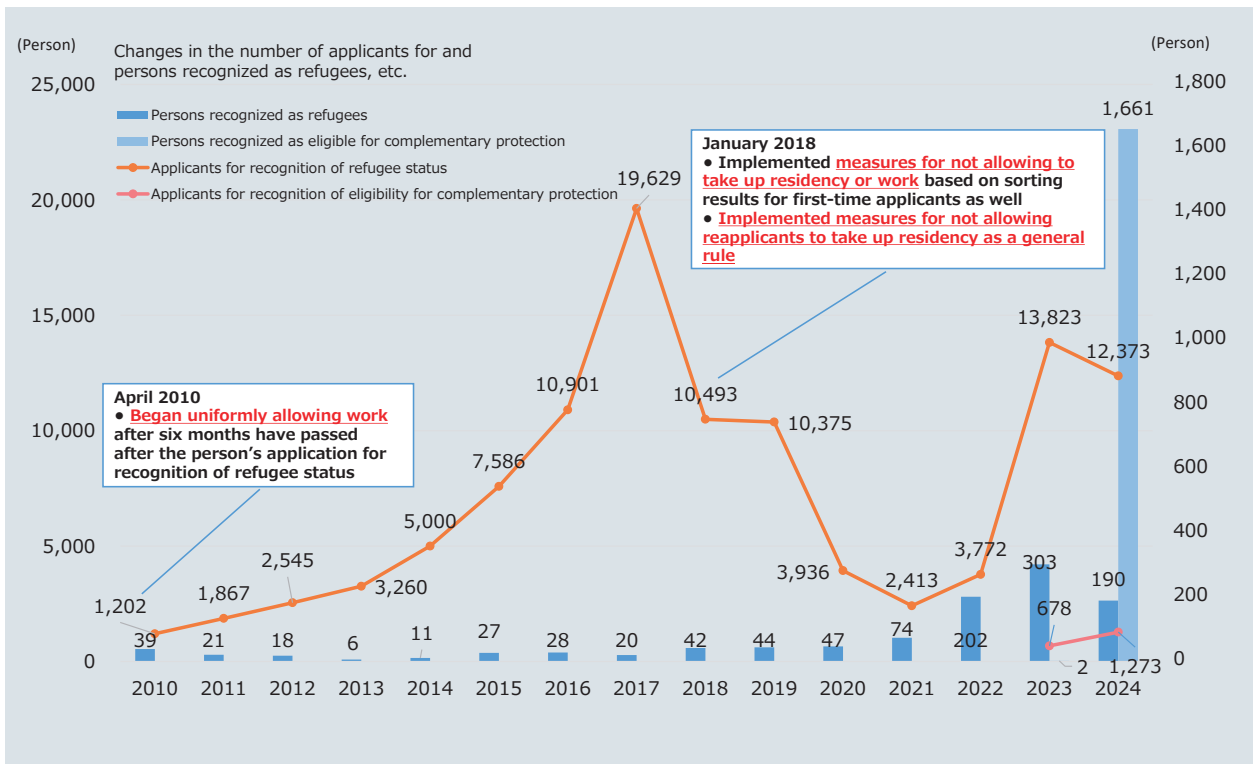
**Reference 76** Status of refugee protection in Japan

(Person)

Division		Year	1978~2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Refugee Status	Recognized as convention refugees		750	44	47	74	202	303	190
	Refugees for resettlement		11,493	20	—	—	35	47	47
Persons under complementary protection			—	—	—	—	—	2	1,661
Other protection			2,628	37	44	580	1,760	1,005	335
Total			14,871	101	91	654	1,997	1,357	2,233

- (\*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 protection” is persons not recognized as refugees nor persons subject to complementary protection but permitted to reside in Japan for humanitarian reasons.

**Reference 77** Changes in the number of applicants and persons recognized as refugees or eligible for complementary protection



(\* ) The number of applicants is the number of primary examinations. The number of persons recognized includes those who completed primary examinations and those who were recognized as a result of appeals.

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

The number of foreign nationals who were granted permission for provisional stay was 96 in 2024, a decrease of 52 (about 35.1%) compared to 2023.

The number of those who underwent an examination as to whether or not they should be granted permission for provisional stay was 703. The major reasons for decisions not granting permission were as follows :

- (i) Applicants had applied for recognition of refugee status or eligibility for complementary protection 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 or eligible for complementary protection had arisen during their stay in Japan, the date such fact became known to them): 449 persons.
- (ii) Applicants had already received a deportation order: 212 persons.
- (iii) There had been reasonable grounds to believe that the applicants are likely to flee: 177 persons<sup>(※1)</sup>.

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

### 1 Number of Requests for an Administrative Review

The number of persons who made a request for an administrative review<sup>(※2)</sup> of the disposition denying recognition of refugee status in 2024 was 3,273, and this was a decrease of 1,974 (37.6%) compared with 2023 (Reference 78).

The number of persons who made a request for an administrative review of a disposition denying recognition of eligibility for complementary protection in 2024 was 3.

### Reference 78 Changes in the number of appeals, and determinations of the Minister of Justice

Division		Year					(Person)
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Not recognized as a refugee		3,477	4,196	5,418	5,045	5,117	
Appeal		2,573	4,046	4,461	5,247	3,273	
Processing	With reason	1	9	15	14	14	
	Without reason	5,271	6,732	4,725	2,582	3,152	
	Withdrawn, etc.	1,203	670	492	863	948	

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

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

## 2 Processing of the Appeal

The number of the appeals processed in 2024 was 4,114, an increase of 655 (18.9%) compared with 2023. The breakdown of the processing included 14 persons (14 in the previous year) whose appeals were found to have reasonable grounds (persons who were recognized as refugees), 3,152 persons (2,582 in the previous year) whose appeals had not been admitted to have reasonable grounds, and 948 persons (863 in the previous year) had been concluded due to withdrawal of their appeals, etc (Reference 78).

Among those whose appeals were found to be with reasonable grounds in 2024, the number of persons who were recognized as eligible for persons under complementary protection was 0.

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

In 2024, 91 foreign nationals applied for landing permission for temporary refuge (hereinafter referred to as “temporary refuge landing permission”) in Japan, which was an increase of 43 compared to 2023. The breakdown for the processing of applications was 5 cases given permission, 83 cases denied permission, and 4 cases of withdrawn application (References 79, 80).

#### Reference 79 Changes in the number of applications for Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge

(Person)

Division \ Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Applications	7	3	12	48	90
Permission	1	1	2	11	5
Disapproval	7	3	10	34	83
Withdrawn, etc.	—	—	—	2	4

(\*) 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 80** Processing status of applications for Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge (2024)

(Person)

Nationality	Applications Total	Breakdown of processing			
		Permission	Disapproval	Termination/ Withdrawn	Discontinuance
Iran	39	—	40	—	—
China	11	—	11	—	—
Myanmar	11	3	8	—	—
Canada	4	—	4	—	—
Israel	3	—	3	—	—
Türkiye	3	—	3	—	—
Yemen	2	1	1	—	—
India	2	—	2	—	—
Pakistan	2	—	—	2	—
Uganda	1	—	1	—	—
Ethiopia	1	—	—	1	—
Ghana	1	—	1	—	—
Cameroon	1	—	1	—	—
Democratic Republic of the Congo	1	—	1	—	—
Somalia	1	1	—	—	—
Tanzania	1	—	1	—	—
Nigeria	1	—	1	—	—
Bahrain	1	—	1	—	—
Bangladesh	1	—	1	—	—
The U. S.	1	—	1	—	—
Malaysia	1	—	1	—	—
Lebanese	1	—	1	—	—
Russian	1	—	—	1	—
Total	91	5	83	4	—

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

(\*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 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 abuse of human rights 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 July 2024, the Council for the Promotion of Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons, which is composed of the relevant ministers, held its 10th 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](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, while taking into account the victim's wishes, 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 2024, the ISA implemented protection procedures (including supporting the victim's return to the home country) for 7 foreign nationals as victims of trafficking in persons (8 persons in the previous year). All victims were Philippine nationals (8 Philippine nationals in the previous year).

In addition, all seven victims had a status of residence (eight persons in the previous year), and the number of victims who were in violation of the Immigration Control Act such as illegally staying beyond the authorized period of stay was 0 (zero persons in the previous year) ([Reference 81](#)).

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 82](#)).

### Reference 81 Number of victims of trafficking in persons (2024)

(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	7	0(0)	7
Total	7	0(0)	7

(\*) The breakdown by status of residence of foreign nationals previously in possession of a status of residence was "Entertainer," 7 persons.

### Reference 82 Changes in the number of victims of trafficking in persons

(Person)

Breakdown	Year	2005	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total		115	8	11	2	8	7
Foreign nationals previously in possession of a status of residence		68	1	10	1	8	7
Violators of the Immigration Control Act (Special permission to stay in Japan)		47(47)	7(7)	1(1)	1(1)	0(0)	0(0)

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

In 2014, the National Police Agency, Ministry of Justice, Supreme Public Prosecutors Office, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and the Japan Coast Guard established the “Task Force for the Enforcement of Laws and Regulations Relating to Trafficking in Persons,” and this task force has been conducting improved information sharing and cooperation in order to ensure crackdowns on human trafficking-related offenses, and consequently, no foreign nationals were deported by the ISA as perpetrators of human trafficking in 2024 (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 Relating to Measures to Prevent Spousal Violence and Protect Victims<sup>(※2)</sup> 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,

(※1) 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).

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

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 2024 was 247 ([References 83, 84](#)).

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.

**Reference 83** Number of recognized foreign domestic violence victims (2024)

(Person)

Nationality/Region	Division	Residence Procedures	Deportation Procedures	Consultations	Others	Total
The Philippines		43	3	24	6	76
China		13	1	11	2	27
Brazil		11	2	12	1	26
Viet Nam		7	1	7	2	17
Nepal		5	0	8	1	14
Thailand		8	1	2	1	12
Myanmar		6	0	1	3	10
Peru		4	0	4	0	8
Bangladesh		2	0	4	0	6
Pakistan		2	0	4	0	6
Sri Lanka		1	0	1	2	4
Indonesia		2	0	1	0	3
R.O.Korea		3	0	0	0	3
Nigeria		1	0	1	1	3
Bolivia		0	1	2	0	3
Mongolia		2	0	1	0	3
Italy		2	0	0	0	2
Cameroon		1	0	1	0	2
Colombia		0	1	1	0	2
Türkiye		0	1	0	1	2
Iran		0	0	1	0	1
India		0	0	0	1	1
Uzbekistan		0	1	0	0	1
Ukraine		0	0	0	1	1
Cambodia		1	0	0	0	1
Guinea		1	0	0	0	1
Kyrgyz		0	0	1	0	1
Sweden		1	0	0	0	1
Spain		1	0	0	0	1
Taiwan		1	0	0	0	1
Paraguay		0	0	1	0	1
United States of America		1	0	0	0	1
Belgium		1	0	0	0	1
Poland		0	0	0	1	1
Malaysia		0	0	0	1	1
Morocco		1	0	0	0	1
Rumania		0	0	1	0	1
Russia		0	0	1	0	1
Total		121	12	90	24	247

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

**Reference 84** 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
2022		1	2	7	122	84	10	11	0	12	249
2023		1	3	3	110	56	32	6	2	22	235
2024		0	2	4	113	64	29	11	5	19	247

(\*) 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.