



# Part 1

Immigration Control in Recent Years

## Chapter 1

### Foreign Nationals Entering and Residing in Japan

#### Section 1 — Foreign Nationals Entering and Leaving Japan

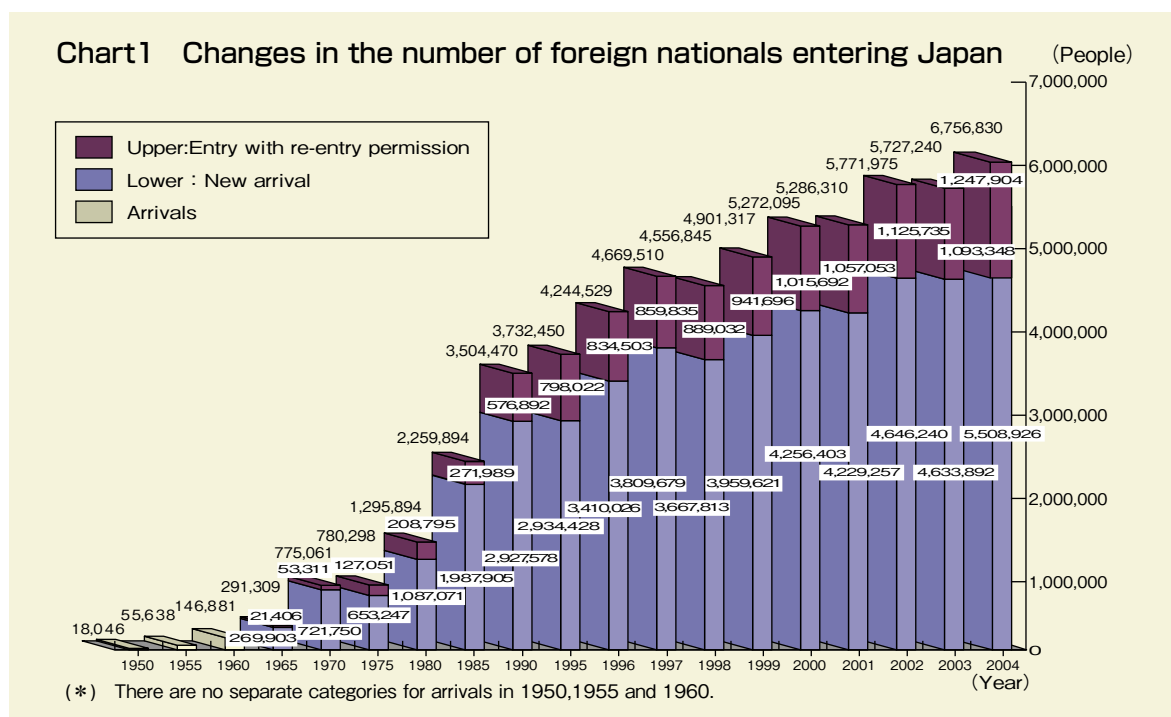
##### 1 Changes in the Number of Foreign Nationals Entering and Leaving Japan

###### (1) Foreign Nationals Entering Japan

###### A. The Number of Foreign Nationals Entering Japan

The number of foreign nationals entering Japan topped 1 million in 1978, 2 million in 1984, 3 million in 1990, 4 million in 1996, and 5 million in 2000. In 2004, the number reached a new record high of 6,756,830, an increase of 1,029,590 (up 18.0%) from 5,727,240 in 2003.

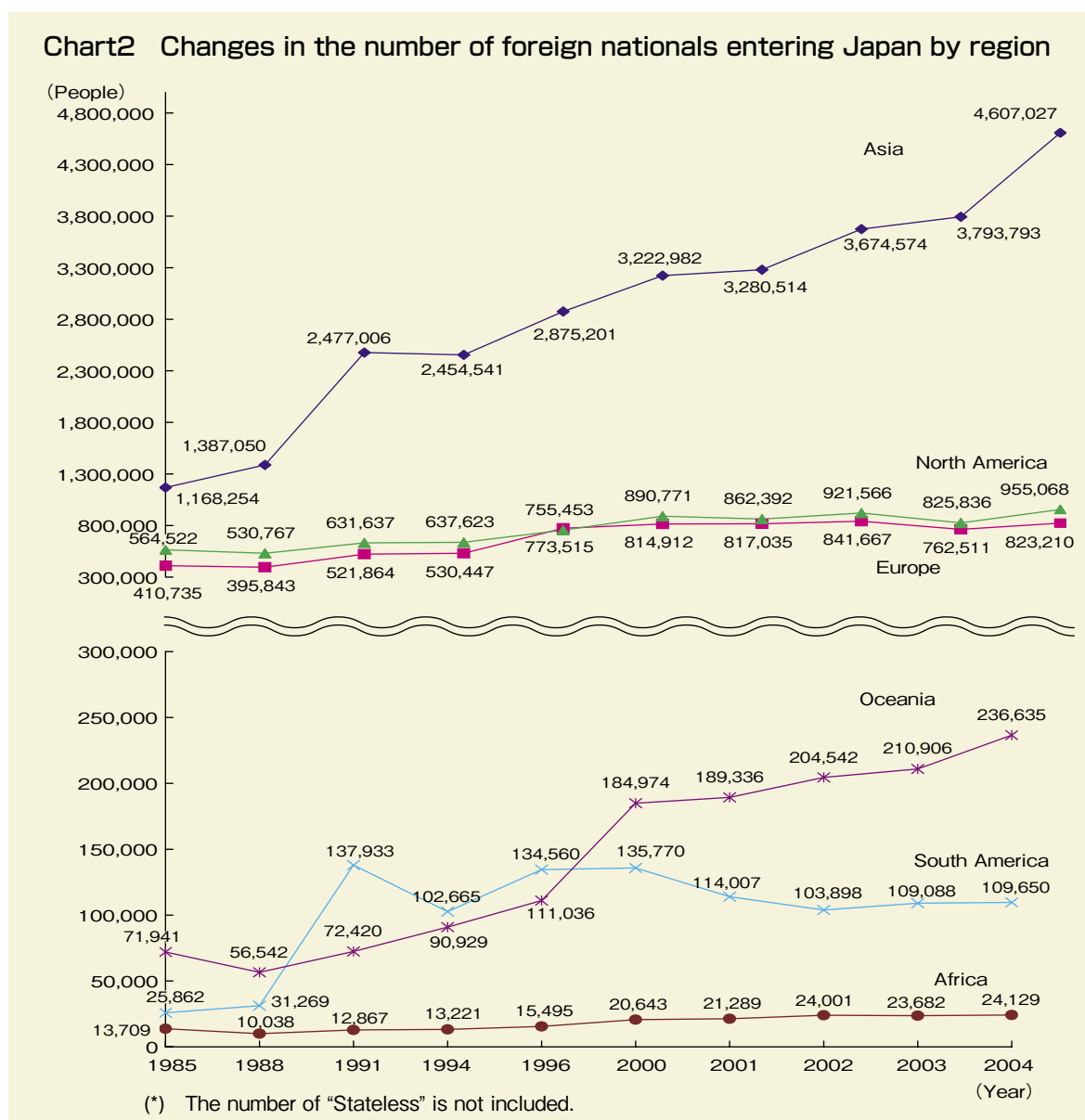
In 2003, the US and coalition war on Iraq and the outbreak of SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) in Asia temporarily brought down the number of foreign visitors to Japan. However, in 2004 the US military attacks on Iraq and the rampant SARS epidemic both returned to some stability, and Japan also made further efforts to increase the number of foreign visitors to Japan, aiming at encouraging tourism in Japan. These factors contributed to the significant increase in foreign nationals entering Japan in 2004. (Chart 1)



## B. The Number of Foreign Nationals Entering Japan by Region

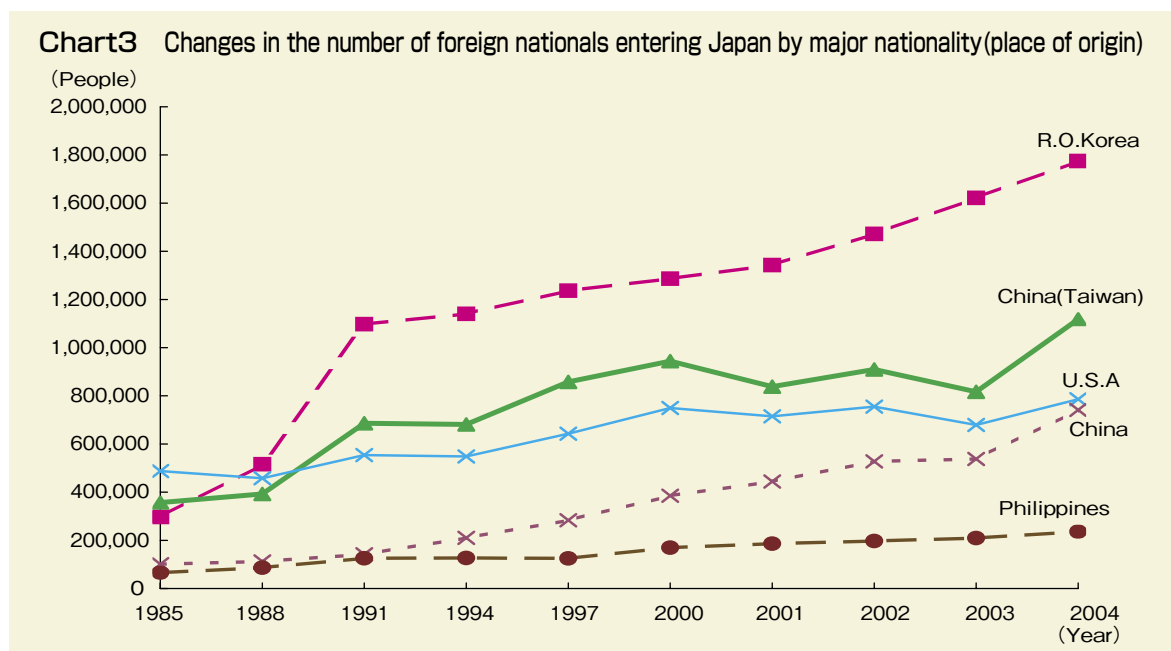
The statistics of the number of foreign nationals entering Japan in 2004 by region in which the nationality (place of origin) of each foreign national is geographically categorized show the largest number of foreign nationals came from Asia. The number of Asians stood at 4,607,027, an increase of 813,234 (up 21.4%) from 3,793,793 in 2003. Visitors from North America showed the second largest number with 955,068 (up 15.6% from 2003), followed by Europe (823,210, up 8.0%), Oceania (236,635, up 12.2%), South America (109,650, up 0.50%), and Africa (24,129, up 1.9%).

On a percentage basis, visitors from Asia accounted for 68.2%, occupying more than two thirds of the overall number of foreign nationals entering Japan in 2004, followed by those from North America (14.1%), Europe (12.2%), Oceania (3.5%), South America (1.6%), and Africa (0.4%). (Chart 2)



### C. The Number of Foreign Nationals Entering Japan by Nationality (Place of Origin)

The statistics of the number of foreign nationals entering Japan in 2004, by nationality (place of origin), show the largest number of foreign nationals came from the Republic of Korea (R.O. Korea). 1,774,872 South Koreans entered Japan, accounting for 26.3% of the total number of foreign nationals coming to Japan. R.O. Korea was followed by China (Taiwan), the US, China, the Philippines, and China (Hong Kong). About half the number of foreign nationals entering Japan came from Japan's three neighboring countries (regions): R.O. Korea, China (Taiwan), and China. Their total accounted for 53.8% of the total number of foreign nationals entering Japan. (Chart 3, Table 1)



**Table 1** Changes in the number of foreign nationals entering Japan by major nationality (place of origin) (People)

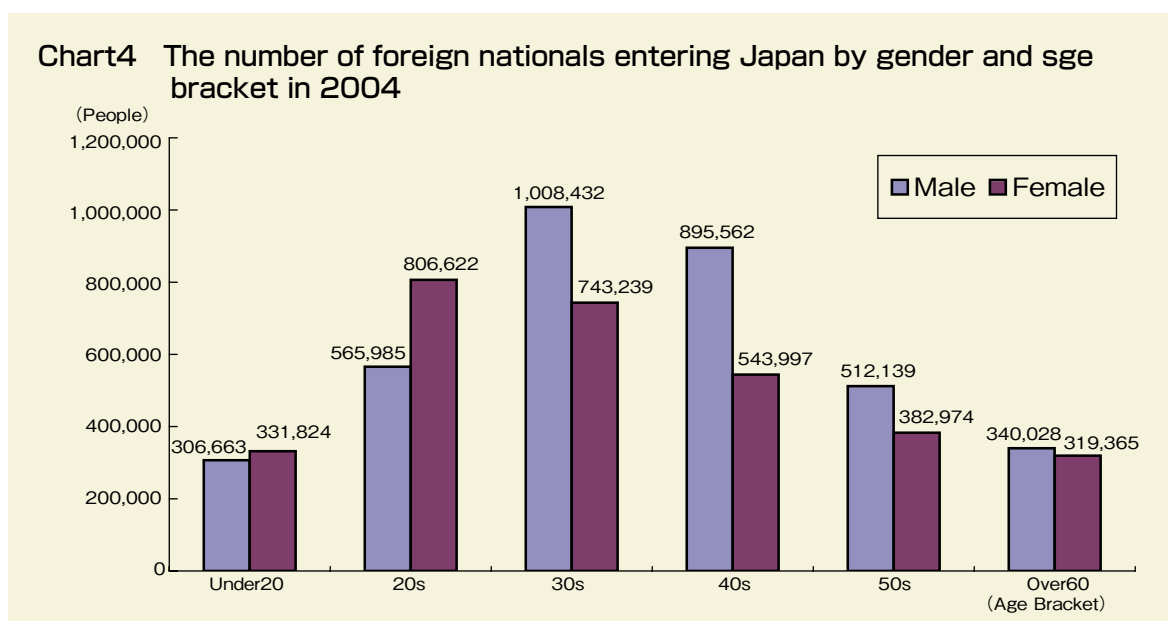
Nationality (Place of Origin)	Year	1985	1988	1991	1994	1997	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total		2,259,894	2,414,447	3,855,952	3,831,367	4,669,514	5,272,095	5,286,310	5,771,975	5,727,240	6,756,830
R.O.Korea		296,708	515,807	1,097,601	1,140,372	1,236,597	1,286,583	1,342,987	1,472,096	1,621,903	1,774,872
China(Taiwan)		356,934	392,723	686,076	681,183	857,877	944,019	838,001	909,654	816,692	1,117,950
United States of America		487,713	457,620	554,147	548,265	642,933	749,343	715,036	755,196	678,935	785,916
China		100,972	112,389	142,150	210,476	283,467	385,296	444,441	527,796	537,700	741,659
Philippines		65,529	86,567	125,329	126,739	124,856	169,755	186,262	197,136	209,525	236,291
China(Hong Kong)	Counted separately from the United Kingdom since 1991			37,483	31,535	30,806	49,423	74,704	136,482	163,254	226,321
United Kingdom		183,863	149,954	105,535	123,638	170,251	198,675	203,551	225,074	206,331	222,284
Australia		53,553	40,568	52,058	63,323	79,548	150,046	152,480	167,868	175,315	197,940
Canada		61,270	58,583	63,120	75,560	96,516	122,260	128,707	134,845	129,460	146,109
Thailand		44,123	41,994	105,666	63,812	67,015	73,472	77,521	86,683	95,018	121,963
Others		560,076	529,115	886,787	766,464	1,079,648	1,143,223	1,122,620	1,159,145	1,093,107	1,185,525

According to a comparison between the number of foreign nationals entering Japan in 2003 and 2004 by nationality (place of origin), visitors from China (Taiwan) increased by 301,258 (up 36.9%), followed by China, which increased by 203,959 (up 37.9%), and

R.O. Korea, which increased by 152,969 (up 9.4%). This shows that visitors from Japan's three neighboring nations (regions) significantly increased in 2004.

#### D. The Number of Foreign Nationals Entering Japan by Gender and Age

More foreign males came to Japan than females. The numbers of foreign males and females entering Japan in 2004 were 3,628,809 and 3,128,021 respectively. The



**Table2 Changes in the number of foreign nationals entering Japan by gender and age bracket**

Year		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Age bracket		(People)				
Total	Total	5,272,095	5,286,310	5,771,975	5,727,240	6,756,830
	Male	2,954,947	2,920,787	3,170,553	3,134,669	3,628,809
	Female	2,317,148	2,365,523	2,601,422	2,592,571	3,128,021
Under 20	Total	482,116	479,820	517,075	521,980	638,487
	Male	239,561	235,105	252,115	253,394	306,663
	Female	242,555	244,715	264,960	268,586	331,824
20s	Total	1,061,285	1,091,919	1,170,797	1,187,927	1,372,607
	Male	467,522	470,331	500,573	497,958	565,985
	Female	593,763	621,588	670,224	689,969	806,622
30s	Total	1,454,831	1,453,928	1,554,298	1,513,595	1,751,671
	Male	876,376	862,166	916,459	886,872	1,008,432
	Female	578,455	591,762	637,839	626,723	743,239
40s	Total	1,090,843	1,086,173	1,204,598	1,214,438	1,439,559
	Male	697,304	690,321	763,673	772,150	895,562
	Female	393,539	395,852	440,925	442,288	543,997
50s	Total	666,853	659,169	745,297	745,494	895,113
	Male	400,352	391,229	436,015	438,403	512,139
	Female	266,501	267,940	309,282	307,091	382,974
Over 60	Total	516,167	515,301	579,910	543,806	659,393
	Male	273,832	271,635	301,718	285,892	340,028
	Female	242,335	243,666	278,192	257,914	319,365

percentages of males and females were 53.7% and 46.3% respectively.

According to the statistics by age, foreign nationals in their thirties represented the largest age group, accounting for 25.9% of the total number of foreign nationals entering Japan. The ratio of males was higher in the age group of over thirties, while the ratio of females was higher in the age group of under twenties. (Chart 4 , Table 2)

#### E. The Number of Foreign Nationals Entering Japan by Purpose of Entry (Status of Residence)

The changes in the number of newly entering foreign nationals by status of residence show the number of foreign nationals entering Japan by purpose of entry in recent years.(Table 3)

Table3 Changes in the number of new arrivals by status of residence

(People)

Status of Residence \ Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total	4,256,403	4,229,257	4,646,240	4,633,892	5,508,926
Diplomat	9,408	8,692	9,339	9,681	8,710
Official	11,767	12,220	14,060	13,552	12,633
Professor	1,941	2,024	1,966	2,303	2,339
Artist	167	211	220	194	197
Religious Activities	1,199	1,105	946	927	971
Journalist	231	166	351	241	150
Investor/Business Manager	863	681	566	598	675
Legal/Accounting Services	3	5	1	4	—
Medical Services	1	—	4	—	1
Researcher	1,036	793	782	647	577
Instructor	3,323	3,296	3,337	3,272	3,180
Engineer	3,396	3,308	2,759	2,643	3,506
Specialists in Humanities/International Services	7,039	6,945	6,151	6,886	6,641
Intra-company Transferee	3,876	3,463	2,900	3,421	3,550
Entertainer	103,264	117,839	123,322	133,103	134,879
Skilled Labor	3,529	2,118	1,792	1,592	2,211
Cultural Activities	3,210	3,138	3,084	3,108	4,191
Temporary Visitor	3,910,624	3,878,070	4,302,429	4,259,974	5,136,943
College Student	19,503	23,416	24,730	25,460	21,958
Pre-college Student	22,404	23,932	25,948	27,362	15,027
Trainee	54,049	59,064	58,534	64,817	75,359
Dependent	17,617	16,364	13,888	13,472	13,553
Designated Activities	4,364	4,722	4,890	5,876	6,478
Spouse or Child of Japanese National	33,167	27,461	20,857	23,398	23,083
Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident	389	494	473	581	807
Long Term Resident	40,033	29,729	22,905	30,780	31,307
Temporary Refuge	—	1	6	—	—

The number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan may be considered as a “flow” showing the flow of foreign nationals to Japan, while the number of registered foreign residents in Japan as mentioned below represents a “stock” which shows the number of foreign nationals staying in Japan at a certain point in time.



Endorsement stamp for FEIS landing permission

### (A) Temporary Visitors

The status of residence of “Temporary Visitor” is for a foreign national whose purpose is sightseeing, recreation, sports, visiting relatives, participation in an observation tour, educational course or meeting, or any other activity that requires the foreign national to stay in Japan for only a short period of time. The permitted length of stay is 15 days, 30 days, or 90 days. Any foreign national who enters Japan for a short stay is not required to obtain a visa in advance if he is a US or European national for instance, whose country has agreed on mutual visa exemption.

In principle, any foreign national who has entered Japan with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor” is not allowed to change his status to any other status because work in Japan is not permitted and the permission for entry has been obtained through relatively simple procedures (Article 19 and Article 20 of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act).

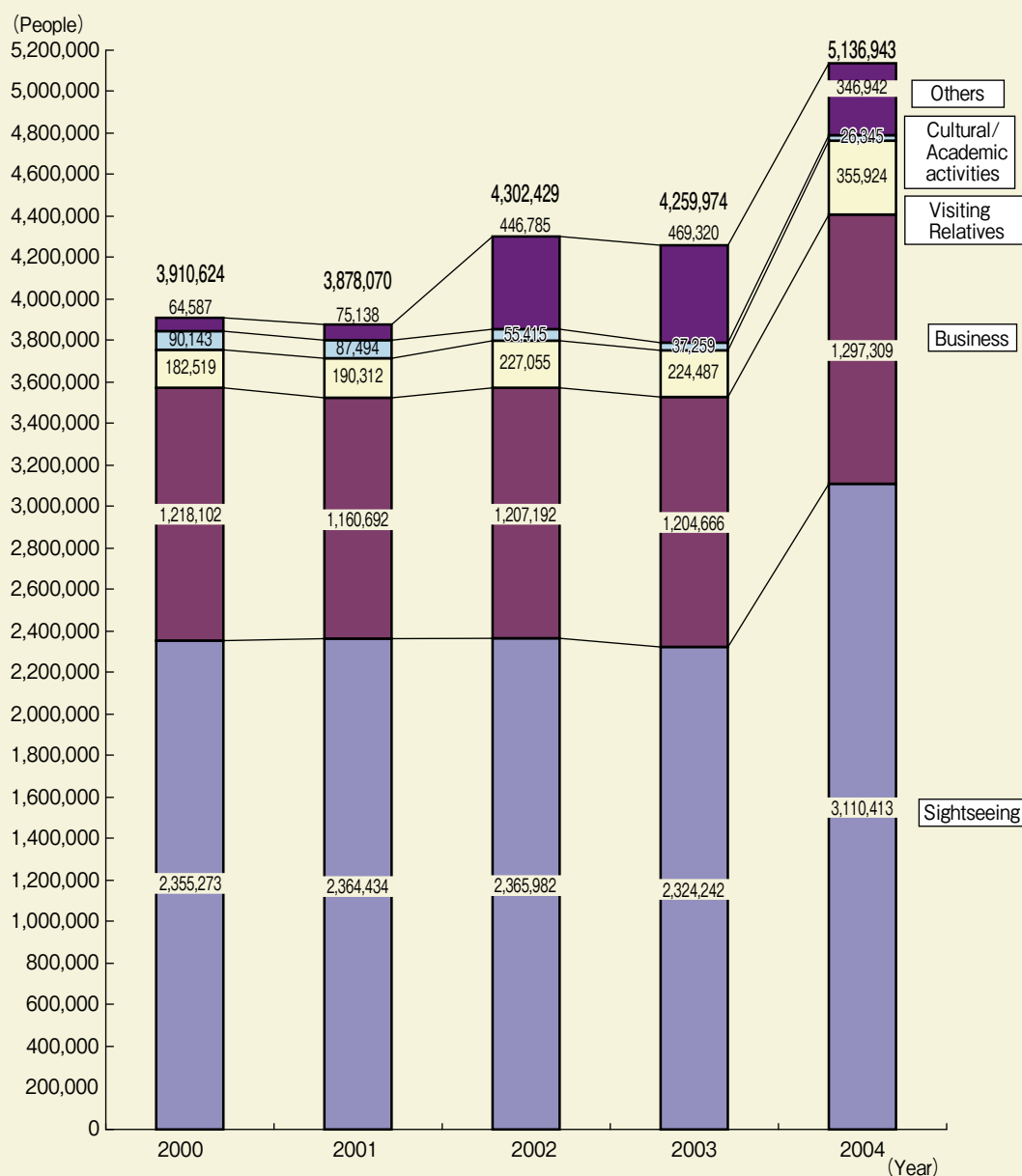
The number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor” was 5,136,943 in 2004, accounting for 93.2% of the total number of new arrivals. The number had increased by 876,969 (up 20.6%) from the year 2003.

A further examination of the number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor” in 2004 shows that the number of foreign nationals visiting Japan for sightseeing was 3,110,413, accounting for 60.5% of the total number of new arrivals. 1,297,309 foreign nationals came to Japan for business, forming the second largest group of new arrivals and accounting for 25.3% of the total.

According to the statistics on new arrivals for the purpose of sightseeing by nationality (place of origin), China (Taiwan) again occupied the largest number at 931,707, an increase of 273,443 (up 41.5%) from 2003 and replacing R.O. Korea. Chinese(Taiwanese) tourists to Japan had increased by 273,443 (up 41.5%) from 2003, accounting for 30.0% of the total number of foreign nationals who entered Japan for the purpose of sightseeing. In addition to Taiwan, more than 100,000 temporary visitors

came to Japan from the following three countries: R.O. Korea, the US, China (Hong Kong), which were 875,847 (accounting for 28.2% of the total), 294,597 (9.5%), and 201,186 (6.5%), respectively. As Chinese (Taiwanese) and South Koreans accounting for almost 60% of the overall number of sightseeing visitors to Japan, Japan should maintain its efforts to attract tourists from these countries. (Chart 5, Table 4)

**Chart5** Changes in the number of new arrivals with the status of residence of "Temporary Visitor" by purpose of entry



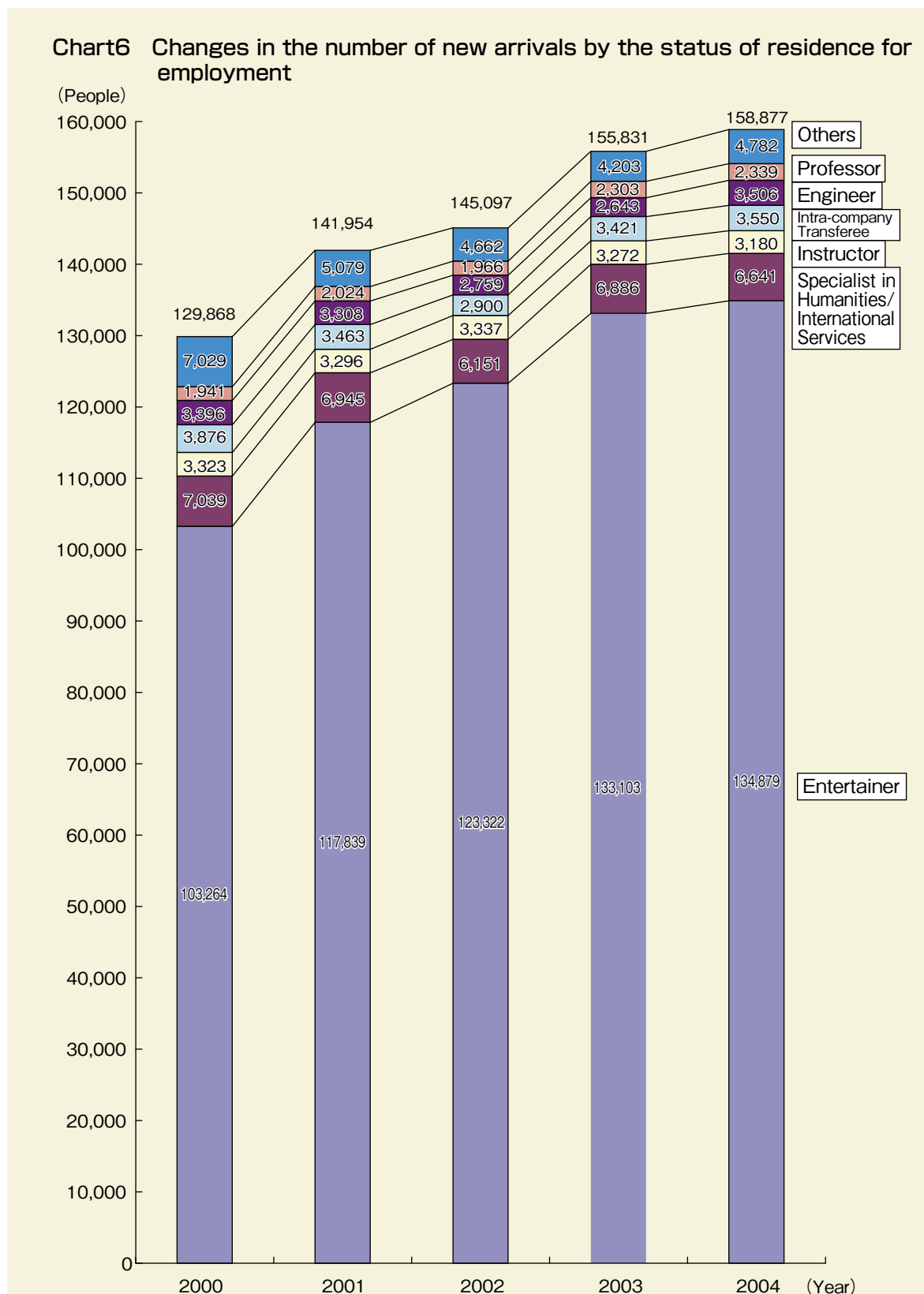


**Table4 Changes in the number of new arrivals with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor” by purpose of entry(2004)** (People)

National(Place of origin)	Temporary Visitor					
	Sightseeing	Business	Cultural/ Academic activities	Visiting relatives	Others	Total
Total	3,110,413	1,297,309	26,345	355,924	346,952	5,136,943
Asia	2,288,048	742,288	14,948	219,193	137,995	3,402,472
R.O.Korea	875,847	359,506	8,708	112,130	40,797	1,396,988
China(Taiwan)	931,707	85,201	1,393	21,425	7,643	1,047,369
China	91,235	131,137	1,590	34,540	62,322	320,824
China(Hong Kong)	201,186	17,677	257	2,100	1,294	222,514
Philippines	10,291	13,396	364	25,055	2,511	51,617
Singapore	57,718	23,640	257	2,121	2,834	86,570
Thailand	52,061	27,633	761	5,866	4,329	90,650
Malaysia	29,708	24,764	464	3,248	4,842	63,026
Indonesia	17,479	9,620	242	2,647	2,441	32,429
India	6,215	21,760	180	2,419	2,560	33,134
Others	14,601	27,954	732	7,642	6,422	57,351
Europe	333,882	249,872	3,885	34,802	59,466	681,907
United Kingdom	89,573	61,082	470	9,245	23,659	184,029
United Kingdom(Hong Kong)	64,557	5,732	128	942	1,028	72,387
Germany	33,113	48,255	465	4,493	6,399	92,725
France	35,272	32,017	560	4,777	6,242	78,868
Italy	14,774	15,812	416	1,590	2,280	34,872
Russia	20,692	15,847	501	2,887	3,126	43,053
Netherlands	9,405	12,145	159	1,191	3,738	26,638
Sweden	7,221	8,866	168	982	1,097	18,334
Others	59,275	50,116	1,018	8,695	11,897	131,001
Africa	2,445	6,626	133	927	1,908	12,039
Republic of South Africa	1,028	2,152	45	162	506	3,893
Egypt	214	1,035	3	87	126	1,465
Nigeria	149	522	7	63	179	920
Others	1,054	2,917	78	615	1,097	5,761
North America	376,183	254,860	5,196	84,339	95,831	816,409
United states of America	294,597	228,230	4,492	73,314	73,437	674,070
Canada	71,922	21,420	558	9,802	19,776	123,478
Mexico	8,310	3,561	114	885	2,129	14,999
Others	1,354	1,649	32	338	489	3,862
South America	8,453	5,885	189	3,724	1,795	20,046
Brazil	4,116	3,106	86	1,573	646	9,527
Peru	515	266	18	978	143	1,920
Others	3,822	2,513	85	1,173	1,006	8,599
Oceania	101,202	37,608	1,988	12,877	49,886	203,561
Australia	87,919	29,319	1,554	9,807	44,708	173,307
New Zealand	12,875	7,784	396	2,902	4,750	28,707
Others	408	505	38	168	428	1,547
Stateless	200	170	6	62	71	509

## (B) Foreign Nationals Entering Japan for the Purpose of Employment

The number of newly entering foreign nationals under the statuses of residence for employment in Japan (excluding the statuses of residence of “Diplomat” and “Official”) had increased by 3,046 (up 2.0%) from the year 2003 and reached 158,877 in 2004. (Chart 6)



The number of newly entering foreign nationals under the statuses of residence for employment in Japan accounted for 2.9% of the total number of newly entering foreign nationals in 2004.

The proportion of foreign nationals permitted to work in Japan would have been larger if the following were included: foreign nationals with the statuses of residence of “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” and “Long-Term Resident” which have no restrictions for employment and foreign nationals who were allowed to work within the limit permitted such as under the working holiday system whose status is basically for travel but permits work to provide for travel expenses; foreign college students in the internship programs which enable them to gain work experience at Japanese companies as part of their college education; and foreign students who are permitted to conduct an activity other than those permitted by the status of residence previously granted.

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

**a. “Engineer,” “Specialist in Humanities/International Services,” “Intra-company Transferee” (Data Section 1, Statistics (1) 12-1, 13-1, 14-1)**

The total number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan with the status of residence designed for foreign employees in general was 13,697 in 2004, consisting of three types of categories according to their status of residence: 3,506 with “Engineer,” 6,641 with “Specialist in Humanities/International Services,” and 3,550 with “Intra-company Transferee.” The number of foreign employees with the status of residence of “Specialist in Humanities/International Services” had decreased by 245 (down 3.6%) from 2003, but those with the status of residence of “Engineer” or “Intra-company Transferee” had increased by 863 (up 32.7%) and 129 (up 3.8%), respectively. The total number of foreign workers with these statuses of residence has increased by 747 (up 5.8%).

As described in Section 2, 1 (4) B below, the number of registered foreign nationals in Japan has been steadily increasing since 1999 for all three of these types of statuses of residence. As of the end of December 2004, the number of registered foreign nationals reached 81,885 in total, consisting of 23,210 with the status of residence of “Engineer,” 47,682 with the status of residence of “Specialist in Humanities/International Services,” and 10,993 with the status of residence of “Intra-company Transferee.” This suggests that Japan has been steadily accepting an increased number of professionals and technical experts from foreign countries.

The above data indicates that an increasing number of foreign nationals with these statuses of residence have settled down and stayed longer in Japan, and it also suggests that Japanese companies are not very enthusiastic about adding new foreign nationals to their payrolls or employing their services due to the sluggish Japanese economy. These factors contributed to the small increase in the number of newly entering foreign nationals with these statuses of residence.

Every year, a considerable number of foreign nationals with the status of residence of “College Student” or “Pre-college Student” are allowed to change their statuses to the status of residence of “Engineer” or “Specialist in Humanities/International Services” for employment purposes after finishing their studies. (4,650 foreign nationals were allowed to change their status of residence in 2004.) They contributed to the increase in the number of foreign nationals residing in Japan, while not included in the number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan with such statuses of residence.

According to the statistics on the status of residence of “Engineer” by nationality (place of origin), the largest number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Engineer” came from China, followed by R.O. Korea, India and the Philippines. Even more noticeable, India, abundant with human resources for computer-related technology has steadily been increasing its presence in the number of newly entering foreign nationals since 2000. Indian engineers may be in greater demand in the future in such fields as program development if the Japanese IT-related industry expands further.

Regarding the number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Specialist in Humanities/International Services,” the statistics by nationality (place of origin) show that the largest number came from the US, followed by the UK, Canada, and Australia. These top four countries accounted for 69.7% of the total number of newly entering foreign nationals with this status of residence. With regard to newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Intra-company Transferee,” the statistics by nationality (place of origin) show that the largest number came from China, followed by the US, R.O. Korea, and India.

#### **b. “Skilled Labor” (Data Section 1, Statistics (1) 16-1)**

The number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Skilled Labor” has been on the decrease since 2000, but the figure increased a

year earlier, by 619 (up 38.9%) to 2,211 in 2004.

As shown in Part 1 of Section 2 below, the number of registered foreign nationals in Japan with the status of residence of “Skilled Labor” has been increasing every year since 2000, reaching 13,373 as of the end of December 2004.

As already explained in a. above, the number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Skilled Labor” has not increased that much mainly because they tend to stay in Japan for a longer time. On the other hand, the number of registered foreign nationals has been consistently increasing, suggesting that skilled foreign workers are increasing in Japan.

According to the statistics by nationality (place of origin), the largest number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Skilled Labor” came from China, followed by R.O. Korea, India and Nepal in 2004. This was due in part to the fact that most of the foreign nationals with this status of residence were chefs of foreign cuisine.

**c. “Professor” and “Instructor” (Data Section 1, Statistics (1) 3-1, 11-1)**

The number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Professor” increased by 36 (up 1.6 %) from a year earlier to 2,339 in 2004.

The number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Instructor” has been around 3,200 to 3,300 in recent years. The number of foreign nationals with this status decreased by 92 (2.8 %) from a year earlier and reached 3,180 in 2004.

**d. “Legal/Accounting Services” and “Medical Services” (Data Section 1, Statistics (1) 8-1, 9-1)**

A foreign national is unable to obtain the status of residence of “Legal/Accounting Services” or “Medical Services” unless he is legally qualified to provide the services in Japan. In many cases, a foreign national will change his status to either of these statuses if he obtains the required qualification after entering Japan with some other status of residence. Therefore, it is very rare to see a foreign national enter Japan with the status of residence of “Legal/Accounting Services” or “Medical Services.”

The number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Legal/Accounting Services” was 0 in 2004. Only one Chinese (Taiwanese) national newly entered Japan with the status of residence of “Medical Services” in 2004.

**e. “Entertainer” (Data Section 1, Statistics (1) 15-1)**

The number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Entertainer” has been steadily increasing since 2000. The number of these foreign nationals increased by 1,776 (up 1.3 %) from a year earlier and reached 134,879 in 2004, representing the largest portion of total foreign nationals with the statuses of residence for employment.

According to the statistics by nationality (place of origin), the largest number of new arrivals with the status of residence of “Entertainer” came from the Philippines, followed by China, the US, and Russia in 2004. The Philippines has, as in the past, remained in the top spot, accounting for 61.3% of the total. The total number of Philippine entertainers was 82,741, consisting mostly of singers and dancers.

**(C) Foreign Nationals Entering Japan for the Purpose of Study**

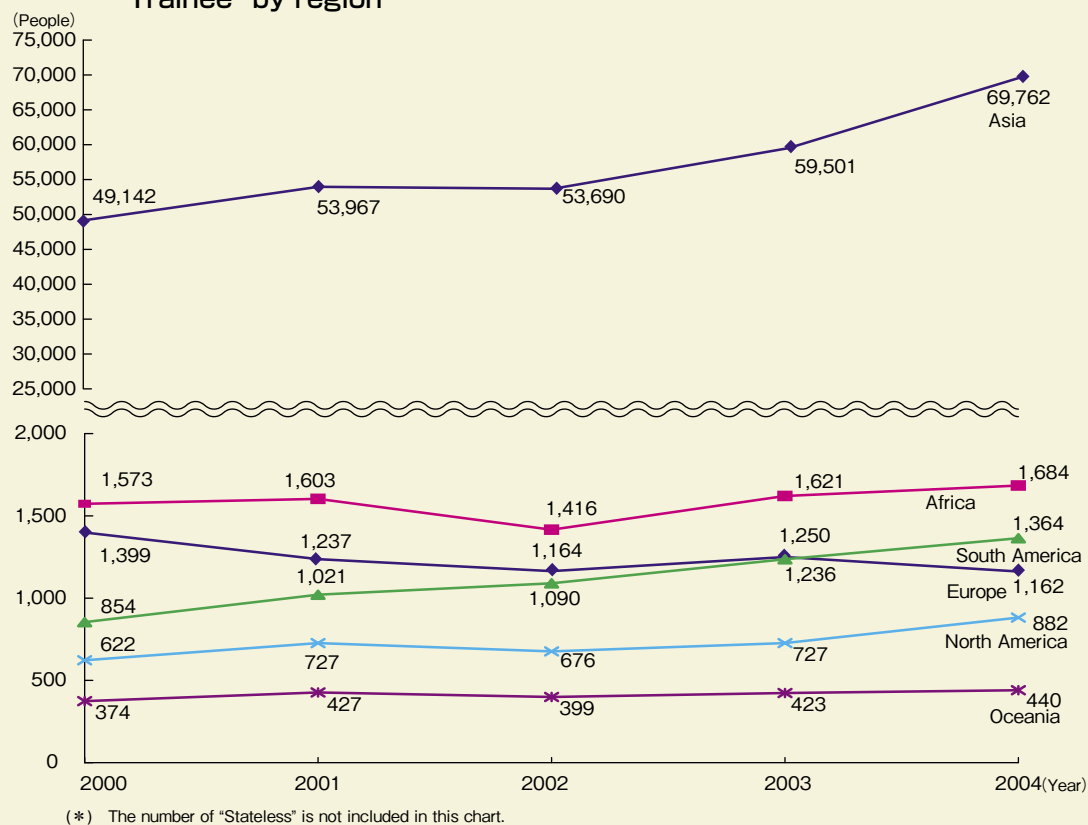
**a. “Trainee” (Data Section 1, Statistics (1) 21-1)**

The number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Trainee” increased by 10,542 (up 16.3%) from a year earlier and reached 75,359 in 2004, marking an all-time high.

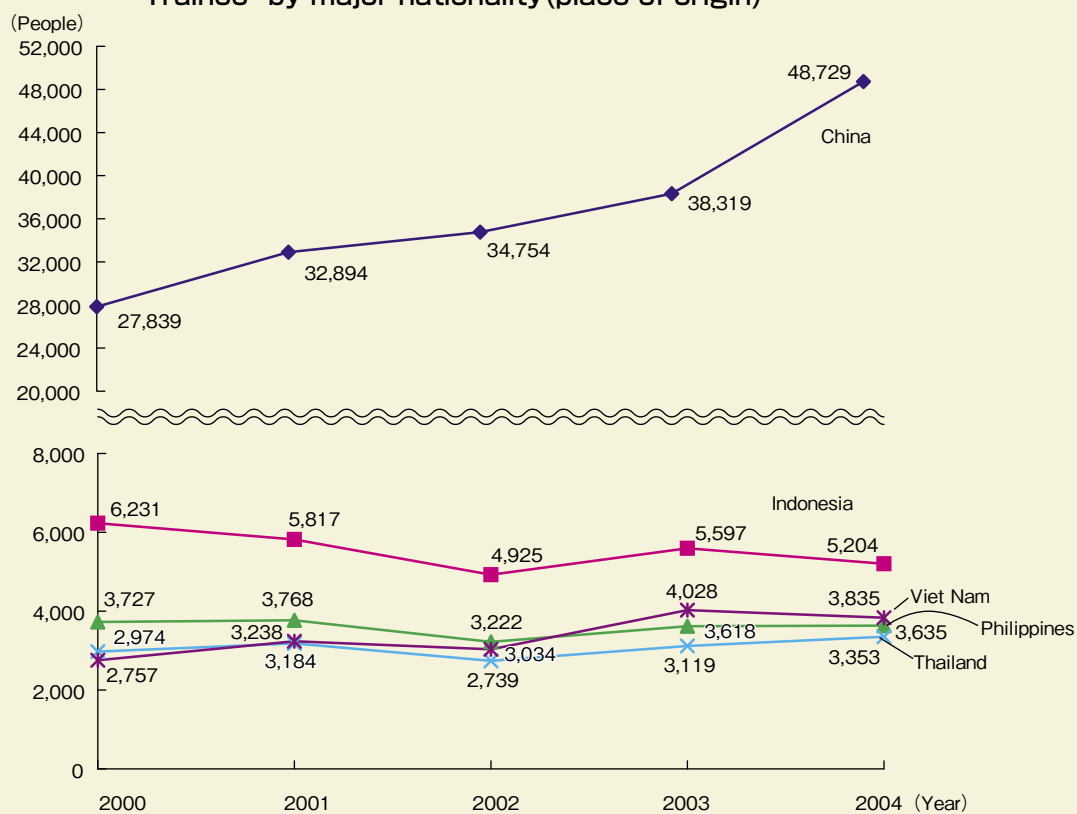
According to the statistics by region, the number of Asian trainees has been on the rise, reaching 69,762 in 2004 and accounting for 92.6% of the total. This is because Asian nations, particularly Japan’s neighboring countries, are very eager to send their students to Japan. This upward trend is expected to continue on account of the close relations between Asia countries and Japan in various fields. In addition to Asia, Africa sent 1,684 trainees (2.2% of the total) to Japan, while Europe also dispatched 1,364 trainees (1.8%) to Japan. **(Chart 7)**

According to the statistics by nationality (place of origin), the largest number of new arrivals with the status of residence of “Trainee” came from China at 48,729 in 2004, accounting for 64.7% of the total. China was followed by Indonesia (5,204, or 6.9%), Viet Nam (3,835, or 5.1%) and the Philippines (3,635, or 4.8%) in 2004. **(Chart 8)**

**Chart7** Changes in the number of new arrivals with the status of residence of "Trainee" by region



**Chart8** Changes in the number of new arrivals with the status of residence of "Trainee" by major nationality(place of origin)

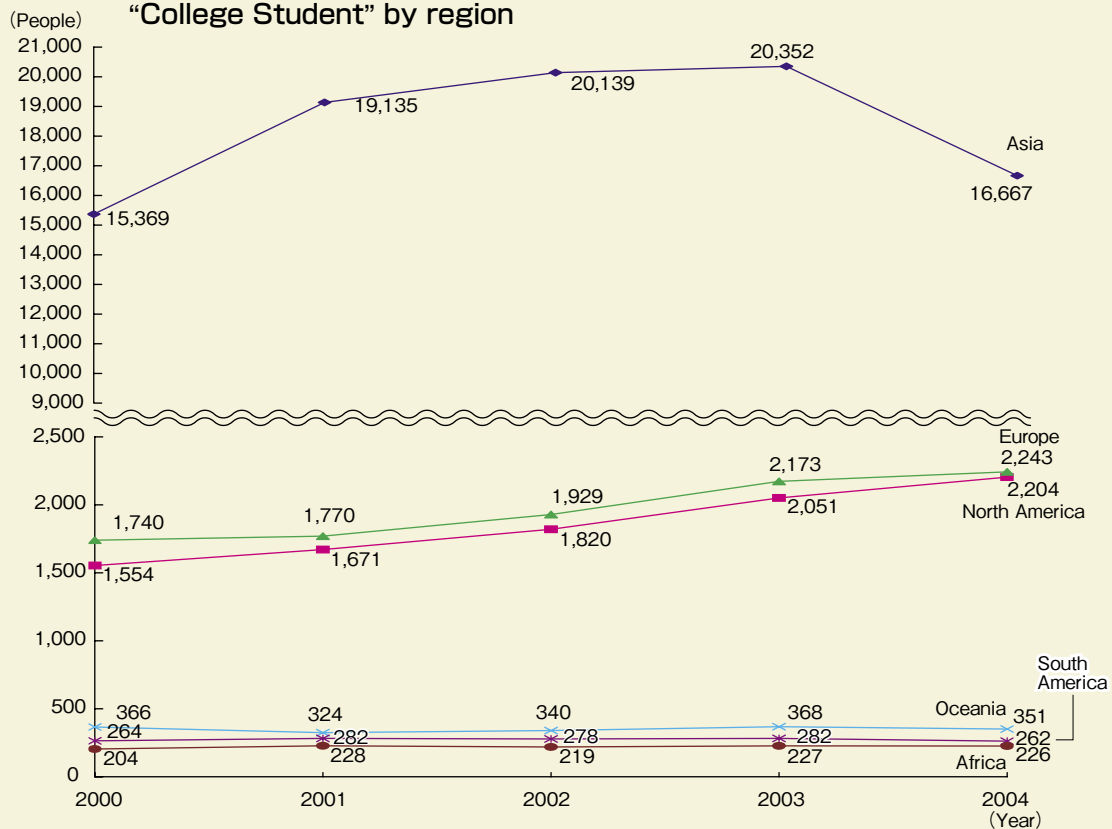


**b. “College Student” and “Pre-college Student” (Data Section 1, Statistics (1) 19-1, 20-1)**

The number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “College Student” decreased by 3,502 (down 13.8%) from a year earlier to 21,958 in 2004. The number of new arrivals with the status of residence of “Pre-college Student” decreased by 12,335 (down 45.1%) from a year earlier and reached 15,027 in 2004, putting a brake on the upward trend which had previously been in place since 2000.

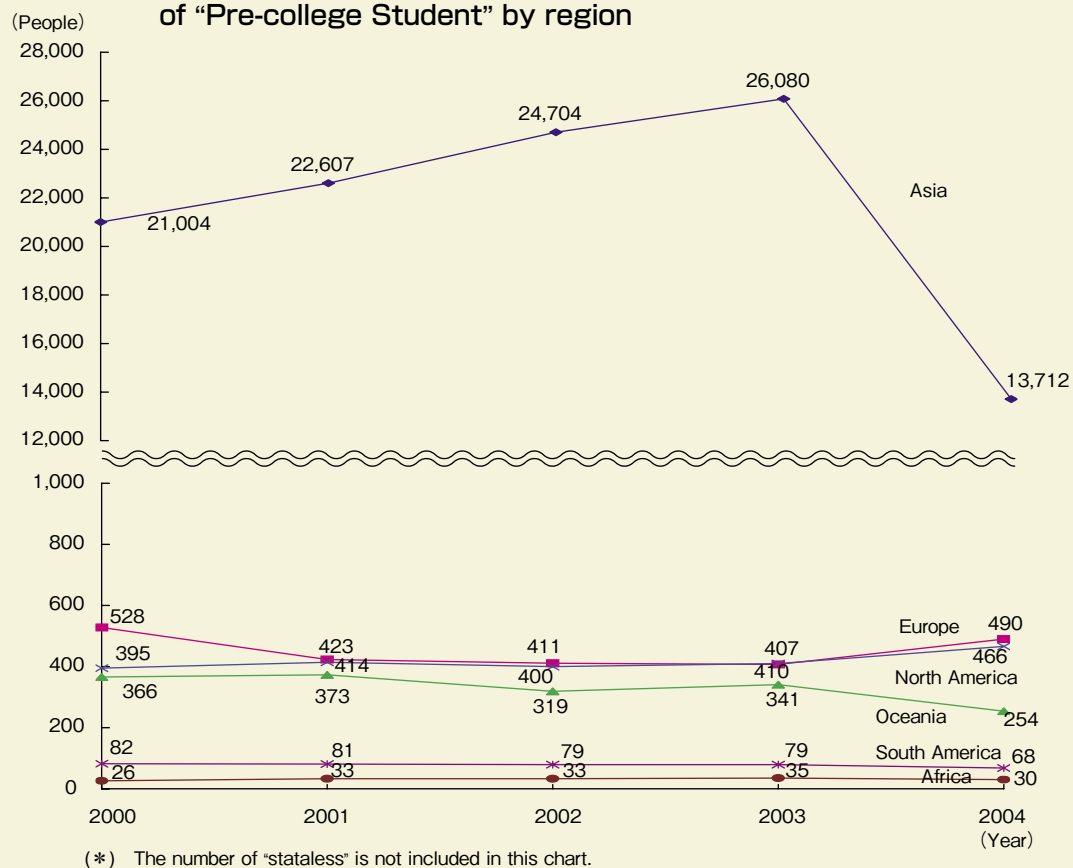
According to the statistics by region, most of the new arrivals with the status of residence of “College Student” or “Pre-college Student” came from Asia, accounting for 75.9% of the total number of foreign students with the status of residence of “College Student” and 91.2% with the status of residence of “Pre-college Student.” (Charts 9, 10)

**Chart9 Changes in the number of new arrivals with the status of residence of “College Student” by region**





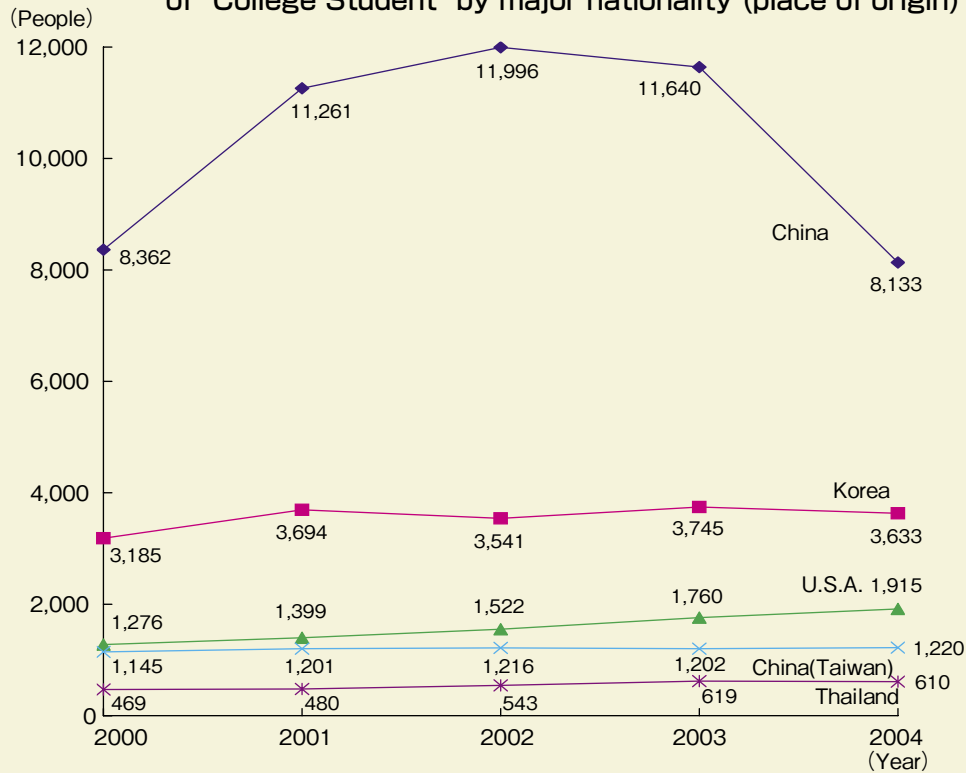
**Chart 10** Changes in the number of new arrivals with the status of residence of “Pre-college Student” by region



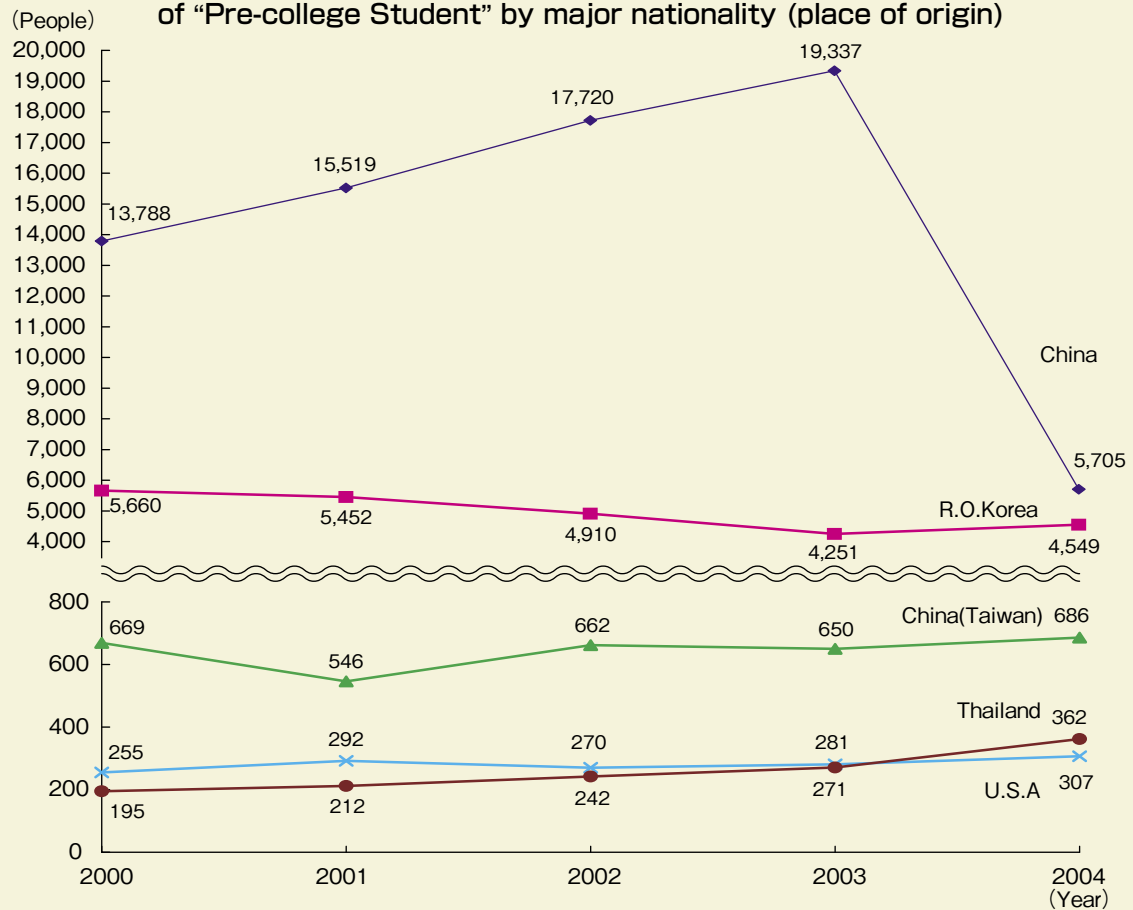
According to the statistics by nationality (place of origin), China occupied the largest number of new arrivals with the status of residence of “College Student,” standing at 8,133 (37.0% of the total). China was followed by R.O. Korea (3,633, or 16.5%). The number of Chinese college students had decreased by 3,507 (down 30.1%) from 2003; while that of South Korean college students had also decreased by 112 (down 3.0%).

As for the status of residence of “Pre-college Student,” the largest number of new arrivals came from China at 5,705, accounting for 38.0% of the total. China was followed by R.O. Korea (4,549, or 30.3%) in 2004. The number of Chinese pre-college students had significantly decreased by 13,632 (down 70.5%) from 2003; while that of South Korean pre-college students had increased slightly by 298 (up 7.0%). (Charts 11, 12)

**Chart11** Changes in the number of new arrivals with the status of residence of "College Student" by major nationality (place of origin)



**Chart12** Changes in the number of new arrivals with the status of residence of "Pre-college Student" by major nationality (place of origin)



### c. Working Holiday

The working holiday program provides young people of participating countries with opportunities to learn about foreign cultures and daily lifestyles. To such end, the working holiday program allows young holiday travelers to stay in a country, which is participating in the working holiday program, for a certain period and grants a work permit so that these travelers will be able to pay for their travel expenses. In principle, program participants must be 18 to 25 years old (or 30 years old in some cases) and are allowed to stay in Japan for one year. They are not allowed to extend their period of stay.

Japan has agreed to the working holiday program with the following partner nations: Australia (effective since December 1, 1980), New Zealand (effective since July 1, 1985), Canada (effective since March 1, 1986), R.O. Korea (effective since April 1, 1999), France (effective since July 15, 2000), Germany (effective since December 1, 2000) and the UK (effective since April 16, 2001).

In 2004, Japan accepted 6,609 foreign nationals under the working holiday programs, registering 2.4 times as many as the 2000 level (an increase of 3,382 since 2000). According to the statistics by nationality, South Korea made up the largest number of working holiday participants (2,105) in 2004, followed by Australia (1,944), Canada (1,155), UK (466), France (421), New Zealand (275) and Germany (243). (Table 5)

**Table5 The number of foreign nationals entering Japan with the “Working Holiday” status, and the number of working holiday visas granted to Japanese travelers**  
(above : People under : case)

Nationalities \ Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Australia	975	906	1,044	1,956	1,944
Japan	8,982	9,510	9,717	9,843	9,955
Canada	620	712	770	1,107	1,155
Japan	4,183	4,346	4,207	5,318	4,937
New Zealand	317	325	307	377	275
Japan	3,303	3,841	4,081	4,032	3,789
R.O.Korea	650	698	749	1,835	2,105
Japan	145	262	344	363	387
France	161	191	214	363	421
Japan	250	344	400	375	525
Germany	4	77	99	183	243
Japan	15	444	582	578	550
United Kingdom	—	120	232	446	466
Japan	—	400	402	407	421

(\*) number of visas issued to Japan nationals for Working-Holiday by country of Destination : source “Japan Working-Holiday Association Corp.”

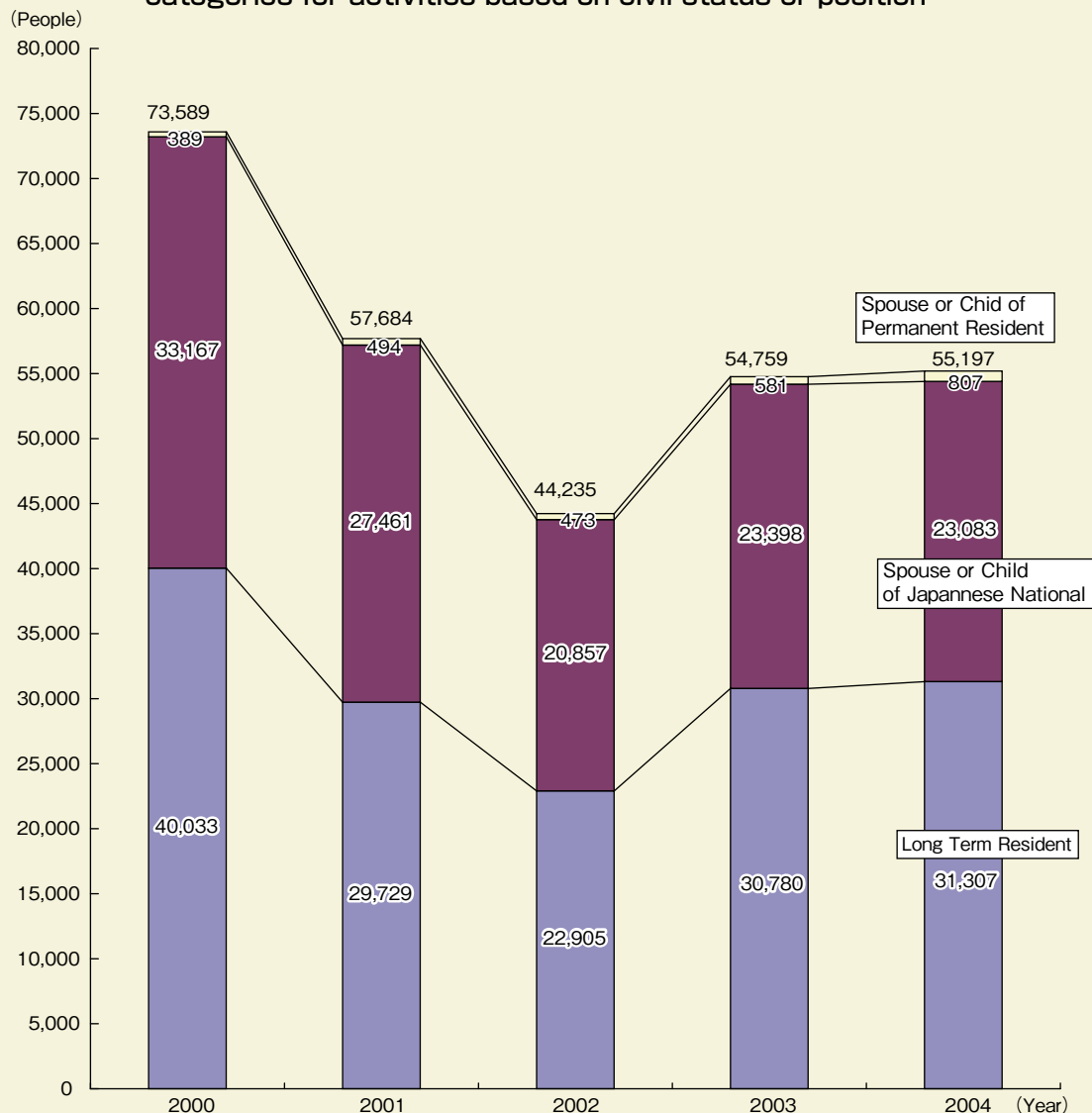
### (D) Foreign Nationals Entering Japan with the Status of Residence for Resident Activities Based on Civil Status or Position

When foreign nationals enter Japan for resident activities based on civil status or position, one of three types of statuses of residence namely “Spouse or Child of Japanese National,” “Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident,” or “Long-Term Resident” will be given.

No foreign nationals newly entering Japan can obtain the status of residence of “Permanent Resident” because that status is granted only to foreign nationals who have lived in Japan for a certain period of time.

The number of new arrivals with the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” reached 23,083 in 2004, while that of new arrivals with the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident” reached 807. In

**Chart13** Changes in the number of new arrivals by the status of residence categories for activities based on civil status or position



2004, the number of “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” decreased by 315 (down 1.3%) from 2003, while that of “Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident” increased by 226 (up 38.9%) from a year earlier.

The number of new arrivals under “Long-Term Resident” increased by 527 (up 1.7%) from a year earlier and reached 31,307 in 2004. According to the statistics by nationality (place of origin), the largest number of new arrivals with the status of residence of “Long-Term Resident” came from Brazil at 21,707, accounting for 69.3% of the total. In 2004, Brazil was followed by the Philippines (2,893, accounting for 9.2%), China (including Taiwan and Hong Kong) (2,883, accounting for 9.2%), and Peru (2,261, accounting for 7.2%). **(Chart 13)**

## 2 Judgment for Landing

### (1) Receipt and Findings of Hearings for Landing and Filing of Objections

The procedure for the landing examination consists of three steps. The second and third step, namely the hearing for landing and the decision of the Minister of Justice, are together called the “judgment for landing.” Any foreign national who is found not to meet the conditions for landing in Japan in the landing examination conducted by an immigration inspector will be handed over to a special inquiry officer, who will conduct a hearing for landing (Article 9, Paragraph 4 of the Immigration Control Act).

The number of newly received cases for the hearing for landing (the number of cases which are assigned to a special inquiry officer on account of a foreign national being found not to meet the conditions for landing in the landing examination by an immigration inspector) continued to decrease after hitting a peak of 21,007 in 2001. In 2004, the number had decreased by 1,729 (down 9.6%) from a year earlier and by 4,258 (down 20.8%) from 2000.

The most common cases were those in which foreign nationals were required to undergo a hearing for landing because they were suspected of submitting false landing applications such as pretending to be tourists and so forth even though the real purpose of entry was illegal work and other illegal activities (not meeting the conditions provided for in Article 7, Paragraph 1(2) of the Immigration Control Act). The number of such cases was 13,177 in 2004.

The second largest number of cases were those in which foreign nationals were suspected of not having valid passports or visas such as trying to enter Japan using forged or altered passports (not meeting the conditions provided for in Article 7,

Paragraph 1(1) of the Act). The number of such cases was 2,422 in 2004, decreasing after hitting a peak of 3,205 in 2001. In 2004, the number had decreased by 537 (down 18.1%) from a year earlier and by 320 (down 11.7%) from 2000. In 2004, illegal entry attempts without a valid passport or visa accounted for 14.9% of the total cases, decreasing for three consecutive years.

The number of cases which were assigned to special inquiry officers because they were suspected of falling under one of the reasons for denial of landing (not meeting the conditions provided for in Article 7, Paragraph 1(4) of the Act) was 615 in 2004, an increase of 164 (up 36.4%) from 2003. (Table 6)

**Table6 Changes in the number of cases assigned to special inquiry officers for a hearing by conditions for landing** (Cases)

Conditions for Landing \ Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total	20,472	21,007	17,973	17,943	16,214
Using fake passports or visas (Not conforming to Article7-1-1)	2,742	3,205	3,134	2,959	2,422
False landing application (Not conforming to Article7-1-2)	17,261	17,456	14,280	14,531	13,177
Not meeting the period of stay (Not conforming to Article7-1-3)	7	1	3	2	0
Not conforming to the reasons for denial of landing (Not conforming to Article7-1-4)	462	345	556	451	615

In 2004, the number of cases in which foreign nationals were ordered to leave Japan because they were found not to meet the conditions for landing at a hearing by a special inquiry officer continued to decrease after hitting a peak in 2001, but in 2004 the number increased by 2,484 (43.7%) from 2003.

The number of cases in which foreign nationals filed objections with the Minister of Justice because they were not satisfied with the findings by a special inquiry officer that they did not meet the conditions for landing was 1,231 in 2004. (Table 7)

**Table7 Changes in the number of the findings of hearings by special inquiry officers** (Cases)

Divison \ Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total	20,477	20,990	18,000	17,942	16,214
Landing Permission	11,902	11,033	9,147	9,079	5,309
Expulsion order	6,145	7,171	5,975	5,690	8,174
Filing of objection	1,135	979	1,052	1,237	1,231
Withdrawal landing application	301	280	190	231	293
Others	994	1,527	1,636	1,705	1,207

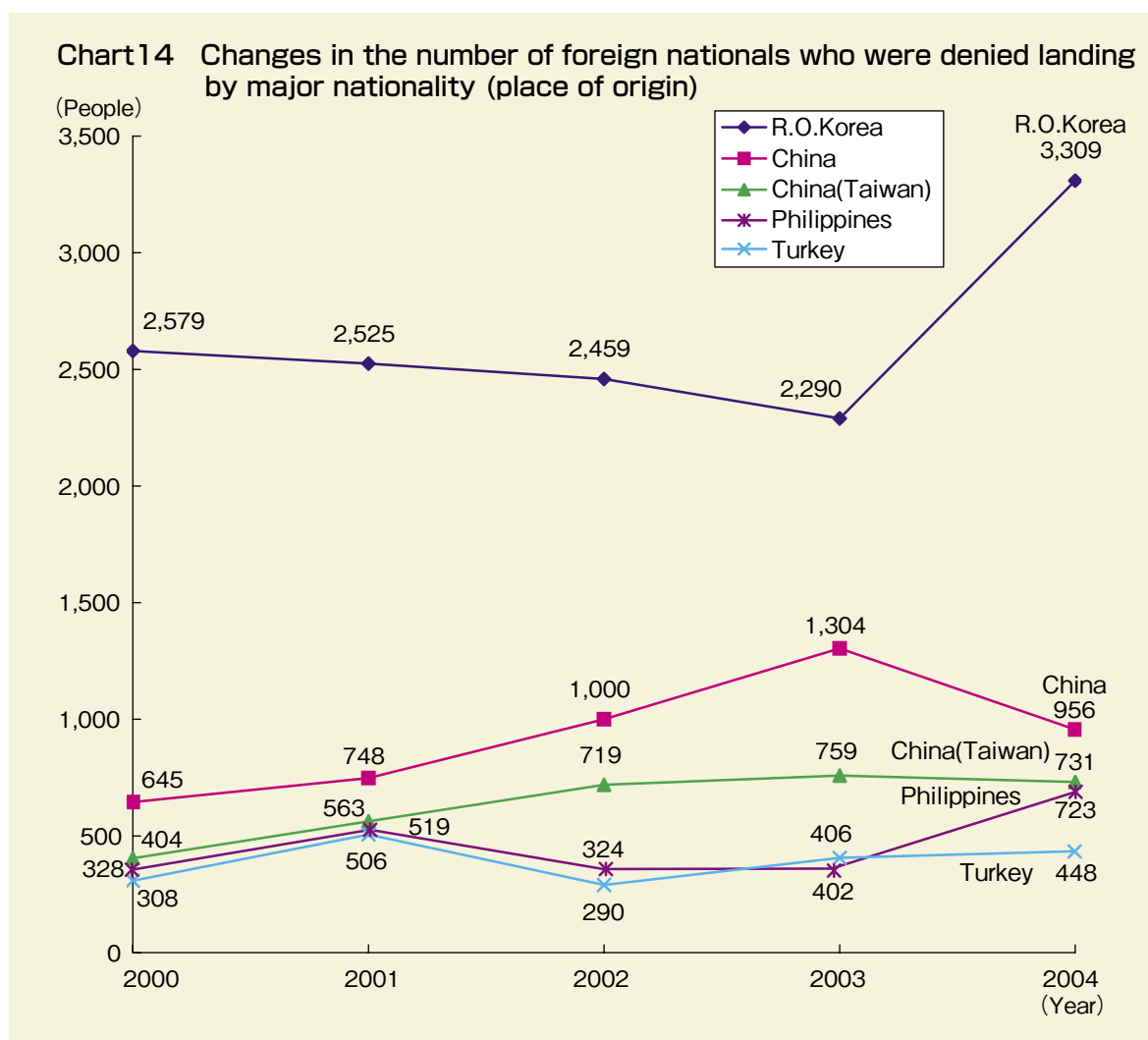
(\*) "Others" includes cases where the jurisdiction has changed or the application has been withdrawn owing to the departure, escape or death of the applicant during the hearing for landing by the special inquiry officer.

## (2) Foreign Nationals Who Fall under Any of the Reasons for Denial of Landing

In principle, foreign nationals denied permission for landing are those who (1) are ordered to leave Japan after a hearing for landing or (2) are ordered to leave Japan after the results of filing an objection with the Minister of Justice.

In 2004, the number of foreign nationals denied permission for landing was 10,955 in 2004. This registered the largest number in the past five years, an increase of 1,149 (up 11.7%) from 2003. In recent years, we have seen an increase in the number of cases in which foreign nationals use elaborately forged or altered passports or cases in which applicants for landing team up with brokers or other people to engage in illegal activities in Japan making up a story. This trend indicates that foreign nationals trying to land in Japan with fraudulent intent use more sophisticated methods than before. These types of illegal attempts are expected to increase in the future because more and more foreign nationals are visiting Japan.

According to the statistics by nationality (place of origin), the largest number of foreign nationals denied permission for landing came consistently from R.O. Korea, but



**Table8 Changes in the number of foreign nationals denied landing by nationality (place of origin)**

(People)

Nationality (Place of Origin)	Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total		8,273	10,400	9,133	9,806	10,955
R.O.Korea		2,579	2,525	2,459	2,290	3,309
China		645	748	1,000	1,304	956
China(Taiwan)		404	563	719	759	731
Philippines		328	519	324	402	723
Turkey		308	506	290	406	448
Sri Lanka		97	153	113	220	363
Thailand		359	587	440	346	333
Indonesia		425	744	435	572	330
China(Hong Kong)		28	34	129	199	299
Bangladesh		35	33	69	326	266
Others		3,065	3,988	3,155	2,982	3,197

the number saw a decrease after hitting a peak of 2,579 in 2000. However, it started to increase again in 2004 and reached 3,309, registering the largest number for these past five years. (Chart 14, Table 8)

### (3) Special Permission for Landing

The Minister of Justice may, even if he finds that the objection filed is without reason, grant special permission for landing if the applicant (1) has received re-entry permission, or (2) has entered Japan under the control of another person due to human trafficking, or (3) if the Minister of Justice finds special circumstances which warrant granting special permission for landing. (Article 12, Paragraph 1 of Immigration Control Act)

In 2004, the Minister of Justice granted special landing permission to 1,021 foreign nationals, a decrease of 83 (down 7.5%) from 2003. (Table 9)

**Table9 Changes in the number of filings of objections and decisions by the Minister of Justice**

(Cases)

Division	Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Filing of Objection		1,141	989	1,086	1,239	1,232
Decisions	With reason	—	—	8	1	1
	Without reason (Order to leave Japan)	66	113	109	133	197
	Special Permission for Landing	1,056	836	963	1,104	1,021
Withdrawal		9	6	4	—	13
Outstanding		10	34	2	1	—

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



### 3 Pre-entry Examination

#### (1) Advance Consultation for Issuance of Visas

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is in charge of visa administration, coordinates with the Ministry of Justice, which is in charge of immigration administration, with regard to the entry of foreign nationals. The Minister of Foreign Affairs consults with the Minister of Justice as the need arises, on whether a visa should be issued to a certain foreign national.

The number of cases of advance consultation for visa issuance reached 5,637 in 2004, increasing by 317 (up 6.0%) from 2003. With economic globalization and an increase in the number of cultural exchange activities, more and more people will travel between Japan and foreign countries and foreign nationals who were deported from Japan or denied landing permission to Japan are expected to attempt re-entry into Japan in an increased number of cases. In addition, a larger number of foreign nationals are submitting elaborate fraudulent documents when applying for visas. Advance consultation is effective in preventing these illegal attempts to enter Japan because it allows Japan's immigration control administration to check fraudulent visa applications carefully. Accordingly, the number of advance consultations between the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Justice is expected to continue increasing. (Table 10)

Table 10 Changes in the number of cases of pre-entry examination

(Cases)

Division \ Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Advance consultation for issuance of a visa	4,096	5,168	8,255	5,320	5,637
Application for Certificate of Eligibility	280,015	321,590	332,984	361,636	386,129

## (2) Certificate of Eligibility

The system of certificate of eligibility was introduced by the amended Immigration Control Act which entered into force in 1990. This system enables any foreign national who presents or submits a certificate of eligibility to obtain a visa and permission for landing quickly.

In 2004, the number of applications for a certificate of eligibility was 386,128, an increase of 24,492 from the 2003 level. (Table 10)

別記第六号の様式(第六条の二関係)

在留資格認定証明書

CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY

日本国政府法務省  
Ministry of Justice, Japanese Government

番号 No.

氏名 Name	性別 男 女 Sex M F	写真 photo 4cm×3cm
Family Name Given Name	生年月日 Date of Birth	年 月 日
日本での職業及び勤務(通学)先等 Profession or Occupation/Organization to be employed or to study in Japan		

sample

上記の者は、次の在留資格に關して出入国管理法及び難民認定法第7条第1項第2号に掲げる上陸のための条件に適合していることを証明します。  
Under the following status, it is hereby certified that the above-mentioned person meets requirement for the landing provided in Article 7, Paragraph 1, Item 2 of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act.

在留資格  
Status

年 月 日  
Date

入国管理局長  
Director General of Regional Immigration Bureau

【注意】 Notice

1. 本証明書は、上陸の許可そのものではなく、本証明書を所持していても、在外公館において査入を申請していなければ上陸を許可されません。  
This certificate is not an entry permit. Even if you have this certificate, you are not admitted into Japan unless you get an entry visa at a Japanese Embassy or Consulate abroad.

2. 本証明書は、上記の年月日から3月以内に査入と共に入国審査官に提出して上陸の申請を行わないときは、効力を失います。  
This certificate should be submitted to an Immigration Inspector with an entry visa for the landing permission at the port of entry, and shall cease to be valid if the application for landing permission is not filed within 3 months from the date of issue.

3. 本証明書は、上陸の許可を保証するものではなく、他の上陸のための条件に適合しない場合又は事情の変更があった場合は上陸を許可されないことがあります。  
This certificate does not guarantee the entry of the person concerned. In case that an applicant does not fulfill other requirements for landing or the relevant circumstances are found to be changed, the landing permission would be denied.

Certificate of Eligibility

## Section 2 — Foreign Nationals Residing in Japan

### 1 The Number of Registered Foreign Nationals Residing in Japan

The number of registered foreign nationals residing in Japan, which shows how many foreign nationals live in Japan and their purpose for residing in Japan, indicates the state of the “stock,” while the statistics of foreign nationals on entry and departure from Japan show the “flow” of foreign nationals to and from Japan.

In principle, every foreign national who has entered Japan must apply for registration to the mayor or head of the city, town, or village in which his residence is located, in accordance with the Alien Registration Law (hereinafter referred to as the “Registration Law”), within 90 days of the date of his landing (Article 3 of the Registration Law). However, most foreign nationals who have entered Japan with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor”, accounting for more than 90% of the total number of foreign entrants, leave Japan without registering. Therefore, the registered number of foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor” is small, accounting for only 3.7% of the total number of registered foreign nationals as of the end of 2004. As a result, the statistics on the foreign nationals registered in Japan can be considered as the data mainly for foreign nationals who stay in Japan for a relatively long period of time for such purposes as study, employment or cohabitation, living a “settled life” in the local community.

#### (1) The Total Number of Registered Foreign Nationals Residing in Japan

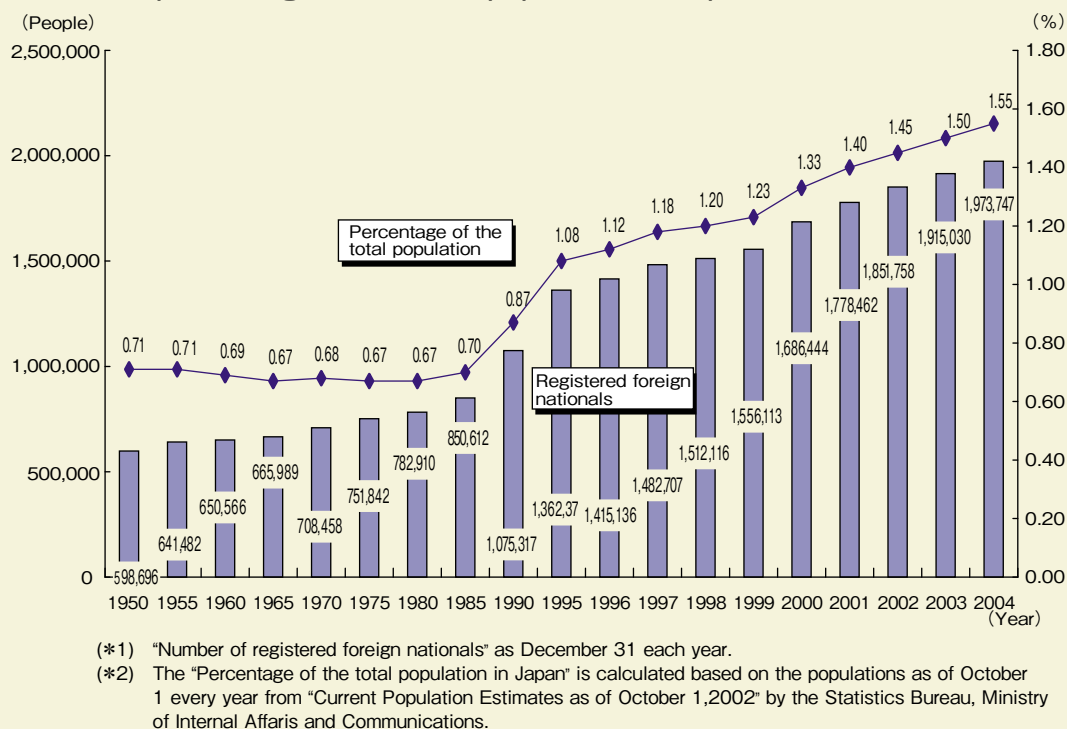
A number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan each year remain and live in Japan for a medium or long period of time. As a result, the total number of registered foreign nationals residing in Japan has been increasing and will continue to increase every year. As of the end of 2004, the number of registered foreign nationals hit a new record high of 1,973,747. The number had increased by 58,717 (up 3.1%) from the end of 2003 and by 287,303 (up 17.0%) from the end of 2000.

The proportion of registered foreign nationals to the total Japanese population has also been increasing every year. The proportion increased by 0.05 % from 1.50% at the end of 2003 and reached a record high of 1.55% in 2004, when the total population of Japan was 127,687,000 (estimated as of October 1, 2004). (Chart 15)

#### (2) The Number of Registered Foreign Nationals by Region

As of the end of 2004, the number of registered foreign nationals by region was as follows: 1,464,360 from Asia accounting for 74.2% of the total, South America (358,211

**Chart 15** Changes in the number of registered foreign nationals and its percentage of the total population in Japan



accounting for 18.1%), North America (64,471 accounting for 3.3%), Europe (58,429 accounting for 3.0%), Oceania (16,131 accounting for 0.8%), and Africa (10,319 accounting for 0.5%). The foreign nationals from Asia and South America accounted for 92.3% of the total number of registered foreign residents. **(Chart 16)**

According to the statistics of the number of registered foreign nationals from Asia, the number of Koreans had gradually decreased, while the number of Chinese had increased dramatically by 41,381 (up 2.9%) from the end of 2003 and by 219,731 (up 17.7%) from the end of 2000.

The region that showed the second highest rate of increase was South America, which had increased by 14,576 (up 4.2%) from the end of 2003. All the other regions also showed some increase in the number of registered foreign nationals.

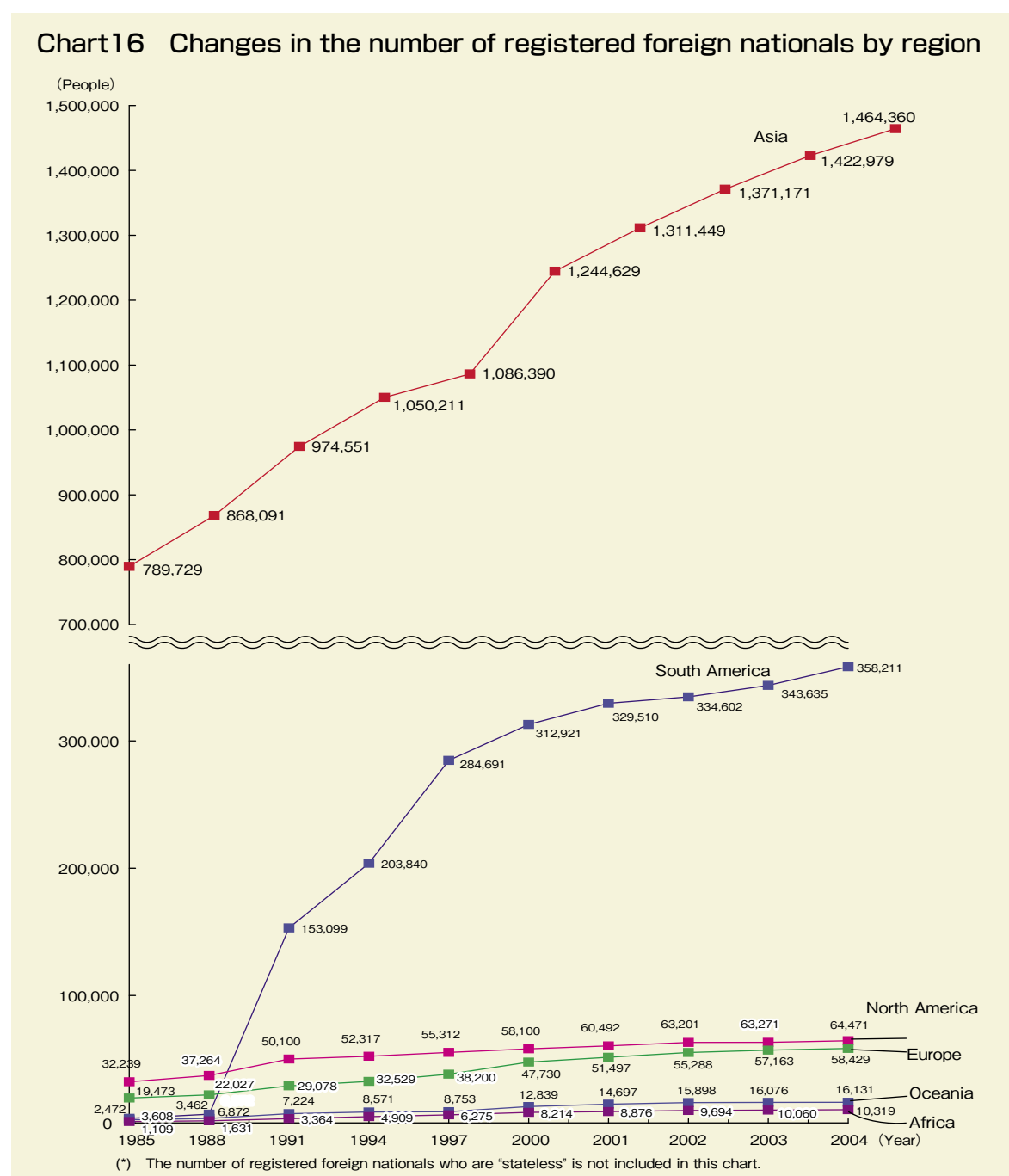
### (3) The Number of Registered Foreign Nationals by Nationality (Place of Origin)

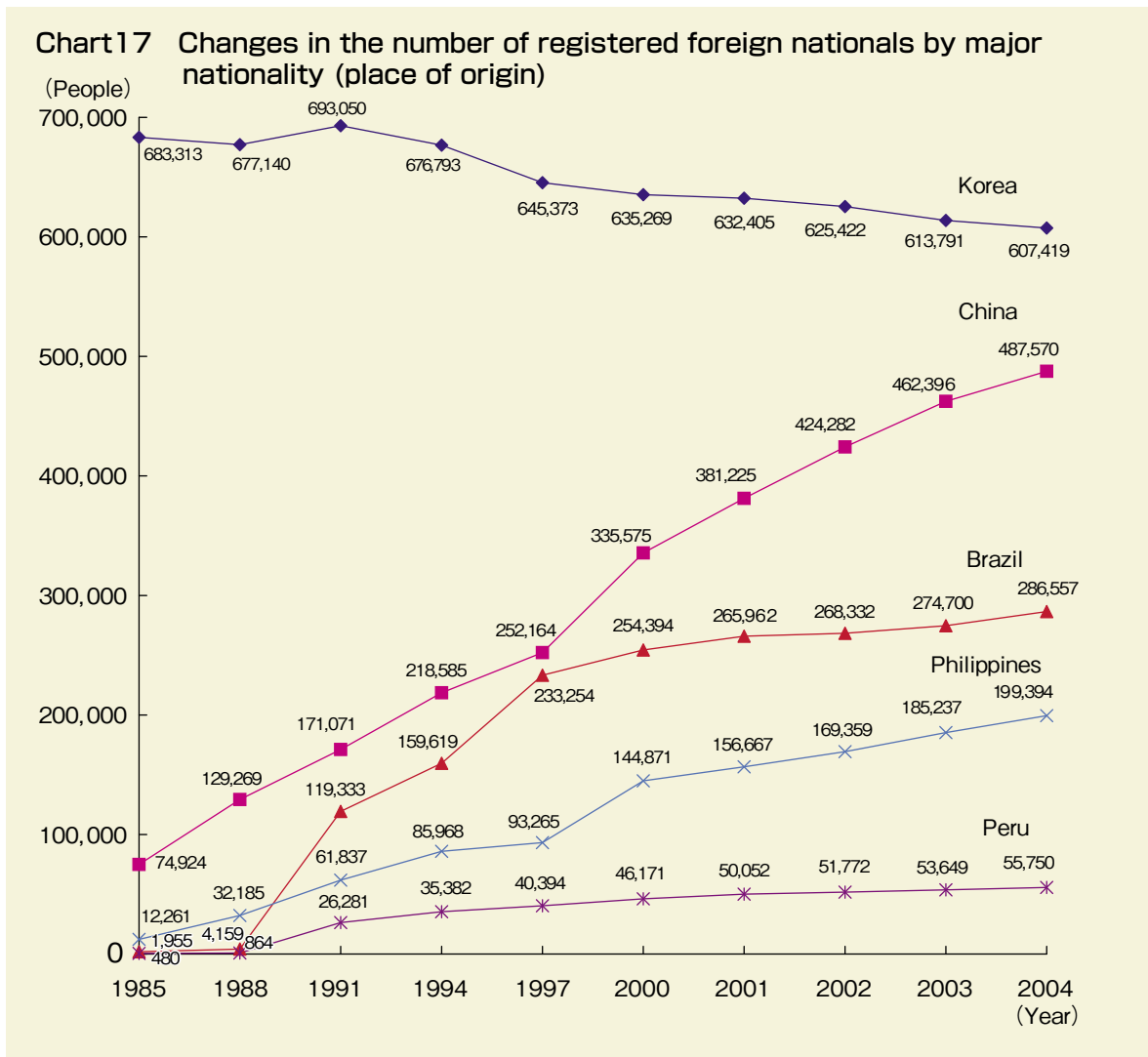
According to the statistics of the number of registered foreign nationals by nationality (place of origin) as of the end of 2004, the largest number of registered foreign nationals was 607,419 from Korea, accounting for 30.8% of the total. This was followed by China (487,570 accounting for 24.7%), Brazil (286,557 accounting for 14.5%), the Philippines (199,394 accounting for 10.1%), and Peru (55,750 accounting for 2.8%).

In recent years, the number of registered foreign nationals from North and South

Korea has been gradually decreasing, while the number of those from China, Brazil, the Philippines, and Peru has been increasing. In particular, the number of registered foreign nationals from China significantly increased, rising by 151,995 (up 45.3%) from 335,575 in 2000. The number of registered foreign nationals from the Philippines also significantly increased, rising by 54,523 (up 37.6%) from 144,871 in 2000. The increase from the Philippines was attributable to an increase in the number of Philippine nationals entering Japan with the status of residence of “Entertainer”. (Chart 17, Table 11)

According to the statistics of the number of registered foreign residents by nationality (place of origin), the order of the top five countries remained the same from the end of 2000 to the end of 2004.





**Table 11 Changes in the number of registered foreign nationals by nationality (place of origin)**

(People)

Year Nationality (Place of Origin)	1985	1988	1991	1994	1997	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total	850,612	941,005	1,218,891	1,354,011	1,482,707	1,686,444	1,778,462	1,851,758	1,915,030	1,973,747
Korea	683,313	677,140	693,050	676,793	645,373	635,269	632,405	625,422	613,791	607,419
China	74,924	129,269	171,071	218,585	252,164	335,575	381,225	424,282	462,396	487,570
Brazil	1,955	4,159	119,333	159,619	233,254	254,394	265,962	268,332	274,700	286,557
Philippines	12,261	32,185	61,837	85,968	93,265	144,871	156,667	169,359	185,237	199,394
Peru	480	864	26,281	35,382	40,394	46,171	50,052	51,772	53,649	55,750
United States of America	29,044	32,766	42,498	43,320	43,690	44,856	46,244	47,970	47,836	48,844
Thailand	2,642	5,277	8,912	13,997	20,669	29,289	31,685	33,736	34,825	36,347
Viet Nam	4,126	4,763	6,410	8,229	11,897	16,908	19,140	21,050	23,853	26,018
Indonesia	1,704	2,379	4,574	6,282	11,936	19,346	20,831	21,671	22,862	23,890
United Kingdom	6,792	8,523	11,794	12,453	14,438	16,525	17,527	18,508	18,230	18,082
Others	33,371	43,680	73,131	93,383	115,627	143,240	156,724	169,656	177,651	183,876

#### (4) The Number of Registered Foreign Nationals by Purpose (Status of Residence)

##### A. “Permanent Resident” and “Special Permanent Resident” (Data Section 1, Statistics (1) 24, 28)

According to the statistics of the number of registered foreign nationals by status of residence, the number of those with the status of “Special Permanent Resident,” mainly comprised of Korean nationals (see the commentary below), was the largest as of the end of 2004. The number of special permanent residents was 465,619 accounting for 23.6% of the total, a decrease of 10,333 (down 2.2%) from the end of 2003. (Table 12)

**Table 12** Changes in the number of registered foreign nationals by status of residence (People)

Status of Residence \ Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total	1,686,444	1,778,462	1,851,758	1,915,030	1,973,747
Professor	6,744	7,196	7,751	8,037	8,153
Artist	363	381	397	386	401
Religious Activities	4,976	4,948	4,858	4,732	4,699
Journalist	349	348	351	294	292
Investor/Business Manager	5,694	5,906	5,956	6,135	6,396
Legal/Accounting Services	95	99	111	122	125
Medical Services	95	95	114	110	117
Researcher	2,934	3,141	3,369	2,770	2,548
Instructor	8,375	9,068	9,715	9,390	9,393
Engineer	16,531	19,439	20,717	20,807	23,210
Specialist in Humanities/ International Services	34,739	40,861	44,496	44,943	47,682
Intra-company Transferee	8,657	9,913	10,923	10,605	10,993
Entertainer	53,847	55,461	58,359	64,642	64,742
Skilled Labor	11,349	11,927	12,522	12,583	13,373
Cultural Activities	3,397	2,954	2,812	2,615	3,093
Temporary Visitor	68,045	69,741	72,399	74,301	72,446
College Student	76,980	93,614	110,415	125,597	129,873
Pre-college Student	37,781	41,766	47,198	50,473	43,208
Trainee	36,199	38,169	39,067	44,464	54,317
Dependent	72,878	78,847	83,075	81,535	81,919
Designated Activities	30,496	38,990	47,706	55,048	63,310
Permanent Resident	145,336	184,071	223,875	267,011	312,964
Spouse or Child of Japanese National	279,625	280,436	271,719	262,778	257,292
Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident	6,685	7,047	7,576	8,519	9,417
Long Term Resident	237,607	244,460	243,451	245,147	250,734
Special Permanent Resident	512,269	500,782	489,900	475,952	465,619
Without Acquiring Status of Residence	11,467	13,488	15,379	16,628	18,236
Temporary Refuge	32	32	32	30	31
Others	12,899	15,282	17,515	19,376	19,164



The number of special permanent residents decreased every year from the end of 2000 to the end of 2004. On the other hand, that of permanent residents increased by 45,953 (up 17.2%) from 2003 and reached 312,964 as of the end of 2004.

The number exceeded 300,000 for the first time, accounting for 15.9% of all the registered foreign nationals. The number of permanent residents has steadily increased, rising by 167,628 (up 115.3%) from 145,336 in 2000. The proportion of the number of permanent residents to the total registered foreign nationals topped 10% for the first time at the end of 2001, compared to 8.6% at the end of 2000.

According to the statistics by nationality (place of origin), the largest number of permanent residents came from China. The number of Chinese permanent residents was 96,647 as of the end of 2004, followed by Brazil, the Philippines, Korea and Peru.

### Commentary

#### Permanent Residents and Special Permanent Residents

The status of residence of “Permanent Resident” permits permanent residence in Japan. Any foreign national who desires to obtain this status must receive permission for permanent residence from the Minister of Justice through the procedures specified in Article 22 or Article 22-2 of the Immigration Control Act.

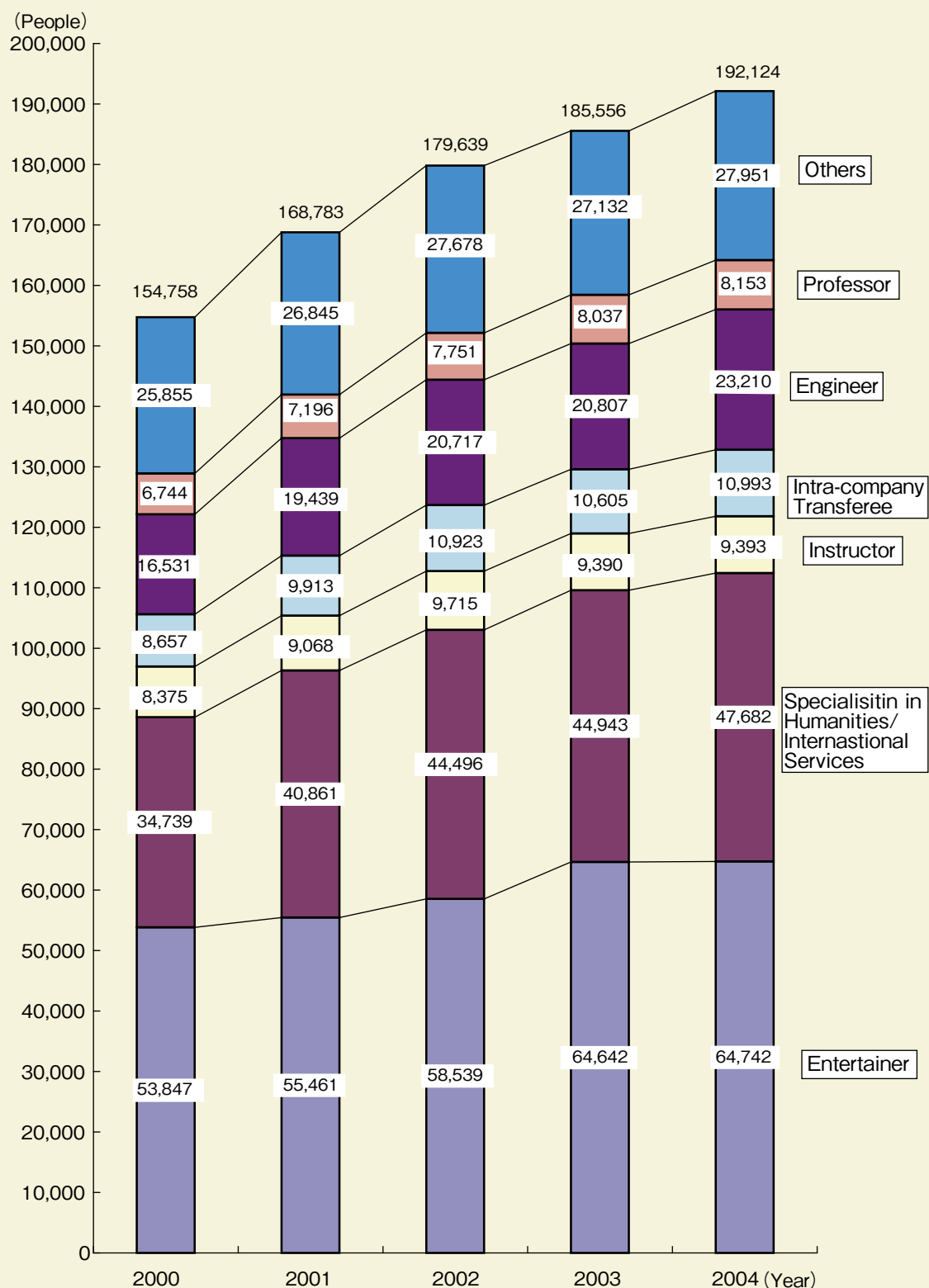
The status of “Special Permanent Resident” grants legal status for permanent residence to any foreign national whose Japanese nationality was taken away as the result of a peace treaty concluded with Japan and to those who lived in Japan before the end of the war, as well as the descendants of such foreign nationals (Article 2 of the Special Law on the Immigration Control of Inter Alia, Those Who Have Lost Japanese Nationality on the Basis of the Treaty of Peace with Japan). Those people are not covered by the status of residence of “Permanent Resident.” A provision on the status of “Special Permanent Resident” is included in Paragraph 1 of Article 2-2 of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act, which specifies that, “An alien may reside in Japan only under the status of residence determined by the permission for landing, the acquisition of status of residence or by the permission for any change thereof, unless the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act or other laws provide otherwise”. As set forth in this provision, special permanent residents fall under the cases where “other laws provide otherwise”.

## B. Foreign Nationals Residing in Japan for the Purpose of Employment (Data Section 1, Statistics (1) 3-2 through 16-2)

The number of registered foreign nationals residing in Japan for the purpose of employment increased by 6,568 (up 3.5%) from 2003 and reached 192,124 as of the end of 2004, accounting for 9.7% of the total. The number reached over 150,000 in 2000, steadily increasing by 37,376 (up 24.2%) from the end of 2000 to the end of 2004. (Chart 18)



Chart18 Changes in the number of resistered foreign nationals with work visas



Since the end of 2000, there has been a steady increase in the number of registered foreign nationals with such statuses of residence as “Entertainer,” “Specialist in Humanities/International Services,” “Engineer,” “Skilled Labor,” “Professor,” “Investor/Business Manager” and “Legal/Accounting Services.” In particular, the number of

those with the status of residence of “Entertainer” reached 64,742 as of the end of 2004, registering more than 1.2 times as many compared to the 53,847 at the end of 2000, but growing at a slower pace than at the end of 2003.

The numbers of registered foreign nationals with such statuses of residence as “Engineer,” “Specialist in Humanities/International Services,” or “Intra-company Transferee,” which are basically designed for foreign employees, were 23,210; 47,682 and 10,993 respectively, as of the end of 2004. They had increased by 6,679 (up 40.4%), 12,943 (up 37.3%), and 2,336 (up 27.0%) from the end of 2000 respectively.

#### **C. “College Student” and “Pre-college Student” (Data Section 1, Statistics (1) 19-2, 20-2)**

The number of registered foreign nationals with the status of residence of “College Student” stood at 129,873 as of the end of 2004, an increase of 4,276 (up 3.4%) from the end of 2003 reaching a new record high. On a nationality (place of origin) basis, the number of Chinese college students was 90,746, accounting for 69.9% of the total, followed by Koreans (16,444, accounting for 12.7%).

On the other hand, the number of registered foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Pre-college Student” had been increasing in recent years, but took a downturn, standing at 43,208 as of the end of 2004, a decrease of 7,265 (down 14.4%) from the end of 2003. According to the statistics by nationality (place of origin), China was 29,430, accounting for 68.1%, followed by Korea (7,286 accounting for 16.9%).

#### **D. “Trainee” (Data Section 1, Statistics (1) 21-2)**

The number of registered foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Trainee” increased by 9,853 (up 22.2%) from 2003 to a new record high of 54,317 as of the end of 2004. This marked for the first time a number topping 50,000. According to the statistics by nationality (place of origin), the number of those with “Trainee” from China was 40,136, accounting for 73.9% of the total, followed by Indonesia (4,189 accounting for 7.7%) and Viet Nam (3,491 accounting for 6.4%).

#### **E. Foreign Nationals Residing in Japan with the Status of Residence for Resident Activities Based on Civil Status or Position (Data Section 1, Statistics (1) 25-2 through 27-2)**

As of the end of 2004, the numbers of registered foreign nationals with the statuses of residence of “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” and “Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident” were 257,292 and 9,417 respectively. According to the statistics by nationality,

the largest number of foreign nationals with “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” in 2004 was 82,173 from Brazil followed by China, the Philippines, Korea, and Thailand, all of which had decreased from a year earlier. As a result, the total number of registered foreign nationals with “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” as of the end of 2004 was less than that of a year earlier.

On the other hand, the number of registered foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident” had increased every year from the end of 2000 to the end of 2004, as the number of permanent residents had increased.

The number of registered foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Long-Term Resident” was 250,734 as of the end of 2004. According to the statistics by nationality (place of origin), the number of long-term residents from Brazil was 144,407, accounting for 57.6%, followed by China (32,130 accounting for 12.8%) and the Philippines (23,756 accounting for 9.5%).

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## 2 Status of Residence Examinations

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If any foreign national in Japan desires to stay longer than the period of stay originally permitted to him, or desires to change his status of residence in order to pursue a new purpose differing from the purpose for which the original status of residence was granted, he must file an application in accordance with the Immigration Control Act and obtain required permission from the Minister of Justice or the Director-General of the Regional Immigration Bureau. There is such permission for extension of period of stay, change of status of residence, acquisition of status of residence, re-entry, permanent residence, permission to engage in an activity other than those permitted by the status of residence, and so forth. The decision as to whether or not to grant permission is made through the status of residence examination.

The total number of cases of status of residence examinations and so forth in which permission was granted was 1,189,261 in 2004. **(Table 13)**

**Table 13 Changes in the number of cases of permission in status of residence examinations** (Cases)

Division \ Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total	1,177,283	981,657	1,001,051	1,138,753	1,189,261
Permission to engage in an activity other than those permitted by the status of residence previously granted	59,435	65,535	83,340	98,006	106,406
Permission for changes of status of residence	59,543	69,490	78,402	89,593	100,377
Permission for extension of period of stay	441,160	336,254	354,169	415,021	410,091
Permission for permanent residence	30,475	41,889	42,085	46,171	48,263
Permission for special permanent residence	176	185	138	106	126
Permission for acquisition of status of residence	7,666	7,529	6,815	6,530	6,921
Re-entry permission	578,828	460,775	436,102	483,326	517,077

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

(\*2) "Permission for acquisition of status of residence" includes permission for permanent residence described in Article 22-1 in the Immigration Control Act.

(\*3) "Permission for Special Permanent Residence" is the number of permissions of special permanent residence provided for in Article 5 of the Special Law on Immigration Control of Inter Aliens, Those Who Have Lost Japanese Nationality on the Basis of the Treaty of Peace with Japan.

## (1) Permission for Extension of Period of Stay (Article 21 of the Immigration Control Act)

Any foreign national in Japan who desires to stay longer than the period of stay originally permitted to him without changing his status of residence must obtain permission for an extension of the period of stay. The number of foreign nationals who obtained such permission in 2004 was 410,091.



Sticker-type endorsement stamp for extension permit

## (2) Permission for Change of Status of Residence (Article 20 of the Immigration Control Act)

Any foreign national in Japan who desires to change the status of residence originally permitted to him must obtain permission for a change of status of residence for the new purpose.

In 2004, the number of foreign nationals who obtained such permission was 100,377.

### A. Change of Status of Residence from “College Student” or “Pre-college Student” for Employment

The foreign nationals studying at Japanese universities or vocational schools have the status of residence of either “College Student” or “Pre-college Student.” Many of them desire to stay in Japan to work for a Japanese company or some another organization in Japan after graduating from these schools.

The number of foreign nationals who obtained permission for a change of the status of residence increased by 1,486 (up 39.3%) from a year earlier and by 2,575 (up 95.8%) from 2000 to 5,264 in 2004. This marked a record high from 1988, the first time these statistics were compiled.

According to the statistics by nationality (place of origin), the number of foreign nationals who obtained such permission from China was 3,445, accounting for 65.4% of the total, followed by Korea (811 accounting for 15.4%), and China (Taiwan) (179 accounting for 3.4%).(Table 14)



Sticker-type  
endorsement stamp  
for change permit

**Table 14** Changes in the number of cases of permission for change of status of residence for employment from college student or pre-college student by nationality (place of origin) (People)

Nationality (Place of origin)	Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total		2,689	3,581	3,209	3,778	5,264
China		1,630	2,154	1,933	2,258	3,445
R.O.Korea		510	720	581	721	811
China(Taiwan)		106	135	127	139	179
Bangladesh		38	47	30	66	84
Thailand		32	29	42	53	60
Indonesia		30	39	47	40	59
United States of America		33	23	33	34	40
Malaysia		46	61	43	31	59
Sri Lanka		7	28	21	31	25
United Kingdom		16	20	17	27	12
Others		241	325	335	378	490

According to the statistics by status of residence, foreign nationals who obtained permission to change their statuses to “Specialist in Humanities/International Services” represented the largest proportion, 3,417 accounting for 64.9%. In addition, 1,233 foreign nationals (23.4%) obtained permission to change their status to “Engineer” in 2004. (Table 15)

**Table 15** Changes in the number of cases of permission for change of status of residence for employment from college student or pre-college student by status of residence permitted (Cases)

Status of Residence \ Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total	2,689	3,581	3,209	3,778	5,264
Specialist in Humanities/ International Services	1,632	2,118	1,949	2,378	3,417
Engineer	667	1,008	727	849	1,233
Professor	234	228	346	371	388
Researcher	91	118	97	90	114
Investor/Business Manager	26	44	39	38	53
Medical Services	8	19	16	14	10
Instructor	8	15	13	10	23
Artist	5	10	8	6	5
Religious Activities	12	6	—	6	12
Skilled Labor	3	7	11	5	5
Entertainer	1	—	—	—	—
Others	2	8	3	11	4

## B. Permission to Change Status of Residence in Order to Participate in a Technical Internship Program

The Technical Internship Program was established in 1993 to enable foreign nationals who have acquired certain levels of skills through training to further improve their skills through on-the-job training while employed, thereby contributing to effective technology transfer and human resources development as part of international contribution. It is necessary for any foreign national who desires to be involved in the program to obtain permission for change of status of residence from “Trainee” to “Designated Activities”.

This program covers skills that are publicly evaluated in Japan and also in demand in the home countries of the trainees. These skills were categorized into 62 types of work in total as of the end of April 1, 2005. 51 types, including form panel setting and machining, are evaluated based on the National Skills Test under the Occupation Skills Development Promotion Law for Basic Grade 1 and Basic Grade 2. The remaining 11 types, including operation of construction equipment and spinning machines, are publicly evaluated, although not by national examinations, according to a system established by the Japan International Training Cooperation Organization. (Table 16)



**Table16 Job types covered by the technical internship programs**

(As of April 1,2005)

**1 Agriculture (2 types of occupation, 5selective works)**

Type of occupation	Selective work
Cultivation agriculture *	Facility horticulture
	Upland field cropping/Vegetable growing
Livestock agriculture *	Poultry farming (collecting chicken eggs)
	Hog raising
	Dairy

**2 Fishery (1type of occupation, 7 selective works)**

Type of occupation	Selective work
Fishing boat fisheries *	Skipjack pole and line fishery
	Tuna long-line fishery
	Squid jigging
	Purse seine fishery
	Trawl fishery
	Drift net fishery
	Set net fishery

**3 Construction (21 types of occupation,31 selective works)**

Type of occupation	Selective work
Well drilling	Well drilling work percussion boring
	Well drilling work rotary boring
Sheet metal working for construction	Sheet metal work duct
Freezing and air conditioning apparatus installing	Freezing and air conditioning apparatus installing work
Fixture making	Wooden fixture making work
Carpentry	Carpentry work
Form panel setting	Form panel setting work
Reinforcing bar construction	Reinforcing bar assembling
Scaffolding	Scaffolding work
Masonry	Stone masonry work
	Terrazzo joining work
Tiling	Tiling work
Clay tile roofing	Clay tile roofing work
Plastering	Plastering work
Plumbing	Plumbing work (construction)
	Plumbing (plant)
Heat insulating	Heat insulating work
Interior finishing	Plastic floor finishing work
	Carpet finishing work
	Ceiling steel under-skeleton construction work
	Ceiling surface board finishing work
	Curtain making and finishing work
Sash setting	Sash setting work (building)
Water proofing	Sealing water proofing work
Concrete pressure feeding	Concrete pressure feeding work
Well-point construction	Well-point construction work
Paper hanging	Paper hanging work (wall and ceiling)
Application of construction equipment *	Dozing work
	Loading work
	Excavating work
	Road rolling work

**4 Food Manufacturing (6 types of occupation, 11 selective works)**

Type of occupation	Selective work
Can seaming for canned foods *	Can seaming for canned foods
Heated fishery processed foodstuff manufacturing work *	Extract manufacturing
	Hested dried product manufacturing
	Flavored product manufacturing
	Smoked product manufacturing
Non-heated fishery processed foodstuff manufacturing work *	Salted product manufacturing
	Dried product manufacturing
	Fermented foodstuff manufacturing
Fish paste making	Build fish paste making
Ham,sausage and becon making	Ham,sausage and becon making work
Poultry Processing Industry	Poultry Processing

Note \* Evaluation System Approved by JITCO.

**5 Textile (9types of occupation, 16 selective works)**

Type of occupation	Selective work
Spinning operation*	Pre-spinning work
	Spinning process
	Winding process
	Twisting and doubling work
Weaving operation*	Sizing and warping work
	Weaving process
Dyeing	Inspecting work
	Hank dyeing work
	Textile and Knit dyeing work
Knit goods making	Hosiery knitting
	Circular knitting
Ladies' and children's dress making	Ladies' and children's ready-made dress making work
Men's suit making	Men's ready-made suit making work
Bed clothes manufacturing	Bed clothes manufacturing
Canvas product making	Canvas product making work
Sewing (cloth)	Shirt sewing work

**6 Machinery & Metal (15types of occupation,28 selective work)**

Type of occupation	Selective work
Casting	Casting work (cast iron)
	Casting work (copper alloy)
	Casting work (light alloy)
Forging	Die forging work (hammer)
	Die forging work (press)
Die casting	Die casting work (hot chamber)
	Die casting work (cold chamber)
Machining	Engine lathe work
	Milling machine work
Metal pressing	Metal press work
Iron working	Structure steel work
Sheet metal working at plants	Machine sheet metal work
Plating	Electroplating work
	Hot dip galvanizing work
Aluminum anodizing	Aluminum anodizing work
Finishing	Finishing work (jig and tool)
	Finishing work (metal die)
	Finishing work (machine assembling)
Machine inspection	Machine inspecting work
Machine maintenance	Machine maintenance work
Electronic machinery and apparatus assembling	Electronic machinery and apparatus assembling work
Electric machinery and apparatus assembling	Rotary electric machine assembling work
	Transformer assembling work
	Switchboard and control panel assembling work
	Switch control instrument assembling work
	Coil winding work
Printed control panel manufacturing	Printed circuit board designs
	Printed circuit board manufacturing

**7 Others (8types of occupation, 16 selective works)**

Type of occupation	Selective work
Furniture making	Furniture making work (hand)
Printing	Offset printing work
Book binding	Book binding work
	Magazine binding work
	Commercial print binding work
Plastic molding	Plastic molding work (compression)
	Plastic molding work (injection)
	Plastic molding work (inflation)
Reinforced plastic molding	Hand pile lamination molding
Painting	Building painting work
	Metal painting work
	Steel bridge painting work
	Spray painting work
Welding*	Manual welding
	Semi-automatic welding
Industrial packaging	Industrial packaging work

Shortly after the Technical Internship Program was established, few foreign trainees applied for the program. Since then, we have increased the number of types of work covered by the program and have actively promoted the program through publicity activities. The number of trainees taking part in the program has been increasing, reaching more than 10,000 in 1998 and topping 20,000 in 2003. In 2004, the number reached 26,488. The number in 2004 had increased by 5,666 (up 27.2%) from a year earlier and by 154,093 (up 113.7%) from 2000, showing a steady yearly increase during the period from 2000 to 2004. In total, 133,421 trainees took part in the program after finishing their training from 1993 when the Technical Internship Program was established to the end of 2004, which indicates that this program is showing steady improvement.

**Table 17 Changes in the number of trainees who switch to the Technical Internship Program by nationality** (People)

Nationality \ Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total
Total	12,395	16,113	19,225	20,822	26,488	95,043
China	8,633	11,114	14,388	16,620	20,922	71,677
Indonesia	2,227	2,854	2,359	2,060	2,474	11,974
Philippines	278	470	518	653	819	2,738
Viet Nam	1,165	1,462	1,694	1,343	2,070	7,734
Thailand	32	112	150	110	112	516
Others	60	101	116	36	91	404

**Table 18 Changes in the number of trainees who switch to the Technical Internship Program by job type** (People)

Job Type \ Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total
Total	12,395	16,113	19,225	20,822	26,488	95,043
Women/Children's apparel production	5,252	5,761	7,767	8,076	9,194	36,050
Mold onstruction	606	465	412	437	373	2,293
Men's apparel production	612	826	760	514	527	3,239
welding	387	589	724	1,148	1,254	4,102
Steel reinforcement construction	251	339	289	248	376	1,503
Machining	474	706	690	622	873	3,365
Metal press work	288	505	418	499	942	2,652
Plumbing	64	61	42	45	27	239
Painting	217	317	285	393	562	1,774
Furniture production	155	170	177	111	147	760
Casting	419	496	430	386	561	2,292
Steeplejack	189	226	224	225	240	1,104
Plastic molding	432	677	789	907	1,691	4,496
Carpenter	96	76	116	80	118	486
Construction machinery production	35	24	33	32	49	173
Others	2,918	4,875	6,069	7,099	9,554	30,515



According to the statistics by nationality (place of origin), the largest number of trainees who obtained permission for change of status of residence to take part in the Technical Internship Program was from China (20,922) followed by Indonesia (2,474), Viet Nam (2,070), the Philippines (819), and Thailand (112). Some of the most popular types of work were dress-making, welding, and plastic molding. (Table 17, 18)

### (3) Permission for Acquisition of Status of Residence (Article 22-2 of the Immigration Control Act)

If a foreign national who was born in Japan, an individual who became a foreign national after renouncing Japanese nationality, or a United States of America military personnel member stipulated in Article 1 of the Status of Forces Agreement between Japan and the United States of America who lost the status wishes to continue living in Japan, he must acquire a status of residence.

The number of such foreign nationals who obtained permission for acquisition of status of residence was 6,921 in 2004.



Sticker-type  
endorsement stamp  
for acquisition permit

### (4) Re-entry Permission (Article 26 of the Immigration Control Act)

If a foreign national who resides in Japan wishes to temporarily depart and re-enter Japan, he may re-enter and land in Japan using his current status of residence and period of stay without re-applying for a visa by receiving re-entry permission in advance.

In 2004, the number of such foreign nationals who obtained re-entry permission was 517,077.



Sticker-type  
endorsement stamp  
for re-entry permit

### (5) Permission to Engage in an Activity Other Than Those Permitted by the Status of Residence Previously Granted (Paragraph 2 of Article 19 of the Immigration Control Act)

A foreign national who is granted a status of residence according to the activities he is engaged in in Japan must receive permission to engage in an activity other than those permitted by the status of residence previously granted if he wishes to become engaged in activities “related to the management of business involving income or activities for which he receives remuneration which are not included in those activities under his

category of status of residence”. A typical example is that of a foreign national college student or pre-college student who wishes to have a part-time job. The Minister of Justice will give permission to the extent that the extra activity does not interfere with the activity that is the original purpose of residence.

The number of foreign nationals who obtained such permission in 2004 was 106,406.

#### (6) Permission for Permanent Residence (Article 22 of the Immigration Control Act)

The status of permanent residence is granted when certain conditions have been satisfied by foreign nationals who reside in Japan under another status of residence and who have applied for change of status of residence to permanent residence or by those who have applied to acquire status of residence due to birth or renouncement of Japanese nationality.

The number of cases in which permission for permanent residence was granted steadily increased from 30,475 in 2000 to a record high of 48,263 in 2004. This was due largely to the increase in the number of newly entering foreign nationals and to the recent trend for foreign nationals to settle down and stay longer. (Table 19)



Permission to Engage in an Activity Other than Those of Status Qualification



Sticker-type endorsement stamp for permission for permanent residence

Table 19 Changes in permanent residence permits by nationality (place of origin)  
(Cases)

Nationality (Place of origin)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total	30,745	41,889	42,085	46,171	48,263
China	10,593	11,974	12,348	13,987	14,855
Brazil	3,762	10,116	11,672	10,894	10,789
Philippines	5,467	6,408	5,923	6,972	7,563
Korea	3,454	3,620	3,147	3,345	3,671
Peru	2,323	3,893	2,980	3,381	3,275
Others	5,146	5,878	6,015	7,592	8,110

## Chapter 2

# Deportation Procedures for Foreign Nationals

The deportation procedures for foreign nationals are designed to keep order in Japanese society by excluding unwelcome foreign nationals from Japan.

Deportation procedures for foreign nationals are a powerful administrative action where the foreign national is deported even if deportation is against his will. In order to ensure careful use of these procedures, the Immigration Control Act specifies the reasons for deportation and whether the foreign national should be deported is carefully decided, through a step-by-step decision-making process.

The procedures for deportation have been increasing in importance, as the number of problems caused by illegal residents such as crimes and other antisocial acts committed by illegal foreign residents in Japan has been increasing in recent years.

The factors leading to the deportation procedures are as follows.

## Section 1 — Foreign Nationals Violating the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act

### 1 The Total Number of Overstayers

Based on the computer statistics of the Immigration Bureau, the estimated number of overstayers (those who illegally stay in Japan beyond the permitted period of stay without obtaining permission for extension or change of status of residence) was 207,299 as of January 1, 2005. This number steadily decreased, down by 12,119 (5.5%) from 219,418 on January 1, 2004, in other words, down by 91,347 (30.6%) from a record high of 298,646 on May 1, 1993.

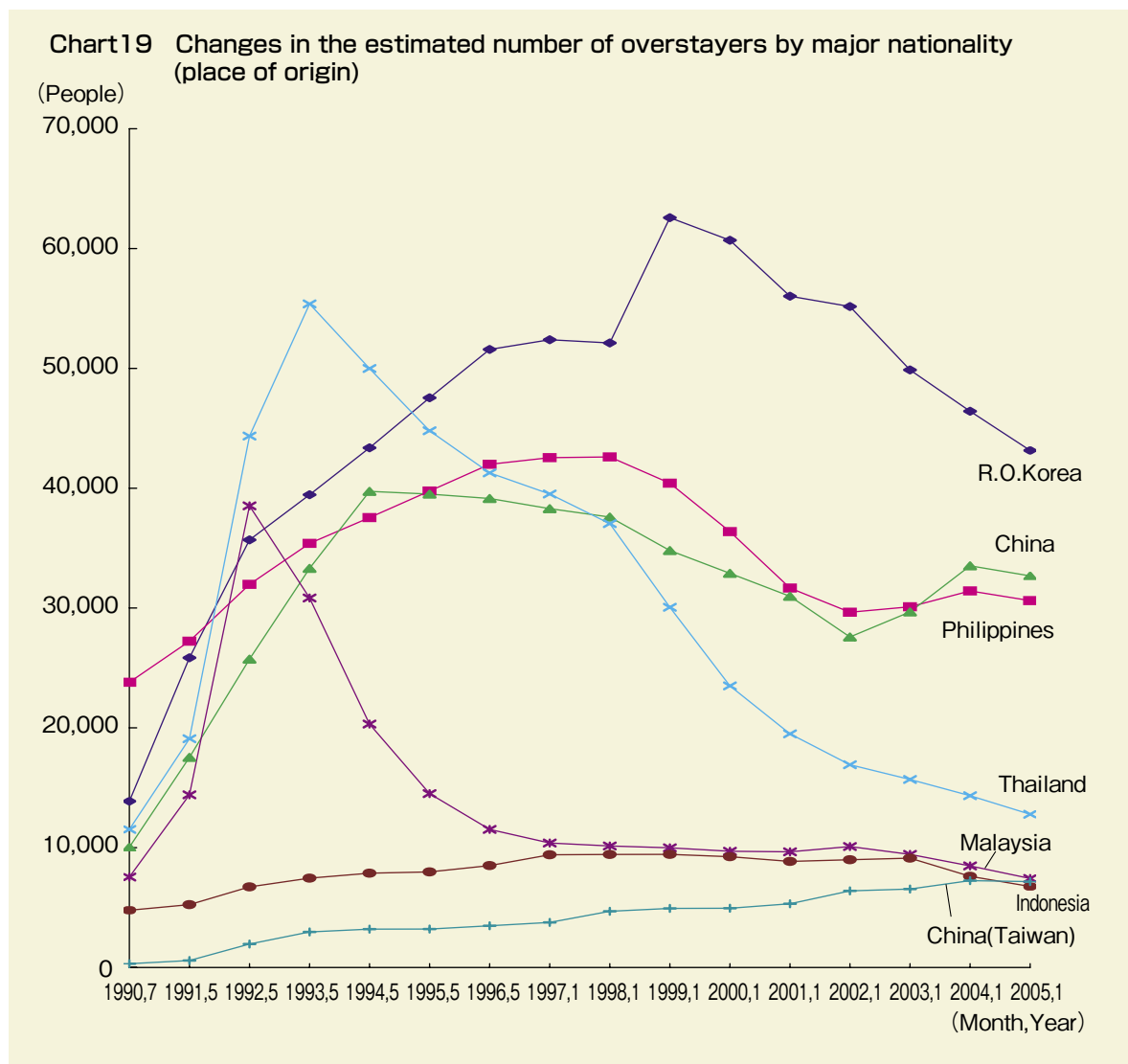
This decrease was attributable partly to the prolonged economic slump and difficult employment climate; to the comprehensive measures taken by the Immigration Bureau against illegal foreign residents such as conducting strict immigration examinations, making concentrated efforts in close cooperation with other related agencies to detect violators of the Immigration Control Act, and actively performing publicity activities to prevent illegal employment; and to the fact that the Immigration Bureau started its “Five-Year Plan to Halve the Number of Illegal Immigrants” in 2004.

In addition to the above-mentioned number of overstayers, it is estimated that about

30,000 foreign nationals may have entered Japan illegally, as discussed in item 2 below. If combined, the number of illegal foreign residents would be about 240,000.

### (1) The Number of Overstayers by Nationality (Place of Origin)

According to the statistics by nationality (place of origin), the largest number of overstayers was from R.O. Korea (43,151 accounting for 20.8%) as of January 1, 2005. This was followed by China (32,683 accounting for 15.8%), the Philippines (30,619 accounting for 14.8%), Thailand (12,787 accounting for 6.2%), Malaysia (7,431 accounting for 3.6%), Indonesia (7,169 accounting for 3.5%), and Taiwan (6,760 accounting for 3.3%). (Chart 19, Table 20)



**Table20 Changes in the estimated number of overstayers by major nationality (place of origin)** (People)

Date Nationality (Place of Origin)	July 1 1990	May 1 1991	May 1 1992	May 1 1993	May 1 1994	May 1 1995	May 1 1996	January 1 1997	January 1 1998	January 1 1999	January 1 2000	January 1 2001	January 1 2002	January 1 2003	January 1 2004	January 1 2005
Total	106,497	159,828	278,892	298,646	293,800	286,704	284,500	282,986	276,810	271,048	251,697	232,121	224,067	220,552	219,418	207,299
R.O.Korea	13,876	25,848	35,687	39,455	43,369	47,544	51,580	52,387	52,123	62,577	60,693	56,023	55,164	49,874	46,425	43,151
China	10,039	17,535	25,737	33,312	39,738	39,511	39,140	38,296	37,590	34,800	32,896	30,975	27,582	29,676	33,522	32,683
Philippines	23,805	27,228	31,974	35,392	37,544	39,763	41,997	42,547	42,608	40,420	36,379	31,666	29,649	30,100	31,428	30,619
Thailand	11,523	19,093	44,354	55,383	49,992	44,794	41,280	39,513	37,046	30,065	23,503	19,500	16,925	15,693	14,334	12,787
Malaysia	7,550	14,413	38,529	30,840	20,313	14,511	11,525	10,390	10,141	9,989	9,701	9,651	10,097	9,442	8,476	7,431
Indonesia	315	582	1,955	2,969	3,198	3,205	3,481	3,758	4,692	4,930	4,947	5,315	6,393	6,546	7,246	7,169
China(Taiwan)	4,775	5,241	6,729	7,457	7,871	7,974	8,502	9,409	9,430	9,437	9,243	8,849	8,990	9,126	7,611	6,760
Peru	242	487	2,783	9,038	12,918	15,301	13,836	12,942	11,606	10,320	9,158	8,502	7,744	7,322	7,230	6,624
Brazil	664	944	2,703	2,210	2,603	3,104	3,763	5,026	4,334	3,288	3,266	3,578	3,697	3,865	4,728	4,905
Sri Lanka	1,668	2,281	3,217	3,763	3,395	2,980	2,783	2,751	3,071	3,734	3,907	3,489	3,730	3,909	4,242	4,209
Others	32,040	46,176	85,224	78,827	72,859	68,017	66,613	65,967	64,169	61,488	58,004	54,573	54,096	54,999	54,176	50,961

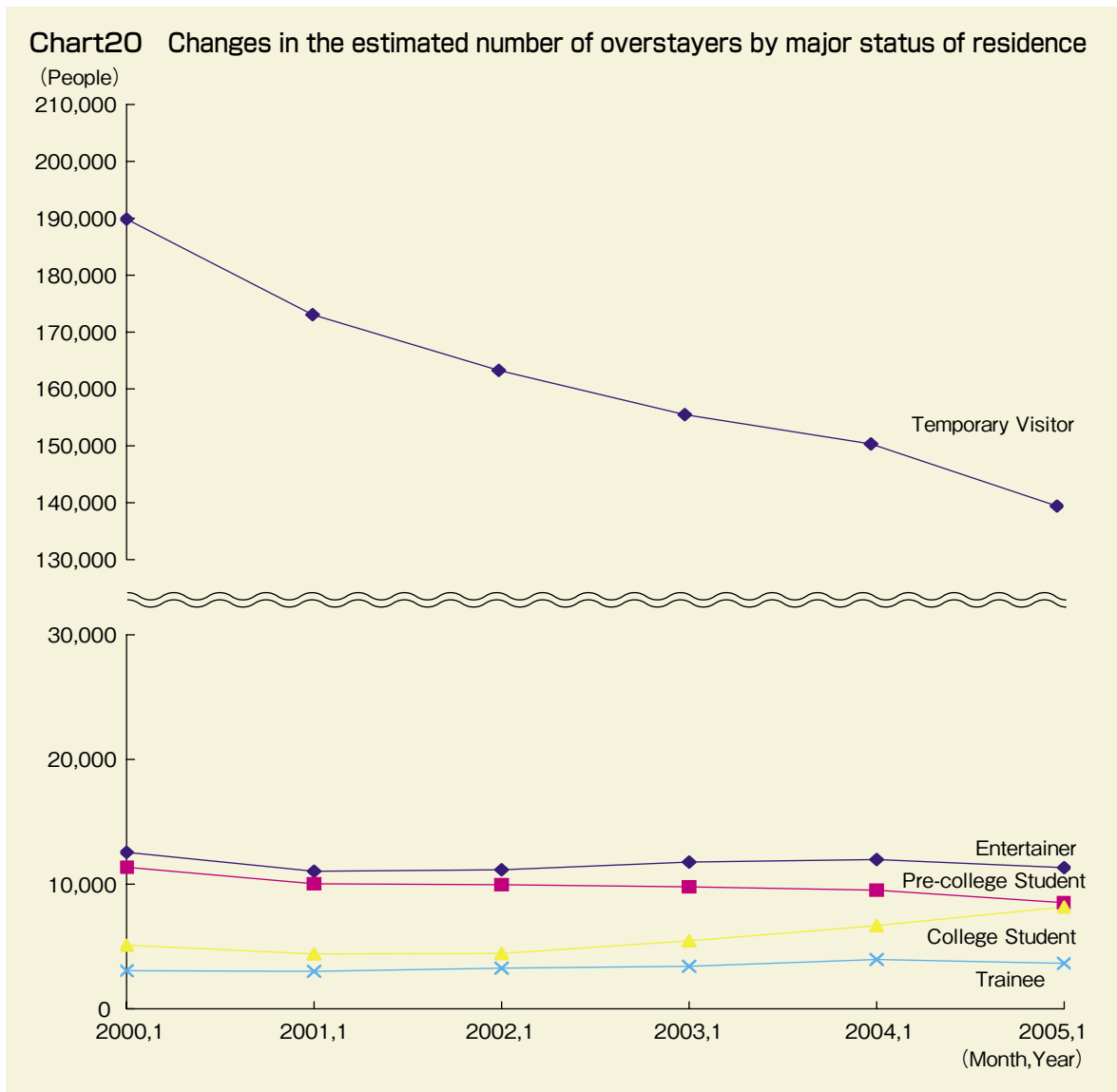
The changes in the number of overstayers by nationality (place of origin) were as follows. The number of overstayers from Thailand steadily decreased from May 1, 1993. The number of those from R.O. Korea increased almost every year until January 1, 1999, from when it started to decline. The number of those from Malaysia and Peru gradually decreased due to a measure to promote the acquisition of visas, which was taken on June 1, 1993 and on July 15, 1995 respectively. The number of those from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Iran also steadily decreased, falling out of the top ten countries as of January 1, 2005. This was due to the fact that the mutual visa exemption agreement with each of the three countries was temporarily suspended. The number of overstayers from China continued to decrease from 1994 until 2002. Then, it started to increase from 2003 and further increased in 2004, but edged down again in 2005. The number of overstayers from the Philippines has been decreasing since 1998, but it started to increase in 2003, and continued rising in 2004, but saw a slight decrease in 2005 as with the Chinese overstayers. The number of overstayers from Indonesia had steadily increased from July 1, 1990, but took a downturn in 2005.

On the other hand, overstayers from Brazil are on the rise. As of January 1, 2005, Brazil is the only country that saw an increased number of overstayers to Japan among the top 10 nations in the overstayers' ranking.

## (2) The Number of Overstayers by Status of Residence

The statistics of the estimated number of overstayers by status of residence before their status of residence had expired showed the following: the largest number of overstayers had the status of residence of "Temporary Visitor" (139,417) accounting for 67.3% of the

total. The second largest number had the status of residence of “Entertainer” (11,319 accounting for 5.5%), followed by “Pre-college Student” (8,506 accounting for 4.1%), “College Student” (8,173 accounting for 3.9%), and “Trainee” (3,648 accounting for 1.8%). The number of those who were granted “Temporary Visitor” has been on the decline since May 1, 1993, decreasing by 10,909 (down 7.3%) from January 1, 2004, while the number of those with the status of residence of “Pre-college Student” has also been decreasing since May 1, 1994, dropping by 1,005 (down 10.6%) from January 1, 2004. The foreign residents with the status of residence of “Entertainer” started to increase from January 1, 2002 and kept increasing, but saw a decrease in 2005. On the other hand, those who had the status of residence of “College Student” started to increase from January 1, 2002, seeing an increase of 1,501 (up 22.5%) on January 1, 2005 when compared to the previous year. (Chart 20, Table 21)





**Table21 Changes in the estimated number of overstayers by major status of residence** (People)

Status of Residence \ Date	January 1 2000	January 1 2001	January 1 2002	January 1 2003	January 1 2004	January 1 2005
Total	251,697	232,121	224,067	220,552	219,418	207,299
Temporary Visitor	189,847	173,051	163,271	155,498	150,326	139,417
Entertainer	12,552	11,029	11,154	11,770	11,974	11,319
Pre-college Student	11,359	10,025	9,953	9,779	9,511	8,506
College Student	5,100	4,401	4,442	5,450	6,672	8,173
Trainee	3,055	3,004	3,264	3,409	3,959	3,648
Others	29,784	30,611	31,983	34,646	36,976	36,236

## 2 Foreign Nationals Illegally Entering and Landing in Japan

From December 1996 to early September 1997, there has been a dramatic increase in the cases of collective stowaways from China and other neighboring countries by ship. In an effort to stop collective stowaways, the Diet passed an amendment of the Immigration Control Act on April 25, 1997, and this entered into force on May 11, 1997. In addition, the Immigration Bureau has been closely cooperating with other related agencies both at home and abroad to combat illegal immigration. As a result, the number of foreign nationals attempting to stowaway collectively detected at the border has seen a decline. However, illegal immigrants continue to come to Japan in smaller groups using cargo vessels. Japanese and foreign brokers specializing in sending illegal immigrants to Japan are considered to still be taking part in such activities and to be illegally gaining huge profits by helping and promoting such immigration.

On the other hand, there has been an increase in the number of cases where more elaborate techniques are being utilized by foreign nationals illegally entering or landing in Japan. For example, an increasing number of foreign nationals tried to enter or land in Japan by air using forged or altered passports or illegally using genuine passports, including Japanese passports, pretending to be the legitimate passport holder. These factors are considered to be attributable to the development of airplanes as the most common means for overseas travel, to the increasingly more sophisticated level of forged or altered passports and also to increased coastguard security, which has led to the widespread use of airplanes as a transportation means to illegally enter or land in Japan.

It is believed that about 30,000 foreign nationals including illegal entrants are residing secretly in Japan.

## Section 2 — Cases of Violation of the Immigration Control Act for Which Deportation Procedures Were Carried Out

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

In 2004, the number of foreign nationals for whom deportation procedures were carried out on account of violating the Immigration Control Act was 55,351, an increase of 9,441 (up 20.6%) from a year earlier. Looking at the statistics for the period 1993 through 2004, the number hit a record high of 70,404 in 1993, before beginning to decline in 1994. The number remained at around 50,000 in 1999 and 2000, but subsequently dropped to about 40,000 in 2001. This decrease was considered to be partly attributable to a significant fall in the number of foreign nationals violating the Act, who voluntarily surrendered themselves to a regional immigration bureau, in the hopes of returning to their home countries because the period during which they would be prohibited from landing in Japan once deported was extended from one year to five years by enforcement of amendment of the Act in February 2000. From 2002, the number of deported foreign nationals started to rise again. In 2004, the immigration control administration started working on its plan to halve the number of overstayers and intensified its efforts for detection. As a result, the number of deportees significantly increased from the 2003 level.

According to the statistics of the number of foreign nationals by grounds for deportation in 2004, the largest number was for overstaying (41,175 accounting for 74.4%), followed by illegal entry (11,217 accounting for 20.3%), and then activities other than those permitted by the status of residence previously granted (1,399 accounting for 2.5%).

Among the foreign nationals who violated the Act in 2004, the number of those who illegally worked in Japan was 43,059, accounting for 77.8% of the total. (Table 22)

**Table22** Changes in the number of cases of violation of the Immigration Control Act by grounds for deportation (People)

Grounds for Deportation \ Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total	51,459	40,764	41,935	45,910	55,351
Illegal entry	9,186	8,952	8,388	9,251	11,217
Illegal landing	748	826	789	777	992
Activity other than those permitted	473	594	850	1,199	1,399
Overstay	40,756	30,063	31,520	34,266	41,175
Criminal offenses etc.	296	329	388	417	568
Illegal work	44,190	33,508	32,364	34,325	43,059



According to the statistics of the number of cases of violation of the Immigration Control Act classified by nationality (place of origin) in 2004, the largest number of such foreign nationals, following the previous year, was from China (15,702 accounting for 28.4%), followed by the Philippines (8,558, or 15.5%), R.O. Korea (7,782, or 14.1%), and Thailand (3,572, or 6.5%). As the number of deported Koreans has been decreasing in the past few years, the Philippines register the second largest number for the first time, replacing R.O. Korea. **(Table 23)**

**Table 23 Changes in the number of cases of violation of the Immigration Control Act by nationality (place of origin)** (People)

Nationality (Place of Origin)	Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total		51,459	40,764	41,935	45,910	55,351
China		9,437	8,731	9,287	12,382	15,702
Philippines		8,974	5,104	4,997	5,698	8,558
R.O.Korea		13,211	9,952	9,656	7,877	7,782
Thailand		4,459	3,466	3,172	2,993	3,572
Indonesia		1,498	1,343	1,366	1,567	2,103
Malaysia		1,239	1,255	1,393	1,711	1,575
Myanmar		1,044	571	568	837	1,466
Brazil		269	517	1,432	1,928	1,338
Bangladesh		1,147	1,204	929	946	1,312
Peru		1,534	1,196	1,196	1,103	1,292
Others		8,647	7,425	7,939	8,868	10,651

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

According to the statistics of foreign nationals violating the Act by region, the number of foreign nationals from non-Asian countries has been increasing in recent years, although the number from Asia still forms the great majority. This increase indicates that foreign nationals illegally staying in Japan have been diversifying in nationality.

The details of foreign nationals violating the Act by grounds for deportation are given below.

### (1) Illegal Entry

Among the foreign nationals against whom deportation procedures were carried out for violating the Act in 2004, the number of foreign nationals who illegally entered Japan without valid passports and so forth, was 11,217, an increase of 1,966 (up 21.3%) from 2003. The number was 9,186 in 2000, before decreasing in 2002. In 2003 the number started to pick up and further increased in 2004.

According to the statistics classified by nationality (place of origin), the largest number of foreign nationals against whom deportation procedures were carried out for illegal entry into Japan was from China (4,588, accounting for 40.9% of the total), followed by the Philippines (1,955, or 17.4%), and Thailand (1,219, or 10.9%). **(Table 24)**

**Table24** Changes in the number of cases of illegal entry by nationality (place of origin)  
(People)

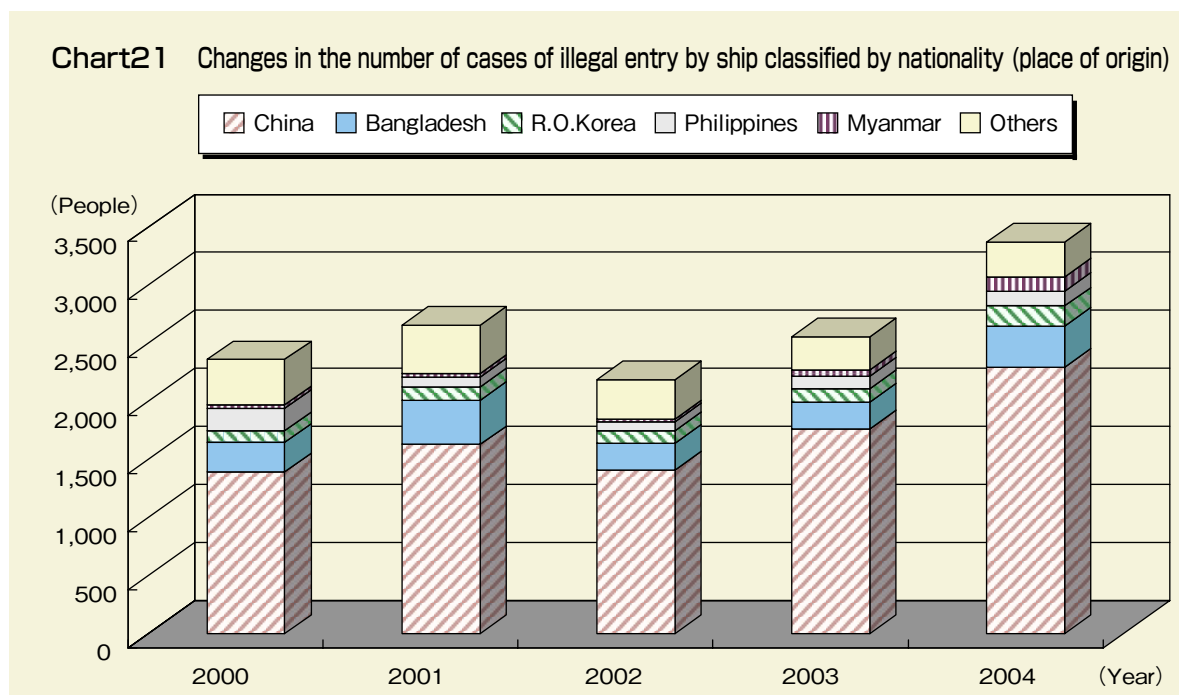
Nationality (Place of Origin)	Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total		9,186	8,952	8,388	9,251	11,217
China		2,580	3,032	3,041	4,077	4,588
Philippines		2,185	1,383	1,261	1,385	1,955
Thailand		1,450	1,283	1,173	992	1,219
Bangladesh		483	644	448	433	626
R.O.Korea		415	440	484	443	587
Iran		463	566	575	449	425
Pakistan		498	418	366	317	334
Peru		284	265	262	247	331
Myanmar		133	108	96	149	295
Indonesia		102	138	99	127	148
Others		593	675	583	632	709

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

### A. Illegal Entry by Ship

In 2004, the number of foreign nationals against whom deportation procedures were carried out for illegal entry by ship was 3,369, an increase of 812 (up 31.8%) from 2,557 in 2003.

According to the statistics of the numbers by nationality (place of origin), the largest number came from China (2,293 accounting for 68.1% of the total), followed by Bangladesh (accounting for 10.4%), R.O. Korea (accounting for 5.2%), the Philippines (accounting for 3.9%), and Myanmar (accounting for 3.6%). China and Bangladesh have ranked first and second, respectively, for the past five years. It is noticeable that China has accounted for more than 60% of the total since 2001. (Chart 21, Table 25)



**Table25** Changes in the number of cases of illegal entry by ship classified by nationality (place of origin) (People)

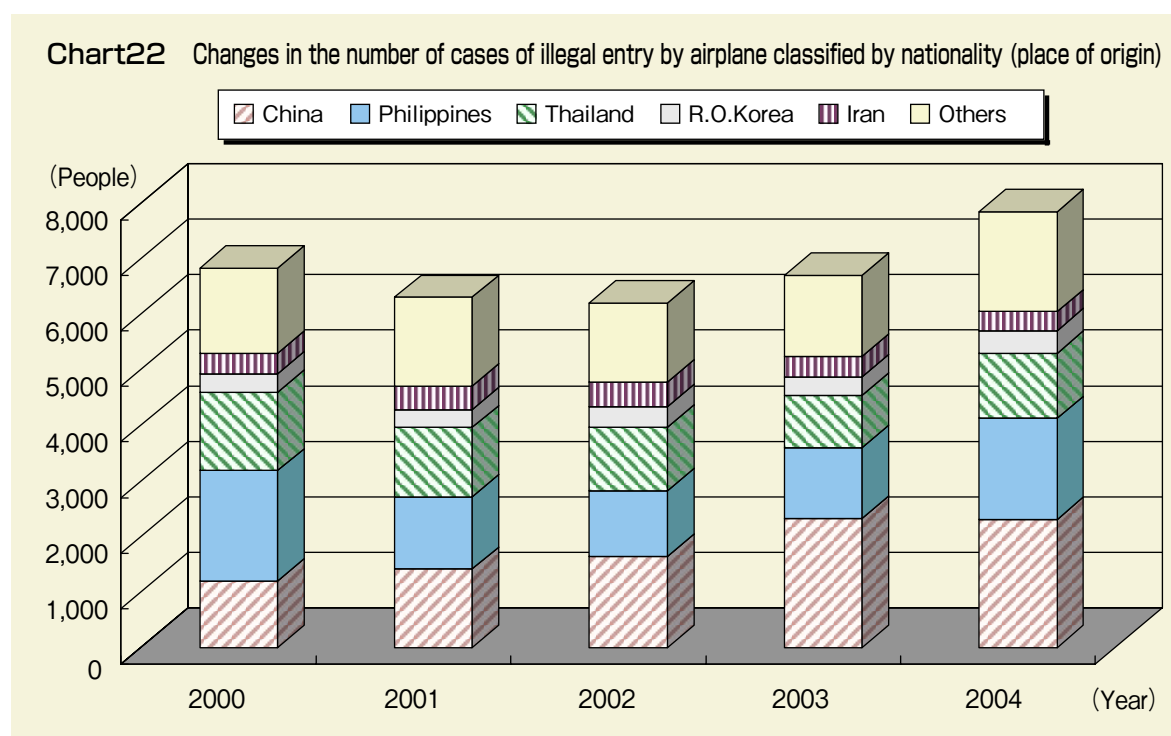
Nationality (Place of Origin)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total	2,358	2,653	2,187	2,557	3,369
China	1,390	1,627	1,405	1,760	2,293
Bangladesh	259	381	232	232	352
R.O.Korea	96	115	111	113	175
Philippines	196	82	78	110	130
Myanmar	30	34	20	54	122
Others	387	414	341	288	297

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

## B. Illegal Entry by Airplane

The number of foreign nationals against whom deportation procedures were carried out for illegal entry by airplane increased by 1,154 (up 17.2%) from 6,694 in 2003 to 7,848 in 2004.

According to the statistics of the numbers by nationality (place of origin), the largest number came from China (2,295 accounting for 29.2% of the total), followed by the Philippines (accounting for 23.3%), Thailand (accounting for 14.8%), R.O. Korea (accounting for 5.2%), and Iran (4.4%). The illegal entrants from the Philippines made up the largest number until 2000, but then China overtook the Philippines to move into the top spot in 2001. In 2004, R.O. Korea swapped places with Iran. (Chart 22, Table 26)



**Table26** Changes in the number of cases of illegal entry by airplane classified by nationality (place of origin) (People)

Nationality (Place of Origin) \ Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total	6,828	6,299	6,201	6,694	7,848
China	1,190	1,405	1,636	2,317	2,295
Philippines	1,989	1,301	1,183	1,275	1,825
Thailand	1,420	1,247	1,140	948	1,165
R.O.Korea	319	325	373	330	412
Iran	371	426	437	359	343
Others	1,539	1,595	1,432	1,465	1,808

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

With regard to the transportation means for illegal entry, airplanes were used two to three times more than ships. Technical advancement has made it possible to make counterfeit passports so skillfully that it is becoming increasingly more difficult to detect them through immigration examination at airports. This explains why most of the illegal entrants by airplane were using forged or altered passports in their attempts to enter Japan.

## (2) Illegal Landing

Among the foreign nationals against whom deportation procedures were carried out for violating the Act in 2004, the number of those who illegally landed in Japan without obtaining permission for landing and so forth from an immigration inspector was 992, up 27.7% from 2003.

According to the statistics classified by nationality (place of origin), the largest number of such illegal foreign nationals was from China, 43.5% of the total in 2004, followed by

**Table27** Changes in the number of cases of illegal landing by nationality (place of origin) (People)

Nationality (Place of Origin) \ Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total	748	826	789	777	992
China	394	489	408	390	432
Myanmar	38	18	36	33	77
Sri Lanka	15	8	5	17	64
Russia	16	36	46	42	56
Philippines	37	20	41	23	54
Thailand	59	58	41	29	49
R.O.Korea	34	26	30	45	40
Peru	5	10	12	25	30
Pakistan	44	45	26	20	28
Turkey	1	10	7	6	18
Others	105	106	137	147	144

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

Myanmar (accounting for 7.8%), Sri Lanka (accounting for 6.5%), Russia (accounting for 5.6%), and the Philippines (accounting for 5.4%). China registered the largest number from 2000 to 2004 and the number from Sri Lanka almost quadrupled in the same period, while that from Myanmar rapidly increased, becoming more than double. On the other hand, although the total number of those who illegally land in Japan has been increasing, those from R.O. Korea decreased in 2004 from a year earlier. (Table 27)

### (3) Overstay

Among the foreign nationals against whom deportation procedures were carried out for violating the Act in 2004, the number of those who had stayed beyond the authorized period of stay was 41,175.

According to the statistics classified by nationality (place of origin), the largest number of such foreign nationals was from China (10,197, accounting for 24.8%), followed by R.O. Korea (6,837, accounting for 16.6%), the Philippines (5,949, accounting for 14.4%), Thailand (2,267, accounting for 5.5%), Indonesia (1,896, accounting for 4.6%), and Malaysia (1,509, accounting for 3.7%).

During the five-year period, the top country was R.O. Korea until 2002. In 2003, China showed a rapid increase and overtook R.O. Korea to move into the top spot. The Philippines, Indonesia and Myanmar demonstrated a continuing increase for these five years. Vietnam has been registering an increase since 2000.

While the overall number of overstayers has been increasing, that of R.O. Korea has maintained a downward trend, decreasing by 5,716 (down 45.5%) from 2000 to 2004. (Table 28)

**Table28** Changes in the number of cases of overstayers by nationality (place of origin)  
(People)

Nationality (Place of Origin)	Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total		40,756	30,063	31,520	34,266	41,175
China		6,376	5,019	5,600	7,429	10,197
R.O.Korea		12,553	9,326	8,911	7,099	6,837
Philippines		6,643	3,504	3,373	3,879	5,949
Thailand		2,920	2,090	1,935	1,947	2,267
Indonesia		1,418	1,190	1,243	1,419	1,896
Malaysia		1,195	1,176	1,320	1,639	1,509
Brazil		225	460	1,339	1,823	1,220
Myanmar		872	444	436	653	1,093
Peru		1,237	914	908	816	917
Viet Nam		167	319	420	528	897
Others		7,150	5,621	6,035	7,034	8,393

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

#### (4) Activities Other Than Those Permitted by the Status of Residence Previously Granted

If a foreign national starts work or activities other than those permitted for his status of residence previously granted without obtaining the required permission, the foreign national will be deported from Japan. The number of these foreign nationals stood at 1,399 in 2004.

Many illegal foreign workers were those who entered Japan with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor” and engaged in activities which were not permitted under this status. However, if they stay beyond their authorized period of stay, they will be treated as overstayers. As a result, the number of overstayers was much larger than the number of foreign nationals against whom deportation procedures were carried out for activities other than those permitted by the status of residence previously granted without obtaining the required permission.(Table 29)

**Table29** Changes in the number of cases of activities other than those permitted by the status of residence previously granted classified by nationality (place of origin)  
(People)

Nationality (Place of Origin) \ Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total	473	594	850	1,199	1,399
Philippines	43	132	267	372	541
China	61	148	171	367	304
R.O.Korea	195	140	211	274	294
Indonesia	32	12	13	17	48
Romania	—	1	28	14	33
Russia	2	20	31	5	24
Bangladesh	4	5	3	2	18
China(Taiwan)	44	25	36	52	15
Viet Nam	7	4	2	8	15
Israel	23	18	14	10	11
Others	62	89	74	78	96

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

## 2 Illegal Workers

### (1) Summary

Among the foreign nationals against whom deportation procedures were carried out for violating the Act in 2004, the number of those who were considered to have been illegally working was 43,059, accounting for 77.8% of the total number of foreign nationals violating the Act. This indicates most foreign nationals violating the Act stay in Japan in order to work illegally. (Table 22)

It has been pointed out that illegal foreign workers, working for substandard wages, will take away employment opportunities from Japanese workers in today's bleak employment climate, and that illegal foreign workers will hinder fair economic competition because the employers who hire them as cheap labor have an economic advantage over those who hire workers legally.

Furthermore, the human rights of illegal foreign workers are violated in many cases. For example, brokers who arrange for illegal workers to come to Japan gain a huge profit by exploiting the wages of the foreign workers. In the case of illness or injury, such foreign workers have no access to proper medical care.

### (2) The Number of Illegal Foreign Workers Classified by Nationality (Place of Origin)

The statistics of the number of illegal foreign workers by region show the great majority came from Asia (39,553 accounting for 91.9%), followed by South America (accounting for 4.8%) and Africa (accounting for 2.0%). This suggests that Asian illegal workers make up a significantly large percentage of the overall illegal workers. These illegal workers came from 101 countries (or regions), in particular Japan's neighboring countries. However, others were from 75 non-Asian countries and regions, indicating the diversity in the nationalities of the illegal foreign workers.

According to the statistics of the number by nationality (place of origin), illegal workers from China make up the largest number at 12,669, an increase of 3,367 from 2003. China was followed by the Philippines (accounting for 14.6%), R.O. Korea (accounting for 14.4%), Thailand (accounting for 6.6%), and Indonesia (accounting for 4.4%). The top five countries represented about 70% of the total number of illegal foreign workers. The number of Chinese illegal workers has been increasing recently, and overtook that of South Korean illegal workers to move into the top spot in 2003. In 2004, Chinese illegal workers had increased by more than 30% from the 2003 level. On the other hand, the number of South Korean illegal workers, which ranked first until 2002, has been decreasing since 2002. In

2004, the number decreased by half when compared to the 2000 level. As a result, South Korea slipped to No. 3 and switched places with the Philippines, which saw an increased number of illegal workers in Japan. (Chart 23, Table 30)

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

The numbers of male and female illegal foreign workers against whom deportation procedures were carried out in 2004 were 25,349 (accounting for 58.9% of the total) and 17,710 (accounting for 41.1% of the total) respectively.

The ratio of males has exceeded that of females every year. After hitting a record high of 45.8% in 2000, the ratio of females started to decrease in 2001, gradually widening the gap between males and females.

Among the top five countries in terms of the number of illegal foreign workers in 2004, the ratio of females exceeded that of males in three countries: the Philippines, R.O. Korea, and Thailand. Illegal female foreign workers from these three countries represented 54.2% of the total number of illegal female foreign workers. (Chart 24)

Chart23 Changes in the number of cases of illegal work by nationality (place of origin)

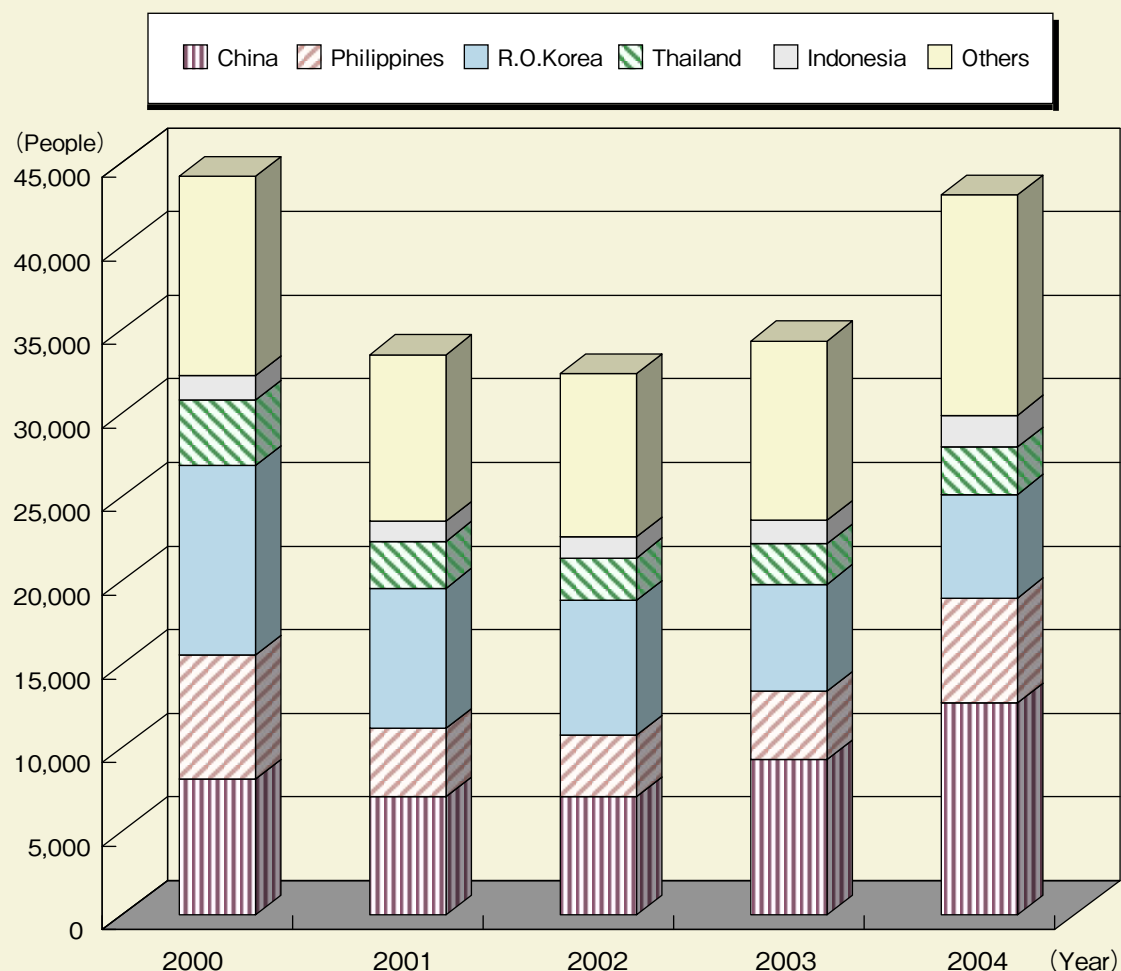
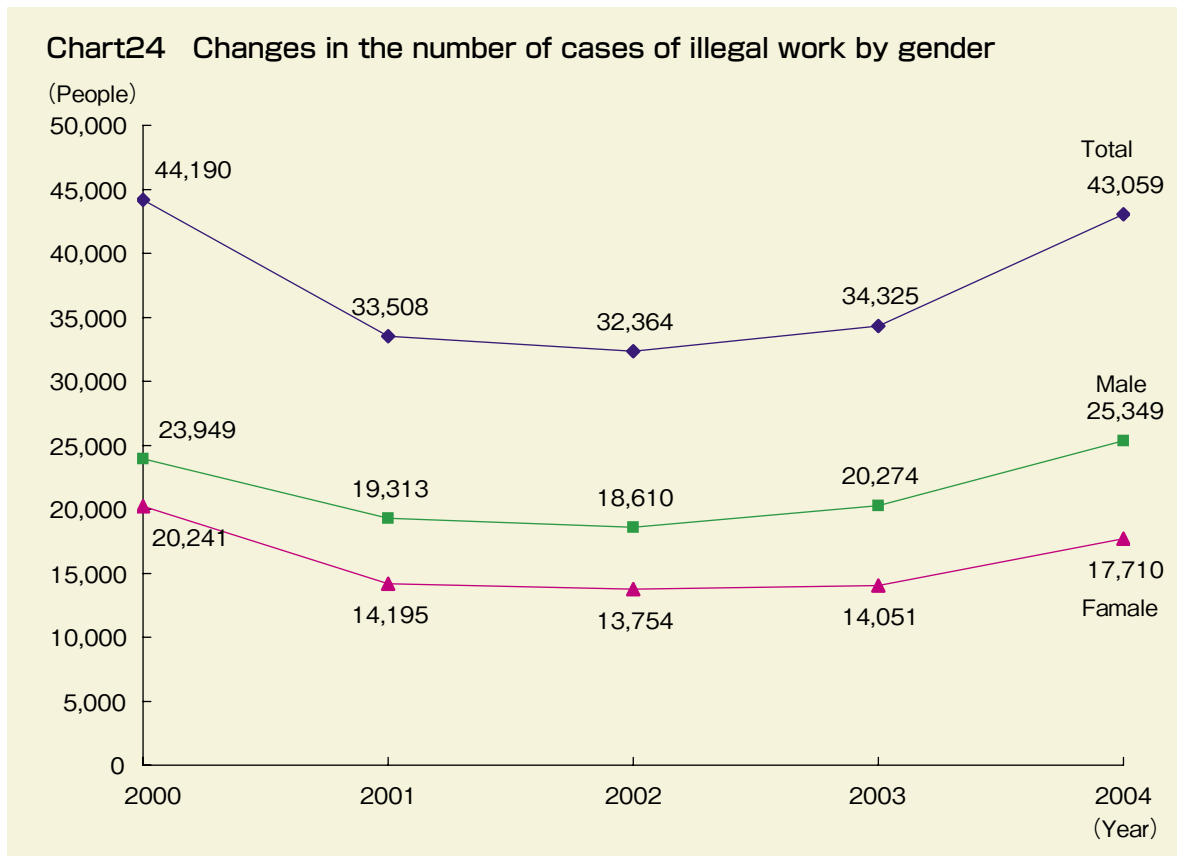




Table30 Changes in the number of cases of illegal work by nationality (place of origin)  
(People)

Nationality (Place of Origin)		Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total			44,190	33,508	32,364	34,325	43,059
	Male		23,949	19,313	18,610	20,274	25,349
	Female		20,241	14,195	13,754	14,051	17,710
China			8,132	7,080	7,087	9,302	12,669
	Male		5,290	4,686	4,585	5,997	8,104
	Female		2,842	2,394	2,502	3,305	4,565
Philippines			7,420	4,072	3,696	4,108	6,299
	Male		2,524	1,352	1,313	1,453	2,263
	Female		4,896	2,720	2,383	2,655	4,036
R.O.Korea			11,336	8,400	8,043	6,372	6,192
	Male		4,262	3,461	3,249	2,564	2,281
	Female		7,074	4,939	4,794	3,808	3,911
Thailand			3,902	2,800	2,538	2,423	2,831
	Male		1,460	1,122	1,054	1,030	1,179
	Female		2,442	1,678	1,484	1,393	1,652
Indonesia			1,458	1,222	1,254	1,389	1,897
	Male		1,045	862	871	975	1,350
	Female		413	360	383	414	547
Malaysia			1,217	1,209	1,329	1,638	1,486
	Male		813	832	917	1,193	1,084
	Female		404	377	412	445	402
Myanmar			984	502	518	780	1,356
	Male		740	390	427	655	1,121
	Female		244	112	91	125	235
Bangladesh			1,073	1,102	833	861	1,214
	Male		1,049	1,074	806	828	1,166
	Female		24	28	27	33	48
Peru			1,288	976	852	769	945
	Male		805	651	561	533	615
	Female		483	325	291	236	330
Sri Lanka			878	685	687	674	891
	Male		745	581	606	588	799
	Female		133	104	81	86	92
Others			6,502	5,460	5,527	6,009	7,279
	Male		5,216	4,302	4,221	4,458	5,387
	Female		1,286	1,158	1,306	1,551	1,892

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



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

According to the statistics by type of work, the largest number of illegal foreign workers worked as factory workers (10,440), followed by attendants such as bar hostesses, construction workers, cooks, waitresses and bartenders.

According to the statistics of factory workers by type of occupation, the largest number worked for metal processing (1,847), followed by production of food and beverages (1,642) and manufacturing of rubber or plastic products (1,207).

According to the statistics by gender, the largest number of males worked as factory workers, followed by construction workers and cooks, while the largest number of females worked as hostesses, followed by factory workers, waitresses and bartenders. **(Table 31)**

Table31 Changes in the number of cases of illegal work by type of work (People)

Job Categories \ Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total	44,190	33,508	32,364	34,325	43,059
Male	23,949	19,313	18,610	20,274	25,349
Female	20,241	14,195	13,754	14,051	17,710
Factory worker	9,466	8,413	7,084	7,156	10,440
Male	6,956	6,210	5,181	5,146	7,402
Female	2,510	2,203	1,903	2,010	3,038
Hostess or entertaining customers	9,415	6,009	5,081	5,057	6,597
Male	359	362	236	184	229
Female	9,056	5,647	4,845	4,873	6,368
Construction worker	7,354	5,330	4,790	5,468	6,228
Male	7,290	5,290	4,757	5,426	6,185
Female	64	40	33	42	43
Cook	2,546	1,939	2,052	2,534	3,592
Male	1,650	1,256	1,296	1,845	2,591
Female	896	683	756	689	1,001
Waitress or bartender	4,056	2,595	2,653	2,919	3,471
Male	1,561	1,043	1,030	1,235	1,401
Female	2,495	1,552	1,623	1,684	2,070
Other service job	2,327	1,869	2,007	2,406	2,702
Male	954	705	736	927	1,032
Female	1,373	1,164	1,271	1,479	1,670
Other	9,026	7,353	8,697	8,785	10,029
Male	5,179	4,447	5,374	5,511	6,509
Female	3,847	2,906	3,323	3,274	3,520

### 3 Outline of Judgments of Violations

#### (1) Receipt and the Findings of Cases of Violation

Under the deportation procedures, after an immigration control officer conducts an investigation of the violation by a foreign national, an immigration inspector examines whether the foreign national (suspect) should be deported. The number of such examinations of violations was 56,018 in 2004. (Table 32)

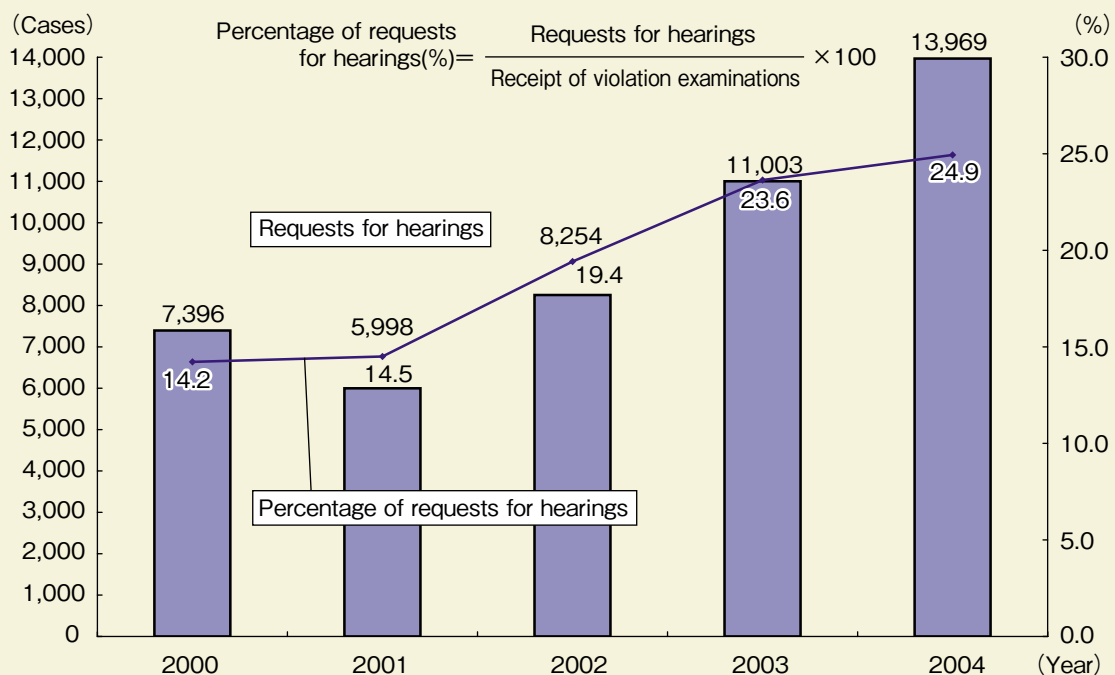
The number of requests for hearings conducted after examinations of violations has been significantly increasing, reaching 1,022 in 1994, 7,396 in 2000, and 13,969 in 2004. This increase was probably caused by a rise in the number of foreign nationals who voluntarily surrendered themselves to a regional immigration bureau in the hopes of staying in Japan because they had formed relationships such as marriage and cohabitation with Japanese nationals. (Chart 25)

**Table32** 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)

Divison		Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Violation examination by immigration inspector	Receipt		52,029 (403)	41,357 (449)	42,504 (497)	46,535 (548)	56,018 (596)
	Finished	Found not to fall under one of the reasons of deportation	—	2	3	2	4
		Issuance of written deportation order	44,015	34,711	33,607	34,855	40,771
		Request for hearing	7,396	5,998	8,254	11,003	13,969
		Written departure order	—	—	—	—	918
		Not finished, others	618	646	640	675	356
Hearing by special inquiry officer	Receipt		8,091 (670)	6,514 (493)	9,067 (785)	12,092 (1,061)	14,869 (866)
	Finished	Error in the findings	—	—	—	—	—
		Issuance of written deportation order	38	56	104	102	113
		Filing an objection	7,523	5,637	7,872	11,081	14,191
		Written departure order	—	—	—	—	—
		Not finished, others	530	821	1,091	906	565
Decision of the Minister of Justice	Receipt		8,160 (699)	6,562 (864)	8,378 (607)	11,738 (628)	14,897 (703)
	Finished	Objection with reason	—	7	—	8	—
		Objection without reason	7,275	5,916	7,711	11,204	14,412
		Written departure order	—	—	—	—	—
	Not finished, others		885	639	667	521	485
	Request for hearing Receipt of violation examination (%)		14.2	14.5	19.4	23.6	24.9

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

**Chart25** Changes in the numbers and percentages of requests for a hearing



For the same reason, the number of objections, which a foreign national who is not satisfied with the decision made by the special inquiry officer at the hearing may file with the Minister of Justice, has also been increasing and reached 14,191 in 2004. (Table 32)

According to the statistics by nationality (place of origin), the foreign nationals for whom violation examinations were conducted came from 127 countries and regions (excluding those who were stateless) in 2004, showing a clear trend of multi-nationalization.

There has been an increase in the number of cases in which it is difficult to find an appropriate interpreter or in which the foreign national in question has applied for recognition of refugee status. The Immigration Bureau should therefore handle these cases quickly and carefully in order not to make the foreign national wait in an unstable state for a long period of time. The Immigration Bureau is making efforts to handle such cases carefully and efficiently by compiling a list of interpreters, finding good interpreters as quickly as possible, conducting fact-finding surveys, and making inquiries to related agencies.

## (2) Issuance of a Written Deportation Order

The number of written deportation orders issued in 2004 was 42,074.

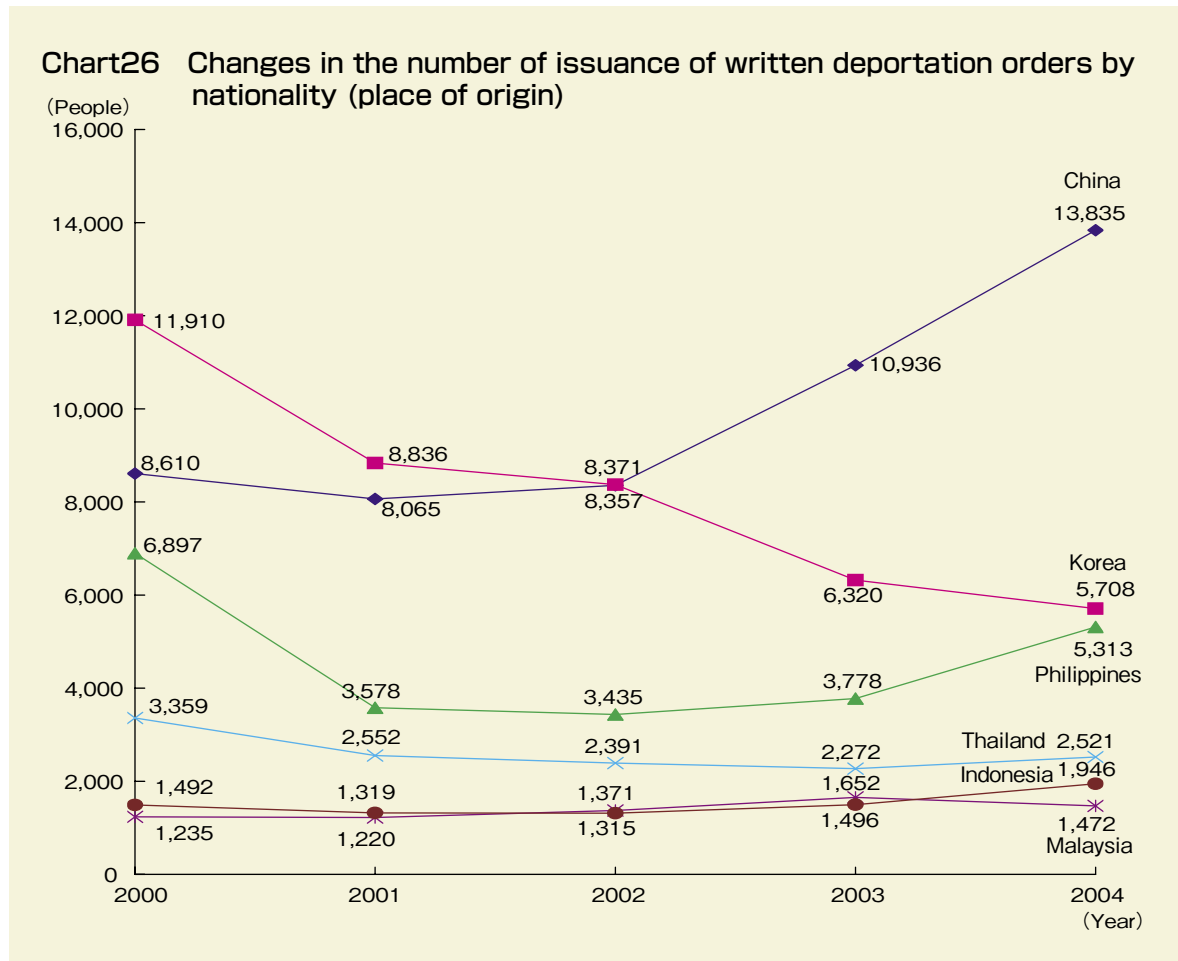
According to the statistics of the number of written deportation orders issued in 2004 by grounds for deportation, the most common reason was overstay (29,818), accounting for 70.8% of the total. The proportion of overstay decreased from 80.9% in 1999, while the proportion of illegal entry increased from 17.1% in 2000 to 22.1% in 2004. This increase was considered to be attributable mainly to the continuing influx of illegal entrants by ship or by the use of forged and altered passports. (Table 33)

**Table33** Changes in the number of issuance of written deportation orders by grounds for deportation (Cases)

Grounds for Depotation \ Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total	44,417	35,408	34,455	35,850	42,074
Overstay	35,546	26,145	25,176	25,383	29,802
Illegal entry	7,582	7,719	7,244	8,058	9,296
Illegal landing	650	688	712	707	873
Activity other those permitted	466	567	848	1,168	1,380
Criminal offenses etc.	106	222	399	438	642
Others	67	67	76	96	81

According to the statistics classified by nationality (place of origin) in 2004, the largest number of foreign nationals who were issued written deportation orders came from China (13,834 accounting for 32.9%), followed by Korea (5,708 accounting for 13.6%), the

Philippines (5,314 accounting for 12.6%), Thailand (2,521 accounting for 6.0%), and Indonesia (1,946 accounting for 4.6%). According to the statistics for the period from 2000 to 2004, Korea, which used to rank first, decreased, while China significantly increased and moved into the top spot in 2003. (Chart 26, Table 34)



**Table34** Changes in the number of issuance of written deportation orders by nationality (place of origin) (Cases)

Nationality (Place of Origin)	Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total		44,417	35,408	34,455	35,850	42,074
China		8,610	8,065	8,357	10,936	13,835
Korea		11,910	8,836	8,371	6,320	5,708
Philippines		6,897	3,578	3,435	3,778	5,313
Thailand		3,359	2,552	2,391	2,272	2,521
Indonesia		1,492	1,319	1,315	1,496	1,946
Malaysia		1,235	1,220	1,371	1,652	1,472
Myanmar		953	537	503	770	1,353
Bangladesh		1,037	1,110	858	877	1,157
Sri Lanka		906	748	756	752	991
Viet Nam		147	282	356	429	819
Others		7,871	7,161	6,742	6,568	6,959

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

### (3) Provisional Release

In 2004, the number of foreign nationals detained under written detention orders who were accorded provisional release was 1,180, while the number of foreign nationals detained under written deportation orders who were accorded provisional release was 382, hitting a new record high for these past five years.

This is because the immigration control administration flexibly uses the provisional release system in view of noticeable increases in the length of detention periods due to deportation and other such reasons, and in view of their health conditions and other humanitarian concerns. (Table 35)

**Table35** Changes in the number of cases of provisional release permission (Cases)

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
By written detention order	6,031	4,782	4,477	4,284	1,180
By written deportation order	171	219	347	262	382

### (4) Special Permission to Stay

In 2004, the number of foreign nationals who received special permission to stay from the Minister of Justice was 13,239, having dramatically increased by 6,309, or about 1.9 times in number, from 6,930 in 2000. The number had significantly risen from less than 500 before 1993. Most of the foreign nationals who received special permission to stay had established close relationships such as marriage with Japanese nationals and had, in fact, settled down in Japan in many respects i.e., the foreign national had a settled, married life with a Japanese national and had not violated any laws or ordinances other than the Immigration Control Act. (Table 36)

**Table36** Changes in the number of cases of special permission to stay by grounds for deportation (Cases)

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Grounds for Deportation					
Total	6,930	5,306	6,995	10,327	13,239
Illegal entry/Illegal landing	1,647	1,369	1,068	1,374	2,188
Overstay	5,116	3,743	5,726	8,743	10,697
Criminal offenses etc.	167	194	201	210	354

#### 4 Outline of Deportation of Foreign Nationals

In 2004, the number of foreign nationals deported was 41,926. According to the statistics of deportees classified by nationality (place of origin), the largest number was from China (13,408 accounting for 32.0% of the total), followed by R.O. Korea (5,696 accounting for 13.6%), the Philippines (5,207 accounting for 12.4%), Thailand (2,527 accounting for 6.0%), and Indonesia (2,009 accounting for 4.8%). (Table 37)

**Table37 Changes in the number of deportees by nationality (place of origin)**

(People)

Nationality (Place of Origin) \ Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total	45,145	35,380	33,788	35,911	41,926
China	8,858	7,981	8,290	11,027	13,408
R.O.Korea	12,066	8,881	8,287	6,381	5,696
Philippines	6,998	3,602	3,237	3,780	5,207
Thailand	3,399	2,559	2,309	2,299	2,527
Indonesia	1,468	1,352	1,305	1,567	2,009
Malaysia	1,268	1,266	1,346	1,656	1,519
Myanmar	975	565	482	680	1,333
Bangladesh	1,098	1,144	840	895	1,223
Sri Lanka	930	786	737	745	1,005
Peru	1,353	1,013	872	807	799
Viet Nam	145	277	335	417	799
Others	6,587	5,954	5,748	5,657	6,401

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

According to the statistics by measures of deportation, most foreign nationals who had been issued a deportation order were deported at their own expense ("voluntary departure"). The number of foreign nationals who need to be individually deported at national expense has been increasing, rising about three times in number from 38 in 2000 to 119 in 2004. (Table 38)

**Table38 Changes in the number of deportees by measure of deportation**

(People)

Measure of Deportation \ Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total	45,145	35,380	33,788	35,911	41,926
Voluntary departure	44,057	33,882	32,068	33,914	40,480
Deportation in accordance with Article 59	789	1,302	1,481	1,642	1,313
Deportation individually at the expense of the government	38	55	76	95	119
Deportation in group at the expense of the government	261	141	163	260	0
Others	—	—	—	—	7
Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons	—	—	—	—	7

\*1) Deportation in groups at the expense of the government includes cases where both the Japanese government and the deportee's homeland government bore the expenses.

\*2) The "others" are cases of deportation at the expense of the government of each deportees.



## (1) Deportation at the Expense of the Government

### A. Deportation in Groups at the Expense of the Government

Any Chinese collective stowaways detected at the border in the middle of an attempt to illegally enter Japan in large groups will be detained at Omura Immigration Center, after a criminal disposition. They will be deported as a group according to arrangements made through discussions between the government of Japan and China.

During the period from 2000 through 2003, this type of deportation was conducted 9 times (No. 31 to 39), sending a total of 825 Chinese illegal immigrants back to China in groups by airplane. As the immigration control administration recognized only a small number of collective stowaway cases in 2004, the government did not conduct any group deportations. (Table 39)

**Table39** Changes in the number of collective deportations to China

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Times	2	2	2	3	0
Number of deportees	261	141	163	260	0

### B. Deportation Individually at the Expense of the Government

As foreign nationals violating the Act stay longer and have diversifying lifestyles, an increasing number of foreign nationals who have been issued a deportation order suffer from illness, refuse deportation for various reasons, or remain detained for a long period of time because they cannot afford travel expenses. The number of such foreign nationals was 119 in 2004, an increase of 24 (up 25.3%) from 95 in 2003.

## (2) Deportation at the Expense of the Foreign National (Voluntary Departure)

Among the foreign nationals who were issued a deportation order, 40,480 of them were deported at their own expense in 2004.

Around 95% of the deported foreign nationals are deported at their own expense every year. However, an increasing number of them, who desire to be deported at their own expense, do not have a passport, an air ticket, or enough money for travel costs. Therefore, it may take a considerable amount of time before they are able to obtain a passport and other necessities, and are deported at their own expense.

In order to deport such nationals as quickly as possible, the Immigration Bureau not only carries out deportation procedures but also requests that the foreign nationals to be deported make contact with relevant people in Japan, or in their home countries in order to obtain an air ticket or money for travel costs. For any foreign national who does not have a passport, the Immigration Bureau asks the relevant foreign mission in Japan to

issue a passport for him as quickly as possible. (Table 40)

**Table 40** Changes in the number of deportees by voluntary departure classified by nationality (place of origin) (People)

Nationality (Place of Origin) \ Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total	44,057	33,882	32,068	33,914	40,480
China	8,442	7,593	7,627	9,931	12,919
R.O.Korea	12,043	8,842	8,216	6,326	5,656
Philippines	6,924	3,498	3,089	3,655	5,101
Thailand	3,268	2,304	2,090	2,159	2,370
Indonesia	1,464	1,238	1,278	1,525	1,989
Malaysia	1,263	1,244	1,335	1,653	1,519
Myanmar	961	489	457	664	1,329
Bangladesh	1,065	1,099	816	875	1,211
Sri Lanka	921	708	718	706	929
Viet Nam	144	275	334	409	795
Others	7,562	6,592	6,108	6,011	6,662

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

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

Any carrier that transports a foreign national must send him back at their own expense and on their own responsibility (the deportation specified in Article 59 of the Act) under certain conditions. The number of foreign nationals deported in this way increased from 789 in 2000 to 1,313 in 2004. (Table 38)

## Chapter 3

# Recognition of Refugee Status

Due to the recognition that it is important for Japan to fulfill its obligations in the international community by accepting refugees, Japan became a signatory to the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees in 1981 (hereinafter referred to as the “Convention”) and the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees in 1982 (hereinafter referred to as the “Protocol”), and as a result, also established a system for recognition of refugee status. In reality, in the past not many foreign nationals came to Japan seeking refugee status, except for refugees who came from Indonesia during a 10-year period beginning in 1975.

In recent years, however, the number of foreign nationals seeking refugee status from Japan has been increasing, as the world is rapidly changing due to regional conflicts occurring around the world and the instability of a number of countries. Today, Japanese people pay more attention to refugee-related issues than before.

The Immigration Bureau, which is in charge of recognition of refugee status, has seen refugees noticeably increase in terms of number, nationality, and complexity of cases since most refugees in recent years have been the victims of complicated circumstances in many parts of the world, as mentioned above. Consequently, the Immigration Bureau has created and further improved its organizational structure and investigation system in order to handle applications for refugee status quickly and appropriately.



Refugee Travel Document

## Section 1 — Application for Refugee Status and Findings

### 1 Application for Refugee Status

The total number of applications for refugee status during the period from 1982 through 2004 was 3,544. The most common reason for these applications was political, although applicants gave other reasons as well.

The number of applications hit a record high of 530 in 1982, in which Japan started accepting refugees, and remained in the range of 20 to 70 every year during the period up to 1995. The average number for the period from 1983 through 1995 was about 50. The number dramatically increased to 147 in 1996. This jump was due to an increase in the number of applications that were considered to be using the refugee recognition system improperly in order to work, in fact illegally, until decisions on the applications were made. In 1997, the number rose to 242. Then, the number decreased to 100 plus in 1998, with a significant increase to the 200s and the 300s from 1999, and reached 426 in 2004. (Table 41)

**Table 41 Changes in the number of Convention refugee applicants/findings and protected refugees** (Cases)

Year		1982 ~1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total
Division										
Applied		1,570	133	260	216	353	250	336	426	3,544
Findings	Recognized	211	16	16	22	26	14	10	15	330
	Denied	797	293	177	138	316	211	298	294	2,524
	Withdrawn	230	41	16	25	28	39	23	41	443
	Total	1,238	350	209	185	370	264	331	776	3,297
Humanitarian permission to stay(*1)		30(*2)	42	44	36	67	40	16	9	284

(\*1) "Humanitarian permission to stay" are cases where rejected applicants were permitted to stay in Japan owing to humanitarian reason.

(\*2) The number of humanitarian permission to stay before 1997 is the total number from 1991 to 1997.

According to the statistics by nationality (place of origin), 409 (11.5%) applications, among the above-mentioned 3,544, were comprised of, mostly, up to the year 1985, foreign nationals from three countries, Viet Nam, Laos, and Cambodia. In recent years, the top countries have included Asian countries such as Myanmar, Turkey, Iran, China, and Pakistan. The number of applicants from African countries has also been increasing. According to the statistics by nationality (place of origin) and year, foreign nationals of 17 countries and regions filed applications in 1982, the year in which the refugee recognition system was established. In 1992, foreign nationals of 11 countries and regions filed applications. The nationalities of applicants have been markedly diverse in recent years, and in 2004, foreign nationals of 36 countries and regions filed applications.

According to the statistics of the total number of 426 applicants for refugee status in 2004, the largest number of applications was made by nationals of Myanmar (138), followed by Turkey (131), and Bangladesh (33). These three nations represented about 71% of the total.

## 2 Findings of Applications for Refugee Status

During the period from 1982 through 2004, the number of applicants who were recognized as refugees was 330, while the number of applicants who were not recognized as such was 2,524. The number of those who withdrew their applications was 443. The proportion of those recognized as refugees to the total number of applicants (the number of those recognized as refugees to the sum of the number of those recognized as refugees and those not recognized as such) was 11.6%. In 2004, 15 applicants were recognized as refugees.

Further, the immigration administration should be allowed to make exceptional arrangements within its authority for applicants who have special extenuating circumstances, even if they have not been recognized as refugees who fall under the definitions of refugees specified in the Convention and the Protocol. For example, if an applicant, who is denied recognition of refugee status, is unable to return to his home country due to situational problems in his country or has some other special reason requiring that he stay in Japan, special arrangements may be made flexibly for him on a case-by-case basis, taking the situation into consideration within the Japanese immigration control framework. The total number of applicants who were allowed to stay in Japan as a result of such special arrangements was 284. In 2004, the number was 9. (Table 41)

Since becoming a signatory to the Refugee Convention, the Immigration Bureau has effectively granted status of residence to 21.5% of the overall applicants for refugee status. This percentage represents “the sum of the recognized refugees and the foreign nationals with the status of residence permitted for humanitarian perspectives” against “the sum of the recognized refugees and the rejected refugee status applications”.

## Section 2 — Filing of Objections

### 1 Filing of Objections

The total number of objections filed by applicants who were denied refugee status was 1,679 during the period from 1982, the year in which the refugee recognition system was established, through to 2004. In 2004, the number was 209. (Table 42)

**Table 42** Changes in the number of filings of objections and decisions of the Minister of Justice (Cases)

Year		1982 ~1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total
Division											
Not recognized as a refugee		717	80	293	177	138	316	211	298	294	2,524
Filing of objection		424	41	159	158	61	177	224	226	209	1,679
Decision	With reason	1	—	1	3	—	2	—	4	6	17
	Without reason	260	20	46	113	142	95	232	200	155	1,263
	Withdrawn	116	25	16	24	6	18	34	15	23	277

(\*) There may be cases where the number of "filing of objections" is more than the number of not recognized as a refugee as in 2002, owing to cases where foreign nationals file objections in the following year after being denied refugee status.

## 2 Findings of Objections

Among the objections filed by applicants who failed to obtain refugee status, 1,557 of them were handled during the period from 1982 through 2004. According to the statistics, 17 objections were considered to be with reasonable grounds and were granted refugee status. However, 1,263 objections were found to be without reasonable grounds and the remaining 227 objections were withdrawn for reasons such as the departure of the foreign national who had filed the objection. In 2004, the number of objections that were considered to be with reasonable grounds was 6, without reasonable grounds 155, and withdrawn 23. (Table 42)

## Section 3 — Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge

The total number of landing permission granted for temporary refuge to Vietnamese boat people came to 5,668 during the period from 1982 through 2004. Other than applicants from Viet Nam, 104 foreign nationals filed applications, of which 35 were granted landing permission, 66 were denied, and three were withdrawn.

According to the statistics during the period from 2000 through 2004, no applications were made by Vietnamese boat people. A total of 29 foreign nationals filed applications during the five-year period, of which 1 was granted landing permission in 2001 and 6 in 2002. 2004 saw no applicants. (Table 43)

Table43 Changes in the number of landing permissions as temporary refuge

(Cases)

Year	Division	Boat people	Others			
		Recognized	Applications	Recognized	Denied	Withdrawn
	Total	5,668	104	35	66	3
1982		1,037	22	22	—	—
1983		798	8	3	5	—
1984		503	5	1	4	—
1985		435	17	—	17	—
1986		330	6	1	4	1
1987		145	1	—	1	—
1988		219	1	—	1	—
1989		1,909	—	—	—	—
1990		155	4	—	4	—
1991		20	—	—	—	—
1992		100	—	—	—	—
1993		17	—	—	—	—
1994		—	—	—	—	—
1995		—	—	—	—	—
1996		—	1	—	1	—
1997		—	4	—	2	2
1998		—	6	1	5	—
1999		—	—	—	—	—
2000		—	8	—	6	—
2001		—	8	1	9	—
2002		—	11	6	5	—
2003		—	2	—	2	—
2004		—	—	—	—	—

(\*) Two applications in 2000 were dealt with in 2001.

## Section 4 — Refugees from Indochina

The exodus of boat people from Indochina, started by the fall of Saigon in 1975, greatly decreased from 1992.

While up to 10,000 refugees from Indochina were scheduled to be accepted, the Japanese government decided at a Cabinet Agreement in December 1994 to continue accepting them even after the number exceeded 10,000. As a result, the number of refugees from Indochina residing in Japan was 11,231 as of the end of 2004. According to the statistics, 3,536 were boat people, 4,353 had been refugees at overseas camps, 742 were former college students, who had come to Japan before the political changes, and 2,600 were those who had left their home countries legally.

Among the refugees from Indochina, to whom landing permission was granted for temporary refuge as boat people, a total of 6,816 left Japan for the US, Canada, Australia, Norway, and other countries by the end of 1995. Since 1996, no such refugees have left Japan. (Table 44)

**Table44 Changes in the number of departures of boat people**

(People)

Destination \ Year	1975 ~1991	1992	1993	1994	1996	1997 ~2004	Total
Total	6,689	55	8	7	57	—	6,816
United States of America	3,943	31	—	3	33	—	4,010
Canada	720	13	4	4	8	—	749
Australia	708	8	3	—	8	—	727
Norway	695	—	—	—	7	—	702
Others	623	3	1	—	1	—	628



## Chapter 4

### Alien Registration Process

#### Section 1 — Initial Registration and Closing of Registration

Alien registration starts with the registration application (initial registration) made by each foreign national who enters Japan or was born in Japan and ends with the termination of the alien registration card (hereinafter referred to as “registration card”) due to the foreign national’s departure from Japan, death or other circumstances warranting termination of residence in Japan.

In 2004, the number of initial registrations was 376,272.

#### Section 2 — Registration of Changes in Registered Matters

Some matters registered in the registration card change as foreign residents change their address, status of residence, period of stay, or occupation after initial registration. In order to ensure the registration card and the alien registration certificate reflect up-to-date facts, any foreign national who undergoes a change in any of the registered matters is obliged to submit an application for registration of the change within the prescribed period of time. In 2004, the total number of applications for registration of changes hit a record high of 1,907,133. The applications made for changes other than address changes temporarily decreased in 2001, but they increased to 1,426,824 in 2004, making up 74.8% of the overall applications in this category. The number of applications for address changes exceeded 400,000 for the first time in 2001 and has been standing at between 400,000 and 500,000 since then. The number was 480,309 in 2004. (Table 45)

**Table 45 Changes in the number of registrations of changes in registered matters** (Cases)

Division Year	Changes in place of residence	Changes other than place of residence	Total
1955	181,113	47,651	228,764
1960	174,637	100,834	275,471
1965*	154,922	198,419	353,341
1970	148,578	266,792	415,370
1975	137,195	346,942	484,137
1980*	164,026	374,366	538,392
1985*	141,276	445,040	586,316
1990	216,713	883,814	1,100,527
1995	317,807	980,901	1,298,708
2000	388,279	1,175,414	1,563,693
2001	411,405	1,090,251	1,501,656
2002	411,268	1,208,054	1,619,322
2003	453,489	1,347,221	1,800,710
2004	480,309	1,426,824	1,907,133

(\*1) “\*” is the year of change of registration in the alien registration card.

(\*2) Calculations were for each fiscal year until 1995, but for each calendar year from 2000.