

◆ Part 1 ◆

Immigration Control in Recent Years

Chapter 1 Foreign Nationals Entering and Residing in Japan

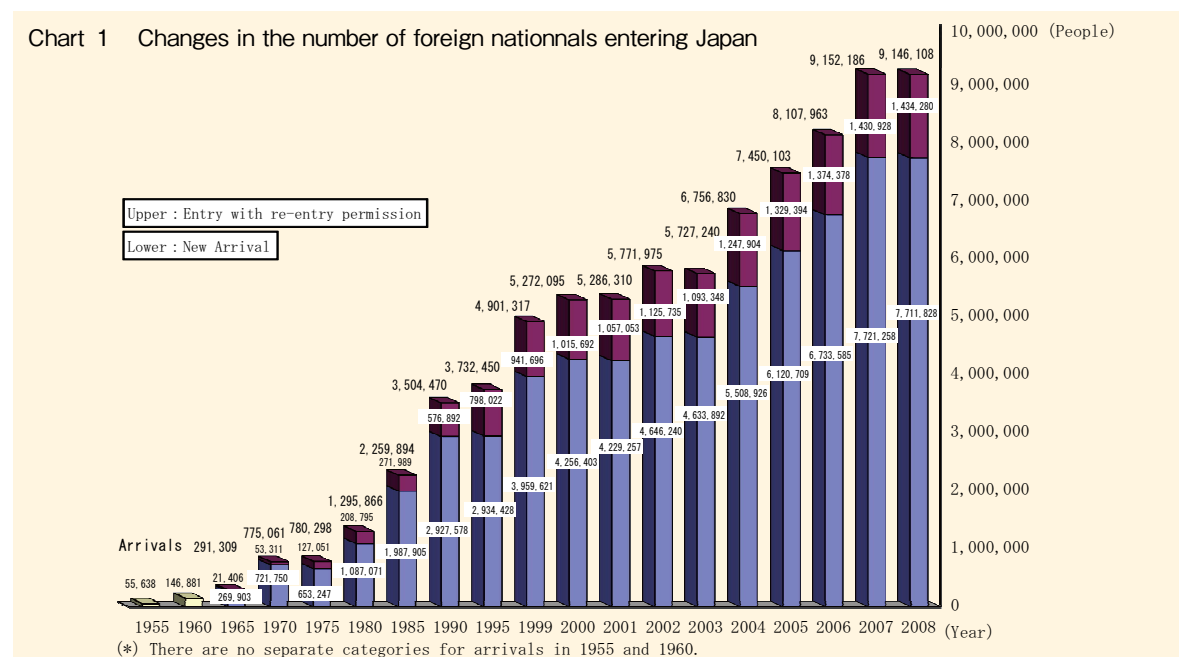
Section 1 ◆ Foreign Nationals Entering and Leaving Japan

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 was just 18,000 in 1950 when the statistics relating to immigration control began to be recorded. As the result of the enforcement of the “Peace Treaty with Japan” (Treaty No. 5 of 1952) on April 28, 1952, Japan recovered complete sovereignty and secured the authority to decide whether or not to grant permission of entry based on the immigration control order. Subsequently, the number of foreign nationals entering Japan was on an almost ever-increasing trend, due to a growing sense of cheap and convenient overseas travel due to improvements in international transportation such as the use of larger jet aircraft, and topped 1 million in 1978, 2 million in 1984, 3 million in 1990, 4 million in 1996, and 5 million in 2000. In 2007, the number reached a new record high of 9,152,186. However, in 2008, the number was 9,146,108, a decrease of 6,078 (down 0.07%), which was slightly less than that of the previous year.

The reason for this is that the number of foreign nationals entering Japan, which was on an increasing trend in the first half of 2008, decreased in the second half. The global recession may be one possible factor. (Chart 1)

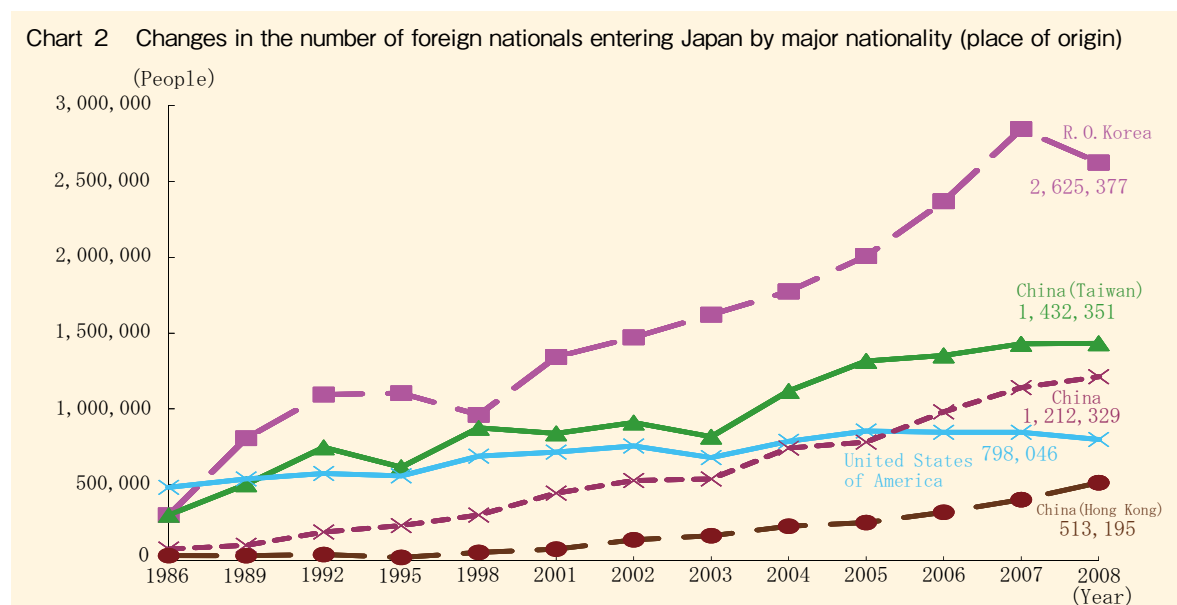


Further, among foreign nationals entering Japan in 9,146,108 in 2008, the number of “new entries” was 7,711,828, a decrease of 9,430 (down 0.12%) from 7,721,258 in 2007, and the number of “re-entries” was 1,434,280, an increase of 3,352 (up 0.23%) from 1,430,928 in 2007.

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

The statistics for the number of foreign nationals entering Japan in 2008, by nationality (place of origin), show the largest number of foreign nationals came from the Republic of Korea (R.O. Korea). 2,625,377 South Koreans entered Japan, accounting for 28.7% of the total number of foreign nationals coming to Japan. R.O. Korea was followed by China (Taiwan), China (mainland), the US, China (Hong Kong), and Australia (Note). More than half of the foreign nationals entering Japan came from Japan’s three neighboring countries (regions): R.O. Korea, China (Taiwan), and China (mainland). Their total accounted for 57.6% of the total number of foreign nationals entering Japan.

The top five countries (regions) accounted for 72.0% of the total. Among them, the number of those from R.O. Korea in 2008 decreased by 7.7% from 2007 due to the impact of the exchange rate, etc. However, R.O. Korea exceeded the US in 1988 to become top and has maintained its position since then. Also, overseas trips were de-regulated and visas were exempted to persons of R.O. Korea whose purpose of visit is “Temporary Visitor”. These are one of various measures to increase the exchange of persons between the two countries, and are considered to have contributed to the increase in Korean visitors. Also, China (Taiwan) exceeded the US in 1990 to become top 2 and has maintained its position since then. In particular, in recent years, many tourists are visiting Japan due to the travel boom utilizing charter flights to various points in Japan, and visa-exemption to residents in China (Taiwan) whose purpose of visit is “Temporary Visitor”. (Chart 2)



According to a comparison between the number of foreign nationals entering Japan in 2007 and 2008 by nationality (place of origin) of the top five countries, visitors from R.O. Korea decreased by 220,179 (down 7.7%), followed by China (Taiwan), which increased by 3,478 (up 0.2%), mainland China, which increased by 71,910 (up 6.3%), the US, which decreased by 47,831 (down 5.7%), and China (Hong Kong), which increased by 111,610 (up 27.8%) .

Further, visitors from France increased by 10,040 (up 7.1 %), followed by Australia, which increased by 19,462 (up 8.6%) and the UK, which decreased by 15,058 (down 6.5%).

(Note) In immigration-related statistics, mainland China and Taiwan are described as "China" and "China (Taiwan)" respectively. With respect to Hong Kong, persons of Chinese nationality having a SAR (Special Administrative Region) passport (including persons of Chinese nationality having a certificate of identity within the period of validity issued by the former Hong Kong Government) are described as "China (Hong Kong)", and persons having the right of residence in Hong Kong and having a BNO (British National Overseas) passport (British passport issued only to residents in Hong Kong) (including persons who have a British (Hong Kong) passport issued by the former Hong Kong Government and entered within its period of validity (prior to June 30, 1997), are described as "UK (Hong Kong)". Further, BNO passports are restricted in respect of renewal, and gradually transition to SAR passports.

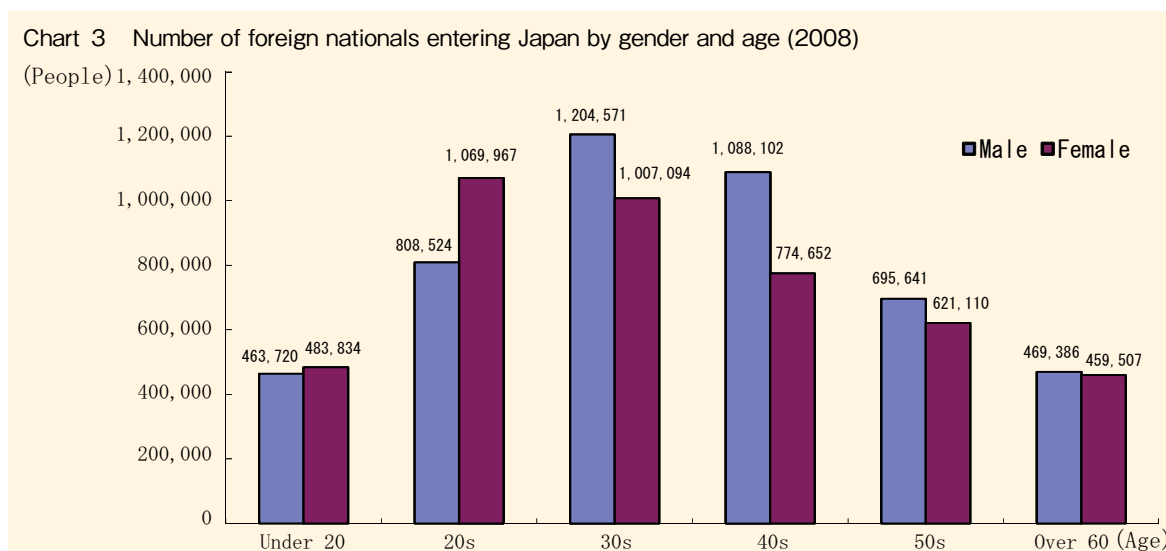
On the other hand, in statistics relating to alien registration, persons from mainland China are described as "China" without distinguishing their place of origin, and BNO passport holders are included in "UK".

Further, for the purpose of statistics on the number of alien registrations, persons of R.O. Korea and P.R. Korea living in Japan are collected jointly as "R.O. Korea and P.R. Korea".

C. 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 2008 were 4,729,944 and 4,416,164, respectively. The percentages of males and females were 51.7% and 48.3%, respectively. For this percentage of males and females, males decreased by 0.7%, and females increased by 0.7% as compared with 2007.

According to statistics by age in 2008, foreign nationals in their thirties represented the largest age group, accounting for 24.2% 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 3)



D. 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 1)

Table 1 Changes in the number of new arrivals by status of residence

(People)

Status of Residence \ Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total	5,508,926	6,120,709	6,733,585	7,721,258	7,711,828
Diplomat	8,710	10,047	8,682	9,205	12,029
Official	12,633	17,577	13,136	14,519	24,358
Professor	2,339	2,253	2,380	2,365	2,456
Artist	197	245	223	239	222
Religious Activities	971	846	897	985	828
Journalist	150	248	92	119	226
Investor/Business Manager	675	604	777	918	919
Legal/Accounting Services	–	2	3	8	2
Medical Services	1	2	3	6	1
Researcher	577	607	555	559	563
Instructor	3,180	2,954	3,070	2,951	2,930
Engineer	3,506	4,718	7,715	10,959	9,212
Specialist in Humanities/International Services	6,641	6,366	7,614	7,426	5,690
Intra-company Transferee	3,550	4,184	5,564	7,170	7,307
Entertainer	134,879	99,342	48,249	38,855	34,994
Skilled Labor	2,211	3,059	4,239	5,315	6,799
Cultural Activities	4,191	3,725	3,670	3,454	3,378
Temporary Visitor	5,136,943	5,748,380	6,407,833	7,384,510	7,367,277
College Student	21,958	23,384	26,637	28,779	34,005
Pre-college Student	15,027	18,090	19,135	19,160	24,111
Trainee	75,359	83,319	92,846	102,018	101,879
Dependent	13,553	15,027	17,412	20,268	22,167
Designated Activities	6,478	16,958	7,446	8,009	8,413
Spouse or Child of Japanese National	23,083	24,026	26,087	24,421	19,975
Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident	807	990	1,319	1,710	1,964
Long-Term Resident	31,307	33,756	28,001	27,326	20,123
Temporary Refugee	–	–	–	4	–

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.

(A) Temporary Visitors

According to the statistics of foreign nationals newly entering Japan by status of residence, in general, more than 90% of foreign nationals staying in Japan are temporary visitors, such as tourists and visitors with business-related purposes. In particular, since the trend of tourists is comparatively easily affected by factors in Japan, such as the holding of specific events, changes in exchange rates and the implementation of various measures to attract tourists, it is consequently assumed that the changes in numbers of foreign nationals newly entering Japan, of which such temporary visitors make up the

majority, reflect the social status and movement of the time.

Foreigners residing in Japan having this status of residence cannot change their status to another status of residence in principle as they cannot engage in employment activities, and are allowed to enter with relatively simplified procedures (Articles 19 and 20 of the Immigration Control Act).

The number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor” was 7,367,277 in 2008, accounting for 95.5% of the total number of new arrivals. The number had decreased by 17,233 (down 0.2%) from the year 2007.

A further examination of the number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor” in 2008 shows that the number of foreign nationals visiting Japan for sightseeing was 5,312,943, accounting for 68.9% of the total number of new arrivals. On the other hand, 1,351,011 foreign nationals came to Japan for business, forming the second largest group of new arrivals and accounting for 17.5% of the total.

According to the statistics on new arrivals for the purpose of sightseeing by nationality (place of origin), R.O. Korea occupied the largest number at 1,715,847, accounting for 32.3% of the total number of foreign nationals who entered Japan for the purpose of sightseeing. R.O. Korea was followed by China (Taiwan) (1,231,835, accounting for 23.2% of the total), China (Hong Kong) (474,151, accounting for 8.9%) and China (386,167, accounting for 7.3%). As South Koreans and Chinese (Taiwanese) account for over 50% of the overall number of sightseeing visitors to Japan, it is expected that measures to attract tourists from these countries will be implemented actively in the future as well. (Charts 4 and 5)

Chart 4 Changes in the number of new arrivals with the status of residence of "Temporary Visitor" by purpose of entry

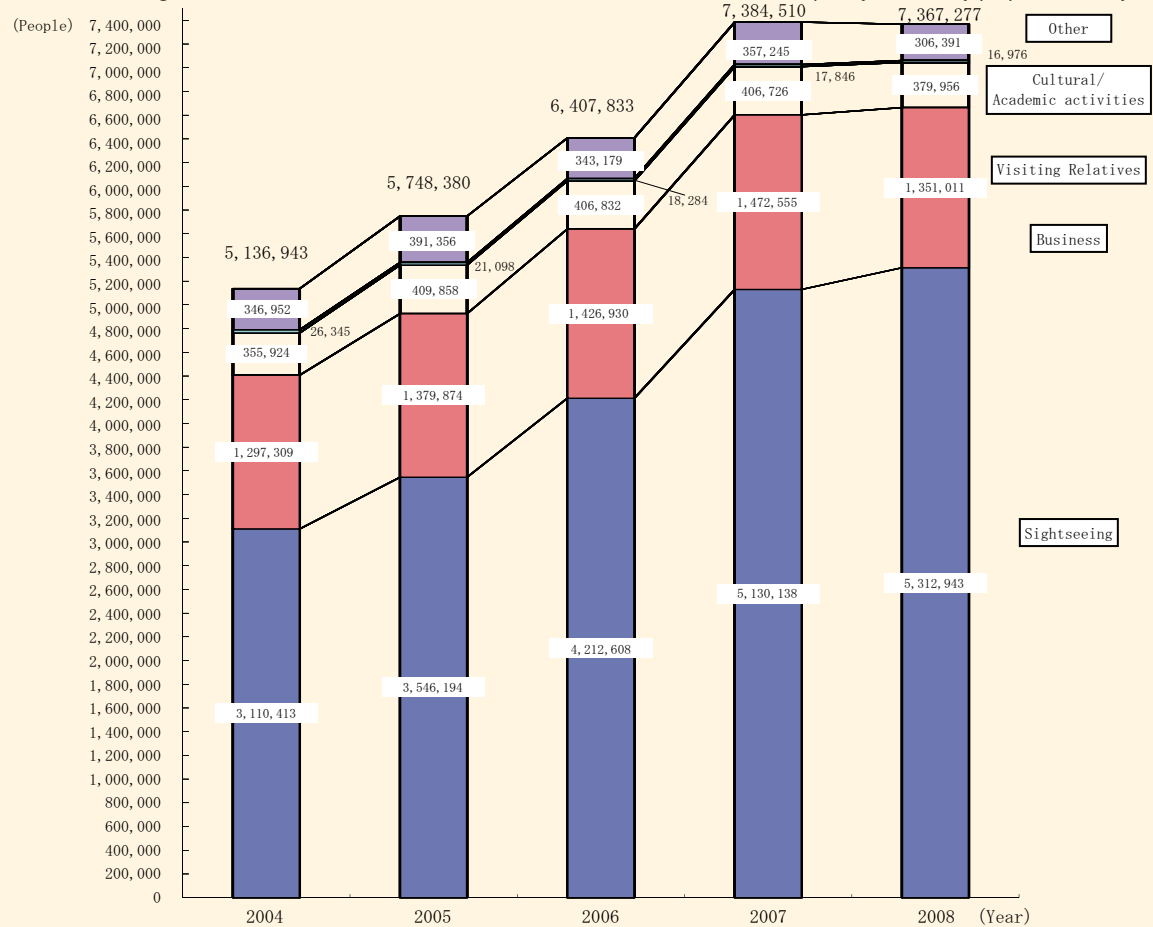
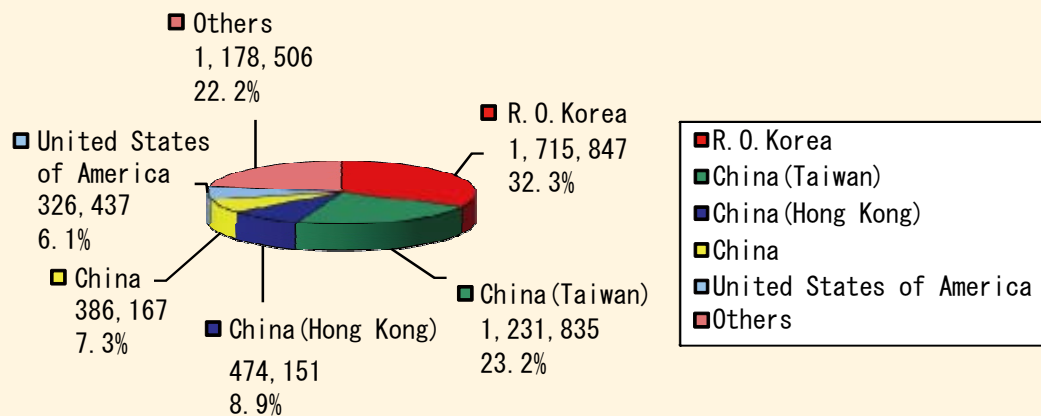
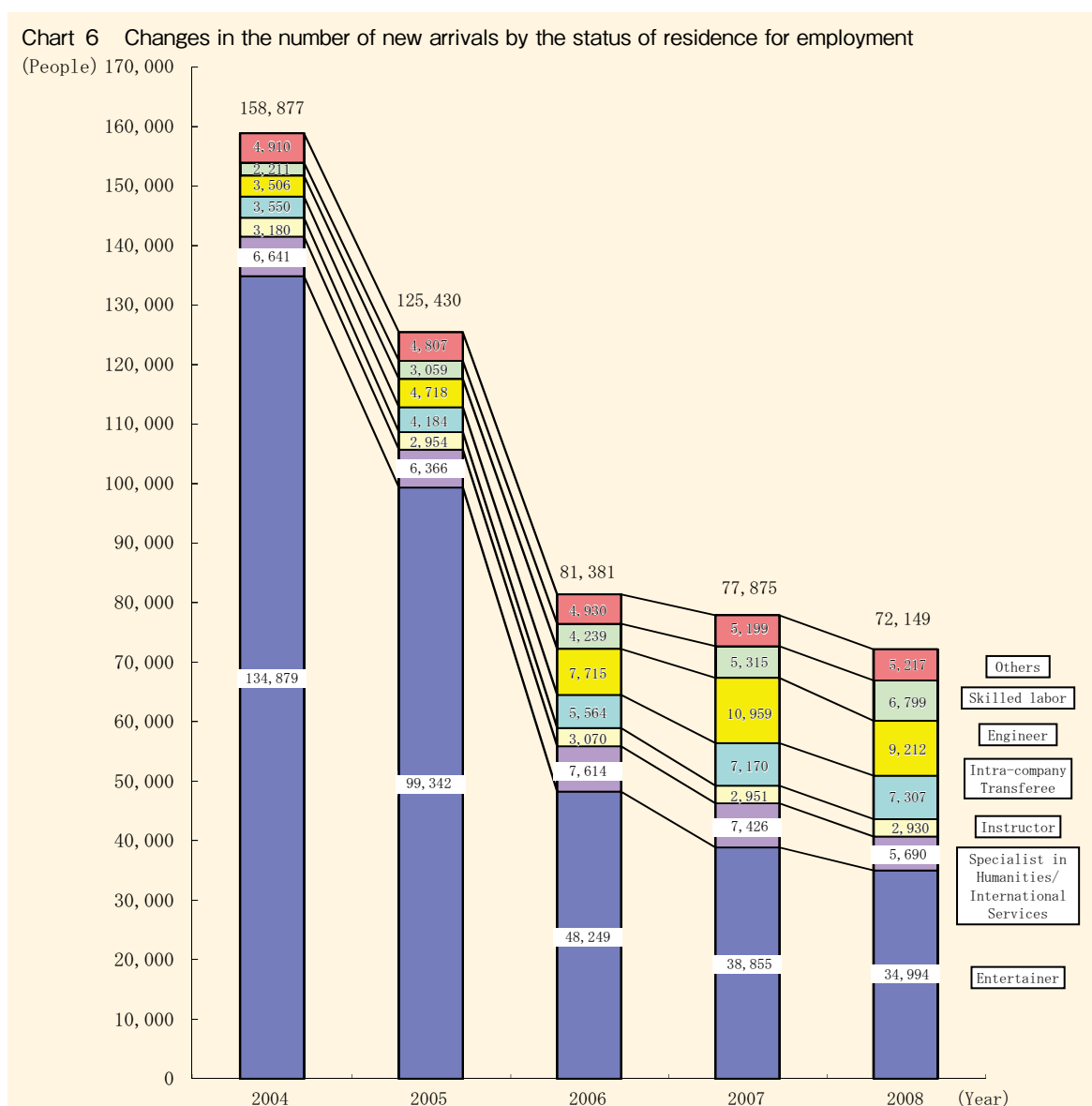


Chart 5 Number of new arrivals for the purpose of sightseeing by nationality (place of origin) (2008)



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

The number of newly entering foreign nationals under the status of residence for employment in Japan (excluding the status of residence of “Diplomat” and “Official”) decreased by 5,726 (down 7.4%) from the year 2007 to 72,149 in 2008. Factors for the foregoing are that, as in the previous year, the number of new entry foreign nationals having the status of residence of “Entertainer” decreased, and the number of new entry foreign nationals having the status of residence of “Engineer” and “Specialist in Humanities/International Services” that was increasing recently, such as among foreign employees, decreased. (Chart 6)



The number of newly entering foreign nationals under the statuses of residence for employment in Japan accounted for 0.9% of the total number of newly entering foreign nationals in 2008.

The proportion of foreign nationals permitted to work in Japan would have been

larger if the following had been 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; foreign nationals, who are allowed to work within the limit permitted such as under the working holiday system, whose status is basically for travel but permits work to cover travel expenses; foreign college students in internship programs which enable them to gain work experience in 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 2, Statistics (1) 2-1, 3-1, 4-1)

The total number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan with a status of residence designed for foreign employees in general was 22,209 in 2008, consisting of three types of categories according to their status of residence: 9,212 with “Engineer”, 5,690 with “Specialist in Humanities/International Services”, and 7,307 with “Intra-company Transferee”. The number of foreign employees with the status of residence “Engineers” decreased by 1,747 (down 15.9%), those with the status of “Specialist in Humanities/International Services” decreased by 1,736 (down 23.4%), and those with the status of “Intra-company Transferee” increased by 137 (up 1.9%) from 2007, respectively. The total number of foreign workers with these statuses of residence decreased by 3,346 (down 13.1%).

As described in Section 2, 1 (3) B below, the number of registered foreign nationals in Japan has been steadily increasing for all three of these types of status of residence in recent years. As of the end of December 2008, the number of registered foreign nationals reached 137,362 in total (an increase of 14,804 (up 12.1%) from 2007), consisting of 52,273 with the status of residence of “Engineer”, 67,291 with the status of residence of “Specialist in Humanities/International Services”, and 17,798 with the status of residence of “Intra-company Transferee”. This suggests a tendency of professionals and technical experts from foreign countries to reside in Japan for a long time and tend to settle here.

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, Viet Nam and

India. The number of new entry foreign nationals from these four countries steadily increased until 2007, however, the number decreased in 2008 except for Viet Nam.

Regarding the number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Specialist in Humanities/International Services”, statistics by nationality (place of origin) show that the largest number came from the US, followed by China, R.O. Korea and the UK. These top four countries accounted for 57.8% 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”, statistics by nationality (place of origin) show that the largest number came from China, followed by the US, R.O. Korea and India, and these top four countries accounted for 61.8% of the total number of new entry foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Intra-company Transferee”.

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

The number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Skilled Labor” has been on the decrease since 2001, but the figure increased in 2004. In 2008, the number of such foreign nationals increased by 1,484 (up 27.9%) from 2007 to 6,799.

The number of registered foreign nationals in Japan with the status of residence of “Skilled Labor” has been increasing every year since 2001, reaching 25,863 as of the end of December 2008.

Skilled foreign nationals working in Japan with their skilled labor are increasing.

According to 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 Nepal, India and Thailand in 2008. This was due in part to the fact that most of the foreign nationals with this status of residence were chefs of foreign cuisine, and these top four countries accounted for 85.6% of the total number of new entry foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Skilled Labor”.

c. “Entertainer” (Data Section 2, Statistics (1) 5-1)

Although the number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Entertainer” has been steadily increasing since 2001, it decreased after 2005. In 2008, it decreased by 3,861 (down 9.9%) from 2007 to 34,994. However, this group still represents the largest proportion of total foreign nationals with a status of residence for employment.

According to statistics by nationality (place of origin), the largest number of new

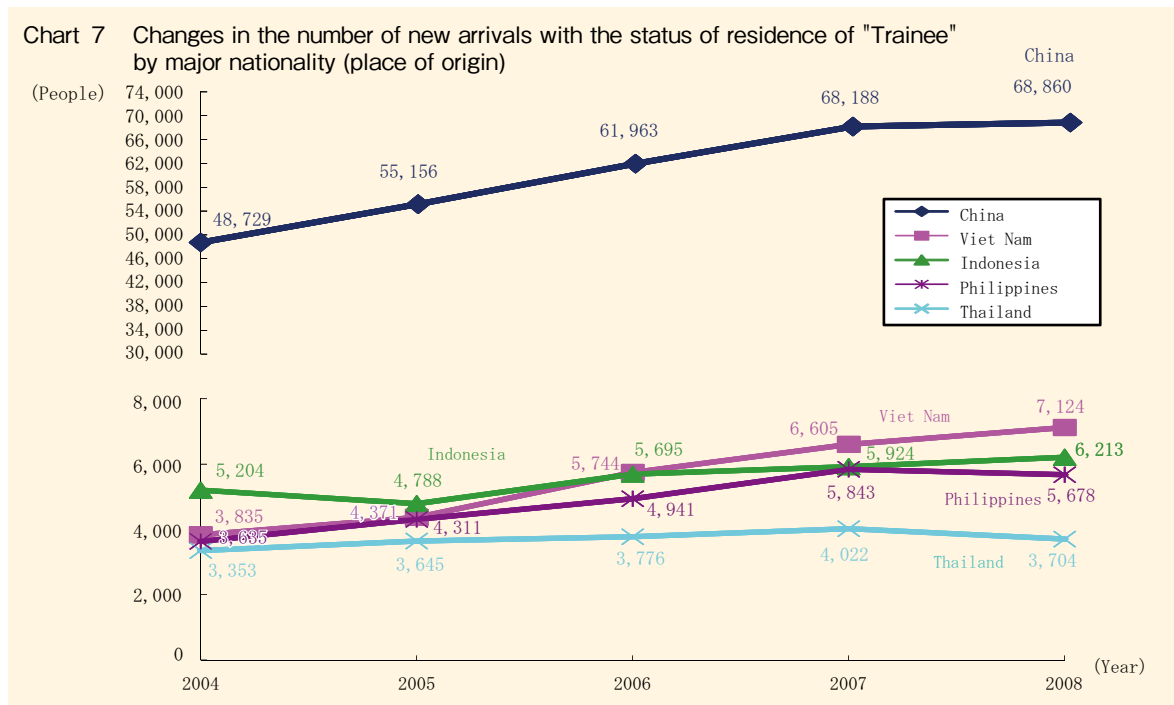
arrivals with the status of residence of “Entertainer” came from the US, followed by the Philippines, the UK, and Russia in 2008. New arrival Philippine entertainers were 3,185, consisting mostly of singers and dancers, and accounted for 9.1% of the total. This number showed a decrease of 2,348 (down 42.4%) from 2007. As for the reasons for such a drastic decrease, the landing examination and residence examination have been made stricter by reviewing the landing permission criteria relating to the status of residence of “Entertainer”.

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

a. “Trainee” (Data Section 2, Statistics (1) 9-1)

The number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Trainee” decreased by 139 (down 0.1%) from a year earlier and reached 101,879 in 2008.

According to statistics by region, the number of Asian trainees reached 97,311 in 2008 and accounted for 95.5% 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 Asian countries and Japan in various fields. In addition to Asia, Africa sent 1,488 trainees (1.5% of the total) to Japan, while Europe also dispatched 1,084 trainees (1.1%) to Japan. (Chart 7)



According to statistics by nationality (place of origin), the largest number of new arrivals with the status of residence of “Trainee” came from China at 68,860 in 2008, accounting for 67.6% of the total. China was followed by Viet Nam (7,124, or 7.0%), Indonesia (6,213, or 6.1%) and the Philippines (5,678, or 5.6%) in 2008.

b. "College Student" and "Pre-college Student"

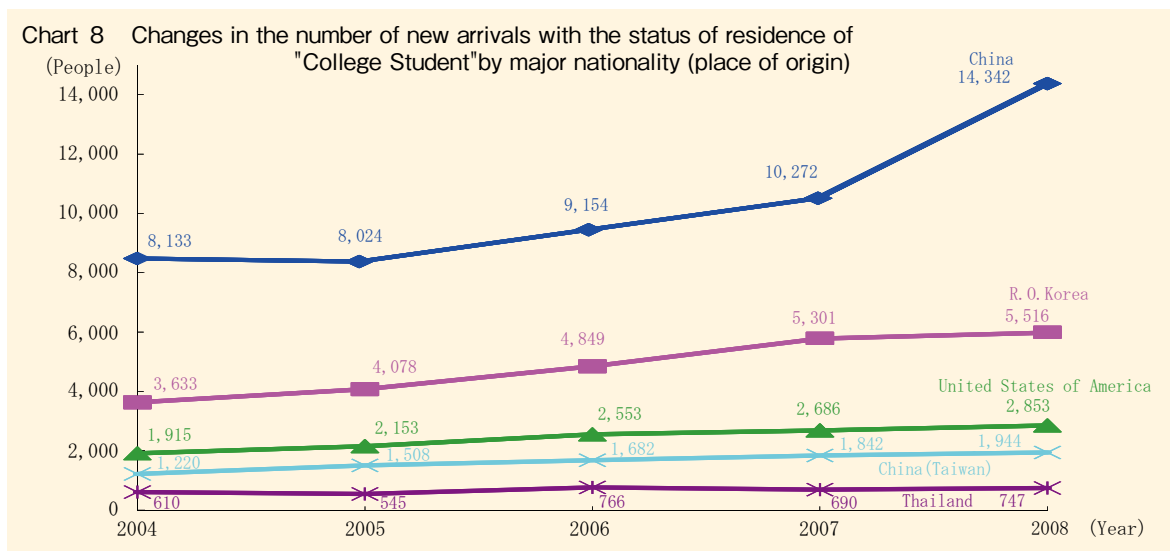
(Data Section 2, Statistics (1) 7-1, 8-1)

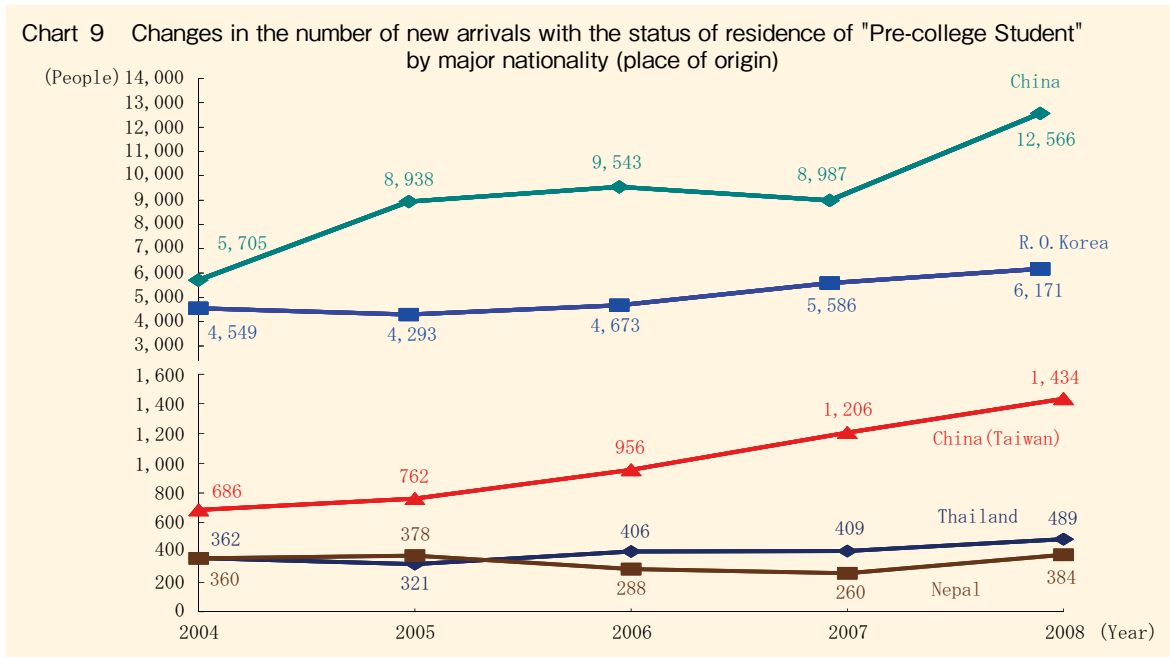
The number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of "College Student" increased by 5,226 (up 18.2%) from a year earlier to 34,005 in 2008. The number of new arrivals with the status of residence of "Pre-college Student" increased by 4,951 (up 25.8%) from a year earlier and reached 24,111 in 2008.

According to 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 78.9% of the total number of foreign students with the status of residence of "College Student" and 93.3% with the status of residence of "Pre-college Student".

According to statistics by nationality (place of origin), China occupied the largest number of new arrivals with the status of residence of "College Student", standing at 14,324 (42.2% of the total), followed by R.O. Korea (5,516, or 16.2%). The number of Chinese college students increased by 4,070 (up 39.6%) from 2007, while that of South Korean college students increased by 215 (up 4.1%).

As for the number of pre-college students, China accounted for the largest number of students with 12,566 (52.1% of total) followed by R.O. Korea with 6,171 (25.6%). The number of Chinese pre-college students increased by 3,579 (up 39.8%), while that of South Korean pre-college students increased by 585 (up 10.5%). (Charts 8 and 9)





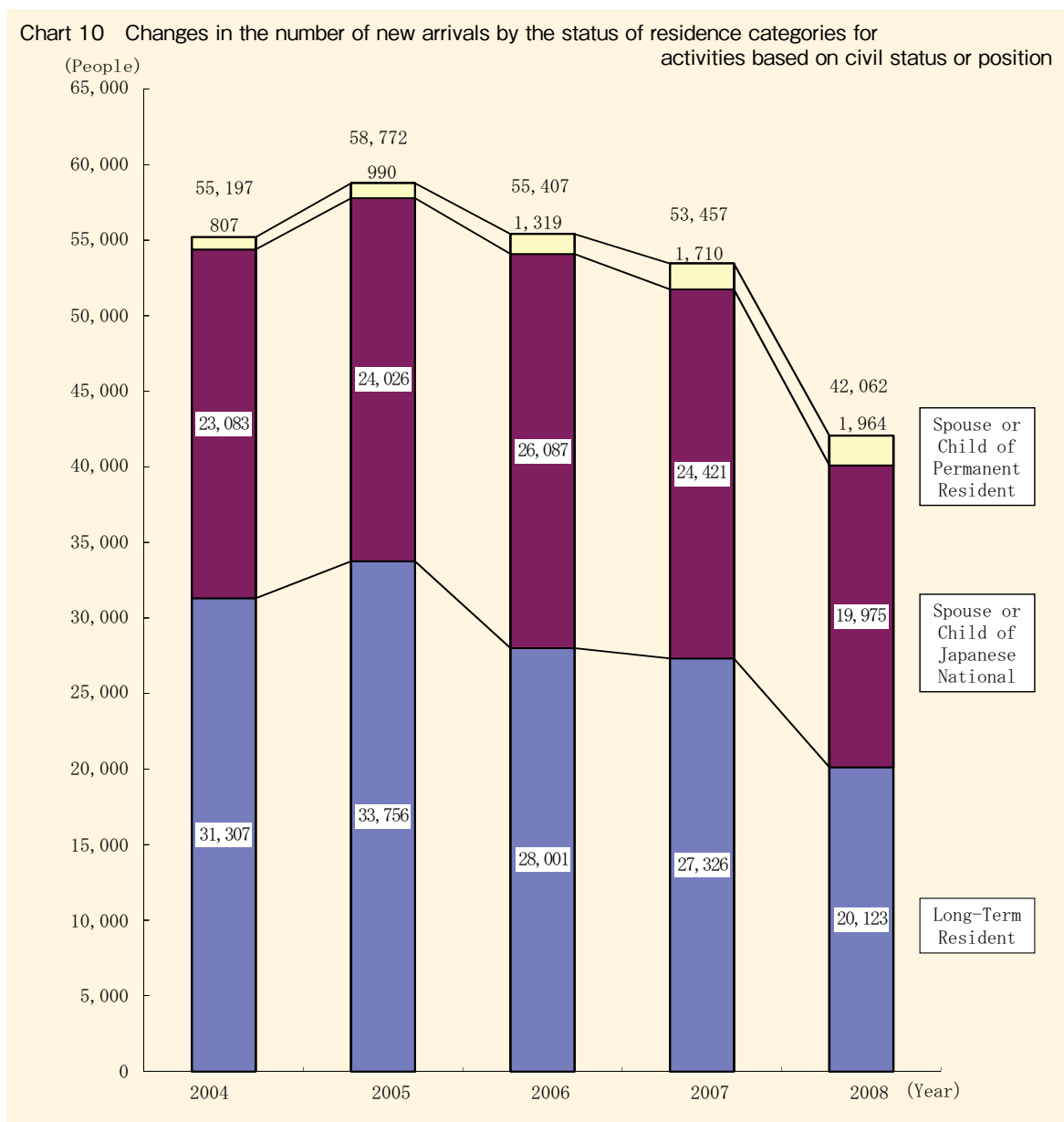
(D) Foreign Nationals Entering Japan with the Status of Residence of Resident Activities Based on Civil Status or Position
(Data Section 2, Statistics (1) 11-1, 12-1)

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 19,975 in 2008, while that of new arrivals with the status of residence of "Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident" reached 1,964. In 2008, the number for "Spouse or Child of Japanese National" decreased by 4,446 (down 18.2%) from a year earlier, while that for "Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident" increased by 254 (up 14.9%) from a year earlier.

The number of new arrivals under "Long-Term Resident" decreased by 7,203 (down 26.4%) from a year earlier to 20,123 in 2008. According to statistics by nationality (place of origin), the largest number of new arrivals with this status came from Brazil at 9,635, accounting for 47.9% of the total. In 2008, Brazil was followed by the Philippines (3,811, accounting for 18.9%), China (including Taiwan and Hong Kong) (3,692, accounting for 18.3%), and Peru (1,119, accounting for 5.6%). (Chart 10)



(2) Special Cases of Landing (except for Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge)

The number of persons who received permission for special cases of landing in 2008 was 2,079,981, a decrease of 9,475 (down 0.5%) from 2007.

Among those, the number of cases of landing permission for crew members in 2008 reached 2,047,221, which accounts for 98.4% of the total number of permission for special cases of landing and occupies the largest percentage, followed by the number of cases of permission for landing at a port of call of 31,908 (1.5%). (Table 2)

Table 2 Changes in the number of case of permission for special cases of landing

(Cases)

Division \ Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total	2,080,354	2,101,462	2,092,527	2,089,456	2,079,981
Permission for Landing at a Port of Call	133,397	74,714	51,338	41,680	31,908
Permission for Landing in Transit	272	270	277	371	451
Landing Permission for Crew Members	1,946,324	2,026,106	2,040,436	2,047,033	2,047,221
Permission for Emergency Landing	272	257	274	300	314
Landing Permission Due to Distress	89	115	202	72	87

The following are permission for special cases of landing by category.

A. Permission for landing at a port of call

The number of foreign nationals who received permission for landing at a port of call in 2008 was 31,908, a drastic decrease of 9,772 (down 23.4%) from 2007. A fact that visa exemption measures were implemented for persons who were residents in R.O. Korea and China (Taiwan) and visited Japan as “Temporary Visitor” is considered to be the reason for such a decrease.



On-board search

B. Permission for landing in transit

The number of foreign nationals who received permission for landing in transit in 2008 was 451, an increase of 80 (up 21.6%) from 2007.

C. Landing permission for crew members

The number of foreign nationals who received landing permission for crew members in 2008 was 2,047,221, an increase of 188 (up 0.01%) from 2007.

D. Permission for emergency landing

The number of foreign nationals who received permission for emergency landing in 2008 was 314, an increase of 14 (up 4.7%) from 2007.

E. Landing permission due to distress

The number of foreign nationals who received landing permission due to distress in 2008 was 87, an increase of 15 (up 20.8%) from 2007.

(3) Foreign Nationals Leaving Japan

The number of so-called “leaving Japan re-entry nonreserving” excluding those who depart with re-entry permission reached 7,592,261, an increase of 39,295 (up 0.5%) from 2007 which stood at a record high.

Among them, the number of persons leaving from Japan with a period of stay shorter than 15 days was 6,958,485, which accounts for 91.7% of the total or almost all. Further, the number of persons leaving from Japan with a period of stay shorter than 3 months was 7,418,394, which accounts for 97.7% of the total. (Table 3)

Table 3 Changes in the number of foreign nationals leaving Japan re-entry nonreserving by period of stay (People)

Period of stay \ Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total	5,374,288	5,979,701	6,580,241	7,552,966	7,592,261
Within 15 days	4,730,627	5,290,493	5,939,544	6,922,329	6,958,485
More than 15 days to 1 month	199,895	219,443	228,664	240,710	252,854
More than 1 month to 3 months	219,302	240,062	235,324	223,473	207,055
More than 3 months to 6 months	55,058	60,296	45,536	36,924	34,243
More than 6 months to 1 year	108,221	104,875	60,486	49,978	49,009
More than 1 year to 3 years	43,539	46,470	50,814	59,554	68,933
More than 3 years	17,312	17,801	17,519	17,630	18,618
Unknown	334	261	2,354	2,368	3,064

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 jointly 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 7, Paragraph (4) and Article 9, Paragraph (5) of the Immigration Control Act) (Note 1).

The number of new cases for the hearing for landing (the number of cases which are assigned to a special inquiry officer on account of a foreign national not having been granted landing permission by an immigration inspector) in 2008 was 12,660, the smallest in the past five years.

The most common cases were those in which foreign nationals were required to undergo a hearing for landing on suspicion of having submitted a false landing application, such as claiming to be a tourist or a similar status while their real purpose of entry was illegal work or other illegal activities (not meeting the conditions provided for in Article 7, Paragraph



Hearings for landing

(1) (ii) of the Immigration Control Act). Such cases numbered 9,722, a decrease of 4,076 (down 29.5%) from 2007 and accounted for 76.8% of the total of new cases in 2008. This was followed by cases which were assigned to special inquiry officers on suspicion of falling under one of the reasons for denial of landing (not meeting the conditions provided for in Article 7, Paragraph (1) (iv) of the Act). Such cases numbered 1,563 in 2008, a decrease of 1,065 (down 40.5%) from 2007, accounting for 12.3% of the total of new cases in 2008. This was followed by cases in which foreign nationals were suspected of not having valid passports or visas, such as trying to enter Japan using a forged or an altered passport (not meeting the conditions provided for in Article 7, Paragraph (1) (i) of the Act). Such cases numbered 1,365, a decrease of 676 (down 33.1%) from 2007 and accounted for 10.8% of the total.

Three persons were handed over to special inquiry officers for refusing to provide information for personal identification, which became obligatory for passengers to provide on and after November 20, 2007 (those who fall under Article 7, Paragraph (4) of the Act).

Foreign nationals visiting Japan with illegal purposes decreased since Japan's strict landing examination at the front gate, such as the procedure utilizing information for personal identification, became widely known to foreign countries, which is considered to be the reason for decrease in the number of new cases for the hearing for landing. (Table 4)

Table 4 Changes in the number of new cases for the hearing for landing by conditions for landing (Cases)

Conditions for landing \ Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total	16,214	16,665	18,258	18,473	12,660
Using fake passports or visas (Not conforming to Article 7-(1)-(i))	2,422	2,102	2,267	2,041	1,365
False landing application (Not conforming to Article 7-(1)-(ii))	13,177	13,242	14,313	13,798	9,722
Not meeting the period of stay (Not conforming to Article 7-(1)-(iii))	0	8	2	4	7
Falling under the reasons for denial of landing (Not conforming to Article 7-(1)-(iv))	615	1,313	1,676	2,628	1,563
Not providing personal identification information (Not conforming to Article 7-(4))	—	—	—	2	3

Looking at the processing of the hearing for landing in 2008 (Note 2), the number of cases where landing was permitted as it was known that conditions for landing were met as the result of the hearing for landing, decreased to 4,405 cases (down 26.6%) from 2007.

Also, in 2008, 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 and who later consented to the findings numbered 5,537, a decrease of 33.5% from 2007.

Similarly, cases in which foreign nationals filed objections with the Minister of Justice in 2008 because they were not satisfied with the finding by a special inquiry officer that they did not meet the conditions for landing numbered 1,967, a decrease of 36.5% from 3,097, in 2007. (Table 5)

Table 5 Changes in the processing of the hearing for landing

(Cases)

Division \ Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total	16,214	16,660	18,240	18,496	12,661
Landing permission	5,309	5,843	6,155	6,003	4,405
Expulsion order	8,174	8,126	9,126	8,326	5,537
Filing of objection	1,231	1,400	1,706	3,097	1,967
Withdrawal landing application	293	296	308	307	368
Others	1,207	995	945	763	384

(*) "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.

(Note 1) "Landing examination" by the immigration inspector and "landing judgment" after the hearing are jointly called the landing examination procedure in the wide sense of the term.

Further, the procedure of decision by the Minister of Justice is not applicable to those who fail to provide information for personal identification.

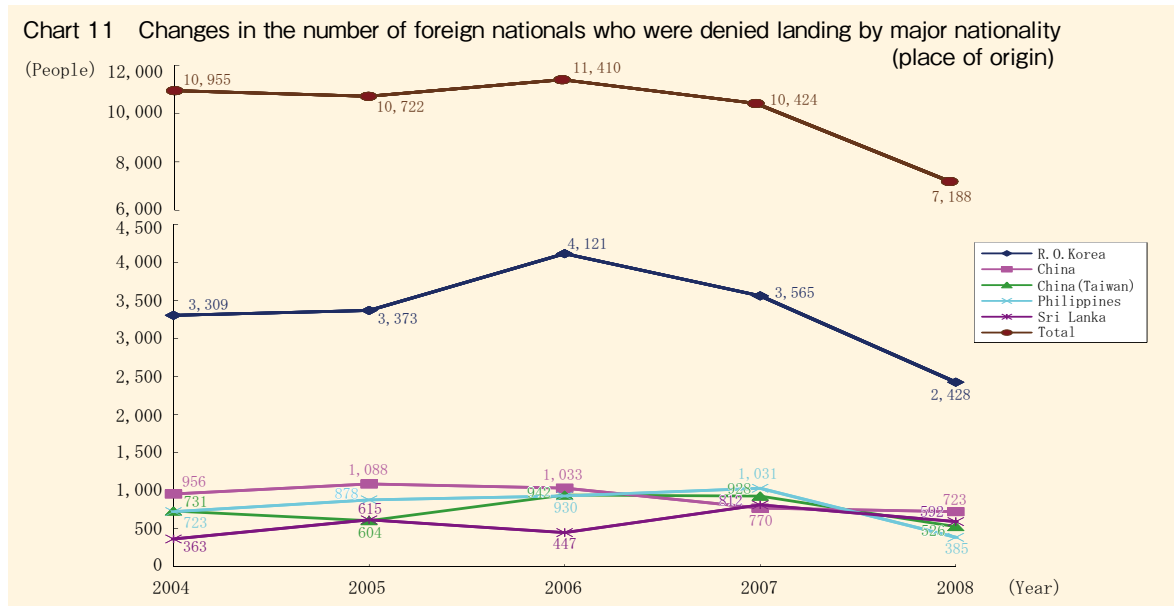
(Note 2) In some cases, the total number of new cases for the hearing for landing by conditions for landing (Table 4), is not the same as that of the changes in the processing of the hearing for landing (Table 5). This is because a case may be assigned by the immigration inspector to the special inquiry officer at the end of the year, or the hearing may be prolonged, and it may be the next year after the case is assigned by the immigration inspector to the special inquiry officer when the hearing for landing is processed.

(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.

The number of foreign nationals denied permission for landing in 2008 was 7,188, a 31.0% decrease from 10,424 in 2007.

According to statistics by nationality (place of origin), the largest number of foreign nationals denied permission for landing came consistently from R.O. Korea from 2004. However, the number in 2008 decreased similarly to the decrease in the total number of foreign nationals denied permission for landing by 1,137 (down 31.9%) from 2007. In other countries, while the number decreased in China, China (Taiwan), the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Turkey or others from 2007, the number increased in Myanmar, Nigeria or others. (Chart 11)



(3) Special Permission for Landing

The Minister of Justice may, even if he/she 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 the Immigration Control Act)

Cases in which the Minister of Justice granted special landing permission to foreign nationals denied permission as a result of filing an objection in 2008 numbered 1,421. This was a 43.0% decrease from 2,492 in 2007. (Table 6)

Table 6 Changes in the number of filings of objections and decisions by the Minister of Justice (Cases)

Division \ Year		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Filing of Objection (*)		1,232	1,400	1,707	3,103	1,973
Decisions	With reason	1	6	23	16	10
	Without reason (Order to leave Japan)	197	209	288	513	492
	Special Permission for Landing	1,021	1,157	1,379	2,492	1,421
Withdrawal		13	27	11	76	42
Outstanding		–	1	6	6	8

(*) "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. This is called advance consultation for issuance of visas.

The number of cases of advance consultation for visa issuance was 6,661 in 2008, showing a decrease of 60 from 6,721 in 2007. (down 0.9%).

(2) Certificate of Eligibility

The system of the 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 2008, the number of cases of applications for a certificate of eligibility was 329,032, a decrease of 24,238 (down 6.8%) from 2007. (Table 6)

Further, the advance consultation for issuance of visas and the examination of certificate of eligibility are jointly called pre-entry examination. In recent years, the number of processed cases of application for issuing a certificate of eligibility has steadily occupied the total number of processed cases of pre-entry examination. (Table 7)

Table 7 Changes in the number of cases of pre-entry examination

(Cases)

Year Division	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Advance consultation for issuance of a visa	5, 637	3, 690	4, 716	6, 721	6, 661
Application for Certificate of Eligibility	386, 129	368, 578	359, 910	353, 270	329, 032

Section 2 ◆ Foreign Nationals Residing in Japan

1 The Number of Registered Foreign Nationals Residing in Japan

While the number of registered foreign nationals residing in Japan indicates the state of the “stock”, which shows how many foreign nationals live in Japan and their purpose for residing in Japan, 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/her residence is located, in accordance with the Alien Registration Act (hereinafter referred to as the “Registration Act”), within 90 days of the date of his/her landing (Article 3 of the Registration Act). 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 1.8% of the total number of registered foreign nationals as of the end of 2008. 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.

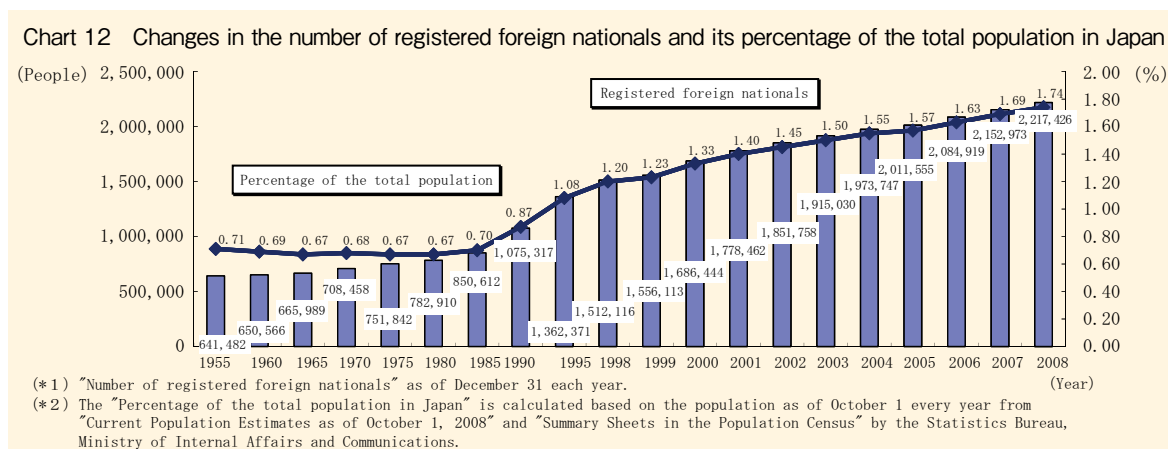
Further, persons with temporary permission for landing, persons with special permission for landing (excluding those who received landing permission as a temporary refuge), diplomats, etc. having the status of residence of “Diplomat”, travelers on official purposes for a foreign government having the status of residence of “Official” and military personnel, and civilian employees and their family members who fall under the Japan-US Status of Forces Agreement, are not the subject of alien registration.

(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 every year, and is expected to increase in the future as well. As of the end of 2008, the number of registered foreign nationals hit a new record high of 2,217,426. The number increased by 64,453 (up 3.0%) from the end of 2007, and by 705,310 (up 46.6%) from the end of 1998.

The proportion of registered foreign nationals to the total Japanese population has also been increasing every year. The proportion increased by 0.05% from 1.69% at the end of 2007 to reach a record high of 1.74% in 2008, when the total population of Japan was 127,692,000 (based on the Current Population Estimates as of October 1, 2008 by the Statistics Bureau of the

Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications). (Chart 12)

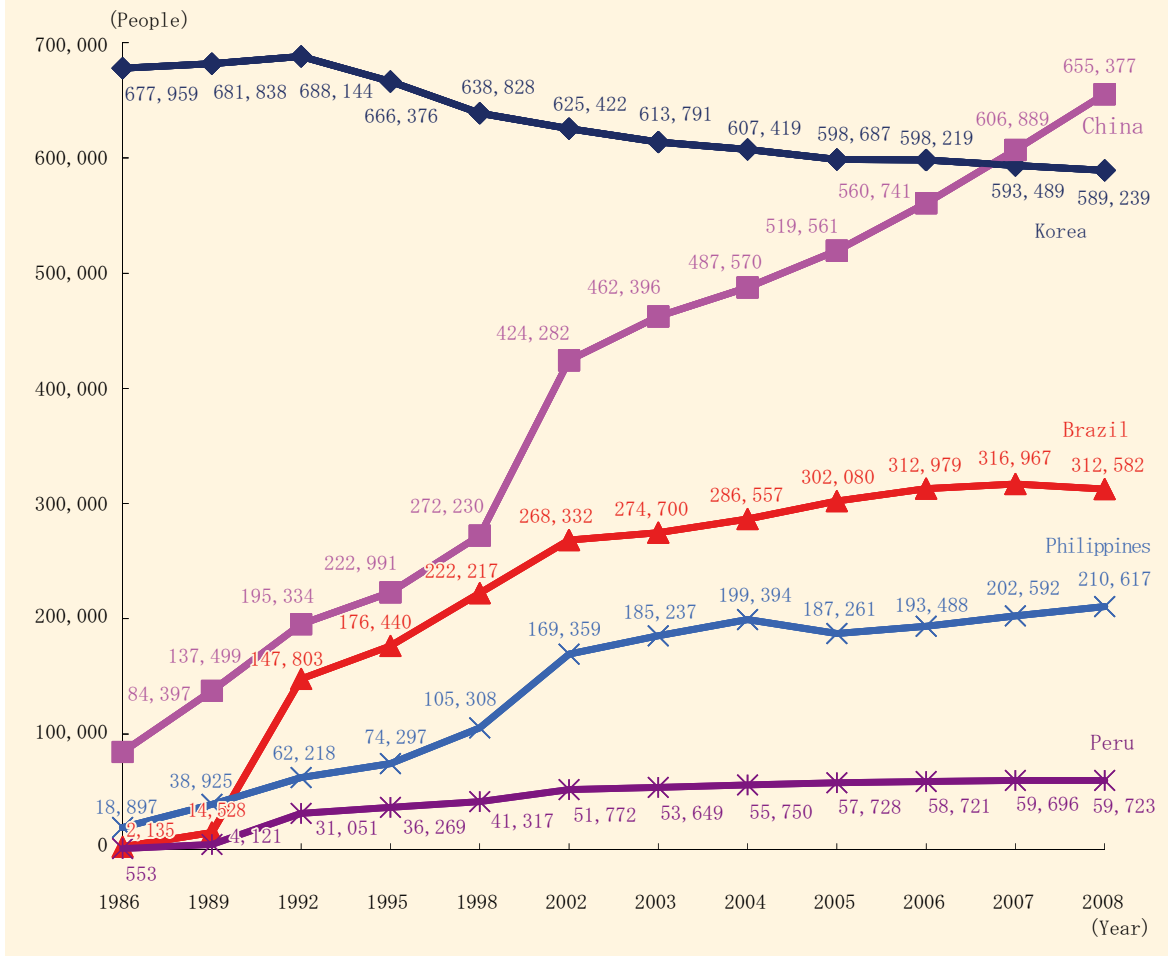


(2) The Number of Registered Foreign Nationals by Nationality (Place of Origin)

According to the statistics of the number of registered foreign nationals by nationality (place of origin) as of the end of 2008, China marked the largest number at 655,377, accounting for 29.6% of the total. This was followed by North and South Korea (589,239 accounting for 26.6%), Brazil (312,582 accounting for 14.1%), the Philippines (210,617 accounting for 9.5%), and Peru (59,723 accounting for 2.7%).

Looking at yearly changes, we find that the number of registered foreign nationals from North and South Korea has been gradually decreasing, while the number of those from China, the Philippines, and Peru has been continuously increasing. In particular, the number of registered foreign nationals from China significantly increased, rising by 167,807 (up 34.4%) from 487,570 in 2004. Brazil has been increasing year by year, however, decreased by 4,385 (down 1.4%) at the end of 2008 from 2007. While the number of registered foreign nationals from the Philippines showed a decrease at the end of 2005, by the end of 2008 it had increased by 8,025 (up 4.0%) compared with the end of 2007. (Chart 13)

Chart 13 Changes in the number of registered foreign nationals by major nationality (place of origin)



According to the statistics of the number of registered foreign nationals by nationality (place of origin), China exceeded North and South Korea for the first time to reach top place at the end of 2007, and continuously maintained the position at the end of 2008. North and South Korea which had continuously accounted for the largest percentage in the past decreased by 4,250 (down 0.7%) at the end of 2008 from the end of 2007.

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

A. “Permanent Resident” and “Special Permanent Resident” (Data Section 2, Statistics (1) 10)

According to the statistics of the number of registered foreign nationals by status of residence, those with the status of “Permanent Resident” (excluding Special Permanent Resident) were the largest group as of the end of 2008. The number of permanent residents was 492,056, an increase of 52,299 (up 11.9%) from the end of 2007, accounting for 22.2% of the total.

The number of permanent residents steadily increased during the period between the

end of 2004 and the end of 2008, rising by 179,092 (up 57.2%) at the end of 2008 from 312,964 as of the end of 2004.

According to statistics by nationality (place of origin), the largest number of permanent residents came from China. The number of Chinese permanent residents was 142,469 as of the end of 2008, followed by Brazil, the Philippines, North and South Korea and Peru. Further, China, Brazil, the Philippines and Peru increased by about 1.5 times, 2.1 times, 1.6 times, and 1.5 times respectively. (Table 8)

Table 8 Changes in the number of registered foreign nationals by status of residence

(People)

Status of Residence \ Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total	1,973,747	2,011,555	2,084,919	2,152,973	2,217,426
Professor	8,153	8,406	8,525	8,436	8,333
Artist	401	448	462	448	461
Religious Activities	4,699	4,588	4,654	4,732	4,601
Journalist	292	280	273	279	281
Investor/Business Manager	6,396	6,743	7,342	7,916	8,895
Legal/Accounting Services	125	126	141	145	154
Medical Services	117	146	138	174	199
Researcher	2,548	2,494	2,332	2,276	2,285
Instructor	9,393	9,449	9,511	9,832	10,070
Engineer	23,210	29,044	35,135	44,684	52,273
Specialist in Humanities/International Services	47,682	55,276	57,323	61,763	67,291
Intra-company Transferee	10,993	11,977	14,014	16,111	17,798
Entertainer	64,742	36,376	21,062	15,728	13,031
Skilled Labor	13,373	15,112	17,869	21,261	25,863
Cultural Activities	3,093	2,949	3,025	3,014	2,795
Temporary Visitor	72,446	68,747	56,449	49,787	40,407
College Student	129,873	129,568	131,789	132,460	138,514
Pre-college Student	43,208	28,147	36,721	38,130	41,313
Trainee	54,317	54,107	70,519	88,086	86,826
Dependent	81,919	86,055	91,344	98,167	107,641
Designated Activities	63,310	87,324	97,476	104,488	121,863
Permanent Resident	312,964	349,804	394,477	439,757	492,056
Spouse or Child of Japanese National	257,292	259,656	260,955	256,980	245,497
Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident	9,417	11,066	12,897	15,365	17,839
Long-Term Resident	250,734	265,639	268,836	268,604	258,498
Special Permanent Resident	465,619	451,909	443,044	430,229	420,305
Without Acquiring Status of Residence	18,236	15,353	17,415	13,960	13,510
Temporary Refuge	31	30	30	30	30
Others	19,164	20,736	21,161	20,131	18,797

(*) Status of Residence (meaning the status of residence provided for by the Immigration Control Act or the status of "special permanent resident" which allows residence)

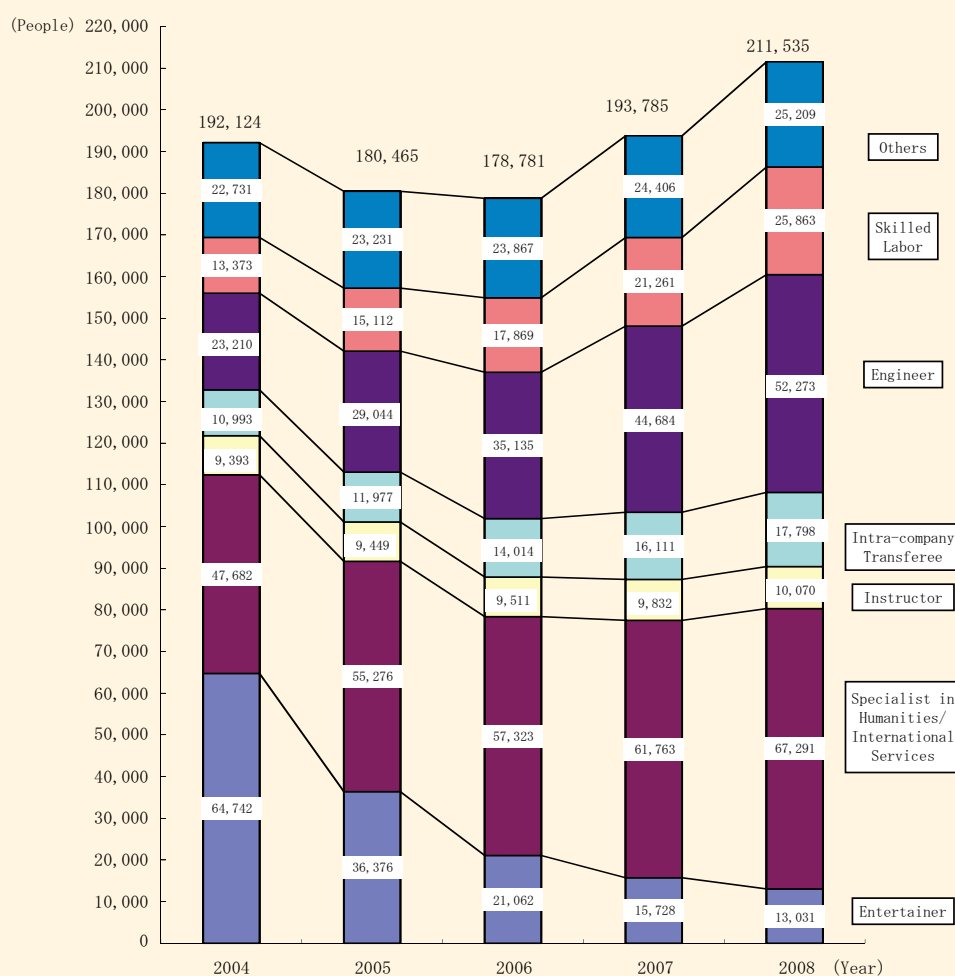
On the other hand, the number of registered foreign nationals who were "Special Permanent Residents" that occupied the largest percentage until 2006 is decreasing year by year, while the percentage occupying the total number of registered foreign nationals is decreasing accordingly. Looking at changes over a longer period, the percentage of foreign nationals equivalent to the status of "Special Permanent Residents" occupied approximately 90% from the time just after the war until 1955. However, the decrease in the number of "Special Permanent Resident" itself and the increase of foreign nationals newly visiting Japan with various purposes (so-called newcomers) are both driving the tendency of "Special Permanent Resident" to decrease, which vividly shows the change in the situation in Japan surrounding resident foreign nationals. Also in the future, the total number of

Special Permanent Residents may possibly further decrease depending on the movement of so-called third generation and fourth generation foreign nationals residing in Japan in connection with the selection of nationality.

B. Foreign Nationals Residing in Japan for the Purpose of Employment (Data Section 2, Statistics (1) 1-2 through 6-2)

The number of registered foreign nationals residing in Japan for the purpose of employment increased by 17,750 (up 9.2%) from the end of 2007 to 211,535 as of the end of 2008, accounting for 9.5% of the total. Looking at changes in this number from the end of 2004 to the end of 2008, we find that the number of registered persons was on a decreasing trend until the end of 2006 due to a decrease in the number of foreign nationals entering Japan with the status of residence of “Entertainer”. However, it reached a record high at the end of 2008 as a result of an increase in the number of foreign nationals entering Japan with a status of residence other than “Entertainer”, as compared with the previous year at the end of 2007 and 2008. (Chart 14)

Chart 14 Changes in the number of registered foreign nationals by the status of residence for employment



Since the end of 2004, there has been a steady increase in the number of registered foreign nationals who come under the category of “Specialist in Humanities/International Services”, “Engineer”, “Skilled Labor”, “Investor/Business Manager” and “Legal/Accounting Services”. The number of those with the status of residence of “Entertainer” decreased by 2,697 (down 17.1%) at the end of 2008 from the end of the previous year, showing a continuous decrease. This is caused by the decrease of new entries with the status of residence of “Entertainer”.

The numbers of registered foreign nationals with such statuses of residence as “Engineer”, “Specialist in Humanities/International Services” and “Intra-company Transferee” which were basically designed for foreign employees, were 52,273, 67,291 and 17,798, respectively, as of the end of 2008. They increased by 7,589 (up 17.0%), 5,528 (up 9.0%), and 1,687 (up 10.5%) from the end of 2007 respectively.

At the end of 2008, the percentage of the number of registered foreign nationals with such status of residence as “Engineer”, “Specialist in Humanities/International Services” and “Intra-company Transferee” against the total number of registered foreign nationals residing in Japan for the purpose of employment was 24.7%, 31.8%, 8.4% respectively, and so-called foreign employees accounted for about 60% of foreign nationals residing in Japan for employment purposes.

C. “College Student” and “Pre-college Student”

(Data Section 2, Statistics (1) 7-2, 8-2)

The number of registered foreign nationals with the status of residence of “College Student” exceeded 100,000 for the first time at the end of 2002, and the number of foreign nationals registered as “College Student” as of the end of 2008 reached 138,514, an increase of 6,054 (up 4.6%) as compared with the end of 2007. On a nationality (place of origin) basis, the number of Chinese college students was 88,812, accounting for 64.1% of the total, followed by North and South Koreans (19,441 accounting for 14.0%).

Looking at changes in the total number from the end of 2004 until the end of 2008, the number as of the end of 2008 was about 1.1 times that as of the end of 2004.

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 as of the end of 2004. However, the number of such registered foreign nationals increased from the end of 2006, and foreign nationals registered as Pre-college Student as of the end of 2008 was 41,313, an increase of 3,183 (up 8.3%) from the end of 2007. According to statistics by nationality (place of origin), China stood at 25,043, accounting for 60.6% of the total, followed by North and South Korea (10,286 accounting for 24.9%).

D. “Trainee” (Data Section 2, Statistics (1) 9-2)

The number of registered foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Trainee” was 86,826 as of the end of 2008 with a decrease of 1,260 (down 1.4%) compared with the end of 2007, marking a slight decrease from the previous year which stood at a record high. According to statistics by nationality (place of origin), the number of those from China was 65,716, accounting for 75.7% of the total, followed by Viet Nam (6,763 accounting for 7.8%) and Indonesia (5,085 accounting for 5.9%).

Looking at the change from the end of 2004 until the end of 2008 by nationality (place of origin), China was about 1.6 times, and Viet Nam about 1.9 times.

E. Foreign Nationals Residing in Japan with the Status of Residence for Resident Activities Based on Civil Status or Position (Data Section 2, Statistics (1) 11-2,12-2)

As of the end of 2008, the number of registered foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” was 245,497. Looking at the change from the end of 2004 until the end of 2008, “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” was on an increasing trend until the end of 2006, however, it turned into a decreasing trend after the end of 2007, and the number as of the end of 2008 decreased by 11,483 (down 4.5%) from the end of 2007.

According to statistics by nationality, as of the end of 2008, the number of registered foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” from Brazil was 58,445, accounting for 23.8% of the total, followed by China (57,336 accounting for 23.4%) and the Philippines (49,980 accounting for 20.4%). Looking at the change from the end of 2004 until the end of 2008 by nationality (place of origin), it is characteristic that Brazil is decreasing each year and China is increasing each year.

The number of registered foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Long-Term Resident” was 258,498 as of the end of 2008 accounting for 11.7% of the total. Looking at the change from the end of 2004 until the end of 2008, the number was, similarly to the case of “Spouse or Child of Japanese National”, on an increasing trend until the end of 2006, however, it turned into a decreasing trend after the end of 2007, and the number as of the end of 2008 decreased by 10,106 (down 3.8%) as compared with the end of 2007.

According to statistics by nationality (place of origin), the number of such foreign nationals from Brazil was 137,005, accounting for 53.0%, followed by the Philippines (35,717 accounting for 13.8%) and China (33,600 accounting for 13.0%) at the end of 2008. Looking at the change from the end of 2004 until the end of 2008, the Philippines, which ranked in the top 3 until the end of 2007, steadily increased to reach the top 2 exceeding China at the end of 2008.

2 Residence Examinations

If any foreign national in Japan desires to stay longer than the period of stay originally permitted to him/her, or desires to change his/her status of residence in order to pursue a new purpose differing from the purpose for which the original status of residence was granted, the foreign national 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.



Residence examination

The total number of cases of status of residence examinations and so forth in which permission was granted increased by 9,883 (up 0.7%) from 2007 to 1,361,844 in 2008. Looking at the change from the end of 2004 until the end of 2008, the number was on an increasing trend as a whole, and this trend is considered to continue in the future proportionately to the increase of persons newly entering Japan. (Table 9)

Table 9 Changes in the number of cases of permission in residence examinations

(Cases)

Division \ Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total	1,189,261	1,197,627	1,327,185	1,351,961	1,361,844
Permission to engage in an activity other than those permitted by the status of residence previously granted	106,406	100,176	107,158	119,145	133,513
Permission for change of status of residence	100,377	115,287	123,381	138,427	149,214
Permission for extension of period of stay	410,091	418,696	466,304	436,630	434,307
Permission for permanent residence	48,263	39,256	51,538	60,509	57,806
Permission for special permanent residence	126	116	112	131	114
Permission for acquisition of status of residence	6,921	7,215	8,013	8,680	8,957
Re-entry permission	517,077	516,881	570,679	588,439	577,933

(*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 22-2 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 Alios, 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 without changing his/her status of residence must obtain permission for an extension of the period of stay.

The number of foreign nationals who obtained such permission in 2008 was 434,307, a

decrease by 2,323 cases (down 0.5%) as compared with 2007. (Table 9)

(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/her must obtain permission for a change of status of residence for the new purpose.

In 2008, the number of foreign nationals who obtained such permission was 149,214, an increase by 10,787 (up 7.7%) as compared with 2007. (Table 9)

Among these, the major cases of applying for permission for change of the status of residence were as follows:

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

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 wish 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 status of residence for employment has been constantly increasing since 2004. The number increased by 778 (up 7.6%) from a year earlier, and increased to 11,040 in 2008. This marked a record high since 1988, the year when these statistics were compiled for the first time.

According to statistics by nationality (place of origin), the number of foreign nationals who obtained such permission from China was 7,651, accounting for 69.3% of the total, followed by R.O. Korea (1,360, accounting for 12.3%), and China (Taiwan) (303, accounting for 2.7%). (Table 10)

Table 10 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) (Cases)

Nationality (Place of Origin)	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total	5,264	5,878	8,272	10,262	11,040
China	3,445	4,186	6,000	7,539	7,651
R. O. Korea	811	747	944	1,109	1,360
China (Taiwan)	179	168	200	282	303
Bangladesh	84	57	119	138	164
Viet Nam	53	64	92	131	189
Malaysia	59	69	118	120	134
Thailand	60	60	67	87	97
Sri Lanka	25	34	55	81	160
Indonesia	59	52	53	73	74
Nepal	28	24	45	63	161
Others	461	417	579	639	747

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

According to statistics by status of residence, foreign nationals who obtained permission to change their statuses to “Specialist in Humanities/International Services” represented the largest proportion, totaling 7,863 and accounting for 71.2%, an increase by 559 (up 7.7%) from 2007 and by 4,446 (up 130.1%) from 2004 respectively, which shows the increase of foreign nationals who engage in services in which they can exercise professional knowledge in the humanities which they learned at college, and make good use of the sensitivity peculiar to foreign nationals. In addition, 2,414 foreign nationals (21.9%) obtained permission to change their status to “Engineer” in 2008, and these two statuses of residence account for 93.1% of the total. (Table 11)

Table 11 Changes in the number of cases of permission for change of status of residence for employment from college pre-college student by status of residence permitted (Cases)

Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Status of Residence					
Total	5,264	5,878	8,272	10,262	11,040
Specialist in Humanities/ International Services	3,417	4,159	5,938	7,304	7,863
Engineer	1,233	1,200	1,720	2,314	2,414
Professor	388	335	401	416	430
Researcher	114	92	104	87	111
Investor/Business Manager	53	28	36	61	128
Instructor	23	18	20	23	29
Religious Activities	12	12	13	15	19
Medical Services	10	10	14	13	16
Skilled Labor	5	8	5	6	3
Artist	5	4	6	6	2
Entertainer	–	1	3	3	5
Others	4	11	12	14	20

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

The Technical Internship Program was a system 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 in employment, thereby contributing to effective technology transfer and human resources development as part of international contributions. It is necessary for any foreign national who wishes to take part 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 63 types of work in total as of the end of December 2008. 52 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 welding and operation of spinning machines, are publicly evaluated, although not by national examinations, according to a system established by the Japan International Training Cooperation Organization.

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. Due to this, the number in 2008 increased by 8,521 (up 15.8%) from a year earlier, showing a steady yearly increase. In total, more than 250,000 trainees took part in the program after finishing their training from establishment of the Technical Internship Program in 1993 up to the end of 2008, which indicates that this program is showing steady improvement.

According to 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 in 2008 was from China (49,566), followed by Viet Nam (4,885), Indonesia (3,393), the Philippines (3,000), and Thailand (1,079). Some of the most popular types of work were women/children's apparel production, welding and plastic molding (Tables 12 and 13)

Table 12 Changes in the number of trainees who switch to the Technical Internship Program by nationality (People)

Nationality \ Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total	26,488	32,394	41,000	53,999	62,520
China	20,922	26,606	34,817	42,871	49,566
Viet Nam	2,070	1,791	2,221	4,155	4,885
Indonesia	2,474	2,340	1,924	3,274	3,393
Philippines	819	1,219	1,482	2,407	3,000
Thailand	112	277	342	783	1,079
Others	91	161	214	509	597

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

Table 13 Changes in the number of trainees who switch to the Technical Internship Program by job type (People)

Job Type \ Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total	26,488	32,394	41,000	53,999	62,520
Women/Children's apparel production	9,194	9,751	10,750	11,697	12,707
Mold construction	373	420	526	800	1,012
Men's apparel production	527	679	741	658	637
Welding	1,254	1,960	2,817	3,882	5,457
Steel reinforcement construction	376	376	409	610	889
Machining	873	1,276	1,918	2,960	3,539
Metal press work	942	1,194	1,768	2,505	3,150
Plumbing	27	53	88	119	163
Painting	562	713	1,070	1,255	1,644
Furniture production	147	239	260	392	364
Casting	561	695	811	1,167	1,062
Steeplejack	240	361	610	702	1,125
Plastic molding	1,691	2,072	2,686	4,769	4,270
Carpenter	118	179	350	441	356
Construction machinery production	49	46	77	147	172
Others	9,554	12,380	16,119	21,895	25,973

(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 Japan-US who lost the status wishes to continue living in Japan, he/she must acquire a status of residence.

The number of such foreign nationals who obtained permission for acquisition of status of residence was 8,957 in 2008, an increase by 277 (up 3.2%) from 2007. (Table 9)

(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/she may re-enter and land in Japan using his/her current status of residence and period of stay without re-applying for a visa by receiving re-entry permission in advance.

In 2008, the number of such foreign nationals who obtained re-entry permission was 577,933, a decrease by 10,506 (down 1.8%) from 2007. (Table 9)

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

A foreign national who is granted a status of residence according to the activities in which he/she is engaged in Japan must receive permission to engage in an activity other than those permitted by the status of residence previously granted if the foreign national wishes to become engaged in activities “related to the management of business involving income or activities for which he/she receives remuneration which are not included in those activities under his/her 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 2008 was 133,513, an increase by 14,368 (up 12.1%) from 2007. This is an increase by 27,107 (up 25.5%) from 2004. (Table 9)

(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.

With respect to permission for permanent residence, the Immigration Bureau decided in February 1998 to review the operation standard from the standpoint of ensuring deregulation, simplification and rationalization of clerical work and, at the same time, clarified the existing treatment of applicants. At the time of this review, the Immigration Bureau clarified the interpretation for the examination of statutory requirements, reviewed the history of staying in Japan corresponding to status and decided to treat persons having a special circumstance, such as being a spouse of Japanese national, more flexibly.

For the purpose of clarifying the requirements for granting permission for permanent residence to foreign nationals who are considered to contribute to Japan, the Immigration Bureau established on March 31, 2005 a guideline relating to “Contribution to Japan”, and publicly announced it on its website. Also, the Immigration Bureau posts cases where the contribution was recognized and permission for permanent residence was granted, and where permission was not granted, on its website and updates it from time to time. On March 31, 2006, the Immigration Bureau established the “Guideline for Permission for Permanent Residence” to publicly announce general requirements relating to permission for permanent residence, and the standard for the number of years of residence, and partially amended the guideline relating to “Contribution to Japan” .

The number of foreign nationals who were granted permission for permanent residence in 2007 was a record high of 60,509, however, the number in 2008 was 57,806, a slight decrease. (Table 14)

Table 14 Changes in permanent residence permits by nationality (place of origin)

(Cases)

Year Nationality (Place of Origin)	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total	48,263	39,256	51,538	60,509	57,806
China	14,855	11,404	13,744	15,875	16,140
Brazil	10,789	10,026	16,055	19,793	16,824
Philippines	7,563	6,044	7,554	8,723	8,982
Korea	3,671	2,939	3,368	3,788	3,914
Peru	3,275	2,449	2,878	3,241	2,783
Others	8,110	6,394	7,939	9,089	9,163

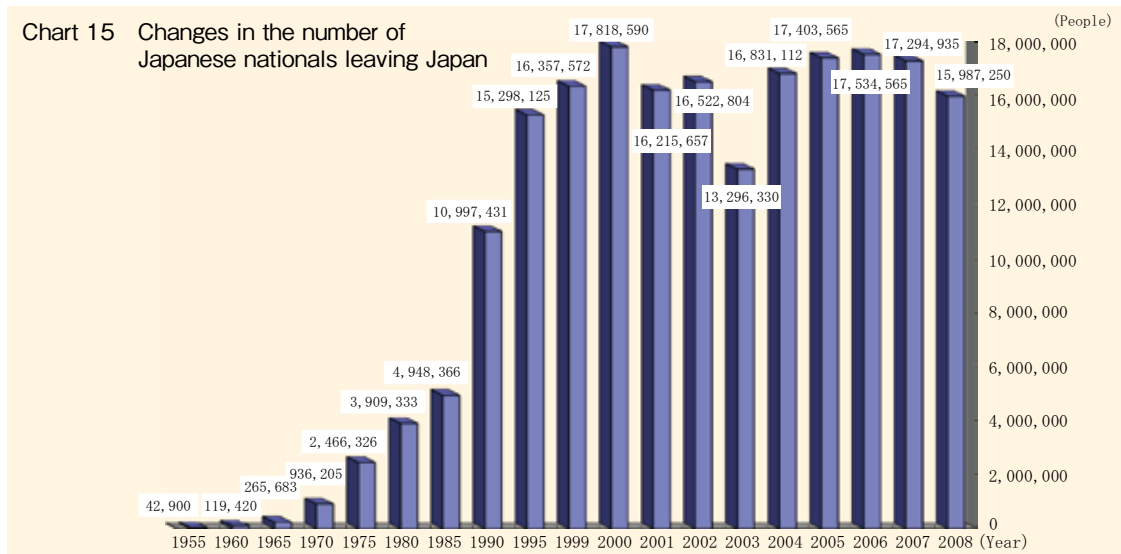
(*) “China” includes Taiwan, Hong Kong or others.

Section 3 ◆ Japanese Nationals Leaving and Returning to Japan

1 The Number of Japanese Nationals Leaving Japan

(1) The Total Number of Japanese Nationals Leaving Japan

The total number of Japanese nationals leaving Japan in 2008 was 15,987,250, a decrease by 1,307,685 (down 7.6%) from 2007. (Chart 15)

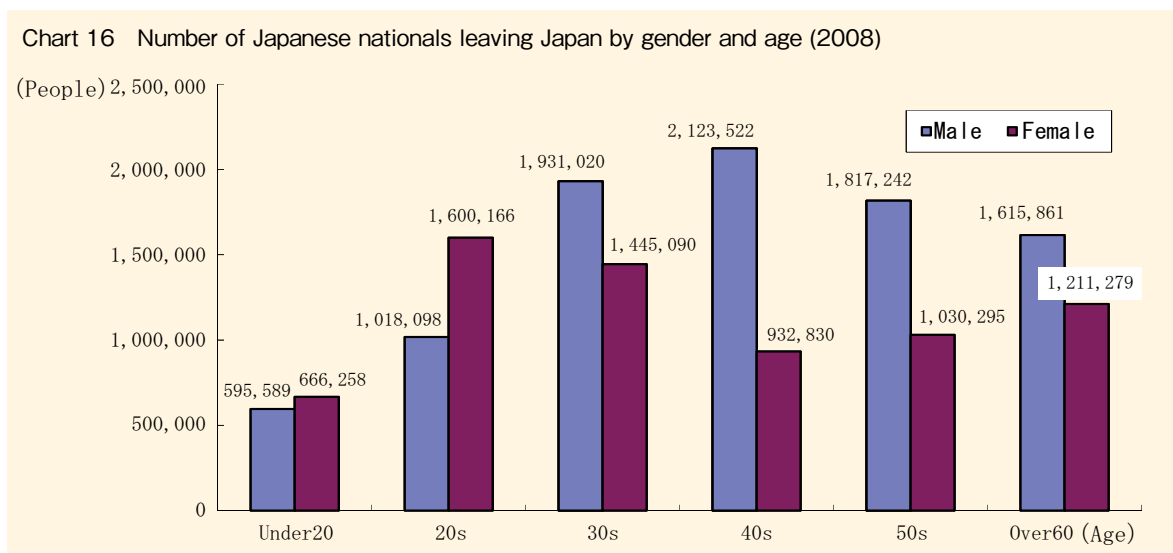


(2) The Number of Japanese Nationals Leaving Japan by Gender and Age

According to statistics by gender, the number of Japanese nationals leaving Japan consists of 9,101,332 males and 6,885,918 females: males account for 56.9% of the total and females account for 43.1%. This percentage of male and female has not changed drastically from 2001, and the percentage accounted for by males exceeds that by females.

According to statistics by age, the number of Japanese nationals leaving Japan consists of 3,376,110 persons in their 30s, which accounts for 21.1% of the total, followed by 3,056,352 in their 40s (19.1%), 2,847,537 in their 50s (17.8%), 2,827,140 in their 60s or older (17.7%), and 2,618,264 in their 20s (16.4%).

The percentage of males and females by age shows that the percentage of females younger than 20 and in their 20s exceeds that of males, and in particular, in respect of those in their 20s, females account for 61.1%, a particularly high percentage. Figures for those older than their 20s show that the percentage of males leaving Japan exceeds that of females. (Chart 16)



(3) The Number of Japanese Nationals Leaving Japan by Airport and Seaport

According to statistics of Japanese nationals leaving Japan in 2008 by airport and seaport of departure, the number of persons using airports to leave Japan was 15,791,408 accounting for 98.8% of the total. As compared with foreign nationals entering Japan (persons using airports account for 92.4%), the percentage of airport users is much higher.

Among persons in 2008 using airports to leave Japan, the number of users of Narita Airport was 8,751,487, which accounts for 55.4% of the total number of persons using airports to leave Japan, and those using Kansai Airport was 3,336,644, which accounts for 21.1%. This means that 76.5% of the total number of persons leaving from airports use these two airports. Other than Narita and Kansai airports, the order was Central Japan Airport, 1,782,085 (11.3%) and Fukuoka Airport, 632,848 (4.0%).

On the other hand, among persons using seaports to leave Japan, the number of persons using Hakata Port where scheduled passenger ships are operated to/from R.O. Korea was 143,889, which accounts for 73.5% of the total number of persons leaving from seaports, and the number using Shimonoseki Port was 17,547, which accounts for 9.0% of the total. This means that 82.5% of the total number of persons leaving from seaports use these two seaports. Other than these two seaports, the order was Osaka Port, 8,339 (4.3%) and Yokohama Port, 8,243 (4.2%).

2 The Number of Japanese Nationals Returning to Japan

The total number of returning Japanese nationals in 2008 was 15,905,443. By period of stay in foreign countries after departure, the number of persons returning within one month after departure was 14,629,566, which accounts for 92.0% of the total. Among those, the number returning within ten days was 13,280,178, which accounts for 83.5% of the total.

This means that most Japanese travelers going abroad depart for purposes requiring a relatively short period such as sightseeing and business, and are supposed to return promptly. This trend has continued in recent years and no major change is observed. (Table 15)

Table 15 Changes in the number of Japanese nationals returning to Japan by period of stay (People)

Period of Stay \ Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total	16,812,090	17,326,149	17,457,286	17,199,310	15,905,433
Within 5 days	9,672,889	10,073,918	10,223,891	10,125,098	9,344,449
More than 5 days to 10 days	4,460,530	4,503,407	4,480,153	4,370,202	3,935,729
More than 10 days to 20 days	1,088,365	1,101,697	1,098,627	1,066,490	1,007,021
More than 20 days to 1 month	376,796	381,627	379,317	356,190	342,367
More than 1 month to 3 months	520,877	553,187	563,278	566,805	560,726
More than 3 months to 6 months	287,444	305,489	311,045	316,000	319,749
More than 6 months to 1 year	255,730	264,511	267,240	268,808	270,411
More than 1 year to 3 years	123,208	119,516	114,578	113,569	111,398
More than 3 years	19,889	16,357	12,965	10,323	8,354
Unknown	6,362	6,440	6,192	5,825	5,229

Chapter 2 Deportation Procedures for Foreign Nationals

Section 1 ◆ 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 113,072 as of January 1, 2009. This number has been steadily decreasing, down by 36,713 (24.5%) from 149,785 on January 1, 2008, in other words, down by 185,574 (62.1%) from a record high of 298,646 on May 1, 1993.



Investigation of violation

This decrease was attributable partly to strict immigration examinations, concentrated efforts for close cooperation with other related agencies to detect violators of the Immigration Control Act and active publicity activities to prevent illegal employment, as well as the fact that the year 2008 was the last year of the five-year plan that the authority had been implementing to halve the number of illegal foreign residents, and overstayers decreased by 106,346 (down 48.5%) during the five years.

In addition to the above-mentioned number of overstayers, it is estimated that about 15,000 to 23,000 foreign nationals may have entered Japan illegally. If combined, the number of illegal foreign residents would be about 128,000 to 136,000.

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

According to statistics by nationality (place of origin), the largest number of overstayers was from R.O. Korea (24,198 accounting for 21.4% of the total) as of January 1, 2009. This was followed by China 18,385 accounting for 16.3%), the Philippines (17,287 accounting for 15.3%), Thailand (6,023 accounting for 5.3%), China (Taiwan) (4,950 accounting for 4.4%), Peru (3,396, accounting for 3.0%), and Indonesia (3,126 accounting for 2.8%). (Chart 17, Table 16)

Looking at changes after May 1, 1993, when the highest number of overstayers was recorded, the country (place of origin) of the largest number of overstayers as of May 1, 1993 was Thailand, followed by R.O. Korea, the Philippines, China, and Malaysia. In the ranking as of January 1, 2009, R.O. Korea was top followed by China, the Philippines, Thailand, and China (Taiwan).

The changes in the number of overstayers by nationality (place of origin) were as follows. Although new entries have increased drastically since visa-exemption measures have been

implemented from March 2005 for those who intend to engage in activities that can be performed under the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor”, the number of overstayers from R.O. Korea has been consistently decreasing since January 1, 1999. The number of those from Thailand has steadily decreased since May 1, 1993. The number of those from Malaysia and Peru has also seen a decrease 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 China continued to decrease from 1994 until 2002. Then, it started to increase in 2003 and further increased in 2004, but it has also shown a decreasing trend since 2005. The number of overstayers from the Philippines has been decreasing since 1998, but fluctuated between increasing and decreasing from 2003 to 2006, decreasing after 2007. The number of those from Indonesia had steadily increased since May 1, 1991, but has been on the decrease since 2005.

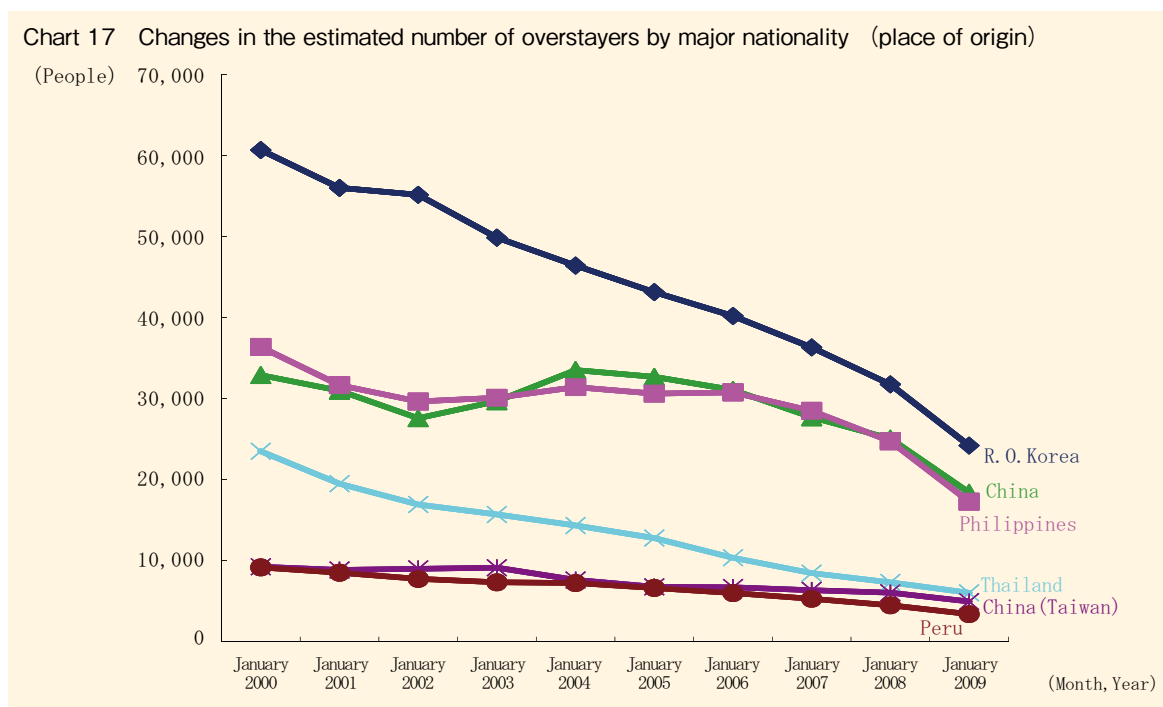


Table 16 Changes in the estimated number of overstayers by major nationality (place of origin) (People)

Date	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	January 1 2006	January 1 2007	January 1 2008	January 1 2009
Nationality (Place of Origin)																			
Total	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	193,745	170,839	149,785	113,072
R. O. Korea	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	40,203	36,321	31,758	24,198
China	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	31,074	27,698	25,057	18,385
Philippines	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	30,777	28,491	24,741	17,287
Thailand	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	10,352	8,460	7,314	6,023
China (Taiwan)	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	6,696	6,347	6,031	4,950
Peru	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	5,997	5,283	4,481	3,396
Indonesia	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	6,926	6,354	5,096	3,126
Malaysia	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	6,822	6,397	4,804	2,986
Sri Lanka	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	4,590	4,042	3,615	2,796
Viet Nam	1,061	821	852	869	453	448	231	731	880	1,092	1,550	2,021	2,697	3,582	3,916	4,071	3,959	3,362	2,527
Others	46,059	87,106	80,185	74,593	70,668	69,928	70,762	67,772	63,896	60,178	56,601	55,772	56,167	55,322	51,950	46,237	37,487	33,526	27,398

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

2 The Number of Overstayers by Status of Residence

Statistics for the estimated number of overstayers by status of residence immediately before their status of residence had expired showed the following: the largest number of overstayers had the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor” (76,651) accounting for 67.8% of the total. This was followed by “College Student” (5,090, accounting for 4.5%), “Entertainer” (5,015, accounting for 4.4%), “Pre-college Student” (3,186, accounting for 2.8%), and “Trainee” (2,561, accounting for 2.3%). Compared with the same period of the previous year, the number of those who were granted the “Temporary Visitor” or “Entertainer” status decreased by 25,418 (down 24.9%) and by 1,609 (down 24.3%) respectively. The number of overstayers with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor” has been on the decline since May 1, 1993, and those with the status of residence of “Entertainer” since May 1, 1994. The number of foreign residents with the status of residence of “Entertainer” started to rise on January 1, 2002 and kept increasing, but has been decreasing since January 2005. On the other hand, the number of foreign residents with the status of residence of “College Student” continued to increase from January 1, 2001, but has been decreasing since January 2006. (Table 17)

Table 17 Changes in the estimated number of overstayers by major status of residence

(People)

Status of Residence \ Date	January 1 2004	January 1 2005	January 1 2006	January 1 2007	January 1 2008	January 1 2009
Total	219,418	207,299	193,745	170,839	149,785	113,072
Temporary Visitor	150,326	139,417	134,374	117,289	102,069	76,651
College Student	6,672	8,173	7,628	7,448	6,667	5,090
Entertainer	11,974	11,319	10,052	8,162	6,624	5,015
Pre-college Student	9,511	8,506	7,307	5,281	4,311	3,186
Trainee	3,959	3,648	3,393	3,333	3,136	2,561
Others	36,976	36,236	30,991	29,326	26,978	20,569

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 2008, the number of foreign nationals for whom deportation procedures were carried out on account of violating the Immigration Control Act was 39,382, a decrease of 6,120 from 2007. Of these, 8,480 were handed over to immigration inspectors as those subject to the departure order system, which was started according to the amended Immigration Control Act enforced in December 2004.

According to the statistics of the number of foreign nationals by grounds for deportation in 2008, the largest number of foreign nationals were deported for overstaying (31,045 accounting for 78.8%), followed by illegal entry (6,136 accounting for 15.6%), and then activities other than those permitted by the status of residence previously granted (1,153 accounting for 2.9%). Overstayers continued to occupy a predominant percentage.



Detection

According to the statistics of the number of cases of violation of the Immigration Control Act according to nationality (place of origin) in 2008, the largest number of such foreign nationals was from China for six consecutive years (10,963 accounting for 27.8%), followed by the Philippines (7,847 accounting for 19.9%), and R.O. Korea (4,993 accounting for 12.7%). These top three countries made up over 60% of the total. (Tables 18 and 19)

Table 18 Changes in the number of cases of violation of the Immigration Control Act by grounds for deportation (People)

Year Grounds for Deportation	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total	55,351	57,172	56,410	45,502	39,382
Illegal entry	11,217	11,586	10,441	7,454	6,136
Illegal landing	992	690	506	342	253
Activity other than those permitted	1,399	1,890	1,736	1,409	1,153
Overstay	41,175	42,254	42,829	35,417	31,045
Criminal offenses etc.	568	752	898	880	795
Illegal work	43,059	45,935	45,929	36,982	32,471

Table 19 Changes in the number of cases of violation of the Immigration Control Act by nationality (place of origin) (People)

Year Nationality (Place of Origin)	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total	55,351	57,172	56,410	45,502	39,382
China	15,702	17,252	16,269	11,981	10,963
Philippines	8,558	9,627	10,420	9,185	7,847
R. O. Korea	7,782	8,050	8,128	6,560	4,993
Indonesia	2,103	2,000	2,443	2,153	2,284
Thailand	3,572	3,388	3,294	2,467	2,020
Viet Nam	979	1,130	1,407	1,571	1,708
Sri Lanka	1,086	1,204	1,624	1,449	1,432
Peru	1,292	1,194	1,306	1,068	1,064
Bangladesh	1,312	1,529	1,295	975	745
India	613	764	721	608	591
Others	12,352	11,034	9,503	7,485	5,735

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

Among the foreign nationals violating the Act against whom deportation procedures were carried out in 2008, the number of those who illegally worked in Japan was 32,471, accounting for 82.5% of the total. Specific details for the cases are given below with respect to each of the grounds for deportation.

(1) Illegal Entry

Among the foreign nationals against whom deportation procedures were carried out for violating the Act in 2008, the number of foreign nationals who illegally entered Japan without valid passports or visas was 6,136, a decrease of 1,318 (down 17.7 %) from 2007, which accounts for 15.6 % of the total number of foreign nationals violating the Act. Looking at the past history, the number was increasing after 2003, however, it turned into a decrease after 2006. As the percentage of illegally entering persons against the total number of foreign nationals violating the Act is decreasing, it is considered that the effects of measures to exclude them at the border have begun to materialize.

According to statistics by nationality (place of origin), the largest number was from China (2,020 accounting for 32.9% of the total), followed by the Philippines (1,376 accounting for 22.4%), and Thailand (503 accounting for 8.2%), and no movement is seen in the order of these top three countries. However, the percentage of China is high, which constitutes a significant threat together with its number of cases.

According to statistics by means of transportation, the number of foreign nationals against whom deportation procedures were carried out for illegal entry by airplane in 2008 was 4,462, a decrease of 986 (down 18.1%) from 2007. This accounts for 72.7% of all illegally entering persons, and illegal entry using airplane occupies a high percentage as in the past. Meanwhile, the number of foreign nationals against whom deportation procedures were carried out for illegal entry by ship decreased by 332 (down 16.6%) from 2007 to 1,674 in 2008. (Tables 20, 21 and 22)

Table 20 Changes in the number of cases of illegal entry by nationality (place of origin)

(People)

Nationality (Place of Origin) \ Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total	11, 217	11, 586	10, 441	7, 454	6, 136
China	4, 588	4, 960	3, 999	2, 410	2, 020
Philippines	1, 955	2, 074	2, 059	1, 624	1, 376
Thailand	1, 219	1, 139	988	680	503
R. O. Korea	587	617	767	619	478
Bangladesh	626	646	486	349	263
Peru	331	255	299	243	261
Indonesia	148	172	232	281	260
Iran	425	402	432	382	248
Sri Lanka	119	128	181	151	165
Pakistan	334	300	261	141	82
Others	885	893	737	574	480

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

Table 21 Changes in the number of cases of illegal entry by airplane by nationality (place of origin) (People)

Nationality (Place of Origin) \ Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total	7,848	8,065	7,549	5,448	4,462
Philippines	1,825	1,927	1,956	1,519	1,301
China	2,295	2,570	2,088	1,215	942
Thailand	1,165	1,065	934	633	471
Peru	325	255	298	241	261
Indonesia	148	171	232	281	259
Others	2,090	2,077	2,041	1,559	1,228

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

Table 22 Changes in the number of cases of illegal entry by ship by nationality (place of origin) (People)

Nationality (Place of Origin) \ Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total	3,369	3,521	2,892	2,006	1,674
China	2,293	2,390	1,911	1,195	1,078
R.O. Korea	175	229	352	301	254
Bangladesh	352	348	232	194	127
Philippines	130	147	103	105	75
Iran	82	62	63	59	46
Others	337	345	231	152	94

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

(2) Illegal Landing

Among the foreign nationals against whom deportation procedures were carried out for violating the Act in 2008, the number of those who illegally landed in Japan without obtaining permission for landing and so forth from an immigration inspector was 253, a decrease of 89 (down 26.0%) from 2007. This accounted for 0.6% of the total number of foreign nationals violating the Act, and the proportion has maintained a similar level since 2002. (Table 23)

Table 23 Changes in the number of cases of illegal landing by nationality (place of origin) (People)

Nationality (Place of Origin) \ Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total	992	690	506	342	253
China	432	374	231	137	58
Turkey	18	5	45	19	39
Sri Lanka	64	38	33	38	27
Myanmar	77	43	31	16	25
R.O. Korea	40	23	22	15	17
Philippines	54	29	10	26	14
Indonesia	7	4	12	7	11
Thailand	49	32	21	11	9
Russia	56	33	10	15	7
China (Taiwan)	11	8	8	8	4
Others	184	101	83	50	42

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

(3) Overstay

Among the foreign nationals against whom deportation procedures were carried out for violating the Act in 2008, the number of those who had stayed beyond the authorized period of stay decreased by 4,372 (down 12.3%) from 2007 to 31,045. This accounts for 78.8% of the total number of foreign nationals violating the Act.

According to statistics by nationality (place of origin), the largest number of such foreign nationals was from China (8,326 accounting for 26.8%), followed by the Philippines (6,188 accounting for 19.9%), R.O. Korea (4,147 accounting for 13.4%), Indonesia (1,978 accounting for 6.4%), and Viet Nam (1,570 accounting for 5.1%). (Table 24)

Table 24 Changes in the number of cases of overstay by nationality (place of origin)

(People)

Nationality (Place of Origin) \ Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total	41,175	42,254	42,829	35,417	31,045
China	10,197	11,301	11,295	8,811	8,326
Philippines	5,949	6,583	7,879	7,136	6,188
R.O. Korea	6,837	6,959	6,847	5,484	4,147
Indonesia	1,896	1,779	2,074	1,837	1,978
Viet Nam	897	1,021	1,300	1,435	1,570
Thailand	2,267	2,166	2,232	1,728	1,444
Sri Lanka	875	1,028	1,391	1,244	1,216
Peru	917	919	971	792	779
India	584	715	693	557	550
Malaysia	1,509	1,490	1,095	846	503
Others	9,247	8,293	7,052	5,547	4,344

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

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

If a foreign national residing in Japan exclusively engages in work or engages in activities other than those permitted for his/her status of residence previously granted without obtaining the required permission, deportation procedures will be carried out by reason of engaging in activities other than those permitted by the status of residence previously granted. The number of such foreign nationals had decreased by 256 (down 18.2%) from 2007 to 1,153 in 2008. This accounts for 2.9% of the total number of foreign nationals against whom deportation procedures were carried out for violating the Act.

According to statistics by nationality (place of origin), the largest number was from China (369 accounting for 32.0% of the total), followed by R.O. Korea (275 accounting for 23.9%), and the Philippines (189 accounting for 16.4%), and these three top countries account for 72.2% of the total. (Table 25)

Table 25 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	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total	1,399	1,890	1,736	1,409	1,153
China	304	357	469	395	369
R. O. Korea	294	396	412	380	275
Philippines	541	862	399	297	189
Viet Nam	15	19	32	49	56
Nepal	1	4	18	21	35
Indonesia	48	45	119	23	29
Bangladesh	18	13	13	13	26
India	4	10	4	27	23
Sri Lanka	10	6	14	8	16
Russia	24	17	43	55	15
Others	140	161	213	141	120

(*) "China" does 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 2008, the number of those who were considered to have been illegally working was 32,471, accounting for 82.5% of the total number of foreign nationals violating the Act. This indicates that most illegal foreign residents work illegally.

It has been pointed out that illegal foreign workers, working for substandard wages, take away employment opportunities from Japanese workers in the present severe employment climate, and prevent the realization of a fair labor market. Furthermore, there have been human rights violations against illegal foreign workers. For example, brokers arrange for illegal workers to come to Japan and gain a huge unfair profit by exploiting the wages that should be earned by the foreign workers. Foreign workers in these conditions are also unable to receive sufficient compensation in the event of an industrial accident.

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

Illegal workers came from 89 countries (place of origin), mainly neighboring Asian countries, indicating that the trend toward increasing diversity in the nationalities of illegal foreign workers is continuing.

According to the statistics of the number by nationality (place of origin), illegal workers from China made up the largest number at 9,583, accounting for 29.5% of the total, followed by the Philippines (6,083, accounting for 18.7%), R.O. Korea (4,077, accounting for 12.6%), Indonesia

(2,162, accounting for 6.7%), and Thailand (1,694, accounting for 5.2%). These top five countries represented 72.7% of the total. As a recent trend, the number of Chinese illegal workers has accounted for a large proportion. (Table 26)

Table 26 Changes in the number of cases of illegal work by nationality (place of origin) (People)

Nationality (Place of Origin)	Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total		43,059	45,935	45,929	36,982	32,471
Male		25,349	26,232	24,759	20,926	19,270
Female		17,710	19,703	21,170	16,056	13,201
China		12,669	14,239	13,750	10,223	9,583
Male		8,104	8,749	7,614	5,910	5,950
Female		4,565	5,490	6,136	4,313	3,633
Philippines		6,299	7,378	7,978	7,075	6,083
Male		2,263	2,647	2,887	2,815	2,559
Female		4,036	4,731	5,091	4,260	3,524
R.O. Korea		6,192	6,514	6,696	5,315	4,077
Male		2,281	2,274	2,232	1,977	1,555
Female		3,911	4,240	4,464	3,338	2,522
Indonesia		1,897	1,844	2,286	2,034	2,162
Male		1,350	1,297	1,521	1,438	1,568
Female		547	547	765	596	594
Thailand		2,831	2,816	2,650	2,013	1,694
Male		1,179	1,158	1,159	985	903
Female		1,652	1,658	1,491	1,028	791
Viet Nam		732	900	1,189	1,318	1,473
Male		373	490	630	756	887
Female		359	410	559	562	586
Sri Lanka		891	1,024	1,440	1,264	1,278
Male		799	898	1,270	1,117	1,150
Female		92	126	170	147	128
Peru		945	894	927	785	786
Male		615	588	609	518	532
Female		330	306	318	267	254
Bangladesh		1,214	1,405	1,176	907	702
Male		1,166	1,328	1,114	873	670
Female		48	77	62	34	32
India		577	698	668	582	554
Male		568	681	654	574	548
Female		9	17	14	8	6
Others		8,812	8,223	7,169	5,466	4,079
Male		6,651	6,122	5,069	3,963	2,948
Female		2,161	2,101	2,100	1,503	1,131

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

(3) The Number of Illegal Foreign Workers by Gender

The numbers of male and female illegal foreign workers against whom deportation procedures were taken was 19,270 (accounting for 59.3% of the total) and 13,201 (accounting for 40.7% of the total), respectively. The percentage of males is increasing.

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

According to statistics by type of work, the largest number of illegal foreign workers were

factory workers (11,366 accounting for 35.0% of the total), followed by attendants such as bar hostesses (4,452 accounting for 13.7%), and construction workers (3,831 accounting for 11.8%).

According to statistics by gender, the largest number of males worked as factory workers, followed by construction workers and other labor workers, while the largest number of females worked as attendants such as bar hostesses, followed by factory workers, waitresses and bartenders. (Table 27)

Table 27 Changes in the number of cases of illegal work by type of work

(People)

Job Categories \ Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total	43,059	45,935	45,929	36,982	32,471
Male	25,349	26,232	24,759	20,926	19,270
Female	17,710	19,703	21,170	16,056	13,201
Factory worker	10,440	11,786	12,986	11,572	11,366
Male	7,402	8,447	8,892	7,898	7,670
Female	3,038	3,339	4,094	3,674	3,696
Attendants such as bar hostess	6,597	7,319	7,701	5,809	4,452
Male	229	258	356	400	429
Female	6,368	7,061	7,345	5,409	4,023
Construction worker	6,228	6,378	5,425	4,458	3,831
Male	6,185	6,331	5,378	4,401	3,792
Female	43	47	47	57	39
Other labor worker	2,636	2,858	3,307	2,792	3,092
Male	2,185	2,264	2,502	2,190	2,342
Female	451	594	805	602	750
Waitress and bartender	3,471	4,091	4,008	3,073	2,149
Male	1,401	1,518	1,336	1,190	807
Female	2,070	2,573	2,672	1,883	1,342
Other service worker	2,702	2,841	2,815	1,953	1,483
Male	1,032	1,017	1,026	739	598
Female	1,670	1,824	1,789	1,214	885
Others	10,985	10,662	9,687	7,325	6,098
Male	6,915	6,397	5,269	4,108	3,632
Female	4,070	4,265	4,418	3,217	2,466

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

According to statistics by place of work (by prefecture), the largest number is found in Tokyo Metropolis (5,862 accounting for 18.1% of the total), followed by Aichi Prefecture (4,801 accounting for 14.8%), Kanagawa Prefecture (4,497 accounting for 13.8%), Chiba Prefecture (2,824 accounting for 8.7%) and Saitama Prefecture (2,784 accounting for 8.6%), which shows that illegal foreign workers are concentrated in the Tokyo Metropolitan District concentrating in the Pacific coast area from Kanto to Kinki districts. Thus, one metropolis and six prefectures (Tokyo, Kanagawa, Chiba, Saitama, Ibaraki, Gunma and Tochigi) account for 66.2% of the total number of illegal foreign workers. On the other hand, the existence of illegal foreign workers is recognized in all 47 prefectures of the entire nation as shown by the fact that the central district, consisting of Aichi Prefecture, Shizuoka Prefecture and others, account for 23.0% of the total number of illegal foreign workers, and it is known that the degree of dispersion in local districts is higher. (Table 28)

Table 28 Changes in the of cases of illegal foreign workers by place of work

(People)

Prefecture	Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total		43,059	45,935	45,929	36,982	32,471
Tokyo		16,572	16,612	14,447	8,940	5,862
Aichi		3,229	3,415	4,597	4,724	4,801
Kanagawa		3,625	4,452	4,673	4,499	4,497
Chiba		3,220	3,555	3,773	3,021	2,824
Saitama		3,805	4,101	3,762	3,183	2,784
Ibaraki		1,775	2,007	2,198	2,243	2,465
Gunma		1,370	1,919	2,359	1,961	1,980
Osaka		1,686	1,632	1,677	1,548	1,439
Tochigi		837	1,222	1,345	1,103	1,097
Shizuoka		1,251	1,167	1,255	1,243	1,092
Others		5,689	5,853	5,843	4,517	3,630

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.

Looking at changes in the number of such examinations of violations, the number was smaller than the previous year for three consecutive years from 2006, but is still at a high level as in the past, and the number was 43,073 in 2008. (Table 29)

Table 29 Changes in the number of cases of receipt and findings of violation examinations by immigration inspectors, hearings by special inquiry officers and decisions of the Minister of Justice

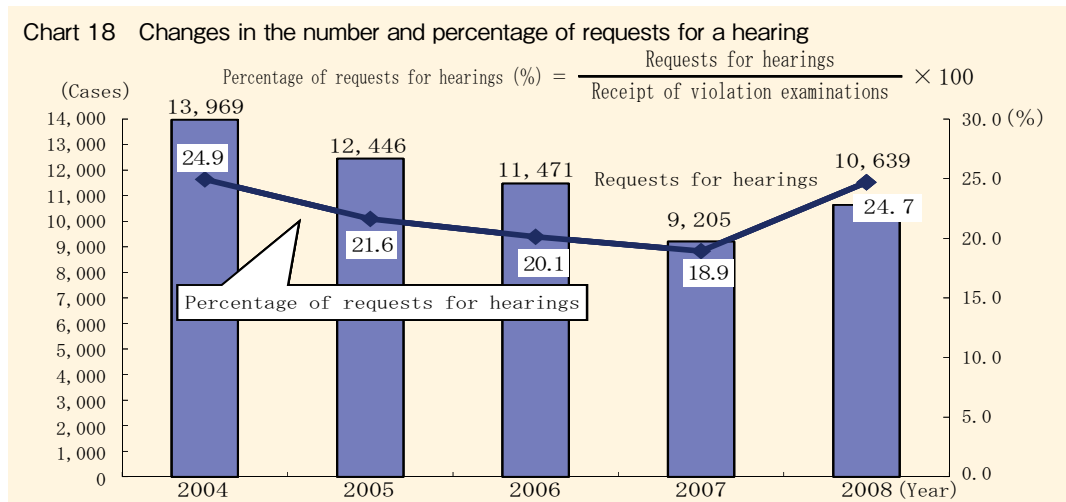
(Cases)

Division	Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Violation examination by immigration inspector	Receipt	56,018 (596)	57,569 (286)	57,017 (488)	48,647 (2,918)	43,073 (3,274)
	Found not to fall under one of the reasons for deportation	4	7	3	3	4
	Issuance of written departure order	40,771	32,284	31,393	26,215	22,179
	Request for hearing	13,969	12,446	11,471	9,205	10,639
	Issuance of written departure order	918	12,227	11,100	9,691	8,477
	Not finished, others	356	605	3,050	3,533	1,774
Hearing by special inquiry officer	Receipt	14,869 (866)	13,002 (518)	12,221 (711)	10,101 (846)	11,247 (562)
	Error in the findings	—	—	—	—	2
	Issuance of written deportation order	113	137	126	134	166
	Filing an objection	14,191	12,056	11,196	9,361	10,515
	Issuance of written departure order	—	—	—	—	—
	Not finished, others	565	809	899	606	564
Decision of the Minister of Justice	Receipt	14,897 (703)	12,533 (461)	11,757 (552)	10,037 (639)	11,280 (682)
	Objection with reason	—	—	3	6	3
	Objection without reason	14,412	11,922	11,018	9,245	10,593
	Issuance of written departure order	—	—	—	—	—
	Not finished, others	485	611	736	786	684
Request for hearing	Request for hearing	24.9	21.6	20.1	18.9	24.7
	Receipt of violation examination (%)					

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

The number of requests for hearings conducted after examination of violations in 2008 was

10,639 accounting for 24.7%. The number and percentage are both increasing, and remain at a high level. This increase was probably caused by a rise in the number of foreign nationals who hope to stay in Japan on the basis of relationships such as marriage or cohabitation with Japanese nationals. Another contributory factor was the widespread recognition that special permission to stay can be obtained with consideration for humanitarian reasons such as reunion or illness of family members. (Chart 18)



For the same reason, the number of objections, which a foreign national unsatisfied with the decision made by the special inquiry officer at the hearing may file with the Minister of Justice, was 10,515 cases in 2008 (exceeding 10,000), and also continue to remain at a high level. (Table 29)

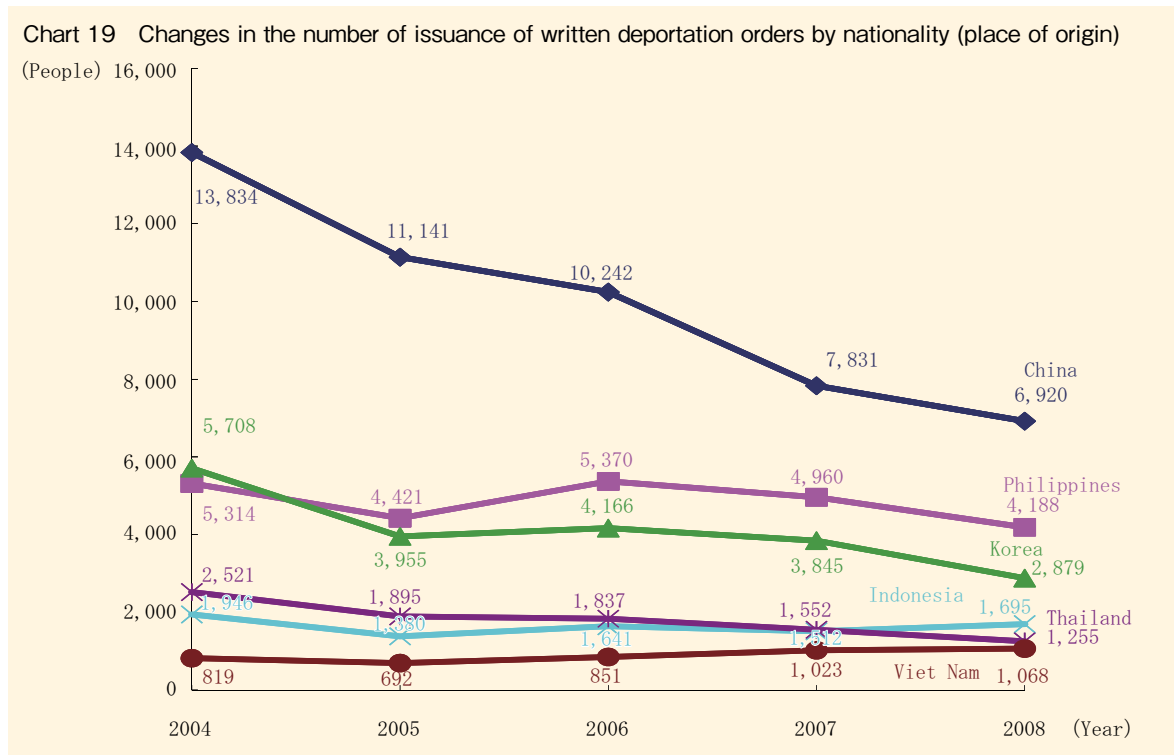
(2) Issuance of a Written Deportation Order

The number of written deportation orders issued in 2008 was 24,442. If the violators of the Immigration Control Act are classified by grounds for their deportation, cases of overstay numbered 16,966 and although the number of these cases has tended to decrease, the percentage they represent in total showed a slight increase of 69.4%. On the other hand, the percentage of cases of illegal entry decreased to 21.0% in 2008. This decrease is considered to be attributable mainly to a decrease in the use of illegal passports in applications for landing, since landing examinations using personal identification information have been conducted. (Table 30)

Table 30 Changes in the number of issuance of written deportation orders by grounds for deportation (Cases)

Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Grounds for Deportation					
Total	42,074	33,520	33,202	28,225	24,442
Overstay	29,802	20,764	22,136	19,403	16,966
Illegal entry	9,296	9,427	7,880	6,188	5,125
Illegal landing	873	635	443	334	241
Activity other than those permitted	1,380	1,874	1,726	1,367	1,137
Criminal offenses etc.	617	701	831	738	805
Others	106	119	186	195	168

According to statistics by nationality (place of origin) in 2008, the largest number of foreign nationals who were issued written deportation orders came from China (6,920 accounting for 28.3%), followed by the Philippines 4,188 accounting for 17.1%), and North and South Korea (2,879 accounting for 11.8%). (Chart 19)



(3) Provisional Release

In 2008, the number of foreign nationals detained under written detention orders who were accorded provisional release decreased by 1,965, reaching 1,918.

On the other hand, the number of foreign nationals detained under written deportation orders who were accorded provisional release decreased by 119, reaching 819. (Table 31)

Table 31 Changes in the number of cases of provisional release permission

		(Cases)				
Kind of Order	Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
By written detention order		1,180	1,457	3,658	3,883	1,918
By written deportation order		382	769	671	938	819

(4) Special Permission to Stay

The number of foreign nationals who received special permission to stay from the Minister of Justice was 8,522 in 2008, an increase from 2007, and continues to maintain a high level. 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.

Further, as specific cases, the Ministry of Justice publicly announces on its website, in each year after 2004, cases where special permission to stay was granted, and also publicly announces where the special permission to stay was not granted after 2006.

Among the number of the special permission to stay by reasons of deportation, the largest number in 2008 was overstay (6,521). The percentage of overstay was on a decreasing trend, however, it slightly increased to 76.5% in 2008. On the other hand, the percentage of illegal entry and illegal landing decreased in two consecutive years in 2008 (19.2%) as a result of landing examination using information for personal identification. (Table 32)

Table 32 Changes in the number of cases of special permission to stay by grounds for deportation (Cases)

Grounds for Deportation \ Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total	13,239	10,834	9,360	7,388	8,522
Overstay	10,697	8,483	7,096	5,586	6,521
Illegal entry/Illegal landing	2,188	2,077	1,915	1,457	1,640
Criminal offenses etc.	354	274	349	345	361

According to statistics by nationality (place of origin) in 2008, the largest number of foreign nationals who were granted special permission to stay came from China (1,669 accounting for 19.6%), followed by North and South Korea (1,416 accounting for 16.6%). (Table 33)

Table 33 Changes in the number of cases of special permission to stay by nationality (place of origin) (Cases)

Nationality (Place of Origin) \ Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total	13,239	10,834	9,360	7,388	8,522
China	2,212	2,211	1,827	1,304	1,669
Korea	2,057	1,807	1,523	1,106	1,416
Others	8,970	6,816	6,010	4,978	5,437

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

4 Outline of Deportation of Foreign Nationals

The number of foreign nationals deported decreased by 3,982 (down 14.3%) from 2007 to 23,931 in 2008.

According to statistics by nationality (place of origin), the largest number was from China (6,805 accounting for 28.4% of the total), followed by the Philippines (4,385 accounting for 18.3%), R.O. Korea (2,873 accounting for 12.0%), Indonesia (1,596 accounting for 6.7%), and Thailand (1,260 accounting for 5.3%). (Table 34)



Deportation

Table 34 Changes in the number of deportees by nationality
(place of origin)

(People)

Nationality (Place of Origin)	Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total		41,926	33,192	33,018	27,913	23,931
China		13,408	11,209	10,251	7,516	6,805
Philippines		5,207	4,961	5,453	5,128	4,385
R. O. Korea		5,696	3,962	4,193	3,798	2,873
Indonesia		2,009	1,241	1,672	1,452	1,596
Thailand		2,527	1,930	1,845	1,553	1,260
Sri Lanka		1,005	821	1,139	1,090	1,046
Viet Nam		799	564	864	1,018	1,023
Bangladesh		1,223	1,271	1,076	847	627
Peru		799	542	655	518	495
India		568	527	568	458	471
Others		8,685	6,164	5,302	4,535	3,350

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

According to statistics by means of deportation, 96.5% of foreign nationals who had been issued a deportation order were deported at their own expense ("voluntary departure"), making up the vast majority. On the other hand, the number of foreign nationals who need to be individually deported at national expense has been increasing, and the number of foreign nationals individually deported at national expense was 383 in 2008. (Table 35)

Table 35 Changes in the number of deportees by means of deportation

(People)

Measure of Deportation	Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total		41,926	33,192	33,018	27,913	23,931
Voluntary departure		40,480	31,811	31,911	26,818	23,093
Deportation in accordance with Article 59		1,313	1,177	852	690	407
Deportation individually at the expense of the government		119	192	239	361	383
Deportation in group at the expense of the government		—	—	—	—	—
Others		7	—	—	—	—
Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons		7	12	16	44	48

(*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) "Others" are cases of deportation at the expense of the government of each deportees.

(1) Deportation at the Expense of the Government

As foreign nationals violating the Act stay longer and have more diverse lifestyles, an increasing number of foreign nationals who have been issued with a deportation order suffer from illness, refuse deportation for various reasons, or remain in detention for a long period of time because they cannot afford travel expenses. Of these foreign nationals, the number of those deported at national expense in consideration of individual circumstances increased by 22 (up

6.1%) from 361 in 2007 to 383 in 2008.

In addition, Chinese illegal immigrants detected at the border as collective stowaways were deported as a group in the past. However, collective deportation has not been conducted since 2004 due to a significant decrease in the number of collective stowaways detected.

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

Deportees who were deported at their own expense decreased by 3,725 (down 13.9%) from 2007 to 23,093 in 2008.

Although around 95% of the deported foreign nationals are deported at their own expense every year, many do not fulfill requirements for deportation. For example, they do not possess a passport, an airplane ticket, or enough money for travel costs, causing the process to take a considerable amount of time.

In order to deport such nationals as quickly as possible, the Immigration Bureau not only carries out deportation procedures but also instructs the foreign nationals to make contact with relevant people in Japan or in their home countries in order to obtain an airplane ticket or money for travel costs. In cases where a foreign national does not possess a passport, the Immigration Bureau makes an application for the early issue of a passport to the relevant foreign mission in Japan. (Table 36)

Table 36 Changes in the number of deportees by voluntary departure by nationality (place of origin) (People)

Nationality (Place of Origin)	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total	40,480	31,811	31,911	26,818	23,093
China	12,919	10,621	9,831	7,274	6,686
Philippines	5,101	4,810	5,340	4,988	4,242
R.O. Korea	5,656	3,912	4,155	3,763	2,836
Indonesia	1,989	1,224	1,663	1,438	1,549
Thailand	2,370	1,865	1,766	1,503	1,214
Viet Nam	795	558	861	1,011	1,008
Sri Lanka	929	766	1,089	1,021	986
Bangladesh	1,211	1,258	1,068	831	610
India	561	518	558	454	465
Peru	780	520	629	482	460
Others	8,169	5,759	4,951	4,053	3,037

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

(3) Deportation at the Expense of and under the Responsibility of Carriers

Any carrier that transported a foreign national who is issued with a deportation order must send him/her back at their own expense and under their own responsibility (the deportation specified in Article 59 of the Immigration Control Act) under certain conditions (Note). The number of foreign nationals deported in this way in 2008 was 407, having decreased by 283 (down

41.0%) from 2007. (Table 35)

(Note) Carriers are, similarly to captains of ships, in a position to govern their crew and passengers, and imposed the prescribed responsibilities and duties under the Immigration Control Act. Among these duties, they are obligated to send foreign nationals falling under certain requirements to the area outside Japan promptly under their own responsibility and at their own expense (Article 59 of the Act).

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

5 Departure Orders

(1) Outline

The departure order system was newly established by the amendment of the Immigration Control Act of 2004 for the purpose of encouraging illegal foreign residents to appear at immigration offices voluntarily. It entered into force on December 2, 2004. Under the system, if a foreign national who appears at an immigration office voluntarily satisfies certain requirements, he/she may depart from Japan without being detained in accordance with simple procedures, and the landing denial period for him/her will be shortened from five years to one year.

(2) Investigation of Violations

The number of foreign nationals who were handed over from immigration control officers to immigration inspectors through the departure order procedures was 8,480 in 2008, accounting for 21.5% of the total number of foreign nationals violating the Immigration Control Act.

A. The Number of Foreign Nationals Ordered to Depart by Nationality (Place of Origin)

According to statistics by nationality (place of origin), the largest number was from China (3,130 accounting for 36.9% of the total), followed by the Philippines (1,202 accounting for 14.2%), R.O. Korea (1,139 accounting for 13.4%), Indonesia (592 accounting for 7.0%), and Viet Nam (476 accounting for 5.6%), and these top five countries account for 77.1% of the total. (Table 37)

Table 37 Number of foreign nationals handed over under a departure order by nationality (place of origin) (2008)

		(People)				
Nationality (Place of Origin)	Article	Total	24-(ii)-3	24-(iv)-(b)	24-(vi)	24-(vi)-2
Total		8,480	0	8,002	216	262
China		3,130	0	3,064	53	13
R.O. Korea		1,139	0	1,113	5	21
Philippines		1,202	0	1,079	33	90
Indonesia		592	0	513	63	16
Viet Nam		476	0	461	3	12
Sri Lanka		247	0	230	10	7
Thailand		229	0	196	14	19
Peru		211	0	184	0	27
Mongolia		164	0	148	14	2
Malaysia		133	0	133	0	0
Others		957	0	881	21	55

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

B. The Number of Foreign Nationals Ordered to Depart by Applied Articles

According to statistics by applied articles, the number of suspects violating Article 24, (iv) (b) of the Immigration Control Act was the largest at 8,002, accounting for 94.4% of the total. This was followed by 262 suspects violating Article 24, (vii) of said Act, and 216 suspects violating Article 24, (vi) of said Act.

(3) Examination

A. Receipt and Findings of Cases

Cases of departure orders received in 2008 numbered 8,480, accounting for 21.5% of the total number of violations received. As those subject to a departure order and wishing to depart from Japan voluntarily appear at a regional immigration bureau, they are promptly processed after being handed over by immigration control officers.

B. Issuance of a Written Departure Order

The number of foreign nationals who were recognized as subject to a departure order and to whom a written departure order was issued, was 8,477 in 2008.

According to statistics by nationality (place of origin), the largest number was from China (3,136 accounting for 37.0% of the total), followed by North and South Korea (1,142, accounting for 13.5%), and the Philippines (1,141, accounting for 13.5%), the top five countries accounting for 76.5% of the total. (Table 38)

Table 38 Changes in the number of issuance of written departure orders by nationality (place of origin) (Cases)

Nationality (Place of Origin)	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total	918	12,227	11,100	9,691	8,477
China	252	3,777	3,516	3,153	3,136
Korea	133	2,206	1,992	1,616	1,142
Philippines	276	1,742	1,582	1,486	1,141
Indonesia	46	670	701	623	590
Viet Nam	19	304	343	359	472
Sri Lanka	15	295	349	312	238
Thailand	36	507	429	313	222
Peru	19	254	250	239	212
Mongolia	18	273	240	210	153
Nepal	17	165	212	133	131
Others	87	2,034	1,486	1,247	1,040

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

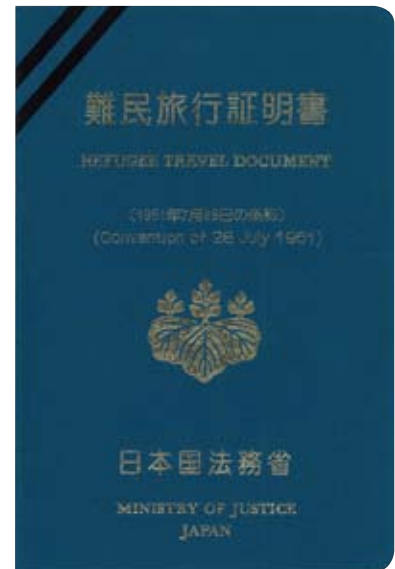
(*2) The number of issuance in 2004 is counted after December 2, 2004 (when departure order system was in effect).

(4) Confirmation of Departure

Foreign nationals who are recognized as subject to a departure order are required, similarly to foreign nationals departing within the period of stay, to submit one copy of an ED card to the immigration inspector to receive a seal of departure, and to submit their own written departure order.

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 (Note). 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.



Refugee Travel Document

In light of these circumstances, Japan intends to review the refugee recognition system from the perspective of proper and prompt protection of refugees through fairer procedures. The Act for Partial Amendment of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act was promulgated on June 2, 2004, which included establishment of the system for permitting provisional stay and the refugee examination counselors system. The Act has been in force since May 16, 2005.

The Immigration Bureau has further improved and strengthened its organizational structure and investigation system, as well as properly implementing the new refugee recognition system, in order to handle applications for refugee status quickly and appropriately.

(Note) Japan became a signatory to the Convention on October 3, 1981 and to the Protocol on January 1, 1982. The Convention and the Protocol came into effect in Japan on January 1, 1982.

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 to the end of 2008 was 7,297.

Looking at the change in the number of applications in recent years, we find that it hovered in the 300 to 400 range until 2005, but the number of applications increased significantly in 2006, reaching 954, and it reached 1,599 in 2008, which is nearly double that in 2007, the highest number since the refugee recognition system was established. (Table 39)

Table 39 Changes in the number of Convention refugee applicants /findings and protected refugees

Division \ Year		1982～2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
Applied		3, 118	426	384	954	816	1, 599	7, 297
Findings	Recognized (*1)	315	15	46	34	41	57	508
	Denied	2, 230	294	249	389	446	791	4, 399
	Withdrawn	402	41	32	48	61	87	671
	Total	2, 947	350	327	471	548	935	5, 578
Humanitarian permission to stay (*2)		275 (*3)	9	97	53	88	360	882

(*1) The number of recognized persons includes those who were rejected to be recognized as refugees, but were recognized as the result of filing of an objection.

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

(*3) The number of humanitarian permission to stay before 2003 is the total number from 1991 to 2003.

According to the statistics on the number of applications of Convention refugee applicants in 2008 by nationality, the largest number of applications was made by nationals from Myanmar (979), Turkey (156), and Sri Lanka (90).

2 Findings of Applications for Refugee Status

During the period from 1982 through to the end of 2008, the number of applicants who were recognized as refugees was 508, while the number of applicants who were not recognized as such was 4,399. The number of those who withdrew their applications was 671. 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 10.4%.

Looking at the change in the number of those recognized as refugees in recent years, we find that it hovered in the 10 to 20 range every year until 2004, but the number increased significantly in 2005, reaching 46, and it reached 57 in 2008, an increase by 16 from the previous year.

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/her home country due to situational problems in his/her country or has some other special reason requiring that he/she stay in Japan, special arrangements may be made flexibly 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

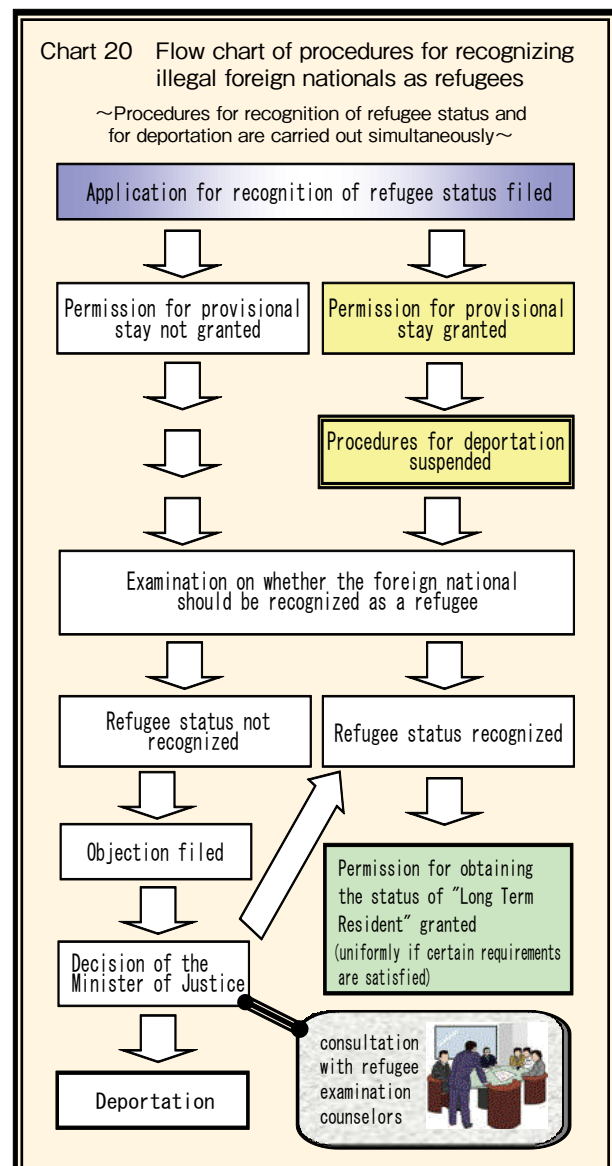
special arrangements was 882. In 2008, 360 applicants were allowed to stay in Japan, which was the largest number in the past. (Table 39)

3 Implementation of the System for Permitting Provisional Stay

On May 16, 2005, the amended Immigration Control Act, revising the previous refugee recognition system, came into force.

In the new refugee recognition system, a system that permits provisional stay for foreign nationals who are illegal residents and who have applied for refugee status was established in order to stabilize their legal position. Deportation procedures will be suspended for those foreign nationals who have been granted permission for provisional stay and refugee recognition procedures will take priority without the need for detention of the foreign nationals. The primary requirements for permitting provisional stay are that: (1) there is insufficient reason to suspect that they fall under specific grounds for deportation; (2) they have applied for recognition of refugee status within six months of their date of landing in Japan (for those for whom grounds for being a refugee have arisen during their stay in Japan, the date such fact became known to them); (3) they have entered Japan directly from an area where they feared they would be persecuted; (4) they have not been sentenced to imprisonment with or without work for committing particular crime(s) prescribed under the Penal Code, etc. after they entered Japan; (5) no written deportation order has been issued to them; and (6) there are no particular reasons to suspect that they may take flight.

Looking at implementation after the system for permitting provisional stay was established, the cases in which provisional stay was permitted numbered 308 in the past, while the cases where permission was denied numbered 1,833. In 2008, the number of permissions was 57, and the number of denials was 599. (Chart 20)



Section 2 ◆ Filing of Objections

1 Filing of Objections

The total number of objections filed by applicants who were denied refugee status was 2,993 during the period from 1982, the year in which the refugee recognition system was established, through to the end of 2008.

Looking at the change from 2004 to 2008, the number was on a decreasing trend: 209 in 2004 and 183 in 2005. However, the number has been on a significant increasing trend in recent years: 340 in 2006, 362 in 2007 and 429 in 2008. (Table 40)

Table 40 Changes in the number of filings of objections and decisions of the Minister of Justice (Cases)

Division \ Year		1982~2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
Not recognized as a refugee		2,230	294	249	389	446	791	4,399
Filing of objection		1,470	209	183	340	362	429	2,993
Decision	With reason	11	6	15	12	4	17	65
	Without reason	1,108	155	162	127	183	300	2,035
	Withdrawn	254	23	18	33	34	34	396

(*)As the procedure of “filing of an objection” was established by the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act, as amended, that was implemented on May 16, 2005, the application of objection made prior to the implementation of said Act was deemed to be replaced by “filing of an objection” after the implementation.

2 Finding of Objections

Among the objections filed by applicants who failed to obtain refugee status, 2,496 of them were handled during the period from 1982 through to the end of 2008. According to the statistics, 65 objections were considered to be with reasonable grounds and the applicants were granted refugee status. However, 2,035 objections were found to be without reasonable grounds and the remaining 396 objections were terminated for reasons such as the departure of or withdrawal by the foreign national who had filed the objection.

Looking at the change from 2004 until 2008, the number of objections that were considered to be with reasonable grounds increased in 2004 (6) and in 2005 (15). However, it decreased subsequently in 2006 (12) and in 2007 (4), and again increased in 2008 (17).

Those that were considered to be without reasonable grounds decreased in 2004 (155), in 2005 (162) and in 2006 (127). However, this number was 183 in 2007 and turned into a significant increase of 300 in 2008. (Table 40)

Section 3 ◆ Purpose of the Refugee Examination Counselors System and its Implementation

The Refugee Examination Counselors System was started in May 2005 in order to ensure the equity and neutrality of objection filing procedures. This procedure made it mandatory for the Minister of Justice to hear the opinions of refugee examination counselors when making decisions on objections filed against denial of refugee status.

The Act provides that refugee examination counselors shall be appointed from among persons of reputable character who are capable of making fair judgments on the objection filed in connection with denial of refugee status and who have an academic background in law or current international affairs. They are appointed by the Minister of Justice on recommendations from the UNHCR (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), Japan Federation of Bar Association, Refugee Assistance Headquarters, etc.

The Act provides that the Minister of Justice must hear the opinions of refugee examination counselors on all the cases in which an objection has been filed. Prior to this process, a process of oral statement of opinions by a petitioner, etc. in which a petitioner, etc. states his/her opinions, or a process of questions in which a refugee inquirer or a refugee examination counselor questions the petitioner, is implemented.

In 2008, the number of oral statements of opinion and processes of questions was 311 in total. This includes four occasions held for the second time and consecutively (so-called consecutive dates) concerning such cases.

After the oral statement of opinions and the process of questions, refugee examination counselors exchange opinions with the other refugee examination counselors, then draw up a written opinion and submit it to the Minister of Justice. The format of the written opinion is optional. In some cases, the opinions of refugee examination counselors are the same, and in some cases their opinions are disparate.

Cases in which written opinions were presented by refugee examination counselors numbered 302 in 2008.

To date, there have been no cases in which the Minister of Justice has made a disposition not in conformity with the opinions of the refugee examination counselors (should they differ in opinion, then the opinions of the majority of the counselors prevail).

Section 4 ◆ Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge

Landing permission for temporary refuge is granted by the immigration inspector under the prescribed procedures when it is considered that foreign nationals on board a ship, etc. may

possibly fall under the category of refugees, and that it is reasonable to permit them to land temporarily.

Looking at the status of said permission in the past, such permission was granted to 5,668 Vietnamese boat people who had filed applications from 1982 until 1993. After that, no application was made by Vietnamese boat people. With respect to applications made by persons other than boat people, 65 applications were made in the past five years (from 2004 until 2008), and 4 applications were granted such permission. (Table 41)

Table 41 Changes in the number of landing permissions for temporary refuge (Cases)

Year	Division	Others			
	Boat people	Recognized			
	Recognized	Applications	Recognized	Denied	Withdrawn
Total	5,668	169	39	125	5
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	–	–	–	–	–
2005	–	–	–	–	–
2006	–	6	–	5	1
2007	–	15	4	11	–
2008	–	44	–	43	1

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

Chapter 4

Promotion of Measures against Trafficking in Persons and Proper Protection of Foreign DV Victims

Section 1 ◆ Promotion of Measures against Trafficking in Persons

1 Number of Victims of Trafficking in Persons and Their Cases in 2008

Trafficking in persons is a grave abuse of human rights and a prompt and accurate response is called for from a humane perspective. This is because trafficking in persons causes serious spiritual and bodily pain to its victims, particularly to women and children, and the damage it causes is difficult to repair. The authorities concerned address this issue through the Action Plan for Trafficking in Persons Countermeasures.

The number of victims of trafficking in persons to whom the Immigration Bureau provided protection (special permission to stay) or who were helped to return to their home countries was 28 (all of them were female) in 2008. According to nationality, Thailand had 18 (5 in the previous year), followed by 6 victims (22 in the previous year) from the Philippines, China (Taiwan) with 2 (none in the previous year), and Bangladesh with 1 (none in the previous year).

Of the 28 victims, 11 (27 in the previous year) were legal residents and 17 were those who had violated the Immigration Control Act such as overstayers (13 in the previous year). Special permission to stay was issued to all the victims who had violated the Immigration Control Act. (Table 42)

Table 42 Number of victims of trafficking in persons (2008)

(People)

Nationality (Place of Origin)	Recognized as a victim of trafficking in persons		Total
	Legal resident	Violators of the Immigration Control Act (Special Permission to Stay in Japan)	
Thailand	5	13 (13)	18
Philippines	4	2 (2)	6
China (Taiwan)	2	0 (0)	2
Korea	0	1 (1)	1
Bangladesh	0	1 (1)	1
Total	11	17 (17)	28

(*) The status of residence of 11 legitimate residents consists of 4 persons who are "Temporary Visitor", 3 persons who are "Entertainer", 3 persons who are "Spouse or Child of Japanese National", and one person who has "Designated Activities". The manner of violation of 17 persons with special permission to stay in Japan consists of 10 persons who made Illegal Entry, and 7 persons with Overstay (Overstay from "Temporary Visitor").

The number of victims decreased by 12 (40 in the previous year) from the previous year. It is considered that the reason for such a decrease is due to the fact that the Government as a whole is taking countermeasures against trafficking in persons based on the "Action Plan for Countermeasures against Trafficking in Persons" which was decided at the coordination conference of authorities concerned relating to countermeasures against trafficking in persons

in December 2004, and that countermeasures for preventing trafficking in persons, including implementation of strict landing examination, has achieved a certain effect. (Table 43)

Table 43 Changes in the number of victims of trafficking in persons (People)

Breakdown \ Year	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total	115	47	40	28
Legal resident	68	20	27	11
Violators of the Immigration Control Act (Special permission to stay in Japan)	47(47)	27(27)	13(13)	17(17)

On the other hand, cases of trafficking in persons themselves are potential crimes. As a trend in recent years, it is considered that suffering from human trafficking has become difficult to uncover because the system of management and control has become more skillful to prevent running away of or notification by victims, or the control method has changed so that victims are not aware of being victims themselves. Therefore, the Immigration Bureau plans to strengthen countermeasures against human trafficking and make efforts to investigate the real situation in the days ahead.

In addition to the foregoing, many cases of trafficking in persons occurred in the past by making illegal use of the status of residence of “Entertainer”. However, as the underlying ministerial ordinance of the Ministry regarding this status was amended twice, the number of foreign nationals entering as “Entertainer” has drastically decreased, and, in recent years, some cases have been observed in which foreign nationals entering by obtaining the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” by a bogus marriage with a Japanese national are involved in trafficking in persons.

2 Number of Foreign Nationals Deported for Committing Trafficking in Persons During 2008

Persons to whom the Immigration Bureau issued a written deportation order as those committing trafficking in persons in 2008 were 9 (5 in the previous year), and their countries of origin were Indonesia 3, Thailand 2, China (Taiwan) 2, China 1, and R.O. Korea 1. All committing persons were female, except one from Indonesia.

Although the number of victims is decreasing, the issuance of a written deportation order to offenders is increasing. This is because such a written order was issued to 6 persons who were punished by an actual prison sentence for the crime of trafficking in persons before 2008 and served a prison term (they were released in 2008).

Further, written deportation orders were issued to Philippines 2, Thailand 2 and Indonesia 1 in 2007.

(Note) By the amendment to the Immigration Control Act in 2005, a “person who committed, suggested or assisted trafficking in persons” was made a subject of deportation (Article 24, item (iv), (c)).

Section 2 ◆ Proper Protection of Foreign DV Victims

1 Proper Protection of Foreign DV Victims

Violence by a spouse (DV) is a serious infringement against human rights that include an act that may constitute a crime. Similarly to cases of trafficking in persons, a prompt and accurate response is required from a humanitarian point of view.

The Immigration Bureau considers that DV is a serious infringement against human rights and responds to foreign nationals who are DV victims properly by ensuring their physical protection through coordination with concerned agencies, by, if application for extension of the period of stay or for change of status of residence is made by victims, permitting such applications or by, if they are overstaying on account of DV, giving special permission of residence.

Also, based on the act of partial amendment to the “Act for Prevention of Violence from Spouse and Protection of Victims” that was enforced in January 2008 and the “Basic Policy concerning Measures for Violence from Spouse and Protection of Victims” that was prepared in line with the enforcement of said Act, a manual for specifying treatment, etc., in case of recognizing foreign nationals suffering from DV was prepared to promote further protection of victims and distributed to regional immigration bureaus, and notification was made to the effect that bureaus should make a prompt report if they recognized a case of DV.

2 Number of Recognized Foreign DV Victims in 2008

The Immigration Bureau puts an emphasis on the protection of victims and treats them properly from a humanitarian point of view by ensuring coordination with concerned agencies, and, in the process of residence examination or deportation procedure, by giving due and careful consideration to the will and position of the victims and by considering individual circumstances. The number of foreign DV victims who were recognized in the process of application for extension of period of stay or deportation procedure during the period from July 2008, when the above manual for treatment was released, until the end of December, was 26. (Table 44)

Table 44 Number of recognized foreign DV victims from July 2008 until December said year (People)

Nationality	Division	Permission for extension of period of stay and so forth	Deportation Procedures	Consult	Total
Philippines		9	7	2	18
China		2			2
Indonesia		1			1
Myanmar		1			1
Thailand			1		1
Australia		1			1
Romania				1	1
Colombia		1			1
Total		15	8	3	26

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

Chapter 5 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”) (Note) due to the foreign national’s departure from Japan, death or other circumstances warranting termination of residence in Japan.

Looking at the percentage of reasons for the number of cases for initial registration, the number of entries is 310,755 (accounting for 95.7% of the total), followed by birth (4.2%), renunciation or loss of Japanese nationality (0.02%), (Table 45)

Table 45 Changes in the number of initial registration and closed registration by division (Cases)

Division \ Year		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Initial registration	Total	341,652	331,661	364,868	376,272	377,510	336,684	337,684	324,775
	Entry	328,924	319,155	352,983	364,068	365,725	324,259	324,330	310,755
	Birth	11,986	11,809	11,177	11,464	11,122	11,844	12,902	13,524
	Renunciation or loss of Japanese nationality	85	76	60	111	74	98	89	75
	Other	657	621	648	629	589	483	363	421
Closed registration	Total	223,684	271,204	286,370	317,334	302,685	312,655	263,495	262,999
	Departure	201,187	250,055	261,259	292,474	279,919	290,352	240,680	241,936
	Acquisition of Japanese nationality	15,903	14,793	18,566	17,728	16,053	15,376	15,634	13,909
	Death	5,771	5,623	5,712	5,742	6,039	5,938	6,168	6,115
	Other	823	733	833	1,390	674	989	1,013	1,039

Looking at the percentage for the number of cases of termination of registration card, the number of departures is 241,936 (accounting for 92.0% of the total), followed by acquiring Japanese nationality (5.3%) and death (2.3%).

(Note) The alien registration card is an original register under the Alien Registration Act that states the residence and status of foreign nationals residing in Japan.

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 the 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.



Alien registration certificate

In addition, in cases where the description in the registration card is no longer accurate due to the abolishment, establishment, separation or unification of municipalities or prefectures, or change of boundaries or names thereof, the heads of municipalities shall register the relevant changes ex officio.

In 2008, the total number of applications for registration of changes was 2,270,842, representing a decrease. The number of applications made for changes other than address changes has been increasing as a whole, although it temporarily decreased in 2001 and reached 1,750,955 in 2008, accounting for 77.1% of the overall applications for registration of changes.

On the other hand, the total number of registrations of address changes and registrations of changes due to the abolition, establishment, separation or unification of municipalities was about 572,000 in 2007, however, the number in 2008 was 519,887 representing a decrease of slightly less than 10%. (Table 46)

Table 46 Changes in the number of registrations of changes in registered matters

(Cases)

Year \ Division	Changes in place of residence	Changes other than place of residence	Total	Year \ Division	Changes in place of residence	Changes other than place of residence	Total
1960	174,637	100,834	275,471	2001	411,405	1,090,251	1,501,656
1965	154,922	198,419	353,341	2002	411,268	1,208,054	1,619,322
1970	148,578	266,792	415,370	2003	453,489	1,347,221	1,800,710
1975	137,195	346,942	484,137	2004	480,309	1,426,824	1,907,133
1980	164,026	374,366	538,392	2005	569,793	1,448,000	2,017,793
1985	141,276	445,040	586,316	2006	566,549	1,612,858	2,179,407
1990	216,713	883,814	1,100,527	2007	572,062	1,734,259	2,306,321
1995	317,807	980,901	1,298,708	2008	519,887	1,750,955	2,270,842
2000	388,279	1,175,414	1,563,693				

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

(*2) The number of registrations of "Changes in place of residence" includes registrations of changes due to the abolishment, establishment, separation or unification of municipalities.

Section 3 ◆ Issuance of Registration Certificate for Renewal (confirmation of registered matters)

For the purpose of maintaining the accuracy of registration after the initial registration, registered foreign nationals are obligated, for each prescribed period, to apply for “confirmation” on whether the statement on the registration card conforms with facts to the heads of municipalities. If they receive prescribed confirmation, by the head of the municipality in question, a new registration certificate is issued.

Further, it is specified in the amendment to the Alien Registration Act in 1980 that confirmation of registration must also be made in the procedure of exchange issuance when the registration certificate is noticeably damaged or spoiled, and in the procedure of re-issuance when the registration certificate is lost by loss, theft or destruction. In the amendment to the said Act in 1987, it is specified that the period of application for confirmation, which was every five years, must be made on each fifth birthday, and it is specified in the amendment to said Act in 1999 that, if the foreign national in question is a permanent resident or special permanent resident, confirmation must be made on each seventh birthday.

The number of applications for confirmation of registered matters (re-issuance) in 2008 reached 230,384. (Table 47)

Table 47 Changes in the number of confirmation of registered matters

(Cases)

Division Year	Confirmation of registered matters	Division Year	Confirmation of registered matters	Division Year	Confirmation of registered matters	Division Year	Confirmation of registered matters
1965※	485, 439	1985※	338, 522	2001	220, 069	2005	230, 220
1970	77, 341	1990	337, 760	2002	215, 815	2006	200, 793
1975	117, 087	1995	260, 014	2003	213, 549	2007	274, 369
1980※	422, 568	2000	290, 095	2004	269, 735	2008	230, 384

(※1) 「※」 is renewal fiscal year of registration certificate.

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

Section 4 ◆ Local Autonomous Body and Alien Registration

Registration records collected for clarifying residency and status of foreign nationals residing in Japan are widely used not only in various administrative areas of the Government including immigration control of foreign nationals, but also in local municipal bodies, that is to say, in resident administration by municipalities or their closely related administrative areas. In this sense, it can be said that it is inseparable from the function of municipalities.

Also, resident foreign nationals or their agents, and Government agencies, need the material to

certify or grasp residency and status of the foreign national in question in an official or private capacity. Based on application from such foreign nationals, etc., the heads of municipalities issue, as administrative certification services, a copy of the alien registration card or a certificate of registered matters, and the number of such issuances in 2008 was 1,678,103.

Further, as alien registration services need to be implemented in a uniform manner across the nation, the Immigration Bureau holds central seminars for staff of municipalities engaging in alien registration to provide them with information on alien registration laws and regulations, and ensure proper and efficient operation of alien registration business. The Bureau also dispatches its staff to seminars implemented by each prefecture as lecturers to fully disseminate proper treatment.