

# ◆ Part I ◆

Immigration Control in Recent Years

# Chapter 1 Foreign Nationals Entering and Departing from Japan

## Section 1

### Changes in the Number of Foreign Nationals Entering and Departing from Japan

#### ① Foreign Nationals Entering Japan

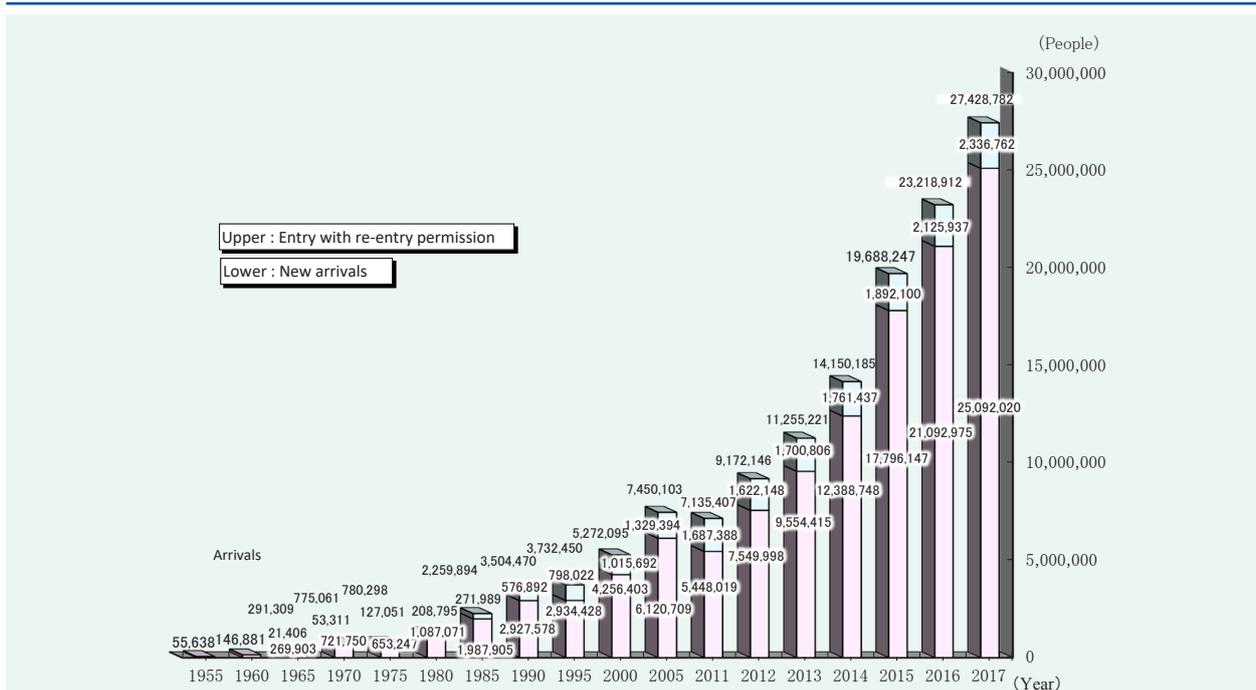
##### (1) Number of Foreign Nationals Entering Japan

The number of foreign nationals entering Japan was only about 18,000 in 1950 when the statistics relating to immigration control first began to be recorded. As a result of the enforcement of the “Peace Treaty with Japan” (Treaty No. 5 of 1952) on April 28, 1952, Japan recovered complete sovereignty and acquired the authority to decide whether or not to grant permission for entry based on the Immigration Control Order. The number of foreign nationals entering Japan has experienced an almost consistent upward trend partly as a result of cheaper and more convenient flights, which is achieved through improvements in international transportation such as through the use of larger jumbo jets, exceeding 1 million in 1978, 2 million in 1984, 3 million in 1990, 4 million in 1996, 5 million in 2000, 10 million in 2013, and 20 million in 2016. The number in 2017 was 27,428,782 persons, an increase of 4,209,870 (18.1%) compared to the number of 23,218,912 of 2016, hitting a record high.

Of the 27,428,782 foreign nationals entering Japan in 2017, the number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan was 25,092,020, which was an increase of 3,999,045 (19.0%) compared to 21,092,975 in 2016, while the number of foreign nationals re-entering Japan was 2,336,762, which was an increase of 210,825 (9.9%) compared to 2,125,937 in 2016.

It is thought that this overall increase in the number of foreign nationals entering Japan is led by the efforts toward the realization of Japan as a tourism-oriented country by the entire government working together with private sectors encouraging an increase in tourists ([Reference 1](#)).

#### Reference 1 Changes in the number of foreign nationals entering Japan



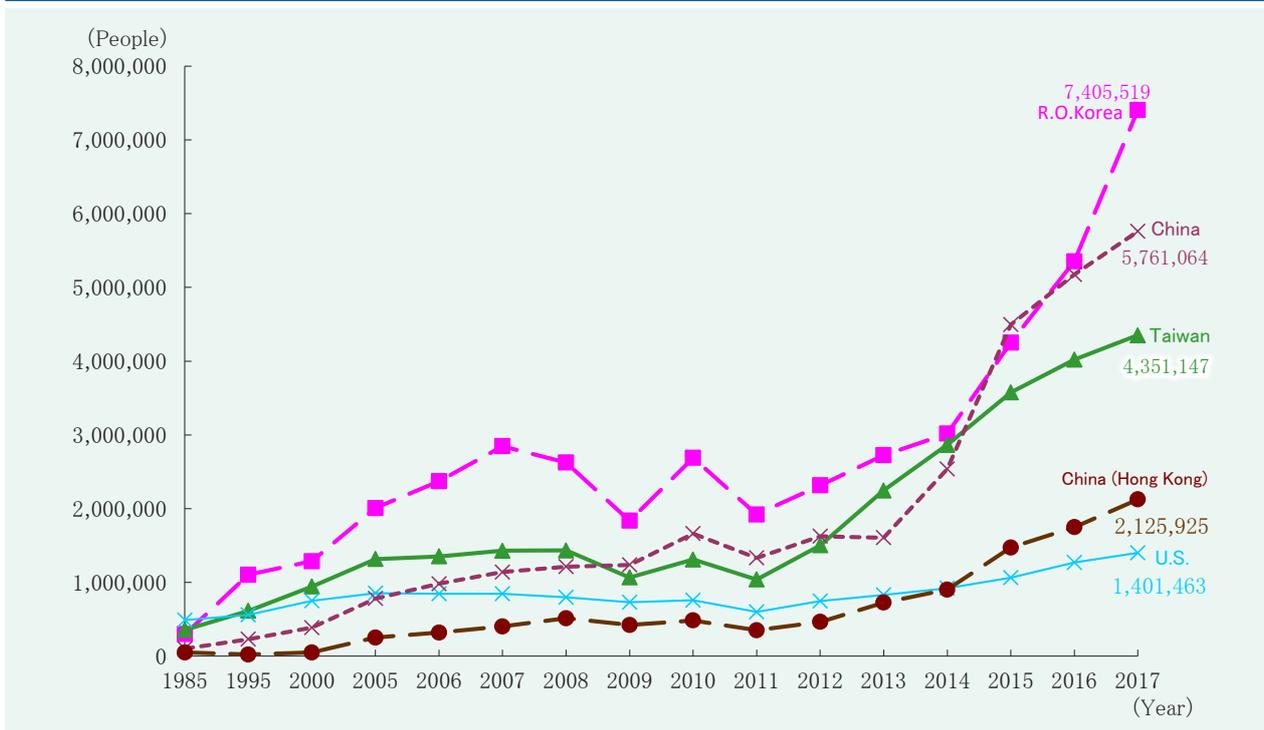
(\*) There are no separate categories for arrivals for 1955 and 1960.

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

According to the statistics for the number of foreign nationals entering Japan in 2017 by nationality/region, the largest number of foreign nationals came from the Republic of Korea (R.O. Korea) at 7,405,519, accounting for 27.0% of the total. R.O. Korea was followed by China at 5,761,064 (21.0%), Taiwan at 4,351,147 (15.9%), China (Hong Kong) at 2,125,925 (7.8%) and the U.S. at 1,401,463 (5.1%)<sup>(\*)</sup>.

Of these numbers, Japan's four neighboring countries/regions: R.O.Korea, China, Taiwan and China (Hong Kong) accounted for more than half of the total number of foreign nationals entering Japan at 71.6% (**Reference 2**).

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



Regarding the top five countries/regions, a comparison of the numbers of foreign nationals entering Japan between 2016 and 2017 shows that all of the countries/regions: R.O.Korea by 2,054,426 (38.4%), China by 588,119 (11.4%), Taiwan by 331,268 (8.2%), China (Hong Kong) by 376,768 (21.5%), and the U.S. by 130,940 (10.3%), increased.

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

On the other hand, in the statistics relating to foreign residents, the category "China" in the number of alien registrations by 2011 includes Taiwan, but in the figures from 2012, "China" in the number of foreign residents (the total number of mid to long-term residents (see Data Section 1, Section 4, Subsection 1) as well as special permanent residents) includes "Taiwan" except for those having been issued with a residence card or a special permanent resident certificate with "Taiwan" listed in the "nationality/region" box. In addition, BNO passport holders are included in the "U.K."

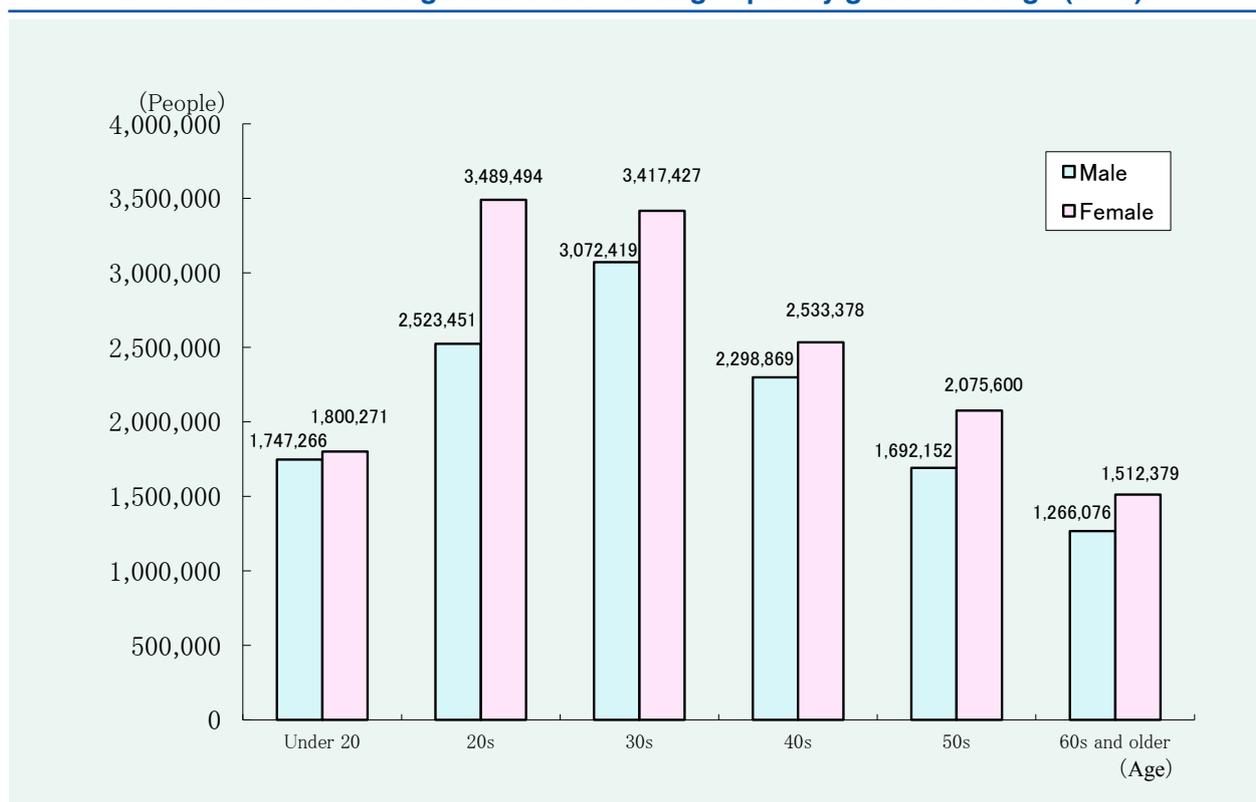
Moreover, China (others) includes persons of Chinese nationality with a certificate of identity issued by a government except for the government of China and China (Hong Kong) (for example, Singapore, Malaysia, etc.).

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

Looking at the number of foreign nationals entering in Japan in 2017 by gender, 12,600,233 were males and 14,828,549 were females. Males accounted for 45.9% of the total while females accounted for 54.1%, and therefore, more foreign females came to Japan than males in 2017.

Next, according to the statistics by age, foreign nationals in their 30s represented the largest age group, accounting for 23.7% of the total. Moreover, looking at the numbers for males and females in each of the age groups, one particular characteristic is that the percentages of females were higher in all age groups ([Reference 3](#)).

#### Reference 3 Number of foreign nationals entering Japan by gender and age (2017)



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

The number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan in 2017 was 25,092,020. Looking at this Reference by purpose of entry (status of residence), the most common status of residence was “Temporary Visitor” standing at 24,617,024, which accounted for 98.1% of the total number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan, followed by “Student” at 123,232, accounting for 0.5%, “Technical Intern Training (i)-(b)” at 120,179, accounting for 0.5%, and “Entertainer” at 39,929, accounting for 0.2% ([Reference 4](#)).

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

Status of Residence	(People)					
	Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total		9,554,415	12,388,748	17,796,147	21,092,975	25,092,020
Diplomat		10,215	9,056	9,526	9,267	9,092
Official		26,131	23,844	25,788	28,282	29,684
Professor		2,662	2,709	3,140	3,172	3,166
Artist		315	327	360	387	394
Religious Activities		1,291	923	1,030	1,019	924
Journalist		46	66	81	111	88
Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(a)				11	32	16
Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(b)				107	166	250
Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(c)				18	31	36
Highly-Skilled Professional (ii)				0	0	0
Business Manager		632	984	1,352	2,091	1,660
Legal/Accounting Services		0	3	0	4	2
Medical Services		11	27	29	34	63
Researcher		437	429	356	358	380
Instructor		2,366	2,526	3,020	3,042	2,992
Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/ International Services		10,741	14,270	17,690	20,940	25,063
Intra-company Transferee		6,245	7,209	7,202	7,652	8,665
Nursing Care						1
Entertainer		37,096	35,253	37,155	39,057	39,929
Skilled Labor		2,030	2,360	6,421	6,404	3,692
Technical Intern Training (i)-(a)		5,585	6,377	6,680	6,665	7,492
Technical Intern Training (i)-(b)		61,841	76,139	90,307	99,453	120,179
Technical Intern Training (ii)-(a)		0	2	1	2	0
Technical Intern Training (ii)-(b)		17	15	16	11	9
Technical Intern Training (iii)-(a)						0
Technical Intern Training (iii)-(b)						8
Cultural Activities		2,947	3,230	3,467	3,531	3,377
Temporary Visitor		9,247,673	12,052,223	17,404,987	20,665,390	24,617,024
Student		70,007	82,460	99,556	108,146	123,232
Trainee		16,486	16,162	15,702	15,740	16,393
Dependent		19,028	20,429	23,118	26,594	27,288
Designed Activities		10,711	10,661	14,980	18,210	22,444
Spouse or Child of Japanese National		9,244	9,114	9,591	10,188	9,998
Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident		1,870	2,039	2,007	1,959	2,170
Long-Term Resident		8,788	9,911	12,449	15,037	16,309

(\*1) The statuses of residence of “Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(a)”, “Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(b)”, “Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(c)” and “Highly-Skilled Professional (ii)” were newly established on April 1, 2015.

(\*2) In accordance with the amendment Act, from April 1, 2015, the status of residence of “Investor/Business Manager” was changed to “Business Manager” and the statuses of residence of “Engineer” and “Specialist in Humanities/International Services” were combined into “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services”.

(\*3) The figures for “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/ International Services” in 2013 and 2014 combine the figures for “Engineer” and the “Humanities / International Services”.

(\*4) The status of residence of “Nursing Care” was newly established on September 1, 2017.

(\*5) The status of residence of “Technical Intern Training (iii)(a) and (b)” was newly established on November 1, 2017.

### A. “Temporary Visitor”

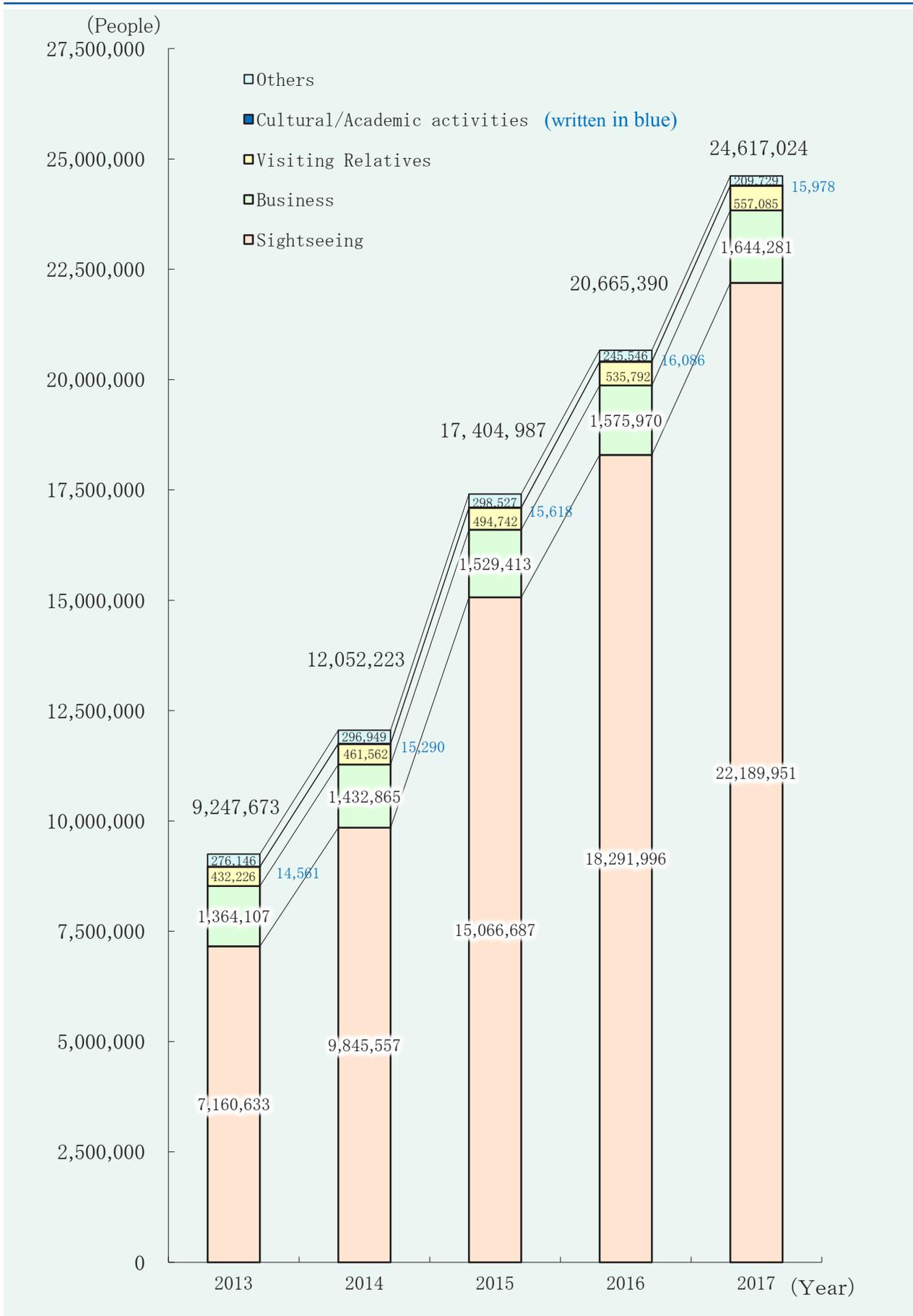
Looking more closely at the number of foreign nationals who newly entered Japan with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor” in 2017, the number of foreign nationals for the purpose of sightseeing was 22,189,951, accounting for 90.1% of the total number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor”, which was higher than 88.5% in 2016 ([Reference 5](#)). It is thought that public-private measures toward a tourism-oriented country such as the strategic relaxation of the visa requirements, expansion of the tax exemption system, improvement of the immigration control system, expansion of the airline networks and other public-private measures aimed at realizing a tourism-oriented country contributed to the increase in the number of tourists.

The statistics for foreign nationals newly entering for the purpose of sightseeing by nationality/region show that the largest number of foreign nationals came from R.O.Korea at 6,433,729 (29.0%), followed by China at 4,286,205 (19.3%), Taiwan at 4,058,971 (18.3%), China (Hong Kong) at 2,065,792 (9.3%), and U.S. at 901,518 (4.1%). The tourists of these top five countries/regions accounted for about 80% of the total number ([Reference 6](#)).

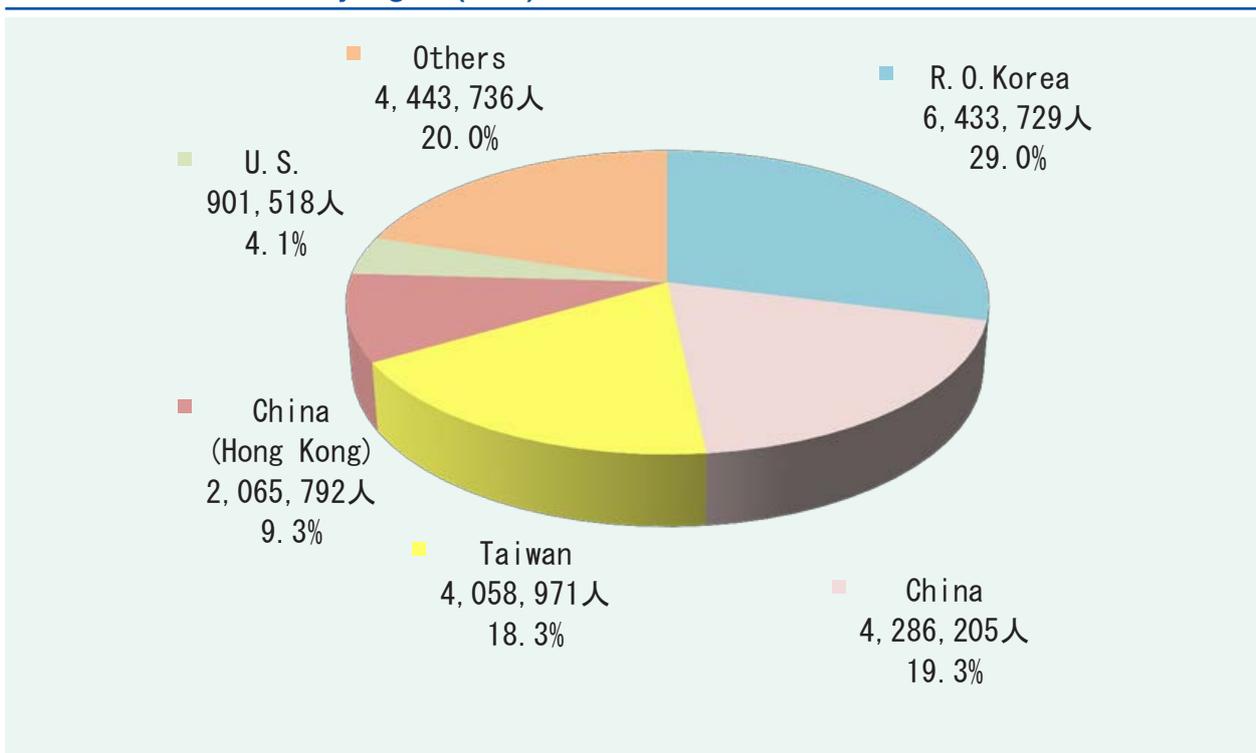


**Airport landing examination**

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



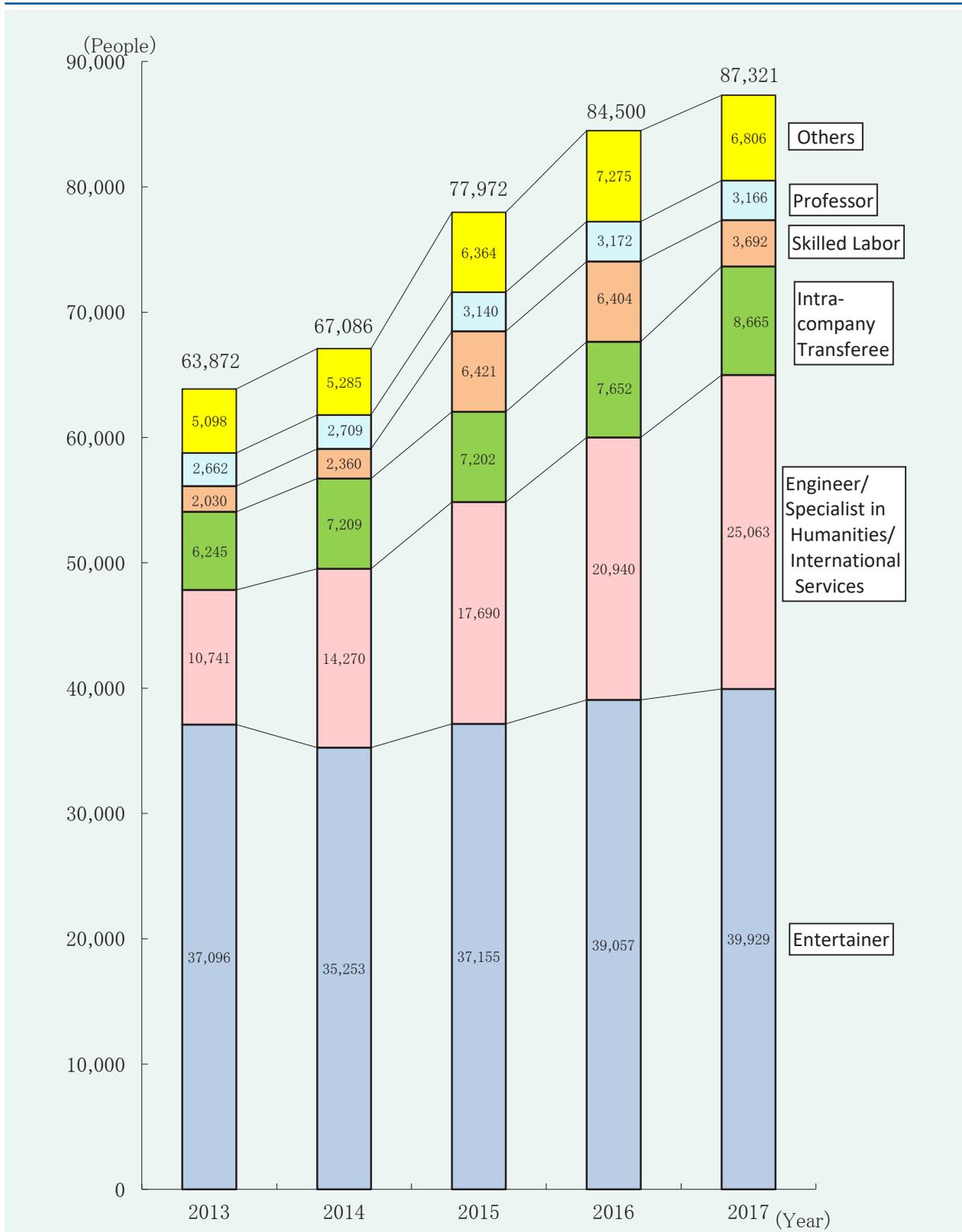
### Reference 6 Number of foreign nationals newly entering for the purpose of sightseeing by nationality/region (2017)



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

The number of newly entering foreign nationals with a status of residence for employment in professional or technical fields (excluding the statuses of residence of “Diplomat”, “Official” and “Technical Intern Training” in the Appended Tables I (1) and I (2) of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act (hereinafter referred to as “Immigration Control Act”)) in 2017 was 87,321, an increase of 2,821 (3.3%) from 2016 ([Reference 7](#)).

**Reference 7 Changes in the number of foreign nationals newly entering by status of residence for employment in professional or technical fields**



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

(\*2) In accordance with the amendment Act, from April 1, 2015, the statuses of residence of "Engineer" and "Specialist in Humanities/International Services" were combined into "Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services".

(\*3) The figures for "Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services" in 2013 and 2014 combine the figures for "Engineer" and the "Humanities/International Services".

The number of newly entering foreign nationals with a status of residence for employment in professional or technical fields in Japan accounted for 0.3% of the total number of newly entering foreign nationals in 2017.

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

**(a) “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services” and “Intra-company Transferee” (Data Section 4, Statistics (1) 3-1, 4-1)**

The total number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan with a status of residence corresponding to foreign employees working in companies/organizations in Japan was 33,728 in 2017, consisting of two types of statuses of residence: 25,063 with the status of residence of “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services”, and 8,665 with the status of residence of “Intra-company Transferee”. Foreign employees with the status of residence of “Engineer/ “Specialist in Humanities/International Services” had increased by 4,123 (19.7%), and those with the status of residence of “Intra-company Transferee” had increased by 1,013 (13.2%) from 2016, respectively.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services” came from China at 5,492 (21.9%), followed by Viet Nam at 4,529 (18.1%), R.O.Korea at 3,160 (12.6%), and India at 1,918 (7.7%). Those top four countries accounted for 60.2% of the total number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services”.

Further, with regard to newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Intra-company Transferee”, the statistics by nationality/region show that the largest number came from China at 2,665 (30.8%), followed by the Philippines at 1,081 (12.5%), R.O. Korea at 713 (8.2%), and India at 681 (7.9%).

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

The number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan with the status of residence of “Entertainer” in 2017 was 39,929, an increase of 872 (2.2%) when compared to 2016, accounting for the highest percentage out of the statuses of residence for the purpose of employment in professional or technical fields.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of foreign nationals newly entering with the status of residence of “Entertainer” in 2017 came from R.O.Korea at 7,116 (17.8%), followed by the U.S. at 6,306 (15.8%), the Philippines at 4,259 (10.7%), and the U.K. at 3,192 (8.0%).

**(c) “Skilled Labor” (Data Section 4, Statistics (1) 6-1)**

The number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan with the status of residence of “Skilled Labor”, who may also be referred to as skilled craftspersons in unique foreign industrial fields, in 2017 was 3,692, a decrease of 2,712 (42.3%) when compared to 2016.

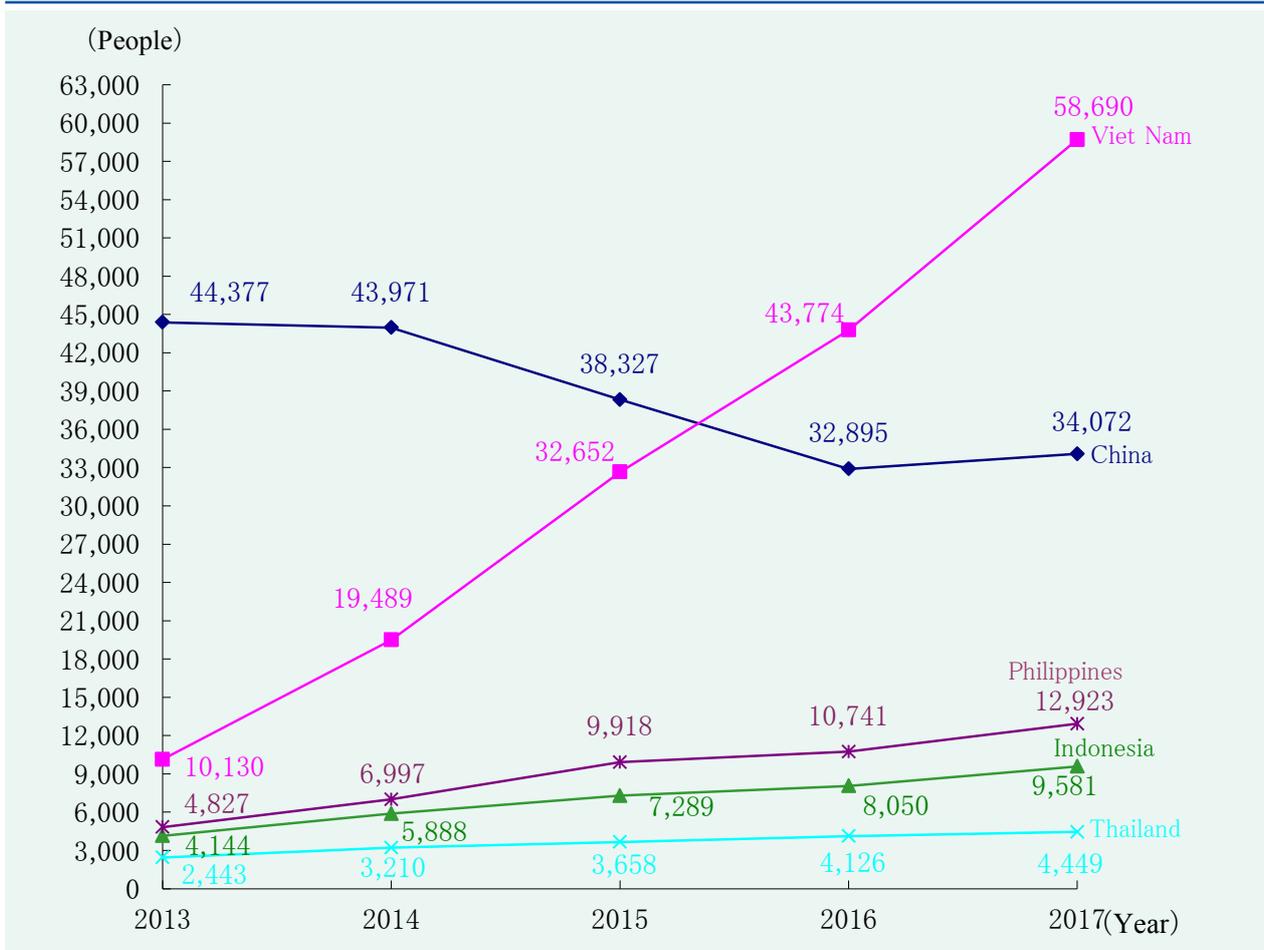
According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Skilled Labor” in 2017 came from China at 770 (20.9%), followed by Nepal at 738 (20.0%), India at 486 (13.2%), and Thailand at 161 (4.4%). These top four countries accounted for 58.4% of the total number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Skilled Labor”.

### C. “Technical Intern Training (i)” (Data Section 4, Statistics (1) 7-1)

The number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Technical Intern Training (i)” was 127,671 in 2017, an increase of 21,553 (20.3%) from 2016.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Technical Intern Training (i)” came from Viet Nam at 58,690 (46.0%), followed by China at 34,072 (26.7%), the Philippines at 12,923 (10.1%), Indonesia at 9,581 (7.5%) and Thailand at 4,449 (3.5%) (Reference 8).

#### Reference 8 Changes in the number of foreign nationals newly entering with the status of residence of “Technical Intern Training (i)” by major nationality/region

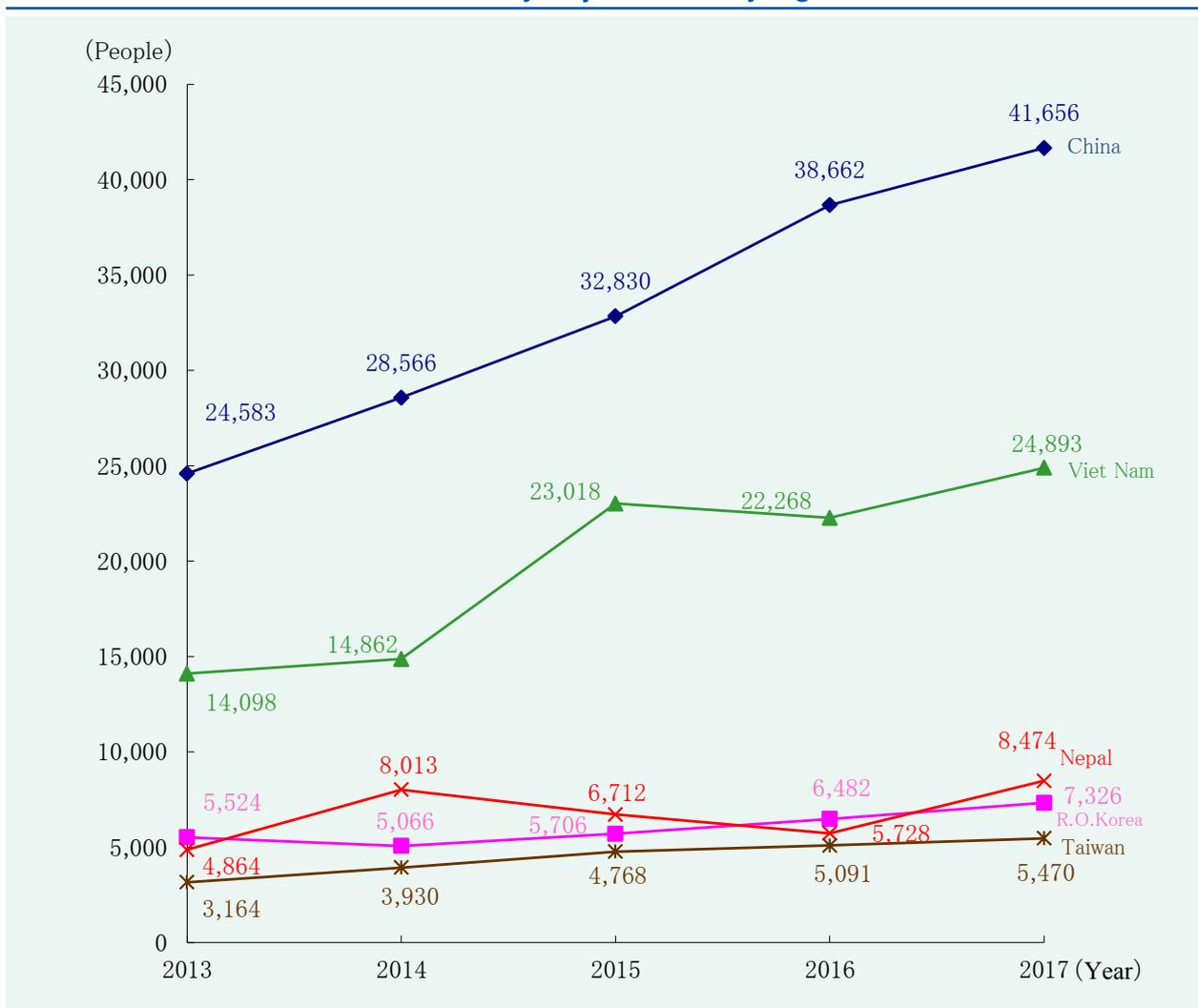


### D. “Student” (Data Section 4, Statistics (1) 9-1)

The number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan with the status of residence of “Student” in 2017 was 123,232, an increase of 15,086 (13.9%) when compared to 2016, with students from Asia accounting for the top five countries/regions (71.3%).

In terms of nationality/region, China stood at 41,656, accounting for 33.8% of the total, followed by Viet Nam at 24,893 (20.2%), Nepal at 8,474 (6.9%), R.O.Korea at 7,326 (5.9%) and Taiwan at 5,470 (4.4%) (Reference 9).

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



### E. Foreign Nationals Entering Japan with a Status of Residence for Resident Activities Based on Personal Status or Position (Data Section 4, Statistics (1) 13-1, 14-1)

When foreign nationals enter Japan for activities based on their personal 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” may be granted (Note that the status of residence of “Permanent Resident” shall not be granted to foreign nationals at the time of entry (Article 7, paragraph (1), item (ii) of the Immigration Control Act.)).

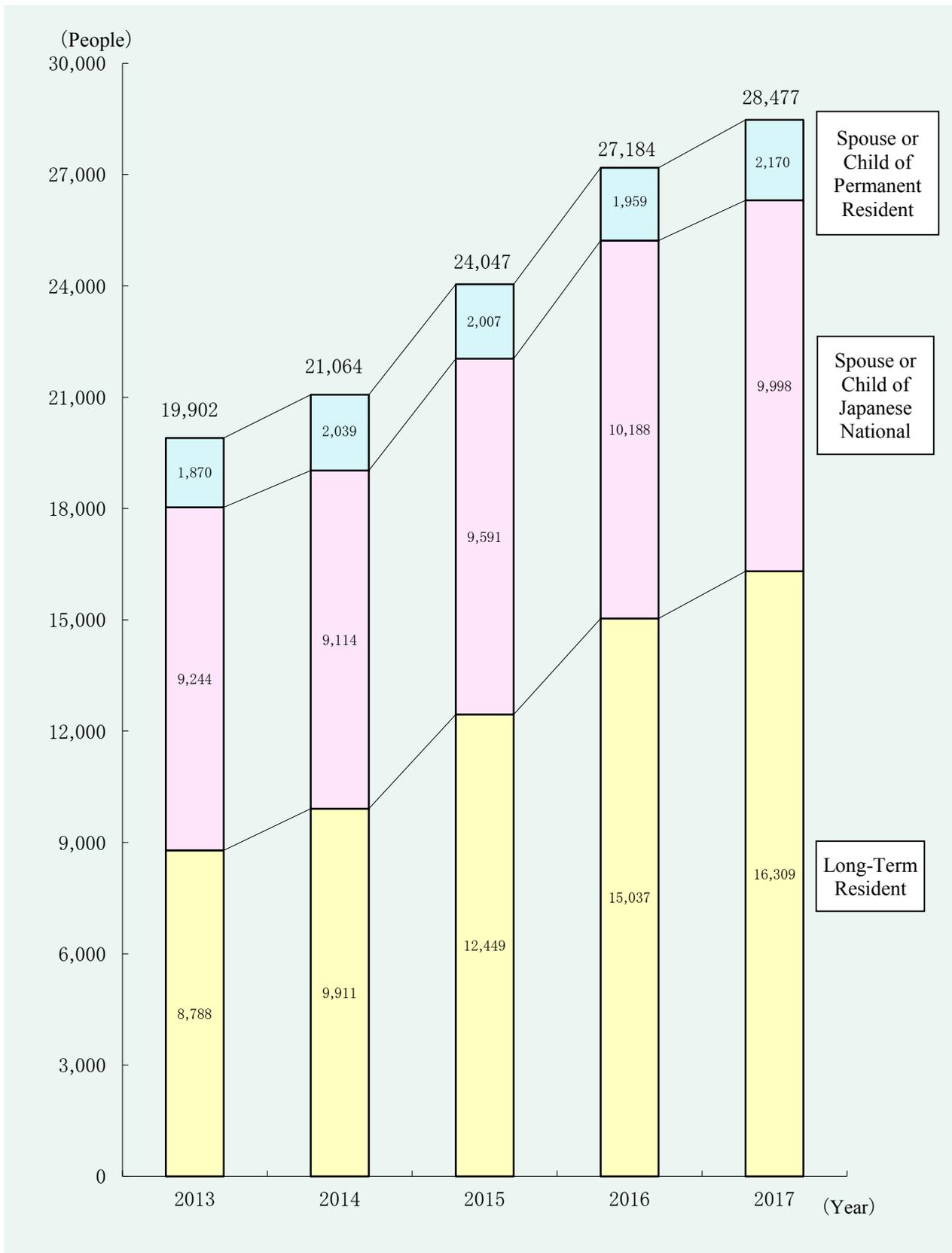
In 2017, the number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” stood at 9,998, and those with the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident” stood at 2,170, and while those with the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” saw a decrease of 190 (1.9%), those with the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident” saw an increase of 211 (10.8%) from 2016.

The number of foreign nationals newly entering with the status of residence of “Long-Term Resident” in 2017 had increased by 1,272 (8.5%) to 16,309 from 2016 ([Reference 10](#)).

According to the statistics for newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” by nationality/region, the largest number came from China at 2,216 (22.2%). China was followed by Brazil at 2,134 (21.3%) and the Philippines at 1,938 (19.4%).

According to the statistics by nationality/region for newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Long-Term Resident”, the largest number came from Brazil at 9,891 (60.6%). Brazil was followed by the Philippines at 2,534 (15.5%) and China at 1,950 (12.0%).

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



## ② Special Landing Permission

The number of cases in which received special landing permission in 2017 was 5,502,177, an increase of 752,253 (15.8%) from 2016.

Among those, the number of cases in which received “Landing Permission for Crew Members” in 2017 was 3,034,126, and the number of cases in which received “Landing Permission for Cruise Ship Tourists” was 2,449,299, which combined accounted for 99.7% of the total number of cases of special landing permission ([Reference 11](#)).

### Reference 11 Changes in the number of cases of special landing permission

(Cases)

Division \ Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total	2,165,112	2,452,119	3,527,959	4,749,924	5,502,177
Permission for Landing at a Port of Call	76,378	257,873	15,944	16,694	13,217
Landing Permission for Cruise Ship Tourists	/	/	1,071,724	1,936,469	2,449,299
Permission for Landing in Transit	2,571	3,372	5,150	5,871	4,979
Landing Permission for Crew Members	2,085,701	2,190,439	2,434,617	2,790,348	3,034,126
Permission for Emergency Landing	318	360	434	473	464
Landing Permission Due to Distress	142	74	86	68	90
Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge	2	1	4	1	2

(\*) The permission of "Landing Permission for Cruise ship Tourists" was newly established on January 1, 2015.

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

#### (1) Permission for Landing at a Port of Call

The number of cases being granted “Permission for Landing at a Port of Call” in 2017 was 13,217, a decrease of 3,477 (20.8%) from 2016.

#### (2) Landing Permission for Cruise Ship Tourists

The number of cases in which received “Landing Permission for Cruise Ship Tourists” was 2,449,299 in 2017, which was a increase of 512,830 (26.5%) compared with 2016.

The system of landing permission for cruise ship tourists commenced in January 2015.

#### (3) Permission for Landing in Transit

The number of cases in which received “Permission for Landing in Transit” in 2017 was 4,979, a decrease of 892 (15.2%) from 2016.

#### (4) Landing Permission for Crew Members

The number of cases in which received “Landing Permission for Crew Members” in 2017 was 3,034,126, an increase of 243,778 (8.7%) from 2016.

### (5) Permission for Emergency Landing

The number of cases in which received “Permission for Emergency Landing” in 2017 was 464, a decrease of 9 (1.9%) from 2016.

### (6) Landing Permission Due to Distress

The number of cases in which received “Landing Permission Due to Distress” in 2017 was 90, an increase of 22 (32.4%) from 2016.

### (7) Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge

The number of cases in which received “Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge” in 2017 was 2, an increase of 1 (100.0%) from 2016.

## ③ Foreign Nationals Leaving Japan

The number of foreign nationals simply leaving Japan without having acquired a re-entry permit was 24,770,368 in 2017, an increase of 3,961,841 (19.0%) from 2016.

Among them, the number of foreign nationals leaving Japan with a period of stay of within 15 days was 23,760,799, which accounted for a significant 95.9% of the total. Further, the number of foreign nationals leaving Japan with a period of stay of within 3 months was 24,570,278, which accounted for 99.2% of the total ([Reference 12](#)).

### Reference 12 Changes in the number of foreign nationals simply leaving Japan by period of stay

		(People)				
Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
Period of Stay						
Total	9,395,836	12,148,890	17,506,732	20,808,527	24,770,368	
Within 15 days	8,769,160	11,446,502	16,677,056	19,895,977	23,760,799	
More than 15 days to 1 month	282,118	330,820	425,450	483,187	539,458	
More than 1 month to 3 months	196,285	214,865	238,018	253,698	270,021	
More than 3 months to 6 months	30,690	34,899	41,322	45,730	50,125	
More than 6 months to 1 year	35,711	36,569	39,855	41,692	46,094	
More than 1 year to 3 years	56,498	59,692	63,822	64,029	74,330	
More than 3 years	24,374	24,476	20,183	23,140	28,332	
Unknown	1,000	1,067	1,026	1,074	1,209	

## Article: At the Front Line of Immigration Control Administration (Voice of an immigration inspector in charge of immigration examinations) (Second Inspection Department, Kansai Airport District Immigration Office, Osaka Regional Immigration Bureau: Takehiro Nakashima)

My work involves conducting immigration examinations for foreign visitors to Japan at the examination booth. In the examination I confirm that the passport and visa of the foreign national are valid, that the activities to be engaged in while in Japan are activities which fall under a status of residence stipulated in the Immigration Control Act, and that these activities are not false.

Kansai Airport, where I work is an airport where there are a large number of LCCs (low-cost carriers) in service, and it is an airport where the increase in the number of foreign tourists visiting Japan is strongly evident. Owing to such an environment, our branch office has been proactively engaging in efforts aimed at reducing the time spent waiting in line for an examination such as by means of introducing Bio Carts that acquire Biometric information (fingerprints and facial photographs) in advance by taking advantage of the time spent by applicants waiting in line for a landing examination.

Most foreign nationals who visit the airport are bona fide tourists, but since some people intend to engage in illegal activities in Japan, such as illegally working with a status of residence that does not permit work, rigorous but smooth and courteous examinations are required. In order to be able to conduct smooth and courteous examinations, I obviously greet the foreign nationals but also endeavor to communicate in the mother tongue of the foreign visitors and also incorporate gestures. From the perspective of the foreign visitors, the airport decides the first impression of Japan, so I try not to disappoint. Meanwhile, in order to conduct a rigorous examination, I endeavor to keep up to date with the information from the relevant agencies, such as information pertaining to document forensics to recognize forged or altered passports and other travel documents at the examination booth, and in addition to this information, I am careful to check whether there are any suspicious points in the foreign national's words or behavior. The ingenuity that can be used in the examination work is acquired through repeated practice of low-key work, but when I managed to prevent the landing of a foreign national who is unwelcome in terms of the national interests of Japan, I feel that I have contributed to maintaining the security of Japan and I feel greatly motivated.

In the future, since there will be many opportunities where Japan will be the focus of the world such as through hosting the G20 Summit in Osaka, hosting the Rugby World Cup, the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, and other international events, I would like to keep in mind the spirit of hospitality, but also continue conducting examinations with a resolute attitude towards foreign nationals, who should not be allowed to enter Japan.



## Section 2 Judgment for Landing

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

The number of new cases of hearings for landing (the number of cases which were assigned to a special inquiry officer on account of a foreign national not being granted landing permission by an immigration inspector) in 2017 was 9,776, an increase of 896 (10.1%) from 2016.

The most common cases were those in which the foreign national was required to undergo a hearing for landing on suspicion of having submitted a false landing application, such as claiming to be a tourist or others while their real purpose of entry was illegal work or other illegal activities (not meeting the conditions provided for in Article 7, paragraph (1), item (ii) of the Immigration Control Act). Such cases numbered 6,693, an increase of 679 (11.3%) from 2016, accounting for 68.5% of the total number of new cases in 2017. This was followed by cases which were assigned on account of the foreign national being suspected of not possessing a valid passport or visa, such as those attempting to illegally enter Japan using a forged or altered passport (not meeting the conditions provided for in Article 7, paragraph (1), item (i) of the Immigration Control Act). Such cases numbered 1,812, an increase of 89 cases (5.2%) from 2016, accounting for 18.5% of the total number of new cases in 2017. Furthermore, cases suspected to fall under one of the grounds for denial of landing (not meeting the conditions provided for in Article 7, paragraph (1), item (iv) of the Immigration Control Act) numbered 1,270, an increase of 129 cases (11.3%) from 2016, accounting for 13.0% of the total number of new cases in 2017. In addition, the number of cases that foreign nationals refuse to provide the immigration inspector with their Biometric information, which became mandatory by law from November 20, 2007 (coming under paragraph (4) of Article 7 of the Immigration Control Act) was 1 case in 2017 ([Reference 13](#)).



**Hearing for landing**

#### [Reference 13](#) Changes in the number of new cases of hearings for landing by grounds for landing

Conditions for Landing	(Cases)					
	Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total		6,675	7,567	8,166	8,880	9,776
Using counterfeit passports or visas, etc. (Not conforming to Article 7-(1)-(i))		1,466	1,905	2,015	1,723	1,812
False landing application, etc. (Not conforming to Article 7-(1)-(ii))		4,118	4,582	5,034	6,014	6,693
Ineligibility for the period of stay relating to the application (Not conforming to Article 7-(1)-(iii))		0	7	0	0	0
Falling under the grounds for denial of landing (Not conforming to Article 7-(1)-(iv))		1,091	1,073	1,117	1,141	1,270
Not providing Biometric information (Not conforming to Article 7-(4))		0	0	0	2	1

With regard to results of the hearings for landing in 2017<sup>(\*)</sup>, the number of cases where landing permission was granted as it was found during the hearing that the foreign national conformed to the conditions for landing was 1,421, a decrease of 319 (18.3%) from 2016.

In addition, cases in which foreign nationals were ordered to depart Japan because they were found not to meet the conditions for landing at the hearing for landing by a special inquiry officer and who later submitted to the findings numbered 5,986, an increase of 1,140 (23.5%) from 2016. Cases in which foreign nationals filed an objection with the Minister of Justice because they were not satisfied with the findings by the special inquiry officer that they did not meet the conditions for landing numbered 1,770, a decrease of 57 (3.1%) from 2016 ([Reference 14](#)).

#### Reference 14 Changes in the processing of the hearings for landing

Division	(Cases)					
	Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total		6,677	7,567	8,164	8,875	9,770
Landing permission		2,423	2,255	1,627	1,740	1,421
Expulsion order		2,079	2,730	3,692	4,846	5,986
Filing of objection		1,819	2,161	2,374	1,827	1,770
Withdrawal of the landing application		286	348	391	363	481
Others		70	73	80	99	112

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

## ② Foreign Nationals Falling Under Any of the Grounds for Denial of Landing

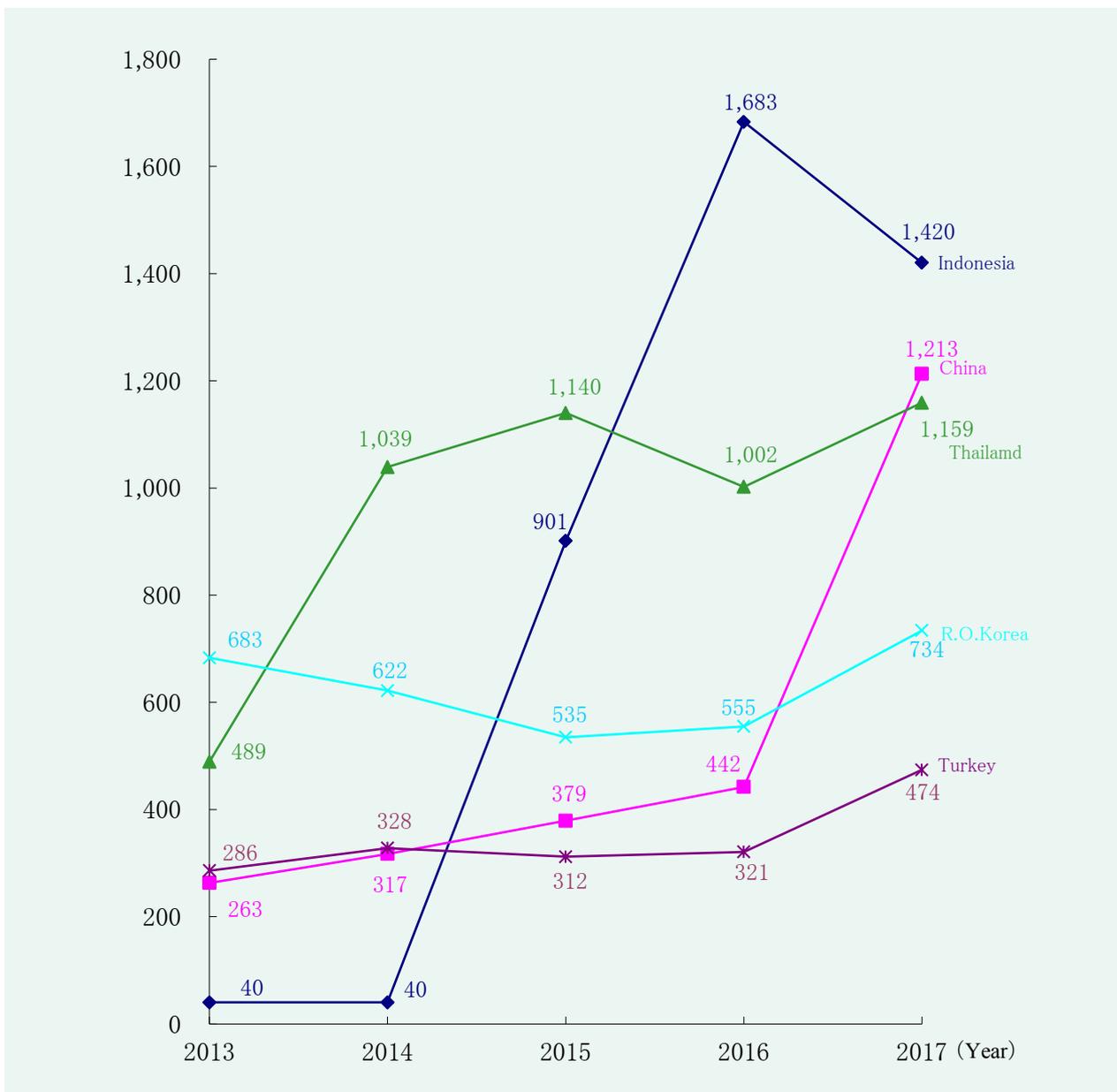
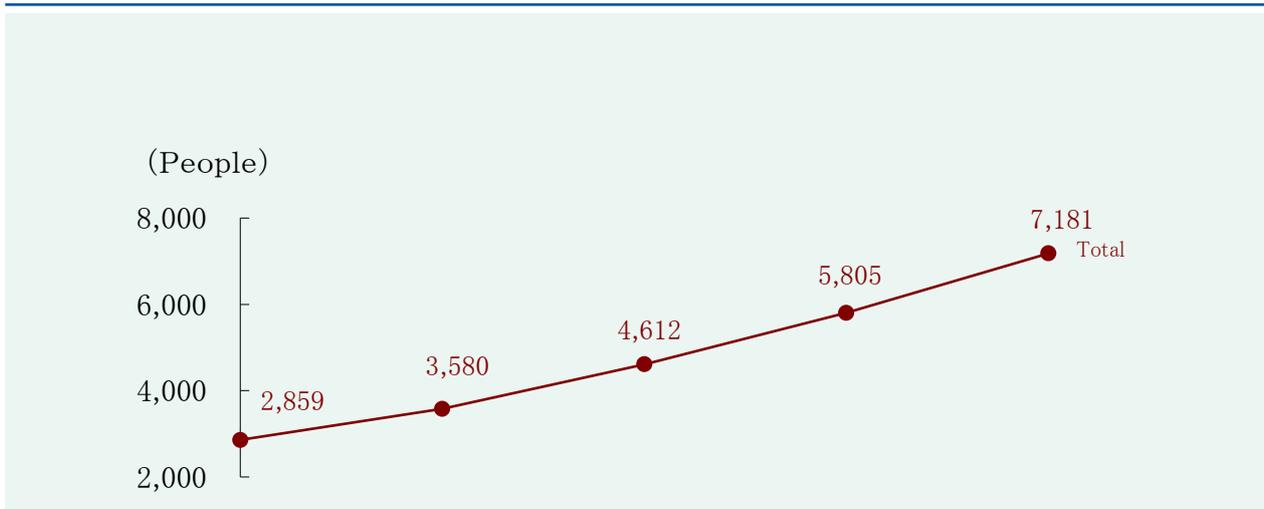
In principle, foreign nationals denied permission for landing are those who (i) are ordered to depart Japan as a result of a hearing for landing or (ii) are ordered to depart Japan as a result of filing an objection with the Minister of Justice.

The number of foreign nationals denied permission for landing in 2017 was 7,181, an increase of 1,376 (23.7%) from 2016.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of foreign nationals denied permission for landing came from Indonesia standing at 1,420 (19.8%), followed by China at 1,213 (16.9%) and Thailand at 1,159 (16.1%). These top three countries accounted for 52.8% of the total ([Reference 15](#)). Among them, China's large increase is thought to be due to the fact that the number of people eligible for a visa increased through the relaxing of the visa requirements that commenced in May 2017.

(\*) The reason why the total number in the changes in the number of new cases of hearings for landing by grounds for landing ([Reference 13](#)) and the total number in the changes in the processing of the hearings for landing ([Reference 14](#)) are inconsistent is because, depending on the case, the processing of the hearing may carry over to the following year, for example, when a case was handed over at the end of the year by an immigration inspector to a special inquiry officer.

**Reference 15** Changes in the number of foreign nationals who were denied landing by major nationality/region



### ③ Special Permission for Landing

The number of cases in which the Minister of Justice granted special permission for landing to foreign nationals in 2017 was 1,241, a decrease of 177 (12.5%) from 2016 (**Reference 16**).

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

(Cases)

Division \ Year		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
Filing of Objection (*)		1,871	2,179	2,386	1,845	1,781	
Decisions	With reason (Landing Permission)	21	22	15	12	4	
	Without reason	Order to depart	340	366	348	347	439
		Special Permission for Landing	1,442	1,746	1,946	1,418	1,241
Withdrawal		50	33	59	57	89	
Outstanding		18	12	18	11	8	

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

## Section 3 Pre-entry Examination

### ① Advance Consultation for Visa Issuance

The number of cases of advance consultation for visa issuance was 7,875 in 2017, showing an increase of 1,261 (19.1%) from 2016.

### ② Certificate of Eligibility

The number of cases of applications for Certificates of Eligibility was 481,120 in 2017, an increase of 62,356 (14.9%) from 2016.

The advance consultation for visa issuance and the examination of Certificates of Eligibility are jointly called pre-entry examinations. In recent years, the number of processed cases of applications for the issuance of a Certificate of Eligibility has steadily accounted for most of the total number of processed cases of pre-entry examinations (**Reference 17**).

#### Reference 17 Changes in the number of cases of pre-entry examinations

(Cases)

Division \ Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Advance consultation for visa issuance	4,635	4,741	6,307	6,614	7,875
Application for a certificate of eligibility	282,428	327,785	384,582	418,764	481,120

(\*) please note that incorrect figures were given as shown below for the figures of "Application for a certificate of eligibility" published in the 2015 to 2017 edition  
 (Correct figures) 2014: 327,785  
 (Incorrect figures) 2014: 290,119

## Chapter 2 Foreign Nationals Residing in Japan

### Section 1 Number of Foreign Residents in Japan

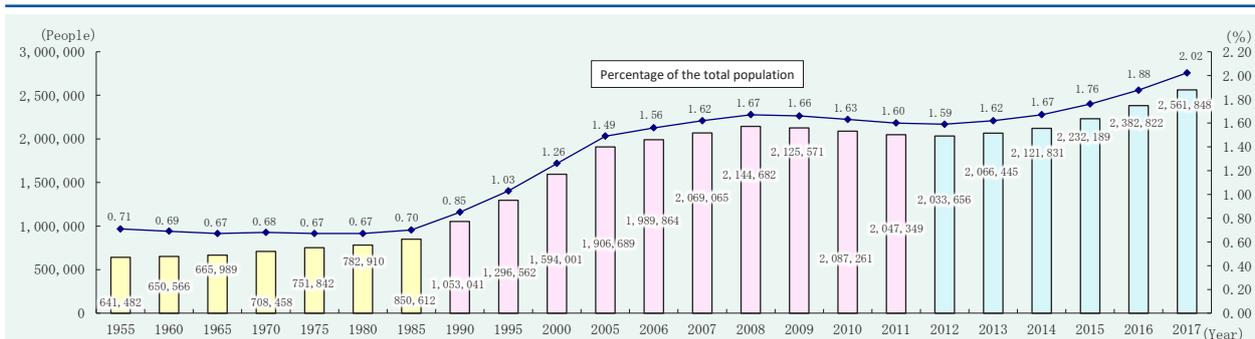
#### ① Number of Foreign Residents in Japan

While the number of foreign nationals entering Japan shows the “flow” of foreign nationals, the number of foreign nationals residing in Japan comprises the statistics on “stock” to show how many foreign nationals reside in Japan at a certain point in time.

At the end of 2017, the number of mid to long-term residents (see Data Section 1, Section 4, Subsection 1) in Japan was 2,232,026 and the number of special permanent residents was 329,822. Adding these two numbers together, the total number of foreign residents was 2,561,848, an increase of 179,026 (7.5%) compared to the end of 2016.

In addition, the percentage of foreign nationals residing in Japan was 2.02% out of the total population of Japan which was 126,710,000 as of the end of 2017 (population estimate as of October 1, 2017 (Statistics Bureau of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)), which was 0.14 points higher than the 1.88% at the end of 2016 ([Reference 18](#))

#### Reference 18 Changes in the number of foreign residents, and changes in the number of foreign residents as a percentage of the total population of Japan



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

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

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

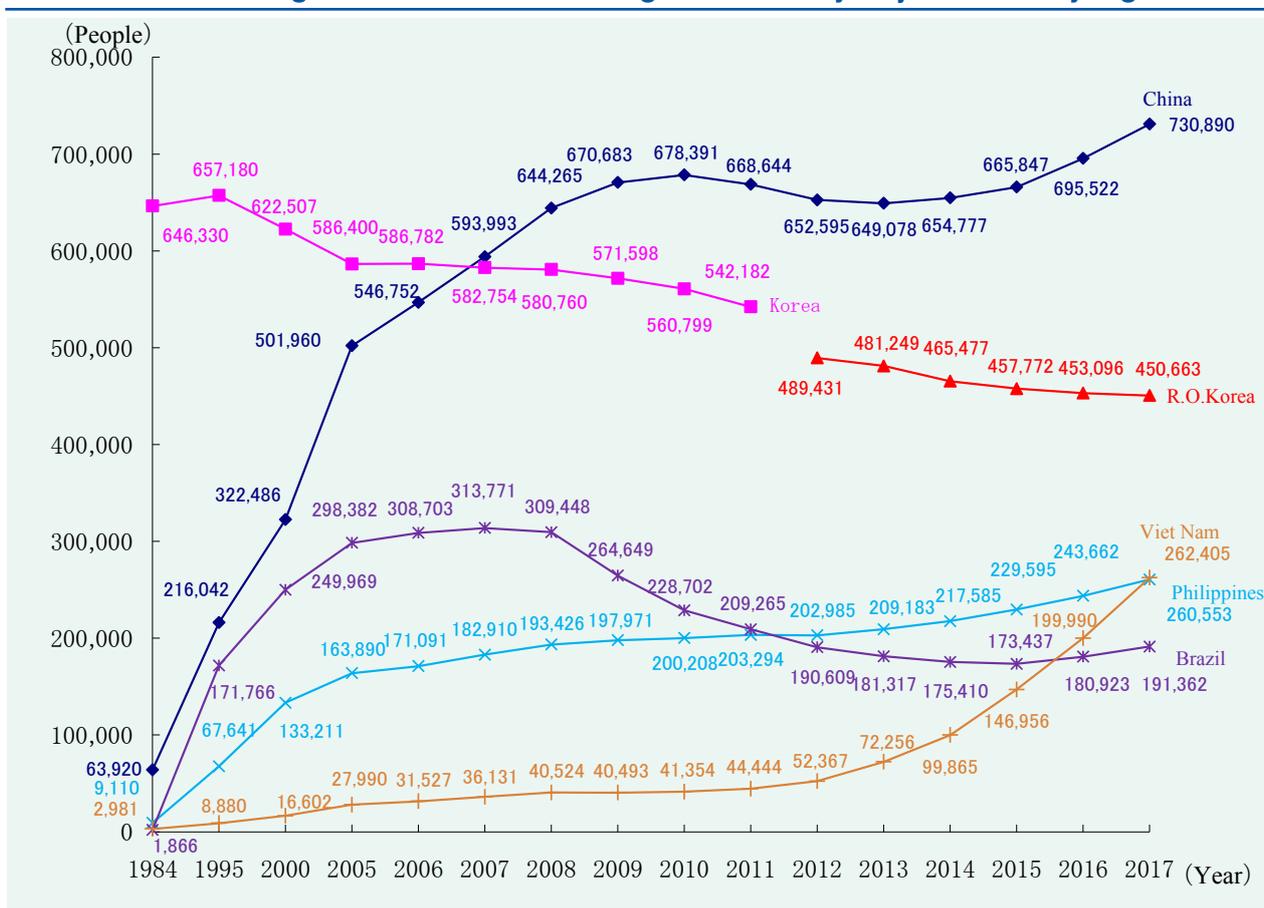
#### ② Number of Foreign Residents by Nationality/Region

According to the statistics of the number of foreign residents by nationality/region at the end of 2017, China marked the largest number at 730,890, accounting for 28.5% of the total. China was followed by R.O.Korea at 450,663 (17.6%), Viet Nam at 262,405 (10.2%), the Philippines at 260,553 (10.2%), and Brazil at 191,362 (7.5%).

According to the changes in the number of foreign residents by year, the number of foreign residents from China has been on an upward trend, with an increase of 35,368 (5.1%) at the end of 2017 when compared to the end of 2016. The number of foreign residents from R.O.Korea has been declining with a decrease of 2,433 (0.5%) at the end of 2017 compared to the end of 2016. In addition, Viet Nam has been on an upward trend since the end of 2010, and increased significantly by 62,415 (31.2%) at the end

of 2017 compared to the end of 2016, and the Philippines increased by 16,891 (6.9%) at the end of 2017 compared to the end of 2016. In addition, Brazil had continued its decreasing trend since it peaked at the end of 2007, but it has been on an upward trend since the end of 2016, and by the end of 2017 it has increased by 10,439 (5.8%) compared to the end of 2016 ([Reference 19](#)).

### Reference 19 Changes in the number of foreign residents by major nationality/region



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

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

### (1) “Permanent Resident” and “Special Permanent Resident” (Data Section 4, Statistics (1) 12)

According to the statistics for the number of foreign residents by status of residence at the end of 2017, those with the status of “Permanent Resident” (excluding “Special Permanent Residents”) comprised the largest group. The number of those with the status of “Permanent Resident” was 749,191, an increase of 22,080 (3.0%) from the end of 2016, accounting for 29.2% of the total ([Reference 20](#)).

## Reference 20 Changes in the number of foreign residents by status

Status		Year					(People)
		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
Total		2,066,445	2,121,831	2,232,189	2,382,822	2,561,848	
Mid to long-term resident	Professor	7,735	7,565	7,651	7,463	7,403	
	Artist	432	409	433	438	426	
	Religious Activities	4,570	4,528	4,397	4,428	4,402	
	Journalist	219	225	231	246	236	
	Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(a)			297	731	1,194	
	Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(b)			1,144	2,813	6,046	
	Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(c)			51	132	257	
	Highly-Skilled Professional (ii)			16	63	171	
	Business Manager	13,439	15,184	18,109	21,877	24,033	
	Legal/Accounting Services	149	143	142	148	147	
	Medical Services	534	695	1,015	1,342	1,653	
	Researcher	1,910	1,841	1,644	1,609	1,596	
	Instructor	10,076	10,141	10,670	11,159	11,524	
	Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services	115,357	122,794	137,706	161,124	189,273	
	Intra-company Transferee	15,218	15,378	15,465	15,772	16,486	
	Nursing Care					18	
	Entertainer	1,662	1,967	1,869	2,187	2,094	
	Skilled Labor	33,425	33,374	37,202	39,756	39,177	
	Technical Intern Training (i)-(a)	3,683	4,371	4,815	4,943	5,971	
	Technical Intern Training (i)-(b)	57,997	73,145	87,070	97,642	118,101	
	Technical Intern Training (ii)-(a)	2,788	2,553	2,684	3,207	3,424	
	Technical Intern Training (ii)-(b)	90,738	87,557	98,086	122,796	146,729	
	Technical Intern Training (iii)-(a)					0	
	Technical Intern Training (iii)-(b)					8	
	Cultural Activities	2,379	2,614	2,582	2,704	2,859	
	Student	193,073	214,525	246,679	277,331	311,505	
	Trainee	1,501	1,427	1,521	1,379	1,460	
	Dependent	122,155	125,992	133,589	149,303	166,561	
	Designated Activities	22,673	28,001	37,175	47,039	64,776	
	Permanent Resident	655,315	677,019	700,500	727,111	749,191	
Spouse or Child of Japanese National	151,156	145,312	140,349	139,327	140,839		
Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident	24,649	27,066	28,939	30,972	34,632		
Long-Term Resident	160,391	159,596	161,532	168,830	179,834		
Special Permanent Resident	373,221	358,409	348,626	338,950	329,822		

(\*1) The status of residence of “Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-a, (i)-(b), (i)-(c), (ii)” were newly established from April 1, 2015.

(\*2) In accordance with the amendment Act, from April 1, 2015, the status of residence of “Investor/Business Manager” was changed to “Business Manager” and the statuses of residence of “Engineer” and “Specialist in Humanities/International Services” were combined into “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services”.

(\*3) The figures for “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/ International Services” in 2013 and 2014 combine the figures for “Engineer” and the “Humanities / International Services”.

(\*4) The status of residence of “Nursing Care” was newly established on September 1, 2017.

(\*5) The status of residence of “Technical Intern Training (iii)(a) and (b)” was newly established on November 1, 2017.

Looking at changes in the number of foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Permanent Resident” between the end of 2013 and the end of 2017, there was a steady increase, and the number increased by 93,876 (14.3%) at the end of 2017 from 655,315 at the end of 2013.

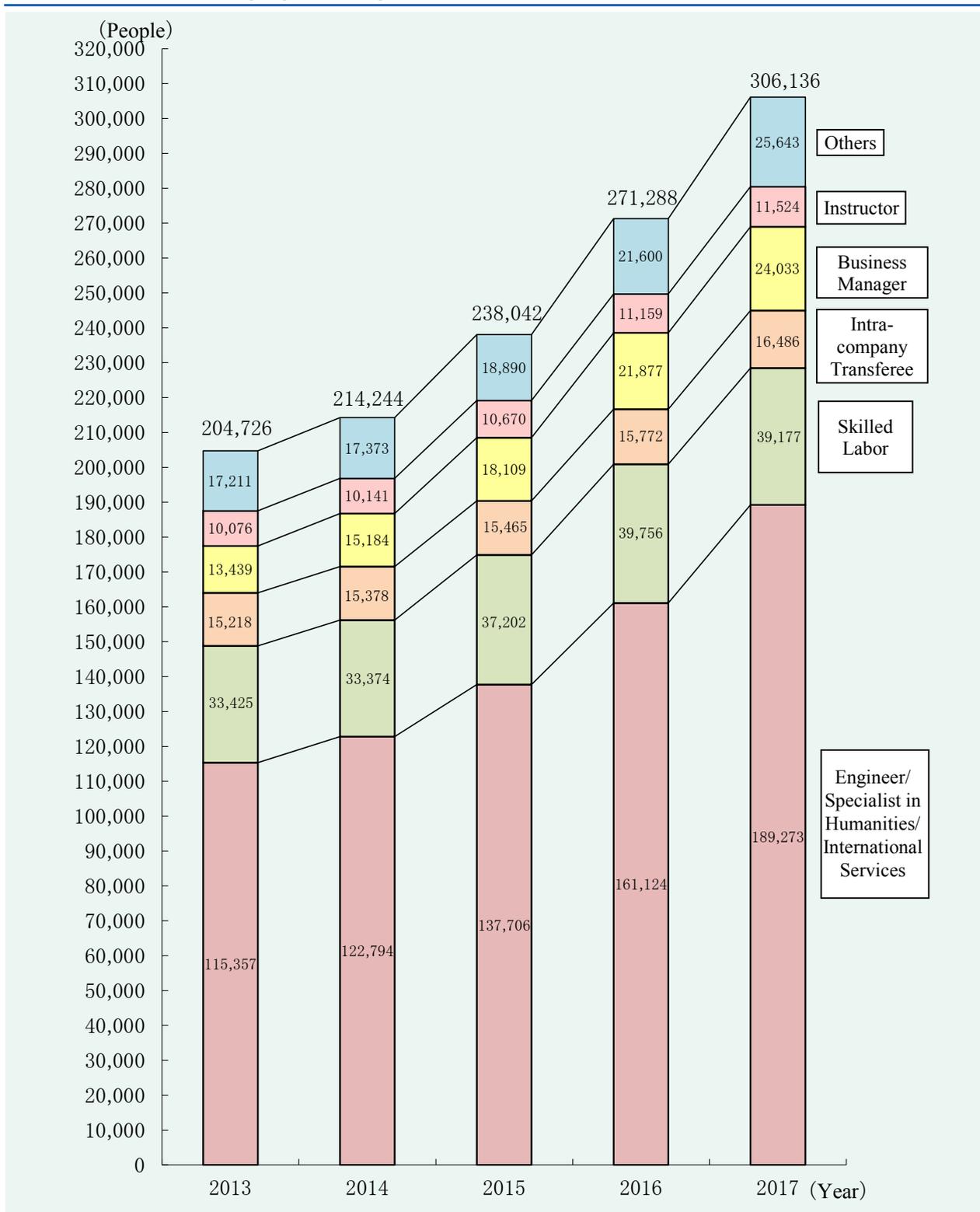
According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Permanent Resident” came from China totaling 248,873 at the end of 2017, followed by the Philippines, Brazil, R.O.Korea, and Peru.

On the other hand, the number of foreign nationals with the status of “Special Permanent Resident” which used to account for the largest percentage until 2006 has been decreasing year by year, and therefore its percentage to the total number of foreign residents has also been decreasing accordingly. Looking at the changes over a longer period, the percentage of foreign nationals equivalent to the status of “Special Permanent Resident” accounted for approximately 90% for two decades just after World War II. However, the decline in the number of “Special Permanent Residents” itself and the increase in the number of foreign nationals newly visiting Japan for various purposes (so-called “newcomers”) are both driving the percentage of “Special Permanent Residents” down, which clearly shows the changes in the situation of foreign residents in Japan.

## **(2) Foreign Nationals Residing in Japan for the Purpose of Employment in Professional or Technical Fields**

At the end of 2017, the number of mid to long-term residents with a status of residence for the purpose of employment in a professional or technical field (except for “Diplomat”, “Official” and “Technical Intern Training” out of the statuses of residence given in Appended Table I (1) and (2) of the Immigration Control Act) was 306,136 accounting for 11.9% of the total, an increase of 34,848 (12.8%) compared to the end of 2016, and an upward trend has been continuing since 2012 ([Reference 21](#)).

**Reference 21 Changes in the number of mid to long-term residents by status of residence for employment in professional or technical fields**



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

(\*2) In accordance with the amendment Act, from April 1, 2015, the status of residence of "Investor/Business Manager" was changed to "Business Manager" and the statuses of residence of "Engineer" and "Specialist in Humanities/International Services" were combined into "Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services".

(\*3) For the years from 2012 to 2014, the numbers for "Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services" are the number combining "Engineer" and "Specialist in Humanities/International Services" respectively.

(\*4) Please note that incorrect figures were given as shown below for the figures of "Total number" and "Others" of FY 2015 for the table of "Changes in the number of mid to long-term residents based on the status of residence for the purpose of employment in specialized and technical fields" published in the 2016 edition.

(Correct figures) 2015: Total number: 238,042, Others: 18,890

(Incorrect figures) 2015: Total number: 236,534, Others: 17,382

At the end of 2017, the number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services” or “Intra-company Transferee” corresponding to foreign employees working in companies/organizations was 189,273 for “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services” and 16,486 for “Intra-company Transferee”, and when compared to the end of 2016, the respective numbers have been increasing: 28,149(17.5%) and 714 (4.5%).

At the end of 2017, the percentages of mid to long-term residents with the statuses of residence of “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services” and “Intra-company Transferee” to the total number of mid to long-term residents with a status of residence for the purpose of employment in professional or technical fields were 61.8%, and 5.4%, respectively.

### **(3) “Technical Intern Training”<sup>(\*)</sup> (Data Section 4, Statistics (1) 7-2, 8)**

The number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Technical Intern Training (i)” at the end of 2017 was 124,072, an increase of 21,487 (20.9%) when compared to the end of 2016. According to the statistics by nationality/region, the number of those from Viet Nam was 58,793, accounting for 47.4% of the total. Viet Nam was followed by China at 32,095 (25.9%), the Philippines at 12,320 (9.9%), and Indonesia at 9,520 (7.7%).

The number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Technical Intern Training (ii)” at the end of 2017 was 150,153, an increase of 24,150 (19.2%) when compared to the end of 2016. According to the statistics by nationality/region, the number of those from Viet Nam was 64,762 accounting for 43.1% of the total. Viet Nam was followed by China at 45,472 (30.3%), the Philippines at 15,489 (10.3%) and Indonesia at 12,374 (8.2%).

In addition, with the establishment of the status of residence of “Technical Intern Training (iii)” on November 1, 2017, the number of mid to long-term residents with this status of residence at the end of 2017 was 8, who were all Vietnamese nationals.

### **(4) “Student” (Data Section 4, Statistics (1) 9-2)**

The number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Student” at the end of 2017 was 311,505, an increase of 34,174 (12.3%) compared to the end of 2016, comprising 12.2% of the total number of foreign residents. According to the statistics by nationality/region, the number from China was 124,292 accounting for 39.9% of the total, followed by Viet Nam at 72,268 (23.2%).

### **(5) Foreign Nationals Residing in Japan with a Status of Residence for Resident Activities Based on Personal Status or Position (Data Section 4, Statistics (1) 13-2, 14-2)**

The number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” at the end of 2017 was 140,839, accounting for 5.5% of the total number of foreign residents. Trends from the end of 2013 to the end of 2017 turned downward until the end of 2016, but turned to an increase at the end of 2017, an increase of 1,512(1.1%) when compared to the end of 2016.

Looking at these numbers by nationality/region, China stood at 31,911, accounting for 22.7% of the total, followed by the Philippines at 26,401 (18.7%), and Brazil at 16,631 (11.8%), and looking at the trends of these three countries from the end of 2013 to the end of 2017, China and the Philippines continued to decrease, but Brazil started to increase since the end of 2016.

---

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

At the end of 2017, the number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Long-Term Resident” was 179,834 accounting for 7.0% of the total number of foreign residents, and looking at the changes from the end of 2013 to the end of 2017, although there was a declining trend until the end of 2014, it began to increase from the end of 2015, and the number at the end of 2017 has increased by 11,004 (6.5%) compared to the end of 2016.

Looking at these number by nationality/region, Brazil accounts for 56,475 (31.4%), followed by the Philippines at 49,773 (27.7%) and China at 28,033 (15.6%).

## Section 2 Examination of Statuses of Residence

The total number of applications related to residence examinations was 1,188,257 in 2017, an increase of 145,378 (13.9%) when compared to 2016 ([Reference 22](#)).

### Reference 22 Changes in the number of permission examined in status of residence examinations

Division	Year	(Cases)				
		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total		834,024	867,760	953,906	1,042,879	1,188,257
Permission for change of status of residence		135,289	142,700	159,235	180,480	215,599
Permission for extension of period of stay		426,016	443,703	487,440	532,800	610,924
Permission for permanent residence		45,066	35,697	39,726	35,595	28,869
Permission for special permanent residence		113	103	94	84	73
Permission for acquisition of status of residence		8,724	9,866	9,862	12,010	12,976
Re-entry permission		54,182	48,225	37,835	31,553	35,310
Permission to engage in an activity other than those permitted by the status of residence previously granted		164,634	187,466	219,714	250,357	284,506

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

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

(\*3) “Permission for acquisition of status of residence” includes the permission for permanent residence provided for in Article 22-2 of the Immigration Control Act.

(\*4) Please note that incorrect figures (case numbers) were given as shown below for the figures of “Total number”, “Permanent residents” and “Special permanent residents” of 2015 for the table of “Changes in the number of cases of work permission in the work of residence examinations” published in the 2016 edition.

(Correct figures) 2015: Total number: 953,906, Permanent Residents: 39,726, Special Permanent Residents: 94

(Incorrect figures) 2015: Total number: 954,004 Permanent Residents: 39,820, Special Permanent Residents: 98



Residence examination counter

## ① Permission for Change in the Status of Residence

In 2017, the number of cases in which obtained permission for a change in the status of residence was 215,599, an increase of 35,119 (19.5%) when compared to 2016.

### (1) Change of Status of Residence from the Status of Residence of “Student” to a Status for Employment Purposes

Foreign nationals studying at Japanese universities or vocational/technical schools have the status of residence of “Student”. Not a few of them wish to stay in Japan to work for a company or some other organization in Japan even after finishing their studies at school.

The number of foreign nationals who were granted permission to change their status of residence to a status of residence for the purpose of employment was 22,419 in 2017, an increase of 2,984 (15.4%) when compared to 2016.

The number of these foreign nationals had been steadily increased between 2003 and 2008. Though the number reached a peak in 2008, it started to decline owing to the impact of the global recession. However, the number subsequently started seeing signs of recovery with a record high reached in 2017.

According to the statistics by status of residence, the number of foreign nationals who obtained permission to change their status to that of “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services” made up the largest number, totaling 20,486 (91.4%), an increase of 3,133 (18.1%) when compared to 2016 ([Reference 23](#)).

#### Reference 23 Changes in the number of cases of permission for change of the status of residence from student, etc. to a status for employment by status of residence

Status of Residence	Year				
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total	11,647	12,958	15,657	19,435	22,419
Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/ International Services			13,791	17,353	20,486
Specialist in Humanities/International Services	7,962	8,758			
Engineer	2,428	2,748			
Business Manager	321	383	682	916	712
Professor	634	704	684	598	626
Medical Services	90	114	234	257	254
Researcher	107	124	102	87	102
Instructor	51	59	73	87	93
Highly Skilled Professional			17	27	43
Religious Activities	16	8	20	14	25
Nursing Care					18
Artist	4	6	18	3	9
Official	1	5	3	2	7
Others	33	49	33	91	44

(\*) In accordance with an amendment of the Act, the statuses of residence of “Engineer” and “Specialist in Humanities/International Services” were revised and combined into “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services” on April 1, 2015.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of foreign nationals who obtained permission to change their status for employment purposes was from China at 10,326, accounting for 46.1%, followed by Viet Nam at 4,633(20.7%) and Nepal at 2,026 (9.0%)(Reference 24).

#### Reference 24 Changes in the number of cases of permission for change of the status of residence from student, etc. to a status for employment by nationality/region

(People)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total	11,647	12,958	15,657	19,435	22,419
China	7,637	8,347	9,847	11,039	10,326
Viet Nam	424	611	1,153	2,488	4,633
Nepal	293	278	503	1,167	2,026
R.O.Korea	1,227	1,234	1,288	1,422	1,487
Taiwan	360	514	649	689	810
Indonesia	111	124	147	214	253
Sri Lanka	95	87	121	177	242
Thailand	167	171	200	238	239
Philippines	41	65	126	168	230
Myanmar	122	129	160	183	212
Others	1,170	1,398	1,463	1,650	1,961

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

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

The Technical Intern Training Program was established in 1993 to enable foreign nationals to acquire skills etc. through on-the-job training while in employment, thereby contributing to effective technology transfer and human resources development as part of Japan’s international contributions.

The Technical Intern Training Program is being transferred to a new program pursuant to the “Act on Proper Technical Intern Training and Protection of Technical Intern Trainees” (Act No. 89 of 2016; hereinafter referred to as “Technical Intern Training Act”), which came into effect on November 1, 2017, and with regard to the old program prior to the enforcement of the Technical Intern Training Act, as under the current program, permission to change the status of residence of “Technical Intern Training (ii)” is required when engaging in work requiring the skills, etc. already acquired through “Technical Intern Training (i)” to increase proficiency in the skills, etc.

The skills, etc. in the “Technical Intern Training (ii)” are ones that are publicly evaluated in Japan and also meet demand in the countries sending the trainees. Specifically, as of December 6, 2017, there are 55 job categories, such as formwork, and machine processing, etc., which can be tested through the evaluation system for the Basic National Trade Skills Test, which is a national examination, and 22 job categories such as melding and spinning operations for which there is no national examination but there is an official evaluation system approved by the Director-General for Human Resources Development of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, making a total of 77 job categories.

The number of foreign trainees who were permitted to change their status of residence to “Technical Intern Training (ii)” in 2017 had increased by 11,494 (15.3%) from 2016 to 86,583. In total, more than 850,000 foreign trainees have gone on to this training as of the end of 2017 since the Technical Intern Training Program was first established in 1993.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of trainees who obtained permission to change their status of residence to “Technical Intern Training (ii)” in 2017 came from Viet Nam at 38,985 (45.0%), followed by China at 24,904 (28.8%), the Philippines at 8,436 (9.7%), Indonesia at 6,602 (7.6%), and Thailand at 2,664 (3.1%). According to the statistics by job categories, the largest number of trainees was in the area of crop farming, followed by women/children’s apparel production, and prepared food industry (References 25, 26).

In addition, “Technical Intern Training (iii)” has been newly established under the current program as a status of residence for those who have completed “Technical Intern Training (ii)” to enable the mastery of further proficiency, and only excellent supervising organizations and implementing organizations are able to accept trainees with this status of residence (the subject skills, etc. at the time of December 6, 2017 are for the same 77 job categories as for “Technical Intern Training (ii)”).

There were no foreign nationals who received permission to change their status of residence to “Technical Intern Training (iii)” in 2017 <sup>(\*)</sup> (Reference 25, 26).

### Reference 25 Changes in the number of trainees who changed to “Technical Intern Training (ii)” and “Technical Intern Training (iii)” by nationality/region

Nationality/Region	(People)					
	Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total		48,792	49,536	61,809	75,089	86,583
Viet Nam		5,861	8,664	16,968	28,457	38,985
China		35,463	31,822	31,055	27,180	24,904
Philippines		2,937	3,380	5,216	7,705	8,436
Indonesia		2,979	3,440	4,997	6,069	6,602
Thailand		925	1,411	1,741	2,025	2,664
Others		627	819	1,832	3,653	4,992

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

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

(\*) As of the end of 2017, all eight people staying with the status of residence of “Technical Intern Training (iii)-(b)” are newly entering the country with the same status of residence in 2017 (See Reference 4 and 20).

### Reference 26 Changes in the number of trainees who changed to “Technical Intern Training (ii)” and “Technical Intern Training (iii)” by job categories

(People)

Occupation \ Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total	48,792	49,536	61,809	75,089	86,583
Crop farming	5,510	5,537	6,325	7,077	8,383
Women/Children's apparel production	8,141	7,349	7,292	7,305	7,282
Prepared food industry	0	0	71	1,655	6,912
Welding	3,824	3,951	6,224	7,403	6,749
Plastic molding	3,135	3,330	4,073	4,459	4,948
Steeplejack	994	1,274	2,073	3,263	3,935
Unheated fishery processing products manufacturing	2,540	2,406	2,792	2,910	3,618
Machining	2,245	2,310	2,929	3,250	3,227
Electronics assembly	1,884	1,294	2,056	2,809	2,945
Painting	1,297	1,357	1,808	2,386	2,879
Metal press work	1,759	1,685	2,140	2,297	2,720
Heated fishery processing products manufacturing	1,840	1,862	2,122	2,290	2,071
Steel reinforcement construction	856	1,128	1,640	2,116	2,066
Mold construction	739	886	1,451	2,105	2,018
Livestock agriculture	1,231	1,268	1,460	1,710	1,998
Others	12,797	13,899	17,353	22,054	24,832

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

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

The number of cases in which obtained permission for extension of their period of stay in 2017 was 610,924, an increase of 78,124 (14.7%) from 2016.

### ③ Permission for Permanent Residence

The number of cases in which were granted permission for permanent residence in 2017 was 28,869. This number has been fluctuating after reaching a record high of 60,509 in 2007, with a decrease of 6,726 (18.9%) in 2017 when compared to 2016 ([Reference 27](#)).

### Reference 27 Changes in the number of cases of permission for permanent residence by nationality/region

		(Cases)				
Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
Nationality/Region						
Total	45,066	35,697	39,726	35,595	28,869	
China	19,799	15,670	16,635	15,285	12,816	
Philippines	6,385	4,769	5,455	4,795	3,549	
Brazil	4,572	4,030	4,822	3,866	2,716	
R.O.Korea/Korea	3,378	2,697	2,978	2,731	2,241	
R.O.Korea			2,978	2,731	2,241	
Viet Nam	1,068	926	967	994	873	
Others	9,864	7,605	8,869	7,924	6,674	

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

(\*2) From 2015, "R.O.Korea" and "Korea" are calculated separately.

(\*3) This table does not include the number of permits for special permanent residence.

#### ④ Permission for Acquisition of a Status of Residence

The number of cases in which were granted permission for acquisition of a status of residence in 2017 was 12,976, an increase of 966 (8.0%) when compared to 2016.

#### ⑤ Re-entry Permission

The number of cases in which were granted re-entry permission in 2017 was 35,310, an increase of 3,757 (11.9%) when compared to 2016.

In addition, the number of foreign nationals who departed from Japan having obtained special re-entry permission in 2017 was 2,405,384 accounting for 95.3% of the total number of 2,291,881 foreign nationals who departed from Japan through re-entry permission.

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

The number of cases in which obtained permission to engage in an activity other than those permitted by the status of residence previously granted in 2017 was 284,506, an increase of 34,149 (13.6%) from 2016.

## Section 3

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

## ① Residence Cards

The number of residence cards issued in 2017 was 1,240,552. According to the statistics by category, the number of residence cards issued at the time of granting permission relating to landing/status of residence was 1,184,425 accounting for 95.5% of the total, followed by applications for reissuance at 41,296 (3.3%), extension of the period of validity at 10,098 (0.8%), and notification of a change in the registered matters aside from the place of residence at 4,672 (0.4%).

By category of regional immigration bureaus, the Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau issued 678,107 residence cards, accounting for 54.7% of the total, followed by Nagoya at 207,451 (16.7%), Osaka at 163,971 (13.2%) and Fukuoka at 85,553 (6.9%) ([Reference 28](#)).

## Reference 28 Number of issuances of residence cards (2017)

(Cases)

Regional Immigration Bureaus	Total	Landing/residency status of residence related permission	Notification of change in the registered matters aside from the place of residence	Extension of the period of validity	Application for reissuance	Application to switch over to the residence card	Application for new issuance
Total	1,240,552	1,184,425	4,672	10,098	41,296	59	2
Sapporo	18,717	18,269	25	72	351	0	0
Sendai	21,089	20,301	86	163	539	0	0
Tokyo	678,107	646,129	2,324	5,027	24,584	42	1
Nagoya	207,451	196,881	1,352	2,795	6,408	15	0
Osaka	163,971	156,547	391	1,274	5,759	0	0
Hiroshima	48,972	47,231	280	295	1,163	2	1
Takamatsu	16,692	16,417	25	106	144	0	0
Fukuoka	85,553	82,650	189	366	2,348	0	0

## ② Special Permanent Resident Certificates

The number of special permanent resident certificates issued in 2017 was 40,989. According to the statistics by category, the number of special permanent resident certificates issued at the time of extension of the period of validity was 30,348 accounting for 74.0% of the total, followed by switching over to the special permanent resident certificate at 3,776 (9.2%), applications for reissuance at 3,238 (7.9%), and notification of a change in the registered matters aside from the place of residence at 2,790 (6.8%) ([Reference 29](#)).

## Reference 29 Number of issuances of special permanent resident certificates (2017)

(Cases)

Permission for special permanent residence (Article 4)	Permission for special permanent residence (Article 5)	Notification of a change in the registered matters aside from the place of residence	Extension of the period of validity	Application for reissuance	Application to switch over to the special permanent resident certificate	Application for new issuance	Application for issuance in advance	Total
698	101	2,790	30,348	3,238	3,776	37	1	40,989

**Article: At the Front Line of Immigration Control Administration (Voice of an immigration inspector in charge of status examinations)  
(Employment and Permanent Resident Inspection Department, Osaka Regional Immigration Bureau: Syuzo Otsuka)**



The Employment and Permanent Resident Inspection Department of the Osaka Regional Immigration Bureau to which I belong is in charge of the work of entry and status examinations pertaining to the status of residence with “work permit” and the status of residence with “personal relationship” as well as the work of recognition of refugee, and I am in charge of the status of residence with “work permit”.

The status of residence with work permit includes the statuses listed in the left-hand column of the table of Appended Table I (1), (2), and (5) (except the designated activities which are not permitted to work), and the “employment examination team” to which I belong is in charge of the examination of 18 statuses of residence under this Table except for technical intern training, as well as dependent (limited to spouse or child who is a dependent of a residing foreigners permitted the status of residence with “work permit”) under the abovementioned Appended Table I (4). The number of applications processed by the Osaka Regional Immigration Bureau is increasing year by year, same as the other regional bureaus, and we are faced with the task of promptly, smoothly and accurately to conduct the examinations with a limited number of personnel.

There is a need to proactively accept foreign nationals, including the establishment of a new status of residence, if a field that needs a new supply of human resources can be evaluated as being a professional or technical field. With the progression of an aging society, the demand for high-quality nursing care is rising, foreign nationals who have acquired the Japanese national qualification of certified care worker are recognized to have a certain level of expertise and skills, and therefore, a new status of residence “Nursing Care” was established, and the number of foreign nationals working and the scope of activities have been steadily increasing.

In compliance with the government policy that foreign nationals who have a high level of expertise and knowledge are to be proactively accepted, it is important to conduct prompt and smooth examinations. However, there is some concern that if it becomes difficult for foreign workers to work stably in Japan, their position may become unstable, and if the number of foreign nationals who work illegally increases, the overall security, economy and industries in Japanese society will also become unstable. Therefore, we perform our daily work with a common recognition that it is indispensable to carefully examine the applications for which illegal employment is suspected.

## Chapter 3 Implementation of the Technical Intern Training Program

### Section 1 Outline of the Program

The Technical Intern Training Program is a program which accepts people from the developing countries or regions for a certain period and enables them to acquire, increase and attain proficiency in (hereinafter referred to as “acquire” in this Chapter) the skills, techniques or knowledge (hereinafter referred to as “skills”) cultivated in Japan, and contributes to “human resource development” which leads to the development of the country or region etc. through such people utilizing these skills acquired in Japan after they have returned to their home country.

The Technical Intern Training Program established in 1993 was a program which enabled foreign nationals who had acquired skills above a certain level through training, to enter into a new employment contract and to further acquire the skills in a more practical way after they had completed the training at the same institution where they had received the training.

In response to criticism that some of the organizations accepting the trainees and technical intern trainees did not fully understand the original purpose of the program, and were treating them in all essence as low wage workers, a new status of residence of “Technical Intern Training” was established in the Act for Partial Amendment of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act and Special Act on the Immigration Control of, Inter Alia, Those Who Have Lost Japanese Nationality Pursuant to the Treaty of Peace with Japan, and Other Related Laws enacted in July 2009, and measures have been taken to legally protect the technical intern trainees and stabilize their legal status such as ensuring that the labor laws and regulations will be applied under an employment relationship from the first year of entry into Japan.

However, while there has still been criticism that for example, there are still those who fail to understand the purpose of the program and misunderstand that this is a way of securing inexpensive labor that makes up for the shortage of labor in Japan, thereby resulting in violations of labor-related laws and regulations and human rights violations, on the other hand, requests have been received for expansion of the Technical Intern Training Program such as expansion of the job categories and extension of the technical intern training period.

For this reason, in order to properly implement the technical intern training for foreign nationals and to protect the technical intern trainees, the Technical Intern Training Act incorporating a program for accreditation of technical intern training plan and license of supervising organization, as well as measures to establish the Organization for Technical Intern Training to conduct the administrative affairs thereof, was enacted on November 18, 2016, promulgated on the 28th of the same month, and entered into effect on November 1, 2017.

## Section 2 Applications and processing of license of supervising organizations

### ① Applications for license of supervising organizations

From November 1, 2017, in order to accept technical intern trainees through the “Association supervised scheme technical intern training”, juridical persons, which intend to become a supervising organization are required to obtain a license of supervising organization from the competent minister (Minister of Justice and Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare). The number of applications and license of supervising organization in 2017 was 2,003 ([Reference 30](#)).

### ② License of supervising organizations

The number of license of supervising organizations in 2017 was 1,027, of which 414 licenses were granted for general supervision business (excellent supervising organizations), and 613 licenses were granted for specified supervision business (other supervising organizations) ([Reference 30](#)).

#### Reference 30 Number of applications and grant of license of supervising organization

		(Cases)
		2017
Number of applications		2,003
Number of licenses	General supervision business	414
	Specified supervision business	613
	Total	1,027

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

### ① Applications for accreditation of technical intern training plans

From November 1, 2017, in order for an implementing organization to accept technical intern trainees, it is necessary for the technical intern training plan prepared for each technical intern trainee to be accredited by the Organization for Technical Intern Training. The number of applications for accreditation of technical intern training plans in 2017 was 31,033, of which 1,032 applications were for company-arranged scheme technical training plans, and 30,001 applications were for Association supervised scheme technical intern training plans ([Reference 31](#)).

### ② Number of cases of accreditation of technical intern training plans

The number of cases of accreditation of the technical intern training plans in 2017 was 4,766, with the number of cases of accreditation of company-arranged scheme technical training plans at 327 and the number of cases of Association supervised scheme technical intern training plans at 4,439 ([Reference 31](#)).

**Reference 31 Number of applications and accreditations of the technical intern training plan**

		(Cases)
		2017
Number of applications	Company-arranged scheme	1,032
	Association-supervised scheme	30,001
	Total	31,033
Number of accreditations	Company-arranged scheme	327
	Association-supervised scheme	4,439
	Total	4,766

**Section 4 Responses to Cases of Inappropriate Acceptance****① Current program**

Under the new technical intern training program, if there is a violation of the licensing or accreditation criteria, or a violation of the laws or regulations, etc. by a supervising organization or implementing organization, depending on the severity or manner of the violation, the license of the supervising organization or the accreditation of the technical intern training plan may be revoked, an order may be issued for suspension of business (only supervising organizations or improvement), and the name of such organizations may be published. In addition, supervising organizations and implementing organizations whose license or accreditation has been revoked, will not be able to continue with the technical intern training, and will not be allowed to accept new technical intern trainees for the next five years. Furthermore, the Organization for Technical Intern Training plans to secure proper technical intern training programs and to protect the technical intern trainees by implementing regular on-site inspections, and establishing counseling and reporting services in the mother tongue of the technical intern trainees.

**② Former program**

With regard to organizations that conducted improper acts in relation to technical intern training based on the old program prior to the enforcement of the Technical Intern Training Act, a notification of “misconduct” is issued, and based on the provisions of the Ministry of Justice ordinance, depending on the type of misconduct, such organization will not be able to accept technical intern trainees for 5 years, 3 years or 1 year. In 2017, there were 213 organizations which were notified of “misconduct”.

According to the statistics by type of acceptance arrangement, 3 organizations (1.4%) which had accepted trainees under the Company-arranged scheme and 210 organizations (98.6%) which had accepted trainees under Association-supervised scheme were notified of findings of misconduct, and taking a look by type of accepting organization under Association-supervised scheme, there were 27 supervising organizations (12.9%) and 183 organizations implementing technical intern training (87.1%) (**Reference 32**).

### Reference 32 Changes in the number of organizations subject to a finding of misconduct by type of accepting arrangement

Type of Accepting Arrangement		Year				
		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Company-arranged scheme		0	0	3	2	3
Association-supervised scheme	Supervising organization (Primary accepting organization)	20	23	32	35	27
	Implementing organization (Secondary accepting organization)	210	218	238	202	183
Total		230	241	273	239	213

The types of misconduct fell under “nonpayment of wages”, “using or providing forged or altered documents, etc.”, and “violation of labor-related laws and regulations”, and these three types accounted for 78.9% of the total (Reference 33).

### Reference 33 Number of cases of misconduct by category (2017)

Category	Company-arranged scheme (3 Organizations)	Association-supervised scheme		Total (213 Organizations)
		Supervising organization (27 Organizations)	Program implementing organization (183 Organizations)	
Violence/threats/confinement	0	0	4	4
Confiscation of passport/residence card	0	1	1	2
Nonpayment	0	3	136	139
Human rights infringement	0	0	3	3
Document forgery/preparation and use of fraudulent documents	0	22	51	73
Confiscation of deposit	0	1	2	3
Engaging in work activities during course study period	0	2	1	3
Dual contract	0	0	1	1
Discrepancy compared with Technical Intern Training Plan	0	3	7	10
Name lending	3	1	6	10
Implementing organization's failure to report misconduct/failure to report the impossibility of continuing the program	0		0	0
Supervising organization's failure to report misconduct, etc./failure to conduct audit or to establish a consultation system		8		8
Frequency of trainees going missing	0	0	0	0
Employment of illegal foreign workers	0	0	18	18
Violation of labor-related laws and regulations	0	0	24	24
Arrangement with profit purpose	0	0	0	0
Repeated misconduct	0	0	1	1
Failure to submit a daily report	0	0	0	0
Failure to submit a report regarding leaving trainees	0	0	0	0
Work outside of the trainees' prescribed work hours	0	0	0	0
Total	3	41	255	299

(\*) If one accepting organization is notified of findings of misconduct in more than one category, it is counted in each category, and therefore, the total number of accepting organizations is not identical to the total number of recognized cases in each category.

The number of technical intern trainees who have absconded from the program has been on an upward trend, and this number surged to 7,089 in 2017 while it was 3,566 in 2013. Previous extensive research on the reasons for absconding shows that most of the trainees lacked motivation for the technical intern training and absconded in search of a higher wages. Therefore, stricter examinations are being conducted with regard to applications pertaining to the acceptance of technical intern trainees submitted by sending organizations or supervising organizations, which have seen a large number of trainees abscond from the program (**Reference 34**).

#### Reference 34 Changes in the number of technical intern trainees absconding by nationality/region

		(People)				
Year		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Nationality/Region						
Total		3,566	4,847	5,803	5,058	7,089
Viet Nam		828	1,022	1,705	2,025	3,751
China		2,313	3,065	3,116	1,987	1,594
Cambodia				58	284	656
Myanmar		7	107	336	216	446
Indonesia		114	276	252	200	242
Others		304	377	336	346	400

(\*1) The indication of China in the table does not include Taiwan, China (Hong Kong) or China (others).

(\*2) The numbers of Cambodia in 2013 and 2014 are included in the category of Others respectively.

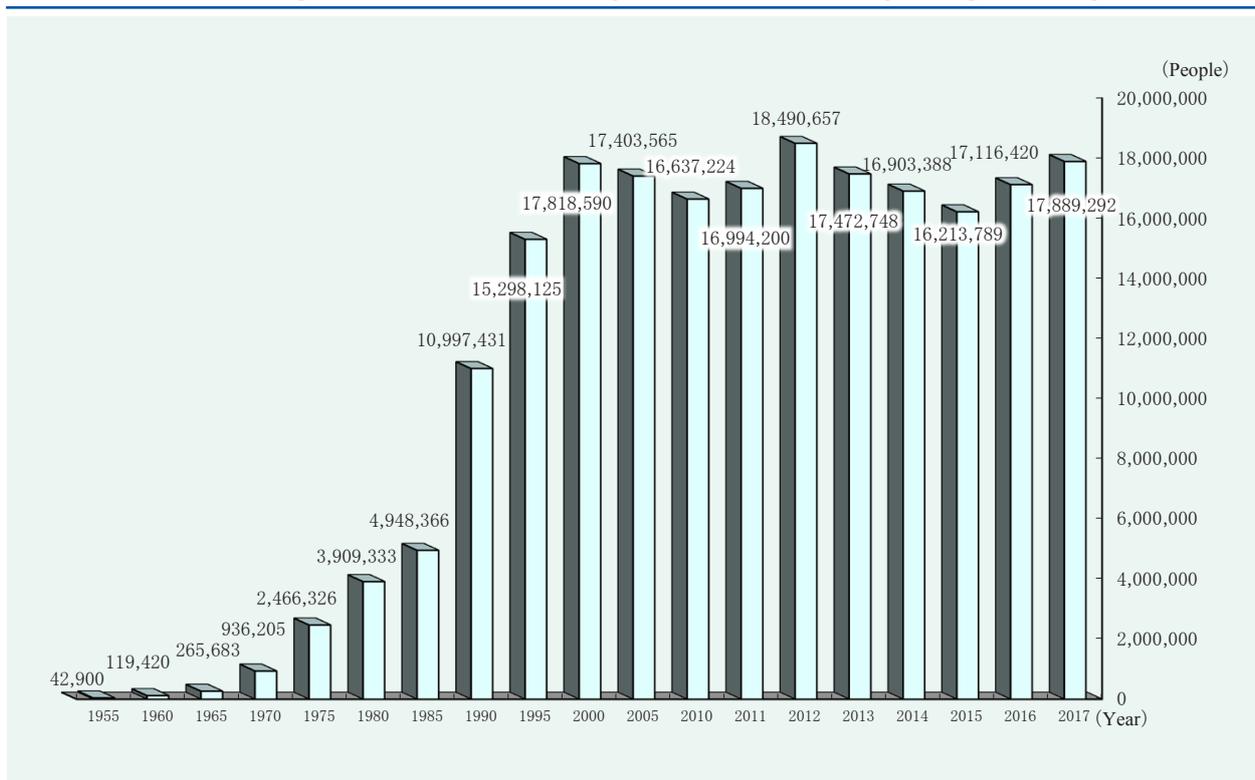
## Chapter 4 Japanese Nationals Departing from and Returning to Japan

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

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

The number of Japanese nationals departing from Japan in 2017 was 17,889,292, an increase of 772,872 (4.5%) from 2016 ([Reference 35](#)).

#### Reference 35 Changes in the number of Japanese nationals departing from Japan

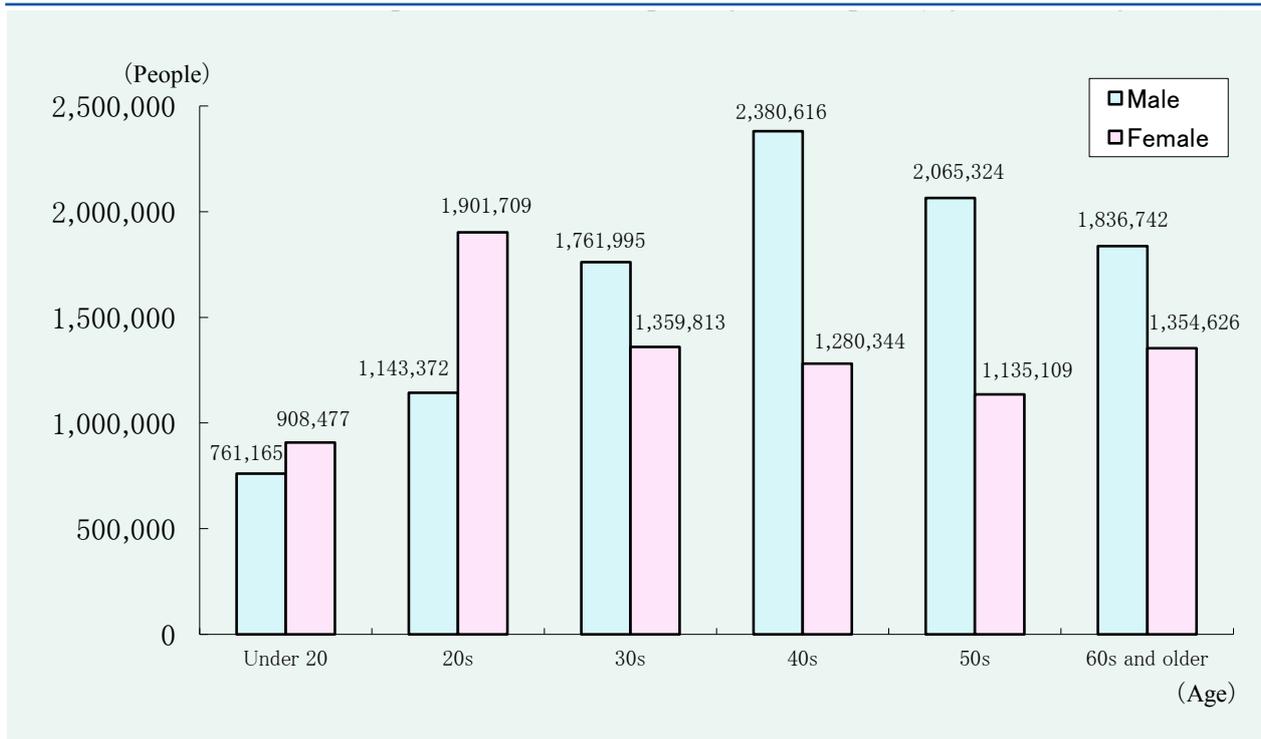


#### ② Number of Japanese Nationals Departing from Japan by Gender and Age

According to the statistics by gender, the number of Japanese nationals departing from Japan in 2017 was composed of 9,949,214 males and 7,940,078 females; males accounted for 55.6% of the total and females accounted for 44.4%. There have been no significant changes in the percentages of either males or females since 2001, and the percentage of males continues to exceed that of females.

According to the statistics by age, the number of Japanese nationals departing from Japan in 2017 was composed of 3,660,960 Japanese nationals in their 40s, which accounted for 20.5% of the total, followed by 3,200,433 in their 50s, accounting for 17.9%, 3,191,368 in their 60s and older, accounting for 17.8%, 3,121,808 in their 30s, accounting for 17.5% and 3,045,081 in their 20s, accounting for 17.0%.

According to the statistics on percentages of males and females by age group, the percentages of Japanese females ages under 20 and 20s exceeded those of males and, in particular, females in their 20s accounted for the extremely high percentage of 62.5%, but with the other age groups, the percentage of males departing from Japan exceeded that of females ([Reference 36](#)).

**Reference 36 Number of Japanese nationals departing from Japan by gender and age (2017)****③ Number of Japanese Nationals Departing from Japan by Airport and Seaport**

Looking at the number of Japanese nationals departing from Japan in 2017 by airports and seaport of departure, the number of departing passengers using airports was 17,725,102, accounting for 99.1% of the total, and when comparing to the 26,686,984 (97.3%) foreign nationals entering Japan using the airports, the percentage of airport users is higher.

Looking at the Japanese nationals departing from Japan using airports in 2017, the number of users of Narita Airport was 6,790,184, accounting for 38.3% of the total number of departing passengers from airports, the number of users of Haneda Airport was 4,614,536, accounting for 26.0%, and the number of users of Kansai Airport was 3,302,811, accounting for 18.6%. These three airports accounted for 83.0% of the total number of departing passengers from airports.

On the other hand, looking at the Japanese nationals departing from Japan using seaports during 2017, the number of Hakata Port users was 47,331, accounting for 28.8% of the total number of departing passengers from seaports, followed by Sakai Port at 19,332 (11.8%), and Ishigaki Port at 17,083 (10.4%). These three seaports accounted for 51.0% of the total number of departing passengers from seaports. Yokohama Port at 15,433 (9.4%) and Kanmon (Shimonoseki) Port at 9,804 (6.0%) followed these three seaports.

## Section 2 Number of Japanese Nationals Returning to Japan

The total number of returning Japanese nationals in 2017 was 17,876,453. By period of stay in foreign countries after departure, the number of persons returning within one month of departure was 16,225,579, which accounted for 90.8% of the total. Of those, the number of persons returning within 10 days was 14,696,426, which accounted for 90.6% of those who returned within one month of departure.

This is thought to be because most Japanese going abroad for a purpose requiring only a short period such as sightseeing and business return promptly. This trend has continued in recent years and no major change has been observed ([Reference 37](#)).

### Reference 37 Changes in the number of Japanese nationals returning to Japan by period of stay

(People)

Period of Stay \ Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total	17,421,997	16,915,797	16,258,889	17,088,252	17,876,453
Within 5 days	9,898,557	9,499,435	9,126,508	10,067,736	10,590,134
More than 5 days to 10 days	4,422,482	4,299,701	4,033,466	3,905,780	4,106,292
More than 10 days to 20 days	1,130,386	1,119,965	1,086,094	1,067,194	1,116,348
More than 20 days to 1 month	408,455	417,716	402,491	409,434	412,805
More than 1 month to 3 months	658,643	655,267	670,011	678,113	686,350
More than 3 months to 6 months	376,109	386,518	387,233	393,187	400,249
More than 6 months to 1 year	291,269	301,338	305,442	307,247	310,126
More than 1 year to 3 years	134,050	133,068	135,515	129,203	122,306
More than 3 years	12,966	13,203	13,161	12,800	10,610
Unknown	89,080	89,586	98,968	117,558	121,233

## Chapter 5

## Deportation Procedures for Foreign Nationals

## Section 1

## Foreign Nationals Overstaying Their Authorized Period of Stay



Investigation of violation

Based on the computer statistics of the Immigration Bureau, the estimated number of foreign nationals who overstayed (those who illegally stay in Japan beyond their authorized period of stay) was 66,498 as of January 1, 2018. This was an increase of 1,228 (1.9%) when compared to the 65,270 as of January 1, 2017, and as of January 1 each year, it has increased for four consecutive years.

The number of deportation procedures against those who overstayed their authorized period of stay in 2017 was larger than in 2016. Meanwhile, as a result of the entire government's efforts toward a tourism-oriented country that have been taken in recent years, the number of foreign nationals entering Japan has increased significantly, and it is thought that this has had a considerable influence on the increase in the number of foreign nationals who overstayed their authorized period of stay.

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

At the time of May 1, 1993, when the highest number of foreign nationals overstaying their authorized period of stay was recorded, the nationality/region of the largest number of foreign nationals was Thailand, followed by R.O.Korea, the Philippines, China and Malaysia. As of January 1, 2018, the largest number of foreign nationals overstaying their authorized period of stay was from R.O.Korea at 12,876 (19.4%), followed by China at 9,390 (14.1%), Thailand at 6,768 (10.2%), Viet Nam at 6,760 (10.2%), and the Philippines at 4,933 (7.4%).

Taking a look at the changes after May 1, 1993, although the number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan significantly increased owing to visa waiver being implemented with regard to R.O.Korea for those foreign nationals intending to engage in activities under the status of residence of "Temporary Visitor", the number of those from R.O.Korea overstaying their period of stay has been consistently decreasing since January 1, 1999. Meanwhile, the number of those from Viet Nam increased by 1,623 (31.6%) to 6,760 compared with January 1, 2017, and this number has been increasing for six

consecutive years. Of the illegal residents from Viet Nam staying beyond their authorized period of stay, “Technical Intern Training” accounted for about 50% of the total, and it is thought that these technical intern trainees, planning to engage in illegal work, absconded from the technical intern training site and stayed beyond their authorized period of stay. In addition, regarding foreign nationals from Thailand, although this number continued to decline consistently from May 1, 1993, due to the relaxing of the visa requirements in July 2013, the number of new entrants with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor” has been increasing significantly, and saw an increase of 261 (4.0%) to 6,768, compared to January 1, 2017, which was an increase of five consecutive years (References 38, 39).

### Reference 38 Changes in the estimated number of foreign nationals overstaying the authorized period of stay by nationality/region

(People)

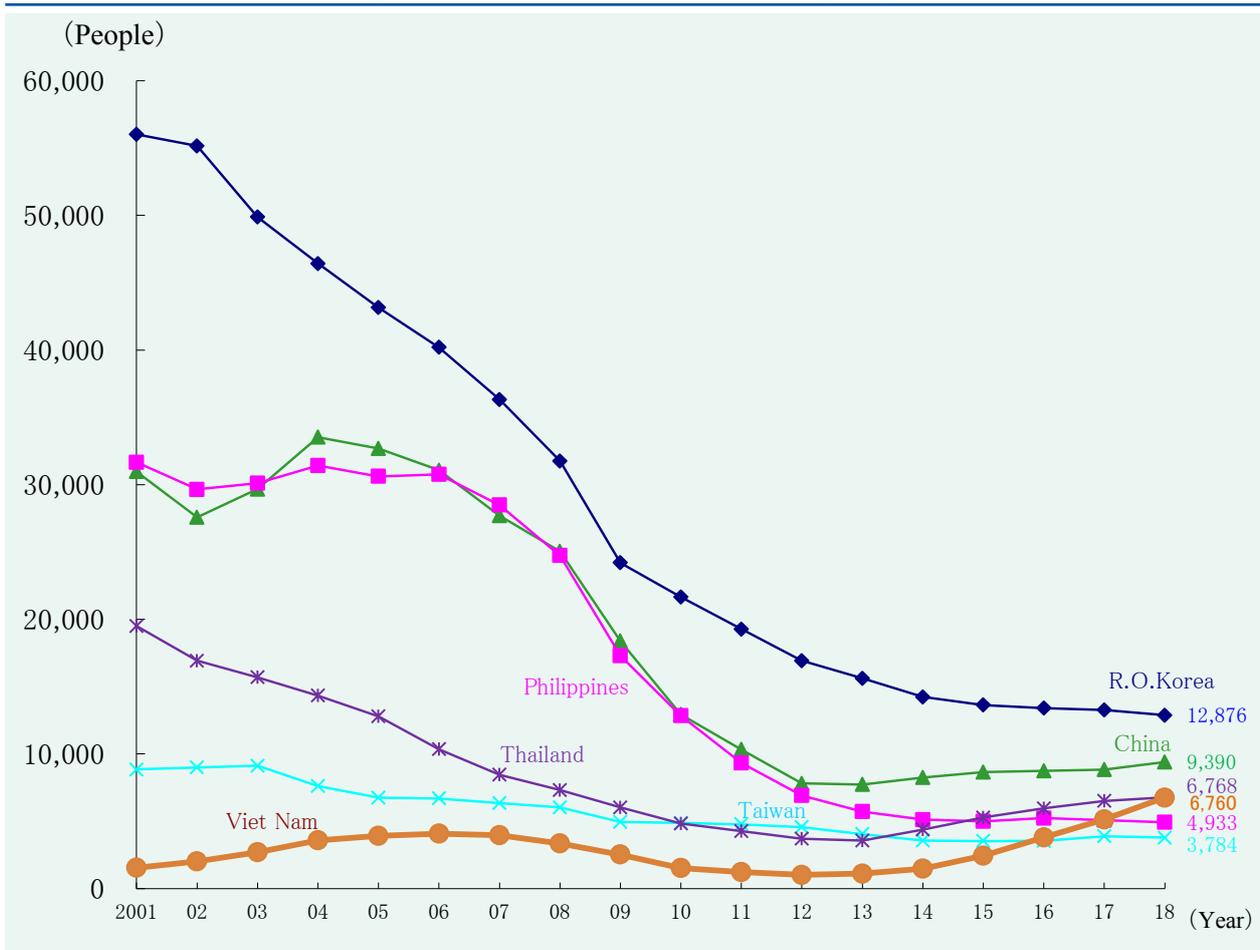
Nationality/Region	Date													
	May 1 1993	May 1 1994	May 1 1995	May 1 1996	January 1 1997	January 1 1998	January 1 1999	January 1 2000	January 1 2001	January 1 2002	January 1 2003	January 1 2004	January 1 2005	
Total	298,646	293,800	286,704	284,500	282,986	276,810	271,048	251,697	232,121	224,067	220,552	219,418	207,299	
R.O.Korea	39,455	43,369	47,544	51,580	52,387	52,123	62,577	60,693	56,023	55,164	49,874	46,425	43,151	
China	33,312	39,738	39,511	39,140	38,296	37,590	34,800	32,896	30,975	27,582	29,676	33,522	32,683	
Thailand	55,383	49,992	44,794	41,280	39,513	37,046	30,065	23,503	19,500	16,925	15,693	14,334	12,787	
Viet Nam	852	869	453	448	231	731	880	1,092	1,550	2,021	2,697	3,582	3,916	
Philippines	35,392	37,544	39,763	41,997	42,547	42,608	40,420	36,379	31,666	29,649	30,100	31,428	30,619	
Taiwan	7,457	7,871	7,974	8,502	9,409	9,430	9,437	9,243	8,849	8,990	9,126	7,611	6,760	
Indonesia	2,969	3,198	3,205	3,481	3,758	4,692	4,930	4,947	5,315	6,393	6,546	7,246	7,169	
Malaysia	30,840	20,313	14,511	11,525	10,390	10,141	9,989	9,701	9,651	10,097	9,442	8,476	7,431	
Singapore	1,914	2,342	2,600	2,850	2,946	3,027	3,084	3,178	3,302	3,494	3,556	3,216	3,075	
Brazil	2,210	2,603	3,104	3,763	5,026	4,334	3,288	3,266	3,578	3,697	3,865	4,728	4,905	
Others	88,862	85,961	83,245	79,934	78,483	75,088	71,578	66,799	61,712	60,055	59,977	58,850	54,803	

(People)

Nationality/Region	Date													
	January 1 2006	January 1 2007	January 1 2008	January 1 2009	January 1 2010	January 1 2011	January 1 2012	January 1 2013	January 1 2014	January 1 2015	January 1 2016	January 1 2017	January 1 2018	
Total	193,745	170,839	149,785	113,072	91,778	78,488	67,065	62,009	59,061	60,007	62,818	65,270	66,498	
R.O.Korea	40,203	36,321	31,758	24,198	21,660	19,271	16,927	15,607	14,233	13,634	13,412	13,265	12,876	
China	31,074	27,698	25,057	18,385	12,933	10,337	7,807	7,730	8,257	8,647	8,741	8,846	9,390	
Thailand	10,352	8,460	7,314	6,023	4,836	4,264	3,714	3,558	4,391	5,277	5,959	6,507	6,768	
Viet Nam	4,071	3,959	3,362	2,527	1,531	1,221	1,014	1,110	1,471	2,453	3,809	5,137	6,760	
Philippines	30,777	28,491	24,741	17,287	12,842	9,329	6,908	5,722	5,117	4,991	5,240	5,082	4,933	
Taiwan	6,696	6,347	6,031	4,950	4,889	4,774	4,571	4,047	3,557	3,532	3,543	3,887	3,784	
Indonesia	6,926	6,354	5,096	3,126	1,820	1,265	1,037	1,073	1,097	1,258	2,228	2,222	2,076	
Malaysia	6,822	6,397	4,804	2,986	2,661	2,442	2,237	2,192	1,819	1,788	1,763	1,761	1,784	
Singapore	3,587	2,241	2,207	2,128	2,107	1,789	1,586	1,304	1,079	1,066	1,055	1,046	1,034	
Brazil	2,762	2,286	2,297	1,939	1,645	1,536	1,290	1,075	1,013	988	983	959	976	
Others	50,475	42,285	37,118	29,523	24,854	22,260	19,974	18,591	17,027	16,373	16,085	16,558	16,117	

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

### Reference 39 Changes in the estimated number of foreign nationals overstaying the authorized period of stay by major nationality/region



(\*) It shows the number of foreign nationals overstaying as of January 1 of each year.

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

Taking a look at the foreign nationals overstaying their authorized period of stay as of January 1, 2018 by status of residence prior to illegally overstaying in Japan, the number of foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor” continued from 2017 to make up the largest number at 44,592 accounting for 67.1% of the total number, followed by “Student” at 4,100 (6.2%), “Technical Intern Training (ii)(b)” at 3,988 (6.0%), “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” at 3,092 (4.6%) and “Technical Intern Training (i)(b)” at 2,894 (4.4%). In addition, when compared to the previous year, while there was an increase in the number of foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor” by 425 (1.0%), “Student” by 293 (7.7%), “Technical Intern Training (ii)(b)” by 240 (6.4%) and “Technical Intern Training (i)(b)” by 153 (5.6%), there was a decline in the number of foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” by 195 (5.9%) ([Reference 40](#)).

### Reference 40 Changes in the estimated number of foreign nationals overstaying the authorized period of stay by status of residence

Status of Residence	Date	(People)						
	January 1 2012	January 1 2013	January 1 2014	January 1 2015	January 1 2016	January 1 2017	January 1 2018	
Total		67,065	62,009	59,061	60,007	62,818	65,270	66,498
Temporary Visitor		46,845	43,943	41,403	41,090	42,478	44,167	44,592
Student		3,187	2,847	2,777	2,806	3,422	3,807	4,100
Technical Intern Training(ii)-(b)		412	943	1,699	2,831	3,413	3,748	3,988
Spouse or Child of Japanese National		5,060	4,291	3,719	3,709	3,433	3,287	3,092
Technical Intern Training(i)-(b)		213	645	1,089	1,799	2,439	2,741	2,894
Others		11,348	9,340	8,374	7,772	7,633	7,520	7,832

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

## Section 2

## Cases of Violation of the Immigration Control Act Necessitating the Implementation of Deportation Procedures

### 1 Outline

In 2017, the number of foreign nationals against whom deportation procedures were enforced on account of violation of the Immigration Control Act was 13,686, an increase of 325 when compared to 2016. Of these, 4,410 were handed over to immigration inspectors as those subject to the departure order system. Although the number of foreign nationals in violation of the Immigration Control Act had been steadily decreasing since 2005, in recent years, there has been an increase in the number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan owing to the implementation of measures such as visa waiver, and this has contributed to an increase in the number of foreign nationals overstaying their authorized period of stay, and it has increased for the third consecutive year.

According to the statistics of the number of foreign nationals by grounds for deportation, the largest number of foreign nationals was deported for overstaying at 11,502 (84.0%), followed by activities other than those permitted under the status of residence previously granted at 648 (4.7%) and illegal entry at 577 (4.2%). Overstaying continued to account for a predominant percentage ([Reference 41](#)).

Looking at the statistics for the number of cases of violation of the Immigration Control Act by nationality/region, the largest number of such foreign nationals was from China for 15 consecutive years at 3,901 (28.5%), followed by Viet Nam at 2,931 (21.4%) and Thailand at 2,096 (15.3%). These top three countries made up 65.2% of the total ([Reference 42](#)).

### Reference 41 Changes in the number of cases of violation of the Immigration Control Act by grounds for deportation

Grounds for Deportation	(People)					
	Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total		11,428	10,676	12,272	13,361	13,686
Illegal entry		1,128	844	752	599	577
Illegal landing		199	249	268	238	151
Activity other than those permitted		493	422	399	511	648
Overstay		8,713	8,274	9,982	11,198	11,502
Criminal offenses		430	392	397	432	470
Others		465	495	474	383	338
Illegal worker		7,038	6,702	7,973	9,003	9,134

### Reference 42 Changes in the number of cases of violation of the Immigration Control Act by nationality/region

Nationality/Region	(People)					
	Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total		11,428	10,676	12,272	13,361	13,686
China		4,044	3,975	4,311	3,979	3,901
Viet Nam		688	953	1,643	2,273	2,931
Thailand		604	899	1,475	1,770	2,096
Philippines		1,778	1,414	1,467	1,452	1,310
Indonesia		271	268	507	1,059	727
R.O.Korea		1,336	921	704	599	440
Brazil		422	316	296	268	232
Nepal		128	113	146	185	198
Mongolia		113	117	109	169	177
Myanmar		60	37	36	46	148
Others		1,984	1,663	1,578	1,561	1,526

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

## ② Number of Cases of Violation of the Immigration Control Act by Grounds for Deportation

### (1) Illegal Entry

Of the foreign nationals against whom the deportation procedures were enforced for being in violation of the Immigration Control Act in 2017, the number of illegal entrants<sup>(\*)</sup> was 577, accounting for 4.2%, a decline of 22 (3.7%) from 2016. Looking at past records, the number increased from 2003 but started to decrease since 2006. The fact that the number of illegal entrants as a percentage of the total number of foreign nationals in violation of the Immigration Control Act is decreasing is one of the reasons to consider that the countermeasures to prevent illegal entry have been quite effective.

Accordingly to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number was from the Philippines at 117

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

(20.3%), followed by Iran at 115 (19.9%) and China at 104 (18.0%) (**Reference 43**).

According to the statistics by means of transportation used for illegal entry, the number of illegal entrants using aircraft was 482. Though it showed a decline of 6 (1.2%) from 2016, the percentage of illegal entry using aircraft was still high at 83.5%. In addition, the number of illegal entrants using a vessel was 95, accounting for 16.5%, a decline of 16 (14.4%) from 2016 (**Reference 44, 45**).

#### Reference 43 Changes in the number of cases of illegal entry by nationality/region

Nationality/Region	(People)					
	Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total		1,128	844	752	599	577
Philippines		274	214	166	143	117
Iran		63	53	64	76	115
China		359	262	211	143	104
R.O.Korea		102	69	50	45	32
Sri Lanka		32	28	18	13	24
Pakistan		14	8	10	11	24
Indonesia		27	21	27	29	23
Thailand		56	43	31	21	20
Peru		37	29	26	29	20
Viet Nam		13	10	34	14	14
Others		151	107	115	75	84

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

#### Reference 44 Changes in the number of cases of illegal entry using aircraft by nationality/region

Nationality/Region	(People)					
	Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total		824	640	594	488	482
Philippines		262	208	158	138	114
Iran		55	48	61	74	108
China		153	112	96	67	48
Pakistan		13	8	10	11	24
Sri Lanka		32	28	18	12	23
Others		309	236	251	186	165

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

#### Reference 45 Changes in the number of cases of illegal entry using vessel by nationality/region

Nationality/Region	(People)					
	Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total		304	204	158	111	95
China		206	150	115	76	56
R.O.Korea		49	36	28	22	15
Iran		8	5	3	2	7
Philippines		12	6	8	5	3
Korea		0	0	0	0	3
Others		29	7	4	6	11

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

## (2) Illegal Landing

Of the foreign nationals against whom deportation procedures were enforced owing to violation of the Immigration Control Act during 2017, the number of those who illegally landed in Japan without receiving a seal of verification for landing or undergoing the recording of the prescribed data pursuant to the provisions of Article 9, paragraph (4) of the Immigration Control Act, or without obtaining permission for landing from an immigration inspector was 151 (1.1%), which was a decrease of 87 (36.6%) from 2016 ([Reference 46](#)).

### Reference 46 Changes in the number of cases of illegal landing by nationality/region

Nationality/Region	(People)					
	Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total		199	249	268	238	151
Sri Lanka		14	54	95	39	38
Turkey		84	97	90	82	34
China		7	4	6	7	15
United States of America		5	3	2	11	12
Russia		19	36	20	16	11
Indonesia		1	2	2	10	6
Pakistan		3	4	6	5	6
Others		66	49	47	68	29

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

## (3) Overstay

Of the foreign nationals against whom deportation procedures were enforced for being in violation of the Immigration Control Act during 2017, the number of those who overstayed the authorized period of stay was 11,502 (84.0%), which was an increase of 304 (2.7%) from 2016 and still overwhelmingly high.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of foreign nationals who overstayed their authorized period of stay was from China at 3,534 (30.7%), followed by Viet Nam at 2,515 (21.9%), Thailand at 2,017 (17.5%), the Philippines at 961 (8.4%), and Indonesia at 619 (5.4%) ([Reference 47](#)).

### Reference 47 Changes in the number of cases of foreign nationals overstaying the authorized period of stay by nationality/region

Nationality/Region	(People)					
	Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total		8,713	8,274	9,982	11,198	11,502
China		3,194	3,170	3,623	3,488	3,534
Viet Nam		562	780	1,422	1,994	2,515
Thailand		486	797	1,389	1,699	2,017
Philippines		1,363	1,034	1,139	1,157	961
Indonesia		236	233	465	935	619
R.O.Korea		960	715	559	473	358
Mongolia		110	112	104	162	160
Nepal		78	62	63	93	139
Brazil		321	227	227	181	132
Myanmar		42	34	26	25	122
Others		1,361	1,110	965	991	945

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

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

If a foreign national residing in Japan clearly engages solely in working activities, such as the ones for which he/she receives remuneration, other than those permitted for the status of residence previously granted without obtaining the required permission, deportation procedures will be enforced on grounds of engaging in activities other than those permitted under the status of residence previously granted. Of the foreign nationals against whom deportation procedures were enforced for being in violation of the Immigration Control Act in 2017, the number of foreign nationals against whom the procedures were enforced because of the activity other than those permitted by the status of residence previously granted was 648 (4.7%), which was an increase of 137 (26.8%) from 2016.

Accordingly to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number was from Viet Nam at 280 (43.2%), followed by the Philippines at 124 (19.1%) and Indonesia at 70 (10.8%), and these top three countries accounted for 73.1% of the total ([Reference 48](#)).

#### Reference 48 Changes in the number of cases of activities other than those permitted under the status of residence previously granted by nationality/region

Nationality/Region	(People)					
	Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total		493	422	399	511	648
Viet Nam		52	110	104	154	280
Philippines		27	24	41	24	124
Indonesia		4	9	10	76	70
Nepal		29	34	31	67	47
China		176	167	145	91	41
Thailand		14	13	8	8	20
Myanmar		7	0	0	17	19
Mongolia		1	2	3	0	15
R.O.Korea		138	48	35	28	7
India		12	1	0	4	7
Others		33	14	22	42	18

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



Detection of violator

### ③ Illegal Foreign Workers

---

#### (1) Summary

Of the foreign nationals against whom deportation procedures were enforced for being in violation of the Immigration Control Act in 2017, the number of those who were considered to be illegally working was 9,134 (66.7%). This indicates that most illegal foreign residents who are hiding out somewhere in Japan are working illegally.

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

The amended Immigration Control Act enforced on July 1, 2010 stipulates any act of a foreign national aiding another foreign national to engage in illegal work, such as through employment of the foreign national, to be one of the grounds for deportation (Article 24, item (iii)-4 of the Immigration Control Act). Thus, the Immigration Bureau promotes crackdown on foreign nationals who encourage illegal work.

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

The illegal foreign workers came from 51 countries/regions, mainly from neighboring Asian countries, which indicates that foreign nationals from various countries/regions are still working illegally.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, illegal workers from China made up the largest number at 2,915 (31.9%), followed by Viet Nam at 2,152 (23.6%), Thailand at 1,855 (20.3%), the Philippines at 711 (7.8%) and Indonesia at 588 (6.4%). These top five countries represented 90.0% of the total.

Looking at the changes over the past few years, China still accounts for a high proportion, but the proportion of Viet Nam and Thailand is also increasing ([Reference 49](#)).

## Reference 49 Changes in the number of cases of illegal work by nationality/region

(People)

Year		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Nationality/Region						
Total		7,038	6,702	7,973	9,003	9,134
	Male	4,356	4,160	5,167	6,093	6,120
	Female	2,682	2,542	2,806	2,910	3,014
China		2,909	2,819	3,266	3,080	2,915
	Male	1,943	1,869	2,166	2,130	1,982
	Female	966	950	1,100	950	933
Viet Nam		461	701	1,160	1,638	2,152
	Male	312	454	873	1,246	1,657
	Female	149	247	287	392	495
Thailand		442	681	1,215	1,536	1,855
	Male	272	384	699	850	966
	Female	170	297	516	686	889
Philippines		968	763	756	830	711
	Male	394	308	341	426	366
	Female	574	455	415	404	345
Indonesia		233	231	396	819	588
	Male	193	193	338	699	514
	Female	40	38	58	120	74
R.O.Korea		866	606	435	359	239
	Male	311	237	167	167	118
	Female	555	369	268	192	121
Mongolia		81	101	81	133	146
	Male	47	72	51	90	95
	Female	34	29	30	43	51
Nepal		97	75	68	95	77
	Male	78	47	51	76	52
	Female	19	28	17	19	25
Sri Lanka		136	119	57	68	53
	Male	127	112	54	67	48
	Female	9	7	3	1	5
Peru		107	59	73	62	47
	Male	73	48	58	46	39
	Female	34	11	15	16	8
Myanmar		42	23	29	31	47
	Male	30	19	19	22	27
	Female	12	4	10	9	20
Others		696	524	437	352	304
	Male	576	417	350	274	256
	Female	120	107	87	78	48

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

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

The composition of illegal foreign workers by gender was 6,120 males (67.0%) and 3,014 females (33.0%).

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

According to the statistics by type of work, the largest number of illegal foreign workers were agricultural workers at 2,501 (27.4%), followed by construction workers at 1,548 (16.9%) and factory workers at 1,411 (15.4%).

In addition, according to the statistics by gender, the largest number of males worked as agricultural workers, followed by construction workers then factory workers, while the largest number of females worked as agricultural workers, followed by factory workers, then jobs in the hospitality industry, for example, as hostesses ([Reference 50](#)).

#### Reference 50 Changes in the number of cases of illegal work by type of work

Job Categories		Year				
		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total		7,038	6,702	7,973	9,003	9,134
	Male	4,356	4,160	5,167	6,093	6,120
	Female	2,682	2,542	2,806	2,910	3,014
Agricultural worker		695	946	1,744	2,215	2,501
	Male	507	632	1,113	1,438	1,585
	Female	188	314	631	777	916
Construction worker		1,151	1,336	1,638	1,713	1,548
	Male	1,144	1,323	1,622	1,697	1,529
	Female	7	13	16	16	19
Factory worker		1,301	1,230	1,342	1,410	1,411
	Male	895	769	857	1,008	942
	Female	406	461	485	402	469
Other labor worker		580	525	686	1,076	1,059
	Male	440	424	543	837	811
	Female	140	101	143	239	248
Worker in other service industry		452	413	425	453	495
	Male	161	127	118	127	152
	Female	291	286	307	326	343
Attendants such as bar hostess		837	629	523	482	369
	Male	80	41	33	27	25
	Female	757	588	490	455	344
Others		2,022	1,623	1,615	1,654	1,751
	Male	1,129	844	881	959	1,076
	Female	893	779	734	695	675

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

Illegal foreign workers are known to be working in 46 prefectures throughout Japan. According to the statistics on the place of work of the illegal foreign workers by prefecture, Ibaraki prefecture had the largest number at 2,213 (24.2%) as in 2016, followed by Chiba prefecture at 1,505 (16.5%), Tokyo at 1,184 (13.0%), Aichi prefecture at 811 (8.9%) and Saitama prefecture at 765 (8.4%) ([Reference 51](#)).

According to the statistics by region, the number of illegal foreign workers in Tokyo and the six prefectures (Kanagawa, Chiba, Saitama, Ibaraki, Gunma, and Tochigi) in the Kanto district was 6,761 (74.0%), making up most of the total, and the number of illegal workers in the nine prefectures in the Chubu district (Niigata, Nagano, Yamanashi, Toyama, Ishikawa, Fukui, Shizuoka, Gifu and Aichi) was also at a high level of 1,314 (14.4%). Illegal foreign workers in the Kanto and Chubu districts making up 88.4% (8,075) of the total accounted for a substantial percentage of the total number of illegal foreign workers.

**Reference 51 Changes in the number of cases of illegal foreign workers by area**

Prefecture	(People)					
	Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total		7,038	6,702	7,973	9,003	9,134
Ibaraki		752	1,047	1,714	2,038	2,213
Chiba		945	955	1,238	1,559	1,505
Tokyo		1,389	1,175	1,086	1,187	1,184
Aichi		954	794	757	891	811
Saitama		539	460	595	716	765
Gunma		243	155	451	453	453
Kanagawa		680	656	638	602	446
Osaka		366	273	252	226	294
Tochigi		137	109	193	224	195
Nagano		89	64	119	170	169
Others		944	1,014	930	937	1,099

**4 Outline of Decisions on Violations****(1) Receipt and Processing of Cases of Violation**

Any foreign national who is suspected of coming under any of the grounds for deportation shall be handed over to an immigration inspector to undergo the procedures for decisions on violations after an investigation by an immigration control officer. These procedures consist of three steps: examination of the violation by an immigration inspector, a hearing by a special inquiry officer, and a decision of the Minister of Justice.

**Decision on violation**

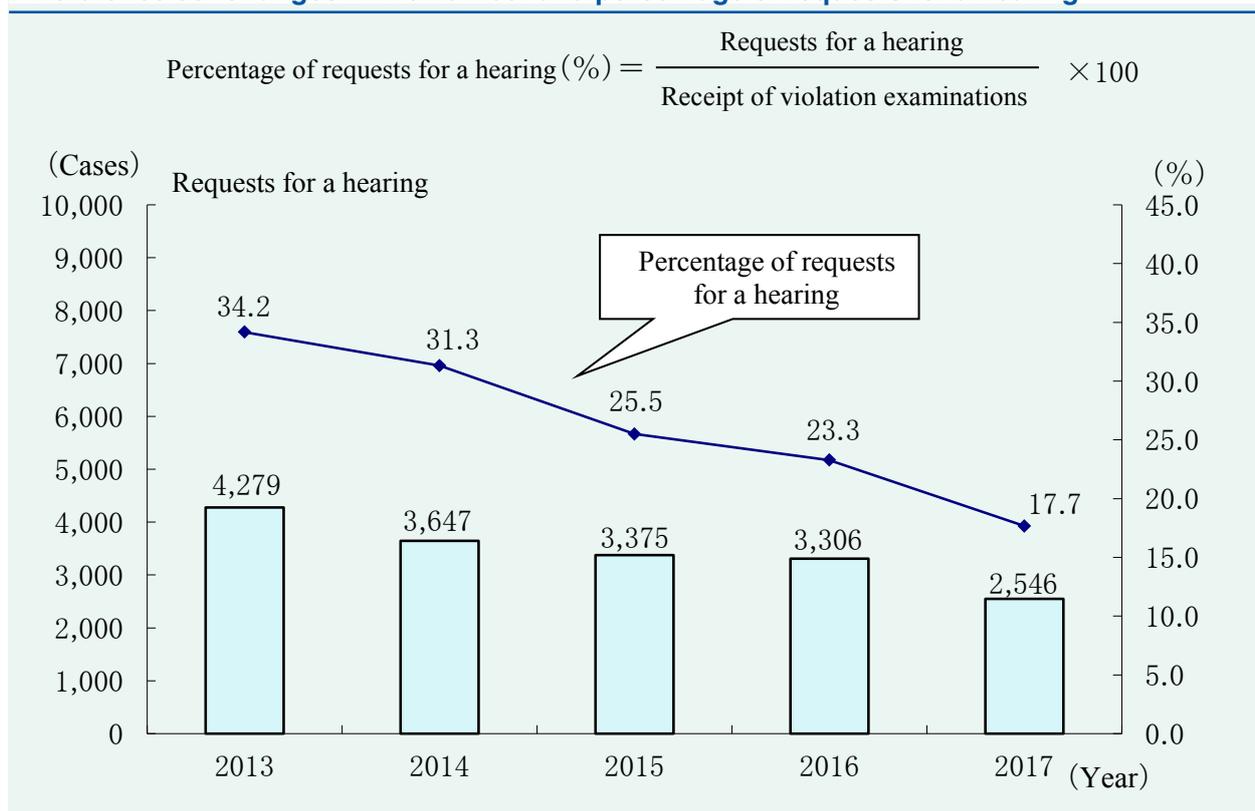
The number of cases which underwent an examination of violations in 2017 was 14,407, which has continued to increase since 2016 ([Reference 52](#)).

**Reference 52 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**

Division		Year					
		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
		(Cases)					
Violation examination by immigration inspector	Receipt	12,523 (793)	11,645 (670)	13,233 (594)	14,198 (484)	14,407 (414)	
	Completed	Found not to fall under one of the reasons for deportation	5	0	5	3	2
		Issuance of written deportation order	4,729	4,482	5,409	6,008	6,723
		Request for hearing	4,279	3,647	3,375	3,306	2,546
		Issuance of written departure order	2,478	2,592	3,573	4,101	4,423
		Not completed, others	1,032	924	871	780	713
	Hearing by special inquiry officer	Receipt	4,942 (582)	4,282 (527)	3,871 (476)	3,945 (568)	3,273 (653)
Completed	Error in the findings	0	0	1	0	1	
	Issuance of written deportation order	96	74	77	145	159	
	Filing of an objection	4,226	3,596	3,163	3,078	2,522	
	Issuance of written departure order	0	0	0	0	0	
Not completed, others		620	612	630	722	591	
Decision of the Minister of Justice	Receipt	4,776 (505)	3,936 (297)	3,526 (357)	3,478 (376)	3,352 (818)	
	Completed	Objection with reason	1	1	0	1	1
		Objection without reason	4,428	3,544	3,110	2,588	2,415
		Issuance of written departure order	0	0	0	0	0
	Not completed, others		347	391	416	889	936

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

The number of requests for a hearing after an examination of the violation in 2017 was 2,546 accounting for 17.7% of the total number of cases which underwent an examination of the violation, a decline of 760 (23.0%) from 2016 ([Reference 52, 53](#)).

**Reference 53 Changes in the number and percentage of requests for a hearing**

The number of objections filed by foreign nationals who were not satisfied with the decision made by the special inquiry officer at the hearing was 2,522 in 2017, a decline of 556 (18.1%) from 2016 ([Reference 52](#)).

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

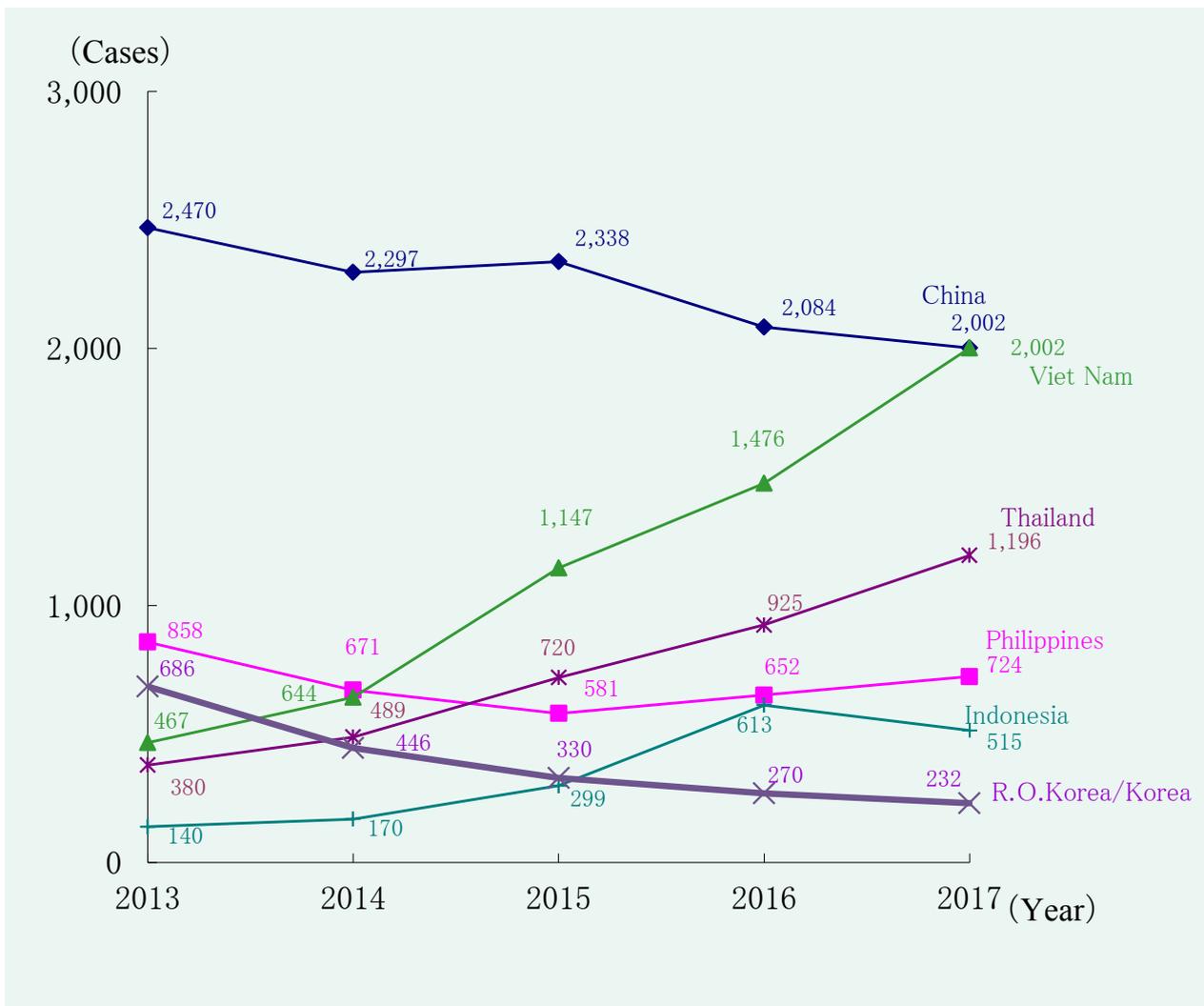
The number of written deportation orders issued in 2017 was 8,130. According to the statistics by ground for deportation, the cases of overstay amounted to 5,872, accounting for 72.2% of the total, while the percentage of cases of illegal entry was 6.2% ([Reference 54](#)).

**Reference 54 Changes in the number of issuance of written deportation orders by grounds for deportation**

Grounds for Deportation	(Cases)					
	Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total		6,425	5,821	6,589	7,241	8,130
Overstay		3,907	3,574	4,218	4,981	5,872
Illegal entry		1,001	733	638	495	503
Illegal landing		164	160	223	233	140
Activity other than those permitted		491	405	374	497	644
Criminal offenses		501	404	472	428	411
Others		361	545	664	607	560

According to the statistics by nationality/region in 2017, the largest number of cases in which were issued with a written deportation order came from China and Viet Nam at 2,002 (24.6% respectively), followed by Thailand at 1,196 (14.7%) ([Reference 55](#)).

#### Reference 55 Changes in the number of issuance of written deportation orders by nationality/region



### (3) Provisional Release

The number of cases where foreign nationals who had been detained due to a written detention order were provisionally released in 2017 was 922, a decrease of 569 (38.2%) compared to 2016. The number of foreign nationals detained under a written deportation order who were granted provisional release was 822, a decrease of 338 (29.1%) from 2016 ([Reference 56](#)).

#### Reference 56 Changes in the number of cases of permission for provisional release

Type of Order	(Cases)					
	Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
By written detention order		1,510	1,293	1,293	1,491	922
By written deportation order		1,271	926	1,063	1,160	822

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

The number of cases in which received special permission to stay in Japan from the Minister of Justice in 2017 was 1,255, a decline of 297 (19.1%) when compared to 2016.

Most of the foreign nationals who received special permission to stay in Japan had established close relationships with Japanese nationals such as through marriage. Also in many cases they had settled down in Japan in many respects.

Looking at the foreign nationals who came under the grounds of deportation but were granted special permission to stay in Japan, the grounds for the largest number in 2017 was overstaying the authorized period of stay at 868 (69.2%), followed by illegal entry and illegal landing at 128(10.2%). Overstaying, illegal entry and illegal landing accounted for 79.4% of the total ([Reference 57](#)).

##### Reference 57 Changes in the number of cases of special permission to stay in Japan by grounds for deportation

(Cases)					
Grounds for Deportation \ Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total	2,840	2,291	2,023	1,552	1,255
Overstay	2,161	1,643	1,504	1,106	868
Illegal entry/Illegal landing	270	223	155	130	128
Criminal offenses etc.	409	425	364	316	259

According to statistics by nationality/region in 2017, the largest number of foreign nationals who were granted special permission to stay in Japan came from the Philippines at 270 (21.5%), followed by China at 210 (16.7%), R.O.Korea/Korea combined at 125 (10.0%), Viet Nam at 101 (8.0%), and Thailand at 72 (5.7%) ([Reference 58](#)).

##### Reference 58 Changes in the number of cases of special permission to stay in Japan by nationality/region

(Cases)					
Nationality/Region \ Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total	2,840	2,291	2,023	1,552	1,255
Philippines	758	581	517	413	270
China	422	421	393	284	210
R.O.Korea/Korea	400	286	222	166	125
Viet Nam	98	100	84	84	101
Thailand	140	93	104	79	72
Others	1,022	810	703	526	477

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

#### 5 Outline of Deportation of Foreign Nationals

The number of deportees in 2017 was 8,145, which was an increase of 1,131 (16.1%) when compared to 2016.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of deportees was from Viet Nam at 2,038 (25.0%), followed by China at 1,954 (24.0%), Thailand at 1,224 (15.0%), the Philippines at 705 (8.7%), and Indonesia at 549 (6.7%) ([Reference 59](#)).

**Reference 59 Changes in the number of deportees by nationality/region**

Nationality/Region	(People)					
	Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total		5,790	5,542	6,174	7,014	8,145
Viet Nam		432	627	1,064	1,412	2,038
China		2,284	2,282	2,296	2,058	1,954
Thailand		400	483	707	914	1,224
Philippines		796	616	593	618	705
Indonesia		134	159	287	561	549
R.O.Korea		665	456	328	288	248
Nepal		64	48	82	113	196
Sri Lanka		93	123	69	115	127
Myanmar		51	44	28	80	114
Mongolia		49	51	49	84	96
Others		822	653	671	771	894

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

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



**Deportation**

**Reference 60 Changes in the number of deportees by means of deportation**

Measure of Deportation	(People)					
	Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total		5,790	5,542	6,174	7,014	8,145
Voluntary departure		5,382	5,228	5,853	6,575	7,622
Deportation in accordance with Article 59		54	47	49	63	68
Individual deportation at the expense of the government		208	203	206	308	385
Group deportation at the expense of the government		121	32	22	30	43
Others		0	0	1	0	0
Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons		25	32	43	38	27

(\*1) “Group deportation at the expense of the government” refers to group deportation through the use of private chartered aircraft paid for by the Japanese government.

(\*2) “Others” are cases of deportation at the expense of the government of the deportees’ home country.

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

Of the deportees, the number of those deported at their own expense stood at 7,622 (93.6%), which was an increase of 1,047 (15.9%) when compared to 2016 ([References 60, 61](#)).

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

### Reference 61 Changes in the number of deportees through voluntary departure by nationality/region

Nationality/Region \ Year	(People)				
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total	5,382	5,228	5,853	6,575	7,622
Viet Nam	424	608	1,046	1,358	1,968
China	2,263	2,257	2,262	2,015	1,912
Thailand	339	467	699	909	1,185
Philippines	680	578	555	578	653
Indonesia	130	154	277	552	530
R.O.Korea	652	448	311	267	229
Nepal	61	45	64	96	178
Myanmar	50	44	28	78	106
Sri Lanka	86	91	67	77	98
Mongolia	48	49	49	81	92
Others	649	487	495	564	671

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

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

As foreign nationals, who are in violation of the Immigration Control Act tend to stay for a longer period and have more diversified lifestyles than before. There are deportees who do not depart at the expense of the foreign national as they refuse deportation for various reasons, cannot afford the travel expenses for return to their home country, or suffer from illness. Of these foreign nationals, the number of those deported at the expense of the government in consideration of individual circumstances, etc. stood at 428 (5.3%) in 2017, which was an increase of 90 (26.6%) from 2016.

Moreover, in 2017, in order to implement safe and secure deportations, 43 foreign nationals were deported with a private chartered plane ([Reference 60](#)).

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

A carrier who operates an aircraft or vessel that has transported a foreign national who does not meet the requirements for landing is responsible for deporting the deportee at its own expense and on its own responsibility under certain conditions (deportation under Article 59 of the Immigration Control Act)<sup>(\*)</sup>. The number of foreign nationals deported in this way in 2017 was 68 (0.8%), an increase of 5 (7.9%) from 2016 ([Reference 60](#)).

## 6 Departure Orders

### (1) Investigation into Violations

The number of foreign nationals whose cases were handed over from immigration control officers to immigration inspectors through the departure order procedures was 4,410 in 2017, accounting for 32.2% of the total number of foreign nationals in violation of the Immigration Control Act.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number was from China at 1,714 (38.9%), followed by Viet Nam at 867 (19.7%), Thailand at 839 (19.0%), the Philippines at 289 (6.6%) and Indonesia at 240 (5.4%), and these top five countries accounted for 89.5% of the total ([Reference 62](#)).

#### Reference 62 Changes in the number of foreign nationals handed over under a departure order by nationality/region

Nationality/Region	Year				
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total	2,479	2,587	3,571	4,094	4,410
China	1,261	1,283	1,660	1,695	1,714
Viet Nam	120	196	387	629	867
Thailand	135	310	641	765	839
Philippines	241	225	299	322	289
Indonesia	102	81	187	257	240
R.O.Korea	293	214	169	154	116
Mongolia	46	60	50	70	77
Myanmar	16	11	10	7	50
Nepal	23	15	13	23	49
United States of America	26	25	13	17	18
Others	216	167	142	155	151

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

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

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

## (2) Examination

### A. Receipt and Processing of Cases

The number of cases of departure orders in 2017 was 4,410, accounting for 30.6% of the total number of cases of examination of the violation. This represented an increase of 316 (7.7%) when compared to 2016.

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

### B. Issuance of a Written Departure Order

The number of cases in which were issued with a written departure order having been determined to be eligible for a departure order, was 4,423 in 2017.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number was from China at 1,721, accounting for 38.9% of the total, followed by Viet Nam at 872 (19.7%), Thailand at 841 (19.0%), the Philippines at 288 (6.5%), and Indonesia at 236 (5.3%), and the top five countries accounted for 89.5% of the total (**Reference 63**).

#### Reference 63 Changes in the number of issuances of written departure orders by nationality/region

		(Cases)				
Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
Nationality/Region						
Total	2,478	2,592	3,573	4,101	4,423	
China	1,259	1,282	1,662	1,701	1,721	
Viet Nam	118	203	387	627	872	
Thailand	135	310	641	766	841	
Philippines	241	224	298	326	288	
Indonesia	102	81	188	256	236	
R.O.Korea/Korea	294	214	169	154	117	
Mongolia	46	59	51	69	78	
Nepal	23	15	13	23	50	
Peru	27	11	16	20	13	
Brazil	13	9	9	17	13	
Others	220	184	139	142	194	

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

## (3) Confirmation of Departure

Foreign nationals who are deemed to be subject to a departure order are required, as with foreign nationals departing within the period of stay, to receive a seal of verification of departure as well as the written departure order that was issued to them.

## Chapter 6 Recognition of Refugee Status

Due to the recognition that it is important for Japan to fulfill its obligations in the international community by accepting refugees, Japan became a signatory to the Refugee Convention in 1981 and the Protocol in 1982 (hereinafter, “the Refugee Convention” and “the Protocol” are referred to together as “the Refugee Convention, etc.”) and as a result, also established a system for recognition of refugee status.

Thereafter, from the perspective of ensuring proper and prompt protection of refugees through fairer procedures, the refugee recognition system has undergone some revisions. The Act to Amend the Immigration Control Act was enforced on May 16, 2005, which included the establishment of a system to permit provisional stay and the refugee examination counselors system.

The Immigration Bureau has further improved and strengthened its organizational structure and investigation system, and has endeavored to ensure proper implementation of the refugee recognition system to handle applications for refugee status quickly and appropriately.

### Section 1

## Applications and Processing for Recognition of Refugee Status

### ① Application for Recognition of Refugee Status

In 2017, the total number of applicants who applied for recognition of refugee status in Japan was 19,629, which was an increase of 8,728 (80.1%) when compared to 2016, continuing on from the previous year to mark a record high ([Reference 64](#)).

#### Reference 64 Changes in the number of applications for recognition of refugee status

	(People)				
Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Applications	3,260	5,000	7,586	10,901	19,629

The number of nationalities/regions of the applicants was 82, and the major nationalities/regions from which applicants came were in descending order: the Philippines at 4,895 (24.9%), Viet Nam at 3,116 (15.9%), Sri Lanka at 2,226 (11.3%), Indonesia at 2,038 (10.4%), Nepal at 1,451 (7.4%), Turkey at 1,195 (6.1%), Myanmar at 962 (4.9%), Cambodia at 772 (3.9%), India at 601 (3.1%), and Pakistan at 469 (2.4%).

The applicants at the time of their applications were composed of 18,716 (95.3%) legal residents and 913 (4.7%) illegal residents.

Of the total number of applicants, 1,563 applicants accounting for 8.0% had applied for recognition of refugee status in the past. These applicants comprised 1,192 legal residents (59.2% of whom held the status of residence of “Designated Activities”, which had been granted by reason that their applications were undergoing examination.) and 371 illegal residents.

## ② Processing of Applications for Recognition of Refugee Status

The total number of applicants whose application for recognition of refugee status was processed in 2017 was 11,367, an increase of 3,174 (38.7%) from 2016. The number of applicants who were recognized as refugees was 19<sup>(\*1)</sup> while the number of applicants who were denied recognition of refugee status was 9,736. The number of applicants who withdrew their applications and others was 1,612.

Further, the immigration administration is 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 definition of refugees specified in the Refugee Convention, etc. For example, if an applicant, who is denied recognition of refugee status, is unable to return to his or her home country due to situational problems in his or her country or has some other special reason necessitating that he or she stay in Japan, special arrangements may be made flexibly on a case-by-case basis, taking the situation of the foreign national into consideration within the Japanese immigration control framework. In 2017, 45 applicants were allowed to stay in Japan ([Reference 65](#)).

### Reference 65 Changes in the number of foreign nationals protected as refugees etc.

Division \ Year		(People)					
		1978 ~ 2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Refugee Status	Recognized as a refugee	616	6	11	27	28	20
	Refugees for resettlement	11,364	18	23	19	18	29
Others		2,106	151	110	79	97	45
Total		14,086	175	144	125	143	94

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

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

(\*3) The number of “Others” includes those who were denied recognition as a refugee in the primary examination but were later found to have enough grounds for being granted special permission to stay in Japan by the Minister of Justice, in accordance with Article 61-2-2 (2) of the Immigration Control Act.

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

The number of foreign nationals who were granted permission for provisional stay was 35 in 2017, a decline of 23 (39.7%) from 2016.

The number of those who underwent an examination as to whether or not they should be granted permission for provisional stay was 784. The major reasons for decisions not granting permission were as follows<sup>(\*2)</sup>:

(i) Applicants had applied for recognition of refugee status after the deadline of six months from the date of landing in Japan (in the case of those for whom the grounds for being a refugee had arisen during their stay in Japan, the date such fact became known to them): 426 persons.

(ii) There had been Reasonable grounds to believe that the foreign national will flee: 330 persons.

(iii) Applicants had already received a deportation order: 214 persons.

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

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

## Section 2 Request for an administrative review (\*)

### 1 Request for an administrative review

The number of persons who made a request for an administrative review (including objections filed; the same shall apply below) of a disposition denying recognition of refugee status (referred to below as “disposition of non-recognition of refugee status”) (see note) in 2017 was 8,530, and this was an increase of 3,333 (64.1%) compared with 2016 ([Reference 66](#)).

#### Reference 66 Changes in the number of requests for an administrative review, and determinations of the Minister of Justice

Year		(People)												
Division	1982~2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total	
Not recognized as a refugee	3,162	446	791	1,703	1,336	2,002	2,083	2,499	2,906	3,411	7,492	9,736	37,567	
Request for an administrative review	2,202	362	429	1,156	859	1,719	1,738	2,408	2,533	3,120	5,197	8,530	30,253	
Determination, etc.	With reason	44	4	17	8	13	14	13	3	5	8	2	1	132
	Without reason	1,552	183	300	230	325	635	790	921	1,171	1,763	2,112	3,084	13,066
	Withdrawn, etc.	328	34	34	70	113	231	193	211	344	504	822	1,306	4,190

(\*1) The number of requests for administrative review and objections filed together comprise the number of requests for administrative review. Moreover, the numbers for 1982 to 2005 include the number of objections applied which were replaced to read as objections filed.

(\*2) The number of determinations on the request for an administrative review or number of decisions for objections filed combined total the determinations, etc. Moreover, the numbers for 1982 to 2005 include the number of objections applied which were replaced to read as objections filed.

### 2 Processing of the Request for an administrative review

The number of requests for an administrative review processed in 2017 was 4,391, an increase of 1,455 (49.6%) compared with 2016. The breakdown included 1 person (2 in the previous year) whose request for an administrative review was found to be with reasonable grounds (one who was recognized as a refugee), 3,084 persons (2,112 in the previous year) whose requests were found to be without any reasonable grounds, and 1,306 persons (822 in the previous year) who withdrew their request for an administrative review ([Reference 66](#)).

## Section 3 Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge

With respect to landing permission for temporary refuge, 489 applications were submitted, and 10 applications were granted permission over the past five years (from 2013 to 2017).

(\*) Pursuant to the amended Immigration Control Act, which came into effect on May 16, 2005, the procedure for the “filing of objections” was newly established as was the system of refugee examination counselors, and the “application for objection” made prior to the enforcement of the Amended Act was replaced to be read as “filing of an objection”.

Subsequently, in accordance with the enforcement of the amended Administrative Appeal Act and the amended Immigration Control Act on April 1, 2016, if a person objected to a disposition of non-recognition of refugee status which had been notified up until March 31 of the same year, such person would “file an objection”, and if a person objected to a disposition of non-recognition of refugee status which had been notified up from April 1 of the same year onwards, such person would make a “request for an administrative review”, and therefore currently, procedures for the “filing of an objection” and for the “request for an administrative review” coexist.

## Article: At the Front Line of Immigration Control Administration (Voice of a refugee inquirer) (Refugee Examination Department, Nagoya Regional Immigration Bureau: Kaori Kamei)

We, refugee inquirers, are immigration officers designated by the Minister of Justice to investigate the facts necessary for refugee recognition. Refugee inquirers interview the applicants for recognition of refugee status listen to the contents of the claim in detail, ask relevant persons to appear where necessary, request reports on the necessary matters from public and private organizations, and are also responsible for investigating facts such as about the country of origin.

Since the nationalities of the applicants are diverse, and the languages and cultures are different, I pay close attention in the interviews to the applicant's reactions and state, strive to ask questions in as easy and straightforward manner as possible, and I try to ease the tension and conduct the interviews in a relaxed atmosphere so as to encourage the applicant to tell me about what they experienced back in their home country.

In order to properly understand the applicant's story, there is a need to have special knowledge of religion, politics, race, etc., and it is also important to understand the geography, culture and other aspects of the country of origin, and therefore, I collect materials such as literature on each country on a regular basis, and endeavor to focus on and understand the latest global situations.

The number of applicants for recognition of refugee status in Japan has been steadily increasing in recent years, and the number of applicants in 2017 was 19,629 (about 80% higher than the previous year), which was the largest number ever. Correspondingly, the number of applications that attempt to abuse or misuse the system and which clearly do not correspond to the fear of persecution set out in the Refugee Convention, such as the submission of an application for reasons of debt, have also rapidly increased, which is a situation that hinders the provision of prompt protection of genuine refugees, and therefore, in order to optimize the refugee recognition system, the operation of the refugee recognition system is currently under review.

Under such circumstances, in order to promptly and reliably protect those who truly need asylum, we refugee inquirers have to identify those person who are highly likely to be a refugee under the Refugee Convention from out of the enormous number of applications, and to conduct a prompt and accurate inquiry.

In the future as well, I hope to remain aware of the gravity of my responsibilities as a refugee inquirer, and hope to work on improving my refugee inquiry skills on a daily basis so that refugees may be promptly protected.



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

### Section 1 Measures Against Trafficking in Persons

#### ① Measures Against Trafficking in Persons

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

The Japanese government formulated the “Action Plan for Measures against Trafficking in Persons” through the relevant ministries and agencies in December 2004 and the “Action Plan for Measures against Trafficking in Persons 2009” through the Ministerial Conference for Measures against Crime in December 2009, and the entire government has been promoting measures up to this point. The “Action Plan for Measures against Trafficking in Persons 2014” was formulated through the same Conference in December 2014 in order to work on more powerful, comprehensive and all-encompassing measures against human trafficking. In May 2017, the “Conference for the Promotion of Measures against Trafficking in Persons” comprising the competent ministers in charge of measures against human trafficking held its third meeting, and the relevant government ministries and agencies led by the Conference are currently promoting government-wide efforts against the trafficking of persons.

In addition, based on the “Action Plan for Measures against Trafficking in Persons 2014”, the Immigration Bureau has also been striving to prevent human trafficking by further strengthening its system of cooperation with the related organizations, has been tracking hidden cases where there is the possibility of human trafficking and has been proactively engaged in eradicating trafficking in persons and offering appropriate protection to the victims.

#### ② Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Persons

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

The number of foreign nationals for whom the Immigration Bureau implemented procedures for protection as victims of trafficking in persons (including support to return to their home country) was 20 in 2017 (21 persons in the previous year). According to the statistics by nationality/region, 10 victims came from the Philippines (5 in the previous year), 8 victims came from Thailand (9 in the previous year), 1 victim came from Viet Nam (0 in the previous year) and 1 victim came from Mongolia (0 in the previous year).

The number of victims who had a status of residence out of the total of 20 victims was 10 persons (11 persons in the previous year), and the number of victims who were in violation of the Immigration Control Act such as illegally staying beyond the authorized period of stay was 10 persons (10 persons in the previous year). In addition, all of the victims who were in violation of the Immigration Control Act

were granted special permission to stay in Japan ([Reference 67](#)).

The number of victims has declined significantly since 2005, when the Immigration Bureau first started collecting statistics and offered protection to 115 victims, and the number has been fluctuating at around 20 victims in recent years. This is thought to be because the entire government has been working together on measures under the Action Plan for Measures against Trafficking in Persons, and owing to the fact that measures to prevent and eradicate trafficking in persons, such as the revision of the ordinance on landing criteria pertaining to the status of residence of “Entertainer” made in the same year and following years and the implementation of strict landing examinations have had a certain level of effect ([Reference 68](#)).

### Reference 67 Number of victims of trafficking in persons (2017)

Breakdown Nationality/Region	Recognized as a victim of trafficking in persons		Total
	Foreign nationals previously in possession of a status of residence	Violators of the Immigration Control Act (Special Permission to Stay in Japan)	
Philippines	9	1(1)	10
Thailand	0	8(8)	8
Viet Nam	1	0(0)	1
Mongolia	0	1(1)	1
Total	10	10(10)	20

(People)

(\*1) The breakdown by status of residence of foreign nationals previously in possession of a status of residence was “Spouse or Child of Japanese National”, 8 persons; “Technical Intern Training (i)-(b)”, 1 person, and “Student”, 1 person.

(\*2) The type of violation of the foreign nationals granted special permission to stay was “illegal overstaying”, 9 persons, and “illegal entry” 1 person.

(\*3) The breakdown by the status of residence, before overstaying the authorized period of stay were “Temporary Visitor”, 9 persons.

### Reference 68 Changes in the number of victims of trafficking in persons

Breakdown	Year					
	2005	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total	115	12	9	26	21	20
Foreign nationals previously in possession of a status of residence	68	8	5	15	11	10
Violators of the Immigration Control Act (Special permission to stay in Japan)	47(47)	4(4)	4(4)	11(11)	10(10)	10(10)

(People)

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

In 2014, the National Police Agency, Ministry of Justice, Supreme Public Prosecutors Office, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and the Japan Coast Guard established the “Task Force for the Enforcement of Laws and Regulations Relating to Trafficking in Persons”, and this task force has been conducting improved information sharing and cooperation in order to ensure crackdowns on human trafficking-related offenses, and consequently, one foreign national was deported by the Immigration Bureau as perpetrator of human trafficking in 2017 (2 persons in the previous year). Their nationality was Thailand.

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

## Section 2 Protection of Foreign Domestic Violence Victims

### 1 Outline

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

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

Further, a law to partially amend the Act on the Prevention of Spousal Violence and the Protection of Victims was enforced in January 2008, and the “Basic Policy Relating to Measures to Prevent Spousal Violence and Protect Victims”<sup>(\*)</sup> was formulated by the relevant ministries and agencies, including the Ministry of Justice, based on this law. In light of this basic policy, the Immigration Bureau established its own guidelines on the measures in July of the same year, and in cases where a person is identified as a victim of domestic violence, the Immigration Bureau, taking into full consideration the fact that the victim has been placed in a harsh situation both physically and mentally, deals appropriately according to the physical and mental condition, etc., of the victim, and strives to further protect the victim by cooperating with the Spousal Violence Counseling and Support Center, the Women’s Consulting Offices, police and other related organizations.

### 2 Number of Recognized Foreign Domestic Violence Victims

The Immigration Bureau places emphasis the most on the protection of victims and treats the victims properly from a humanitarian perspective by ensuring coordination with the agencies concerned, and gives careful consideration to the wishes and situation of the victims in the procedures for such as examination of the status of residence or the deportation procedures while considering their individual circumstances. The number of foreign domestic violence victims who were recognized in the process of residence examination or the deportation procedures during 2017 was 94 ([Reference 69, 70](#)).

The Immigration Bureau took into account the individual situations of the victims and permitted in most of the cases extension of the period of stay or granted special permission to stay.

---

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

**Reference 69 Number of recognized foreign domestic violence victims (2017)**

					(People)
Division Nationality/Region	Residence Procedures	Deportation Procedures	Consultations	Others	Total
Philippines	35	2	9	0	46
China	12	0	5	0	17
R.O.Korea	4	0	1	0	5
Thailand	4	0	1	0	5
Brazil	4	0	0	0	4
Indonesia	2	0	1	0	3
Bangladesh	1	0	1	0	2
Viet Nam	2	0	0	0	2
India	1	0	0	0	1
Guinea	1	0	0	0	1
Sri Lanka	0	0	1	0	1
Senegal	0	0	1	0	1
Czech	1	0	0	0	1
Turkey	0	0	1	0	1
Pakistan	0	0	1	0	1
Peru	1	0	0	0	1
Romania	1	0	0	0	1
Russia	1	0	0	0	1
Total	70	2	22	0	94

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

**Reference 70 Changes in the number of victims of domestic violence cases recognized by regional immigration bureau**

									(People)
Regional Immigration Bureaus Year	Sapporo	Sendai	Tokyo	Nagoya	Osaka	Hiroshima	Takamatsu	Fukuoka	Total
2015	1	1	18	39	18	9	0	9	95
2016	0	4	12	20	10	5	2	11	64
2017	0	1	42	22	11	8	0	10	94