

Number of Japanese Permanent Residents Overseas Rising



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Two Kinds of Japanese Residents Overseas

The “Annual Report of Statistics on Japanese Nationals Overseas”, which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs releases every January, provides estimations of the number of Japanese nationals residing in the jurisdiction areas of Japanese overseas diplomatic establishments as of Oct. 1 of each year, conducted by each of the diplomatic establishments. A “residence paper” submitted to the overseas diplomatic establishments as set by the Passport Act serves as the basic reference material, and surveys are commissioned from the Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association in Taiwan, and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology for Antarctica.

The number of Japanese nationals overseas can be divided into two categories. “Permanent residents” are allowed permanent residency in the country or region where they reside, and they are Japanese citizens who have relocated their base of living from Japan to overseas. On the other hand, “long-term residents” are those whose residency overseas is temporary, such as those working or studying abroad, and refers to Japanese citizens who intend

eventually to return to Japan. People whose period of residency overseas is less than three months, such as those who are travelling, are excluded from the survey.

According to the estimation as of Oct. 1, 2023, which was released in January this year, the number of Japanese nationals overseas is 1,293,565. As *Chart 1* indicates, it is on a declining trend, having peaked at 1,410,356 people in 2019. During this time, long-term residents declined from 891,473 in 2019 to 718,838 in 2023. On the other hand, the number of permanent residents increased by 55,844 from 518,883 in 2019 to 574,727 in 2023. The proportion of permanent residents among Japanese nationals overseas was 30.7% in 2005, but has since risen to 44.4% in 2023. This is more than the 41.9% marked in 1989. The number of Japanese citizens wishing to reside overseas permanently is gradually increasing.

Number of Japanese Residents in Asia Dropping Sharply

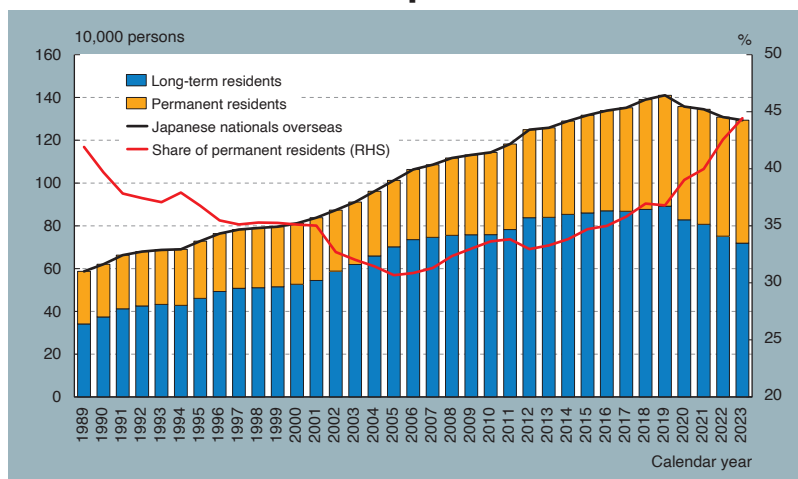
By region, approximately half of the decline in the overall number of Japanese nationals overseas from 2019 to 2023 (116,791 people)

was due to the drop in Asia (58,837 people). As *Chart 2* indicates, the share of Japanese residents in Asia went up between 2000 and 2019, and in turn the shares for North America and Western Europe have gone down. From 2000 to 2019, the number of Japanese nationals overseas rose by approximately 600,000, and of this, the number of Japanese nationals in Asia rose by 250,000. This exceeds the rise in North America (186,000 people).

What led the increase in Asia from 2000 to 2019 was the rise in the number of Japanese residents in China. As the *Table* shows, China was the second by country for Japanese nationals overseas in 2023 after the United States, but in 2000 it was fourth after the US, Brazil, and the United Kingdom. From 2000 to 2019, the number of Japanese residents in China rose by 70,000, but from 2019 to 2023 the number declined by approximately 15,000. It is

CHART 1

Trends in the number of Japanese nationals overseas



Source: “Annual Report of Statistics on Japanese Nationals Overseas”, Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Japan

estimated that various factors had an impact, such as the coronavirus pandemic and the deterioration in Japan-China relations.

Steady Increase in the Number of Japanese Residents in Oceania

The share of Japanese residents by region continues to rise for Oceania. The share for Oceania was 6.4% in 2000, but has risen to 9.7% in 2023. The number of Japanese residents in Oceania was approximately 50,000 in 2000, but by 2019 had risen to approximately 80,000. The number declined until 2023, just as in other regions, but the amount of reduction was approximately 6,000, small compared to other regions. The bulk of Japanese residents in Oceania live in Australia. As the [Table](#) indicates, the number of Japanese residents in Australia ranks third overall, after the US and China. In addition, Japanese residents in Australia are characterized by the high share of permanent residents, just like in Canada.

Conversely, the drop in the number of Japanese residents in Latin America continues. The number of Japanese residents in Latin America was over 100,000 in 2000, but has fallen to 83,000 in 2023. The bulk of Japanese residents in Latin America live in Brazil, but Japanese residents in Brazil declined from 75,318 in 2000 to 46,902 in 2023, mostly accounted for by the fall in the number of permanent residents (72,644 in 2000 to 47,248 in 2023). Japanese immigration to Brazil has a history of more than 100 years, and in 2000 the number of Japanese residents in Brazil was second after the US.

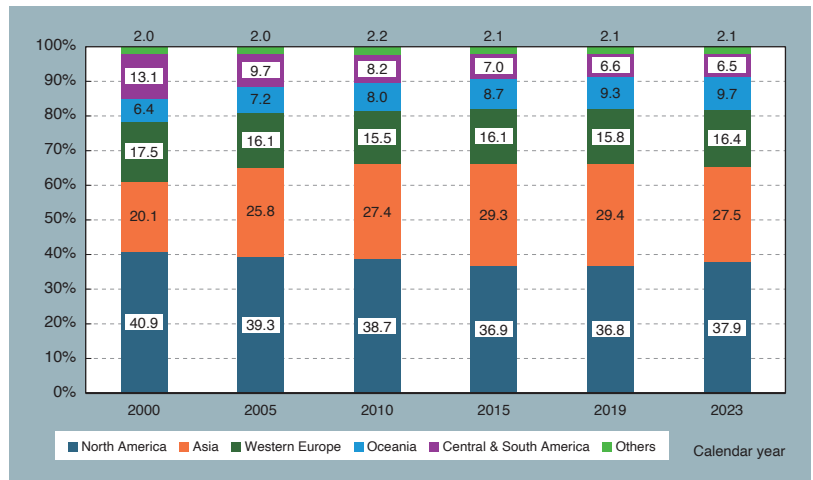
Many Permanent Residents in the US, Australia & Canada

Looking at the number of permanent residents by country, most live in the US (228,178), Australia (63,055), and then Canada (51,950), and these three countries make up 60% of all Japanese permanent residents overseas. The number of total Japanese nationals for all three countries has declined since 2019, but the number of permanent residents is rising. New Zealand is in ninth place for just permanent residents (12,164 people, up by 1,192 from 2019).

The top shares of permanent residents by region are North America (48.7%), Western Europe (16.9%), and Oceania (13.6%). Focusing on the changes from 2019, the increase in Western Europe

CHART 2

Regional share of Japanese residents



Source: "Annual Report of Statistics on Japanese Nationals Overseas", Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

TABLE

Top 10 Japanese residents by country in 2023

Rank	Country	Number of Japanese Nationals (person)	Long-term residents (person)	Permanent residents (person)	Share of permanent residents (%)
1	US	414615	186437	228178	55.0
2	China	101786	96420	5366	5.3
3	Australia	99830	36775	63055	63.2
4	Canada	75112	23162	51950	69.2
5	Thailand	72308	69894	2414	3.3
6	UK	64970	36018	28952	44.6
7	Brazil	46902	4154	42748	91.1
8	South Korea	42547	26311	16236	38.2
9	Germany	42079	23816	18263	43.4
10	France	36204	20972	15232	42.1

Source: "Annual Report of Statistics on Japanese Nationals Overseas", Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

(72,813 in 2019 to 97,129 in 2023) was the greatest, followed by North America (257,335 in 2019 to 280,132 in 2023).

Note: This article was written based on information obtained by March 6, 2024.

Article translated from the original Japanese by Mio Uchida. **JS**

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Calendar year, Quarter and Month	Real GDP		Nominal GDP		IIP rate of increase over previous year/term (month) (%)	CPI (All terms, less fresh food) rate of increase over previous year/the same term (month) of the previous year (%)
	Amount (trillion yen)	Rate of increase over previous year/term (%)	Amount (trillion yen)	Rate of increase over previous year/term (%)		
2016	542.1	0.8	544.4	1.2	-0.0	-0.3
2017	551.2	1.7	553.1	1.6	3.1	0.5
2018	554.8	0.6	556.6	0.6	0.6	0.9
2019	552.5	-0.4	557.9	0.2	-2.6	0.6
2020	529.6	-4.1	539.8	-3.2	-10.4	-0.2
2021	543.2	2.6	552.6	2.4	5.4	-0.2
2022	548.4	1.0	559.7	1.3	-0.1	2.3
2023	558.9	1.9	591.9	5.7	-1.3	3.1
2023/1st Qtr.	556.9	1.0	580.2	2.2	-1.7	3.5
2nd Qtr.	562.6	1.0	595.0	2.6	1.3	3.2
3rd Qtr.	558.0	-0.8	594.8	0.0	-1.4	3.0
4th Qtr.	558.5	0.1	598.0	0.5	1.1	2.5
2023/July	—	—	—	—	-1.4	3.1
Aug.	—	—	—	—	-0.4	3.1
Sep.	—	—	—	—	0.1	2.8
Oct.	—	—	—	—	1.2	2.9
Nov.	—	—	—	—	-0.6	2.5
Dec.	—	—	—	—	1.2	2.3
2024/Jan.	—	—	—	—	-6.7	2.0
Feb.	—	—	—	—	-0.6	2.8
Sources	"SNA (National Accounts of Japan)", Cabinet Office				"Indices of Industrial Production", Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry	"Consumer Price Index", Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

Calendar year, Quarter and Month	Foreign Trade Statistics									
	Exports amount (trillion yen)	Exports rate of increase over previous year/ the same term (month) of the previous year (%)	Imports amount (trillion yen)	Imports rate of increase over previous year/ the same term (month) of the previous year (%)	Exports amount to US (trillion yen)	Exports to US rate of increase over previous year/ the same term (month) of the previous year (%)	Imports amount from US (trillion yen)	Imports from US rate of increase over previous year/ the same term (month) of the previous year (%)	Exports amount to EU (trillion yen)	Exports to EU rate of increase over previous year/ the same term (month) of the previous year (%)
2016	70.0	-7.4	66.0	-15.8	14.1	-7.1	7.3	-9.2	6.5	-2.8
2017	78.3	11.8	75.4	14.1	15.1	6.9	8.1	10.5	7.1	9.5
2018	81.5	4.1	82.7	9.7	15.5	2.4	9.0	11.4	7.7	7.8
2019	76.9	-5.6	78.6	-5.0	15.3	-1.4	8.6	-4.2	7.4	-3.0
2020	68.4	-11.1	68.0	-13.5	12.6	-17.3	7.5	-13.7	6.3	-15.1
2021	83.1	21.5	84.9	24.8	14.8	17.6	8.9	19.6	7.7	21.4
2022	98.2	18.2	118.5	39.6	18.3	23.1	11.8	31.9	9.4	22.0
2023	100.9	2.8	110.2	-7.0	20.3	11.0	11.5	-1.8	10.4	10.9
2023/1st Qtr.	23.0	4.8	28.2	10.9	4.4	11.4	2.9	12.0	2.3	10.5
2nd Qtr.	24.3	1.6	26.1	-8.8	4.8	10.5	2.7	-0.6	2.6	14.3
3rd Qtr.	25.9	1.1	26.9	-16.1	5.3	10.6	2.9	-11.0	2.7	12.7
4th Qtr.	27.6	3.7	29.0	-10.4	5.8	11.3	3.0	-4.8	2.8	6.4
2023/July	8.7	-0.3	8.8	-14.1	1.8	13.5	0.9	-11.4	0.9	12.4
Aug.	8.0	-0.8	8.9	-17.7	1.6	5.1	1.0	-9.5	0.8	12.7
Sep.	9.2	4.3	9.1	-16.5	1.9	13.0	0.9	-12.2	0.9	12.9
Oct.	9.1	1.6	9.8	-12.4	1.9	8.5	1.0	-4.1	0.9	8.9
Nov.	8.8	-0.2	9.6	-11.8	1.8	5.3	1.0	-3.4	0.9	-0.0
Dec.	9.6	9.7	9.6	-6.8	2.1	20.2	1.0	-6.9	1.0	10.3
2024/Jan.	7.3	11.9	9.1	-9.7	1.4	15.6	1.0	5.9	0.8	13.8
Feb.	8.2	7.8	8.6	0.5	1.7	18.4	1.0	9.3	0.9	14.6
Sources	"Trade Statistics of Japan", Ministry of Finance									

Calendar year, Quarter and Month	Cash salary amount rate of increase over previous year/the same term (month) of the previous year (%)	Active job openings-to-applicants ratio (time(s))	Unemployment rate (%)	M2 rate of increase over previous year/ the same term (month) of the previous year (%)	Balance of payments		Yen/\$ rate (averaged during the term)
					Trade balance (trillion yen)	Current balance (trillion yen)	
2016	0.6	1.36	3.1	3.4	5.5	21.4	108.8
2017	0.4	1.50	2.8	4.0	4.9	22.8	112.2
2018	1.4	1.61	2.4	2.9	1.1	19.5	110.4
2019	-0.4	1.60	2.4	2.4	0.2	19.3	109.0
2020	-1.2	1.18	2.8	6.5	2.8	16.0	106.8
2021	0.3	1.13	2.8	6.4	1.8	21.5	109.8
2022	2.0	1.28	2.6	3.3	-15.5	11.4	131.4
2023	1.2	1.31	2.6	2.5	-6.5	21.4	140.5
2023/1st Qtr.	0.9	1.34	2.6	2.6	-4.2	2.5	132.3
2nd Qtr.	2.0	1.32	2.6	2.6	-1.0	5.4	137.4
3rd Qtr.	0.9	1.29	2.6	2.4	-0.3	7.9	144.5
4th Qtr.	0.9	1.28	2.5	2.3	-1.0	5.5	147.9
2023/July	1.1	1.30	2.6	2.5	0.1	2.8	141.2
Aug.	0.8	1.30	2.6	2.5	-0.8	2.3	144.7
Sep.	0.6	1.29	2.6	2.4	0.4	2.8	147.7
Oct.	1.5	1.29	2.5	2.4	-0.5	2.7	149.6
Nov.	0.7	1.27	2.5	2.3	-0.7	2.0	149.9
Dec.	0.8	1.27	2.5	2.3	0.1	0.8	144.1
2024/Jan.	1.5	1.27	2.4	2.5	-1.4	0.5	146.6
Feb.	1.8	1.26	2.6	2.5	-0.3	2.6	149.4
Sources	"Monthly Labour Survey", Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare	"Employment Referrals for General Workers", Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare	"Labour Force Survey", Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications	"Money Stock", Bank of Japan	"Balance of Payments", Ministry of Finance		Bank of Japan

Calendar year, Quarter and Month	Foreign Trade Statistics									
	Imports amount from EU (trillion yen)	Imports from EU rate of increase over previous year/ the same term (month) of the previous year (%)	Exports amount to Asia (excluding China) (trillion yen)	Exports to Asia (excluding China) rate of increase over previous year/ the same term (month) of the previous year (%)	Imports amount from Asia (excluding China) (trillion yen)	Imports from Asia (excluding China) rate of increase over previous year/ the same term (month) of the previous year (%)	Exports amount to China (trillion yen)	Exports to China rate of increase over previous year/ the same term (month) of the previous year (%)	Imports amount from China (trillion yen)	Imports from China rate of increase over previous year/ the same term (month) of the previous year (%)
2016	7.4	-5.0	24.7	-8.7	16.2	-14.5	12.4	-6.5	17.0	-12.4
2017	8.0	7.0	28.0	13.3	18.6	14.8	14.9	20.5	18.5	8.5
2018	8.8	10.6	28.8	2.9	20.0	7.8	15.9	6.8	19.2	4.0
2019	8.8	0.3	26.6	-7.6	19.0	-5.3	14.7	-7.6	18.5	-3.9
2020	7.8	-12.1	24.1	-9.4	17.2	-9.4	15.1	2.7	17.5	-5.1
2021	9.5	21.8	30.2	25.0	20.7	20.6	18.0	19.2	20.4	16.4
2022	11.4	21.1	36.4	20.6	28.6	37.8	19.0	5.7	24.8	21.9
2023	11.3	-1.3	34.7	-4.6	27.6	-3.4	17.8	-6.5	24.4	-1.7
2023/1st Qtr.	2.6	-1.8	8.4	2.9	7.1	14.1	3.8	-11.3	6.0	8.8
2nd Qtr.	2.9	-1.9	8.4	-8.4	6.5	-5.4	4.3	-6.0	5.8	-1.6
3rd Qtr.	2.9	7.0	8.7	-8.1	6.8	-11.7	4.6	-10.2	6.0	-10.3
4th Qtr.	3.0	-7.1	9.2	-3.9	7.2	-7.6	5.0	1.0	6.6	-2.0
2023/July	1.0	20.8	2.9	-13.2	2.3	-9.7	1.5	-13.4	1.9	-14.1
Aug.	0.9	9.6	2.7	-7.6	2.3	-13.5	1.4	-11.0	1.9	-12.0
Sep.	1.0	-6.2	3.1	-3.3	2.3	-11.8	1.6	-6.2	2.2	-4.9
Oct.	1.0	-5.5	3.0	-6.1	2.4	-11.2	1.7	-4.0	2.3	-2.9
Nov.	1.0	-6.6	3.0	-5.1	2.4	-9.6	1.6	-2.2	2.3	-3.2
Dec.	0.9	-9.2	3.1	-0.4	2.4	-1.2	1.8	9.5	2.0	0.4
2024/Jan.	0.8	-10.3	2.6	7.3	2.3	-6.4	1.3	29.2	2.2	-7.6
Feb.	0.9	0.9	2.9	2.2	2.2	-0.6	1.3	2.5	1.8	16.9
Sources	"Trade Statistics of Japan", Ministry of Finance									