

6. Number of inmates whose death sentences have been confirmed (Since 1950)

The following statistics are based on the “Annual Report of Statistics on Correction (Gyokei-Tokei)” (“行刑統計年報”, 1950-1959) and the “Annual Report of Statistics on Correction (Kyosei-Tokei)” (“矯正統計年報”1960 to present).

Year	Total number of death row inmates with confirmed deaths sentences at the end of year	Number of death row inmates whose death sentences were confirmed prior to this year	Number of death row inmates whose death sentences were newly confirmed this year	Reasons for inmates leaving death row					remarks	Sources	
				released	executed	death sentence commuted	died	escaped			
Showa 25	1950	73	82	25		31	2	1			1950, Table 53, p.174
Showa 26	1951	81	73	32		24					1951, Table 52, p.174
Showa 27	1952	92	81	41		18	11*		1	*Pardon	1952, Table 49, p.202
Showa 28	1953	93	92	25		24					1953, Table 49, p.208
Showa 29	1954	80	93	21		30	4*			*Commuted to life imprisonment by pardon	Annual Report of Statistics on Correction (Gyokei-Tokei) 1954, Table 49, p.208
Showa 30	1955	62	80	14		32					1955, Table 50, p.222
Showa 31	1956	75	62	24		11					1956, Table 54, p.208
Showa 32	1957	62	75	27		39		1*		*Dead by disease	1959, Table 22, p.66
Showa 33	1958	76	62	21		7					1958, Table 22, p.66
Showa 34	1959	57	76	12		30		1*		*Dead by disease	1959, Table 22, p.66
Showa 35	1960	51	57	33		39					1962, Table 23, p.72
Showa 36	1961	69	51	25*		6			1	*Includes detained escapee	1962, Table 23, p.72
Showa 37	1962	56	69	13		26					1962, Table 23, p.72
Showa 38	1963	61	56	17		12					1964, Table 23, p.72
Showa 39	1964	70	61	9							1964, Table 23, p.72
Showa 40	1965	72	70	7		4		1			1965, Table 17, p.41
Showa 41	1966	81	72	13		4					1966, Table 17, p.41
Showa 42	1967	71	81	14		23		1			1967, Table 17, p.41
Showa 43	1968	82	71	11							1968, Table 17, p.41
Showa 44	1969	71	82	10		18	1	2			1969, Table 11, p.37
Showa 45	1970	58	71	14		26	1				1970, Table 11, p.37
Showa 46	1971	48	58	7		17					1975, Table 12, p.41
Showa 47	1972	47	48	7		7		1			1976, Table 12, p.41
Showa 48	1973	49	47	5		3					1976, Table 12, p.41
Showa 49	1974	46	49	2		4		1			1978, Table 11, p.37
Showa 50	1975	29	46	3		17	1	2			1978, Table 11, p.37
Showa 51	1976	18	29	1		12					1978, Table 11, p.37
Showa 52	1977	16	18	3		4		1			1981 Table 11, p.37
Showa 53	1978	17	16	0		3					1981 Table 11, p.37
Showa 54	1979	20	17	4		1					1981 Table 11, p.37
Showa 55	1980	26	20	7		1					1981 Table 11, p.37

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Year	Total number of death row inmates with confirmed deaths sentences at the end of year	Number of death row inmates whose death sentences were confirmed prior to this year	Number of death row inmates whose death sentences were newly confirmed this year	Reasons for inmates leaving death row					remarks	Sources	
				released	executed	death sentence commuted	died	escaped			
Showa 56	1981	28	26	3		1					1984, Table 11, p.37.
Showa 57	1982	28	28	1		1					1984, Table 11, p.37.
Showa 58	1983	27	28	1	1	1					1984, Table 11, p.37.
Showa 59	1984	27	27	3	2	1					1984, Table 11, p.37.
Showa 60	1985	26	27	2		3					1989 Table 11 p.37
Showa 61	1986	24	26			2					1989 Table 11 p.37
Showa 62	1987	28	24	7		2		1			1989 Table 11 p.37
Showa 63	1988	38	28	12		2					1992 Table 11, p.37
Showa 64 / Heisei 1	1989	40	38	5	1	1		1			1992 Table 11, p.37
Heisei 2	1990	46	40	6							1992 Table 11, p.37
Heisei 3	1991	51	46	5							1992 Table 11, p.37
Heisei 4	1992	56	51	5							1996 Table 11, p.39
Heisei 5	1993	56	56	7		7					1996 Table 11, p.39
Heisei 6	1994	57	56	3		2					1996 Table 11, p.39
Heisei 7	1995	54	57	3		6					1996 Table 11, p.39
Heisei 8	1996	51	54	3		6					1996 Table 11, p.39
Heisei 9	1997	51	51	4		4					2001 Table 16, p.81
Heisei 10	1998	52	51	7		6					2001 Table 16, p.81
Heisei 11	1999	50	52	4		5		1			2001 Table 16, p.81
Heisei 12	2000	53	50	6		3					2001 Table 16, p.81
Heisei 13	2001	55	53	4		2					2001 Table 16, p.81
Heisei 14	2002	57	55	4		2					2006 Table 16.
Heisei 15	2003	56	57	2		1		2			2006 Table 16.
Heisei 16	2004	66	56	13		2		1			2006 Table 16.
Heisei 17	2005	77	66	12		1					2006 Table 16.
Heisei 18	2006	94	77	21		4					2006 Table 16.
Heisei 19	2007	107	94	23		9		1			2011 Table 16.
Heisei 20	2008	100	107	10		15		2			2011 Table 16.
Heisei 21	2009	104*	100	15		7		4		*106. in "Annual Report of Statistics on Prosecution"	2011 Table 16.
Heisei 22	2010	111	104	11		2		2			2011 Table 16.
Heisei 23	2011	128	111	20				3			2011 Table 16.

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Heisei 24	2012	133	128	12		7					2016 Table 16.
Heisei 25	2013	130	133	8		8		3			2016 Table 16.
Heisei 26	2014	127	130	6	1	3		5			2016 Table 16.
Heisei 27	2015	126	127	3		3		1			2016 Table 16.
Heisei 28	2016	128	126	7		3		2			2016 Table 16.
Heisei 29	2017	122	128	2		4		4			2017 Table 16.
Heisei 30	2018	109	122	2		15					2018 Table 16.
Heisei 31/ Reiwa 1	2019	110	109	5		3	1*		*the category of "commuted" means transferred to the category other than death-row for reasons such as pardon (see note1 below)		2019 Table 16.
Reiwa 2	2020	109	110	3				4			2020 Table 16.

Note: In the Glossary of Terms of “Annual Report of Statistics on Correction (Kyosei-Tokei)”, a “commutation” is defined as “transfer to a category other than death-row convict, on grounds such as pardon”. According to the “Annual Report of Statistics on Rehabilitation” (“保護統計”) of 2019, routine pardons (“常時恩赦”) were not granted to any death-row inmates. Other categories of commutations such as pardons by cabinet order (“政令恩赦”) and pardons by special standards (“特別基準恩赦”) were not available for death row inmates. Accordingly, it may be presumed that the one person who was “commuted” in FY2019 in fact withdrew his appeal against death sentence by trial court and then refuted its validity and effectiveness, and that the report categorised this transfer of status from “death-row convict” to “unsentenced inmate” as a “commutation”. However, in that case, the number of death row inmates at the end of 2019 should be 110, as indicated in this statistics, which is inconsistent with the Minister of Justice’s extraordinary press conference on Thursday, December 26, 2019, where the number of inmates on death row in custody was stated to be 111.

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