

7. New and confirmed life sentences (Since 1945)

The following information is based on the Annual Statistics on Execution of Penalties, (“行刑統計年報”, 1945-1960), the Annual Report of Correctional Statistics (“矯正統計年報”, 1961 and later), and the Annual Report of the Public Prosecutors’ Office (1957 and later)

Year		Total number of life-sentenced inmates at the end of year		Number of inmates who were newly sentenced to life imprisonment this year		Number of inmates whose life sentences were newly confirmed this year	Sources			
		with labour	without labour	with labour	without labour		Total number of life-sentenced inmates at the end of the year	Number of inmates sentenced to life imprisonment this year	Number of inmates whose life sentences were newly confirmed this year	
Showa 20	1945	465	2	63	1	-	Annual Report of Statistics on Correction ('Gyokei-Tokei')	1945, Table 7, p.16-7	1946, Table 19, p.50-1	-
Showa 21	1946	374	1	78		-		1946, Table 7, p.16-7		-
Showa 22	1947	455	1	49		-		1947, Table 7, p.16-7	1947, Table 19, p.48-9	-
Showa 23	1948	548	1	136		-		1948, Table 7, p.16-7	1948, Table 19, p.50-1	-
Showa 24	1949	639	1	143		-		1949, Table 7, p.16-7	1949, Table 20, p.50-1	-
Showa 25	1950	744		132		-		1950, Table 7, p.16-7	1955, Table 18, P110-1	-
Showa 26	1951	870		130		-		1951, Table 7, p.16-7		-
Showa 27	1952	813		109		-		1952, Table 6, p.48-9		-
Showa 28	1953	854		86		-		1953, Table 6, P.50-1		-
Showa 29	1954	911		89		-		1954, Table 6, P.50-1		-
Showa 30	1955	966		84		-		1955, Table 7, p.66-7		-
Showa 31	1956	1051		119		-		1956, Table 7, p.56-7	1956, Table 7, p.98-9	-
Showa 32	1957	1109		119		87	1957, Table 7, p.56-7	1948, Table 18, p.98-9	See the "5. Number of death sentences and life imprisonment sentences by trial level" page.	
Showa 33	1958	1168		123		76	1958, Table 12, p.34-5	1958, Table 29, p.86-7		
Showa 34	1959	1223		105		99	1959, Table 12, p.34-5	1959, Table 29, p.86-7		
Showa 35	1960	1269		89		93	1960, Table 12, p.34-5	1960, Table 29, p.86-7		
Showa 36	1961	1279		71		65	1961, Table 12, p.34-5	1961, Table 29, p.86-7		
Showa 37	1962	1265		55		60	1962, Table 12, p.34-5	1962, Table 30, p.100-1		
Showa 38	1963	1244		77		75	1963, Table 12, p.34-5	1963, Table 30, p.100-1		
Showa 39	1964	1211		60		59	1964, Table 12, p.34-5	1964, Table 30, p.100-1		
Showa 40	1965	1169		52		49	1965, Table 11, p.28-9	1965, Table 20, p.64-5		
Showa 41	1966	1173		68		70	1966, Table 11, p.28-9	1966, Table 20, p.64-5		
Showa 42	1967	1138		61		63	1967, Table 11, p.28-9	1967, Table 20, p.64-5		
Showa 43	1968	1107		41		42	1968, Table 11, p.28-9	1968, Table 20, p.64-5		
Showa 44	1969	1071		50		47	1969, Table 5, p.24-5	1969 Table 14, p.60-1		
Showa 45	1970	1024		37		36	1970, Table 5, p.24	1970 Table 14, p.60-1		
Showa 46	1971	980		41		43	1971, Table 5, p.24	1971 Table 14, p.60-1		
Showa 47	1972	994		51		49	1972, Table 5, p.24	1972, Table 15, p.64-5		
Showa 48	1973	954		21		22	1973, Table 5, p.24	1973, Table 15, p.64-5		
Showa 49	1974	915		23		33	1974, Table 5, p.24	1974, Table 15, p.64-5		
Showa 50	1975	846		39		44	1975, Table 5, p.24	1975 Table 15, p.64-5		
Showa 51	1976	824		28		30	1976, Table 5, p.24	1976, Table 15, p.64-5		
Showa 52	1977	824		50		51	1977, Table 5, p.24	1977, Table 15, p.64-5		
Showa 53	1978	818		30		36	1978, Table 5, p.24	1978 Table 14, p.60-1		
Showa 54	1979	800		31		32	1979, Table 5, p.24	1979 Table 14, p.60-1		
Showa 55	1980	784		37		40	1980 Table 5, p.24	1980 Table 14, p.60-1		
Showa 56	1981	760		33		33	1981 Table 5, p.24	1981 Table 14, p.60-1		
Showa 57	1982	748		32		36	1982 Table 5, p.24	1982 Table 14, p.60-1		
Showa 58	1983	740		34		36	1983 Table 5, p.24	1983 Table 14, p.60-1		
Showa 59	1984	731		43		43	1984 Table 5, p.24	1984 Table 14, p.60-1		
Showa 60	1985	758		39		38	1985 Table 5, p.24	1985 Table 14, p.60-1		
Showa 61	1986	777		42		41	1986 Table 5, p.24	1986 Table 14, p.60-1		
Showa 62	1987	804		57		56	1989 Table 5, p.24	1987 Table 14, p.60-1		
Showa 63	1988	834		39		40	1992 Table 5, p.24	1988 Table 14, p.60-1		
Showa 64 / Heisei 1	1989	864		47		49	1992 Table 5, p.24	1989 Table 14, p.60-1		
Heisei 2	1990	888		34		32	1992 Table 5, p.24	1990 Table 14, p.60-1		
Heisei 3	1991	870		24		24	1992 Table 5, p.24	1991 Table 14, p.60-1		
Heisei 4	1992	873		28		29	1996 Table 5, p.24	1992 Table 14, p.60-1		
Heisei 5	1993	883		27		27	1996 Table 5, p.24	1998 Table 20 p.110-1		
Heisei 6	1994	894		33		35	1996 Table 5, p.24	1998 Table 20 p.110-1		
Heisei 7	1995	909		34		35	1996 Table 5, p.24	1998 Table 20 p.110-1		
Heisei 8	1996	923		35		34	1996 Table 5, p.24	1998 Table 20 p.110-1		
Heisei 9	1997	938		32		32	2001 Table 5, p.24	2001 Table 20 p.110-1		
Heisei 10	1998	968		46		45	2001 Table 5, p.24	2001 Table 20 p.110-1		
Heisei 11	1999	1002		45		48	2001 Table 5, p.24	2001 Table 20 p.110-1		
Heisei 12	2000	1047		60		59	2001 Table 5, p.24	2001 Table 20 p.110-1		
Heisei 13	2001	1097		69		68	2001 Table 5, p.24	2002 Table 20 p.110-1		
Heisei 14	2002	1152		75		82		2002 Table 20 p.110-1		
Heisei 15	2003	1242		114		117		2003 Table 20 p.110-1		

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		with labour	without labour	with labour	without labour		Total number of life-sentenced inmates at the end of the year	Number of inmates sentenced to life imprisonment this year	Number of inmates whose life sentences were newly confirmed this year
Heisei 16	2004	1352		119		115	Annual Report of Statistics on Correction ('Kyosei-Tokei')	2006 Table 5	2004 Table 20 p.110-1
Heisei 17	2005	1467		134		134			2005 Table 20 p.110-1
Heisei 18	2006	1596		136		135		2006 Table 19	
Heisei 19	2007	1670		89		91		2007 Table 5	2007 Table 19
Heisei 20	2008	1711		53		57		2008 Table 5	2008 Table 19
Heisei 21	2009	1772		81		88		2009 Table 5	2009 Table 19
Heisei 22	2010	1796		50		49		2010 Table 5	2010 Table 19
Heisei 23	2011	1812		43		46		2011 Table 5	2011 Table 19
Heisei 24	2012	1826		34		38		2012 Table 5	2012 Table 19
Heisei 25	2013	1843		39		38		2013 Table 5	2013 Table 19
Heisei 26	2014	1842		26		28		2014 Table 5	2014 Table 19
Heisei 27	2015	1835		25		27		2015 Table 5	2015 Table 19
Heisei 28	2016	1815		14		15		2016 Table 5	2016 Table 19
Heisei 29	2017	1795		18		18		2017 Table 5	2017 Table 19
Heisei 30	2018	1789		25		25		2018 Table 5	2018 Table 19
Heisei 31/ Reiwa 1	2019	1765		16		16		2019 Table 5	2019 Table 19
Reiwa 2	2020	1744		18		19		2020 Table 5	2020 Table 19
Reiwa 3	2021	1725		17		18		2021 Table 5	2021 Table 19
Reiwa 4	2022	1688		10		10		2022 Table 5	2022 Table 19
Reiwa 5	2023	1669		14		14		2023 Table 5	2023 Table 19
Reiwa 6	2023	1650		11		—		2024 Table 5	2024 Table 19

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