

2. Number of death sentences (since 1946)

The following statistics are based on the "Survey of Judicial Statistics since the Meiji Era ("明治以降裁判統計要覧," 1946)", "White Paper on Crime FY1997 ("犯罪白書 平成9年度", 1997)" and the "Annual Report of Judicial Statistics ('Shiho-Tokei') ("司法統計年報," from FY1948 to the present)". Click on the links to see the sources.

Numbers in parentheses (e.g., "(3)") represent the number of sentences by Saiban-in (Lay Judge) Trials. Hyphens ("-") mean that no statistical data exists.

YEAR		Trial Court	High Court			Supreme Court			Sources	
			Total	Dismissal	reversed and rendered	Total	Dismissal	reversed and rendered	Trial Court (Saiban-in (Lay Judge) Trial)	Appeal and Supreme courts
Showa 21	1946	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	Survey of Judicial Statistics since the Meiji Era, p.148	See "3. Number of death sentences in High Courts " and "4. Number of death sentences in Supreme court "
Showa 22	1947	105	-	-	-	-	-	-	White Paper on Crime FY1997, Table II-10	
Showa 23	1948	116	-	-	-	-	-	-	1960, p.41	
Showa 24	1949	55	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Showa 25	1950	62	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Showa 26	1951	44	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Showa 27	1952	37	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Showa 28	1953	22	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Showa 29	1954	20	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Showa 30	1955	34	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Showa 31	1956	24	-	-	5	17	17	-		
Showa 32	1957	35	-	-	5	19	19	-		
Showa 33	1958	25	16	15	1	17	17	-	1970, Table 23, p.44	
Showa 34	1959	28	29	29	-	12	12	-		
Showa 35	1960	12	18	16	2	31	31	-		
Showa 36	1961	29	11	8	3	16	16	-		
Showa 37	1962	12	17	15	2	13	13	-		
Showa 38	1963	12	7	7	-	13	13	-		
Showa 39	1964	12	9	7	2	10	10	-		
Showa 40	1965	16	12	8	4	5	5	-		
Showa 41	1966	14	17	14	3	9	9	-		
Showa 42	1967	6	9	9	-	12	12	-		
Showa 43	1968	15	10	9	1	8	8	-	1972, Table 26, p.47	
Showa 44	1969	9	16	10	6	9	9	-		
Showa 45	1970	9	6	5	1	9	9	-	1977, Table 26, p.42	
Showa 46	1971	4	5	3	2	6	6	-		
Showa 47	1972	3	6	6	-	6	6	-	1982, Table 26, p.42.	
Showa 48	1973	4	4	1	3	3	3	-		
Showa 49	1974	6	-	-	-	1	1	-		
Showa 50	1975	5	3	3	-	2	2	-		
Showa 51	1976	4	4	4	-	1	1	-		
Showa 52	1977	9	6	5	1	2	2	-		
Showa 53	1978	6	2	1	1	4	4	-		
Showa 54	1979	7	3	2	1	4	4	-		
Showa 55	1980	9	5	4	1	4	4	-		
Showa 56	1981	2	2	2	-	3	3	-		
Showa 57	1982	11	9	9	-	-	-	-	1983, Table 36, p.196-7	
Showa 58	1983	5	4	3	1	-	-	-	1984, Table 36, p.196-7	
Showa 59	1984	6	6	6	-	3	3	-	1985, Table 36-1, p.196-7	
Showa 60	1985	9	5	4	1	1	1	-	1986, Table 36-1, p.196-7	
Showa 61	1986	5	7	7	-	-	-	-	1987, Table 36-1, p.196-7	
Showa 62	1987	6	8	8	-	6	6	-	1988, Table 36-1, p.196-7	
Showa 63	1988	10	4	4	-	7	7	-	1989, Table 36-1 p.204-5	
Showa 64 / Heisei 1	1989	2	5	4	1	5	5	-	1990, Table 36-1 p.204-5	
Heisei 2	1990	2	3	3	-	7	7	-	1991, Table 36-1 p.202-3	
Heisei 3	1991	3	4	4	-	4	4	-	1992, Table 36-1 p.202-3	
Heisei 4	1992	1	4	3	1	4	4	-	1993, Table 36-1 p.202-3	
Heisei 5	1993	4	1	1	-	5	5	-	1994, Table 36-1 p.202-3	
Heisei 6	1994	8	4	4	-	2	2	-	1995, Table 36-1 p.202-3	
Heisei 7	1995	11	4	3	1	3	3	-	1996, Table 36-1 p.202-3	
Heisei 8	1996	1	3	3	-	4	4	-	1997, Table 36-1 p.202-3	
Heisei 9	1997	3	2	2	-	4	4	-	1998, Table 36-1 p.202-3	
Heisei 10	1998	7	7	7	-	5	5	-	1999, Table 32, p.42	
Heisei 11	1999	8	4	3	1	4	4	-	2000, Table 32, p.42	
Heisei 12	2000	14	6	4	2	3	3	-	2001, Table 32, p.42	
Heisei 13	2001	10	16	12	4	4	4	-	2002, Table 32, p.42	
Heisei 14	2002	18	4	3	1	2	2	-	2003, Table 32, p.42	
Heisei 15	2003	13	17	17	-	0	-	-	2004, Table 32, p.42	
Heisei 16	2004	14	15	11	4	13	13	-	2005, Table 32, p.42	
Heisei 17	2005	13	15	11	4	10	10	-	2006, Table 33, p.44	
Heisei 18	2006	13	15	12	3	16	16	-	2007, Table 33, p.44	
Heisei 19	2007	14	14	13	1	18	18	-	2008, Table 33, p.44	
Heisei 20	2008	5	14	12	2	8	8	-	2009, Table 33, p.44	
Heisei 21	2009	9	9	7	2	16	16	-	2010, Table 33, p.44	
Heisei 22	2010	4 (3)	3	2	1	7	7	-	2010, Table 46, p.66)	
Heisei 23	2011	10 (9)	2	2	-	22	22	-	2011, Table 33, p.44 (2011, Table 46, p.66)	
Heisei 24	2012	3 (3)	5	5	-	9	9	-	2012, Table 33, p.44 (2012, Table 46, p.66)	
Heisei 25	2013	5 (5)	3	3	-	6	6	-	2013, Table 33, p.44 (2013, Table 46, p.66)	

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Numbers in parentheses (e.g., "(3)") represent the number of sentences by Saiban-in (Lay Judge) Trials. Hyphens ("-") mean that no statistical data exists.

YEAR		Trial Court	High Court			Supreme Court			Sources	
			Total	Dismissal	reversed and rendered	Total	Dismissal	reversed and rendered	Trial Court (Saiban-in (Lay Judge) Trial)	Appeal and Supreme courts
Heisei 26	2014	2 (2)	8	8		6	6		2014, Table 33, p. 44 (2014, Table 46, p.66)	
Heisei 27	2015	4 (4)	1	1		3	3		2015, Table 33, p. 44 (2015, Table 46, p.66)	
Heisei 28	2016	3 (3)	4	4		6	6		2016, Table 33, p. 44 (2016, Table 46, p.66)	
Heisei 29	2017	3 (3)				3	3		2017, Table 33, p. 44 (2017, Table 46, p.66)	
Heisei 30	2018	4 (4)	2	2		2	2		2018, Table 33 (2018, Table 46)	
Heisei 31/ Reiwa 1	2019	2 (2)	3	3		3	3		2019, Table 33 (2019, Table 46)	
Reiwa 2	2020	3 (3)				1	1		2020, Table 33 (2020, Table 46)	
Reiwa 3	2021	3 (2)	2	2		2	2		2021, Table 33 (2021, Table 46)	
Reiwa 4	2022	0 (0)	1	1					2022, Table 33 (2022, Table 46)	
Reiwa 5	2023	1 (1)	1	1		3	3		2022, Table 33 (2022, Table 46)	
Reiwa 6	2024	3 (3)							2024, Table 33 (2024, Table 46)	
Reiwa 7	2025	1 (1)	2	2		1	1		2025, Table 33 (2025, Table 46)	

Numbers in parentheses (e.g., "(3)") represent the number of sentences by Saiban-in (Lay Judge) Trials.

Hyphens ("-") mean that no statistical data exists.

The statistics on the number of death sentences issued by the High Courts and the Supreme Court, as compiled by the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, "Considering the Abolition of the Death Penalty(https://www.nichibenren.or.jp/activity/criminal/deathpenalty/shiryoku.html#data02_1)", were calculated using the following formulas:

[total sentences in High Courts] = [dismissal] + [reversed and rendered] + [withdrawal]

[total sentences in Supreme Court] = [dismissal] + [reversed and rendered] + [withdrawal]

We calculated these same statistics using the following formulas:

[total sentences in High Courts] = [dismissal] + [reversed and rendered]

[total sentences in Supreme Court] = [dismissal] + [reversed and rendered]

Recommended citation: "Number of death sentences from CrimeInfo (crimeinfo.jp)"