

4. Number of death sentences in Supreme court (Since 1956)

The following statistics are based on the "Annual Report of Judicial Statistics ('Shiho-Tokei') ("司法統計年報," from FY1956 to the present)".

YEAR		Total number of sentences in Supreme Court	Outcomes of Supreme Court proceedings in cases of death sentences imposed by High Courts							Supreme Court substituted lesser sentence of High Court court with death penalty	Sources	
			Number of appeals	High Court judgments reversed			Appeal dismissed	Indictment dismissed	Appeal withdrawn		Results of the Supreme court in case of death penalty sentenced by High Courts: Annual Report of Judicial Statistics ('Shiho-Tokei') II(Criminal)	Reversed by High Courts and imposed the death penalty
				Supreme Court imposed sentence		Supreme Court remanded/tr ansferred						
				death penalty	sentence other than death penalty							
Showa 31	1956	17	17				17			-	1956 vol.2, p.420-1, Cases of Criminal Appeals(Table 6)	See the "5. Number of death sentences and life imprisonment sentences by trial level" page.
Showa 32	1957	19	23			4	19				1957 vol.2, p.386-7, Cases of Criminal Appeals(Table 7)	
Showa 33	1958	17	17				17				1958 vol.2, p.304-5, Cases of Criminal Appeals(Table 7)	
Showa 34	1959	12	17			5	12				1959 vol.2, p.304-5, Cases of Criminal Appeals(Table 7)	
Showa 35	1960	31	32				31		1		1960 vol.2, p.308-9, Cases of Criminal Appeals(Table 7)	
Showa 36	1961	16	16				16				1961 vol.2, p.308-9, Cases of Criminal Appeals(Table 7)	
Showa 37	1962	13	13				13				1962 vol.2, p.310-1	
Showa 38	1963	13	13				13				1963 vol.2, p.278-9, (Table 93)	
Showa 39	1964	10	10				10				1964 vol.2, p.278-9, (Table 93)	
Showa 40	1965	5	6				5	1			1965, p.566-7, (Table 89)	
Showa 41	1966	9	10				9		1		1966, p.566-7, (Table 88)	
Showa 42	1967	12	12				12				1967, p.554-5, (Table 87)	
Showa 43	1968	8	9		1(acquitted)		8				1968, p.542-3, (Table 87)	
Showa 44	1969	9	9				9				1969, p.554-5, (Table 87)	
Showa 45	1970	9	10			1	9				1970, p.552-3, (Table 87)	
Showa 46	1971	6	7				6		1		1971, p.556-7, (Table 87)	
Showa 47	1972	6	6				6				1972, p.580-1, (Table 87)	
Showa 48	1973	3	4				3		1		1973, p.588-9, (Table 82)	
Showa 49	1974	1	2				1		1		1974, p.586-7, (Table 82)	
Showa 50	1975	2	2				2				1975, p.358-9, (Table 72)	
Showa 51	1976	1	1				1				1976, p.358-2, (Table 72)	
Showa 52	1977	2	2				2				1978, p.358-2, (Table 72)	
Showa 53	1978	4	5			1	4				1979, p.350-1, (Table 69)	
Showa 54	1979	4	4				4				1979, p.350-1, (Table 70)	
Showa 55	1980	4	4				4				1980, p.350-1, (Table 69)	
Showa 56	1981	3	3				3				1981, p.350-1, (Table 69)	
Showa 57	1982										1982, p.350-1, (Table 69)	
Showa 58	1983										1983, p.346-7, (Table 69)	
Showa 59	1984	3	3				3				1984, p.346-7, (Table 69)	
Showa 60	1985	1	1				1				1985, p.348-9, (Table 70)	
Showa 61	1986										1986, p.348-9, (Table 70)	
Showa 62	1987	6	6				6				1987, p.348-9, (Table 70)	
Showa 63	1988	7	9				7		2		1988, p.348-9, (Table 70)	
Showa 64 / Heisei 1	1989	5	7			1	5		1		1989, p.360-1, (Table 70)	
Heisei 2	1990	7	7				7				1990, p.360-1, (Table 70)	
Heisei 3	1991	4	4				4				1991, p.368-9, (Table 70)	

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				death penalty	sentence other than death penalty							
Heisei 4	1992	4	5				4	1			1992, p.368-9, (Table 70)	See the "5. Number of death sentences and life imprisonment sentences by trial level" page.
Heisei 5	1993	5	6				5		1		1993, p.370-1, (Table 70)	
Heisei 6	1994	2	3				2		1		1994, p.370-1, (Table 70)	
Heisei 7	1995	3	3				3				1995, p.370-1, (Table 70)	
Heisei 8	1996	4	5		1 (life imprisonment)		4				1996, p.370-1, (Table 70)	
Heisei 9	1997	4	4				4				1997, p.370-1, (Table 68)	
Heisei 10	1998	5	5				5				1998, p.370-1, (Table 68)	
Heisei 11	1999	4	4				4				1999, p.114-5, (Table 63)	
Heisei 12	2000	3	3				3				2000, p.114-5, (Table 63)	
Heisei 13	2001	4	4				4				2001, p.114-5, (Table 63)	
Heisei 14	2002	2	3				2	1			2002, p.114-5, (Table 63)	
Heisei 15	2003	0	2					1	1		2003, p.114-5, (Table 63)	
Heisei 16	2004	13	14				13	1			2004, p.114-5, (Table 63)	
Heisei 17	2005	10	10				10				2005, p.116-7, (Table 64)	
Heisei 18	2006	16	16				16				2006, p.128-9, (Table 72)	
Heisei 19	2007	18	19				18		1		2007, p.128-9, (Table 72)	
Heisei 20	2008	8	10				8	1	1		2008, p.128-9, (Table 72)	
Heisei 21	2009	16	17				16		1		2009, p.134-5, (Table 77)	
Heisei 22	2010	7	8			1	7				2010, p.140-1, (Table 80)	
Heisei 23	2011	22	22				22				2011, p.140-1, (Table 80)	
Heisei 24	2012	9	10				9		1		2012, p.140-1, (Table 80)	
Heisei 25	2013	6	6				6				2013, p.140-1, (Table 80)	
Heisei 26	2014	6	6				6				2014, p.140-1, (Table 80)	
Heisei 27	2015	3	3				3				2015, p.140-1, (Table 80)	
Heisei 28	2016	6	6				6				2016, Table 80	
Heisei 29	2017	3	3				3				2017, Table 80	
Heisei 30	2018	2	2				2				2018, Table 80	
Heisei 31/ Reiwa 1	2019	3	3				3				2019, Table 80	
Reiwa 2	2020	1	1				1				2020, Table 80	
Reiwa 3	2021	2	3				2		1		2021, Table 80	
Reiwa 4	2022	0	0								2022, Table 80	
Reiwa 5	2023	3	4				3		1		2023, Table 80	
Reiwa 6	2024	0	0								2024, Table 80	
Reiwa 7	2025	1	1				1				2025, Table 80	

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

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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/shiryuu.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 by using the following formulas:

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

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

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