

Introduction

This is the 52nd edition of the White Paper on Information and Communications in Japan, which has been published by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) annually since 1973. The White Paper's objective is to introduce the current state of information and communications in Japan and related policy trends.

The White Paper consists of two parts. The first part includes two special features. The first feature, "The Status of Information and Communications related to the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake", summarizes the damage to telecommunications and broadcasting infrastructure in the 2024 Noto Peninsula earthquake, recovery efforts, the role played by ICT, and the issues that emerged and future efforts. The second feature, "Living in Harmony with Evolving Digital Technologies", touches on the new possibilities and risks that AI and other technologies bring to society and the economy, and looks at the prospects for sound utilization of these technologies.

The second part describes the current status and challenges of information and communications. This part consists of Chapter 4, "Trends in the ICT market", with statistical information on domestic and overseas market trends surrounding ICT, and Chapter 5, "The status of ICT policy at the MIC", with a summary of the status of ICT policy at the MIC.

The data of this White Paper can be downloaded from the following page of the MIC website.

<https://www.soumu.go.jp/johotsusintokei/whitepaper/eng/WP2024/2024-index.html>

Past white papers can be downloaded from the following pages.

https://www.soumu.go.jp/johotsusintokei/wp_eng.html

Legend

- ◆ "Year" refers to a calendar year from January to December, while "fiscal year" (hereinafter referred to as FY) refers to a "budget year" from April to March of the following year.
- ◆ "Inc.," "CO., Ltd." etc. are omitted from the name of enterprises in principle.
- ◆ The following symbols are used for supplementary units:
 - 10 hundred quintillion (10^{21}) fold ...Z (Zetta)
 - 1000 quadrillion (10^{18}) fold ...E (exa)
 - 1,000 trillion (10^{15}) fold ...P (peta)
 - 1 trillion (10^{12}) fold ...T (tera)
 - 1 billion (10^9) fold ...G (giga)
 - 1 million (10^6) fold ...M (mega)
 - 1,000 (10^3) fold ...k (kilo)
 - One tenth (10^{-1}) fold ...d (deci)
 - One hundredth (10^{-2}) fold ...c (centi)
 - One thousandth (10^{-3}) fold ...m (milli)
 - One millionth (10^{-6}) fold ...μ (micro)
- ◆ Units are rounded up to the nearest whole number in principle. The total of the breakdown and the value of the total column may not agree due to rounding.
- ◆ Total of composition ratios (%) may not be 100 due to unit rounding.
- ◆ Maps in these materials do not show the entire territory of the country.
- ◆ Figures, etc., without attribution are the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (hereinafter referred to as MIC) materials.

This white paper is provisional translation.