

# Introduction

This is the 48th 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 English version is a condensed summary of the original White Paper in Japanese.

The White Paper consists of two parts. Part 1 deals with topics under the title of “Special Theme: Digital Transformation and New Lifestyles Prompted by 5G”. It examines the prospects of company activities and a decentralized society, premised on new lifestyles, working arrangements, and online systems made possible by ICT and being pushed forward by the COVID-19 pandemic. Part 1 also analyzes 5G's impact on various industries and economic sectors, as its arrival furthers the evolution of mobile communication systems from communications infrastructure to daily life infrastructure and further on to industrial and social infrastructure. Part 2 comprises Chapter 5, which provides statistical data on the state of information and communications in Japan in the previous fiscal year, and Chapter 6, which summarizes policy trends in the information and communications field primarily over the last fiscal year.