



# The Weekly Observer

Feb. 14-18

## YOUR WEEKLY RECAP OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN JAPAN!

## THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

### GOJ Partially Lifts Entry Measures

The GOJ confirmed on Friday that it will **raise the cap on entry from foreign countries to 5,000 in March**. While **students** and **business travelers** will be let in, tourists will not. The base quarantine period is still **7 days**, but those coming from countries where the **virus is not spreading rapidly and are fully vaccinated** do not have to quarantine. Others can leave quarantine if they test negative after **3 days**. **Action plans** will also not be required prior to entry. The change comes after **intense pressure** from inside and outside the country.

### GOJ Response to Ukraine Situation

Prime Minister Kishida reiterated this week that **Japan desires a peaceful, diplomatic resolution** and will work with the G7 toward that end. The GOJ believes that **tolerating the situation in**

**Ukraine will have an impact on how others, notably China, project military force.** Kishida spoke with both **President Zelensky of Ukraine and President Putin of Russia** to voice support for Ukraine and urge Russia to avoid a forceful invasion. The **G7 Finance Ministers** also noted in their joint statement that they will implement **sanctions** should Russia invade. The GOJ has not made its position clear on sanctions and has focused so far on **evacuating Japanese citizens**.

### Economic Stats

- **CPI:** 100.1 (0.2% higher than Jan. 2021)
- Jan. **trade deficit** largest in 8 years at ¥2.19 trillion
- Japan **grew** 1.7% in 2021 (first time in 3 years)
- **Weakest ¥** (external PP) since 1972 in Jan.
- **Gas prices** still high at ¥171.4

### Cabinet Approval



**54%** (-3 pts.)

**27%** (+7 pts.)

[NHK](#), Feb. 14

### COVID-19 Cases (NHK, Feb. 18)

**Total Cases:** 4.34 million

**Total Deaths:** 21,470

**Daily (Japan):** 87,723

**7-Day Ave.:** 80,598.29  
(+0.86x from last week)

**Deaths:** 211

**Daily (Tokyo):** 16,129

**7-Day Ave.:** 14,574.58  
(+0.82x from last week)

### Vaccination Progress

**First dose:** 80.2%

**Second dose:** 79%

**Third dose:** 12.6%