



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%