



The Weekly Observer

March 27-31

YOUR WEEKLY RECAP OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN JAPAN!

THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

Record High FY 2023 Budget Passed

On Tuesday, the Diet enacted the FY 2023 budget, which came to a record-high ¥114.38 trillion.

It includes record-high spending on defense at ¥6.78 trillion, more than one percent of GDP.

GOJ Announces Draft Policies Addressing Declining Birth Rate

On Friday, the GOJ released its draft policies (*tatakidai*) to address the declining birth rate, which is being described as a “silent crisis.”

The basic principles are: 1) increasing the income of younger generations; 2) changing the structure and thinking of society; and 3) seamless support for families at all stages of the life cycle.

Policies include removing income restrictions on **child allowance** and raising the **goal of paternity leave** to 85 percent for public and private sector by 2030.

The policies and funding will be finalized by the **June release of the Basic Policy**.

Japan Restricts Semiconductor Equipment Exports

On Friday, the GOJ announced that it would include **twenty-three items, including advanced semiconductor manufacturing equipment, in its export control list**.

The measures will make it **harder to export items to China** and other countries as it requires **permission from the METI minister**. Domestic firms such as **Tokyo Electron** will also be affected. The measures begin in **July**.

Cabinet Approval



48% (+5 pts.)

44% (-5 pts.)

[Nikkei](#) (Mar. 27)

COVID-19 Cases (NHK, Mar. 31)

Total Cases: 33.46 million

Total Deaths: 73,908

Daily (Japan): 6,730 (-1,909)

7-Day Ave.: 6,816 (+235)
(1.03x from last week)

Deaths: 43 (-6)

Daily (Tokyo): 854 (-39)

7-Day Ave.: 814 (+172)
(1.27x from last week)

Vaccination Progress (Mar. 31)

First dose: 81.2%

Second dose: 80.2% (-0.1%)

Third dose: 68.6% (+0.1%)

Omicron dose: 44.7% (+0.2%)