

# Introduction

This is the 49th 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 “Livelihood and Economy Supported by Digital Technologies”. It summarizes and analyzes the present status and challenges for digitalization of people's lives, corporate activities, electronic government, etc. Part 1 also analyzes impacts of and challenges for the digitalization that is accelerated by the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, it summarizes the social challenges the country faces and takes a view of society that will be required after COVID-19 as well as measures necessary to overcome social challenges and revitalize the economy through digitalization. Part 2 comprises Chapter 4, which provides statistical data on the state of information and communications in Japan in the previous fiscal year, and Chapter 5, which summarizes policy trends in the information and communications field primarily over the last fiscal year.

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/WP2021/2021-index.html>

Past white papers can be downloaded from the following pages.  
[https://www.soumu.go.jp/main\\_sosiki/joho\\_tsusin/eng/whitepaper/index.html](https://www.soumu.go.jp/main_sosiki/joho_tsusin/eng/whitepaper/index.html)