

Overview of Operations

Micro Business and Individual Unit	38
Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Food Business Unit ..	44
Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Unit	50
Operations to Facilitate Crisis Responses and Specific Businesses Promotion, etc.	56
Research Institute	58

Micro Business and Individual Unit

The Micro Business and Individual Unit (Micro Unit) acts as a community-based financial institution. It provides business loans to micro/small businesses and business start-ups, and educational loans to individuals who are in need of funds for school entrance fees and other educational expenses.

Overview of Operations

Small Loans to a Large Number of Micro/Small Businesses

- Loans have been disbursed to 1.19 million businesses.
- The average loan balance per business is 9.80 million yen, most of which were small loans.
- Approximately 90% of borrowers are micro/small businesses with nine or fewer employees, and many are sole proprietors.

Safety Net Financing

- Micro Unit provides Safety Net Loans and other means to support micro/small enterprises experiencing in finance difficulties because of a changing business environment.
- Through loans and other means, Micro Unit supports the rehabilitation and reconstruction of micro/small businesses that have suffered damage at times of disaster such as earthquakes, typhoons, and heavy rains.

Supporting Business Start-ups, Business Revitalization, and Business Succession

- The number of loans disbursed to business start-ups (consisting of those that have yet to start and those that are within 1 year of startup) reached 26,000 a year. It is estimated that about 83,000 jobs were created annually as a result.
- Micro Unit supports businesses engaged in innovative businesses or seeking business revitalization through Capital Subordinated Loans and other means.
- Supports succession of micro/small businesses.

Supporting Social Businesses and Overseas Expansion, etc.

- Micro Unit supports businesses engaged in social businesses to solve regional and social issues.
- Micro Unit supports micro/small businesses trying to expand overseas.

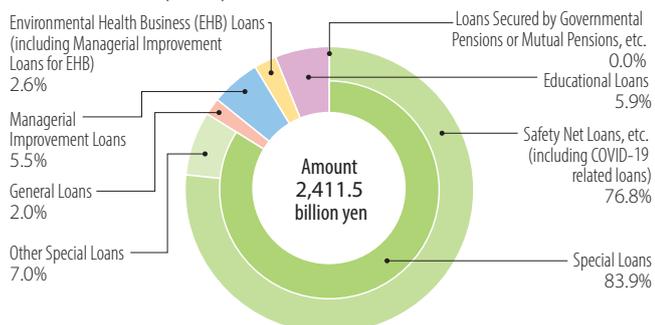
Collaboration with Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Societies of Commerce and Industry, Environmental Health Trade Associations, and Regional Financial Institutions, etc.

- Micro Unit works in close collaboration with such organizations as Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Societies of Commerce and Industry, Environmental Health Trade Associations and regional financial institutions to support the financial improvement of micro/small businesses and help maintain or improve the sanitation level of environmental health-related businesses.
- Micro Unit collaborates with Approved Management Innovation Support Organizations with high specialty such as tax accountant, certified public accountant and SME management consultant.
- Micro Unit proactively collaborates with regional financial institutions.

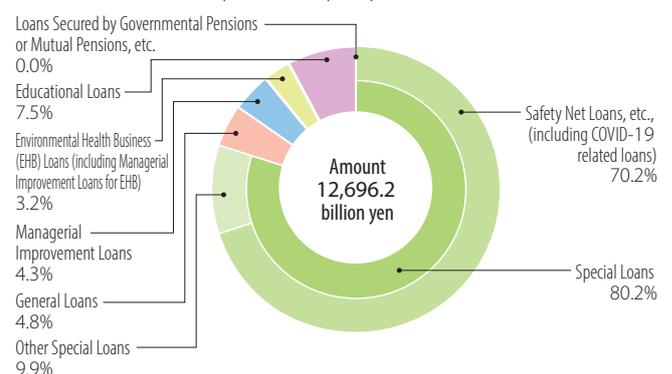
Support through Educational Loans, etc.

- Approximately 90,000 Educational Loans are disbursed each year.

Breakdown of Loans (FY2021)



Breakdown of loan balance (as of March 31, 2022)



Feature of Operations

Supporting Micro/Small Businesses

Business Loans in FY2021 were provided to 1.19 million businesses. The average loan balance per business is 9.80 million yen, most of which were small loans. Approximately 90% of borrowers are micro/small businesses with nine or fewer employees, and many are sole proprietors. Over 90% of all loans are uncollateralized.

We made every effort to support micro/small businesses affected by COVID-19, and as a result, the number of the businesses received business loans increased by approximately 320,000 compared to March 31, 2020.

Number of business borrowers and average loan balance per business (as of March 31, 2022)

	Micro Business and Individual Unit	Total for shinkin banks (254 banks)	Total for domestic banks (132 banks)
Number of business borrowers (million)	1.19	1.24	2.23
Average loan balance per business (million yen)	9.80	42.78	102.57

Notes: 1. Figures for Micro Unit are the total of General Loans and Environmental Health Business Loans.
 2. Domestic banks include major commercial banks, regional banks, regional banks II, and trust banks.
 3. Figures for shinkin banks (based on "total" in Deposits and Loans Market statistics by the Bank of Japan) and for domestic banks (based on "SMEs" in Deposits and Loans Market statistics by the Bank of Japan) do not include loans to individuals (loans for housing, consumption, tax payments, etc.), loans to regional public organizations, overseas yen-loans, or loans made to businesses in foreign countries in name of their domestic branches.
 4. Number of businesses for shinkin banks and domestic banks are based on the number of loans in Deposits and Loans Market statistics by the Bank of Japan.

Source: Bank of Japan website

Breakdown of borrowers by number of employees (based on the number of loans) (FY2021)



Note: The breakdown is the total of General Loans and Environmental Health Business Loans (direct loans).

Demonstrating Safety Net Functions

● Response to the Spread of COVID-19

The Micro Unit created special consultation desks at its 152 branches nationwide and is providing consultations on financing and repayment for micro/small businesses that have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. We are providing COVID-19 Special Loan Program, which are practically interest-free and require no collateral, and other means to clients that meet certain conditions such as a decline in sales.

From January 29, 2020, the day when the consultation desks were created, to March 31, 2022, the Micro Unit decided a total of 950,400 COVID-19 related loans worth a total of 11,026.9 billion yen. These loan results considerably surpassed even the results of FY2009, when businesses were greatly affected by the collapse of Lehman Brothers and the subsequent financial crisis, and loans related to the Great East Japan Earthquake.

● Measures during disasters

A special consultation desk is immediately established in case of a major earthquake such as the Great East Japan Earthquake and the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake, other natural disaster such as a typhoon or torrential rain, a major corporate bankruptcy, or other unforeseen events so that affected micro/small businesses can discuss their loan and repayment conditions.

Main consultation desks currently in operation (as of May 31, 2022)

	Number of consultation desks	Consultation desks currently in operation	Date of establishment
Disaster-related	10	Special consultation desk for the Great East Japan Earthquake	Mar. 2011
		Special consultation desk for damage suffered as a result of the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake	Apr. 2016
		Special consultation desk for damage suffered as a result of Typhoon No. 15 of 2019	Sep. 2019
		Special consultation desk for damage suffered as a result of Typhoon No. 19 of 2019	Oct. 2019
		Special consultation desk for damage suffered as a result of heavy rain from July 3, 2020	Jul. 2020
		Special consultation desk for damage suffered as a result of the earthquake off the coast of Fukushima prefecture in 2021	Feb. 2021
		Special consultation desk for damage suffered as a result of heavy rain from July 1, 2021	Jul. 2021
		Special consultation desk for damage suffered as a result of heavy rain associated with extratropical cyclone changed from Typhoon No. 9 of 2021	Aug. 2021
		Special consultation desk for damage suffered as a result of heavy rain from August 11, 2021	Aug. 2021
		Special consultation desk for damage suffered as a result of the earthquake off the coast of Fukushima prefecture in 2022	Mar. 2022
Others	3	Special consultation desk relating to COVID-19	Feb. 2020
		Special consultation desk relating to situation in Ukraine and rising oil prices, etc.	Nov. 2021
		Special consultation desk for SMEs relating to supply chain of Hino Motors	Apr. 2022

	Number of loans ^(Note)	Amount ^(Note)
COVID-19 related loans: January 29, 2020–March 2022	950,400	11,026.9 billion yen
Loans at the time of the Lehman Brothers bankruptcy: April 2009–March 2010	341,231	2,803.8 billion yen
Great East Japan Earthquake Related Loans: March 2011–March 2022	239,900	2,258.3 billion yen

Note: COVID-19 related financing data is prepared on a loan decision basis. The number of loans are based on the number of businesses.

Supporting Business Start-ups (consisting of those that have yet to start and those that are within 1 year of start-up) Proactively

● Support for business start-ups

Not a few companies that have yet to start and those that are within 1 year of start-up face difficulties in raising funds for such reasons as a shortage of business experiences. The Micro Unit actively provides loans to these companies to support their business activities.

The Micro Unit provided loans to a total of 26,000 business start-ups (consisting of those that have yet to start and those that are within 1 year of start-up) in FY2021. It is estimated that about 83,000 jobs were created annually as a result.

Loans for start-ups (consisting of those that have yet to start and those that are within 1 year of start-up)



[Job Creation Effects]

26,000 businesses × average of 3.2 employees^(Note) = 83,200 employees

Note: The average number of employees at time of business start, based on Survey on Business Start-ups in Japan (FY2021) by the JFC Research Institute.

● Supporting women, youth, and senior entrepreneurs

As the economic society diversify, the range of business start-ups has been expanding start-ups by women who take advantage of their ability to notice the small things in daily life, young people who utilize novel ideas, and seniors who draw on their many years of experience. In such trend, Micro Unit actively provides loans to such women, youth, and senior entrepreneurs.

Loans for women, youth, and senior entrepreneurs (number of businesses)



Note: Women who also qualify as youth or seniors are included in both the Women category and the other relevant category.

● Business Start-up Support Desks have been established in the 152 branch offices nationwide

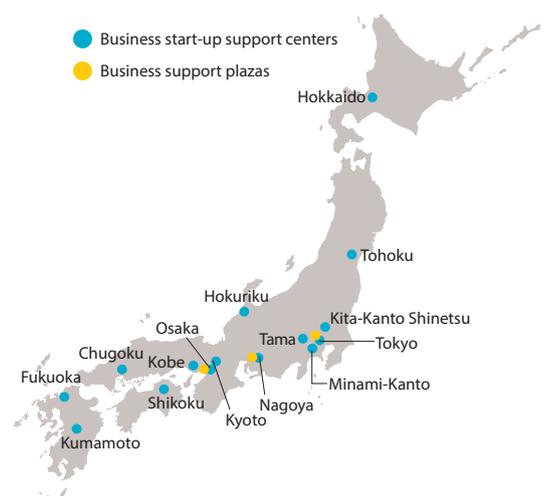
Business Start-up Support Desks provide services in which specialists offer advice on business start-up plans to people planning to start up a business and offer a wide variety of information on starting a business.

Establishment of Business Start-up Support Centers and Business Support Plazas and Providing Support for Business Start-ups and Second Business Start-ups^(Note)

Note: Second business start-ups are businesses diversifying or moving into a new business field.

The Micro Unit has established business start-up support centers and business support plazas throughout Japan. Through these facilities, we support a wide range of business start-ups and others attempting to start a second business.

Locations (as of March 2022)



● Establishment of business start-up support centers throughout Japan

Centers are located in 15 regions of Japan from Hokkaido to Kyushu. Centers organize diverse seminars targeted at customers in varying stages of their business cycle, both before and after starting business, and also provide timely support to customers through collaboration with regional organizations that support start-ups.

● Establishment of business support plazas throughout Japan

In three locations: Tokyo (Shinjuku), Nagoya, and Osaka. Appointments for in-depth consultation are available to persons who plan to start a new business. For those who cannot consult during regular business hours, weekend appointments are also available (excluding national holidays).

Note: Sunday consultations are available on first and third Sundays of each month at Tokyo (Shinjuku) Business Support Plaza.

Supporting Commercialization of Start-ups Actively

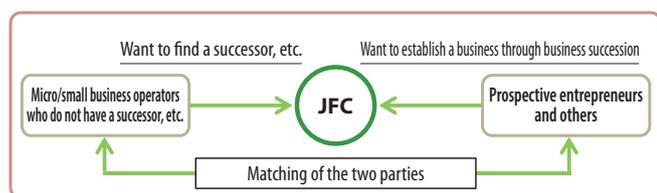
The Micro Unit actively supports start-ups striving for rapid growth that form the driving force behind innovation at university ventures, and which provide new value with original ideas. JFC supports them by providing both capital and information including Capital Subordinated Loan, which can be treated as “owned capital” rather than a “debt” for the purpose of asset audits by financial institutions.

Supporting Business Revitalization Actively

Business revitalization support staff have been deployed at 152 branches nationwide to respond flexibly to requests for relaxing repayment terms e.g. a reduction in the installment amount, temporary deferment of principal repayment, etc. In addition, by way of loan programs for business revitalization support, and by providing advice for the resolution of business issues and support for the enactment of business improvement plans, the Micro Unit supports businesses undergoing corporate reorganization in cooperation with other financial institutions and public enterprise turnaround institutions.

Supporting Business Succession Actively

To support micro/small businesses in securing successors, the Micro Unit conducts a nationwide business succession matching support program to match micro/small businesses that do not have a successor with people who wish to start their own businesses. We also disseminate information on business succession diagnosis and best practices and hold seminars in collaboration with business succession support centers, Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and Societies of Commerce and Industry to raise the awareness of business owners and facilitate third-party succession. In addition, we support business succession from both the information and capital aspects in cooperation with regional financial institutions to respond to diverse capital needs relating to business succession.



Business succession matching support results

Results	Want to transfer business	Want to acquire business
Number of application registrations	1,198	2,687 (553)
Number of matching	323	

Notes: 1. Please refer to the JFC website for detailed information on business succession matching support.

2. The results of business succession matching support are cumulative results from FY2019 to FY2021. Figures in parentheses are the numbers of registered application registrations persons who wish to start a business.

Supporting Social Business Actively

The Micro Unit supports bearers of social businesses that support regional and social issues, such as supporting the care and welfare of the elderly and disabled, child rearing, environmental conservation, and regional revitalization.

The FY2021 loans to social businesses came to: 12,465 loans, 113.7 billion yen.

Social Business Mark



We are engaged in PR activities and have created the Social Business Mark in order to make social business, which works to solve regional and social problems, more widely known.

The “S” in social business is used to indicate various actors including businesses, NPOs, residents, government, public institutions, etc. coming together to solve the problems faced in the region.

Supporting Businesses Seeking for Overseas Expansion Actively

Overseas Expansion Support Desks, established at 152 branches nationwide cooperate with Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), Organization for Small & Medium Enterprises and Regional Innovation (SME Support, Japan), Japan Federation of Bar Associations, and other external experts that support overseas expansion. The Micro Unit provides detailed support information according to the needs of customers by providing advice for first-time overseas expansion, information on overseas exhibitions and business meetings, and confirmation of local laws and regulations, required permits and licenses, and the details of contracts.

Collaboration with Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Societies of Commerce and Industry, Environmental Health Trade Associations, and Regional Financial Institutions

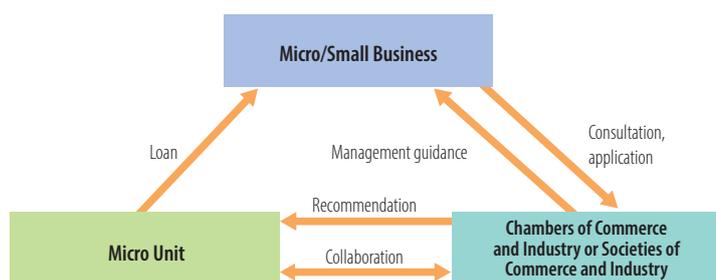
● Collaboration with Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and with Societies of Commerce and Industry

Micro Unit works in close collaboration with regional Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and with Societies of Commerce and Industry throughout Japan to support business improvement of micro/small businesses through providing Managerial Improvement Loans and consultation sessions.

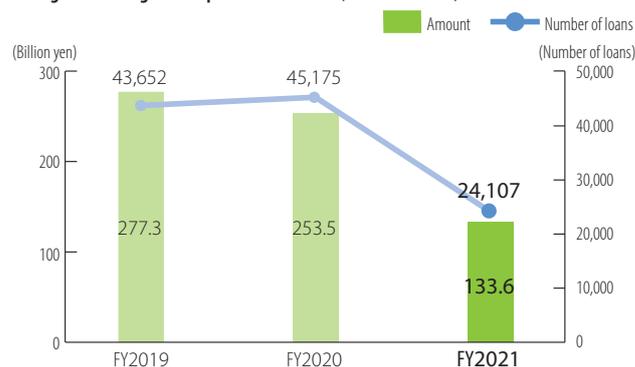
Managerial Improvement Loans (MARUKEI Loans) are a program whereby micro/small businesses receiving management guidance, such as from Chambers of Commerce and Industry or Societies of Commerce and Industry, can utilize funds needed for managerial improvement without collateral and guarantors. Since the establishment of this program in 1973, approximately 5.20 million loans have been provided.

Also, the Micro/Small Management Development Support Fund was established which can be used by micro/small businesses who are working towards sustainable development, and have received assistance in developing and executing a business plan through certified management development support programs offered by Chambers of Commerce and Industry or Societies of Commerce and Industry.

Structure of Managerial Improvement Loans (MARUKEI Loans)



Changes in Managerial Improvement Loans (MARUKEI Loans)



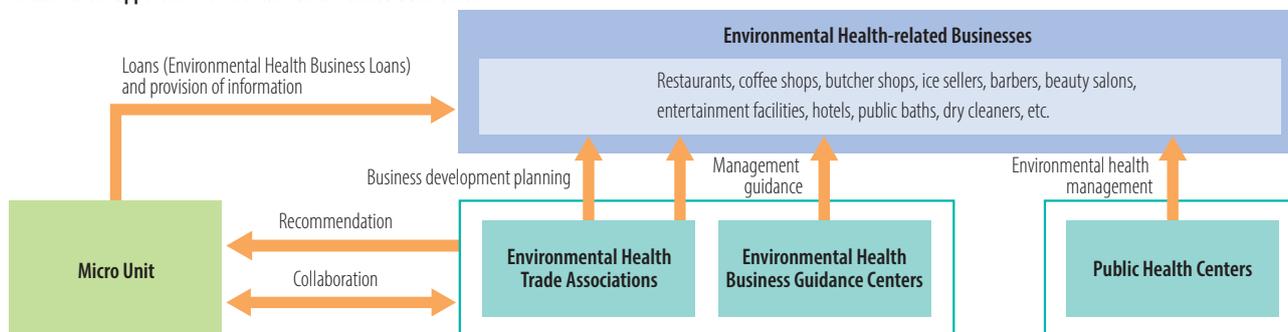
● Holding of "One-Day JFC" consultation sessions at Chambers of Commerce and Industry or at Societies of Commerce and Industry

Consultation sessions called "One-Day JFC," where staff from Micro Unit consult on finance, are held at Chambers of Commerce and Industry or at Societies of Commerce and Industry. Every year, many micro/small businesses come to ask for advice. In addition, we also conduct online consultations to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

● Collaboration with Environmental Health Trade Associations and Environmental Health Business Guidance Centers

The Micro Unit works in close collaboration with such organizations as Environmental Health Trade Associations and Environmental Health Business Guidance Centers to support the maintenance and enhancement of the sanitation levels of environmental health-related businesses, which are closely involved in the daily lives of the public and are subject to strong demands to maintain sanitation levels, through Environmental Health Business Loans. The majority of the borrowers of Environmental Health Business Loans are businesses with nine or fewer employees. Approximately 80% are sole proprietorship, and approximately 60% have been before start-ups or within five years of start-ups.

Initiatives to support Environmental Health-related Businesses



● Cooperation with approved management innovation support organizations ^(Note) such as tax accountants, certified public accountants, and SME management consultants

Management support provided through approved management innovation support organizations such as tax accountant, etc. who play a large role in supporting SMEs and micro/small businesses, and financial support from JFC come together to support micro/small business owners in business sectors like start-ups, management innovation, business revitalization, etc.

Note: Approved management innovation support organizations are support organizations recognized under the Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Business Enhancement Act. Please visit the Small and Medium Enterprise Agency website for more information.

● Collaboration with regional financial institutions

We promote cooperation with regional financial institutions to support customers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, revitalize the regional economy, and meet the customer's convenience.

We are actively engaged in providing collaborative loans to help with the development of the cooperative loan scheme ^(Note) and the creation of cooperative loan products, which is part of efforts to enhance the effectiveness of cooperation with regard to support in various fields including COVID-19 response, business start-ups, business revitalization.

Note: A cooperative loan scheme has specific referral rules for projects treated as cooperative loans.

● Total of cooperative loan ^(Note)

In FY2021, total cooperative loans from regional financial institutions came to: 16,752 loans, 212.3 billion yen.

Note: Loans (guarantees) that are disbursed or decided by both JFC and regional financial institutions after consultation by both parties for loan plans with identical objectives (Calculated by JFC. Including loans made on different dates between both parties).

Cooperative loans by business category

(FY2021)

Cooperative loan	City banks	Regional banks	Regional banks II	Shinkin banks	Credit cooperatives	Others	Total		Reference FY2020 results
								Compared to the previous fiscal year	
Number of loans	1,717	8,481	2,890	10,813	1,473	504	25,259	103%	24,467
Micro Unit	229	4,324	1,823	9,009	1,279	88	16,752	138%	12,134
Amount	254.4 billion yen	580.2 billion yen	151.6 billion yen	301.7 billion yen	34.6 billion yen	54.9 billion yen	1,252.7 billion yen	74%	1,684.7 billion yen
Micro Unit	5.4 billion yen	58.8 billion yen	24.0 billion yen	108.5 billion yen	14.2 billion yen	1.1 billion yen	212.3 billion yen	131%	161.8 billion yen

Note: In cases where cooperative loans are provided with multiple regional financial institutions, the number of loans and loan amounts indicated in the breakdown are totaled for each financial institution, and as a result, the totals do not match.

Example: In the case of a 100 million yen loan provided by a regional bank and regional bank II, the amounts for both the regional bank and regional bank II are reported as 100 million yen, and the total is reported as 100 million yen.

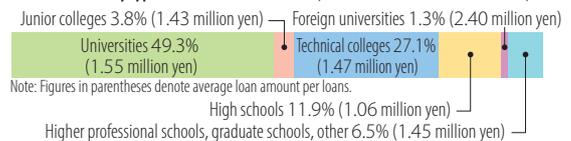
Educational Loans for School Entrance Fees and Related Expenses

The Micro Unit handles Educational Loans, which funds necessary expenses when entering educational institutions or continuing one's education, to lighten the financial burden of educational expenses on families and provide equal educational opportunities. Approximately 90,000 Educational Loans were provided in FY2021.

● Loans to families with large educational expenses

Educational Loans are primarily provided to families with university or technical college students, who incur large educational expenses.

Borrower details by type of educational institution (FY2021 General Educational Loans (Direct loans))



Note: Figures in parentheses denote average loan amount per loans.

Providing Loans Secured by Governmental Pensions or Mutual Pensions

Loans Secured by Governmental Pensions or Mutual Pensions, etc., are offered only by JFC (or the Okinawa Development Finance Corporation in Okinawa Prefecture) in accordance with the Act on Loans Rendered by Japan Finance Corporation Secured by Public Officers Pension (Act No. 91 of 1954). These loans can be used for a broad range of purposes, including home purchases and business funding. New applications were closed at the end of March 2022 due to the amendment of pension system laws in 2020, with the exception of military pensions and relief pensions.

Micro Unit Supports Developing Countries

Supporting Developing Countries by ODA (Official Development Assistance)

The Micro Unit provides assistance to overcome issues which financial institutions in developing countries are facing through technical cooperation by Official Development Assistance (ODA). This assistance has been implemented by sharing our accumulated credit analysis know-how on micro and small enterprises. In specific terms, the Unit is conducting local and national seminars, etc. concerning small and medium enterprises (SMEs) financing in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance Policy Research Institute.

To date, these have been implemented in Viet Nam, Malaysia, Laos and Myanmar.

i. Laos

The Micro Unit implemented the technical cooperation project from FY2011 to FY2017 with the Lao Development Bank (LDB), which is a state-owned commercial bank in Laos. With the aim of developing LDB human resources and credit analysis skills, eight seminars were held in Laos and Japan and the Micro Unit provided lectures about our credit analysis. We also cooperated to create their own credit analysis manual.

ii. Myanmar

We have been conducting technical cooperation project for Myanma Economic Bank (MEB), which is the largest state managed bank in Myanmar, since April 2015. We provided support through four seminars in Myanmar and Japan. These measures have been highly valued in Myanmar, and we held a local seminar as the second phase of the project in June 2018.



Lecture given at local seminars in Laos (Vientiane)



Seminar in Myanmar (Yangon)

Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Food Business Unit

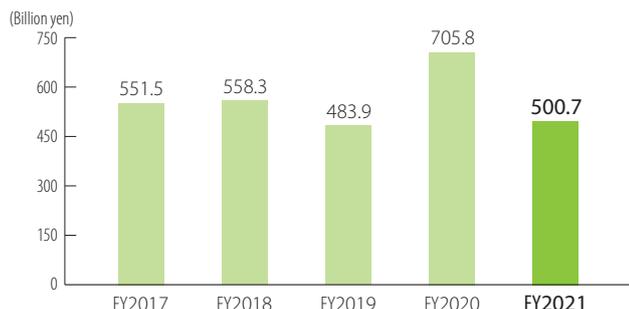
Through providing loans, etc. to businesses in agriculture, forestry and fishery industries as well as the food industry in Japan, the Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Food Business Unit (AFFF Unit) contributes towards strengthening of these industries while ensuring the stable supply of safe and high-quality foods.

Overview of Operations

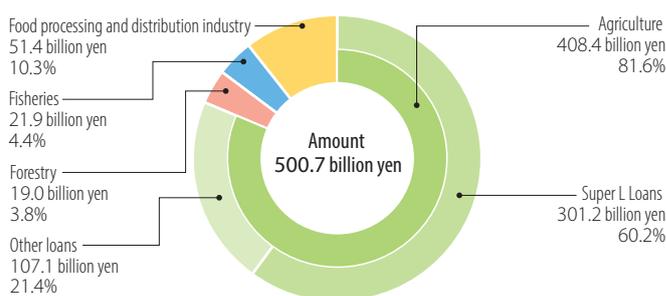
Status of Loan and Feature of Operations

The AFFF Unit provides long-term financing, taking into account the fact that the agricultural, forestry and fisheries sectors have unique business characteristics such as long investment recovery periods and unstable income caused by the effects of weather. Assistance is also provided to the food industry, which contributes to the stable supply of domestically produced agricultural, forestry and fisheries products, as well as helping to increase value-added levels.

Changes in loan amounts



Breakdown of loans (FY2021)



Status of loans by repayment period (FY2021)



Exercise of Safety Net Functions

The AFFF Unit offers dynamic support in the form of long-term working capital loans to provide agricultural, forestry, and fisheries operators as a safety net function against short-term crises such as natural disasters including earthquake, typhoon, tsunami, etc., contagious livestock diseases, and falls in the price of agricultural products, as well as COVID-19.

Promotion of Consulting and Financing Activities

In response to the increasingly diverse management issues faced by customers as a result of the changing environment caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the AFFF Unit conducts consulting and financing activities to help customers identify and share information on their current situation and issues and helps them solve their problems in close collaboration with customers.

● Support for solving customer problems according to management stage

Through intensive and ongoing consulting and financing activities, the AFFF Unit helps customers resolve issues according to their management stage, such as supporting farm start-ups at the time of establishment, expansion (growth) in the growth phase, and further development in the maturity phase.

● Identification of current status and issues through financial analysis

We analyze financial situations based on the financial information provided by customers and compare them to the AFFF Unit management indicators for other companies in the same industry. Through this process, we visualize customer strengths and management issues and share this information with the customer.

Promoting Cooperation with Private Financial Institutions in the Agricultural, Forestry, and Fisheries Sectors

The AFFF Unit promotes collaborative financing with private financial institutions such as cooperative loans and outsourced lending and is working to build an environment that encourages private financial institutions to actively enter financing of agricultural, forestry and fisheries fields by providing information service on industry trends and assessment of agricultural credit risks (Agricultural Credit Risk Information Service (ACRIS)) and also offering capital contributions and securitization support services.

Feature of Operations

Agriculture

By providing loans in line with the policies of the Basic Law on Food, Agriculture and Rural Areas, and those of the Basic Plan for Food, Agriculture and Rural Areas, the AFFF Unit actively supports efforts of farmers to improve their management with drive and innovative ideas.

● Supporting people engaged in agriculture through long-term loans

Through long-term financing such as Super L Loans the AFFF Unit supports management improvements such as scale expansion, cost reduction and the “Sixth industrialization” (e.g., processing, sales, and other business undertaken integrally by agricultural, forestry, and fishery businesses to increase the added value of products) by diverse local farmers, including companies of rice growing, horticulture, livestock farming, and other operations, as well as large-scale family run operations, new farmers, and companies entering the agriculture field.

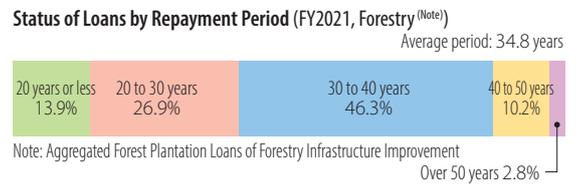


Forestry

By providing loans in line with the policies of the Basic Law on Forest and Forestry, the AFFF Unit actively supports the improvement of forest that has multifunctional roles, and the creation of structures to supply and process domestically harvested lumber.

● The AFFF Unit provides financing to customers in the forestry business, for which capital recovery periods are very long

It generally takes about 50 years for a forest to develop and so recovering any capital takes a very long time. For this reason, the AFFF Unit supports forestry operators by providing the ultra-long-term finance that is required until logging.



Fisheries

By supplying loans in line with the policies of the Fisheries Basic Act, the AFFF Unit actively supports efforts to ensure a stable supply of marine products and the sustained use of marine resources.

● Supporting principal fishery operators

The Fisheries Management Improvement Support Loan is a financing program that provides comprehensive support to fisheries operators wishing to improve their businesses.

In FY2021, Fisheries Management Improvement Support Loans came to 8.3 billion yen.

Fisheries Management Improvement Support Loans



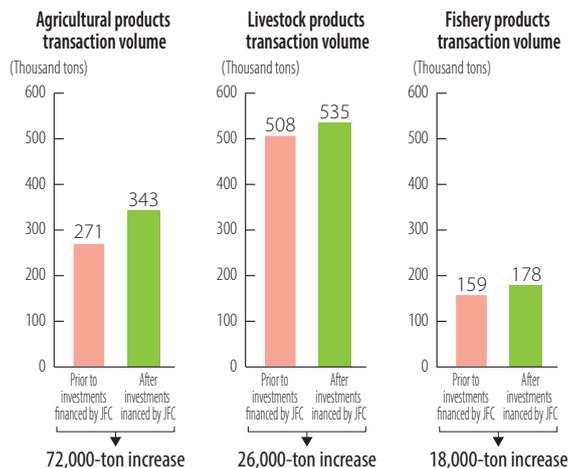
Food Processing and Distribution Industry

Through providing loans to food processing and distribution industry that deal in domestic agricultural, forestry, and fishery products, the AFFF Unit actively supports efforts for the stable supply of domestically produced raw materials and for improving added value.

● Helping to promote the use of domestic agricultural, forestry, and fishery products

Loans to the food processing and distribution industry to use domestically produced agricultural, forestry, and fishery products as raw materials or products, and are aimed at promotion of domestically produced agricultural, forestry, and fishery products. An estimation of the effects of the loans made in FY2021 suggests that the transaction volumes of domestically produced agricultural, forestry, and fishery products will increase by approximately 117,000 tons over the next five years.

In particular, one of the requirements for the Hilly and Mountainous Areas Revitalization Loan and the Food Distribution System Improvement Loan (Food production manufacturing affiliated business facilities, food production and sales affiliated business facilities) is an increase in the trading volume of domestically produced agricultural, forestry and fishery products. The requirement helps to promote collaboration between the agricultural, forestry and fisheries sectors and the food industry.



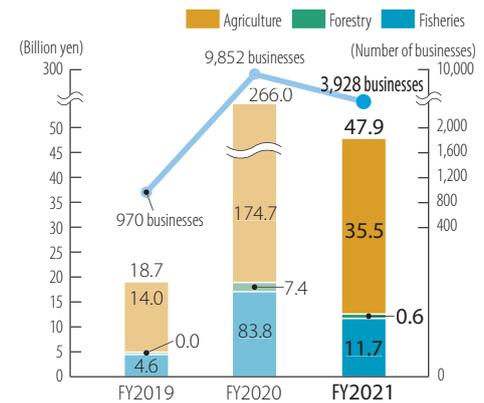
Notes: 1. The transaction volumes are rounded off by the unit.
2. The transaction volume indicated in “After investments financed by JFC” is an estimate.

Exercising Safety Net Functions Following Disasters and Changes in Business Conditions

The AFFF Unit offers dynamic support in the form of long-term working capital loans to provide agricultural, forestry, and fisheries operators as a safety net function against short-term crises such as natural disasters including earthquake, typhoon, tsunami, etc., contagious livestock diseases, and falls in the price of agricultural products.

Also, the AFFF Unit created special consultation desks and is providing consultations on financing and repayment for agricultural, forestry, and fisheries operators that have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Safety net loans to agricultural, forestry, and fisheries businesses

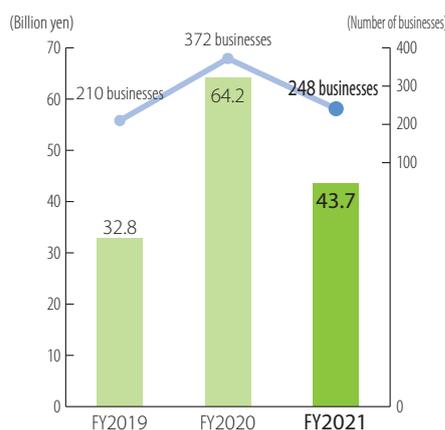


Export and “Sixth Industrialization” Development Measures

In addition to the agricultural, forestry, and fisheries products and processed foods export promotion loan program created in 2020, the AFFF Unit provides support through various financing programs and the provision of information in cases where agricultural, forestry, and fisheries business operators and companies in the food industry export domestic agricultural products and other processed products to improve their own business or promote domestic agricultural, forestry, and fisheries products.

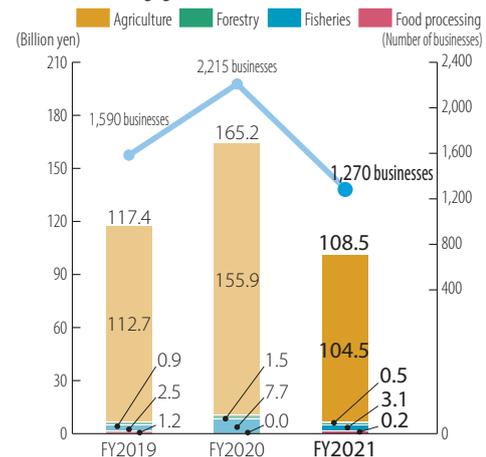
The AFFF Unit also supports measures for the development of “Sixth Industrialization” (integrated processing and sales measures for increasing the added value of products) by agricultural, forestry, and fisheries business operators through various financing programs and the provision of information.

Loans to those engaged in export



In FY2021, loans to improve management through exports were made to 248 businesses (67% compared to the previous fiscal year) and amounted to 43.7 billion yen (68% compared to the previous fiscal year).

Loans to those engaged in the “Sixth Industrialization”



In FY2021, loans to activities due to improved management by the “Sixth Industrialization” (e.g., processing, sales, and other business undertaken integrally by agricultural, forestry, and fishery businesses to increase the added value of products) were made to 1,270 businesses (57% compared to the previous fiscal year) and amounted to 108.5 billion yen (66% compared to the previous fiscal year).

Support for New Farmers and New Entrants to Agriculture

Support was provided to various financing programs such as the Agricultural Employment Fund for Youth, etc. which offers loans to new farmers, new entrants to agricultural business, and authorized new farmers and information was provided.

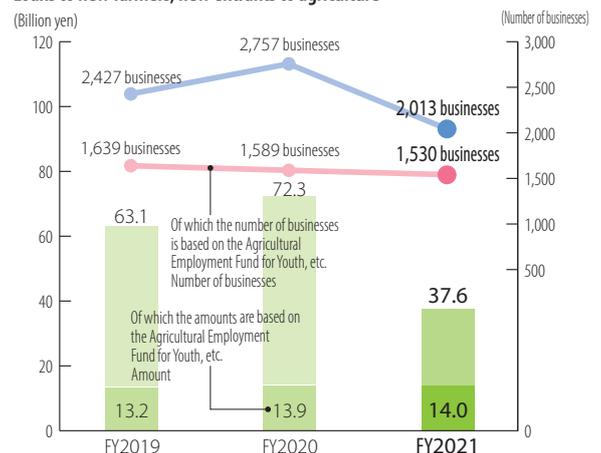
Loans to new farmers, new entrants to agriculture

In FY2021, loans to new agricultural business and new entry farmers came to 2,013 businesses (73% compared to the previous fiscal year), and 37.6 billion yen (52% compared to the previous fiscal year).

From FY2014, newly started loans to Agricultural Employment Fund for Youth, etc. (Note) came to: 1,530 businesses (96% compared to the previous fiscal year), 14.0 billion yen (101% compared to the previous fiscal year).

Note: Loans to support authorized new farmers certified by municipalities under the Young Farmers Plan as young people engaging in new farming businesses.

Loans to new farmers, new entrants to agriculture



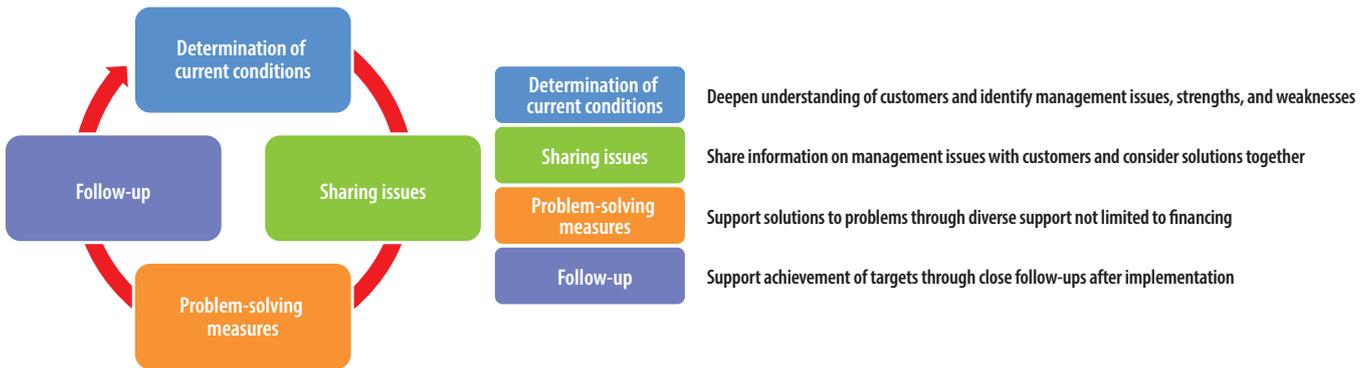
Promotion of Consulting and Financing Activities

The AFFF Unit conducts consulting and financing activities that help resolve issues through close collaboration

In response to the increasingly diverse management issues faced by customers as a result of the changing environment caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the AFFF Unit conducts consulting and financing activities to help customers identify and share information on their current situation and issues and helps them solve their problems in close collaboration with customers.

● Support for solving customers problems according to management stage

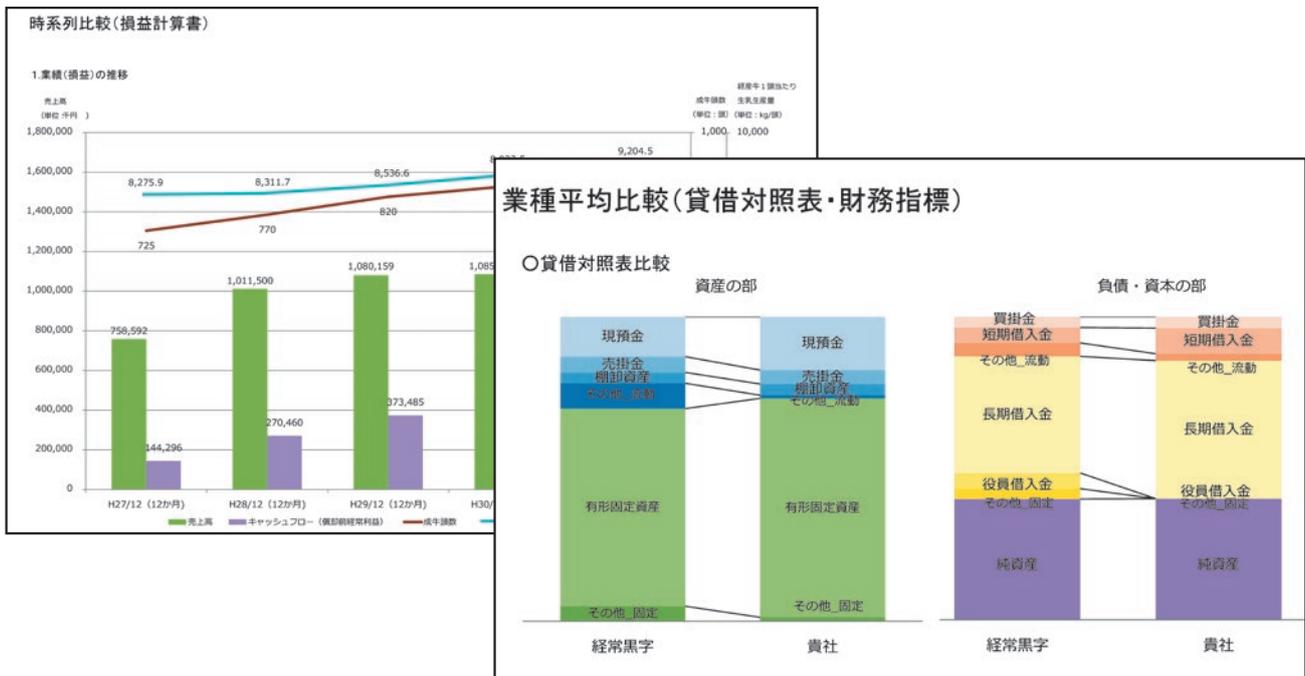
Through intensive and ongoing consulting and financing activities, the AFFF Unit helps customers resolve issues according to their management stage, such as supporting farm start-ups at the time of establishment, expansion (growth) in the growth phase, and further development in the maturity phase.



● Identification of current status and issues through financial analysis

We analyze financial situations based on the financial information provided by customers and compare them to the AFFF Unit management indicators for other companies in the same industry. Through this process, we visualize customer strengths and management issues and share this information with the customer.

(Image of financial assessments)



Supporting Developing and Expanding Customer Sales Channels

● Matching support using our nationwide network

The AFFF Unit uses the JFC's nationwide network of 48 branch offices to match the purchasing needs of food processing and distribution companies for domestic agricultural marine products with the sales needs of businesses in the agricultural and fisheries industries, bringing together customers across prefectural borders.

This helps customers develop attractive products and enhance the products that they handle.



● Advanced Supports Such as Overseas Expansion, etc. through Collaboration with External Networks

The AFFF Unit collaborates with external networks (Japan Professional Agriculture Total Support Organization (J-PAO), Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), and other organizations) to support the business growth of its customers and respond accurately to the diverse management issues they face, such as the development of new sales channels, financial improvement, and productivity enhancement.

For example, J-PAO gets assistance from its members from a wide variety of types of businesses and uses its agriculture-support knowhow to provide sales and commercialization support to customers. JETRO supports exports of Japanese agricultural, forestry, fishery products and food by providing information, consultation and business-matching opportunities with foreign buyers.

In addition, the AFFF Unit supports customers who are working to export agricultural products for the first time through cooperation with domestic and overseas trading companies by conducting Trial Export Support Projects (preparations for exporting, exporting procedures, sales feedback from export destinations, etc.).



Briefing session on the Trial Export Support Project

Scheme of the Trial Export Support Project



Supporting Business Succession of Customers

To address the business succession issues of agricultural, forestry, and fisheries business operators, the AFFF Unit supports customers by providing information tailored according to the type and stage of business succession, referring and dispatching outside experts and relevant organizations, providing funds, and other means.

In addition, the AFFF Unit is reinforcing its information gathering and support relating to M&A and the like in the agricultural, forestry, and fisheries fields and providing business succession support to customers so that the management resources of customers in these fields can effectively be handed down to the next generation.

Supporting Business Revitalization by Customers

We actively support business revitalization by customers, which is essential for the maintenance and development of local agricultural, forestry, and fisheries industries.

Specifically, we collaborate with private financial institutions such as main financing banks and outside experts to support the formulation of business improvement plan through close communications with customers and provide ongoing management consultations and follow-up after the plans are implemented. Specifically, as support for business revitalization by farmers, we conduct support activities that take into account the characteristics of agriculture including support for formulating plans provided by agricultural business advisors, support for business succession by utilizing the AFFF Unit's unique network, and consulting in collaboration with external experts in production technology.

In addition, we cooperate with related institutions to provide prompt and detailed responses to inquiries from customers affected by the impact of COVID-19 and large-scale natural disasters and work to support business restructuring and reconstruction.

Support for Private Financial Institutions in the Agricultural, Forestry, and Fisheries Sectors

The AFFF Unit works to create an environment that encourages private financial institutions to actively provide loans to agricultural, forestry, and fisheries businesses by providing information concerning risk assessments as well as by supporting financing and securitization.

Working to Strengthen Cooperation with Private Financial Institutions

The AFFF Unit provides loans to agricultural, forestry, and fisheries business operators and companies in the processed food industry in cooperation with private financial institutions. In FY2021, a total of 809 cooperative loans were provided in cooperation with private financial institutions ^(Note).

The AFFF Unit also provides JFC loans through 615 private financial institutions with which it has entered into outsourcing agreements. The number of JFC loans provided through private financial institutions was 9,430, and this was 56.3% of total loans.

Note: Loans (guarantees) that are disbursed or decided by both JFC and private financial institutions after consultation by both parties for loan plans with identical objectives (Calculated by JFC. Including loans made on different dates between both parties).

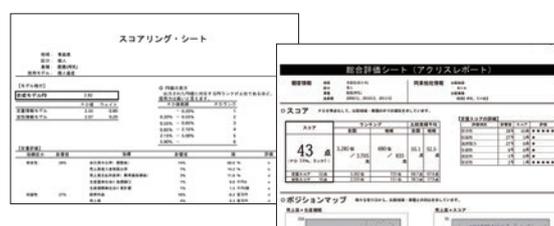
Agricultural Credit Risk Information Service (ACRIS)

The Agricultural Credit Risk Information Service (ACRIS) is an agricultural scoring model designed by the AFFF Unit to facilitate the active entry by private financial institutions into the market of agricultural finance (a fee-based membership service).

The AFFF Unit positions ACRIS as a tool for stimulating agricultural lending, and is strengthening its business collaboration with ACRIS members such as financial institutions and tax accountants.

The accuracy of the model is examined annually, and improvements are made to reflect economic conditions and other factors if necessary.

Images of scoring results obtained using ACRIS



Securitization Support

The AFFF Unit established a credit supplementation program (securitization support operation) using credit default swap (CDS) to encourage private financial institutions to promote agricultural lending. This program has been in operation since October 2008. By using this program, private financial institutions can transfer credit risks worth up to 80% of the loan amounts or a maximum of 50 million yen to JFC.

As of March 31, 2022, a total of 134 financial institutions had signed a basic agreement with the AFFF Unit.

91 of these financial institutions developed new loan products for farmers that incorporated credit supplementation under this program.

Financial institutions under CDS basic agreements with JFC (As of March 31, 2022)

	Banks	Shinkin banks	Credit cooperatives	Total
Hokkaido	1	13	2	16
Tohoku	7	5	1	13
Kanto	3	8	2	13
Chubu	7	22	4	33
Kinki	4	10	—	14
Chugoku	2	11	1	14
Shikoku	5	2	—	7
Kyushu	10	13	1	24
Total	39	84	11	134
(Of these, institutions that developed new programs)	(31)	(54)	(6)	(91)

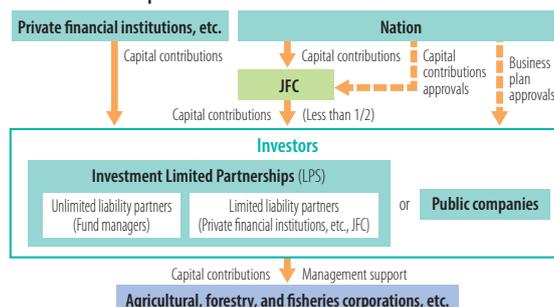
Providing Investment Support to Agricultural, Forestry and Fisheries Corporations, etc.

The AFFF Unit has been making capital contributions to Investment Limited Partnerships (LPs) and stock companies to invest in agricultural, forestry, and fisheries corporations with business program approval from the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. This is done to support the adequacy of equity capital of leading agricultural, forestry, and fisheries corporations and food processing businesses and provide capital to businesses involved in all stages of the food value chain.

(As of March 31, 2022)

	LPS	Public companies
Number of capital contributions	18 associations	1 company
Pledged investment amount or investment amount (of which invested by JFC)	6.61 billion yen (3.14 billion yen)	5.07 billion yen (2.53 billion yen)

Overview of the capital contribution scheme



Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Unit

Through its various functions such as Loan Programs and Credit Insurance Programs, the Small and Medium Enterprise Unit (SME Unit) financially supports the growth and development of SME's and micro/small businesses which are the source of Japan's economic vitality as well as the primary force underpinning regional economies.

Overview of Operations

The Roles and Scope of the SME Unit as Policy-based Financing

Policy-based financing in Japan provides financial support under the nation's key policies towards certain fields, such as new business development, business revitalization, business succession, and overseas expansion, that involve high risks.

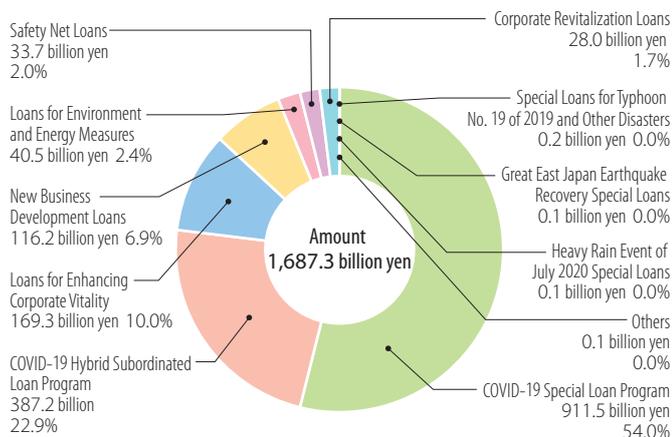
Based on these policies, while supplementing private financial institutions as a policy-based financial institution specialized in SMEs, the SME Unit supports the growth and development of SMEs and micro/small businesses through its financial tools as well as serving as a safety net function.



Loan Programs

The SME Unit complements the financing of private financial institutions through its stable, long-term, fixed interest rate loans that is needed for the business growth of SMEs.

Breakdown of loans (FY2021)



Note: Loans include corporate bonds, but excluding loans to Small and Medium Business Investment & Consultation Co., Ltd. Also, performance for respective loans is calculated while disregarding amounts of under 100 million yen.

Changes in loan performances



Note: Loans include corporate bonds, but excluding loans to facility-leasing institutions and loans to Small and Medium Business Investment & Consultation Co., Ltd.

Credit Insurance Programs

To facilitate the smooth flow of funds to SMEs and micro/small businesses, these programs focus on the acceptance of insurance on Credit Guarantee Corporations (CGCs) guaranteed liabilities associated with loans to SMEs and micro/small businesses.

- Insurance on CGCs guaranteed liabilities involving loans to SMEs and micro/small businesses
- Loans to CGCs
- Special Insurance Programs for Mid-size Enterprises
- Transitional Operation of the Machinery Credit Insurance Programs ^(Note)

Note: Suspending the acceptance of new insurance since FY2003, the SME Unit currently pays on insurance money and receives recoveries based on insurance contracts already in force (Transitional Operation of the Machinery Credit Insurance Programs).

Securitization Support Programs

With the aim of facilitating the smooth supply of unsecured funds to SMEs, these programs support private financial institutions in their endeavors based on securitization methods.

Feature of Operations

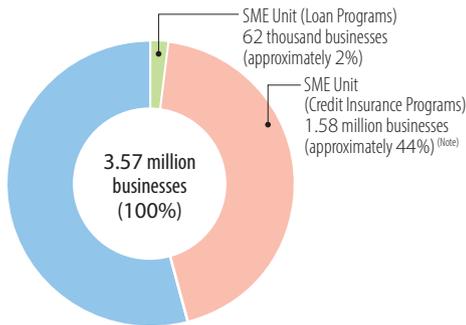
SME Unit's Clients

SMEs and micro/small businesses account for 99% of all businesses in Japan, and are both the source of Japanese economic vitality as well as the primary force underpinning regional economies.

The size and conditions of each SME and micro/small business differ, such as companies that sustain the regional economy with many employees, long-established companies with a history over 100 years and family-owned private shops.

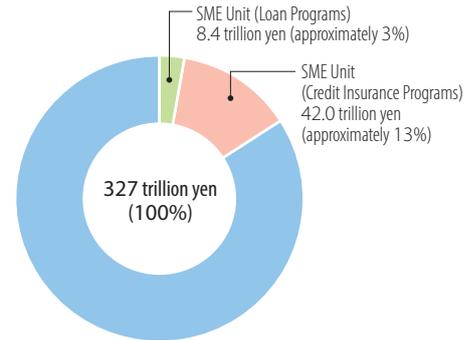
The SME Unit provides a wide range of support to meet the individual needs of each SME and micro/small business through its financial tools, Loan Programs, Credit Insurance Programs and Securitization Support Programs.

Share of SME Unit's clients in total number of businesses



Note: Number of businesses utilizing the Credit Guarantee System
 Sources: Small and Medium Enterprise Agency, "2022 White Paper on Small and Medium Enterprises in Japan"
 Note: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, "2016 Economic Census for Business Activity," edited by the Small and Medium Enterprise Agency.

Share of SME Unit's clients in total amount of outstanding loans



Source: Bank of Japan, "Deposits, Vault Cash, and Loans and Bills Discounted," and others.

The SME Unit facilitates funds to 1.64 million SMEs and micro/small businesses (approximately 46%) and accounts for 16% of outstanding loans to SMEs and micro/small businesses.

Characteristics of SME Unit's Clients

Loan Programs (Direct Loans)

- Number of businesses 62 thousand businesses
- Average loan for FY2021
 - Average loan amount per business 106 million yen
 - Average term of loan 10 years and 5 months
 - Average amount of capital per business 41 million yen
 - Average number of employees per business 79
- Approximately 80% of outstanding loans are loans to businesses with 20 employees or more, and approximately 91% have capital of 10 million yen or more.
- Covers a wide range of industries particularly manufacturing (approximately 38% of outstanding loans as of the end of FY2021)

Credit Insurance Programs

- Number of businesses 1.58 million businesses ^(Note)
- Average insurance for FY2021
 - Average amount of insurance acceptance per business ... 19 million yen
 - Average term of insurance 6 years and 3 months
 - Average number of employees per business 8
- Approximately 75% of the outstanding amounts of insurance are insurance to businesses with 20 employees or less, and approximately 72% have capital of 10 million yen or less.
- Covers a wide range of industries

Note: Number of businesses utilizing the Credit Guarantee System.

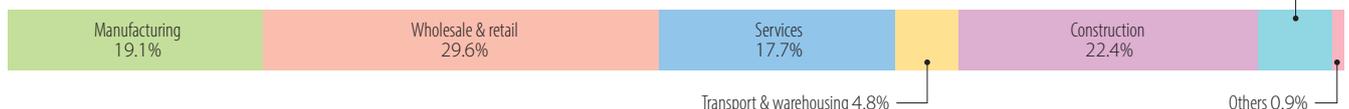
Note: Results are current as of March 31, 2022.

The SME Unit also helps to maintain employment, with the number of employees at the 62 thousand businesses having approximately 3.83 million persons (as of March 31, 2022) by direct loans.

Outstanding loans by type of industry (Loan Programs) (as of March 31, 2022)



Outstanding amounts of insurance by type of industry (Credit Insurance Programs) (as of March 31, 2022)



Loan Programs

Supplementing private financial institutions both in quality and quantity with a stable supply of long-term funds

● Dedicated to long-term funding

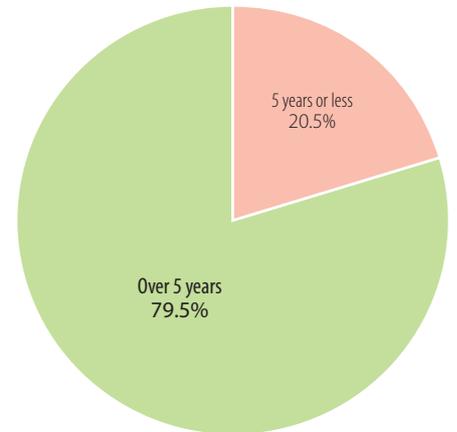
If SMEs are to grow and prosper, they must continually invest capital appropriately and consolidate their financial strength. To do this, they need to be able to raise long-term funds in a stable manner.

However, SMEs are at a disadvantage to larger enterprises in gaining access to funds from capital markets.

The SME Unit specializes in long-term funds. More than 50% of the SME Unit's loans have lending periods of over 5 years, with fixed interest rates that make it easier to map out repayment schedules.

By complementing private financial institutions, the SME Unit meets the long-term funding needs of SMEs, which are a vital component of the Japanese economy.

Breakdown of loans by lending period (share in terms of value) (FY2021)



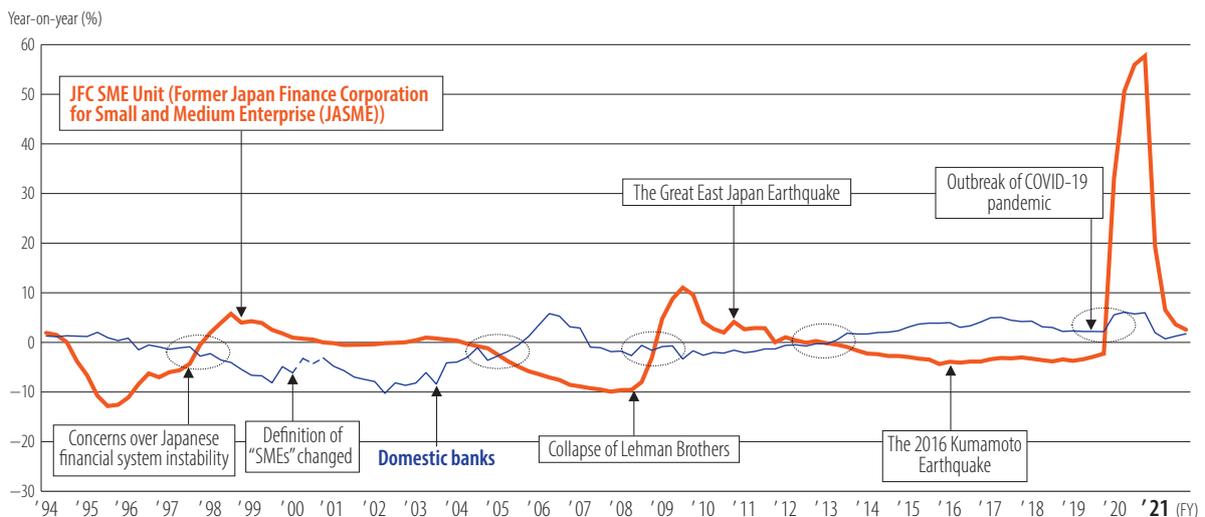
Note: Data are for fixed interest rate loans only.

● Stable supply of business funds

Growth in loans to SMEs was high during the economic downturn precipitated by the collapse of Lehman Brothers and conversely has been declining during the period of economic recovery.

Over the years, the SME Unit has provided SMEs with stable, long-term business funds by supplementing private financial institutions.

Growth rate changes in outstanding loans to SMEs (year-on-year changes)



Source: Bank of Japan, "Deposits, Vault Cash, and Loans and Bills Discounted"

Notes: 1. Domestic banks' balances refer to the outstanding of loans to SMEs covering banking accounts only.

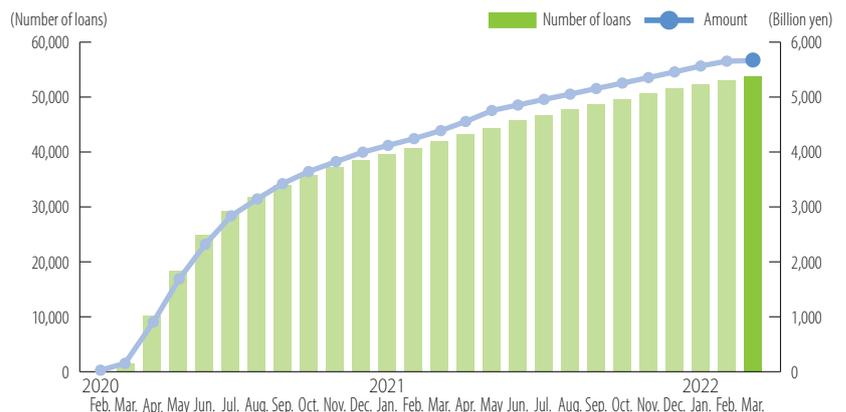
2. The definition of "SMEs" was changed in April 2000; the SME Unit has estimated the growth rate for domestic banks in the period from June 2000 to March 2001 based on the ratio between the old and new standards.

Promoting special-purpose loans based on government policies to meet the needs of the times

● Safety net

Although the initial emergency demand for funds when the COVID-19 pandemic first spread has subsided, due to the prolongation of the pandemic, we continued to support cash flows and business reconstruction by providing loans through the Great East Japan Earthquake Recovery Special Loans, Safety Net Loans, and COVID-19 Special Loan Program, and other programs, as in FY2020.

COVID-19 related loan results



Supporting new businesses

The SME Unit provides active support to SMEs trying to develop new businesses with high growth potential, such as venture companies, through Loans to Foster Growth of New Businesses. Since the program began in February 2000, 726.1 billion yen has been loaned to 15,138 businesses (as of March 31, 2022). In addition, the SME Unit also offers Stock Subscription Rights Loans, an unsecured loan program through acquisition of new share options issued by companies.

Loans to Foster Growth of New Businesses

	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021
Number of businesses	1,319	285	639
Amount of loans (billion yen)	63.4	21.6	27.2

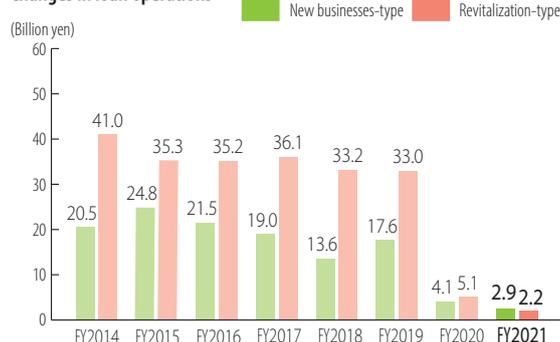
Stock Subscription Rights Loans

	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021
Number of businesses	31	15	41
Amount of loans (billion yen)	3.04	2.09	3.50

Capital subordinated loans

The SME Unit supports reinforcing the financial standing of SMEs engaged in new businesses and business reconstructions, by applying the Hybrid Subordinated Loan Program (former Provision Scheme for Challenge Support and Capital Enhancement) in cooperation with private financial institutions. Liabilities under this provision scheme may be treated as shareholders' equity under the borrower classifications determined by financial institutions.

Changes in loan operations



Support for overseas investment

The SME Unit provides active support for the overseas expansion of SMEs, such as providing Loans for Overseas Investment and Expansion, supporting the fundraising by SMEs' overseas subsidiaries and branches through the Standby Letter of Credit Program and cross-border loans, offering management consulting services and holding business network meetings abroad.

In FY2021, Loans for Overseas Investment and Expansion were utilized by 397 businesses, for a total of 25.9 billion yen.

The Standby Letter of Credit Program supports SMEs and micro/small businesses' overseas subsidiaries' and branches' smooth procurement of long-term local currency denominated funds from JFC's partnering overseas financial institutions by using JFC's standby letter of credit as a guarantee. As of March 31, 2022, the number of affiliated financial institutions, mainly in Asia, was 15 institutions.

JFC also established a scheme to partner regional financial institutions throughout Japan, and through the end of March 2022, JFC established collaborative relationships with 61 regional financial institutions.

As for FY2021, letters of credit were issued to the financial institutions in 8 countries and regions, being utilized by 85 businesses.

The cross-border loans are a program under which JFC provides direct loans to overseas subsidiaries that work with their domestic parent companies (SMEs and others) to improve management capabilities, implement management innovations, and revitalize local economies in order to adapt to structural changes overseas. The countries and regions where this program can be used are Thailand, Viet Nam, Hong Kong, and Singapore, and loans were provided to 100 borrowers, 6.0 billion yen in FY2021.

Loans for Overseas Investment and Expansion (by countries and regions) (FY2021)

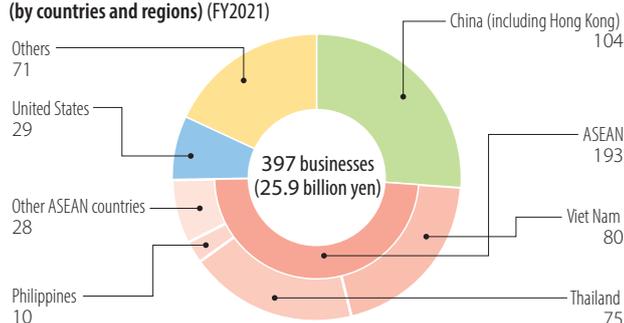
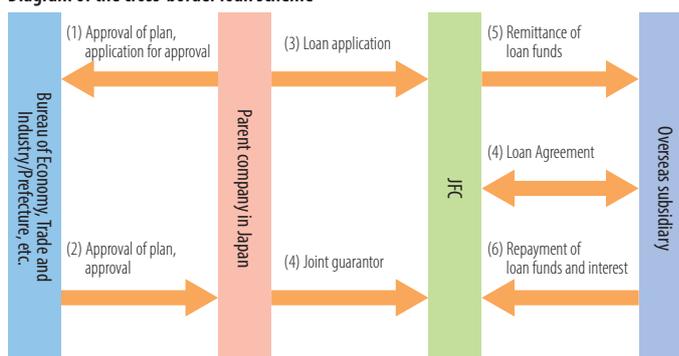


Diagram of the cross-border loan scheme



● Cooperative loans and securitization support in collaboration with private financial institutions

The SME Unit makes use of various functions including loans, securitization support, and credit guarantees as well as the screening capabilities that it has accumulated over many years and information in a database of approximately 62,000 customers nationwide to collaborate with private financial institutions and provide support to SMEs in the areas of business start-up and new business, overseas expansion, rapid business revitalization, business succession, securitization, management consultation, and human resource development. Specific activities include close exchanges of information with private financial institutions, support for cooperative loans, and joint sponsorship of business matching events and seminars on overseas business development and business succession.

In particular, since FY2018 the SME Unit has actively undertaken collaboration with private financial institutions by promoting collaborative measures with private financial institutions to enter a new stage. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we also provide financial support to affected SMEs based on existing cooperative relationships.

Changes in the number of businesses that utilize cooperative loan^(note) and change in loan amount (SME Unit)



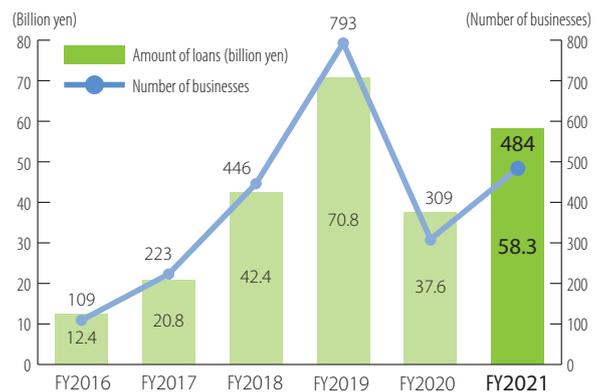
Note: Loans (guarantees) that are disbursed or decided by both JFC and private financial institutions after consultation by both parties for loan plans with identical objectives (Calculated by JFC. Including loans made on different dates between both parties).

● Loans for business succession, consolidation, and invigoration support

The SME Unit provides support through special loans for business succession, consolidation, and invigoration support so that SME without a successor can carry out M&A or acquire their own shares in order to secure stable management rights so that they can carry out succession and consolidation of their businesses or companies.

The Small and Medium Enterprise Agency positioned the promotion of business revitalization through succession, reorganization, and consolidation as a priority measure for FY 2018 and later. The SME Unit will continue to use these loan programs to support SMEs that are undertaking business or company succession and consolidation.

Loans for business succession, consolidation, and invigoration support



Supporting the growth of businesses

● Businesses that have utilized JFC funds are flourishing in many fields

A total of 746 businesses^(Note) have gone public after receiving support from the SME Unit, representing roughly 20% of all Japanese businesses that are publicly held. Many of these are flourishing as leading companies in Japan.

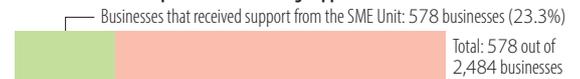
The number of businesses going public after receiving support from the SME Unit since 1989 is 578^(Note), accounting for roughly 20% of the total number of businesses that went.

Note: The number of publicly listed businesses is as of April 3, 2022 (excluding delisted businesses and businesses that have dissolved due to merger, etc.).

Businesses that went public after receiving support from the SME Unit



Businesses that went public after receiving support from the SME Unit since 1989



Source: JFC SME Unit. The number of publicly held businesses is as of April 3, 2022. Businesses in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, finance, and insurance, as well as foreign-owned corporations are excluded.

An Invaluable Source of Financing during Our Start-up Period

INAMORI Kazuo, Honorary Chairman of Kyocera Corporation (listed in the first section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange)

Around the third year after Kyocera was founded, I was a managing executive director and visited banks in search of funding for capital investment. However, we did not have any collateral and were ultimately unsuccessful in borrowing funds. Eventually I was introduced to Japan Finance Corporation for Small and Medium Enterprise (JASME; current JFC), and gratefully accepted the opportunity to meet the branch manager. I made a faltering pitch, "We are a small venture company that just started up. We have generated over 10% profits since our first year of operation. I ask that you believe in the results that my three years of hard work have produced and grant our company a loan." Perhaps my earnest appeal hit the mark. After a pause, the branch manager replied "All right. We will extend you a loan against the machinery you plan to buy with the funds." I remember how deeply moved I was by the manager's courageous decision to believe in us and grant a loan against collateral to be purchased later, in what amounted to a very risky decision in light of the accepted wisdom of financial institutions at the time.

It is thanks to the decision made 40 years ago by that branch manager, who extended funding to us on the basis of our character when no other financial institution would, that today's Kyocera exists.

Source: Extracted from a column entitled "A 50 Year History of Japan Finance Corporation for Small and Medium Enterprise (JASME)," published by JASME in December 2003 (author's title is that held at time of writing).

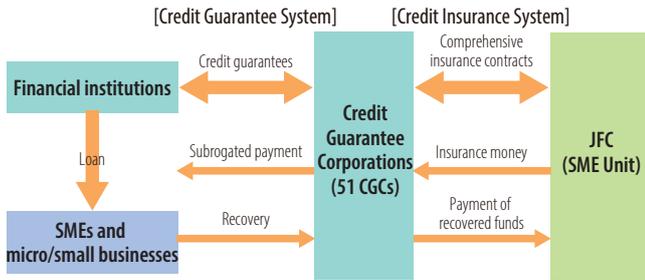
Credit Insurance Programs

Facilitating the smooth flow of funds to SMEs and micro/small businesses by working together with the Credit Guarantee System

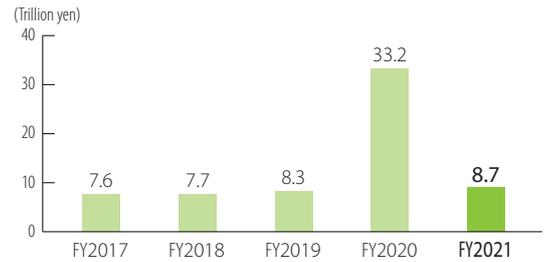
● Role of the Credit Insurance System

The SME Unit insures guaranteed liabilities (credit guarantees) provided by CGCs to SMEs and micro/small businesses that fall short in terms of collateral or creditworthiness when raising funds from financial institutions or issuing corporate bonds. Instituted under the Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Credit Insurance Act (Act No. 264 of 1950), the purpose of the Credit Insurance System is to promote the development of SMEs and micro/small businesses by insuring guarantees for SME loans and similar liabilities. It is designed so that the Credit Insurance System and the Credit Guarantee System together facilitate the smooth supply of business funds for SMEs and micro/small businesses. This mechanism is known as the Credit Supplementation System and plays a vital role in the Japanese government’s SME finance policy.

Overview of the Credit Supplementation System



Changes in the amounts of insurance acceptance



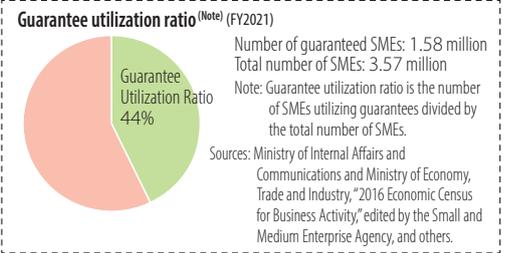
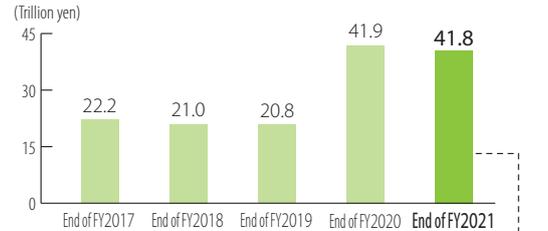
● 44% of SMEs utilize the Credit Supplementation System

As of March 31, 2022, the portion of outstanding loans to SMEs guaranteed by CGCs (outstanding guaranteed liabilities) amounted to 41 trillion yen, accounting for 13% of all loans to SMEs.

Moreover, 1.58 million SMEs and micro/small businesses, accounting for 44% of all SMEs in Japan, were raising funds with the support of the Credit Guarantee System.

By providing insurance on such guarantees, the Credit Insurance System is contributing to the management stability of SMEs and micro/small businesses, and to their growth and prosperity by facilitating smooth flow of funds.

Changes in outstanding guaranteed liabilities and guarantee utilization ratio of 51 CGCs throughout Japan



Securitization Support Programs

● Supporting the smooth supply of unsecured funds by private financial institutions using securitization methods

The securitization of loan claims for SMEs is conducted from the standpoint of ensuring smooth facilitation of SME financing.

In FY2021, the “synthetic CLO of regional financial institutions (Clover 2022 LLC)” was issued in the securitization support purchasing business. Besides entering into credit default swap (CDS) contracts with 23 regional financial institutions, the SME Unit acquired 8.3 billion yen of the 33.4 billion yen in corporate bonds issued by the special-purpose company (SPC) (Clover 2022 LLC), and also guaranteed 6.1 billion yen in the bonds. 34.3 billion yen in unsecured loans were provided to 1,712 businesses in 29 prefectures by this CLO.

By appropriately sharing the credit risks, credit analysis and administrative burdens of securitization, the SME Unit offers securitization methods convenient for private financial institutions to smoothly supply unsecured funds to SMEs and to diversify the means by which SMEs can obtain funds. While fulfilling its pioneering roles as a policy-based financial institution, the Unit will also contribute to the promotion and development of the securitization market.

Methods of securitization support

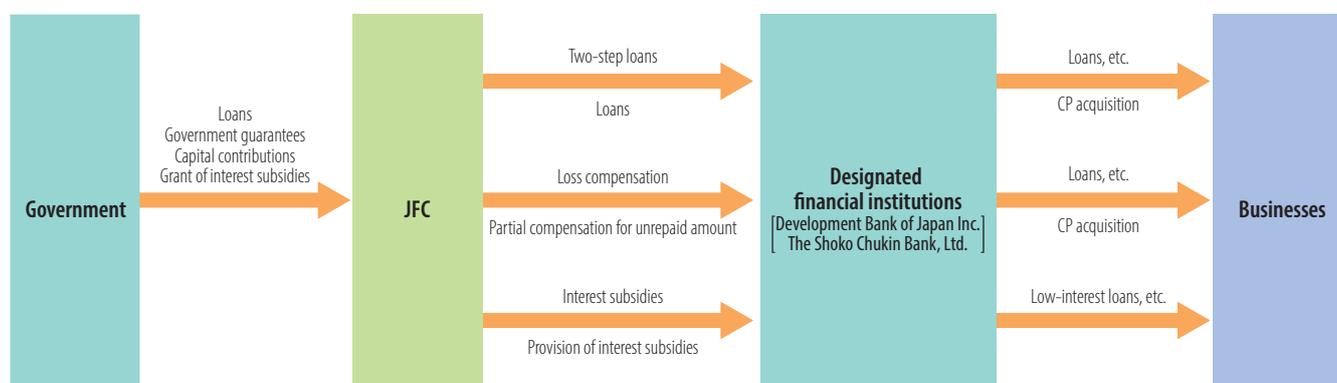
Purchase-type
 Operations that involve the securitization of unsecured SME loan claims, etc., acquired by way of transfer from private financial institutions or the use of credit default swap (CDS) contracts

Guarantee-type
 Operations that involve the partial guarantee of unsecured SME loan claims, etc., securitized by private financial institutions as well as the guarantee of partial purchase of securitized instruments

Operations to Facilitate Crisis Responses and Specific Businesses Promotion, etc.

Overview of Operations to Facilitate Crisis Responses

At the occurrence of such event as domestic or international financial disorder and large-scale natural disasters that is declared a crisis by the competent ministers, JFC provides certain specified type of credit to the financial institutions designated by the competent ministers. Since a business's credit risk generally increases at the time of a crisis, it is assumed that private financial institutions would be unable to provide a satisfactory amount of funds. As a measure to counter this situation, JFC supplies credit to the designated financial institutions to encourage smooth funding of the affected business.



[Crisis response operations to date]

- Cases related to the Disaster Relief Act
- Cases related to special consultation desks
- Cases related to turmoil in the international financial order
- Cases related to the Great East Japan Earthquake
- Cases related to the disaster by the Kumamoto Earthquake in 2016
- Cases related to COVID-19 pandemic

● Loans (two-step loans)

JFC provides loans from fiscal loan funds, etc. to designated financial institutions. The balance as of March 31, 2022 was 4,359.9 billion yen.

● Interest subsidies

JFC provides interest subsidies to designated financial institutions for loans, etc., made by those institutions through loans and partial risk complementation by JFC.

● Partial risk complementation (loss compensation transaction)

JFC collects compensation premiums from the designated financial institutions, and compensates for a certain proportion of losses incurred through loans, etc. conducted by the designated financial institutions. The balance of underwritten loss compensation as of March 31, 2022 was 2,752.1 billion yen (on a basis of reports from designated financial institutions).

Results of operations to facilitate crisis responses

	Second Half FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021
Two-step loans	1,430.1	3,869.3	405.2	1,153.4	733.7	559.3	130.0	105.2	529.2	85.4	—	35.0	3,549.4	291.2
Loans, etc.	1,130.3	3,529.4	405.2	1,153.4	733.7	559.3	130.0	105.2	529.2	85.4	—	35.0	3,549.4	291.2
Commercial paper (CP) acquisitions	299.8	339.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Loss compensation	345.1	1,811.9	1,893.3	1,739.8	1,470.2	1,409.3	1,234.2	1,077.5	547.3	89.2	1.0	0.8	2,364.5	593.1
Loans, etc.	345.1	1,781.9	1,893.3	1,739.8	1,470.2	1,409.3	1,234.2	1,077.5	547.3	89.2	1.0	0.8	2,364.5	593.1
Commercial paper (CP) acquisitions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Equity participations	—	30.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Interest subsidies	—	—	0.3	2.4	7.8	10.9	12.4	11.0	5.4	12.6	4.9	2.7	4.6	18.2

Notes: 1. The figures for the two-step loans refer to the amounts of loans JFC provided to the designated financial institutions (Development Bank of Japan Inc. and The Shoko Chukin Bank, Ltd.) through the end of March 2022.

2. With respect to loss compensation, the figures for loans, etc. represent the amounts of loans provided by designated financial institutions through the end of March 2022, with loss compensation underwritten by JFC for losses incurred until May 10, 2022.

Equity participation figures (pertaining to the Act on Special Measures for Industrial Revitalization) are the amounts of equity investments made by designated financial institutions through the end of March 2013, with loss compensation underwritten by JFC.

3. The figures for interest subsidies represent the amounts of interest subsidies JFC provided to designated financial institutions for loans, etc. provided by the designated financial institutions through the end of September 2021 (in principle, disbursements pertaining to the period from October 1 each year to March 31 of the following year are made by June 10, while those pertaining to the period from April 1 to September 30 are made by December 10).

Overview of Operations to Facilitate Specific Businesses Promotion

In accordance with the Act on the Promotion of Businesses to Develop and Manufacture Energy and Environmentally Friendly Products (Act No. 38 of 2010), JFC lends funds (two-step loans) needed for loans that are provided by designated financial institutions to certified businesses who are going to implement specific businesses certified by competent ministers. The balance as of March 31, 2022 was 12.3 billion yen.

Overview of Operations to Facilitate Business Restructuring Promotion

In accordance with the Industrial Competitiveness Enhancement Act (Act No. 98 of 2013), JFC lends funds (two-step loans) needed for loans that are provided by designated financial institutions to certified businesses, etc. who are going to implement business restructuring or special business restructuring certified by competent ministers for the purpose of improving business productivity in order to enhance industrial competitiveness. The balance as of March 31, 2022 was 90.0 billion yen.

Overview of Operations to Facilitate Business Adaptation Promotion

In accordance with the Industrial Competitiveness Enhancement Act (Act No. 98 of 2013), JFC provides interest subsidies and lends funds (two-step loans) needed for loans that are provided by designated financial institutions to certified businesses who are going to implement business adaptation certified by competent ministers for the purpose of improving business productivity in order to enhance industrial competitiveness.

Overview of Operations to Facilitate Development and Supply Promotion, etc.

In accordance with the Act on Promotion of Developing/Supplying and Introducing Systems Making Use of Specified Advanced Information Communication Technologies (Act No. 37 of 2020), JFC lends funds (two-step loans) needed for loans that are provided by designated financial institutions to certified businesses that are going to develop, supply, etc. systems that make use of specified advanced information communication technologies or develop specified semiconductor production facilities, etc. certified by competent ministers.

Overview of Operations to Facilitate Business Foundation Reinforcement Promotion

Pursuant to the Shipbuilding Act (Act No. 129 of 1950), this program provides funds for loans (two-step loans) provided by designated financial institutions to approved businesses that intend to strengthen their business structure as approved by competent ministers. The balance as of March 31, 2022 was 8.5 billion yen.

Overview of Operations to Facilitate Business Introduction Promotion

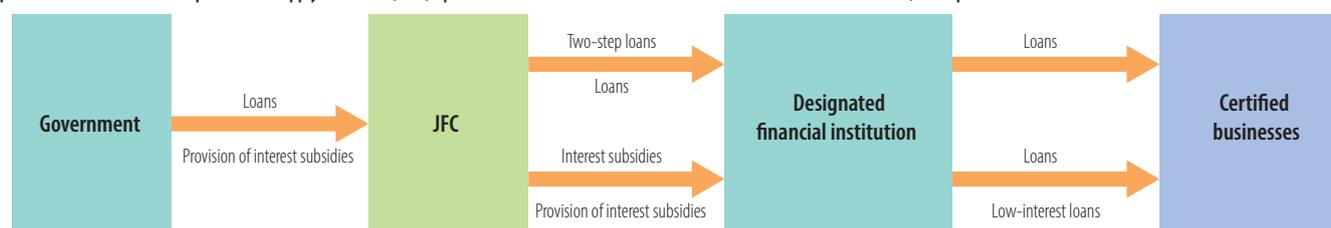
Pursuant to the Marine Transportation Act (Act No. 187 of 1949), this program provides funds for loans (two-step loans) provided by designated financial institutions to approved operators who plan to introduce specified vehicles approved by competent ministers.

Results of Operations to Facilitate Specific Businesses Promotion, Operations to Facilitate Business Restructuring Promotion, Operations to Facilitate Business Adaptation Promotion, Operations to Facilitate Development and Supply Promotion, etc., Operations to Facilitate Business Foundation Reinforcement Promotion, and Operations to Facilitate Business Introduction Promotion (Two-step Loans) (Billion yen)

	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021
Operations to Facilitate Specific Businesses Promotion	20.0	1.3	7.8	10.6	2.9	1.1	1.0	0.5	—	—	—	—
Operations to Facilitate Business Restructuring Promotion	—	—	25.0	—	20.0	—	—	—	—	100.0	—	—
Operations to Facilitate Business Adaptation Promotion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Operations to Facilitate Development and Supply Promotion, etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Operations to Facilitate Business Foundation Reinforcement Promotion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8.5
Operations to Facilitate Business Introduction Promotion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Notes: 1. The figures refer to the amount of loans provided by JFC to the designated financial institution (Development Bank of Japan Inc.) through the end of March 2022. There are no interest subsidies.
 2. Day of commencement of operations: Operations to Facilitate Specific Businesses Promotion: August 16, 2010; Operations to Facilitate Business Restructuring Promotion: January 20, 2014; Operations to Facilitate Business Adaptation Promotion: August 2, 2021; Operations to Facilitate Development and Supply Promotion, etc.: August 31, 2020; Operations to Facilitate Business Foundation Reinforcement Promotion: August 24, 2021; Operations to Facilitate Business Introduction Promotion: August 24, 2021.
 3. The figures before the start of Operations to Facilitate Business Restructuring Promotion are of loans issued under Operations to Facilitate Business Restructuring Promotion, etc. in accordance with the Act on the Special Measures for Industrial Revitalization and Innovation (Act No. 131 of 1999) that was abolished with the enactment of the Industrial Competitiveness Enhancement Act on January 20, 2014.

Mechanism for Operations to Facilitate Specific Businesses Promotion, Operations to Facilitate Business Restructuring Promotion, Operations to Facilitate Business Adaptation Promotion, Operations to Facilitate Development and Supply Promotion, etc., Operations to Facilitate Business Foundation Reinforcement Promotion, and Operations to Facilitate Business Introduction Promotion



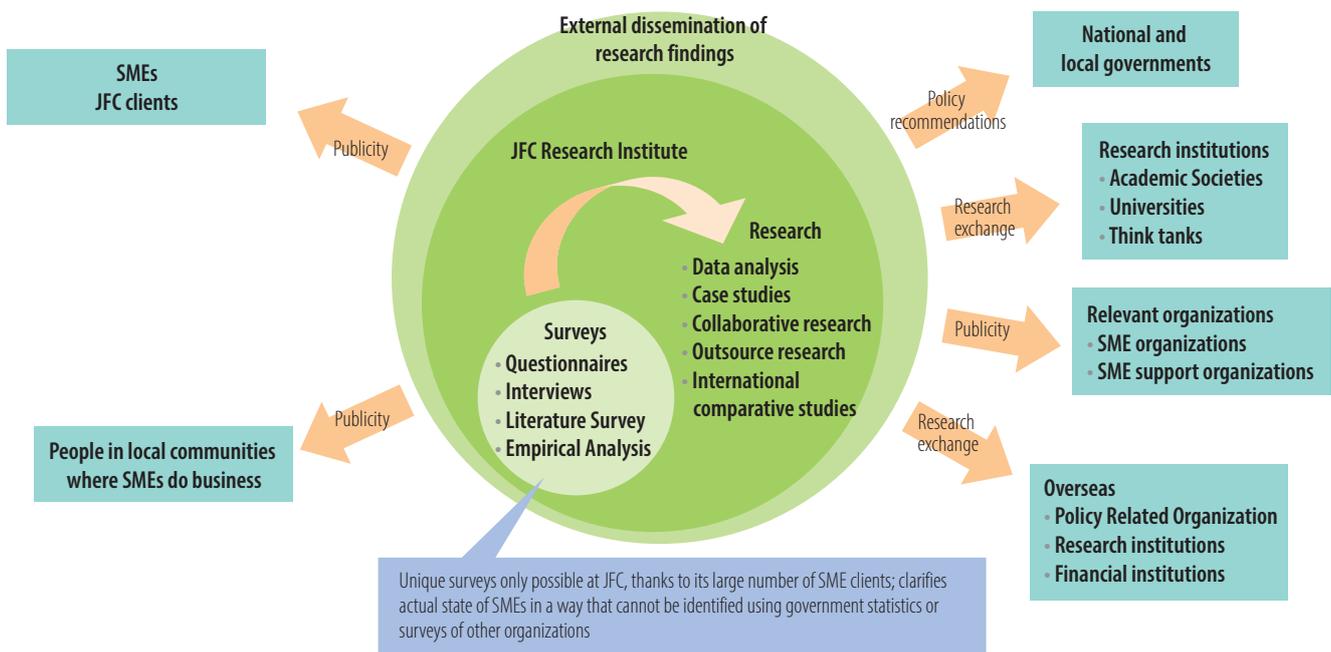
Notes: 1. Financial institutions that submit applications and receive designations from competent ministers.
 2. Interest subsidies are available only for Operations to Facilitate Business Adaptation Promotion (related to carbon neutrality).

Research Institute

**Striving for High Research Quality,
Based on Field Work Only Possible at JFC with its Large Number of SME Clients**

Functions and Features of the Research Institute

Research Institute is a comprehensive research institution whose research targets are a diverse range of SMEs, from micro businesses operated only by entrepreneurs and their families to high-tech ventures on the verge of going public. Relying on questionnaire- and interview-based surveys, as well as other types of field work only possible at JFC with its large number of SME clients, the Research Institute engages in highly specialized, original, and leading-edge research activities.



Surveys on SME Business Sentiment

● Quarterly Survey on SME Trends

This quarterly survey is comprised of two parts: the micro business section, which surveys 10,000 micro businesses having fewer than 20 workers (employees and entrepreneurs/CEOs); and the SME section, which surveys about 13,000 SMEs that generally employ at least 20 workers. It is a massive survey of economic outlook, which covers the whole gamut of SMEs, from self-employed individuals to businesses employing 300 workers.

● Monthly Survey on Micro and Small Business Trends

This monthly survey targets 1,500 micro and small businesses having fewer than 20 workers. The survey captures the current business sentiment of small businesses in a timely manner by telephone surveys, which reduce the turnaround time for reporting.

● Monthly Survey on SME Trends

This monthly survey of business sentiment covers 900 relatively large SMEs. The feature of this survey is that in Japan's three major metropolitan areas, the manufacturing industry is given heavy emphasis. The survey has a history of more than 50 years since its inception in 1963, and its sales forecast diffusion index (DI) has been adopted by the Japanese government as a leading index of economic indicators.

● Survey on Capital Investments by Manufacturing SMEs

This biannual survey reports on planned and actual capital investment among 30,000 SME manufacturers that employ between 20 and 299 employees. This is the largest and most detailed survey in Japan of capital investment trends among SMEs.

Thematic Research on the Current State and Issues Faced by SMEs

Surveys are conducted by selecting timely themes, such as the issues faced by SMEs, industries centered around SMEs, and trends in regional economies. Further research is conducted based on the survey results. Research findings are compiled into papers and reports, and are disseminated by means of journals, books, and other publications, as well as by way of academic societies and various types of research projects, etc.

* Some of papers, reports, and survey results can be viewed on JFC's website in English.

● Research on the Structural Problems of SMEs

Surveys and research are conducted on structural problems faced by SMEs, including business start-ups, business succession, employment, financing, and involvement in local economies and communities.

– Main Surveys (conducted in FY2021) –

- Survey on Business Start-ups (FY2021 regular and special surveys)
- Panel Survey on Business Start-ups
- Survey on Starting Businesses and Entrepreneurial Minds
- Survey on Business Start-ups under the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Survey on Awareness of Residents Concerning Relocation Start-ups
- Research on the Relationship between Start-up Experience or Employment Experience and Increases in Income
- Survey on the Intention of Children to Succeed Their Parents' Businesses
- Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on SMEs

– Main Research Papers and Reports (released in FY2021) –

- ◇ The Status of Damage from and Preparation for Natural Disasters by SMEs
- ◇ Consideration of Relocating Entrepreneurs in Terms of Region and Career
- ◇ Increase in Foreign CEOs in Japan and Their Overall Picture
- ◇ Survey on the Impacts of Natural Disasters on SME Management: Analysis of Conditions Based on Quarterly Survey on SME Trends
- ◇ Unique Appeals of SMEs that Use Cutting-Edge Technologies
- ◇ Does Business Start-up Experience Impede Career Redevelopment?: Analysis of Data from the Survey on Starting Businesses and Entrepreneurial Minds
- ◇ Can General Abilities Enhance Start-up Performance?: Reverification of the Jack of All Trade Hypothesis
- ◇ Five-Year Trends of Companies Started in 2016 Based on the Results of the Panel Survey on Business Start-ups (the Fourth Cohort)

● Research on Management Issues of SMEs

Cases are collected of SMEs that overcame the handicap of limited management resources, such as human capital, physical capital, and financial capital, to achieve success. Research findings are published annually as a book of case studies.

– FY2021 survey –

- Survey on No-Contact Business by SMEs

– FY2021 publication –

- ◇ Use by Small Companies of IoT, Robots, AI and Big Data

● Research on Domestic and International Industry and Regional Economic Trends

The latest trends occurring around SMEs, including innovations in technology and changes in production systems, are viewed from the perspective of industrial policy. Also, the movements of SMEs are tracked from the contemporary perspective of promoting local economies, including their role in regional revitalization.

– Main Surveys (conducted in FY2021) –

- Design Strategies of SMEs
- The Current Situation of Information Security in SMEs
- Small and Medium Manufacturers Opening up a Career in DtoC
- SMEs Providing Eco-friendly Products and Services

– Main Research Papers and Reports (released in FY2021) –

- ◇ SMEs Finding Opportunities in Subscription Business
- ◇ Constellation Business Expands SMEs' Opportunities to Enter the Space Industry
- ◇ SMEs Increasing Competitiveness through "Design"
- ◇ SMEs Should Enhance Cybersecurity
- ◇ DtoC Strengthening Sales Capabilities of SMEs
- ◇ SMEs Developing and Promoting Alternative Materials for Plastics

Research Results and Reports at Academic Societies

● 41st Conference of the Japan Academy of Small Business Studies (October 10, 2021)

"Characteristics of SMEs Continuing Their Business under Natural Disasters and Their Effective Measures"

The status of business interruption during natural disasters of SMEs that incurred damage from major natural disasters in the 2010s was analyzed and the features of businesses that were able to continue business and effective efforts to prevent and mitigate damage were clarified.

● 24th JASV Annual Academic Meeting (December 4, 2021)

"Consideration of the Performance of Relocation Start-ups"

There are expectations for the growth of business start-ups by relocating entrepreneurs from the perspective of regional revitalization. Data on actions at the relocation sites, attributes of businesses, and other factors were tabulated, indicating that measures to understand regional characteristics before relocation enhanced business performance.

Publications Issued by the Research Institute

● Periodical Publications



JFCRI Quarterly Research Report

Quarterly (published on the 25th of February, May, August, and November)

Contains academic research papers written by staff from the Research Institute.

Papers from outside the Research Institute are also included, giving SME researchers an opportunity to publish their research.

— Main Papers Published in Volume 55 (May 2022) —

Roles Required of Relocating Entrepreneurs and Local Residents in the Era of Declining Populations

Impact of COVID-19 on Start-up Enterprises

Transnational Start-ups under the COVID-19 Pandemic

SMEs Implementing Management Innovations in the Use of Time and Space



JFC Research Institute Report

Published occasionally

This research report brings together the latest research findings on the current state of SMEs and the issues they face, and disseminates those findings in a timely manner.



Monthly Report

Published on the 5th of every month

The aim of this magazine is to disseminate the research findings of the Research Institute to researchers, business managers and officials from SME support organizations, and other readers in a way that is easy for them to understand.

● Books



White Paper on Business Start-ups

Based on the results of the Survey on Business Start-ups, this paper analyzes the trend of business start-ups according to the latest themes.

Published annually since 1992, the document is important literature in the field of researches on business start-ups in Japan.

— Main Contents of 2022 Edition —

Summary of Results: Survey on Business Start-ups (FY2021)

Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic as Seen from the Survey on Business Start-ups

Overview of the Results of the Follow-up Survey on Business Start-ups under the COVID-19 Pandemic

Summary of Results: Survey on Starting Businesses and Entrepreneurial Minds (FY2021)

Phased Relocation of Sole Proprietors during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Transnational Start-ups under the COVID-19 Pandemic



The Future of Relocation Start-ups and Local Communities

A publication examining the status of relocation start-ups based on the results of a questionnaire administered to both entrepreneurs who relocated and local residents as well as regional case studies. The report analyzes the measures for the raising interest of regional sites under the COVID-19 pandemic leading to relocation start-ups and achieving regional revitalization.



SMEs Challenging the Status Quo of Time and Space

The results of case study research relating to SME management. Initiatives by SMEs developing contactless business models by employing innovative uses of time and space are summarized. The effective use of management resources by small companies and measures for maintaining and developing management are examined.