

Sendai Multicultural Center News

Taxes

There are many different taxes in Japan. People who work, live, and buy things in Japan pay taxes to the national government, prefecture, city, etc. Collected taxes are used for the livelihoods of people who live in Japan.

In this volume is an introduction to the main types of taxes and what to be careful of when paying taxes. Let's gain an understanding of the taxes that everyone pays.



Types of Taxes and Details

<Income Tax>

Tax paid to the national government

- Paid by those who receive money such as salary income from working, or those who make money through their own business.
- Amount paid is determined by salary income during the one year period from January 1 to December 31.
- Paid monthly from workplace salary income (withholding tax) or by filing a tax return to a tax office.
- Those with over 200,000 yen of income from a source other than their salary income also need to file a tax return.

【Words Related to Income Tax】

Withholding tax	Pay by withholding money from salary income.
Year-end adjustment	Calculated in December if taxes paid from January to November are too much or too little. If too much was paid, that amount is returned by adding it to December's pay.

File a tax return	If tax withholding or year-end adjustment is not done, a tax return for January to December's taxes is filed in February or March. Overpaid taxes are returned. If not enough was paid, additional taxes are paid.
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<Inhabitant Tax>

Tax paid to prefecture, city, etc.

- Paid by those who had an address in Japan on January 1 and had income such as salary income during the previous year.
- How much is paid is determined by salary income from January 1 to December 31 of the previous year.
- Either paid by an employer which deducts money from salary income every month or by using tax payment slips which are sent to homes by mail and paid at convenience stores, banks, etc.

<Consumption Tax>

Tax paid when buying something or using a service

- Tax of 8% or 10% paid together with payment for a product.

Continued on next page

Publications in Six Languages

In addition to English, we also have publications in Japanese / にほんご, Chinese / 中文, Korean / 한국어, Vietnamese / Tiếng Việt, and Nepali / नेपाली. They can also be viewed on our website, or found at the Sendai Multicultural Center.



<Automobile Tax>

Tax paid when buying or possessing a car

- Paid at a store together with payment when buying a car.
- Around April or May of every year, a letter for payment will be sent to those who possess a car. It is paid by the deadline at a bank, post office, or convenience store.
- Amount changes based on the type of car.



<Vehicle Weight Tax>

Tax paid when paying for a car inspection

- Often paid when having a car checked for whether or not it can be driven safely (car inspection).
- Amount determined by vehicle weight.

< Fixed Asset Tax>

Tax paid by those who possess land, a building (house, apartment, store, etc.), or something used for a business

- Paid by those who possess land, a building, or something used for a business on January 1 every year.
- Those who possess depreciable assets used for a business must inform the government office of the area in which they live in by January 31.
- Paid using payment slips which are mailed to homes and paid at convenience stores, banks, and post offices.

Things to be careful of

- Inhabitant taxes depend on income such as salary income of the previous year from what city or town you lived in on January 1. Even if you move or return to your home country in the middle of the year, you must pay. Either pay the remaining inhabitant taxes before returning to your home country, or choose a proxy (someone who will take care of tax procedures in your place) if you are unable to pay beforehand.
- If you do not pay taxes by the deadline, or ignore tax notices if you do not have enough money, it can lead to trouble later on such as

receiving a letter of demand or being unable to renew your period of stay. Consultations regarding payment can be done at government offices or tax offices. Please make sure to pay your taxes.

If wanting to know something about taxes

- ◆ National Tax Agency website
 - Japanese <https://www.nta.go.jp/> 
 - English <https://www.nta.go.jp/english> 
- Tax Answer ※ Japanese
 - Can look up frequently asked questions concerning taxes. 
 - <https://www.nta.go.jp/taxes/shiraberu/taxanswer/index2.htm>
- Information for Taxpayers ※ English
 - <https://www.nta.go.jp/english/taxes/> 
- ◆ “Life in Sendai” (published by City of Sendai)
 - Available in Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, and Nepali 
 - <https://int.sentia-sendai.jp/foreigner/>
- ◆ SenTIA International Relations Department Website
 - [https://int.sentia-sendai.jp/e/information/Information in Foreign Languages > Daily Life > Taxes · Pension · Payment > Payment Notifications from Ward Offices](https://int.sentia-sendai.jp/e/information/Information%20in%20Foreign%20Languages%20%26%20Daily%20Life%20%26%20Taxes%20%26%20Pension%20%26%20Payment%20%26%20Payment%20Notifications%20from%20Ward%20Offices) 
 - Available in Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, and Nepali

When wanting consultation

If you don't understand something about taxes, please consult with a ward office, tax office, or tax accountant.

Please use the Sendai Multicultural Center's Interpretation Support Hotline (022-224-1919) if you have difficulty consulting in Japanese, you can receive language support.

Notice: Regarding specialist consultations with tax accountants

Specialist consultations with tax accountants are available at the Sendai Multicultural Center. They are held four times a year. Employees from the Tohoku Tax Accountant's Association will come to answer questions and help with problems related to taxes.

For example, you can consult about the differences between taxes in your home country and Japan, how to create a tax return, and how to pay taxes when returning to your home country. Those who own a shop in Japan, or have a job importing or exporting goods must properly file their taxes. If you have questions like these, please make good use of these specialist consultations.

As these specialist consultations are held four times a year, if you need to have a consultation right away, use the Tohoku Tax Accountant's Association's "Free Tax Consultation Service for Foreigners." It can be used for consultation any time. Download the Information for Consulting form on the website, write what you want to ask

about, and send it by email or fax. A response from the Tohoku Tax Accountant's Association will be given by email or telephone within one week. Consultation can also be done in English.

◆ Specialist Consultations with Tax Accountants (Sendai Multicultural Center)

Application	Email or telephone
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For details, please see the back side.

◆ Free Tax Consultation Service for Foreigner (Tohoku Tax Accountant's Association)

Application	Send Information for Consulting form by Email or FAX
Email	info@tohokuzeirishikai.or.jp
FAX	(022) 293-6731
TEL	(022) 293-0503
Address	Shintera 1-7-41, Wakabayashi-ku, Sendai, 984-0051
URL	 https://www.tohokuzeirishikai.or.jp/general/freeconsultation.php

Advisor Corner "Thoughts on Taxes"

Thoughts and experiences from advisors on this issue's theme

In the English-speaking world, we have an idiom which says "in this world, nothing is certain except death and taxes." I believe that taxes is a concept which is shared among all of humanity, even though we find ourselves on a planet full of strife and misunderstandings. To be honest, it isn't an incredibly fun connection to others, but at the very least people in every country have experience with taxes, and it is something which links everyone living in Japan, including non-Japanese residents.

That being said, there are differences in tax collection and systems depending on the country. For example, you must declare your income at the beginning of every fiscal year in America, and depending on your household circumstances you may have to submit dozens of pages of documents. Laws vary by state, but depending on where you live, there may be even more documents to submit. Thankfully,

filing your taxes has become a bit easier in comparison to before since you can use a computer.

On the other hand, since moving to Japan I pay income and inhabitant taxes like in America, but I don't have to submit documents every year, with taxes being automatically taken out of my paycheck. In comparison, it is an easier process. As I live as a foreigner here in Japan, I need to declare my income to the Internal Revenue Service in America so I don't get double taxed by both countries, but paperwork is easier than in America. (Advisor T)

Each advisor writes in the "Advisor Corner" each issue in all language versions.

The Japanese translation for each is on our blog. Please have a look.

Sendai Multicultural Center

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仙台多文化共生センター



Opening Hours Daily 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Closed during the New Year's holidays and 1 to 2 days per month for maintenance)

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TEL (022) 265 - 2471

FAX (022) 265 - 2472

Email tabunka@sentia-sendai.jp

URL <https://int.sentia-sendai.jp/e/exchange/>



■ Advice in foreign languages

We are able to give advice in many languages for daily-life troubles or problems. Please call the Interpretation Support Hotline on (022) 224-1919.

Languages available: English, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Nepali, Tagalog, Thai, Portuguese, Spanish, Russian, Indonesian, Italian, French, German, Malay, Khmer, Burmese, Mongolian, Sinhala

■ Other Services

We have lecture rooms, a children's playroom, a bulletin board, and book rental. We also have spaces for interaction and information on citizen activities.

Specialist Consultations for Foreign Residents

We periodically hold specialist consultations with lawyers, administrative scriveners and so on. If there are matters that are affecting your life in Sendai, please feel free to have a consultation. Consultations are confidential, and are limited to 30 minutes per person. Consultations are held from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

You can check the consultation dates on our website.

<https://int.sentia-sendai.jp/e/exchange/consultation.html>



Administrative Scrivener



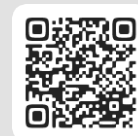
Lawyer



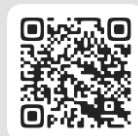
Labour Bureau



Immigration Bureau



Tax Accountant



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