

27, July 2018

【For inquiries】

Directorate-General for Human Resources Development
Director, Vocational Ability Evaluation Division

Akio Takihara

Director, National Skill Test Office

Hideo Kamaishi

TEL +81 3 5253 1111 (ex.5936)

+81 3 3502 6958

To the press,

Annual Report on the National Skill Test 2017

New certificates issued for 330,000 Skilled Professionals in Japan

The Ministry has published the annual report of National Skill Test in 2017 fiscal year (April 2017-March 2018). As a result, the number of successful applicants, i.e., Certified Skilled Professionals, is 328,778 in FY 2017, increased by 25,234 (8.3%) from FY 2016.

National Skill Test system is to qualify the extent of professional skills that should be gained or required for working, and is now conducted by 130 job categories. Those who have successfully passed the test may refer to themselves as “Certified Skilled Professionals” by the Human Resources Development Promotion Act. In the accumulated total since the system started in 1959, about 6.7 million people are qualified as “Certified Skilled Professionals”.

SUMMARY

- Overall number of applicants is 784,048, increased by 26,668(3.5%) from the previous year
- Overall number of successful applicants is 328,778, increased by 25,234(8.3%) from the previous year
 - ◇ The passing rate* is 41.9%, roughly the same as previous year (40.1%)
 - ◇ The cumulative number of successful applicants is 6,649,982 since the system started
- Of all job categories, financial planning is the most: 467,876 applicants
- Among the grades, grade 2 (upper grade) is the most: 334,364 applicants

*The passing rate: the number of successful applicants divided by the number of total applicants

Attachment: “The number of applicants of National Skill Test 2017”

The Number of applicants of National Skill Test 2017

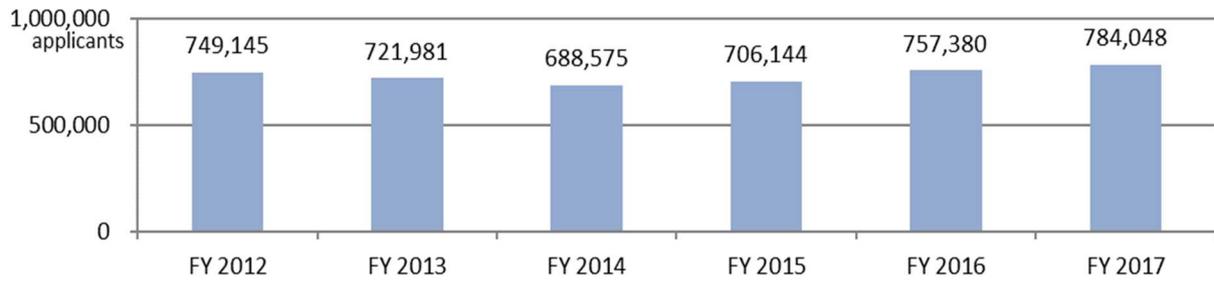
1. Implementation status by grade in FY2017

Grades (The extent of skills and knowledges to pass the national skill test)	Number of the applicants (comparison to previous FY)	Number of the successful applicants (comparison to previous FY)	Successful applicants ratio (previous FY)
Special grade (Skills and knowledges required for an administrator or a manager)	5,236 (+0.3%)	1,159 (-5.8%)	22.1% (23.6%)
Grade 1 (Skills and knowledges required for a skilled worker of highest level)	93,599 (-0.5%)	30,602 (-11.7%)	32.7% (36.9%)
Grade 2 (Skills and knowledges required for a skilled worker of upper level)	334,364 (-1.3%)	95,549 (+2.8%)	28.6% (27.5%)
Grade 3 (Skills and knowledges required for a skilled worker of middle level)	269,690 (+8.4%)	135,373 (+15.1%)	50.2% (46.8%)
Grade 3(on demand) (Skills and knowledges required for a skilled worker of middle level (for foreign trainer))	13,835 (+1,219%)	5,752 (+872%)	41.6% (56.4%)
Grade solo (Skills and knowledges required for a skilled worker of highest level) * Job categories with Grade solo are carried out without level distinction	4,249 (-0.9%)	2,369 (+2.0%)	55.8% (54.2%)
Basic grade 1, 2, and Basic grade (Skills and knowledges required for a technical intern trainees of basic levels)	63,075 (+17.9%)	57,974 (+16.1%)	91.4% (92.8%)
Overall	784,048 (+3.5%)	328,778 (+8.3%)	41.9% (40.1%)

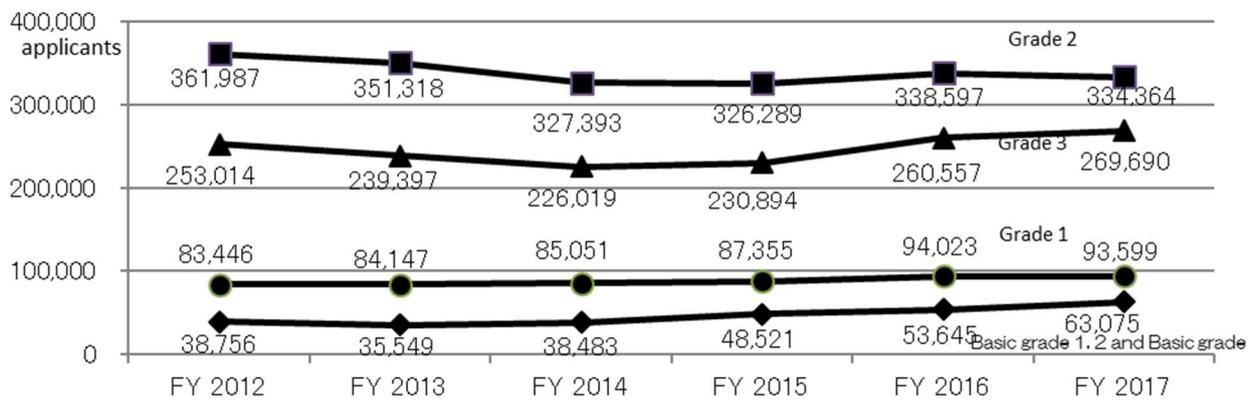
*National skill test consists of practical and theoretical examinations, and therefore, a person applied for both examinations in FY 2017 is counted as one. As an exception, both number of applicants for practical and theoretical examinations are counted in job categories which requires passing on theoretical examination for taking practical examinations, such as Financial Planning Grade 1, Financial services Grade 1, Intellectual property management Grade 1, Consultative sales Grade 1 and 2, and Fitness club management Grade 1 (the same applies hereinafter).

2. Changes in the number of applicants by grade in past 6 years

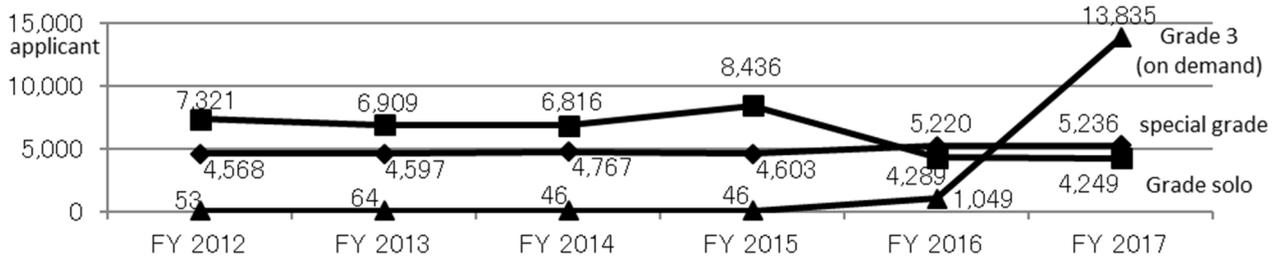
1) Overall



2) Grade 1, Grade 2, Grade 3 and Basic grade 1, 2 and Basic grade



3) Grade 3(on demand), Special grade and Grade solo



3. Top five job categories most applied for

Overall

Job categories	Number of the applicants	Comparison to previous FY	Number of the successful applicants	Comparison to previous FY
Financial planning	467,876	1.2%	152,526	12.1%
Machine maintenance	35,475	-2.2%	9,360	25.5%
Machining	22,168	4.2%	13,970	7.1%
Intellectual property management	17,862	-5.9%	8,491	-3.0%
Mechanical inspection	15,212	19.7%	9,360	25.5%

Special grade

Job categories	Number of the applicants	Comparison to previous FY	Number of the successful applicants	Comparison to previous FY
Machining	1087	11.0%	218	80.2%
Machine maintenance	631	-1.1%	171	-16.2%
Finishing	503	-2.3%	65	-46.7%
Electronic equipment assembling	404	-6.9%	104	-16.1%
Metal heat treatment	345	11.3%	81	32.8%

Grade 1

Job categories	Number of the applicants	Comparison to previous FY	Number of the successful applicants	Comparison to previous FY
Financial planning	22,858	18.6%	2,053	28.0%
Machine maintenance	11,500	-3.3%	2,834	-33.9%
Painting	5,298	1.3%	2,359	-10.7%
Machining	3,607	-5.7%	1,730	-6.2%
Water-proofing	3,574	9.1%	1,904	9.7%

Grade 2

Job categories	Number of the applicants	Comparison to previous FY	Number of the successful applicants	Comparison to previous FY
Financial planning	240,163	-0.9%	56,353	11.0%
Machine maintenance	16,426	-5.6%	12,905	77.7%
Machining	6,789	-4.6%	3,547	-0.6%
Intellectual property management	6,682	-3.6%	2,426	-11.9%
Financial services	5,346	-2.3%	1,409	41.2%

Grade 3

Job categories	Number of the applicants	Comparison to previous FY	Number of the successful applicants	Comparison to previous FY
Financial planning	204,855	2.1%	94,120	12.5%
Intellectual property management	10,056	-6.1%	5,929	1.4%
Mechanical inspection	8,200	27.9%	5,907	26.1%
Financial services	6,897	-2.9%	2,765	-7.4%
Machining	6,024	1.2%	4,444	3.1%

Grade 3(on demand)

Job categories	Number of the applicants	Comparison to previous FY	Number of the successful applicants	Comparison to previous FY
Ladies' and children's dress making	2,982	603.3%	1,303	445.2%
Scaffolding	991	1805.8%	483	1688.9%
Formwork construction	867	2308.3%	375	1685.7%
Reinforcing bar construction	840	888.2%	390	509.4%
Painting	688	1664.1%	311	1973.3%

Grade solo

Job categories	Number of the applicants	Comparison to previous FY	Number of the successful applicants	Comparison to previous FY
Cooking	990	-5.2%	543	-15.8%
Resin adhesive injection	710	12.7%	395	16.9%
Traffic sign and line marking	651	4.2%	385	14.9%
Industrial cleaning	646	-1.4%	410	7.6%
House cleaning	345	-5.5%	99	-9.2%

Basic grade 1, 2 and Basic grade

Job categories	Number of the applicants	Comparison to previous FY	Number of the successful applicants	Comparison to previous FY
Ladies' and children's dress making	7,859	-0.5%	7,218	-2.1%
Plastic molding	6,030	16.2%	5,444	15.4%
Scaffolding	5,206	31.4%	4,570	27.3%
Machining	4,014	20.1%	3,762	18.4%
Electric equipment assembling	3,669	29.0%	3,526	29.8%

4. Changes in the number of applicants by job categories in past 6 years and the number of the successful applicants in FY 2017

Job categories	Number of the applicants						Average of the applicants in past 6 years	Number of the successful applicants (FY 2017)
	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017		
1 Web design ※	2,805	2,592	2,787	2,942	3,437	3,785	3,058	1,902
2 Career consulting ※	4,942	8,496	5,560	6,736	6,962	6,030	6,454	659
3 Piano tuning ※	1,270	1,094	772	683	702	617	856	228
4 Financial planning ※	477,439	451,431	420,494	424,036	462,304	467,876	450,597	152,526
5 Intellectual property management ※	18,315	18,514	17,991	18,265	18,982	17,862	18,322	8,491
6 Financial services ※	17,816	16,316	15,058	14,785	13,094	12,777	14,974	4,224
7 Consultative sales ※							418	107
8 Kitsuke ※	1,743	1,558	1,250	1,213	1,132	1,298	1,366	773
9 Restaurant service ※	3,840	4,155	4,349	4,261	4,436	4,571	4,269	2,647
10 Fitness club management ※						121	121	-
11 Building facility management ※	57	85	75	75	99	99	82	48
12 Horticultural decoration	1,110	1,073	1,080	1,072	1,040	1,009	1,064	660
13 Landscape gardening	4,721	4,708	4,798	4,862	4,791	4,815	4,783	2,877
14 Well drilling	577	503	590	578	566	589	567	335
15 Metal melting	94	15	48	72	-	52	47	24
16 Casting	1,780	1,649	1,764	2,001	1,959	2,377	1,922	1,976
17 Forging	251	158	263	199	294	230	233	204
18 Metal heat treatment	4,596	5,103	5,381	5,450	5,594	4,750	5,146	2,408
19 Powder metallurgy	97	158	66	96	89	119	104	85
20 Machining	22,250	21,128	21,240	21,175	21,269	22,168	21,538	13,970
21 Electric discharge machining	655	653	563	553	542	581	591	218
22 Die and mold manufacturing	159	89	140	106	119	84	116	38
23 Metal press	3,454	3,283	3,324	3,583	3,877	4,934	3,743	3,709
24 Iron work	2,159	2,010	2,104	2,303	2,374	2,939	2,315	1,922
25 Building sheet metal work	1,542	1,495	1,615	1,688	1,902	1,853	1,683	963
26 Factory sheet metal work	2,594	2,334	2,415	2,561	2,780	3,047	2,622	1,959
27 Plating	1,618	1,508	1,508	1,628	1,635	2,085	1,664	1,349
28 Aluminum anodizing	110	128	139	52	171	123	121	108
29 Thermal spraying	114	87	154	83	170	69	113	39
30 Metal spring manufacturing	576	567	574	563	540	521	557	251
31 Rope processing	171	141	120	101	129	96	126	52
32 Finishing	5,871	5,858	5,415	5,637	5,672	5,800	5,709	2,828
33 Cutting tool grinding	256	226	191	201	163	147	197	58
34 Mechanical inspection	10,273	10,814	11,057	12,350	12,706	15,212	12,069	9,360
35 Die casting	1,322	1,202	1,157	1,077	1,131	1,246	1,189	932
36 Machine maintenance ※	32,507	33,191	33,443	30,748	36,280	35,475	33,607	12,045
37 Electronic circuit connecting	299	259	269	278	258	241	267	99
38 Electronic equipment assembling	8,765	7,760	7,699	8,634	9,141	10,622	8,770	7,158
39 Electric equipment assembling	5,701	6,297	5,931	6,529	6,533	7,506	6,416	4,018
40 Semiconductor products manufacturing	2,388	2,114	2,074	1,926	1,740	1,556	1,966	554
41 Printed circuit board manufacturing	1,068	866	832	743	653	608	795	333
42 Vending machine adjustment	900	909	786	632	626	533	731	97
43 Industrial vehicle maintenance	450	409	349	335	333	353	372	231
44 Rolling stock manufacturing and repairing	1,602	1,569	1,554	1,487	1,623	1,468	1,551	919
45 Clock and watch repairing	1,058	964	1,049	1,063	1,094	1,199	1,071	700
46 Optical equipment manufacturing	492	435	479	438	425	438	451	213
47 Internal combustion engine assembling	906	911	930	940	993	949	938	477
48 Pneumatic apparatus assembling	2,685	2,764	2,710	2,706	2,572	2,914	2,725	1,524
49 Hydraulic system adjustment	1,960	1,817	1,690	1,784	1,554	1,461	1,711	608
50 Sewing machine maintenance	78	-	80	-	160	-	53	-
51 Construction machine maintenance	3,170	3,159	3,514	3,687	3,838	3,817	3,531	1,941
52 Agricultural machine maintenance	2,000	1,780	1,808	1,832	1,692	1,769	1,814	1,083
53 Refrigeration and air conditioning equipment installing	1,727	1,749	1,967	2,312	2,072	2,180	2,001	1,207
54 Dyeing	174	234	179	213	175	334	218	251
55 Knitted goods manufacturing	137	131	96	170	153	174	144	131
56 Ladies' and children's dress making	10,116	9,117	8,346	8,874	8,667	11,336	9,409	8,830
57 Tailoring men's suit making	644	442	440	634	521	645	554	538
58 Kimono making	453	430	349	304	284	299	353	160
59 Bedclothes making	199	218	134	176	182	187	183	170
60 Canvas product making	601	671	579	667	666	597	630	458
61 Sewing	193	201	103	133	197	265	182	194
62 Use and maintenance of wood working machine	-	67	-	-	89	-	26	-
63 Furniture manufacturing	758	734	677	955	1,044	1,609	963	1,109
64 Wooden-fitting manufacturing	334	279	340	290	266	326	306	184

Job categories	Number of the applicants						Average of the applicants in past 6 years	Average of the applicants in past 6 years
	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017		
65 Cardboard box manufacturing	295	200	384	308	440	549	363	469
66 Prepress	80	70	58	-	189	196	99	113
67 Printing	906	931	807	880	1047	1079	942	741
68 Bookbinding	401	425	446	456	652	746	521	634
69 Plastic molding	10,478	9,976	10,074	10,297	10,781	12,140	10,624	7,599
70 Reinforced plastic molding	412	341	261	292	336	409	342	281
71 Pottery and porcelain making	16	83	-	77	-	-	29	-
72 Building stone constructing	396	303	414	335	446	406	383	212
73 Bread baking	1,777	1,742	1,543	1,841	2,079	2,523	1,918	1,796
74 Pastry work	445	463	369	398	401	392	411	218
75 Noodle making	94	131	145	122	128	183	134	136
76 Ham, sausage, and bacon making	960	942	947	1,216	1,329	1,538	1,155	1,170
77 Fish paste making	639	779	634	840	770	943	768	744
78 Bean paste making	232	-	168	-	234	-	106	-
79 Sake brewing	95	74	76	118	159	-	87	-
80 Information network cabling ※	436	400	388	512	508	674	486	364
81 Carpentry	4,644	4,642	5,185	5,679	5,898	7,017	5,511	4,399
82 Wood frame construction	124	-	77	135	137	80	92	31
83 Tile roofing	524	432	439	465	426	433	453	285
84 Scaffolding	3,687	3,893	4,460	6,097	7,715	10,186	6,006	7,223
85 Plastering	1,142	1,129	1,196	1,568	1,667	1,863	1,428	1,346
86 Furnace construction	363	380	350	400	379	399	379	271
87 Architectural block laying	123	152	161	168	224	258	181	140
88 ALC panel work	-	69	-	77	-	102	41	94
89 Tiling	278	399	423	548	485	675	468	430
90 Tatami making	180	130	161	162	134	150	153	93
91 Plumbing	3,502	3,323	3,407	3,929	4,141	4,360	3,777	2,307
92 Kitchen equipment installation	267	225	259	241	298	301	265	206
93 Formwork construction	2,093	2,196	2,540	3,670	4,015	5,216	3,288	3,495
94 Reinforcing bar construction	2,795	3,149	3,892	5,018	5,076	6,368	4,383	4,194
95 Concrete pumping	513	607	655	727	725	846	679	575
96 Waterproof construction	3,402	3,543	3,628	4,127	4,279	4,849	3,971	2,822
97 Resin adhesive injection	632	600	584	636	630	710	632	395
98 Interior finishing	1,781	1,913	2,042	2,539	2,957	3,109	2,390	2,196
99 Heat insulation	568	675	726	748	796	893	734	475
100 Curtain wall finishing	185	202	171	227	228	188	200	102
101 Sash setting	469	553	522	603	690	648	581	342
102 Automatic door installation	270	251	272	280	290	345	285	255
103 Balcony construction	181	104	184	109	155	139	145	91
104 Glass setting	426	396	428	450	469	407	429	196
105 Well point construction	109	-	102	4	95	16	54	15
106 Technical illustration	342	314	321	306	314	439	339	282
107 Mechanical and plant draughting	5,586	5,505	5,921	5,435	5,739	6,041	5,705	2,121
108 Electrical draughting	477	508	574	548	553	527	531	236
109 Chemical analysis	184	192	307	361	382	447	312	260
110 Metal material testing	826	790	798	775	767	801	793	306
111 Precious metal accessory making	267	252	270	282	274	278	271	143
112 Seal engraving	117	-	-	101	-	-	36	-
113 Film processing for glass ※	227	230	162	215	185	172	199	105
114 Paper hanging	643	652	530	768	789	861	707	464
115 Painting	8,266	8,608	8,438	9,317	10,450	11,695	9,462	7,158
116 Traffic sign and line marking	663	722	576	610	625	651	641	385
117 Paint color adjustment	120	109	129	129	122	93	117	47
118 Advertising art finishing	152	164	142	190	219	224	182	179
119 Prosthesis making	150	121	204	91	150	56	129	36
120 Stage effect adjustment	1,107	1,157	1,200	1,150	1,278	1,359	1,209	703
121 Industrial packaging	614	717	714	1,239	1,510	2,648	1,240	2,313
122 Photography	113	172	174	158	137	138	149	89
123 Cooking ※	1,247	1,120	1,120	1,095	1,044	990	1,103	543
124 Building cleaning management ※	3,016	2,769	2,718	4,306	3,362	2,652	3,137	1,436
125 House cleaning ※	214	308	284	327	365	345	307	99
126 Industrial cleaning	617	631	576	529	655	646	609	410
127 Merchandise display	390	430	291	296	337	346	348	260
128 Flower decoration	1,866	1,960	2,099	2,105	2,133	2,142	2,051	1,586
Total	749,145	721,981	688,575	706,144	757,380	784,048	734,546	328,778
Conducted by prefectures	215,778	212,913	215,567	195,945	204,488	228,286	212,163	142,581
Conducted by designated examining bodies	533,367	509,068	473,008	510,199	552,892	555,762	522,383	186,197
Accumulated total number of the applicants since FY 1959	12,409,870	13,131,851	13,820,426	14,526,570	15,283,950	16,067,998		
Accumulated total number of people who have passed the test since FY 1959	5,189,518	5,467,723	5,742,979	6,017,660	6,321,204	6,649,982		

*1 Job categories with markings(※) are conducted by designated examining bodies

*2 Job categories are sorted according to the Fig.11-3-3 of The Ordinance for Human Resources Development Promotion Act and each categories are numbered just for convenience

*3 The fields with diagonal line shows that the tests were not added yet at the time

About National Skill Test

1. Overview

National skill test is a skill evaluation system implemented by Government of Japan to test and certify the extent of skills that workers have in order to improve their skills and social status according to the Human Resources Development Promotion Act.

National skill test has been held since 1959, and about 780 thousand applied for the test and about 330 thousand successfully passed the test in Fiscal Year 2017. In the accumulated total since the system started, about 6.65 million people are qualified as certified skilled professionals.

2. Implementation of national skill test

The Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare implements national skill test by classifying grades specified by an Ordinance of the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare for each of the job categories specified by a Cabinet Order in practical and theoretical examinations.

Number of job categories is 130 as of 23th July, 2018. Each job category is yearly reviewed, such as newly establish or reorganize the job categories and operations, or rebuild the examination standards, to catch up to the demands of the time.

The certified skilled professionals have three grades, Grade 1 (the highest grade), Grade 2 (upper grade) and Grade 3 (middle grade), in addition to Special Grade (management) for some industrial job categories and Basic Grade 1, 2 and Basic grade exclusively for foreign trainees. Some job categories have only one grade called Grade solo (the highest grade) instead of the three-grade policy.

3. Structure for the implementation of National Skill Test System

Each Prefectural Governor conducts the national skill test based on the annual plan formulated by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare, and the Japan Vocational Ability Development Association prepares the examination questions. Some operational work such as accepting application and conducting examinations is implemented by Prefectural Vocational Ability Development Associations at Governors' request.

It is to be noted that 19 job categories such as financial planning are conducted by designated examining bodies, designated by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare.

4. Certification to the passed examinees

Those who have passed a national skill test are entitled to refer to themselves as certified skilled professionals, according to the Human Resources Development Promotion Act.

The certificates of Special Grade, Grade 1 and Grade solo are issued by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare whereas those of other grades by Prefectural Governors or representatives of the designated examining body.

130 Job Categories for National Skill Test

As of 23th July, 2018

Related to:	Job category
Constructions(32)	Landscape gardening, Well drilling, Building sheet metal work, Refrigeration and air conditioning equipment installing, Building stone constructing, Carpentry, Wood frame construction, Tile roofing, Scaffolding, Plastering, Furnace construction, Architectural block laying, ALC panel work, Tiling, Plumbing, Kitchen equipment installation, Formwork construction, Reinforcing bar construction, Concrete pumping, Waterproof construction, Resin adhesive injection, Interior finishing, Heat insulation, Curtain wall finishing, Sash setting, Automatic door installation, Balcony construction, Glass setting, Well point construction, Painting, Traffic sign and line marking, and Advertising art finishing
ceramics(1)	Pottery and porcelain making
metal processing(19)	Metal melting, Casting, Forging, Metal heat treatment, Powder metallurgy, Machining, Electric discharge machining, Die and mold manufacturing, Metal press, Iron work, Factory sheet metal work, Plating, Aluminum anodizing, Thermal spraying, Metal spring manufacturing, Finishing, Cutting tool grinding, Die casting, and Metal material testing
general machinery and equipment(12)	Mechanical inspection, <u>Machine maintenance</u> , Industrial vehicle maintenance, Rolling stock manufacturing and repairing, Internal combustion engine assembling, Pneumatic apparatus assembling, Hydraulic system adjustment, Sewing machine maintenance, Construction machine maintenance, Agricultural machine maintenance, Technical illustration, and Mechanical and plant draughting
electrical and precision machinery and equipment(8)	Electronic circuit connecting, Electronic equipment assembling, Electric equipment assembling, Semiconductor products manufacturing, Printed circuit board manufacturing, Vending machine adjustment, Optical equipment manufacturing, and Electrical draughting
foods(7)	Bread baking, Pastry work, Noodle making, Ham, sausage and bacon making, Fish paste making, Bean paste making, and Sake brewing
apparel and textiles products(8)	Dyeing, Knitted goods manufacturing, Ladies' and children's dress making, Tailoring men's suit making, Kimono making, Bedclothes making, Canvas product making, and Sewing
wood, wood products, and paper processed goods(6)	Use and maintenance of wood working machine, Furniture manufacturing, Wooden-fitting manufacturing, Cardboard box manufacturing, Tatami making, and Paper hanging
plastic products(2)	Plastic molding and Reinforced plastic molding

precious metal and jewelry(2)	Clock and watch repairing and Precious metal accessory making
printing and binding(3)	Prepress, Printing, and Bookbinding
others(30)	<u>Web design</u> , <u>Career consulting</u> , <u>Piano tuning</u> , <u>Financial planning</u> , <u>Intellectual property management</u> , <u>Financial services</u> , (※) <u>Bridal coordinate</u> , <u>Consultative sales</u> , <u>Kitsuke</u> , (※) <u>Hotel management</u> , <u>Restaurant service</u> , <u>Fitness club management</u> , <u>Building facility management</u> , Horticultural decoration, Rope processing, <u>Information network cabling</u> , Chemical analysis, Seal engraving, <u>Film processing for glass</u> , Paint color adjustment, Artificial limb and appendage making, Stage effect adjustment, Industrial packaging, Photography, <u>Cooking</u> , <u>Building cleaning management</u> , <u>House cleaning</u> , Industrial cleaning, Merchandise display, and Flower decoration

*Underlined job categories are conducted by designated examining bodies

(※)These Job Categories are newly established in 23th July, 2018