C. Illegal Gambling

Illegal gambling offenses are committed in so-called "casino bars" where card and roulette games are played. Many illegal horse and bicycle race bookmaking offenses have also been cleared.

D. Trafficking in Persons

Trafficking in persons refers to a crime committed by organized criminal groups aimed at bringing foreign women or others to be forced into sexual exploitation or labor. The police have strictly cracked down on traffickers in cooperation with relevant ministries and agencies. Additionally, the police are exchanging information and working with foreign authorities, foreign embassies in Japan, counseling centers for women, and NGO in order to prevent trafficking attempts and protect foreign women suffering in trafficking cases. Since October 2007, the police have operated the "Anonymous-report Hot Line," which receives information of crimes such as trafficking under anonymity from the public.

In 2017, a total of 46 trafficking cases were cleared, which involved sexual exploitation, forced labor and other offenses. The police arrested 30 people such as brokers and protected 42 people including 28 Japanese through these cases.

E. Control of Offenses related to Employment of Foreign Workers

The number of foreign nationals overstaying the authorized period of stay has been on the rise, and it is found that the way they disguise overstays has become increasingly vicious and sophisticated.

Brokers who act as recruiting agents for foreign workers and employers contribute to this problem. Therefore, the police have been tightening controls not only on illegal foreign workers but also on brokers and employers through strictly relevant laws and regulations.

6. Countermeasures against Economic Crimes

A. Investment Fraud and Commercial Transaction Scam

Every year, a large number of consumers and investors fall prey to sly fraud schemes such as Ponzi scheme. Illicit door-to-door sales are also an example of illicit commercial practice attempting to benefit from consumers. The police are cracking down on such illegal commercial practice by requesting financial institutions to freeze bank accounts used for receiving proceeds from illegal transactions. In an effort to enhance the awareness of consumers and to protect them from such illicit commercial practices, the police promote public awareness through posters, leaflets and the Internet.

B. Illegitimate Medicines

There are a number of illegitimate medicines sold on the Internet that may have health risks. Quite a few foreign-based websites also advertise such illegitimate medicines. The police are cracking down on illegal transaction advertisements and manufacturing of such products. Furthermore, the police request Internet service providers and foreign authorities to shut down the websites advertising illegitimate medicines.
C. Loan Sharks
Loan sharks came to be recognized as a serious social issue around 2002. Since 2003, the police have enhanced its enforcement measures and have established intensive crackdown headquarters in the prefectural police. Preventive measures are taken in accordance with the Program to Remedy Multiple Debt Problems. In addition, the police are requesting financial institutions to freeze bank accounts used by loan sharks and Internet service providers to shut down the websites advertising illegal money lending.

D. Intellectual Property Rights Crimes
The violation of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) continues to be an issue. Examples of IPRs violation include distribution of illegally copied business software and music data on the Internet using file exchange software, and transactions of counterfeit products on the websites. These counterfeit products are mostly smuggled from China and other Asian countries.

The police investigate these cases and promote public awareness of IPRs protection in cooperation with relevant ministries and organizations.

In addition, the police are cracking down on the theft of trade secrets.

7. Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency and Sound Development of Youth

![Number of Juvenile Penal Code Offenders (1949-2017)](image)