

Japan's Mercury Emission Inventory (FY 2023)

Source Category	Emission Source		Emission (ton-Hg/year) ¹	
Sources listed in Annex D of the Minamata Convention	Coal-fired power plants		0.76	
	Coal-fired industrial boilers		0.029	
	Smelting and roasting processes used in the production of non-ferrous metals	Primary non-ferrous metal production	0.026	
		Secondary non-ferrous metal production	0.38	
	Waste incineration facilities	Municipal solid wastes	0.93	
		Industrial wastes	0.43	
		Sewage sludge ²	0.11	
Facilities that recover mercury from mercury-containing recyclable resources and industrial wastes subject to mandatory mercury recovery (limited to facilities that have a heating process during recovery) ²		0.0013		
Cement clinker production facilities		2.9		
Other sources	Iron and steel production facilities	Primary iron production	Sintering furnace (including pellet firing furnace)	1.4
			Others (from blast furnace by-product gas, coke oven by-product gas)	0.12
		Secondary iron production	Electric furnace	0.30
	Oil refining facilities		0.094	
	Oil and gas production facilities		0.000050	
	Combustion of oil and other fuels	Oil-fired power plants		0.0015
		LNG-fired power plants		0.00059
		Oil-fired industrial boilers		0.0017
		Gas-fired industrial boilers		0.00064
	Facilities that use mercury or mercury compounds in production processes ³		N.O.	
	Waste treatment facilities for wastes containing mercury ⁴	Facilities that do not have a heating process [among the above, fluorescent lamp collection and crushing facilities]		< 0.000013 [0.0000015]
		Facilities that have a heating process during mercury recovery		0.000019
	Manufacturing facilities for mercury-added products	Batteries ⁵		N.E.
		Switches and relays ⁷		N.O.
		Lamps ⁶		0.0014
		Soaps and cosmetics ⁷		N.O.
		Pesticides and biocides (agricultural chemicals) ⁷		N.O.
		Sphygmomanometers ^{7,8}		N.O.
		Thermometers ⁷		N.O.
		Dental amalgam ⁷		N.O.
		Thimerosal ⁷		N.O.
		Vermillion		0.0000046
	Others ⁹	Lime products		0.035
		Pulp and paper manufacturing (black liquor)		0.036
		Carbon black manufacturing		0.022
		Cremation		0.084
		Transportation ¹⁰		0.052
Biomass-fired power and heat production facilities		0.11		
Ferroalloy manufacturing facilities ¹¹		0.069		
Natural sources	Volcanoes		> 1.4	
Total (figure in parentheses excludes natural sources)			9.2 (7.9)	

Note 1: From the inventory for FY2019 onward, mercury emission from sources covered by Annex D of the Minamata Convention is estimated using reports on mercury concentration in flue gases that business operators shall periodically measure and submit under the Air Pollution Control Act. Annual mercury emissions were calculated for each emission source and the values were aggregated to estimate the total mercury emissions.

Note 2: This inventory covers the mercury emission in FY2023 (from April 2023 to March 2024), and the data primarily correspond to those in the same period.

Note 3: Mercury emissions for each source are indicated with two significant figures, and the total is indicated to the first decimal.

Note 4: For emission sources with an inequality sign attached to their emissions, the value without the inequality sign was used to estimate the total emissions.

1. "N.E." stands for "Not Estimated" (the existence of the emission source is unknown, or emission sources exist but no estimation has been done). "N.O." stands for "Not Occurring" (emission sources do not exist, or there is a source but no mercury is emitted to the atmosphere due to the manufacturing process or structure of the facility).

2. Some facilities not falling under the category of waste incineration facilities under domestic laws of Japan are also categorized as waste incineration facilities in the inventory.

3. Mercury is not used in any of the following facilities in Japan (confirmed in FY2012).

Chlor-alkali production facility, vinyl chloride monomer production facility, polyurethane production facility, sodium methylate production facility, acetaldehyde production facility, vinyl acetate production facility

4. Except for those facilities subject to Annex D of the Convention.

5. In Japan, mercury is only used for the production of button batteries. It has been reported that equipment used in the production process does not lead to the emission of mercury into the atmosphere. However, it has been treated as N.E., as the detailed process flow is not available.

6. "Lamps" include fluorescent lamps for general use, cold cathode fluorescent lamps and high-intensity discharge lamps.

7. It has been confirmed in the following years that there are no sources of emission for the manufacture of soaps and cosmetics, pesticides and biocides (FY2012); mercury thermometers, mercury amalgam for dental use (FY2013); thimerosal (FY2016); and mercury switches and relays, mercury Sphygmomanometers (FY2021).

8. It was confirmed to be difficult in FY2016 to measure the mercury concentration from the outlet due to the structure of the facility, and therefore impossible to estimate the emissions.

9. Sources that had not been addressed in the past inter-governmental negotiation but are likely to emit mercury into the atmosphere

10. Fuel consumption of gasoline and diesel (for business use)

11. Ferromanganese manufacturing facilities and ferronickel manufacturing facilities