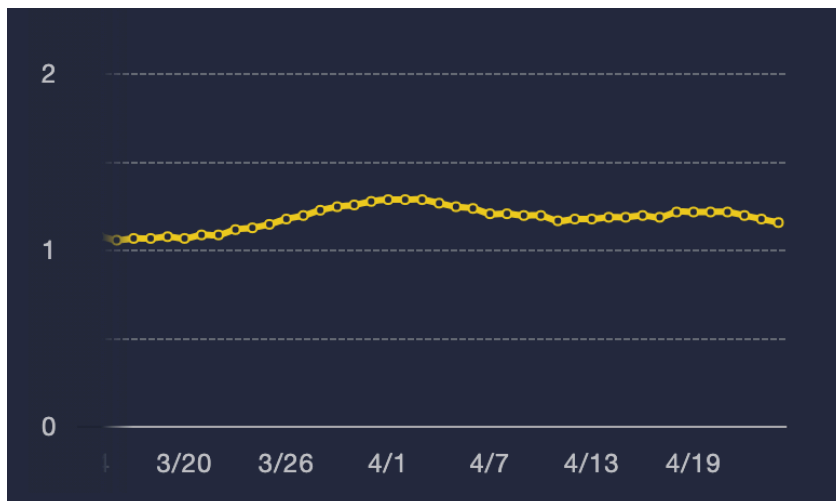
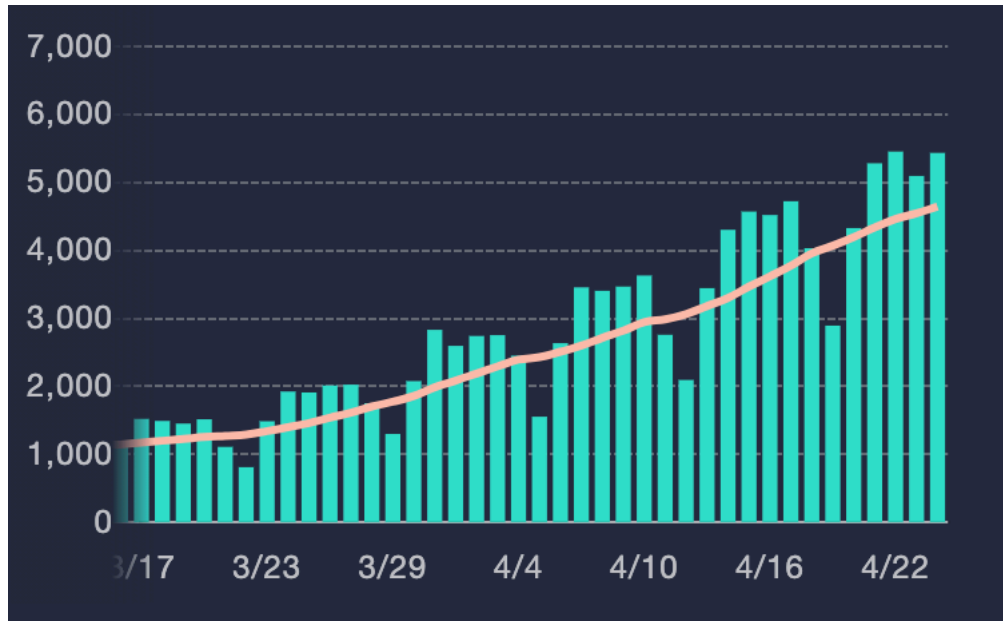


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Current Situation in Japan

Test positives nationally:



National R_{eff} (R 1.13)

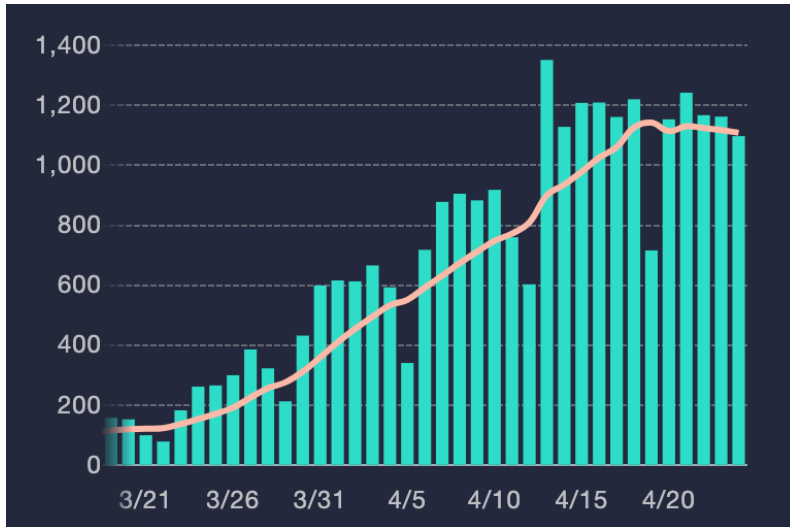
Though new COVID infections in Japan continue to rise, growth remains surprisingly linear, having even slowed slightly over the last five days. The subtlety of this slowing growth is more readily evident in the fractional decrease in R_{eff} , which has once again dipped under 1.2 for the country.

Despite what appears to be a slight trend towards improvement, PM Suga announced a new State of Emergency starting on Sunday, April 25 and slated to last through May 11, 2021. This has been reported as being an indictment of “failed” *man’en bōshi* (“*manbō*,” targeted infection prevention policies) measures enacted weeks ago on local prefectural and city levels.

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However, the overall slowing is probably most reflective of the abrupt cessation of rising infections in Osaka and tapering off in Hyogo, the major drivers of Japan's Fourth Wave. These areas are such overwhelmingly large drivers of national infection numbers, in fact, that rises in infections in prefectures "late to the game," such as Hokkaido and Fukuoka, are not sufficient to offset the marked drop in new infections in the Kansai area.

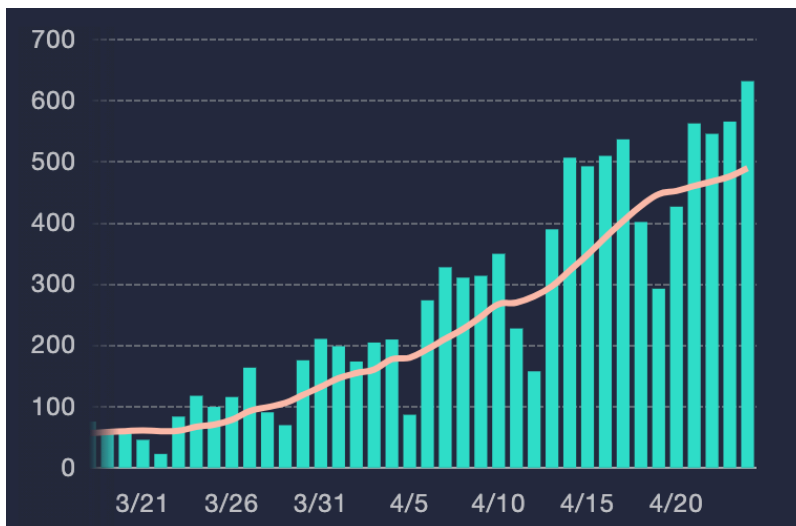
Osaka (R 0.97)



Further *manbo* restrictions were put into place for Osaka and Hyogo on April 5, 2021. Given the 5-14 day incubation period for COVID, it is somewhat unsurprising that only now, after a 2-week lag, are we seeing reduction in new virus infections. This suggests that *manbo* restrictions may have been at least marginally effective. Nonetheless, the change is surprisingly marked and abrupt—so much so, that

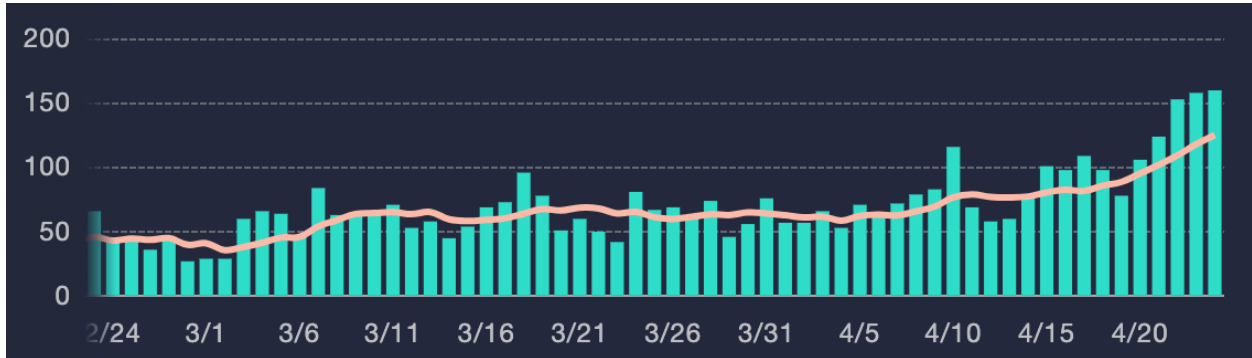
changes in testing and/or reporting algorithms should reasonably be suspected as contributing factors (and indeed 7-day moving average of tests performed in Osaka prefecture has remained flat at between 14,000 and 15,000 tests per day.) Nevertheless, Osaka has now achieved an $R_{eff} < 1$ and Hyogo prefecture appears poised to achieve this in the next several days.

Hyogo (R 1.12)

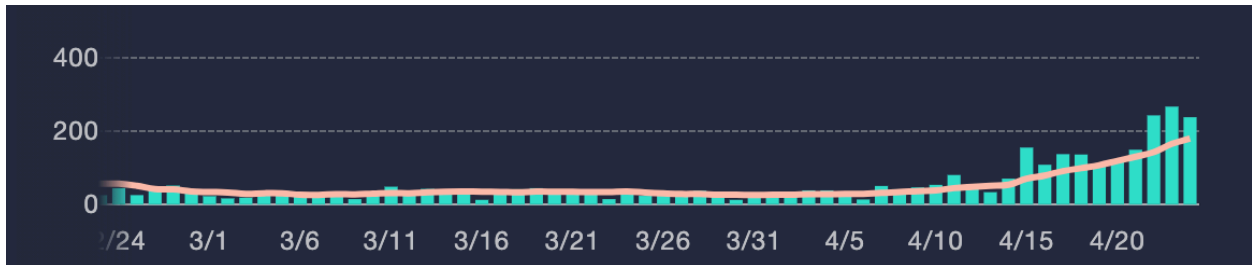


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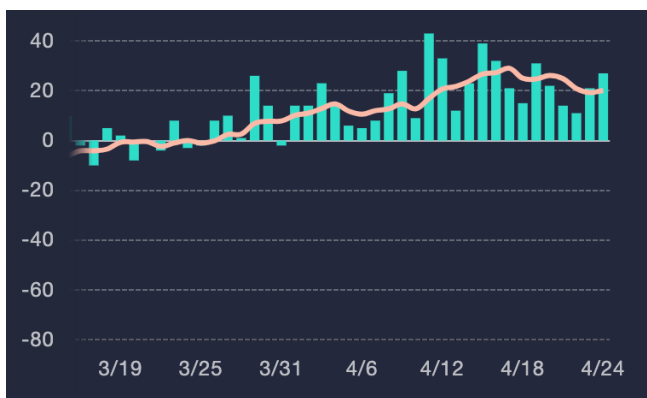
Hokkaido (R 1.36)



Fukuoka (R 1.63)



Prefectures that in previous waves were first to rise (Hokkaido, Fukuoka, Kanto area) are only now seeing modest increases in infections. *Manbo* policies were implemented in several of these other prefectures between April 12 and April 19. As such, decreases are not likely to manifest for at least another week, or perhaps longer.

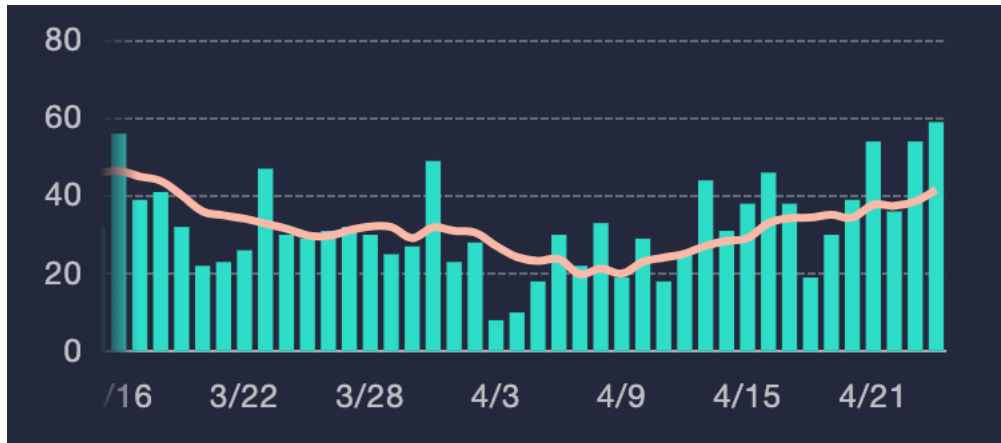


Critical Illness (Nationwide)

Cases of critical illness continue to remain net positive, but have not followed the steady linear rise as seen with national infections. Similarly, deaths, though continuing to increase nationwide, have not seen an explosive rise despite approaching 1-month out from the beginning of the Fourth Wave.

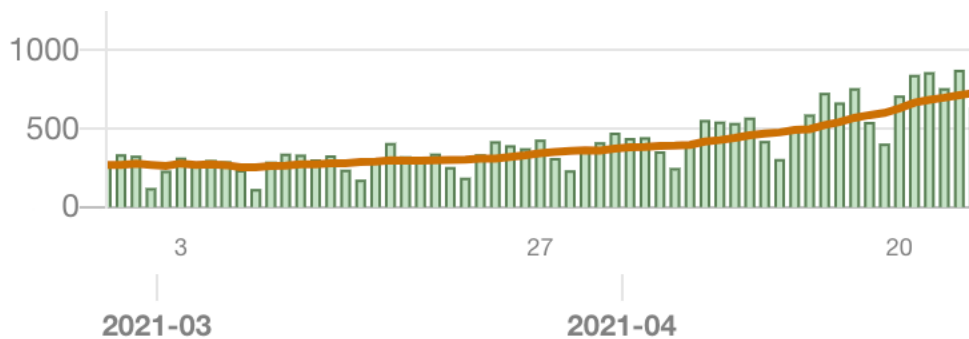
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Mortality (Nationwide)



Current Situation in Tokyo & the Kanto Region

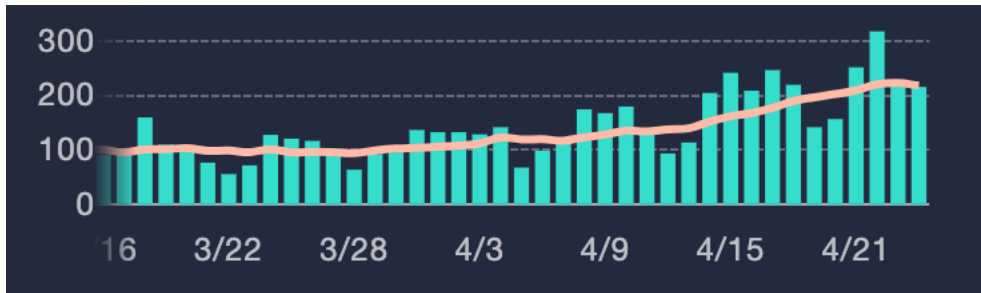
Tokyo daily cases (R 1.17)



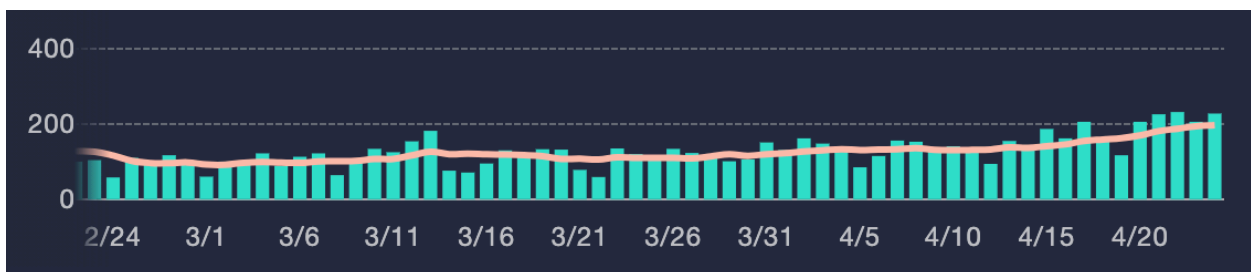
The slow rise in number of infections in Tokyo remains unchanged over the last 2 weeks. R_{eff} statistics remain markedly flat, continuing to hover around 1.5. Despite this, State of Emergency declarations were announced by PM Suga starting on Sunday April 25 nationwide, and Tokyo—apparently, at its own discretion—has taken these a step further, banning the sale of alcohol in eating, drinking, and entertainment venues until May 11 (the ban on serving alcohol also applies to Osaka, Kyoto, and Hyogo). At the time of this report, the stricter measures taken up by Tokyo Metropolitan Government have not yet been adopted in other surrounding Kanto-area prefectures, such as Kanagawa, Saitama, and Chiba, where infections also continue a subtle rise or remain flat.

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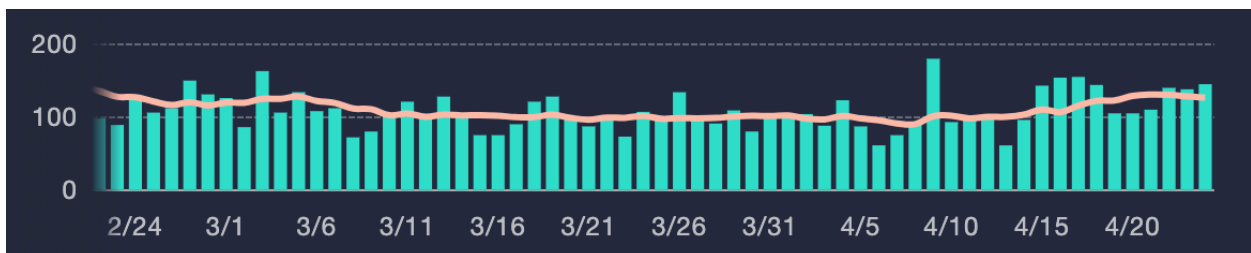
Kanagawa prefecture (R 1.16)



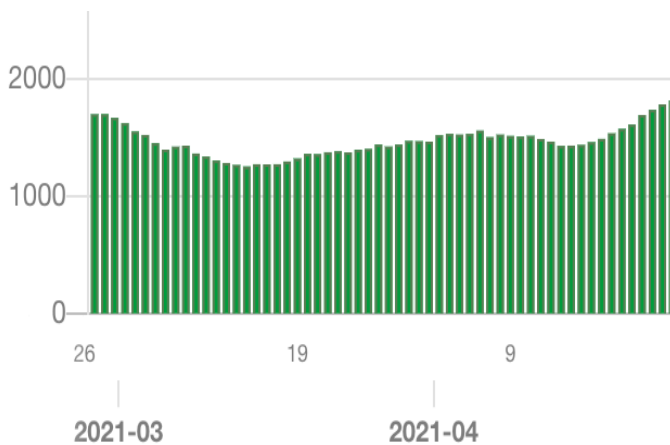
Saitama prefecture (R 1.19)



Chiba prefecture (R 1.07)



Hospital Care and Testing in Tokyo

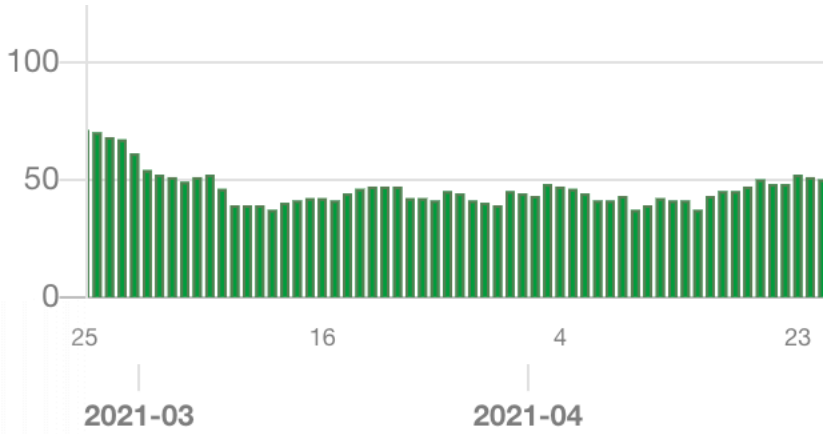


Number of hospital patients (Tokyo)

Evidencing the stability of virus epidemiology in Tokyo, routine medical and healthcare services continue uninterrupted in most major clinical centers, despite rise in case numbers.

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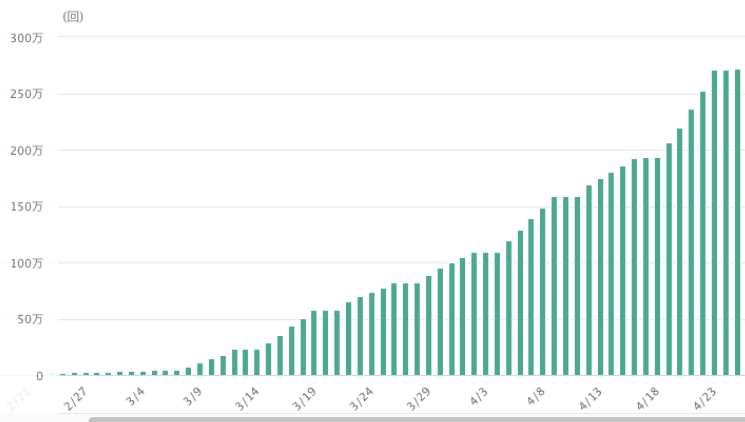
Number of critically ill patients (Tokyo)



After about 4 months of little change, hospital capacity available for COVID 19 patients in Tokyo has increased from 5048 to 5533 routine care beds and from 332 to 373 critical care beds, ostensibly in preparation for “surge capacity” should Fourth Wave numbers continue a prolonged

rise. In contrast, hotel room beds for patients who require isolation to limit contagion has fallen from 3,290 to 2,870 beds, the first decrease since their establishment around April 2020. This decrease in hotel isolation beds is consistent with Japan’s overall shift in strategy from strict isolation/quarantine for all identified cases, regardless of clinical status, to isolation/treatment of symptomatic inpatients in conjunction with public health tracking of high-risk close contacts.

COVID-19 Vaccination in Japan



* Created based on information from the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare and the Prime Minister's Office

Vaccine doses administered (cumulative, nationwide)

Vaccination of elderly persons continues in earnest with an aim to be completed by the end of July 2021. Plans are underway to begin vaccinating high-risk patients under 65 from July. Moderna vaccine may be approved in May, but Pfizer remains the only approved vaccine in Japan for the time being.

As of this writing, 2.64 million healthcare workers are reported have received at least one dose of vaccine, along with approximately 75,000 seniors. Several news reports have highlighted the government’s understanding of the frustrating slowness of Japan’s vaccine rollout. It is presently unclear if plans for “mass vaccination” sites are actually underway.

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References and Resources

Further details of the government's plans are available on the website of the Prime Minister's office:

<https://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/headline/kansensho/vaccine.html>

References

Reported Caseload Graphs and data sourced from MHLW as reported by Toyo Keizai and the Tokyo metropolitan government –

<https://toyokeizai.net/sp/visual/tko/covid19/en.html>

<https://stopcovid19.metro.tokyo.lg.jp/en/>

<https://www.stopcovid19.jp/#Tokyo>

<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/special/coronavirus/vaccine/progress/>

Resources

How to get help if you suspect that you have COVID19 (Tokyo residents)

<https://stopcovid19.metro.tokyo.lg.jp/en/flow>

FAQ: How foreign residents can get coronavirus vaccinations in Japan

<https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20210212/p2a/00m/0na/046000c>