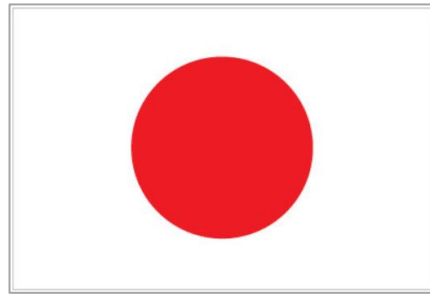




JAPAN



INTRODUCTION

After opening its ports in 1854, Japan began to intensively modernize and industrialize and, by the early 20th century, had become a regional power. After its defeat in World War II, Japan recovered to become an economic power and an ally of the US. While the emperor retains his throne as a symbol of national unity, elected politicians hold actual decision-making power.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

Emperor NARUHITO

Head of Government

Prime Minister Fumio KISHIDA

Government Type

parliamentary constitutional monarchy

Capital

Tokyo

Legislature

bicameral Diet or Kokkai consists of the House of Councillors or Sangi-in (248 seats) and the House of Representatives or Shugi-in (465 seats)

Ambassador to US

Ambassador YAMADA Shigeo

US Ambassador

Ambassador Rahm EMANUEL

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 377,915 sq km
Land: 364,485 sq km
Water: 13,430 sq km

Climate

varies from tropical in south to cool temperate in north

Natural Resources

negligible mineral resources, fish; note - with virtually no natural energy resources, Japan is totally dependent on imported fuel for the majority of its energy needs

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

fourth-largest, trade-oriented, and diversified economy; highly indebted country; slow wage growth and declining labor force; still heavily hydrocarbon-reliant; central bank keeping negative interest rates amid modest inflation; increased military spending; stagnant tourism sector

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$5.126 trillion (2021 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$40,800 (2021 est.)

Industries - motor vehicles, electronic equipment, machine tools, steel and nonferrous metals, ships, chemicals, textiles, processed foods

Agricultural products - rice, milk, sugar beets, vegetables, eggs, poultry, potatoes, cabbages, onions, pork

Exports \$919.2 billion (2021 est.)

cars/vehicle parts, integrated circuits, general machinery, photo lab equipment, construction vehicles, semiconductors (2021)

partners: China 21%, US 18%, South Korea 7%, Taiwan 7%, Thailand 4% (2021)

Imports \$941.7 billion (2021 est.)

crude petroleum, natural gas, integrated circuits, coal, refined petroleum, iron (2021)

partners: China 24%, US 10%, Australia 7%, South Korea 4%, Taiwan 4% (2021)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

123.7 million (2023 est.)

Population Growth

-0.41% (2023 est.)

Ethnicity

Japanese 97.8%, Chinese 0.6%, Korean 0.3%, other 1.3% (includes Filipino, Brazilian, Nepalese, Indonesian, American, and Thai) (2021 est.)

Language

Japanese

Religion

Shintoism 48.6%, Buddhism 46.4%, Christianity 1.1%, other 4% (2021 est.)

¹total adherents among people claiming a religious affiliation