

## 消费税上涨令日本社会不安，安倍经济学能否“挽尊”？



### 今日导读

日本政府自 10 月 1 日起正式将消费税提高至 10%，这是日本自 2014 年将消费税从 5% 升至 8% 后，时隔 5 年再次提高税率。为应对消费税上涨，日本各界紧急行动，其中，日本民众频频掀起“抢购潮”，商家提前推出冬季假日商品和促销等行为也屡见不鲜。今天的文章以税率上涨前，日本一位普通民众赶着去购买墓地的情景切入，向读者介绍了此次消费税上涨，可能会对日本人民的日常生活、日本国民经济还有现任首相安倍晋三的政绩分别造成何种影响。

### 带着问题听讲解

- 日本为什么要增加消费税？
- “经济陷入衰退”可以用英语怎么说？
- tighten one's purse strings 表示什么意思？

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# Japan raises taxes on its spenders despite growth worries

尽管经济增长令人担忧，日本执意提高消费税

Yasuo Sugiuchi can't avoid death, but he knew that – if he hurried – he would be able to escape taxes.

杉内康夫无法逃避死亡，但他知道，如果脚步够快，他能够少交一些税。

He rushed to buy a new familial **cemetery plot** to **beat** a tax increase that could have a profound impact on the country's spenders.

他急急忙忙买下一块新家族墓地，为的就是应对增税对日本消费者可能造成的重大影响。

Japan increased its tax on a wide variety of consumer goods and services. The increase could test the signature achievement of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who **came into office** promising to reform the country's economy after decades of **stagnation**.

日本增加了对各种消费品和服务的征税。这一措施或许会考验首相安倍晋三的标志性成就。在日本历经了数十年的经济停滞，安倍晋三上台时的承诺就是要改革日本经济。

He argues that Japan will need to spend on assisting its aging population and on young families, who the government is counting on to **drive up** the country's **flagging** birthrate. The money could also help **pay down** the enormous national debt.

他认为，日本将需要这些税收来帮助老龄化人口和年轻家庭，并指望这些年轻家庭提高日本低迷的出生率。而这笔钱还可以帮助偿还巨额的国家债务。

the enormous national debt (日本的巨额国债) – 日本的国债总量为 1008.6281 万亿日元，按债务占国内生产总值比重来看，日本的比重已高达 247%，远高于深陷债务危机的希腊和意大利，位居世界各国之首，这样前所未有的超高债务引发了国际社会忧虑。

As the tax **hike goes into effect** Tuesday, the big question for Japan is whether consumers like Sugiuchi will start to **tighten their purse strings**.

随着增税措施于周二生效，日本面临的一个大问题就是，像杉内这样的消费者是否会开始勒紧裤腰带。

If the tax makes consumers **reluctant** to spend, Japan could **slip** into **recession**, just as it did when Tokyo last raised the consumption tax five years ago. Abe's government raised the tax to 8% from 5% in 2014, and the Japanese economy immediately sank into recession.

如果消费税让消费者不愿意消费，日本可能会陷入经济衰退，就像 5 年前提高消费税的情况一样。安倍政府在 2014 年将税率从 5% 提高到了 8%，日本经济便立即陷入衰退。

Abe's government is hoping for a different result this time. This year's tax increase is not as big, and some economists say fewer consumers rushed to make their purchases to **beat the clock** this time.

安倍政府希望这次结果能有所不同。今年的增税幅度没有以往大，一些经济学家表示，这次赶在增税之前匆忙购物的消费者也因此更少了。

The government also has hopes to **defray** some of the impact of the increase through programs such as offering **incentives** for purchasing cars and houses.

政府也有望抵消税收增长的部分影响，比如为购买汽车和房子的人提供奖励。

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## 重点词汇

### cemetery

*'sem.ə.ter.i*      n. 公墓，墓地

### plot

*plɑ:t*      n. 小块土地

**英文释义：** a small piece of land that has been marked or measured for a particular purpose

**搭配短语：** a vegetable plot

## beat

*bi:t* v. 对...采取预防措施；避免

英文释义：to take action before sth. happens

例句：If we go early we should beat the traffic.

## come into office

上任；就职

同义词：take office

## stagnation

*stæg'neɪʃən* n. 停滞

词源：stagnatum

英文释义：standing water

例句：Economic growth of less than 1% per year is considered to be economic stagnation.

## drive up

抬高；提高

搭配短语：drive up the price

搭配短语：drive up the income

搭配短语：drive up the cost

## flagging

*'flæg.ɪŋ* adj. 变弱的

相关词汇：flag (v. 变得疲惫)

英文释义：to become tired, weaker, or less effective

搭配短语：flagging spirit

搭配短语：flagging hope

## pay down

偿还部分债务

英文释义：to pay part of an amount that you owe, so that the debt is reduced

相关词汇：pay up

**英文释义:** to give someone the money that you owe them, especially when you do not want to

**例句:** I had a hard time getting him to pay up.

## hike

*haɪk* n. (价格或费用的大幅) 提高, 增加

**搭配短语:** price hike

**搭配短语:** tax hike

**同义词:** tax boost

## go into effect

(法律或规则) 生效

**同义词:** come into effect

**例句:** The trash separation rules went/came into effect on July 1 this year.

## tighten one's purse strings

节省开支, 勒紧裤腰带过日子

**相关词汇:** the purse strings (对支出的管控)

**例句:** Who holds the purse strings in your house?

## reluctant

*rɪ'lʌk.tənt* adj. 不情愿的; 勉强的

**搭配短语:** be reluctant to do sth.

**例句:** She was reluctant to admit she was wrong.

**例句:** She finally gave a reluctant smile.

## slip

*slɪp* v. 滑倒; 变糟

**搭配短语:** slip on the floor

**例句:** I must be slipping.

**搭配短语:** a slip of tongue (n.)

**搭配短语:** slip into recession

**同义词\*:** slide/sink into recession

## recession

*riˈseɪ.ʃən* n. (经济) 衰退期

**英文释义：** a period when the economy of a country is not successful and conditions for business are bad

## beat the clock

争分夺秒，和时间赛跑

**例句：** We wake early to beat the clock.

## defray

*dɪˈfreɪ* v. (尤指由某组织) 支付，承担 (费用)

**英文释义：** to give somebody back the money that they have spent on something

**例句：** The company will defray all our expenses.

## incentive

*ɪnˈsen.tɪv* n. 激励，鼓励

**英文释义：** something that encourages a person to do something

**例句：** Bonus payments provide an incentive to work overtime.

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## 拓展阅读

### 日本出台若干措施缓解消费税上调压力

为了缓解日本消费税上调对经济带来的冲击，安倍政府还推出了一系列辅助性措施来对冲。比如实施学龄前免费教育，这一措施将使学龄前儿童的家庭受益 1.1 万亿日元。同时，在关系到民生的食品、非酒精饮料、报纸等日用消费品上采取“轻减税率”的制度，即这些日用消费品的税率依旧维持在 8%，而以“外卖”形式就餐的税率也将保持在 8% 不变，这些对冲措施将一直持续到明年 6 月。

然而，这些措施的出台也引发了日本民众的忧虑，民调显示，有 82.4% 的受访者认为这种制度安排很复杂，比如“外卖”就餐适用于 8% 的税率，而“堂食”则需缴纳 10% 的税率。在日本政府打出的一套“组合拳”措施中，“积分返点”活动也仅限于中小型购物场所，大型超市和百货店均被排除在外。这也是日本多年来第一次出现多重消费税并存的情况。