



# Japan



**Background** Japan opened its ports in 1854 and began to intensively modernize and industrialize. During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Japan became a regional power. After its defeat in World War II, Japan recovered to become an economic power and a US ally. The emperor retains his throne as a symbol of national unity, but elected politicians hold the decision-making power.

**Capital** name: Tokyo

**Government type** parliamentary constitutional monarchy

**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

**Population** total: 123,201,945

**Population growth rate** -0.43% (2024 est.)

**Ethnic groups** Japanese 97.5%, Chinese 0.6%, Vietnam 0.4%, South Korean 0.3%, other 1.2% (includes Filipino, Brazilian, Nepalese, Indonesian, American, and Taiwanese) (2022 est.)

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

**Languages** Japanese

**Executive branch** chief of state: Emperor NARUHITO (since 1 May 2019)  
head of government: Prime Minister Shigeru ISHIBA (since 1 October 2024)

**Legislative branch** summary: bicameral National Diet consists of the House of Councilors (248 seats) and the House of Representatives (465 seats)

**Diplomatic representation in the US** chief of mission: Ambassador YAMADA Shigeo (since 27 February 2024)

**Diplomatic representation from the US** chief of mission: Ambassador Rahm EMANUEL (since 25 March 2022)

**Economic overview** fourth-largest economy; trade-oriented and highly diversified; high public debt levels; real wage declines in inflationary environment; sustained near-zero central bank rates coupled with depreciation of yen; strong rebound in tourism

**Real GDP (purchasing power parity)** \$5.761 trillion (2023 est.)  
\$5.652 trillion (2022 est.)  
\$5.599 trillion (2021 est.)

**Real GDP per capita** \$46,300 (2023 est.)  
\$45,200 (2022 est.)  
\$44,500 (2021 est.)

<b>Exports</b>	\$920.737 billion (2023 est.) \$922.813 billion (2022 est.) \$920.639 billion (2021 est.)
<b>Exports - partners</b>	US 19%, China 19%, South Korea 7%, Taiwan 7%, Thailand 4% (2022)
<b>Exports - commodities</b>	cars, machinery, integrated circuits, vehicle parts/accessories, refined petroleum (2022)
<b>Imports</b>	\$989.843 billion (2023 est.) \$1.081 trillion (2022 est.) \$942.45 billion (2021 est.)
<b>Imports - partners</b>	China 22%, Australia 10%, US 10%, UAE 5%, Saudi Arabia 4% (2022)
<b>Imports - commodities</b>	crude petroleum, natural gas, coal, integrated circuits, garments (2022)