

Report Overview

This report will outline the strongest industries in Japan as well as in the following cities Kyoto, Okinawa, and Tokyo. The research will focus on the cities previously mentioned and will have a focus on the top industries in those cities as well as a focus on the college's interest in Asian Countries.

Japan at a Glance

The number of foreign workers is growing in Japan due to a rise in employment opportunities and a government restructure in 2012. The Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe, introduced a practice called “Abenomics,” which is an economic system of three rules that led Japan into the progress they have today: aggressive monetary policy, flexible fiscal policy, and growth strategies focused on liberalizing the business climate and raising the country’s profile overseas. The number of foreign workers reached one million for the first time in 2016 and continues to rise, and even compensates workers by permitting professional workers to obtain permanent residency within one year of employment.¹

As one of the world’s most technologically advanced producers of motor vehicles, electronic equipment, machine tools, metals, ships, chemicals, textiles and processed foods, Japan also has a new goal for its agricultural economy: a goal to reach 1 trillion yen by 2019.² In addition, Japan’s service sector accounts for three quarters of the total economic output. For GDP and Trade, the Abenomics policy aims to eliminate 99% of tariffs between parties, and through the new EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), Japan opens its doors to foreign talent.³

Japan is a very advanced economy and with high standard of living and is closely tied to other EU economies. Japan and the EU make up 27.8% of the GDP, 35.8 % of trade at 8 trillion yen in exports and 8.2 trillion yen in imports. Japan is considered one of the most literate and technically advanced nations that ranks among the top 5 largest national economies in the world.⁴

- Population: 127.3 million
- GDP per capita: (JPY) 4,612,373 equiv. (USD) 42,086 (2017)
- GDP: (JPY) 530 quadrillion equiv. (USD) 4.8 trillion (2017)
- Unemployment 2.8% (Jan. 2017)

¹ <https://www.japan.go.jp/investment/opportunities/phase2.html>

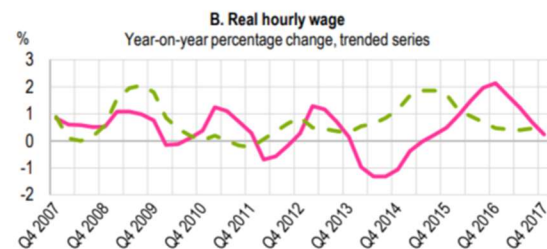
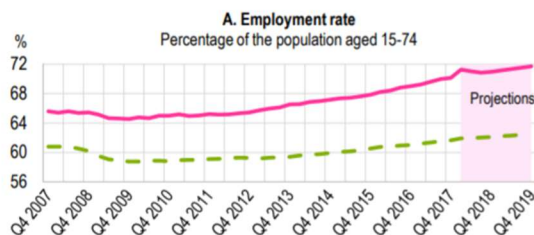
² https://www.indexmundi.com/japan/economy_profile.html

³ <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/in-focus/eu-japan-economic-partnership-agreement/>

⁴ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/FP.CPI.TOTL.ZG>

- Youth unemployment: 4.7% (Jan. 2019)⁵
- Inflation: 0.5%⁶

However, Japan is facing a rise in unemployment, and weaknesses in the work life balance and in air quality and the transition to a low-carbon society is undermined by the protection of energy intensive industries, urban sprawl, subsidies for car transport and fuel tourism. A first step to help improve Japan's work life balance is to reduce gender inequality.⁷



**Note: OECD weighted average (based on 29 OECD countries in Panel B, not including Chile, Iceland, Korea, Mexico, New Zealand and Turkey).*

***Source: OECD calculations based on OECD Economic Outlook Database (No. 103), June 2018, and quarterly national accounts.⁸*



Kyoto overview

Kyoto served as the Japanese capital until 1868. This city has exceptional historic value and serves as Japan's cultural centre with over 2,000 shrines and palaces, dotted with homes of Japanese Emperors, Japanese gardens, and many UNESCO World Heritage Sites. As also the home of the tea ceremony, tea houses here only serve the highest grade Matcha (Green Tea). Regarding food, Tofu, Kyo-wagashi (Kyoto sweets)

and Kaiseki (Japanese haute cuisine) are only a few highlights of Kyoto's cuisine. Kyoto was voted as the best city in the world (2015).⁹

Population: 1.5 million **Unemployment rate:** 3.1%
GDP per capita: (JPY) 4,474,204 equiv. (USD) 40,794

⁵ <https://data.oecd.org/unemp/youth-unemployment-rate.htm>

⁶ <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ja.html>

⁷ https://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/database/db-l/dl/employment_trends_2014_outline.pdf

⁸ https://data.oecd.org/japan.htm?_ga=2.252782156.41411316.1548273593-1284172807.1548273593

⁹ <https://www.britannica.com/place/Kyoto-Japan>

Kyoto's key industries are in information technology and electronics. The city houses the headquarters of Nintendo, Intelligent Systems, Horiba, Nissin Electric and Shimadzu Corporation. Tourism is a significant factor of the economy, and Sake brewing is Kyoto's traditional industry.¹⁰



Okinawa overview

Okinawa is surrounded by the East China Sea and the Pacific Ocean, and because it served as a waypoint to mainland Japan, it was American controlled until May 15, 1972. To this day, there is a large American percentage of the Japanese population. Sushi reigns as the main dish in Okinawa, but pork is also just as prevalent.¹¹

Population: 1.4 million **Unemployment rate:** 4.4%
GDP per capita: (JPY) 2,850,850 equiv. (USD) 27,664

Okinawa serves as a cultural centre that connects Asia and Japan. It serves as a “special economic zone” that favours national taxes, regional taxes and tariffs, and is also nation's largest marine resort region. Besides business and tourism, Okinawa is home to the Ryukyu Broadcasting Corporation and the Okinawa Electric Power Company.¹²



Tokyo overview

Tokyo is ranked as the most populous metropolitan area in the world. After a massive city restructure, Tokyo's urban landscape houses 38 Fortune Global 500 companies, a rank of No. 2 in the world. It is No. 4 on the global city index, No. 3 on the global cities of the future overall megacities list and has over 2,300 foreign companies in Tokyo itself.¹³ The food in Tokyo rivals none other; it has a record breaking 243 restaurants with Michelin Stars (2014) and is home to international cuisine. Tokyo is a hub of pop culture, art, music, and technology.¹⁴

¹⁰ <https://www.jetro.go.jp/en/invest/region/kyoto/>

¹¹ <https://www.visitokinawa.jp/about-okinawa/history>

¹² <https://www.jetro.go.jp/en/invest/region/okinawa.html>

¹³ https://www.seisakukikaku.metro.tokyo.jp/invest_tokyo/english/why-tokyo/merit.html

¹⁴ <https://www.gotokyo.org>

Population: 12.9 million

Unemployment rate: 3.2%

GDP per Capita: (JPY) 4,213,361 equiv. (USD) 38,428¹⁵

Tokyo houses countless businesses. Some of the top 10 companies in all industries include Honda, Toyota, Japan Post Holdings, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation, SoftBank Group Corp, and JXTG Holdings.¹⁶

¹⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Japanese_prefectures_by_GDP_per_capita

¹⁶ <http://japan-product.com/top10-japan-companies-list-all-industries-2017/>