

Government Departments: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Monday to Friday
(Saturday to 12:00 noon)

Religion

Buddhism, which came to Japan via China in the sixth century and of which there are many sects, and Shintoism (the Way of the Gods), which is the traditional cult of the land, are the principal religions in Japan. Neither religion is exclusive and strict adherents are few. There are many ancient Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines throughout Japan. There are also various Christian denominations and in Tokyo, Kobe and most other large cities, visitors can usually find a church of their choice.

Weights and Measures

Japan uses the metric system. Containers for wholesale and retail sales must be labelled in metric units, but non-metric container sizes are permitted. Many imported food products enter in normal packaging to which Japanese language labels are added. As volume builds, however, consideration must be given to labelling and packaging for Japan at the point of production.

Electricity

Electricity for domestic use is supplied at 100, 60 cycles AC in west Japan (Osaka) and at 100, 50 cycles AC in east Japan (Tokyo).

Local Time

Add 14 hours to Eastern Standard Time and 13 hours to Eastern Daylight Savings Time.

Currency

The Japanese currency is the yen.

Economic Statistics

GNP: 330.75 trillion (Y), \$2.87 trillion (Cdn)

GNP/capita: 2.7 million (Y), \$23 419 (Cdn)

Real GNP growth rate: 2.5 per cent in 1986; 2.75 per cent forecast for 1987-88

Inflation rate: 0.8 per cent