JAPAN

Capital: Tokyo

GEODATA

Area 378,000 km²

Population 125.96 million (1996 est.)

Population growth 0.4% (1996 est.)

Major language Japanese

Major religions Buddhist, Shinto

POLITICAL DATA

Type of government Constitutional monarchy

Leader
Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto

Minister of Foreign Affairs Yukihiko Ikeda

Minister of Finance Hiroshi Mitsuzuka

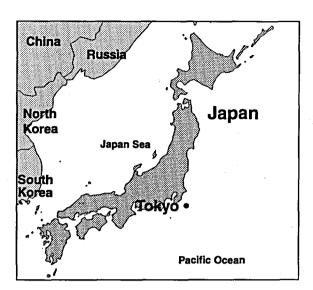
Democratic institutions
Bicameral parliament (Diet)

UN Human Development Index
Japan ranks 3rd among 174 countries

CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE

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ECONOMIC DATA

Nominal GDP \$4.6 trillion US (1996)

Real GDP growth rate 3.6% (1996)

GDP per capita on a PPP basis \$23,794 US (1996)

Inflation rate 0.1% (1996)

Unemployment rate 3.4% (1996)

Main exports

Machinery, metals, chemical products, textile fibres and products, motor vehicles, ships, consumer electronics and optical instruments

Main imports

Mineral fuels, foodstuffs, raw materials, machinery, and metal ore and scrap

Main exports to Canada

\$10.44 billion Cdn (1996), including machinery, electronics and photographic equipment, motor vehicles and parts, computers, chemicals

Main imports from Canada

\$10.51 billion Cdn (1996), including lumber and plywood, pulp and paper, coal, fish, animal products, seafood and oilseeds