

National Holidays

New Year's Day — *January 1*

Adults Day — *January 15*

National Foundation Day — *February 11*

Vernal Equinox — *March 20 or 21 (lunar calendar)*

Emperor's Birthday — *April 29*

Constitution Memorial Day — *May 3*

Children's Day — *May 5*

Respect for the Aged Day — *September 15*

Autumnal Equinox — *September 23 or 24 (lunar calendar)*

Sports Day — *October 10*

Cultural Day — *November 3*

Labour Thanksgiving Day — *November 23*

Government and business offices are usually closed January 2 and 3. In practice, little work is done during the last few days of December and the first week of January. Business people are advised to avoid visiting during this period. Visits should also be avoided during Golden Week, the week of the April 29, May 3 and May 5 national holidays, as many Japanese business people take extended vacations at this time.

Business Hours

Business hours are usually 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with lunch between 12:00 and 1:00 p.m. Business breakfasts and luncheons are not generally part of Japanese tradition.

Banks: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday to Friday
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon Saturday (every other Saturday)

Commercial Offices: Generally 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday, although it is unusual for companies to accept appointments before 10:00 a.m. While many offices open Saturday mornings, the offices of major companies are closed.

Department Stores: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (there is no fixed day for the weekly holiday; department stores usually close on Wednesday or Thursday)