JAPAN: BASIC DATA

GEOGRAPHY 377,750 sq. kms

CLIMATE Temperate, the hottest month is August (27.1°C), and the coldest month is January (5.2°C). The driest month is January (45 mm avg. rainfall), and the wettest month is June (185 mm avg. rainfall).

POPULATION 125 million (1993)

BAN	Tokyo	8,261,000
INTRES	Yokohama	3,319,000
	Osaka	2,714,000
	Nagoya	2,204,000
	Sapporo	1,732,000
	Kyoto	1,479,000

TIME Japan is 9 hours ahead of GMT.

MEASURES The metric system is used throughout Japan, and 1 tsubo = 3.31 sq. metres.

LANGUAGE Japanese

CURRENCY Yen (¥) = 100 sen.

HOLIDAYS

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National holidays are officially January 1 and 15, February 11, March 21, April 29, May 3-5, September 15 and 23, October 10, November 3 and 23, and December 23. When any of these days falls on a Sunday, however, the following Monday becomes a holiday. Generally, except for some service sector firms, Japanese companies are closed on December 28 or 29 and do not open before January 4. In August, there is a period called *obon* (buddhist-related event) during which many companies are closed. The actual length of this holiday period is different according to firms. August 15 is the actual *obon* day.

system of import quotes allows Japan to control the flow of fishertes imports. This maport quote system has onen been described as a non-tanif barrier and is the subject of much discussion at Canada-Japan of ward negotiations. With the result of the OMTN in 1994 such that Japan has been allowed to keep the IO fusion. however, the import structure should change as tentis will be lowered across the board.