

## JAPAN: BASIC DATA

<b>GEOGRAPHY</b>	377,750 sq. kms												
<b>CLIMATE</b>	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).												
<b>POPULATION</b>	125 million (1993)												
<b>URBAN CENTRES</b>	<table> <tr> <td>Tokyo</td><td>8,261,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>Yokohama</td><td>3,319,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>Osaka</td><td>2,714,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>Nagoya</td><td>2,204,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>Sapporo</td><td>1,732,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>Kyoto</td><td>1,479,000</td></tr> </table>	Tokyo	8,261,000	Yokohama	3,319,000	Osaka	2,714,000	Nagoya	2,204,000	Sapporo	1,732,000	Kyoto	1,479,000
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<b>TIME</b>	Japan is 9 hours ahead of GMT.												
<b>MEASURES</b>	The metric system is used throughout Japan, and 1 tsubo = 3.31 sq. metres.												
<b>LANGUAGE</b>	Japanese												
<b>CURRENCY</b>	Yen (¥) = 100 sen.												
<b>HOLIDAYS</b>	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 <i>obon</i> (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 <i>obon</i> day.												