

LIFE STORES CO., LTD.

Address: 1-7-44, Nishi-Mikuni, Yodogawa-ku, Osaka 532, Japan Tel: 06-395-1951	
ANNUAL TURNOVER (Period ending February 1988)	128 015 million yen
TOTAL NUMBER OF STORES	69
LOCATION OF STORES	Eastern Japan: 22 Western Japan: 47
AVERAGE ANNUAL SALES PER STORE	1 855 million yen
PROPORTION OF FOOD SALES	71%
TOTAL FLOOR SPACE	95 521 square metres
TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES	5 303 Full-time: 2 322 Part-time: 2 981
YEAR ESTABLISHED	1956

Life Stores is the 16th largest supermarket chain, and, like Maruetsu, concentrates more heavily on food than on general merchandise. The company's 69 outlets are mostly located near the major urban centres of Osaka and Tokyo. Life Stores is an affiliate of Ito-Yokado.

Life Stores originally dates back to the Meiji period, but the chain did not take on its present name, as well as the supermarket format, until 1961. Initially based in Osaka, the chain opened its first store in Tokyo in 1971, and now has 11 stores in the Tokyo area.

Life Stores has not developed affiliated businesses as avidly as other supermarket chains. Its only food-related affiliate is the wholesale supplier, Sanwa Bussan.