

Country Fact Sheet

Japan



Government employment as a percentage of total employment in Japan is the lowest among OECD countries, around 6%

This share has also been quite stable since 2007. Over 85% of staff is employed at sub-central level, which indicates a high level of decentralisation of public administrations. Representation of women in central administration is the lowest among OECD countries (18%). Women only account for 3% of senior and middle managers whereas the OECD average is 33%. 16% of the staff in central public administration has at least 55 years old, which is significantly lower than the OECD average (24%).



Chapter 3. Public employment and pay

[Employment in general government as a percentage of total employment](#)

[Distribution of general government employment across levels of government](#)

[Share of women in senior management positions in central government](#)

[Percentage of central government employees aged 55 years or older](#)

Japan is among the leaders on open government data policies among OECD countries

Governments gather large amounts of information as part of its administrative duties. Some of that information can be put to use not only to improve the organizational efficiency of the government itself, but also to create value-added in private sector, foster innovation and empower citizens' decision-making. According to the *OURdata* index, Japan has the third highest score on the availability, accessibility and re-use of public sector information, after Korea and France, which reflects how the country is moving forward in adapting its technological capabilities to satisfy the growing demand for information.



Chapter 10. Open government

[Open-Useful-Reusable Government Data Index \(*OURdata*\)](#)

Japan has introduced spending reviews to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of public expenditures

Spending reviews assess the scope, scale and impact of government spending, and therefore are an important tool of fiscal management. Between 2008 and 2016, Japan has carried out six government spending reviews. These are led by outside government experts who assess the effectiveness of government programs.



Chapter 5. Budgeting practices and procedures

[Frequency and scope of spending reviews](#)

How to read the figures:



Country value in blue
(not represented if not available)



Average of OECD countries
in red



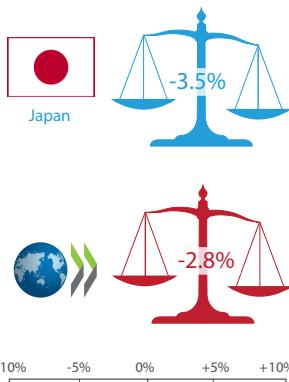
Range of OECD country
values in grey

Values have been rounded.
n.a. refers to
data not available

Public Finance and Economics

Fiscal balance* (2015)

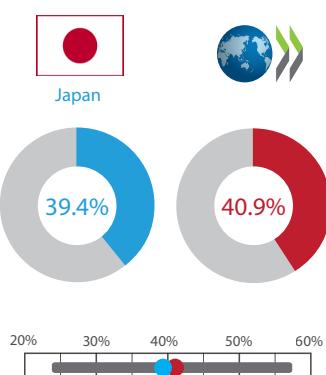
% of GDP



Source: OECD National Accounts

Government expenditures (2015)

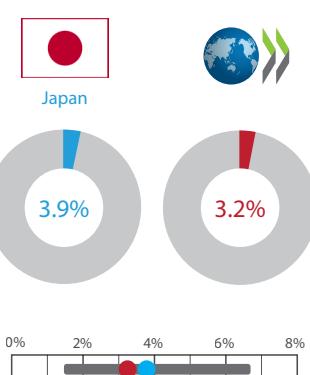
% of GDP



Source: OECD National Accounts

Government investment (2015)

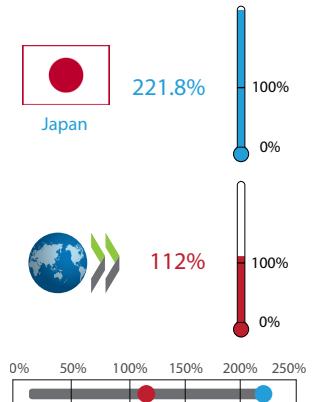
% of GDP



Source: OECD National Accounts

Government gross debt*(2015)

% of GDP



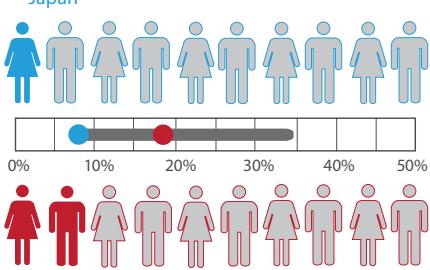
Source: OECD National Accounts

* See Notes

General government employment as % of total employment (2015)

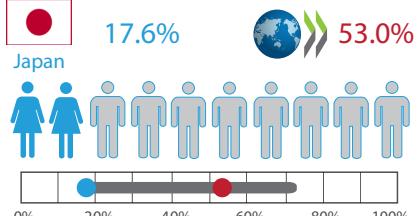


Japan: 5.9%

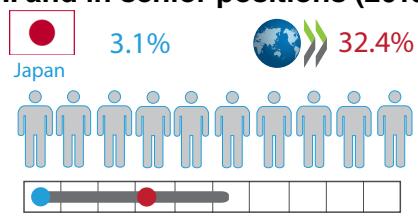


Source: OECD National Accounts

Women in the civil service ...



... and in senior positions (2015)



Source: OECD (2016) Survey on the Composition of the workforce in Central/federal Governments

Percentage of central government employees aged 55 years or older (2015)



Japan



16.3%

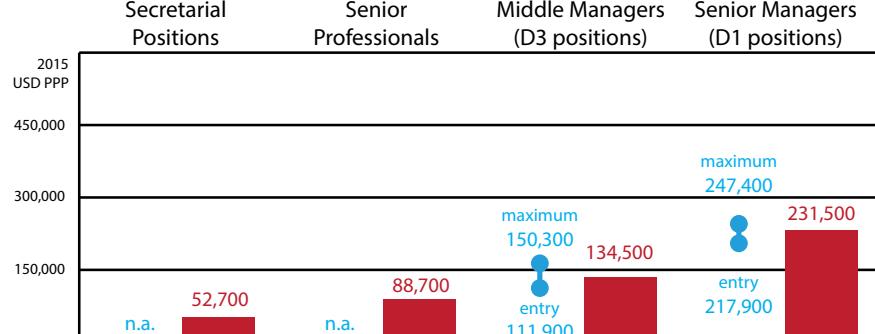
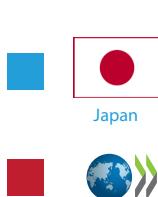
24.9%



Source: OECD (2016) Survey on the Composition of the workforce in Central/federal Governments

Public Sector Compensation

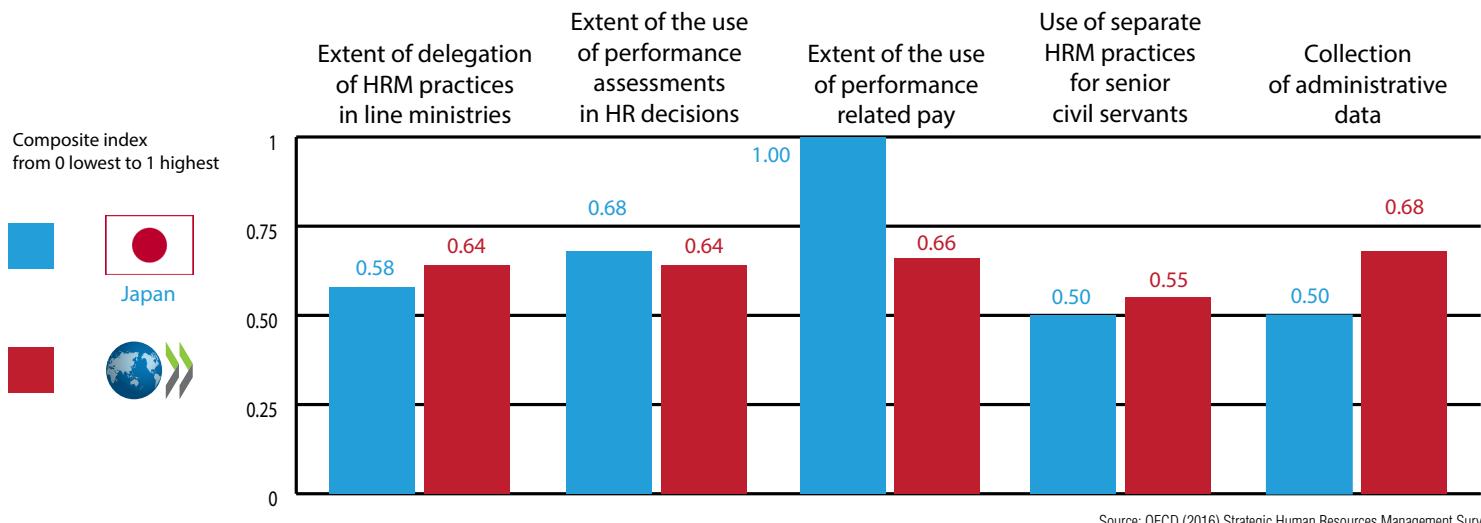
Annual compensation across central government positions (2015)



Source: OECD (2016) Survey on the compensation of employees in central / federal governments

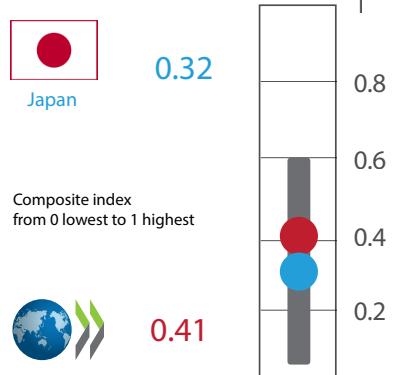
Human Resource Management

Composite indicators on HRM practices in central government (2016)



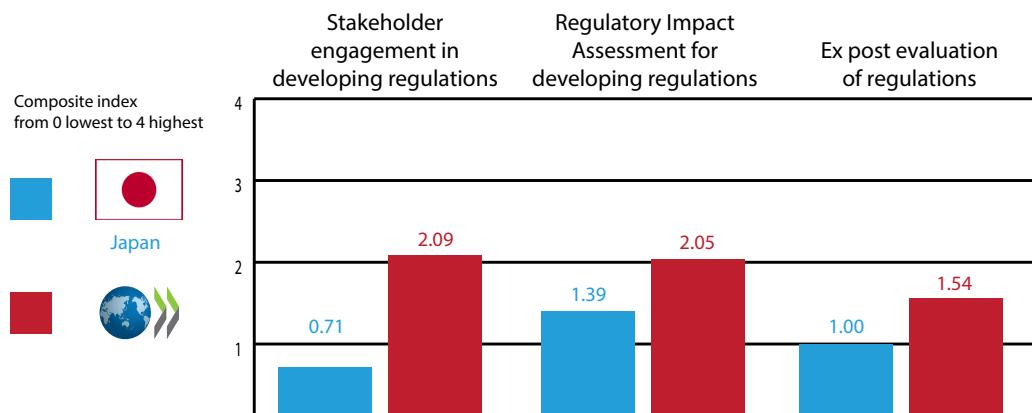
Budgeting

Performance budgeting practices at the central level of government (2016)



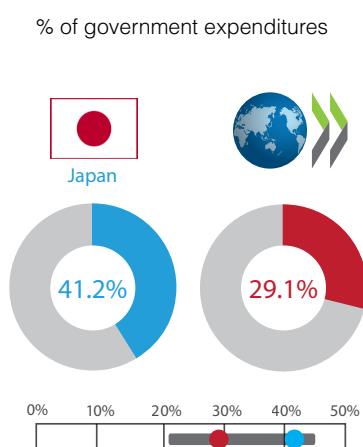
Regulatory governance

Composite indices on regulatory governance for primary laws* (2014)

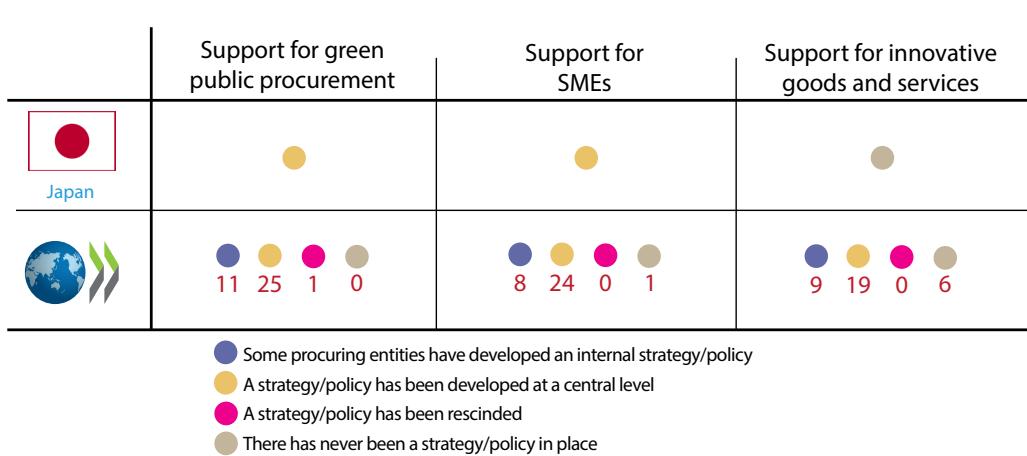


Public Procurement

General government procurement expenditures (2015)



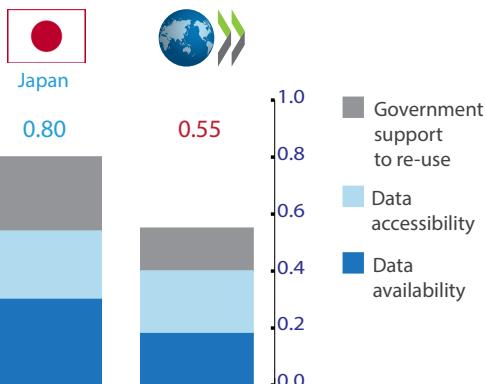
Strategic public procurement - Objectives (2016)



Open Data

OURdata Index: Open, Useful, Reusable Government Data (2017)

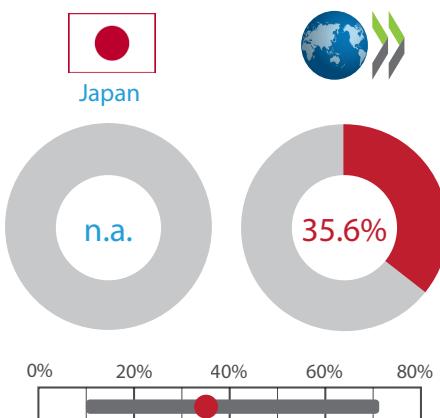
Composite index: from 0 lowest to 1 highest



Source: OECD (2017) Survey on Open Government Data

Digital Government

Individuals using the Internet for sending filled forms via public authorities websites in the past 12 months (2016)

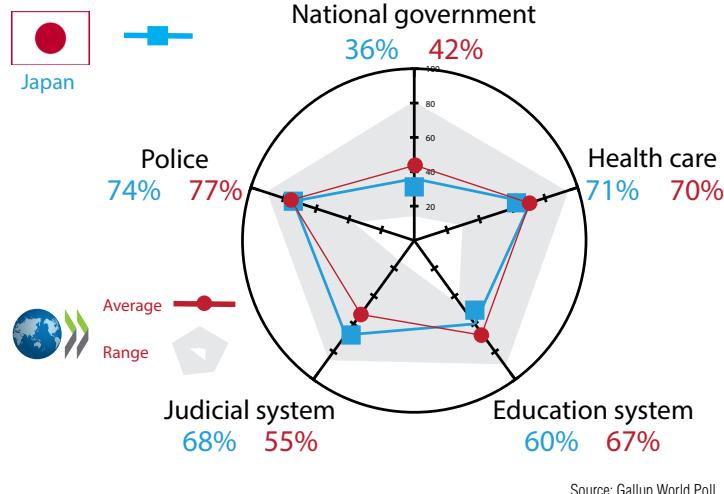


Source: OECD, ICT database; and Eurostat, Information Society database

Core Government Results

Satisfaction and confidence across public services (2016)

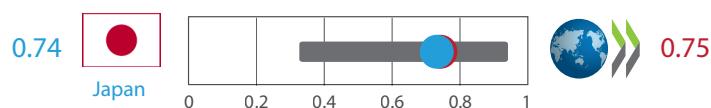
% of citizens expressing confidence/satisfaction



Differences in income inequality pre and post-tax and government transfers (2013)



Limited government powers (2016)



Notes

- Fiscal balance** as reported in the System of National Accounts (SNA) framework, also referred to as net lending (+) or net borrowing (-) of government, is calculated as total government revenues minus total government expenditures.
- Regulatory governance indicators:** The results for stakeholder engagement and Regulatory Impact Assessment apply exclusively to processes for developing primary laws initiated by the executive. Data is not applicable to the United States, where all primary laws are initiated by Congress. In the majority of countries, most primary laws are initiated by the executive, except for Mexico and Korea, where a higher share of primary laws are initiated by parliament/congress (respectively 90.6% and 84%).
- Government gross debt** is reported according to the SNA definition, which differs from the definition applied under the Maastricht Treaty. It is defined as all liabilities that require payment or payments of interest or principal by the debtor to the creditor at a date or dates in the future. All debt instruments are liabilities, but some liabilities such as shares, equity and financial derivatives are not debt.

Government at a Glance 2017

Government at a Glance provides readers with a dashboard of key indicators assembled with the goal of contributing to the analysis and international comparison of public sector productivity and performance. Indicators on government revenues, expenditures, and employment are presented, alongside key output and outcome data for education, health and justice. Information on key enablers to increase productivity including on digital government, budget procedures, strategic human resource management, open government data and innovative practices are also included. In a context of tight budget constraints in many member countries, good indicators are needed more than ever, in order to help governments make informed decisions regarding resource allocation and to help restore confidence in government institutions.

The Excel spreadsheets used to create the tables and figures in *Government at a Glance 2017* are available via the StatLinks provided throughout the publication:

http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/gov_glance-2017-en

For more information on the data (including full methodology and figure notes) and to consult all other Country Fact Sheets: www.oecd.org/gov/govataglance.htm

