Japan recorded one of the largest deficits of 3.0% of GDP and primary deficit of 2.7% of GDP

Primary balance is the fiscal balance after taking into account the net interest payment, which Japan’s general government marked the largest among the OECD countries. This figure reflects in large part the lower than expected growth, repeated supplementary budgets and delays in raising the consumption tax as planned. Even more when considering the significantly low negative financial net worth, Japan faces the need for a comprehensive fiscal consolidation.

Chapter 2. Public finance and economics

Figure 2.1. General government fiscal balance as a percentage of GDP, 2007, 2017 and 2018
Figure 2.2. General government primary balance and net interest spending as a percentage of GDP, 2017 and 2018
Figure 2.13 General government financial net worth as a percentage of GDP, 2007, 2017 and 2018

Japan is one of the front-runners among OECD countries regarding open government data policies and their implementation

In 2019, Japan scored the fourth highest among the OECD countries on OURdata Index (on 0-1 scale with 1 the best value) at 0.75 compared to the OECD average of 0.60. Out of the three dimensions – data availability, data accessibility and government support for data re-use – that constitute the index, Japan had the fourth highest score among OECD countries on data availability and government support for data re-use.

Chapter 9. Open and digital government

Figure 9.4. Open Useful Re-Usable data (OURdata) Index, 2017 and 2019

Wealth is less unequally distributed in Japan compared to most of the OECD countries

In 2015, wealth inequality, as measured by the net wealth share held by the top 10% of households, was the second lowest in Japan at 41% among the OECD countries whose average was 52%. Similarly, Japan had one of the smallest share of economically vulnerable population – referring to those who would not have enough readily available financial assets to keep living above the poverty line for at least three months if income were to suddenly stop. In 2015, only 13.6% of the Japanese population was classified as economically vulnerable, compared to the OECD average of 35.7%.

Chapter 10. Core government results

Figure 10.8. Shares of household income and wealth held by units in the top 10 of the distribution, 2015
Figure 10.9. Percentage of individuals experiencing income and/or asset-based poverty, 2015 or latest available year
Public Finance and Economics

Fiscal balance* (2017) % of GDP
-3.0% (Japan)
-2.2%

Government expenditures* (2017) % of GDP
38.7% (Japan)

Government investment* (2017) % of GDP
3.9%

Government gross debt* (2017) % of GDP
222.1% (Japan)

How to read the figures:
- Country value in purple (not represented if not available)
- Average of OECD countries in green
- Range of OECD country values in grey
- Values have been rounded.
- n.a. refers to data not available.

Public Employment

General government employment as % of total employment* (2017)
5.9% (Japan)

Civil servants as % of all central administration employees (2019)
39.1% (Japan)

Gender equality ...

... in parliament (2019)
10.2% (Japan)
30.1%

... in ministerial positions (2019)
5.3% (Japan)
31.2%

Institutions

Responsibilities of the Centre of Government (2016)

Preparation of Cabinet meetings
Policy co-ordination
Transition planning and management
Strategic planning
Government programme
Monitoring of government policy
Relations with parliament

Japan
Responsibility of the Centre of Government
Shared between the Centre of Government and another body
Responsibility of another body

Source: OECD (2017) Survey on Organisation and functions of the Centre of Government
### Human Resource Management

**Performance management regime for senior managers (2019)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Existence of a performance-management regime for senior managers</th>
<th>Performance-related pay</th>
<th>Performance agreement with the Minister (at D1)</th>
<th>Performance appraisal system which includes:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** OECD (2019) Survey on Strategic Human Resources Management (SHRM)

### Budgeting

**Gender budgeting index (2018)**

Composite index from 0 (worst) to 1 (best)

- **Japan**: 0.62
- **Others**: 0.53

**Source:** OECD (2018) Survey on Gender Budgeting

### Regulatory governance

**Composite indices on regulatory governance for primary laws (2017)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stakeholder engagement in developing regulations</th>
<th>Regulatory Impact Assessment for developing regulations</th>
<th>Ex post evaluation of regulations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>0.70</td>
<td>2.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.20</td>
<td>1.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Indicators of Regulatory Policy and Governance Surveys (IRPS)

### Public Procurement

**General government procurement expenditures (2017)**

- Japan: 41.6%
- Other countries: 29.1%

**Source:** OECD National Accounts

**Mechanisms to prevent and manage conflicts of interests among public procurement officials (2018)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regulatory framework includes a definition of a conflict of interest for public procurement officials</th>
<th>Public procurement officials have to declare their private interests</th>
<th>Public procurement officials have to declare &quot;no conflict of interest&quot; or notify the competent authority in case of potential conflict of interest</th>
<th>Certain public officials and political appointees have certain limitations in participating in public procurement opportunities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>28</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** OECD (2016) Survey on the Implementation of the 2015 OECD Recommendations on Public Procurement
Government at a Glance 2019

Government at a Glance provides reliable, internationally comparative data on government activities and their results in OECD countries. In many public governance areas it is the only available source of data. It includes, input, process, output and outcome indicators as well as contextual information for each country. Input indicators are on public finance and employment; while processes in the 2019 edition include data on institutions, budgeting practices and procedures, human resources management, regulatory government, public procurement and digital government and open data. Outcomes cover core government results (e.g. trust, inequality reduction) and indicators on access, responsiveness, quality and citizen satisfaction for the education, health and justice sectors. Governance indicators are needed more than ever, given large number of OECD principles and recommendations that countries signed up to adhere to need regular monitoring; their relationship to Sustainable Development Goals and the unique position of the OECD in collecting vital information on public governance practices from government officials.

The Excel spreadsheets used to create the tables and figures in Government at a Glance 2019 are available via the StatLinks provided throughout the publication:
http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/gov_glance-2019-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