







Merchandise Trade

Japan has a trade-to-GDP ratio of 35.69%. Merchandise trade accounted for 78.8% of Japan's total trade in 2017. Japan's merchandise exports declined by 2.5% on average during 2012-2017, lower than the Asia-Pacific average of 0% during the same time period. In 2017, Japan's merchandise exports grew by 8.3%, while in the Asia-Pacific region they increased by 11.5% in the same year. Meanwhile, Japan's merchandise imports decreased by 4.8% on average during 2012-2017, and recorded an increase of 10.6% between 2016 and 2017.

Services Trade

In 2017, Japan's commercial services' shares of total exports and imports were 20.5% and 22%, respectively. Commercial services exports grew by 6.9% on average during 2012-2017, higher than the Asia-Pacific average of 3.2% during the same time period. In 2017, Japan' commercial services exports grew by 6.5%, while in Asia-Pacific region they increased by 7.9%. Meanwhile, Japan's commercial services imports increased by 0.7% on average during the 2012-2017 period, recording a growth rate of 3.8% from 2016 to 2017.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

Japan recorded an average annual FDI inflows growth of 100.5% from 2012 to 2017, larger than the Asia and the Pacific's 2.9% average annual FDI inflow growth. At the same time, Japan experienced a decline in FDI inflows by 8.4% in 2017. In terms of FDI outflows, Japan had an average annual FDI outflows growth of 6.2% in the last five years, larger than the Asia and the Pacific's 3.5% average annual FDI outflow growth. In 2017, Japan experienced an increase in FDI outflows by 10.5%.





Top Trade Partners

In 2017, the largest trade partner of Japan was China, representing 19% of its exports and 24.5% of its imports. 19.4% of Japan's exports and 11% of Japan's imports by value were traded with United States, its second largest trade partner. Other significant trade partners were Republic of Korea, Taiwan, China, Australia, Thailand, Germany, Hong Kong, China, Viet Nam, and Indonesia.

Top Traded Products

The largest product category exported by Japan in 2017 was "Motor cars and other motor vehicles; principally designed for the transport of persons (other than those of heading no. 8702), including station wagons and racing cars" (8703), with an export share of 13.4% of total exports, followed by the second most exported product category, "Commodities not specified according to kind" (9999), which accounted for 6.3% of Japan's total exports. In terms of imports, "Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals; crude" (2709) represented 9.5% of total imports, standing out the top imported product category. Meanwhile, "Petroleum gases and other gaseous hydrocarbons" (2711) had a share of 6.3%, the second largest imported product category in Japan in 2017.

Tariffs

In 2017, average MFN applied and effectively applied tariffs in Japan were 3.07% and 2.32%, respectively - lower than the averages for the Asia-Pacific economies of 7.46% and 6.91%, respectively. Average MFN bound tariff rate of 3% was lower than the Asia-Pacific average of 26.35%. Japan is a founding member of the WTO. Currently, 99.64% of Japan's tariff lines are bound.

Trade Costs

Japan's average trade costs with major trading economies in the region, are presented in the graph below. Trade costs in Japan remained higher compared with the most efficient traders in Asia and the Pacific.



ASIA PACIFIC TRADE AND INVESTMENT REPORT 2018 Recent Trends and Developments







Top merchandise exports



Top merchandise imports











Trade Agreements

Japan has 15 trade agreements in force, 1 signed agreements pending ratification, and 6 trade agreements under negotiation. Of the economy's total exports, 21.5% are directed to its trade agreement partners, while 25.2% of its total imports come from trade agreement partners.

Titl	e Sta	tus Year in for	ce Share of total exports (%)	Share of total imports (%)
Japan-Singapore	in f	orce 2002	3.24	1.27
Japan-Mexico	in f	orce 2005	1.61	0.86
Japan-Malaysia	in f	orce 2006	1.83	2.87
Japan-Chile	in f	orce 2007	0.25	0.95
Japan-Thailand	in f	orce 2007	4.22	3.39
ASEAN-Japan	in f	orce 2008	15.17	15.30
Drunai Darussalam Janan	. in f	2000	0.04	0.05

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