

# **Japanese Economy Monthly Forecast**

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August 2021

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### **Headlines**

#### • Review of data released in August

This forecast reflects official data released by the end of August. About one-third of all statistics required for a complete calculation of 2021 Q3 GDP has been released, with the exception of household consumption data.

According to the first advance GDP estimate released on August 16, Q2 GDP grew an annualized +1.3% QoQ, marking the first expansion in two quarters. However, the economy has not recovered from the slump in Q1 (-3.7%). It can be said that the Japanese economy stagnated in the first half of 2021.

The Synthetic Consumption Index increased by +0.8% in Q2, marking the first improvement in two quarters. Judging from data on human movement, the index is likely to have increased further in July.

▶ In July, the amount of total planned construction rose by +2.0% MoM, being +1.6% higher than the Q2 average. In the same month, capital goods shipments increased by +2.8%, marking the first improvement in two months. The figure was +1.8% higher than the Q2 average.

▶ In Q2, public construction works shrank -1.3% QoQ, marking the second quarter of decline. Although the first half of 2021 was lackluster, public construction is expected to accelerate in the second half due to disaster recovery works and projects aimed at strengthening Japan's national resilience and risk management capability.

Real exports in July increased for the second month in a row (+0.6% MoM). In contrast, real imports declined for the first time in two months (-7.3% MoM). Compared to the Q2 average, the former expanded +1.0%, whereas the latter shrank -5.8%. As a result of these trends, net exports made a positive contribution to GDP growth in July.

#### • 2021 Q3 real GDP growth forecast update

Our forecast for real GDP growth (expenditure side) in Q3 is an annualized +4.0% (the QoQ growth figure being +1.0%). The production-side forecast figure is an annualized +2.2% QoQ. The average of the two is an annualized +3.1% (Figure 1).

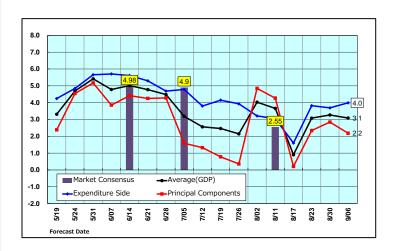
The contributions to GDP growth are estimated at +0.3%pt by domestic demand, and +0.7%pt by net exports.

#### 2021 Q3 inflation forecast update

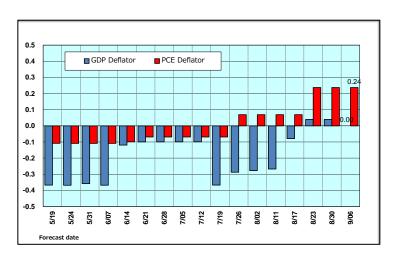
For some time, accommodation fees and telecommunications fees will remain complicating factors in determining the basic trend of consumer prices. For that reason, these two categories should be temporarily excluded.

Our CQM forecasts for the private final consumption expenditure deflator and the domestic demand deflator in Q3 are respectively +0.2% and +0.4% QoQ. However, as the terms of trade are deteriorating, we forecast a GDP deflator of +0.0% QoQ (Figure 2).

# Fig 1 CQM Forecast: Real GDP growth rate Jul-Sep (Q3) 2021 (%, QoQ annualized growth)



## Fig 2 CQM Forecast: Inflation Jul-Sep (Q3) 2021 (%, QoQ growth)



We used the Current Quarter Model (CQM) methodology developed by Professor Emeritus L. R. Klein to create two forecasting models for the Japanese economy: a demand-side model and a production-side (principal component analysis) model. We refer to the forecasts by the former model as the main series, and those by the latter model, as well as the average of both models, as the reference series. Forecasts made using the CQM model are renewed continuously, incorporating the latest weekly data, which makes it possible to determine and trace the impacts of the latest short-term trends on macroeconomic conditions.

Table 1: Main Economic Indicators (latest)

Release	Data		Value/ In-	Change		
Date	Month	Economic Indicator	dex Score	MoM	YoY	
9/2	September	Food Buffer Stock (billion JPY)	67.4		+9.7	
9/1	August	New Car Sales (vehicles)	263,602		-2.5%	
8/31	July	Labor Force Survey				
		Total employment (millions)	67.08	+0.41		
		Total unemployment (millions)	1.90	-0.12		
		Unemployment rate (%)	2.8%	-0.1%pt		
	July	General Job Placement Situation				
		Job offers-to-applicants ratio	1.15	+0.02pt		
	July	Indices of Industrial Production (preliminary figures, 2015=100)				
		Production	98.1	-1.5%		
		Shipments	96.1	-0.6%		
		Inventories	95.1	-0.6%		
	July	New Housing Starts				
		New housing starts (SA, Unit)	77,182	+6.9%	+9.9%	
		Planned residential construction expenditure (billon JPY)	1,290.3	+2.0%	+12.9%	
	June	Construction Costs Deflator (2015=100)				
		Housing construction	110.8		+1.6%	
		Public works	109.8		-0.5%	
	August	Consumer Confidence Index (SA)	36.7	-0.8		
8/30	July	Current Survey of Commerce (preliminary figures)				
		Retail trade (billion JPY)	12,730.0	+1.1%	+2.4%	
	July	Manufacturing Industry Input-Output Price Index (2011=100)				
		Input price	105.5		+13.6%	
		Output price	103.6		+6.8%	
8/27	August	Tokyo Region Consumer Price Index (2020=100)				
		Core	99.9	-0.3%	0.0%	
8/26	July	Corporate Services Price Index (2015=100)				
		Overall index	105.1		+1.1%	
8/25	June	Synthetic Consumption Index (2015=100)	96.4	+2.6%		
	June	Index of Business Conditions (revised figures, 2015=100)				
		Leading indicators	104.1	+1.5		
		Coincident indicators	94.5	+2.4		
		Lagging indicators	93.4	+1.1		
8/24	June	Monthly Labor Statistics (final figures)				
		Total cash salary per capita (JPY)	442,821		+0.1%	
		Total working hours	140.7		+2.7%	
8/20	July	National Consumer Price Index (2020=100)				
	·	Core index	99.8	+0.4%	-0.2%	
8/18	June	Private Core Machinery Orders (billion JPY)	852.4	-1.5%		
	June	General Construction Statistics				

		Private non-residential construction (billion JPY)	762.1		-0.3%
		Public works (billion JPY)	1,681.7		+1.3%
	July	Trade Statistics (customs clearance level)	,		
		Trade balance (billion JPY)	+441.0	+115.4	+455.8
		Exports (billion JPY)	7,356.4	-0.0%	+37.0%
		Imports (billion JPY)	6,915.4	-1.6%	+28.5%
8/17	June	Industrial Activity Index (2015=100)	97.7	+3.2%	
	June	Tertiary Industry Activity Index (2015=100)	97.2	+2.3%	
8/16	June	Indices of Industrial Production (final figures, 2015=100)			
		Production	99.6	+6.5%	
		Shipments	96.7	+4.8%	
		Inventory	95.7	+2.1%	
		Production capacity index	96.6		-1.0%
		Capacity utilization ratio	98.2	+6.2%	
8/13	July	Public Works Advanced Securities Statistics			
		Contract amount (billion JPY)	1,398.8		-9.9%
		Number of contracts	25,539		-7.2%
8/12	July	Domestic Corporate Price Index (2015=100)			
		Corporate Price	105.7	+1.1%	+5.6%
		Export Price	99.6	+0.4%	+11.2%
		Import Price	104.1	+1.8%	+27.9%
8/10	June	Information Services Industry Sales (billion JPY)	1,271.1		-0.1%
	July	Economy Watchers Survey			
		Current Conditions Diffusion Index	48.4	+0.8	
		Future Conditions Diffusion Index	48.4	-4.0	
	June	Balance of Payments			
		Current account (billion JPY)	905.1	-4.7%	+510.3%
		Exports (billion JPY)	7,137.4	+2.3%	+47.7%
		Imports (billion JPY)	6,488.9	+5.3%	+33.8%
8/6	June	Monthly Labor Statistics (preliminary figures)			
		Total cash salary per capita (JPY)	442,148		-0.1%
		Total working hours	140.7		+2.7%
	June	Consumption Activity Index (2015=100)	91.7	+2.7%	
	June	Family Income and Expenditure Survey (households with 2 or more people)			
		Nominal consumption expenditure (JPY)	260,285	-2.4%	-4.9%
		Real consumption expenditure		-3.2%	-5.1%
	June	Consumption Trend Index (2015=100)	94.4	+1.2%	
	June	Index of Business Conditions (preliminary, 2015=100)			
		Leading indicators	104.1	+1.5	
		Coincident indicators	94.0	+1.9	
		Lagging indicators	96.5	+3.3	

**Table 2: CQM Forecast: GDP Tracking** 

	Real GDP Deflator			Real GDP			Deflator		Real GDP			Deflator			
Forecast date	Expenditure side	Production side (PCA)	Average	GDP	PCE	Expenditure side	Production side (PCA)	Average	GDP	PCE	Expenditure side	Production side (PCA)	Average	GDP	PCE
date	2021Q2						2021Q3					2021Q4			
		SAAR (%)		QoQ (	%)		SAAR (%)		QoQ	(%)		SAAR (%)		QoQ (	(%)
5/19	1.0	0.9	0.9	-0.7	0.1	4.2	2.4	3.3	-0.4	-0.1					
5/24	0.8	1.3	1.0	-1.0	-0.2	4.8	4.5	4.7	-0.4	-0.1					
5/31	0.1	1.3	0.7	-1.0	-0.2	5.7	5.2	5.4	-0.4	-0.1					
6/07	0.7	0.6	0.6	-0.9	-0.2	5.7	3.9	4.8	-0.4	-0.1					
6/08															
6/14	-0.1	1.1	0.5	-0.8	-0.2	5.6	4.4	5.0	-0.1	-0.1					
6/21	-0.4	1.1	0.4	-0.7	-0.1	5.3	4.3	4.8	-0.1	-0.1					
6/28	-0.7	1.0	0.1	-0.7	-0.1	4.7	4.3	4.5	-0.1	-0.1					
7/05	-0.7	-1.5	-1.1	-0.6	-0.1	4.8	1.6	3.2	-0.1	-0.1					
7/12	-2.1	-0.9	-1.5	-0.6	-0.1	3.8	1.3	2.6	-0.1	-0.1					
7/19	-0.4	-0.3	-0.3	-0.7	-0.1	4.1	0.8	2.5	-0.4	-0.1					
7/26	-0.7	-0.5	-0.6	-0.6	-0.0	3.9	0.4	2.1	-0.3	0.1					
8/02	-0.0	0.8	0.4	-0.6	-0.0	3.2	4.8	4.0	-0.3	0.1					
8/11	0.9	0.3	0.6	-0.6	-0.0	3.0	4.3	3.7	-0.3	0.1					
8/16	<u>1.3</u>			<u>-0.3</u>	<u>-0.3</u>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0					
<u>8/17</u>						1.6	0.2	0.9	-0.1	0.1	5.2	5.4	5.3	-0.5	-0.7
8/23						3.8	2.3	3.1	0.0	0.2	5.3	3.4	4.3	-0.3	-0.6
8/30						3.7	2.8	3.3	0.0	0.2	5.4	6.5	5.9	-0.3	-0.6
9/06						4.0	2.2	3.1	0.0	0.2	5.4	6.5	5.9	-0.3	-0.6

Note: Underlined figures are 1st preliminary estimates, and figures marked by \* are 2nd preliminary estimates.

Table 3-1: Gross Domestic Product at Chained 2015 Price: Y Billion

	Ouarta rhy			Forecast		CY		FY	
	Quarterly	202404	2024.02		2024.04		2024		2024
CDD/CDE	2020Q4	2021Q1	2021Q2	2021Q3	2021Q4	2020	2021	2020	2021
GDP/GDE	E44.0E2	E26 020	E20 672	E 42,060	EE4 40E	E00 667	E 40 676	E06 0E7	E 4 G 4 7 E
Gross Domestic Products	541,953	536,938	538,673 288,934	543,969	551,125	528,667 283,973	542,676	526,857	546,475 291,420
Private Consumption	289,472	286,501		287,895 19,107	294,281	19,140	289,403	282,145	,
Residential Investment	18,626	18,799	19,192		19,177		19,069	18,932	19,144
Nonresidential Investment	85,890	84,812	86,259	86,757	87,232	85,592	86,265	84,313	86,934
Change in Private Inventory	-975	1,421	454	1,360	1,161	1,519	1,099	1,264	1,117
Government Consumption	116,829	114,821	115,377	116,316	116,828	113,530	115,835	114,492	116,466
Public Investment	29,476	29,176	28,749	29,187	29,013	28,943	29,031	29,226	28,955
Change in Public Inventory	-45	11	-9	19	18	-5	10	-11	12
Net Exports	2,830	1,393	-664	2,947	3,034	-4,332	1,678	-3,888	2,047
Exports of Goods & Services	97,943	100,269	103,220	105,531	106,426	91,721	103,861	91,967	105,498
Imports of Goods & Services	95,112	98,876	103,884	102,584	103,392	96,053	102,184	95,855	103,451
Gross National Income	568,094	559,550	559,367	562,759	569,575	552,428	562,813	551,082	565,933
Memo:	007.005	005 044	040.557	040.550	054.540	004.740	044.000	000 740	0.40,000
Total Demand	637,065	635,814	642,557	646,553	654,516	624,719	644,860	622,712	649,926
	Upper Peu	·· 0/ ahana	a from tha	provious a	ortor Low	or Pow: 9/	obongo fro	m a vaar oo	rlior
Gross Domestic Products		-0.9		1.0		er Row. %	change 110	m a year ea	riiei
SAAR	2.8 <b>11.9</b>	-0.9 -3.7	0.3 <b>1.3</b>	4.0	1.3 <b>5.4</b>				
	-0.9	-3.7 -1.3	7.6	3.2	<b>3.4</b> 1.7	-4.6	2.6	-4.5	3.7
% Change Year Ago Private Consumption	2.3		0.8	-0.4	2.2	-4.0	2.0	-4.5	3.7
'		-1.0 -2.4		1.7		-5.9	1.0	-5.9	3.3
% Change Year Ago Residential Investment	-2.2		7.3 2.1	-0.4	1.7 0.4	-5.9	1.9	-5.9	ა.ა
% Change Year Ago	0.0 -8.7	0.9 -4.3	-2.8	2.6	3.0	-7.1	-0.4	-7.2	1.1
Nonresidential Investment	4.3	-4.3	1.7	0.6	0.5	-7.1	-0.4	-1.2	1.1
% Change Year Ago	-2.9	-5.2	2.6	5.3	1.6	-6.0	0.8	-6.8	3.1
Government Consumption	1.8	-1.7	0.5	0.8	0.4	-0.0	0.6	-0.0	3.1
% Change Year Ago	5.0	3.5	3.3	1.4	0.4	2.8	2.0	3.3	1.7
Public Investment	1.0	-1.0	-1.5	1.5	-0.6	2.0	2.0	3.3	1.7
% Change Year Ago	4.7	3.6	-0.9	0.0	-1.6	3.6	0.3	4.2	-0.9
Exports of Goods & Services	11.7	2.4	2.9	2.2	0.8	3.0	0.3	4.2	-0.9
% Change Year Ago	-5.8	1.2	26.4	20.4	8.7	-11.7	13.2	-10.4	14.7
Imports of Goods & Services	4.8	4.0	5.1	-1.3	0.8	-11.7	13.2	-10.4	14.7
% Change Year Ago	-7.3	-0.6	5.1	13.1	8.7	-7.3	6.4	-6.8	7.9
Gross National Income	3.1	-1.5	0.0	0.6	1.2	-1.3	0.4	-0.0	7.9
SAAR	13.1	-1.5 -5.9	-0.1	2.4	4.9				
% Change Year Ago	0.3	-0.9	6.6	2.2	0.3	-3.8	1.9	-3.6	2.7
Total Demand	3.1	-0.9	1.1	0.6	1.2	-3.0	1.9	-3.0	2.1
	13.2			2.5					
SAAR % Change Year Ago	0.0	<b>-0.8</b> 9.3	<b>4.3</b> 7.2	<b>2.5</b> 4.7	<b>5.0</b> 2.7	-5.1	3.2	-4.8	4.4
% Change Year Ago  Contribution to GDP Grow th Ra		9.3	1.2	4.7	2.7	-5.1	3.2	-4.8	4.4
Domestic Demand	1.8	-0.7	0.6	0.3	1.3	-3.9	1.5	-3.9	2.6
						-3.9		-3.9 -4.7	
Private Demand	1.4	-0.3	0.6	0.1	1.2	0.7	1.1	0.9	2.3
Public demand	0.4	-0.4	0.0	0.3	0.1	-	0.5		0.3
Net Exports	1.0	-0.2	-0.3	0.7	0.0	-0.8	1.1	-0.6	1.1

Table 3-2: Gross Domestic Product at Current Prices: Y Billion

	Quarterly			Forecast		CY		FY	
	2020Q4	2021Q1	2021Q2	2021Q3	2021Q4	2020	2021	2020	2021
GDP/GDE	2020Q4	202 IQI	202 I Q2	202 I Q3	202 I Q4	2020	2021	2020	2021
Gross Domestic Products	551,241	545,638	545,953	551,321	556,796	538,697	549,927	536,760	553,721
						288.413		286,274	
Private Consumption	292,829	290,734	292,380	292,002	296,811	/	292,982	,	294,957
Residential Investment	19,575	19,967	20,752	20,809	20,835	20,142	20,591	19,941	20,806
Nonresidential Investment	86,070	85,857	87,858	89,081	90,103	86,209	88,225	84,875	89,427
Change in Private Inventory	-843	1,252	229	1,993	1,731	1,117	1,301	822	1,385
Government Consumption	116,521	115,356	116,427	117,664	118,144	113,872	116,898	114,684	117,761
Public Investment	30,806	30,741	30,602	30,813	30,782	30,264	30,734	30,610	30,743
Change in Public Inventory	-17	42	5	36	36	10	30	12	29
Net Exports	6,302	1,689	-2,299	-1,078	-1,646	-1,329	-834	-457	-1,386
Exports of Goods & Services		93,571	99,514	103,021	104,145	83,829	100,063	84,259	102,953
Imports of Goods & Services	83,228	91,882	101,813	104,100	105,791	85,158	100,896	84,715	104,340
Gross National Income	573,401	568,089	568,669	574,525	580,310	559,898	572,898	557,907	577,018
Memo:									
Total Demand	634,469	637,520	647,766	655,421	662,586	623,855	650,823	621,476	658,061
Compensation of Employee	281,737	289,006	284,017	285,116	286,282	282,481	286,105	282,244	285,604
	Upper Row	: % chang	e from the	orevious qu	arter Low	er Row: %	change fro	m a year ea	rlier
Gross Domestic Products	2.3	-1.0	0.1	1.0	1.0				
SAAR	9.7	-4.0	0.2	4.0	4.0				
% Change Year Ago	-0.8	-1.3	6.9	2.4	1.0	-3.8	2.1	-3.9	3.2
Private Consumption	1.8	-0.7	0.6	-0.1	1.6				
% Change Year Ago	-3.0	-2.8	6.8	1.5	1.4	-5.6	1.6	-5.9	3.0
Residential Investment	-0.2	2.0	3.9	0.3	0.1				
% Change Year Ago	-9.3	-3.9	0.4	6.0	6.4	-6.1	2.2	-6.7	4.3
Nonresidential Investment	3.8	-0.2	2.3	1.4	1.1				
% Change Year Ago	-3.7	-5.4	4.0	7.5	4.7	-6.3	2.3	-7.3	5.4
Government Consumption	1.2	-1.0	0.9	1.1	0.4				
% Change Year Ago	3.6	3.2	4.2	2.2	1.4	2.3	2.7	2.7	2.7
Public Investment	0.9	-0.2	-0.5	0.7	-0.1				
% Change Year Ago	4.4	4.1	1.3	0.9	-0.1	4.4	1.6	4.6	0.4
Exports of Goods & Services	11.2	4.5	6.4	3.5	1.1				
% Change Year Ago	-7.3	1.9	36.0	28.0	16.3	-14.0	19.4	-12.0	22.2
Imports of Goods & Services	4.8	10.4	10.8	2.2	1.6				
% Change Year Ago	-13.9	-1.7	20.5	31.1	27.1	-14.0	18.5	-13.3	23.2
Gross National Income	2.7	-0.9	0.1	1.0	1.0				
SAAR	11.2	-3.7	0.4	4.2	4.1				
% Change Year Ago	-0.7	-1.3	7.1	2.9	1.2	-3.8	2.3	-3.9	3.4
Memo:	<b>U.</b>					0.5		5.5	<b>U</b> . 1
Total Demand	2.7	0.5	1.6	1.2	1.1				
SAAR	11.1	1.9	6.6	4.8	4.4				
% Change Year Ago	0.0	16.0	8.8	6.1	4.4	0.0	-5.3	0.0	-5.3
Compensation of Employee	0.4	2.6	-1.7	0.1	0.4	0.0	-0.0	0.0	-0.0
% Change Year Ago	-2.6	-0.3	1.8	1.6		-1.5	1.3	-2.0	1.2
√ Change rear Ago	-2.0	-0.3	۱.8	1.0	1.6	-1.5	1.3	-2.0	1.2

Table 3-3: Deflator: 2015=100

	Quarterly			Forecast		CY		FY	
	2020Q4	2021Q1	2021Q2	2021Q3	2021Q4	2020	2021	2020	2021
GDP/GDE									
Gross Domestic Products	101.7	101.6	101.4	101.4	101.0	101.9	101.3	101.9	101.3
Private Consumption	101.2	101.5	101.2	101.4	100.9	101.6	101.2	101.5	101.2
Residential Investment	105.1	106.2	108.1	108.9	108.7	105.2	108.0	105.3	108.7
Nonresidential Investment	100.2	101.2	101.9	102.7	103.3	100.7	102.3	100.7	102.9
Government Consumption	99.7	100.5	100.9	101.2	101.1	100.3	100.9	100.2	101.1
Public Investment	104.5	105.4	106.5	105.6	106.1	104.5	105.9	104.7	106.3
Exports of Goods & Services	91.4	93.3	96.4	97.6	97.9	91.3	96.3	91.5	97.6
Imports of Goods & Services	87.5	92.9	98.0	101.5	102.3	88.6	98.7	88.3	100.9
Unit Profit	107.9	103.7	105.5	106.2	106.5	105.2	105.5	104.8	106.5
Unit Labor Cost	96.5	99.9	97.8	97.3	96.4	99.2	97.8	99.4	97.0
	Upper Row	: % chang	e from the	previous qu	arter Low	er Row: %	change fro	m a year ea	rlier
Gross Domestic Products	-0.5	-0.1	-0.3	0.0	-0.3				
	0.1	-0.1	-0.7	-0.8	-0.7	0.9	-0.6	0.7	-0.6
Private Consumption	-0.5	0.3	-0.3	0.2	-0.6				
	-0.8	-0.4	-0.4	-0.2	-0.3	0.3	-0.3	0.0	-0.3
Residential Investment	-0.3	1.1	1.8	0.7	-0.2				
	-0.7	0.4	3.4	3.3	3.4	1.0	2.6	0.5	3.2
Nonresidential Investment	-0.5	1.0	0.6	0.8	0.6				
	-0.9	-0.2	1.4	2.0	3.1	-0.4	1.6	-0.5	2.2
Government Consumption	-0.7	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.0				
	-1.3	-0.3	0.8	0.8	1.4	-0.4	0.7	-0.6	1.0
Public Investment	-0.1	0.8	1.0	-0.8	0.5				
	-0.3	0.5	2.2	1.0	1.5	0.8	1.3	0.4	1.6
Exports of Goods & Services	-0.5	2.1	3.3	1.3	0.2				
	-1.5	0.7	7.7	6.3	7.1	-2.6	5.5	-1.8	6.6
Imports of Goods & Services	0.0	6.2	5.5	3.5	8.0				
	-7.2	-1.1	14.6	16.0	16.9	-7.3	11.4	-6.9	14.2
Unit Profit	0.0	-3.9	1.7	0.6	0.3				
	0.0	3.3	5.0	0.0	-1.3	-1.6	0.3	-1.5	1.6
Unit Labor Cost	0.0	3.5	-2.0	-0.6	-0.9				
	0.0	14.0	-5.4	-1.6	-0.1	3.3	-1.3	2.6	-2.4