

Opinion Poll: 2017 U.S. Image of Japan

(Unit: %)

General Population Survey

Question 1: For each of the following statements, please tell me if it describes or does not describe your image of Japan. (% Yes) (MA)

Note: This question has been asked since 2006. Wording in (8) changed from "a country that has shown leadership in global society" in 2017. Wording in (3) changed from "a country with a strong economy and high-technology," (8) from "a country that currently shares the same values with the United States, such as democracy and liberalism," and (12) from "a country that Americans should be wary of" in 2018.

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
(1) a country that has great tradition and culture	59	71	95	96	92	97	97	97	97	96	92	95	94
(2) a country with beautiful nature	51	58	84	79	81	90	88	85	85	85	80	78	81
(3) a country with a strong economy and advanced technology	49	61	87	81	86	92	91	91	90	88	91	94	93
(4) a country that shares new cultural concepts with the world in areas such as animation, fashion, and cuisine	35	47	79	80	78	82	90	88	82	80	73	78	
(5) a country with a high standard of living	30	39	75	66									
(6) a country that has consistently followed the path of a peace-loving nation since the end of World War II	26	34	82	80	81								
(7) a country that plays a leadership role in the international community	20	30	59	54	48	66	65	66	62	65	59	64	
(8) a country that embraces values such as democracy and liberalism	16	19	60	52	58	59	64	59	55				
(9) a country that is difficult to understand	11	14	35	42	42	38	39	42	45	45	47	48	49
(10) a country that is conservative and closed	11	15	49	46	52	55	46	47	49				
(11) a militant country	8	6	28	30									
(12) a country that one should be wary of	5	6	21	23	25	27	21	26	26	22	31	29	30

Question 2: Which aspects of Japan would you like to know more about? Please select all that apply.

Note: This question was added in 2015.

	2018	2017	2016	2015
(1) Culture (including traditional, oppo, Japanese food, etc.)	49	58	72	68
(2) Tourism	44	46	59	65
(3) History	40	41	69	66
(4) Science / Technology	26	35	70	65
(5) Economy	20	22	59	53
(6) Politics / Diplomacy / Security issues	14	19	62	52
(7) Companies / Business	14	17	49	49
(8) Economic and technical cooperation (Official Development Assistance-ODA)	14	13	59	57
(9) Other	2	3	34	24
(10) Nothing special	21	20	9	10

Question 3: For each of the following areas of Japanese culture, please tell me if you are interested or not interested in the topic. (MA)

Note: Choice (2) and (4) were added to the survey in 2015.

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
(1) Japanese food	52	57	70	69	68	73	86	84
(2) Japanese lifestyle and thought	36	43	65	59				
(3) Bonsai	27	34	49	42	43	49	60	62
(4) Architecture	27	32	66	61				
(5) Tea ceremony	23	27	47	40	37	40	53	52
(6) Japanese movies and dramas	22	18	35	34	33	39	59	56
(7) Calligraphy (Shodo)	18	22	48	41	41	41	57	63
(8) Japanese Animation	18	20	38	34	41	41	60	58
(9) Flower arrangement	17	21	46	43	48	52	51	55
(10) Sumo or Japanese martial arts (such as Karate, Judo or Kendo)	17	19	50	48	51	53	62	61
(11) Video games	17	19	24	27	36	38	35	37
(12) Traditional Japanese music (Gagaku, Koto)	17	16	40	36	29	33	48	47
(13) Japanese fashion	17	23	39	35	28	34	40	39
(14) Traditional Japanese theater (Kabuki, Noh, Kyogen)	14	17	42	38	32	31	37	50
(15) Japanese literature or Haiku	14	17	44	43	35	41	49	52
(16) Japanese comics (also known as Manga)	12	17	23	24	24	21	17	15
(17) Japanese pop music	10	13	17	18	16	16	25	22

Question 4: From what sources do you acquire information or knowledge? Please select all that apply.

Note: This question was added in 2015.

	2018	2017	2016	2015
(1) Website	59	66	71	65
(2) Television	59	63	79	82
(3) Magazines and books	43	51	75	79
(4) Friends / Family / Relatives / Neighbors	40	46	66	67
(5) Movies	31	37	56	59
(6) Facebook, Twitter and other SNS (social networking services)	30	32	46	47
(7) Video-sharing websites like YouTube	29	33	49	52
(8) Newspaper	29	32	52	61
(9) Radio	19	22	50	50
(10) Traveling or Studying abroad	18	23	39	38
(11) School studies	15	19	41	40
(12) Email newsletter	15	15	32	32
(13) Blog	14	15	25	24
(14) Seminars/symposiums and cultural events	11	14	46	38

Question 5: Which of the following sources do you use or have you used to get information about Japan? (% Yes)

Note: This question has been asked since 1994. Choice (1), (4), (7), (9), (10), (12) and (14) were added in 2015.

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
(1) Website "Wording changed from "Internet" in 2018.	35	37	55	52	65	69	67	66	57	52	39	43	38	33
(2) Television	25	34	67	71	70	77	79	82	81	79	74	80	76	78
(3) Magazines/Books	14	24	62	61	59	58	58	59	69	71	64	72	67	62
(4) Video-sharing websites like YouTube	14	15	36	39										
(5) Friends / Family / Relatives / Neighbors	13	14	51	44	37	30	24	25	34	31	30	29	30	29
(6) Movies	13	17	47	47	51	27	24	23	40	39	37	40	39	31
(7) Facebook, Twitter and other SNS (social networking services)	12	12	30	34										
(8) Newspapers	10	11	44	48	45	65	63	65	66	67	63	71	71	70
(9) Traveling or Studying abroad	7	9	25	23										
(10) Blog	5	5	17	15										
(11) School studies	5	7	31	30	42	47	34	35	54	56	52	51	53	47
(12) Email newsletter	4	2	15	18										
(13) Radio	3	4	34	32	22	35	42	43	30	30	26	34	33	35
(14) Seminars/symposiums and cultural events	3	3	31	27										
(15) I have not acquired information about Japan	29	23												
Japanese friends					36	32	26	25	35	33	29	29	32	30
Experience in Japan					13	13	10	10	11	12	12	12	11	12

Question 6: How often do you normally access international news or information? Please select one response.

Note: This question was added in 2015.

	2018	2017	2016	2015
(1) Everyday	24	20	44	38
(2) About 2-3 times a week	21	19	18	20
(3) About once a week	14	15	12	13
(4) About once a month	9	10	8	8
(5) About once in 2-3 months	6	6	2	3
(6) About once in 6 months	4	3	3	1
(7) About once a year	2	2	1	3
(8) I hardly access international news or information.	20	25	11	14

Question 7: Are you interested in international news or information?

Note: This question was added in 2015.

	2018	2017	2016	2015
(1) Very interested	31	30	44	38
(2) Somewhat interested	45	45	39	44
(3) Not very interested	15	17	9	10
(4) Not at all interested	8	8	8	8

Question 8-a: Are you studying Japanese or interested in studying the Japanese

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
(1) Yes	27	25	20	15	15	19	26	23
(2) No	73	75	79	84	85	81	74	77

Question 8-b: I'm going to read you a list of languages. For each one are you interested in learning it or not? Are you interested in learning ...?

Note: Prior to 2018, this question was only asked of those who were not interested in learning Japanese

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
(1) Spanish	41	45	50	43	45	53	57
(2) Japanese	29	28	23	19			
(3) French	28	32	31	26	29	30	27
(4) German	21	22	26	23	22	23	24
(5) Chinese	19	21	19	17	11	13	12
(6) Russian	13	13	14	12			
(7) Korean	11	14	10	8	3	7	3
(7B) Arabic	11	11	17	16	8	13	8
(9) Not interested in learning any language			32	38			

Question 8-c: (Note: Ask only for those who chose <1. Japanese>)

What is the reason to choose Japanese? Please select all that apply.

Note: This question was added in 2015.

	2018	2017	2016	2015
(1) I would like to visit Japan	67	75	92	97
(2) I would like to understand Japanese culture and lifestyle	56	67	93	94
(3) I would like to travel Japan for sightseeing	48	59	88	96
(4) I would like to enjoy Japanese cultural contents (fashion, music, movies, TV dramas, comics and animation)	47	54	84	82
(5) Japanese can be useful in the future	39	38	88	86
(6) I would like to study in Japan	27	15	38	36
(7) I would like to work in Japan	20	12	34	30
(8) I would like to communicate with my Japanese friends more	15	18	64	56
(9) Japanese is a required course in my school	9	3	5	8
(10) Japanese is necessary for my work/business	8	6	9	11
(11) There is a language school close to my home	8	5	21	19

Question 9: In general, how do you view the current level of cooperation between Japan and the United States? Do you think that the current level of cooperation is excellent, good, fair, or poor?

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
(1) Excellent	19	17	14	16	16	16	29	26	14	16	14	13	12	9
(2) Good	51	52	48	46	51	42	51	51	58	57	49	54	51	52
(3) Fair	27	26	22	29	24	34	17	20	24	23	27	27	29	33
(4) Poor	3	5	8	3	5	5	2	2	2	2	4	4	4	3
(5) Don't know/Refused			7	6	3	3	1	1	2	2	6	2	4	3

Question 10-a: Do you think Japan is a reliable partner for the US?

Please select one response.

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
(1) Yes	82	87	82	73	73	76	84	84	79	80	67	74	69	72
(2) No	18	13	11	15	18	10	12	13	16	15	18	21	22	21
(3) Don't know			7	12	9	14	4	3	5	5	15	5	9	7

Question 10-b: Why do you think Japan is a reliable partner? Please select all that apply.

Note: Choices were added in 2015.

	2018	2017	2016	2015
(1) Economic ties (investments from Japan, good trade relationship)	62	72	90	85
(2) Contribution to stabilization and growth of world economy	46	55	83	74
(3) Good relationship / the countries share the same values	44	43	76	73
(4) Development cooperation in the international community	39	38	85	58
(5) Contribution to stabilization of international order (rule of law, liberal democracy, free-trade system, etc.)	38	37	80	71
(6) Contribution to security (peace building, anti-terrorism efforts, PKO (peacekeeping operations), anti-piracy efforts)	36	43	76	68
(7) Contribution to solutions for global issues (Environment, climate change, infectious diseases, population, poverty, etc.)	35	41	75	71
(8) Attractive culture	34	35	74	65

Question 11: Are you aware that Japan contributes to the US economy through its investment?

Note: This question is added in 2017.

	2018	2017
(1) Yes	59	67
(2) No	41	33

Question 12: Thinking about international relations, how significant of a role do you think Japan plays in each of the following areas? Do you think Japan play a role that is very significant, somewhat significant, not very significant, or not at all significant?

Note: This question has been asked since 1994. Section (IV) was added in 1995. "Anti-terrorism efforts" in section (I), "climate change" in section (VII), and section (VIII) were added in 2010. Choices were changed from "Yes/No" to "Very significant/Somewhat significant/Not very significant/Not at all significant." Section (IX) and (X) were added in 2015.

(I) Security (including peace building, anti-terrorism efforts, PKO (peacekeeping operations), anti-piracy)

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
(1) Yes									32	29	29	33	35	31
(2) Very significant	24	22	35	30	22	24	16	19						
(3) Somewhat significant	53	52	42	44	42	38	41	39						
(4) Not very significant	20	22	12	15	19	21	31	30						
(5) Not at all significant	3	3	4	3	7	5	7	6	61	64	60	61	56	64
(6) Don't know/Refused			7	8	10	11	5	6	7	7	11	6	9	5

(II) The United Nations

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
(1) Very significant	26	24	32	31	26	29	21	22
(2) Somewhat significant	56	56	44	43	46	42	56	55
(3) Not very significant	14	17	9	10	13	13	14	13
(4) Not at all significant	3	3	5	3	5	7	3	5
(5) Don't know/Refused			10	13	10	10	6	5

(III) Global economy

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
(1) Yes									65	62	53	62	58	53
(2) Very significant	39	42	52	48	51	53	50	52						
(3) Somewhat significant	48	49	37	40	36	37	42	40						
(4) Not very significant	10	7	4	4	7	4	6	4						
(5) Not at all significant	3	2	3	3	2	2	1	2	33	36	42	35	38	45
(6) Don't know/Refused			4	5	4	3	1	2	2	2	5	3	4	2

(IV) Official development aid, including assistance to countries such as Afghanistan

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
(1) Yes									36	34	29	34	36	34
(2) Very significant	23	20	34	23	8	6	7	8						
(3) Somewhat significant	57	55	49	47	26	26	32	34						
(4) Not very significant	16	21	6	12	29	32	39	36						
(5) Not at all significant	4	4	3	4	15	14	11	11	55	55	56	54	52	59
(6) Don't know/Refused			9	14	23	21	11	11	9	11	15	12	12	7

(V) Science and technology

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
(1) Yes									70	66	60	67	65	57
(2) Very significant	48	54	72	69	72	74	75	78						
(3) Somewhat significant	41	38	21	25	21	19	22	20						
(4) Not very significant	8	6	1	2	2	2	1	1						
(5) Not at all significant	3	2	2	1	2	3	1	1	30	33	39	32	34	42
(6) Don't know/Refused			3	4	4	3	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1

(VI) Cultural exchange

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
(1) Yes									60	57	48	58	54	49
(2) Very significant	30	30	36	36	38	40	36	39						
(3) Somewhat significant	54	54	46	45	43	41	54	49						
(4) Not very significant	12	14	9	9	9	9	7	8						
(5) Not at all significant	3	2	3	2	4	4	1	2	38	41	47	40	43	49
(6) Don't know/Refused			5	7	5	6	2	2	2	2	5	2	3	2

(VII) Environment and climate change

* including "global issues such as population and AIDS" till 2010

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
(1) Yes									45	41	37	40	41	37
(2) Very significant	26	23	34	30	30	32	30	25						
(3) Somewhat significant	49	50	39	39	37	36	39	44						
(4) Not very significant	19	22	12	13	14	13	18	20						
(5) Not at all significant	6	5	6	6	9	9	6	6	50	54	53	53	51	57
(6) Don't know/Refused			9	11	9	10	7	5	5	5	10	7	8	6

(VIII) Nuclear disarmament or non-proliferation

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
(1) Yes									35
(2) Very significant	27	23	39	30	27	28	23	25	
(3) Somewhat significant	47	48	35	35	33	31	41	40	
(4) Not very significant	21	24	11	14	17	16	22	23	
(5) Not at all significant	5	5	4	7	8	10	6	6	27
(6) Don't know/Refused			11	15	15	15	8	6	38

(IX) Providing solutions for global issues (including environment, climate change, infectious diseases, population, poverty, etc.)

	2018	2017	2016	2015
(1) Yes				
(2) Very significant	26	24	35	30
(3) Somewhat significant	52	52	44	42
(4) Not very significant	17	19	9	14
(5) Not at all significant	4	4	5	5
(6) Don't know/Refused			7	8

(X) Stabilization of international order (including rule of law, liberal democracy, free-trade system, etc.)

	2018	2017	2016	2015
(1) Yes				
(2) Very significant	23	23	34	27
(3) Somewhat significant	57	56	46	46
(4) Not very significant	16	17	8	12
(5) Not at all significant	3	4	5	7
(6) Don't know/Refused			7	8

Question 13: Thinking about how much the Japanese people and the American people understand each other, do you think they have a good, fair, or poor understanding of each other?

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
(1) Good	34	27	43	36	35	37	43	42	43	42	38	36	38	36
(2) Fair	56	59	43	45	48	44	47	50	45	48	43	49	45	47
(3) Poor	10	14	13	15	15	18	9	8	11	9	13	14	15	16
(4) Don't know/Refused			2	4	2	1	1	0	1	1	6	1	2	1

Question 14: Now we would like to ask about your view of future Japan-U.S. relations. Thinking of the future, do you think that the United States should be working more closely with Japan, working less closely with Japan, or that their relationship should stay the same?

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
(1) More closely	50	51	66	53	53	59	44	49
(2) Less closely	11	4	3	2	5	3	3	3
(3) Stay the same	39	44	28	40	37	34	52	48
(4) Don't know/Refused			4	4	4	3		

Question 15: Thinking about ways Japan and the US may improve their relations, which one of the following do you think would be most helpful in improving Japan-U.S. relations? (MA)

Note: This question has been asked since 1995. The choice "promote cultural exchanges" was added in 1997. In 2010, words "climate change" and "infectious diseases" were added and "AIDS" was removed in (2), and "people-to-people exchanges" was added in (4). This question became a multiple answer question in 2014.

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
(1) Strengthen economic/trade relations	70	75	84	81	26	32	41	42	43	45	36	36	36	38
(2) Strengthen political/security relations	56	61	84	74	18	17	21	19	19	20	20	25	21	25
(3) Encourage cooperation on global issues such as climate change, as well as control and prevention of infectious diseases	52	57	84	80	30	29	25	25	25	27	27	30	28	26
(4) Promote cultural and people-to-people exchange	42	48	80	74	22	18	10	12	7	7	8	8	12	9
(5) Don't know/Refused			5	3	5	3	3	2	6	1	9	1	3	2

Question 16-a: Do you think that the United States and Japan should closely cooperate in order to ensure peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region?

Note: This question has been asked in 2014.

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
(1) Yes, they should cooperate	90	95	91	93	91
(2) No, they should not cooperate	10	5	6	3	5
(3) Don't know/Refused			3	4	3

Question 16-b: Do you think that Japan should play a more proactive role in order to ensure peace and security in Asia-Pacific region?

Note: This question has been asked in 2014.

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
(1) Yes, Japan should play a more proactive role	62	63	80	83	81
(2) No, Japan should not play a more proactive role	8	5	12	10	9
(3) Don't know/Refused	30	32	8	7	11

Question 17: How much do you think the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, which allows for the stationing of U.S. Forces in Japan for the security of Japan and for maintaining international peace and security in the Far East, contributes to peace and stability in the region? Do you think it contributes a great deal, a moderate amount, only a little, or not at all?

Note: This question has been asked since 1996.

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
(1) A great deal	32	28	46	41	35	41	42	43	37	34	29	30	25	27
(2) A moderate amount	49	52	37	36	42	40	41	42	44	46	36	47	46	45
(3) Only a little	15	17	7	13	14	10	11	11	13	14	18	16	18	18
(4) Not at all	3	3	5	4	3	6	4	2	3	3	6	4	5	5
(5) Don't know/Refused			5	6	6	4	2	2	3	3	11	3	6	5

Question 18-a: Do you think that the U.S. and Japan should or should not maintain the current Japan-U.S. Security Treaty?

Note: This question has been asked since 1996.

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
(1) Yes, should maintain	69	68	82	81	81	67	89	92	90	87	78	87	85	86
(2) No, should not maintain	6	4	7	5	7	9	7	4	5	6	7	6	7	6
(3) Don't know/Refused	25	28	11	4	12	24	4	4	5	7	15	7	8	8

Question 18-b: BASE: THINKS US SHOULD MAINTAIN CURRENT TREATY

Why do you think so? (OPEN END - top results)

Note: This question has been asked since 2014.

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
(1) Important to maintain peace	23	9	9	9	15
(2) Maintain status quo/No reason to change	11	4			
(3) There's mutual need/interest/benefit	10	8	1	5	
(4) Good relationship/Current ally	10	7			
(5) Good/Important to have a treaty	8	4			
(6) Important to maintain long-term relationship/cooperation with ally	8	15	19	25	22

Question 18-b: BASE: THINKS US SHOULD NOT MAINTAIN CURRENT TREATY

Why do you think so? (OPEN END - top results)

Note: This question has been asked since 2014.

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
(1) The U.S. should not get involved with Japan/Should focus on taking care of domes	15	5	27		
(2) Will cause a lack of trust/Feeling of resentment between countries	11	8			
(3) Japan needs to take responsibility for its own security and military	10	19		13	
(4) Dislike military forces overseas	6	26	16	7	27
(5) Need better relations with U.S.	4				

Question 19-a: How important do you think the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty is for the security of the United States? Do you think it is very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all?

Note: This question has been asked since 1996.

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
(1) Very important	38	39	54	48	45	59	54	55	49	49	51	52	55	50
(2) Somewhat important	51	51	33	36	38	29	36	34	39	41	33	37	32	36
(3) Not too important	9	8	4	9	6	6	7	8	9	7	7	7	7	8
(4) Not important at all	1	1	4	6	4	3	3	2	2	1	4	3	3	3
(5) Don't know/Refused			5	3	6	4	0	1	1	2	5	1	3	3

Question 19-b: How important do you think it is to have U.S. Forces in Japan for the security of the United States? Do you think it is very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all?

Note: This question was added in 2012.

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
(1) Very important	38	40	46	44	36	42	42
(2) Somewhat important	47	43	35	34	40	36	39
(3) Not too important	12	14	9	11	11	13	14
(4) Not important at all	3	4	7	7	10	6	5
(5) Don't know/Refused			3	4	3	3	0

Question 20: Do you think Japan should or should not increase its self-defense

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
(1) Yes, should increase	43	46	61	59	57	64	59	61	56	54	46	54	51	52
(2) No, should not increase	19	14	28	25	28	24	37	35	37	38	39	40	39	41
(3) Don't know/Refused	38	40	10	14	15	12	4	4	7	8	15	6	10	7

Question 21-a: From the following list, which country in Asia do you think is the most important partner of the United States?

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
(1) Japan	31	33	33	27	46	35	50	31	44	46	43	48	45	48
(2) China	19	18	20	25	26	39	39	39	44	39	34	34	33	26
(3) South Korea	10	11	9	10	13	7	1	7	1	1	1	1	1	1
(4) Australia	6	6	16	17				11						
(5) Russia	2	4	7	5	5	5	3	2	3	8	10	8	13	13
(6) India	2	1	2	4				5						
(7) Other	1	1	-	1	0	5	3	3	2	3	2	1	2	4
(8) None	4	2	2	1	1	5	1	0	1	1	2	1	2	1
(9) Don't know/Refused	25	25	11	9	8	4	3	2	4	2	8	6	4	6

Note: Choices for each year

2016: Japan, China, Australia, South Korea, India, Russia, Other, None, Don't know/Refused

2015: Japan, China, Australia, South Korea, India, Russia, Other, None, Don't know/Refused

2014: Japan, China, South Korea, Russia, Other, None, Don't know/Refused

2013: Japan, China, South Korea, Russia, Other, None, Don't know/Refused

2012: Japan, China, Russia, Some other country, Don't know/Refused

2011: Japan, China, Australia, South Korea, India, Russia, Some other country, None, Don't know/Refused

2010 and before: Japan, China, Russia, Some other country, Don't know/Refused

Question 21-b: Why do you regard this country as the most important partner of the United States? (OPEN END - top trended results)

Note: This question has been asked since 1995.

- Reasons for Japan

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
(1) Good relationship/Current ally	17													
(2) Trade/Economic relations with U.S.	12	17	26	29	19	39	21	29	28	26	20	22	18	26
(3) Nation's technology	10	10	13	9	6	8	17	15	19	17	24	21	26	24
(4) Location/Proximity to other countries	9	6												
(5) Nation's economy/Strong economy	8	9												
(6) National qualities (ex. Population)	8	4	18	18	8	7	8	16	9	11	9	10	18	8
(7) History/Past performance	8													

- Reasons for China

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
(1) Trade/Economic relations with U.S.	39	45	52	65	71	80	41	43	48	38	26	27	21	22
(2) Nation's economy/Strong economy	22	18												
(3) National qualities (ex. Population)	17	17	39	23	22	14	17	19	19	25	17	31	23	34
(4) Nation's strength/power	7	12												
(5) Nation's technology	6	4	1	3	2	5	22	20	22	21	28	19	29	15

Question 22-a: Which of the following countries in Asia is the most reliable for the U.S.? Please select one response.

	2018	2017	2016
(1) Japan	31	36	38
(2) Australia	16	14	27
(3) South Korea	9	8	11
(4) China	6	5	8
(5) India	2	1	2
(6) Russia	2	1	3
(7) Other	1	1	
(8) None	5	2	1
(9) Don't know/Refused	30	31	10

Question 22-b: Why do you think the country is the most reliable friend? (OPEN END, top five answers)

- Reasons for Japan

	2018	2017	2016
(1) Good relationship/Current ally	15		
(2) History/Past performance	13	5	
(3) Trustworthy/Reliable	10	12	
(4) Trade/Economic relations with U.S.	10	11	26
(5) Friendly nation/No history of conflict/war	5	3	

- Reasons for China

	2018	2017	2016
(1) Trade/Economic relations with U.S.	37	41	30
(2) Nation's economy/strong economy	12	16	
(3) National/International security/Keeping the peace	10	2	
(4) Nation's technology	7	6	
(5) Need each other/Dependency on each other	6	2	

- Reasons for Australia

	2018	2017	2016
(1) Good relationship/Current ally	16		
(2) Common ancestry/Like siblings	15	3	
(3) Friendly nation/No history of conflict/war	14	8	
(4) Share same values/interests	11		
(5) Nation's economy/Strong economy	6		

- Reasons for South Korea

	2018	2017	2016
(1) Current conflict in North Korea/Allies against North Korea	15	14	
(2) National/International security/Keeping the peace	11	11	
(3) Good relationship/Current ally	11		
(4) History/Past performance	7	2	
(5) Need each other/Dependency on each other	5	14	

- Reasons for India

	2018	2017	2016
(1) Other national/cultural qualities mentions	37	18	
(2) Good country/I like it	30		
(3) Good relationship/Current ally	19		
(4) Friendly nation/No history of conflict/war	16	18	
(5) National qualities (ex. Population)	12		

- Reasons for Russia

	2018	2017	2016
(1) Nation's economy/Strong economy	38		
(2) Other national/cultural qualities mentions	30	9	
(3) Need each other/Dependency on each other	5		
(4) Military capabilities/relations	3	9	
(5) National qualities (ex. Population)	3		

Question 23: Which of the following countries is the most reliable? Please select one response.

Note: This question has been asked since 2015.

	2018	2017	2016	2015
(1) UK	20	24	33	36
(2) Canada	17	16	31	29
(3) Japan	13	10	5	3
(4) Germany	5	3	3	7
(5) China	2	3	2	3
(6) Australia	2	3	2	4
(7) South Korea	2	1	1	1
(8) France	1	2	2	2
(9) India	1	1	0	0
(10) Italy	1	1	0	0
(11) Mexico	1	2	2	1
(12) Saudi Arabia	0	1	1	2
(13) Israel	0	1		
(14) Russia	0	1	0	0
(15) Other	3	4	1	0
(16) Don't know	27	28		7

Question 24: Which of the following countries is currently considered to be an important partner for the US? Please select all that apply.

Note: This question has been asked since 2015.

	2018	2017	2016	2015
(1) Japan	44	49	76	66
(2) Canada	44	43	79	74
(3) UK	43	49	79	76
(4) Germany	33	32	69	62
(5) South Korea	31	35	63	51
(6) France	29	31	62	54
(7) Australia	24	30	67	56
(8) China	23	26	57	42
(9) Mexico	22	22	61	45
(10) Italy	14	16	52	47
(11) Saudi Arabia	14	17	44	36
(12) India	12	13	51	44
(13) Russia	9	8	34	27
(14) Brazil	9	7	40	36
(15) Turkey	8	7	37	33
(16) South Africa	8	5	40	29
(17) Argentina	6	4	33	26
(18) Indonesia	5	3	29	25
(19) Israel	0	1		
(20) Other	3	2		1
(21) No idea	21	23		4

Question 25: Which of the following countries would be considered to be an important partner for the US IN THE FUTURE? Please select all that apply.

Note: This question has been asked since 2015.

	2018	2017	2016	2015
(1) Japan	43	46	81	68
(2) Canada	40	43	83	70
(3) UK	37	44	82	71
(4) Germany	35	35	77	67
(5) France	32	34	72	58
(6) China	31	37	70	59
(7) South Korea	31	36	70	57
(8) Mexico	29	29	72	54
(9) Australia	27	32	74	61
(10) Italy	22	22	63	52
(11) India	18	22	68	53
(12) Saudi Arabia	17	22	55	45
(13) Russia	16	17	54	48
(14) Brazil	14	17	58	48
(15) South Africa	13	14	57	45
(16) Turkey	13	15	50	43
(17) Argentina	10	10	48	40
(18) Indonesia	9	11	47	37
(19) Israel	0	1		
(20) Other	1	3	-	11
(21) No idea	25	24	-	3

Question 26: How do you value japan's performance as a peace-loving nation for 70 years since the end of World War II?

	2018	2017	2016
(1) Value highly	45	49	63
(2) Value partially	41	37	26
(3) Value less	12	12	5
(4) Not value at all	2	3	3
(5) Don't know			1

Question 27: How valuable do you think this policy is for maintaining global peace and international order?

	2018	2017	2016
(1) Valuable	51	49	68
(2) Somewhat valuable	35	36	19
(3) Slightly valuable	13	14	6
(4) Not valuable at all	2	1	3
(5) Don't know			3

Question 28-a: How do you think the Japan-US relationship has changed since the inauguration of President Trump?

Note: This question was added in 2017.

	2018	2017
(1) Has improved	23	17
(2) Has worsened	28	29
(3) Has not changed	21	26
(4) Don't know	27	27

Question 28-b: Why do you think so?

- Reasons for "has improved"

	2018	2017
(1) International relations	33	35
(2) Trump attributes	13	16
(3) Security	12	9
(4) Economy	9	9
(5) Communication	8	12
(6) Policy/Values	2	3
(7) Miscellaneous	0	19

- Reasons for "has worsened"

	2018	2017
(1) Trump attributes	47	62
(2) International relations	31	31
(3) Miscellaneous	7	9
(4) Economy	3	7
(5) Communication	1	10
(6) Policy/Values	0	8
(7) Security	0	5

- Reasons for "has not changed"

	2018	2017
(1) Nothing has changed/ All still the same	35	30
(2) International relations	17	16
(3) Trump attributes	10	3
(4) Security	6	7
(5) Economy	5	1

Opinion Poll: 2018 U.S. Image of Japan

(Unit: %)

Opinion Leaders Survey

Question 1: Which of the following sources do you use or have you used to get information about Japan? (% Yes)

Note: This question has been asked since 1994. Choices (1), (6), (8), (9), (10), (13) and (14) were added in 2015.

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
(1) Website	66	66	52	69										
(2) Television	63	70	53	74	67	76	75	72	76	73	75	72	80	71
(3) Newspapers	55	63	48	67	67	85	80	81	83	85	86	89	90	89
(4) Magazines/Books	52	60	40	66	58	82	77	76	83	81	86	83	89	85
(5) Friends / Family / Relatives / Neighbors	46	38	30	49	25	27	24	31	41	34	39	38	41	41
(6) Facebook, Twitter and other SNS (social networking services)	39	33	32	34										
(7) Radio	37	46	35	50	41	52	52	51	53	49	46	48	48	46
(8) Seminars / Symposiums / Cultural events	37	30	21	37										
(9) Email newsletters	33	30	23	28										
(10) Video-sharing websites like YouTube	32	35	27	27										
(11) Movies	31	30	29	34	26	21	18	19	33	34	30	32	40	30
(12) School studies	26	29	24	30	20	38	35	36	60	59	61	61	62	51
(13) Traveling or studying abroad / Experience in Japan	22	21	19	21										
(14) Blog	13	16	14	13										

Question 2: In general, how do you view the current level of cooperation between Japan and the United States? Do you think that the current level of cooperation is excellent, good, fair, or poor?

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
(1) Excellent	9	14	14	20	12	21	31	31	16	20	17	26	23	19
(2) Good	60	52	44	55	58	65	58	56	70	61	68	60	62	64
(3) Fair	26	25	25	20	25	12	9	12	10	15	12	11	12	14
(4) Poor	4	3	8	1	2	1	0	3	1	2	0	0	0	1
(5) Don't know/Refused	2	6	11	6	5		1	1	1	3	1	3	3	2

Question 3: Which country or region in Asia do you think shares values most closely with the United States?

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
(1) Japan	58	62	50	15	52	52	76	9
(2) South Korea	35	29	28	12	38	36	6	10
(3) China	4	4	7	2	4	1	3	1
(4) Russia	1	2	5	0	1	3	2	
(5) Australia				67			2	78
(6) India				2			0	2
(7) Other	2	3	4	1	1	1		
(8) Don't know/Refused	2	3	8	3	5	6		

Note: Choices for each year
 2016: Japan, China, Russia, Australia, India, South Korea, Other, Don't know/Refused
 2015: Japan, China, Australia, India, South Korea, Other, Don't know/Refused
 2014: Japan, China, South Korea, Russia, Other, Don't know/Refused
 2013: Japan, China, South Korea, Russia, Other, Don't know/Refused
 2012: Japan, China, Russia, Other, Don't know/Refused
 2011: Japan, China, Russia, Australia, India, South Korea, Other

Question 4-a: Please tell me whether or not you think Japan is a reliable partner of the US?

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Yes	90	86	86	83	90	93	90	90	90	91	92	91	91	90
No	7	8	7	12	7	5	8	8	9	7	6	5	4	6
Don't know/Refused	4	7	7	6	3	2	2	2	1	2	2	4	5	4

Question 4-b: Why do you think Japan is a reliable partner of the US

Note: Choices were added in 2015. Multiple choices allowed.

	2018	2017	2016	2015
(1) Economic ties (investments from Japan, good trade relationship)	97	99	83	95
(2) Contribution to stabilization and growth of world economy	94	91	65	92
(3) Attractive culture	90	84	52	84
(4) Good relationship / the countries share the same value	88	91	64	83
(5) Development cooperation in the international community	87	89	59	67
(6) Contribution to the stabilization of international order (rule of law, liberal democracy, free-trade system, etc.)	87	86	53	81
(7) Contribution to security (peace building, anti-terrorism efforts, PKO (peacekeeping operations), anti-piracy efforts)	73	66	51	74
(8) Contribution to solutions for global issues (environment, climate change, infectious diseases, population, poverty, etc.)	71	81	55	73

Question 5: Thinking about international relations, how significant of a role do you think Japan plays in each of the following areas? Do you think Japan plays a role that is very significant, somewhat significant, not very significant, or not at all significant?

Note: This question has been asked since 1994. Section (IV) was added in 1995. "Anti-terrorism efforts" in section (I), "climate change" in section (VII), and section (VIII) were added in 2010. Choices were changed from "Yes/No" to "Very significant/Somewhat significant/Not very significant/Not at all significant" in 2011. Section (IX) and (X) were added in 2015.

(I) Security (including anti-terrorism efforts, PKO (peacekeeping operations), and anti-piracy)	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Yes									56	45	41	43	45	39
(1) Very significant	26	23	25	26	18	19	12	14						
(2) Somewhat significant	52	56	48	50	51	41	49	45						
(3) Not very significant	20	16	15	20	25	31	31	36						
(4) Not at all significant	1	1	4	2	2	2	3	3						
(5) Don't know/Refused	3	5	9	3	5	7	5	2						

(II) The United Nations	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
(1) Yes														
(2) Very significant	33	27	27	23	18	23	25	20						
(3) Somewhat significant	52	61	52	56	57	54	55	56						
(4) Not very significant	10	8	11	15	17	12	14	18						
(5) Not at all significant	1	1	4	3	2	2	3	2						
(6) Don't know/Refused	5	5	7	5	6	8	3	4						

(III) Global economy	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
(1) Yes									96	96	96	96	97	97
(2) Very significant	60	56	57	59	61	64	58	65						
(3) Somewhat significant	38	40	37	40	37	32	38	33						
(4) Not very significant	3	3	2	2	2	1	3	2						
(5) Not at all significant	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0						
(6) Don't know/Refused	0	2	3	1	1	2	0	0						

(IV) Official development aid, including assistance to countries such as Afghanistan and Iraq	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
(1) Yes									60	69	57	61	70	70
(2) Very significant	27	24	25	27	5	7	7	5						
(3) Somewhat significant	60	63	53	56	38	29	46	40						
(4) Not very significant	9	6	9	10	36	36	34	40						
(5) Not at all significant	1	0	2	2	4	9	6	7						
(6) Don't know/Refused	4	8	11	6	17	18	7	8						

(V) Science and technology	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
(1) Yes									98	97	96	96	97	96
(2) Very significant	75	70	75	74	74	74	72	71						
(3) Somewhat significant	25	28	21	25	24	24	26	27						
(4) Not very significant	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1						
(5) Not at all significant	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0						
(6) Don't know/Refused	0	2	2	0	2	1	0	1						

(VI) Cultural exchange	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
(1) Yes									78	79	71	69	76	65
(2) Very significant	48	48	37	44	35	34	34	36						
(3) Somewhat significant	47	44	47	50	52	52	52	48						
(4) Not very significant	5	5	9	6	11	9	10	13						
(5) Not at all significant	0	1	3	0	0	3	2	1						
(6) Don't know/Refused	1	4	5	1	4	2	2	2						

(VII) Environment and climate change * Global issues such as population and AIDS were included till 2010.	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
(1) Yes									63	71	66	64	73	69
(2) Very significant	28	27	32	37	25	32	33	21						
(3) Somewhat significant	53	57	44	43	48	44	46	51						
(4) Not very significant	15	12	12	15	17	16	15	20						
(5) Not at all significant	2	1	6	2	3	3	3	4						
(6) Don't know/Refused	3	4	7	5	8	4	3	4						

(VIII) Nuclear disarmament or non-proliferation	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
(1) Yes									54					
(2) Very significant	34	31	28	33	34	27	29	28						
(3) Somewhat significant	41	49	39	38	39	43	40	39						
(4) Not very significant	18	14	17	21	17	20	24	26						
(5) Not at all significant	2	2	7	4	3	2	3	5						
(6) Don't know/Refused	6	5	10	6	9	7	4	2						

(IX) Providing solutions to global issues (including environment, climate change, infectious diseases, population and poverty)	2018	2017	2016	2015
(1) Yes				
(2) Very significant	27	22	28	32
(3) Somewhat significant	57	64	51	48
(4) Not very significant	13	10	12	15
(5) Not at all significant	2	2	5	2
(6) Don't know/Refused	2	3	5	5

(X) Stabilization of international order (rule of law, liberal democracy, free-trade system)	2018	2017	2016	2015
(1) Yes				
(2) Very significant	33	25	29	33
(3) Somewhat significant	55	64	52	51
(4) Not very significant	11	8	9	15
(5) Not at all significant	0	1	3	1
(6) Don't know/Refused	2	4	8	2

Question 6: Thinking about how much the Japanese people and the American people understand each other, do you think they have a good, fair, or poor understanding of each other?	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
(1) Good	33	35	33	38	32	39	44	35	32	39	27	23	25	23
(2) Fair	59	58	51	54	56	53	48	51	56	52	57	60	58	60
(3) Poor	9	7	16	8	10	7	8	14	11	9	15	16	16	17
(4) Don't know/Refused	1	1	1	1	3	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0

Question 7: Now we would like to ask about your view of future Japan-U.S. relations. Thinking of the future, do you think that the United States should be working more closely with Japan, working less closely with Japan, or that their relationship should stay the same?

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
(1) More closely	66	66	62	38	63	52	43	46
(2) Less closely	0	1	3	54	2	1	1	3
(3) Stay the same	34	31	33	8	35	45	55	50
(4) Don't know/Refused	1	3	4	1	0	2	1	1

Question 8: Thinking about ways Japan and the US may improve their relations, which one of the following do you think would be most helpful in improving Japan-U.S. relations?

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
(1) Strengthen economic/trade relations	44	39	34	34	37	44	49	46	55	47	40	36	44	50
(2) Encourage cooperation on global issues such as climate change, as well as control and prevention of infectious diseases	24	28	25	30	29	27	22	22	18	29	31	29	27	28
(3) Promote cultural and people-to-people exchanges	17	14	21	17	14	11	8	16	8	4	4	8	8	6
(4) Strengthen political/security relations	13	19	14	19	18	16	20	16	18	19	24	26	20	16
(5) Don't know/Refused	3	2	6	2	3	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0

Question 9: Thinking about Japan and the U.S. relations in the field of high technology, do you feel that in the future, Japan and the U.S. will COOPERATE with each other more, that they will COMPETE more, or that there will be no change?

Note: This question has been asked since 1994.

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
(1) Cooperate more	36	28	34	33	29	33	29	29	57	66	51	52	60	49
(2) Compete more	29	35	36	29	33	31	27	34	39	31	44	42	38	47
(3) No change	33	36	28	37	35	34	42	36						
(4) Don't know/Refused	3	2	3	2	3	1	2	1	4	3	5	6	2	4

Question 10: Which do you think should Japan particularly address in order to deepen the economic relationship between Japan and the US?

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
(1) Promote cooperation in the field of trade and investment	99	94						
(2) Promote technological cooperation such as clean energy and high-speed railway systems	83	91	86	90	91	95	88	89
(3) Develop natural resources such as shale gas	55	52	57	52	61	57		
(4) Cooperate in realization of the Trans-Pacific Partnership			57	78	88	92	86	81
(5) Other	25	29	21	27	23	49	30	30

Question 11-a: Do you think Japan and the United States should closely cooperate for peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region?

Note: This question has been asked since 2014.

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
(1) Yes, they should cooperate	99	99	96	100	97
(2) No, they should not cooperate	1	1	2	0	2
(3) Don't know/Refused	1	1	2	0	2

Question 11-b: Do you think that Japan should play a more proactive role for peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region?

Note: This question has been asked since 2014.

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
(1) Yes, Japan should play a more proactive role	90	87	85	88	88
(2) No, Japan should not play a more proactive role	7	7	10	9	7
(3) Don't know/Refused	3	7	6	4	6

Question 12: How much do you think the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, which allows for the stationing of U.S. Forces in Japan and for maintaining international peace and security in the Far East, contributes to peace and stability in the region? Do you think it contributes a great deal, a moderate amount, only a little, or not at all?

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
(1) A great deal	53	53	51	52	49	54	58	58	51	44	42	47	42	40
(2) A moderate amount	40	36	37	34	40	33	31	32	34	39	40	41	40	40
(3) Only a little	7	7	6	10	10	8	8	6	8	10	13	6	14	14
(4) Not at all	0	1	4	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	4	4	3	4
(5) Don't know/Refused	1	3	4	3	2	2	2	2	5	5	1	2	1	2

Question 13-a: Do you think that the U.S. should maintain the current Japan-U.S. Security Treaty?

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
(1) Yes, should maintain	95	87	86	84	85	77	93	91	86	89	87	88	90	83
(2) No, should not maintain	2	4	3	5	5	6	3	4	6	5	7	6	4	6
(3) Don't know/Refused	4	10	11	12	11	17	4	5	8	6	6	6	6	11

Question 13-b: BASE: SHOULD MAINTAIN TREATY
Why do you think so? (OPEN END - top results)

This question has been asked since 2014.

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
(1) Security/Maintain peace/order	15	18			
(2) Stability/Regional stability	15	17			
(3) To deter China/Threat of Chinese expansion	13	5			
(4) Good relationship/Current ally	12	8			
(5) Important to maintain long-term relationship	12		36	41	32

Question 13-c: BASE: SHOULD NOT MAINTAIN TREATY
Why do you think so? (OPEN END - top results)

Note: This question has been asked since 2014.

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
(1) Japan should be responsible for its own military/security	25	29			
(2) US should not pay for Japan's security costs	25	29			
(3) Other miscellaneous mentions	75				

Question 14-a: How important do you think the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty is for the security of the United States? Do you think it is very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all?

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
(1) Very important	53	53	42	51	45	53	53	56	55	53	47	57	51	48
(2) Somewhat important	41	39	44	34	43	35	33	34	34	36	40	31	37	34
(3) Not too important	5	5	6	7	6	8	11	7	7	9	12	8	8	14
(4) Not important at all	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	3	1	1	2	1	2
(5) Don't know/Refused	1	3	6	9	6	1	1	1	1	1	0	2	3	2

Question 14-b: How important do you think it is to have U.S. Forces in Japan for the security of the United States? Do you think it is very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all?

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
(1) Very important	47	54	44	48	34	42	45
(2) Somewhat important	42	33	40	33	51	37	36
(3) Not too important	10	10	11	17	12	13	16
(4) Not important at all	1	3	6	3	3	7	2
(5) Don't know/Refused	2	2	1	1	2	1	1

Question 15-a: Do you think Japan should or should not increase its self-defense capability?

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
(1) Yes, should increase	69	67	66	65	65	72	71	64	70	69	74	67	61	69
(2) No, should not increase	24	24	22	28	26	18	27	32	25	24	22	25	33	25
(3) Don't know/Refused	8	9	12	9	10	9	2	4	5	7	4	8	6	6

Question 15-b: You said that Japan should increase its self-defense capability. For each of the following statements that I am about to read, please tell me if you agree or disagree that it is a reason why you think Japan should increase its self-defense capability. (% Agree)

Note: This question has been asked since 1993.

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
(1) Japan should make contributions to peace and stability in Asia	99	99	97	99	97	99	94	97	99	98	98	97	97	97
(2) Japan should share the defense burden with the U.S.	94	93	89	96	90	92	93	93	93	93	93	94	93	94
(3) Japan should defend itself	94	91	95	94	96	90	97	90	91	91	96	92	94	91

Question 16-a: Do you think Japan should or should not become a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council?

Note: This question has been asked since 2007.

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
(1) Yes, it should become a member	77	73	69	69	66	75	58	50	56	57	49	52
(2) No, it should not become a member	16	13	18	24	29	16	40	46	41	39	47	42
(3) Don't know/Refused	7	15	13	8	15	7	2	4	3	4	4	6

Question 16-b: For each of the statements that I'm about to read, please tell me if it is or is not a reason why you think Japan should become a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. (% Yes)

Note: This question has been asked since 2007. Choice (6) was added in 2014.

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
(1) Japan can be expected to make a larger contribution to world peace and security after becoming a permanent member of the United Nations	95	90	91	97	94	91	90	95	93	93	95	96
(2) Japan shares common values with the United States, such as democracy and human rights	89	88	80	87	86	86	91	95	93	89	84	87
(3) Japan is a dependable ally	88	90	88	88	90	92	89	87	88	92	88	87
(4) Japan has a big economy, and this will strengthen the effectiveness of the United Nations Security Council	84	89	86	85	90	87	86	90	88	92	92	87
(5) Japan currently contributes to world peace and security	84	88	72	80	77	82	73	82	78	74	71	75
(6) Other	18	18	20	18	20							

Question 16-c: For each of the following statements that I am about to read, please tell me if it is or is not a reason why you do not think Japan should become a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. (% Yes)

Note: This question was added to the survey in 2008. Choice (5) was added in 2009 and removed in 2013.

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
(1) Japan's permanent membership may involve other countries' attainment of permanent membership although they may not be fully qualified to bear major responsibility for maintaining international peace and security	66	60	56	74	63	58	59	61	57	62	60
(2) Japan does not provide enough personnel to Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) and other multinational forces	53	36	56	57	48	45	57	65	69	67	64
(3) No increase should be made to the number of UN Security Council permanent members	47	72	72	64	73	76	51	49	54	52	53
(4) Japan will not make sufficient contributions to world peace and security through the United Nations Security Council	31	40	47	43	43	33	40	46	59	59	52
(5) Some countries are better qualified than Japan to become a permanent member of the Security Council							40	47	52	67	-

Question 17-a: From the following list, which country in Asia do you think is the most important partner of the United States?

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
(1) Japan	45	33	34	48	58	39	40	28	36	44	54	53	47	48
(2) China	21	31	21	19	24	43	54	46	56	42	38	38	43	38
(3) South Korea	14	13	13	6	13	14	1	8						
(4) Australia	13	11	14	13			0	10						
(5) India	3	5	5	3			1	7						
(6) Russia	1	1	5	3	1	1	0	1	8	5	5	4	9	
(7) Other		2	3	3	0		1	1	6	3	2	3	4	5
(8) None	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
(9) Don't know/Refused	5	4	7	5	5	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	2	0

Note: Choices for each year
 2016: Japan, China, South Korea, Russia, India, Australia, Other, None, Don't know/Refused
 2015: Japan, China, South Korea, Russia, India, Australia, Other, None, Don't know/Refused
 2014: Japan, China, South Korea, Russia, Other, None, Don't know/Refused
 2013: Japan, China, South Korea, Russia, Other, None, Don't know/Refused
 2012: Japan, China, Russia, Some other country, Don't know/Refused
 2011: Japan, China, Australia, South Korea, India, Russia, Some other country, None, Don't know/Refused
 2010 and before: Japan, China, Russia, Some other country, Don't know/Refused

Question 17-b: Why do you regard this country as the most important partner of the United States? (OPEN END - top 5 results)

Note: This question has been asked since 1995.

- Reasons for Japan

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
(1) Trade/Economic relations with U.S.	27	26	33	55	37	56	19	36	20	27	23	24	31	30
(2) History/Past performance	21	2												
(3) Nation's economy/Strong economy	18	17												
(4) Location/Proximity to other countries	16	9												
(5) Share same values/interests	15													

- Reasons for China

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
(1) Trade/Economic relations with U.S.	34	35	54	79	68	78	37	43	34	31	32	27	32	33
(2) Nation's economy/Strong economy	29	32												
(3) National qualities (ex. Population)	22	23	44	34	49	35	24	26	25	33	34	42	29	39
(4) National strength/power	12	3												
(5) It's a threat/dangerous	12													

Question 18-a: From the following list, which country in Asia do you think is the most reliable partner of the United States?

	2018	2017	2016
(1) Japan	40	40	31
(2) Australia	31	37	42
(3) South Korea	20	14	13
(4) China	2	3	3
(5) India	1	1	2
(6) Russia	0	1	2
(7) Other	0	1	1
(8) None	1	0	1
(9) Don't know/Refused	7	6	7

Question 18-b: Why do you regard this country as the most reliable partner of the United States? (OPEN END - top 5 results)

- Reasons for Japan

	2018	2017	2016
(1) History/Past performance	30	10	
(2) Trade/Economic relations with U.S.	18	15	16
(3) Military capabilities/Relations	8	6	
(4) Nation's economy/Strong economy	8	3	
(5) Trustworthy/Reliable	8	8	

- Reasons for China

	2018	2017	2016
(1) Trade/Economic relations with U.S.	25	67	50
(2) Trustworthy/Reliable	25		
(3) Relations	25		
(4) Other miscellaneous mentions	25		

Question 19-a: How do you think the Japan-U.S. relationship has changed since the inauguration of President Trump?

Note: This question was added in 2017.

	2018	2017
(1) Has improved	10	18
(2) Has worsened	38	35
(3) Has not changed	47	44
(4) Don't know	6	3

Question 19-b: Why do you think so? (top 5 results)

- Reasons for "relationship has improved"

	2018	2017
(1) Better/increased trade deals	26	11
(2) Respect/Respect each other	11	11
(3) Good/Positive relationship	11	8
(4) Security/increased feeling of security	11	8
(5) Other positive relations mentions	11	

- Reasons for "relationship has worsened"

	2018	2017
(1) All U.S. relationships are bad/have worsened	18	11
(2) U.S. not focus on/Not value international relations	13	4
(3) Poor trade relationship/Trade disagreements	11	
(4) Trump is dishonest/not trustworthy	8	1
(5) Trump lacks tact/diplomacy	7	7

- Reasons for "Relationship has not changed"

	2018	2017
(1) Have not heard anything/No news about it	26	20
(2) Nothing has changed/All still the same	25	39
(3) Good/Positive relationship	10	5
(4) Negative international relations	10	6
(5) Don't know/Declined to answer	9	7