



International Council of Sheet Metal Presswork Associations



Country Report November 2025

Name: Manabu BARADA
Organization: Japan Metal Stamping Association
Country: Japan



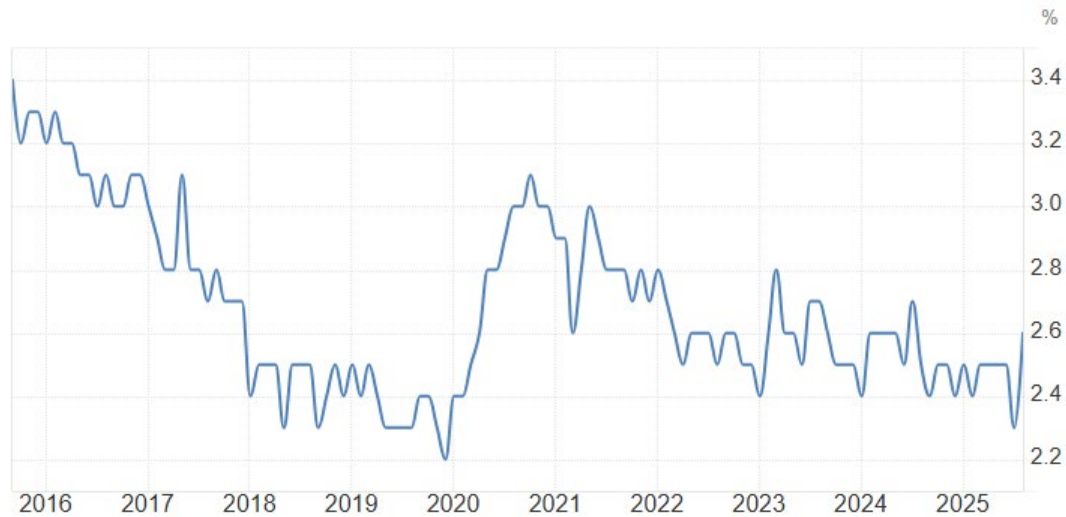
Economy, November 2025

General Indicators

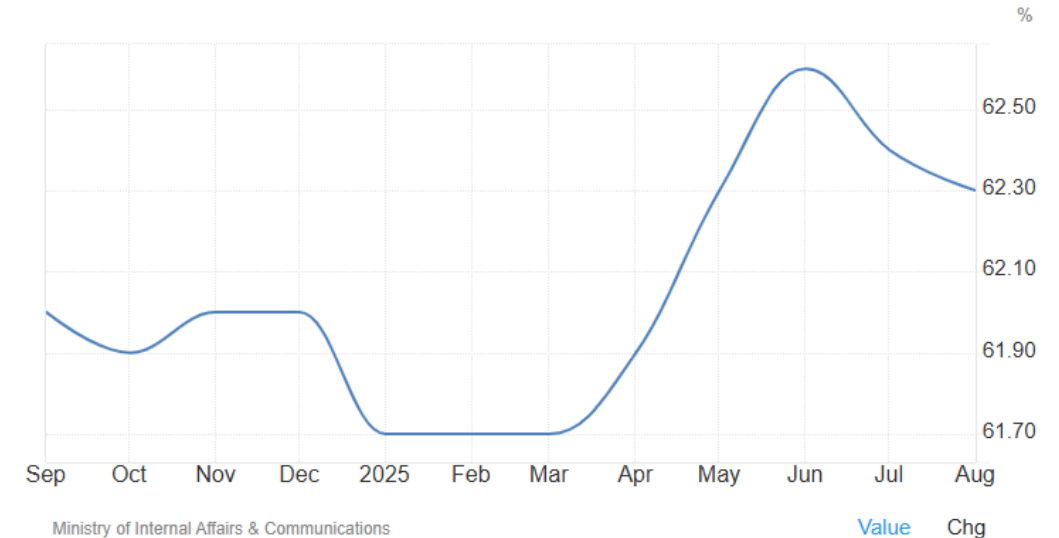
GDP Growth	+ 1.0 % (2025 forecast)
Exchange Rate	JPY 147 – 153 / USD
Unemployment Rate	2.4 % (Jul 2025)
Inflation (CPI)	+ 2.8 % YoY (Sep 2025)
Electricity Price Index	+ 11 % vs. 2024
Manufacturing PMI	49.8 (slightly below neutral)

The Japanese yen fluctuated between **JPY 147 and 153 per USD** during 2025, reflecting differences in monetary policy between Japan and the U.S. The **unemployment rate** remained at **2.3–2.6%**, one of the lowest among OECD countries, while the **employment rate** stayed stable at around **62%**. Inflation was **2.8% year-on-year**, mainly driven by rising energy and food costs. High electricity and gas prices continue to affect manufacturers, leading many firms to adopt digital tools for efficiency and cost control.

Unemployment rate

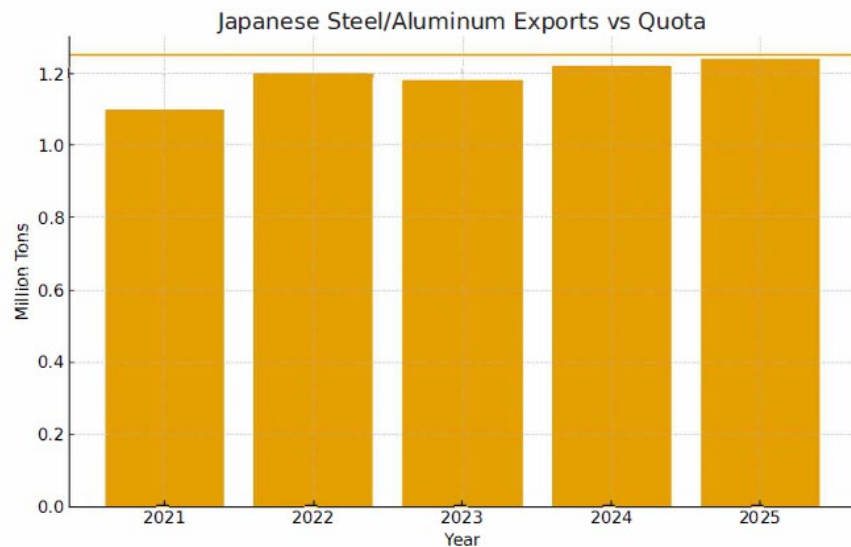


Employment rate



Unemployment Rate	2.6% (as of August 2025)
Number of Unemployed Persons	1.79 million
Employment Rate	62.3% (as of August 2025)
Number of Employed Persons	68.1 million
Labor Force	69.89 million
Persons Not in the Labor Force	39.97 million
Labor Force Participation Rate	64.0% (excluding seasonal adjustment)
Job Opening-to-Applclicant Ratio	1.20

Tariffs

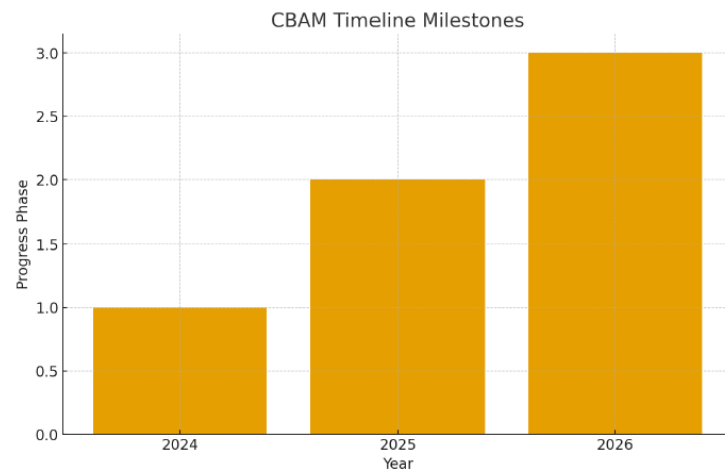
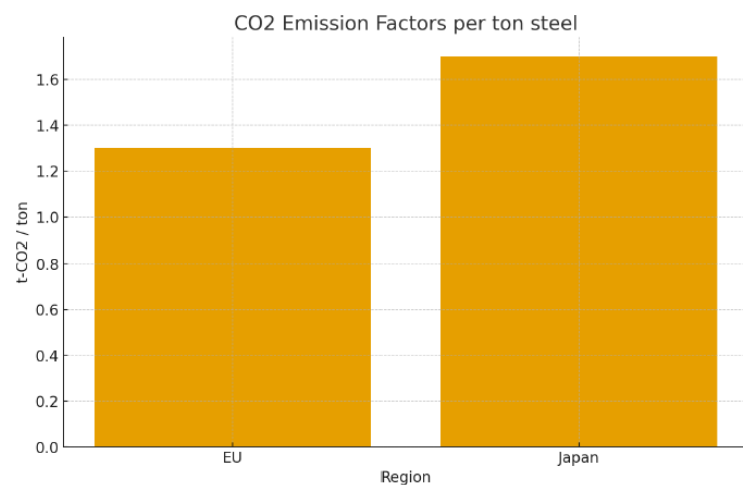


U.S. Section 232 : Tariff – rate quota system

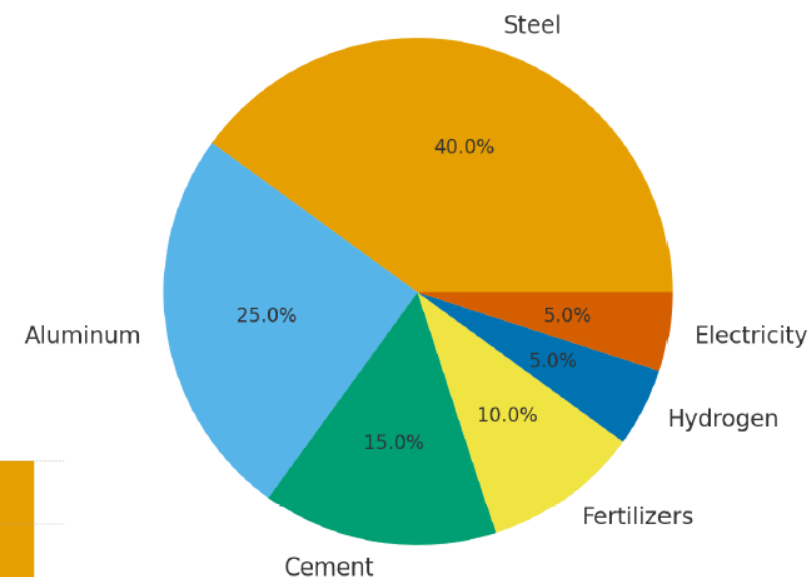
Quota	1.25 million tons for Japanese steel / aluminum
Additional export cost	+ 4 – 6 %
Exports to EU	14 % of total steel output

Japan's metal industry continues to face challenges under the **U.S. Section 232 framework**, now managed through **tariff-rate quotas (TRQ)** on steel and aluminum. These quotas require strict origin certification and adherence to volume limits. Ongoing dialogues with the U.S. and EU aim to secure fair and predictable trade conditions for Japanese manufacturers.

CBAM



CBAM-Covered Sectors (2026)



The **EU CBAM** will enter full implementation in **2026**, initially covering sectors such as **steel, aluminum, cement, fertilizers, hydrogen, and electricity**. Japanese exporters are required to calculate and report CO₂ emissions throughout their production processes. This compliance poses a challenge for SMEs, which often lack sufficient measurement infrastructure. To support industry adaptation, the Japanese government promotes its **Green Transformation (GX)** strategy, offering subsidies for emissions monitoring systems and encouraging carbon-footprint labeling.

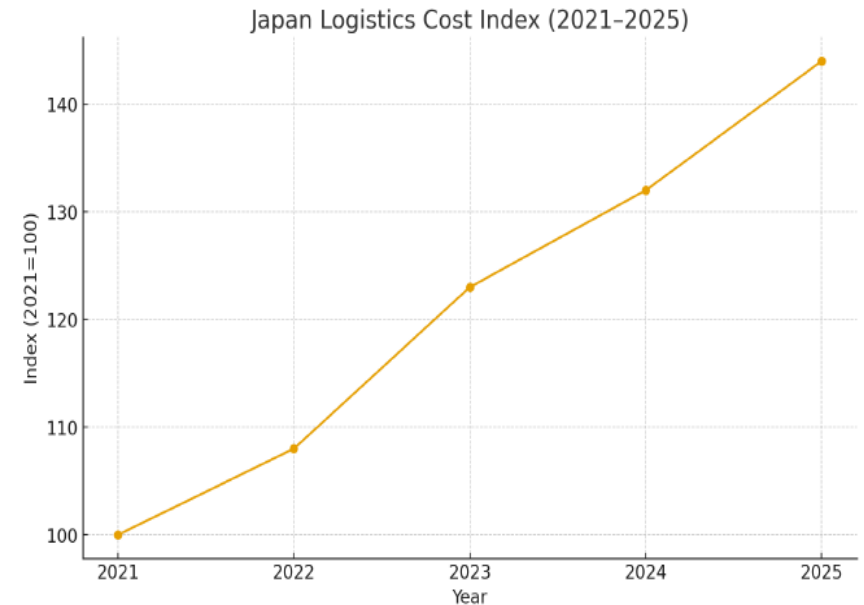
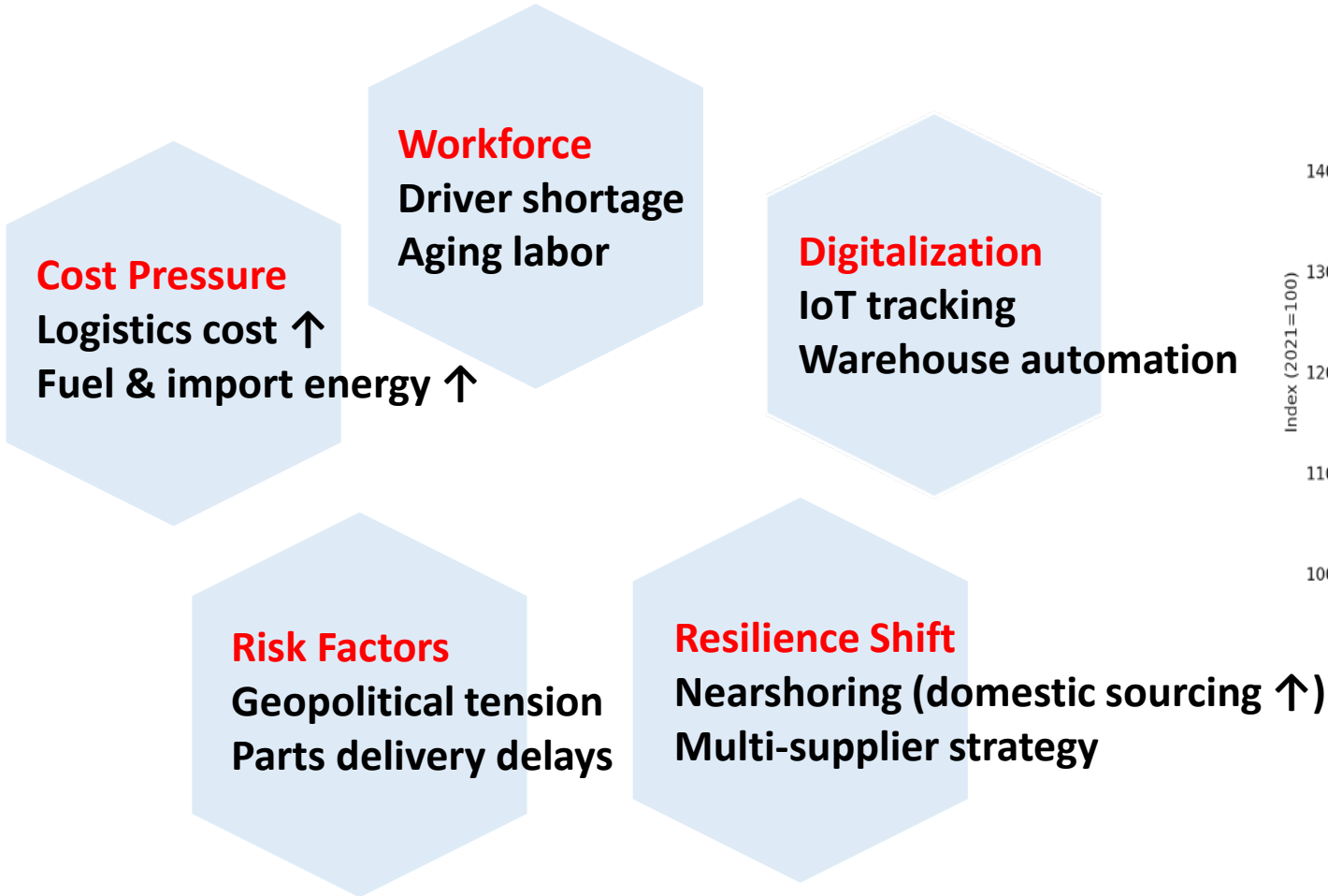
Energy

Fuels, price per litter	Date	JYP (per litter)	USD (per litter)
Gasoline prices	October 20. 2025	174.7	1.15
Diesel prices	October 20. 2025	154.8	1.019
Kerosene prices	October 20. 2025	123.5	0.813

Electricity prices per kWh	Date	JYP (per litter)	USD (per litter)
Households	March 01. 2025	35.872	0.236
Businesses	March 01. 2025	28.98	0.191

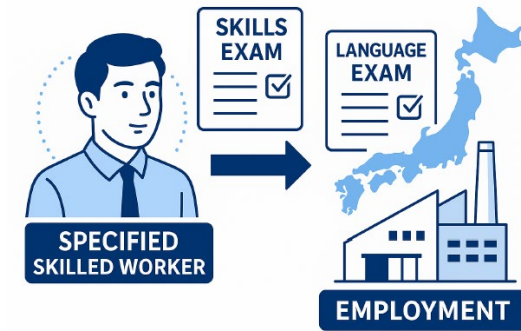
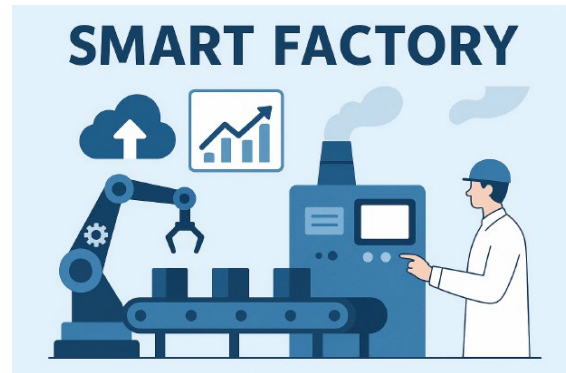
Natural gas prices per kWh	Date	JYP (per litter)	USD (per litter)
Households	March 01. 2025	10.893	0.072
Businesses	March 01. 2025	11.51	0.076

Supply Chain



Other Policy Measures

DX subsidies	¥ 1.2 trillion (FY2025)
Smart factory adoption	+ 17% YoY
Foreign worker policy reform	2024-2025



The Japanese government continues to promote **Digital Transformation (DX)** and the establishment of **smart factories**. Policies focus on **skill transfer**, **succession planning**, and reforms to the **Technical Intern Training Program** to address labor shortages. Additionally, subsidy programs for energy efficiency and equipment modernization remain active, supporting companies in achieving sustainable manufacturing and decarbonization goals.

Japanese Metal Stamping Industry – Unique Issues

Skilled worker decrease	– 15% vs. 2015
Energy / Material cost	+ 18% YoY
Domestic production share	64% (+ 5pts)



The Japanese metal-stamping industry faces ongoing challenges in **transferring specialized skills** and **attracting young workers**. Profit margins are pressured by **rising material and energy costs**, pushing firms to enhance productivity and energy efficiency. Many manufacturers are **rebalancing production toward domestic sites** for improved quality control and supply stability. At the same time, demand for **lightweight materials** and **low-carbon production processes** is increasing in line with global sustainability goals.

JMSA

Trade Association Activities

Current JMSA Activities:

- Provide **Factory tours, technical seminars, and low-cost exhibitions** for member companies.
- Launched a **Young Executives Exchange Program** to foster leadership and build networking among the next generation.
- JMSA hosted **DX study meetings** with approximately **20 member companies**, sharing best practices for digital transformation and production innovation.



	JAPAN STAMPING TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITION 2025 Tokyo 16 to 18 April 2025
Number of Visitors	41,461

