

Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd. (JCR) announces the following credit ratings.

Japan (security code: -)

<Affirmation>

Foreign Currency Long-term Issuer Rating:	AAA
Outlook:	Negative
Local Currency Long-term Issuer Rating:	AAA
Outlook:	Negative

Rationale

- (1) The ratings mainly reflect the country's highly advanced economic structure, its position as the world's largest net external creditor, holdings and purchases of government bonds by domestic investors in a stable manner against the backdrop of ample household savings, moderate economic recovery and ongoing momentum toward an exit from deflation, and continued implementation of economic policy measures aimed at fiscal consolidation and economic growth. On the other hand, the huge government debt stemming from chronic fiscal deficits continues to put downward pressure on the ratings. The Japanese economy has been gradually recovering as its real GDP registered a 1.2% year-on-year growth in FY2016. However, it is still short of the 2% growth rate assumed by the Cabinet Office in the "Economic Revitalization Case" of its medium- to long-term economic and fiscal outlook. The government holds fast to the target of attaining a primary surplus of the central and local governments by FY2020. However, the primary deficit to GDP ratio actually widened from 3.0% in FY2015 to 3.7% in FY2016, adding to uncertainty over fiscal sustainability in the medium to long term. Taking these factors into account, JCR has retained its ratings with Negative outlook.
- (2) It is four years since the government launched the Abenomics aimed for an exit from deflation at the end of FY2012. The policy produced some steady effects in recent years as corporate profit soared to a record high, private investment recovered the level before the Lehman shock, and the employment situation further tightened. On the other hand, recovery of private consumption remains sluggish, with the decline in the average propensity to consume among younger generations particularly weighing heavily on household spending. Behind this exists the structural problem of accelerating population aging accompanied by growing anxiety about the future life. Lifting potential growth through enhanced productivity is essential in such situation. However, the average real GDP growth rate in the FY2013-FY2016 period was 1.1%, well below the 2% growth assumed in the "Economic Revitalization Case". The government has mapped out its wide-ranging Growth Strategy and reinforced it annually by monitoring its progress. To date, however, the strategy has produced little clear effect of boosting the growth potential. JCR will monitor whether the government will display its strong leadership in implementing the strategy and boost the growth potential to attain its "Economic Revitalization Case".
- (3) The outstanding of government bonds and borrowings at the end of FY2016 reached JPY1,071.6 trillion (199.4% of GDP), including JPY830.6 trillion worth (154.5% of GDP) of general bonds. The primary fiscal deficit of the central and local governments in FY2016 widened from JPY15.8 trillion (3.0% of GDP) to JPY20.0 trillion (3.7% of GDP) due to downward revision of tax revenues and an extra economic stimulus package. The FY2017 budget calls for issuing JPY34.4 trillion worth of newly-issued bonds, of which the amount remains almost the same as that of the initial issuance plan for FY2016. The total amount of issuance for FY2017, including refunding bonds, comes to JPY154.0 trillion. In order to ensure a smooth financing, it is crucial for the government to realize a lasting reduction of its debt to GDP ratio through improvement of the primary balance and retain the investor confidence in its longer-term fiscal sustainability. Attaining a primary surplus by FY2020 is considered to be a pivotal goal for restoring fiscal discipline. If the government should give up on the target for reasons other than an economic crisis, the investor confidence would be greatly impaired both at home and abroad. Any setback in the government's commitment to the target could lead to changes in the ratings.
- (4) In keeping with its qualitative and quantitative monetary easing, the Bank of Japan (BOJ) introduced a negative interest rate policy (NIRP) in January 2016 and a yield curve control in

September that year with the aim of attaining its 2% inflation target. A “comprehensive assessment” conducted by the BOJ in September 2016 proved that the real interest rate declined well below the equilibrium yield curve in the aftermath of the introduction of NIRP, leading to the assessment that the effect of its monetary easing has steadily expanded. Yet, the CPI inflation rate (core CPI) was minus 0.2% year-on-year in FY2016, way below the 2% inflation target. The BOJ is now entering a phase where it would be required to manage its monetary policy in a smooth manner while striking a balance between its interest rate control and a reduction in the amount of its government bond purchases. In this situation, JCR will monitor the trend of the expected inflation rate in the financial market and the implementation of the monetary policy, paying particular attention to whether the volatility of interest rates will suddenly gain steam to undermine the stability of the supply-demand balance of government bonds.

Atsushi Masuda, Shinichi Endo

Rating

Issuer: Japan

<Affirmation>

	Rating	Outlook
Foreign Currency Long-term Issuer Rating	AAA	Negative
Local Currency Long-term Issuer Rating	AAA	Negative

Rating Assignment Date: June 13, 2017

The criteria used for identifying matters which serve as assumptions for the assessment of the credit status, and the criteria used for setting of grades indicating the results of the assessments of the credit status are published as "Types of Credit Ratings and Definitions of Rating Symbols" (January 6, 2014) in Information about JCR Ratings on JCR's website (<http://www.jcr.co.jp/en/>).

Outline of methodology for determination of the credit rating is shown as "Sovereign and Public Sector Entities" (November 7, 2014), in Rating Policies on JCR's website (<http://www.jcr.co.jp/en/>).

The aforementioned credit ratings are unsolicited. Except in cases of a credit rating for a sovereign, JCR indicates affix "p" after a rating symbol to distinguish it from a rating with solicitation. The undisclosed information, which has material influence on the credit rating, was obtained from the rating stakeholder.

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JCR publishes its press releases regarding the rating actions both in Japanese and in English on the same day. In case that it takes time to translate rating rationale, JCR may publicize the summary version, which will be replaced by the full translated version within three business days. (Regarding Structured Finance products, JCR only publicize the summary version in English.)

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE FORM

Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd.

Disclosure Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii) of Rule 17g-7

Issuer:	Japan
Rating Publication Date:	June 16, 2017

1

The Symbol, Number, or Score in the Rating Scale used to Denote Credit Rating Categories and Notches and, the Identity of the Obligor or the Identity and a Description of the Security or Money Market Instrument as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(A) of Rule 17g-7

- Please see the news release.

2

The version of the procedure or methodology used to determine the credit rating; as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(B) of Rule 17g-7

- Please see the news release.

3

The Main Assumptions and Principles used in Constructing the Procedures and Methodologies used to Determine the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(C) of Rule 17g-7

- The credit rating methodology assumes, in principle, to be applied to assess the likelihood of a given debt payment in light of its issuer's condition and business environment, etc. in the relevant future. There is certain limitation, however, in the time horizon that the rating foresees.
- The credit rating methodology assumes, in principle, that the factors posted in the below are particularly important for such likelihood to be determined, and that the rating determination is made by evaluating each of them not only quantitatively but also employing qualitative analyses.

A) Economic Base

The likelihood of a given debt payment is highly conditional to the issuing government's ability to maintain/expand the economic base into the future with maintaining soundness of financial systems.

B) Fiscal Base

The likelihood of a given debt payment is highly correlated to fiscal balance, public debt and other factors of the issuing government's fiscal condition.

C) External Positions

The likelihood of a given debt payment is highly correlated to the liquidity positions which change along with the international balance of payments and the international investment position.

D) Social and Political Bases and Economic Policy

The likelihood of a given debt payment is highly conditional to the social and political stability, effectiveness of economic and monetary policies as well as international economics.

E) Related Parties' Stance of Support/ Assistance for the Government

The likelihood of a given debt payment is affected by the stance of the credit enhancement provider and other related parties with regard to their stance of support/ assistance for the issuing government.

F) Order of Seniority in Debt Payment

The likelihood of debt payment can be different between given debts of the same issuer. The likelihood of debt payment for an individual debt is dependent on the issuing government's will, and/ or its rank relative to other debts of the same government in the order of seniority in principal/ interest payment which is determined by design as financial product or by international practice, etc.

4 The Potential Limitations of the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(D) of Rule 17g-7

- The credit rating herewith presented by JCR is its summary opinion with regard to the likelihood of given debt payment and hence not necessarily a perfect representation of such likelihood. The credit rating is not intended to estimate the probability of default or the loss on given default, either.
- The objective of the credit rating herewith presented does not include any concerns other than the likelihood of debt payment, such as risks of price changes, market liquidity, etc.
- The credit rating herewith presented is necessary to be reviewed along with possible changes of the issuer of rated objects in its business performance and/ or circumstances which include regulatory environment, and hence subject to possible alteration.

5 Information on the Uncertainty of the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(E) of Rule 17g-7

- The information used for the determination of credit rating as herewith presented is obtained by JCR from the issuer of rated objects and other sources that JCR trusts in terms of accuracy and reliability but possibly contains errors due to human, non-human or other causes. Consequently, the credit rating determined on the grounds of such information does not constitute, explicitly or implicitly, any representation or warrant of JCR on the information itself or any consequences of its use in terms of accuracy, relevance, timeliness, wholeness, market value, or usefulness for any specific purposes.

6 Use of Due Diligence Services of a Third Party in Taking the Rating Action as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(F) of Rule 17g-7

- There is no use of any third-party due diligence service in the determination of the credit rating herewith presented.

7 Use of Servicer or Remittance Reports to Conduct Surveillance of the Credit Rating Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(G) of Rule 17g-7

- There is no use of any servicer or remittance report to conduct surveillance of the credit rating herewith presented.

8 The Types of Data Relied Upon for the Purpose of Determining the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(H) of Rule 17g-7

- The information posted in the below, which includes data, is used for the determination of the credit rating herewith presented.
- A) Informational and explanatory materials presented by the rating stakeholders with regard to the economy and fiscal management policy, etc. of the issuing government
- B) Statistics and reports published by an independent organization with regard to the economy and fiscal status, etc. of the issuing government

9 Overall assessment of the Quality of Information Available and Considered in Determining the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(I) of Rule 17g-7

- JCR holds its basic policies for securing the quality of information as a base of due diligence for the determination of credit ratings. The information used as a base for the determination of credit rating herewith presented satisfies such policies, which include the publication by the issuer or some independent media or, otherwise, JCR analyst's scrutiny, etc.
- JCR sees no particular weakness in the quality of information used for the determination of the credit rating herewith presented as compared to the information used in other cases of the credit rating for comparable issuers or ratable objects.

10 Information Relating to Conflicts of Interest as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(J) of Rule 17g-7

- JCR does not receive payment of compensation for the determination of the credit rating herewith presented from either one of those parties who are issuer, underwriter, depositor or sponsor.
- JCR did not receive in the last fiscal year in the past payment of compensation from the same party for any kind of JCR's service other than the determination of credit rating, such as one in the ancillary business.

11 Explanation or Measure of the Potential Volatility of the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(K) of Rule 17g-7

A) Economic Base

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is an improvement or deterioration of the issuer's economy or financial systems, etc. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is large.

B) Fiscal Base

The credit rating is subject to alteration if the issuer increases/ decreases its fiscal deficit/ surplus and its public debt and thereby makes given debt payment liability less/ more bearable. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is large.

C) External Positions

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a change in the issuer's international balance of payments and international investment position and thereby an improvement/ deterioration of its liquidity positions. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is large.

D) Social and Political Bases and Economic Policy

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a change in the issuer's social and political conditions or economic/ monetary policies, etc. and thereby an improvement/ deterioration of its economy and fiscal positions. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is large.

E) Related Parties' Stance of Support/ Assistance for the Issuer

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a change in the credit enhancement provider or other related parties with regard to their stance of support/ assistance for the issuing government and thereby an improvement/ deterioration of its economy, fiscal positions and liquidity positions. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is large.

F) Order of Seniority in Debt Payment

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a change in the rated debt's status in the order of seniority relative to other debts, due to improvement/ deterioration of the issuer's fiscal condition and/or will. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is large.

G) International Economies

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a change in the international economies, commodity or foreign exchange markets, etc. and thereby, through international balance of payments, an improvement/ deterioration in the issuer's fiscal balance or debt payment capacity. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is exceptionally large.

H) Various Events

The credit rating is subject to alteration on occurrence of various events, such as domestic unrest, war, natural disaster, etc. which are unforeseeable at the time when the credit rating is determined, causing a significant change on the issuer's economy, fiscal positions, etc. The resultant alteration of the credit rating could be by a notch but more often than not as much as a few notches.

12

Information on the Content of the Credit Rating, Including the Historical Performance of the Credit Rating and the Expected Probability of Default and the Expected Loss in the Event of Default as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(L) of Rule 17g-7

- Historical records of the credit rating herewith presented are posted in the end of this paper.
- The credit rating herewith presented by JCR is its summary opinion with regard to the likelihood of given debt payment and hence not necessarily a perfect representation of such likelihood. The credit rating is not intended to estimate the probability of default or the loss on given default, either.
- Facts of the probability of default are posted as Form NRSRO Exhibit 1 on the JCR website under the URL:

<http://www.jcr.co.jp/en/service/company/regu/nrsro/>

13

Information on the Sensitivity of the Credit Rating to Assumptions Made as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(M) of Rule 17g-7

A) Economic Base

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the issuer's economy or financial systems, etc. The resultant change of the credit rating is most likely by a notch, as JCR speculates, but possibly as much as a few notches if the development is rapid in improvement or deterioration of the issuer's economy or financial systems on some drastic change in environments, etc.

B) Fiscal Base

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the issuer's fiscal conditions in terms of annual balance or public debt. The resultant change of the credit rating is most likely by a notch, as JCR speculates, but possibly as much as a few notches if the development is rapid in improvement or deterioration of the issuer's fiscal condition on some drastic change in its economy.

C) External Positions

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the issuer's liquidity positions reflecting

improvement or deterioration of the international balance of payments and the international investment position. The resultant change of the credit rating is most likely by a notch, as JCR speculates, but possibly as much as a few notches if the development is rapid in improvement or deterioration of the issuer's liquidity positions on some drastic change in the country's economic/ fiscal conditions and financing activities, etc.

D) Social and Political Bases and Economic Policies

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the issuer's social and political bases and economic/ monetary policies. The resultant change of the credit rating is most likely by a notch, as JCR speculates, but possibly as much as a few notches if the country's situation changes drastically, making the issuer's social and political bases and economic/monetary policies significantly improved or deteriorated.

E) International Economics

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the prospects of the international economies or commodity/ foreign exchange markets, etc. JCR expects the change should be most likely by a notch but could be as much as a few notches, should the economy or the markets change so greatly.

14 Information on the Representations, Warranties, and Enforcement Mechanisms of an Asset-backed Security as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(N) of rule 17g-7

- The credit rating herewith presented is not for an ABS product, and hence no relevant issue.

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The Historical Performance of the Credit Rating

Issuer Name	Issue Name	Publication Date	Rating	Outlook/Direction
Japan	Issuer(Long-term)(LC)	June 12, 2002	AAA	Negative
Japan	Issuer(Long-term)(LC)	July 14, 2003	AAA	Negative
Japan	Issuer(Long-term)(LC)	May 14, 2004	AAA	Negative
Japan	Issuer(Long-term)(LC)	June 17, 2005	AAA	Negative
Japan	Issuer(Long-term)(LC)	August 28, 2006	AAA	Stable
Japan	Issuer(Long-term)(LC)	August 13, 2007	AAA	Stable
Japan	Issuer(Long-term)(LC)	September 22, 2010	AAA	Stable
Japan	Issuer(Long-term)(LC)	October 28, 2011	AAA	Stable
Japan	Issuer(Long-term)(LC)	March 15, 2013	AAA	Stable
Japan	Issuer(Long-term)(LC)	December 25, 2013	AAA	Stable
Japan	Issuer(Long-term)(LC)	March 27, 2015	AAA	Stable
Japan	Issuer(Long-term)(LC)	July 14, 2016	AAA	Negative
Japan	Issuer(Long-term)(FC)	June 12, 2002	AAA	Negative
Japan	Issuer(Long-term)(FC)	July 14, 2003	AAA	Negative
Japan	Issuer(Long-term)(FC)	May 14, 2004	AAA	Negative
Japan	Issuer(Long-term)(FC)	June 17, 2005	AAA	Negative
Japan	Issuer(Long-term)(FC)	August 28, 2006	AAA	Stable
Japan	Issuer(Long-term)(FC)	August 13, 2007	AAA	Stable
Japan	Issuer(Long-term)(FC)	September 22, 2010	AAA	Stable
Japan	Issuer(Long-term)(FC)	October 28, 2011	AAA	Stable
Japan	Issuer(Long-term)(FC)	March 15, 2013	AAA	Stable
Japan	Issuer(Long-term)(FC)	December 25, 2013	AAA	Stable
Japan	Issuer(Long-term)(FC)	March 27, 2015	AAA	Stable
Japan	Issuer(Long-term)(FC)	July 14, 2016	AAA	Negative

Attestation Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(iii) of Rule 17g-7

I, Atsushi Masuda, have responsibility to this Rating Action and to the best of my knowledge:

- A) No part of the credit rating was influenced by any other business activities.
- B) The credit rating was based solely upon the merits of the obligor, security, or money market instrument being rated.
- C) The credit rating was an independent evaluation of the credit risk of the obligor, security, or money market instrument.



Atsushi Masuda
General Manager of International Rating Department

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