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## Harper Government Announces Fifth Round of Canada-Japan Trade Negotiations

*Expanding trade opportunities in the Asia-Pacific region to benefit workers and businesses is our priority, says Minister Fast*

March 18, 2014 - Ottawa, Ontario - Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada

The Honourable Ed Fast, Minister of International Trade, today announced the fifth round of negotiations toward a Canada-Japan economic partnership agreement (EPA). The negotiations will take place in Tokyo from March 24 to 28, 2014. Canada is actively opening markets in the Asia Pacific, recently concluding its first free trade agreement in the region, with South Korea.

A joint study concluded that a trade agreement with Japan could boost Canada's economy by \$3.8 billion annually, which is equivalent to almost 25,000 new jobs, and increase Canada's exports to Japan by as much as 67 percent. An agreement would strengthen bilateral trade and investment opportunities in many areas, benefiting all sectors including agri-food products, forestry and valued-added wood products, fish and seafood, natural resources and financial services.

### Quick Facts

- A priority market under Canada's Global Markets Action Plan, Japan is the world's third-largest economy and Canada's fourth-largest merchandise export market.
- In 2013, the total value of Canadian exports to Japan reached nearly \$10.7 billion, with Japan being Canada's second most important trading partner in the Asia-Pacific region.
- With almost \$17.5 billion invested in Canada at the end of 2012, Japan is Canada's largest source of job-creating investment from Asia.

### Quotes

"Our government is committed to creating jobs for Canadian workers and businesses in every region of the country by deepening trade and investment in the fast-growing Asia-Pacific region. The momentum of our landmark conclusion of an agreement with South Korea is carrying us forward in the region. We are committed to expeditiously pursuing a jobs- and opportunity-generating trade agreement with Japan, and are looking forward to the upcoming comprehensive negotiating round."

- Ed Fast, Minister of International Trade

### Associated Links

- [Canada-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement](#)
- [Report of the Joint Study on the Possibility of a Canada-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement](#)
- [Japan overview \(Canadian Trade Commissioner Service\)](#)
- [Doing Business with Japan](#)
- [Japan Fact Sheet](#)
- [Canada's Global Markets Action Plan](#)

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