HUMAN CAPITAL COUNTRY BRIEF - OCTOBER 2022

JAPAN

Region: East Asia and Pacific

Income Category: High Income

This 2-page brief provides the 2020 Human Capital Index (HCI) released in September 2020, and a set of indicators that are complementary to the HCI. The HCI measures the amount of human capital that a child born today can expect to attain by age 18. It conveys the productivity of the next generation of workers compared to a benchmark of complete education and full health. Although the effects of COVID-19 on the HCI are yet to be measured due to the lack of data, we expect the post-pandemic HCI to be relatively lower due to the deep learning and health losses globally. **Data collection efforts to allow updates to the HCI remain critical for all countries to inform policies and programs to address the setbacks to human capital.**

THE HUMAN CAPITAL INDEX

A child born in Japan just before the pandemic will be **80 percent** as productive when she grows up as she could be if she enjoyed complete education and full health. This is higher than the average for the East Asia & Pacific region (59 percent) and High Income countries (71 percent).

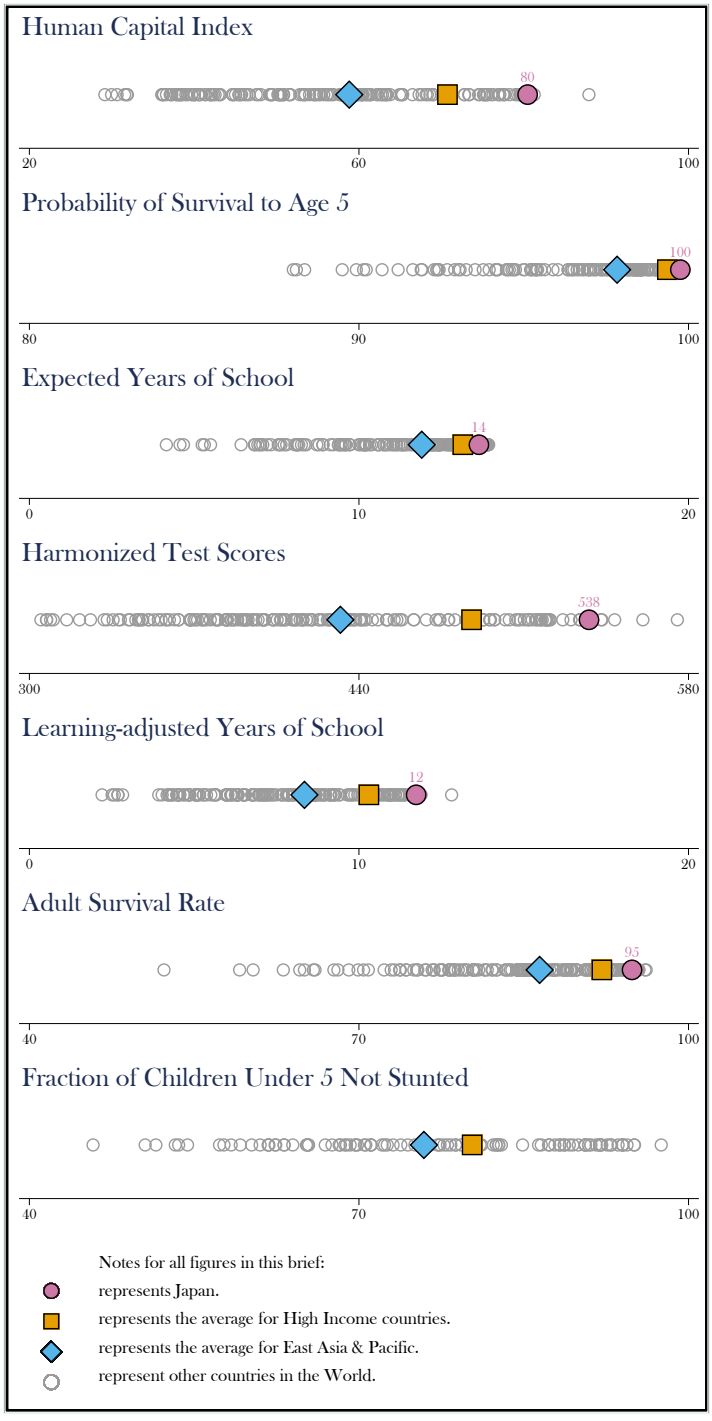
THE HUMAN CAPITAL INDEX COMPONENTS

- **Probability of Survival to Age 5. 100** out of 100 children born in Japan survive to age 5.
- **Expected Years of School.** In Japan, a child who starts school at age 4 can expect to complete **13.6 years** of school by her 18th birthday.
- **Harmonized Test Scores.** Students in Japan score **538** on a scale where 625 represents advanced attainment and 300 represents minimum attainment.
- **Learning-adjusted Years of School.** Factoring in what children actually learn, expected years of school is only **11.7 years**.
- **Adult Survival Rate.** Across Japan, **95 percent** of 15-year olds will survive until age 60. This statistic is a proxy for the range of health risks that a child born today would experience as an adult under current conditions.
- **Fraction of Children Under 5 Not Stunted.** Internationally comparable data on stunting are not available for Japan.

DIFFERENCES IN HCI ACROSS GENDER AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUPS

In Japan, lack of data prevents comparison of HCI by gender. The table below shows gender disaggregation for each of the HCI components, where available. There are insufficient data to disaggregate the HCI by socio-economic groups.

HCI and its components	Boys	Girls	Overall
HCI	-	-	0.80
Survival to Age 5	1.00	1.00	1.00
Expected Years of School	-	-	13.6
Harmonized Test Scores	537	539	538
Learning-adjusted Years of School	-	-	11.7
Adult Survival Rate	0.93	0.96	0.95
Not Stunted Rate	-	-	-



JAPAN

Human capital, a crucial ingredient for economic growth, is multi-dimensional and cumulatively built over the lifecycle. Due to the slow moving nature of the HCI, an additional set of Human Capital Complementary Indicators (HCCIs) offer a snapshot of proximate dimensions of human capital in Japan that can be monitored to measure simultaneous progress in intermediate outcomes. These selected HCCIs are based on the latest available data (*italicized* and shown in parenthesis) and benchmarked against regional and country income group averages. **They highlight where the need is for investment in people in each stage of life and for data collection and updates for evidence-based policy making.**

EARLY CHILDHOOD

- **Neonatal mortality (deaths per 1,000 live births).** The neonatal mortality rate is **1 per 1,000 live births** *(2020)*, lower than both the regional average (10) and the income group average (4).
- **Maternal mortality (deaths per 100,000 live births).** For every 100,000 live births, **4 women** *(2015)* die from pregnancy related causes. This is lower than both the average for its region (87) and the average for its income group (9).
- **Completeness of birth registration (%).** Complete birth registration is **100 percent** *(2017)*, compared to 83 at the regional level and 100 at the income group level.

SCHOOL AGE

- **Female learning poverty (%). 3 percent** *(2019)* of 10-year-old girls cannot read and understand a simple text by the end of primary school, compared to 32 percent at the regional level and 11 percent at the income group level.
- **Male learning poverty (%).** And **4 percent** *(2019)* of 10-year-old boys cannot read and understand a simple text by the end of primary school, compared to 36 percent at the regional level and 15 percent at the income group level.
- **Primary school completion (%).** Internationally comparable data on primary school completion rate are not available for Japan.

YOUTH

- **Adolescent fertility (births/1000 women).** The adolescent fertility rate, i.e., the number of births for every 1000 women aged 15-19, is **3** *(2020)*. This is lower than both the average for its region (27) and the average for its income group (13).
- **Female youth unemployment (%).** Female youth unemployment is **4 percent** *(2022)*, lower than both the regional (11%) and income group (17%) averages.
- **Male youth unemployment (%).** Male youth unemployment is **4 percent** *(2022)*, lower than both the regional (10%) and income group (14%) averages.

ADULTS & ELDERLY

- **Female labour force participation (%).** The female labour force participation is **54 percent** *(2022)*, lower than both the regional (60%) and income group (55%) averages.
- **Male labour force participation (%).** The male labour force participation is **74 percent** *(2022)*, lower than the regional average (79%) and higher than the income group average (73%).
- **Life expectancy at birth (years).** Life expectancy at birth is **85 years** *(2020)*, higher than both the regional (75 years) and income group (80 years) averages.