OECD OURdata Index: 2019

Japan

4th Place

- Data Availability
- Data Accessibility
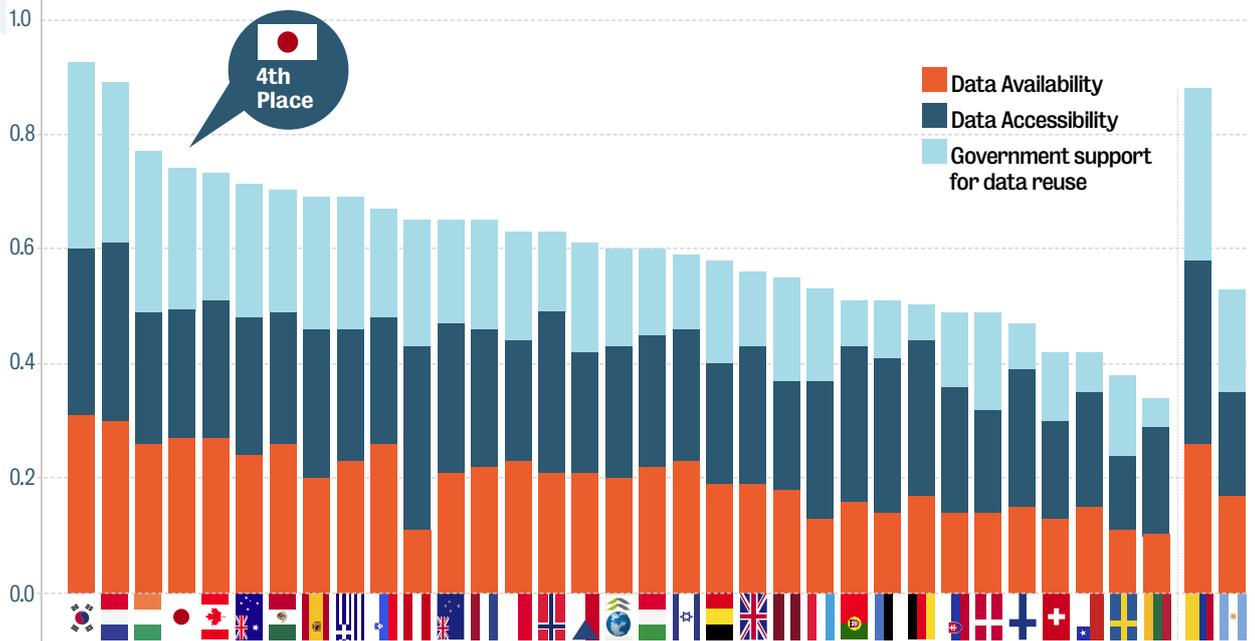- Government support for data reuse

Governance for Open Government Data

Institutional Governance	Policy Framework	Legal and Regulatory instruments
The National Strategy Office of ICT within the Cabinet Secretariat is responsible for the open government data policy in Japan. The Open Data Working Group brings together representatives from the central and local government, private sector and academia to monitor the execution of open data initiatives.	Japan's progress in open data began with the G8 Open Data Charter and the establishment of the Japan Open Data Charter Action Plan in 2013. The 2017 Basic Principles on Open Data is the main policy document for open data in Japan and ensures the implementation of the Public-Private Data Utilisation Act.	The 2016 Public-Private Data Utilisation Act instructs both central and local government entities to make their data easily accessible for the public to re-use. While not binding, the Japanese government has been implementing the G20 Anti-Corruption Action Plan 2017-2018 which encourages the release of government data related to public integrity.

Enabling coherent policy implementation

- → The National Strategy Office of ICT has been dispatching 'open data evangelists' (experts on open data) across central public sector organisations and local governments to raise awareness and tackle skills gaps.
- → The 'Basic guidelines on the provision and promotion of administrative information by website etc.' provide a set of common technical standards that public sector organisations should follow when publishing open data.

Open Government Data Portal

- → Data.go.jp provides access to open data from the central Japanese government.
- → The portal features a developers page with all the information needed for developers to create applications or services using metadata from the portal.

Using data as a platform: ecosystem engagement and collaboration

- → In 2018, Ube City organised an open data application challenge which focused on finding solutions to regional issues using open data, and increasing ICT skills within the local community.
- → In 2017, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications conducted research on the main barriers to open data re-use covering 1,788 local governments.
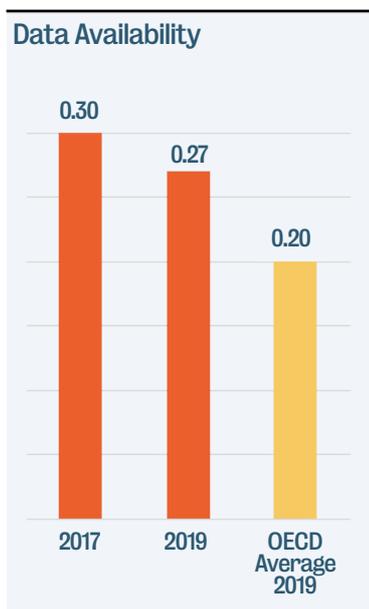
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Good practice

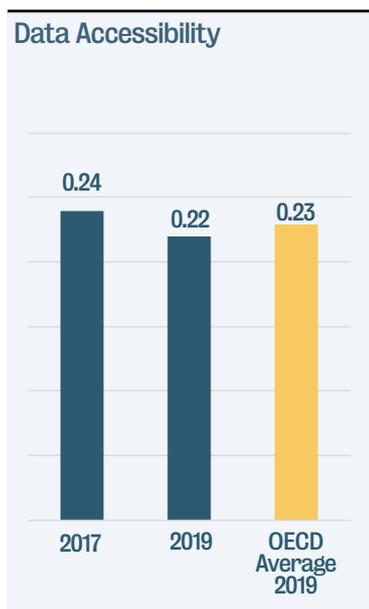**Let's Begin Open Data – guide encouraging open data release among local governments**

Realising that most of the interaction with citizens takes place at the local government level, the Japanese government has made considerable efforts to try to encourage the adoption of the open by default principle among local governments. This was done by arranging seminars and presenting the benefits of open data, and involving local governments in central level working groups for open data initiatives across the nation.
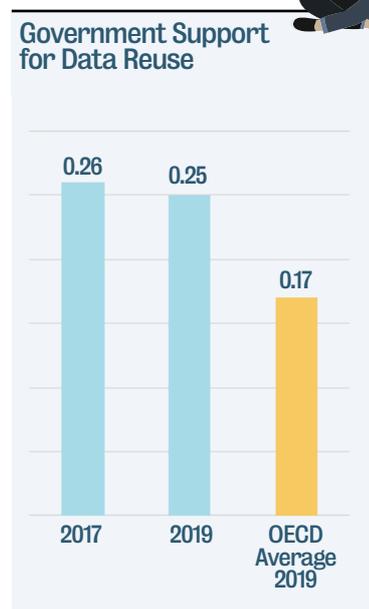
Performance per Index Pillar

Data Availability

2017	2019	OECD Average 2019
0.30	0.27	0.20

While remaining one of the top performing OECD countries in overall data availability, fewer high-value datasets are now available on the central open data portal data.go.jp. The extensive work on promoting open data at the local government level will generate value but may have resulted in fewer actions directed toward central ministries and agencies.

Data Accessibility

2017	2019	OECD Average 2019
0.24	0.22	0.23

Since 2017, Japan has dropped below the OECD average in data accessibility due to the accelerated performances of other countries, but also due to the lack of stakeholder engagement on data.go.jp. To improve, the central government should consider investing in tools that allow the portal to become a point for interaction between users, to encourage collaboration, innovation and citizen engagement.

Government Support for Data Reuse

2017	2019	OECD Average 2019
0.26	0.25	0.17

The Japanese government is a frontrunner in promoting data re-use among public servants, local governments, citizens and businesses through various events and partnerships. While the economic effect of open data has been monitored through research, the social impacts of open data in the country could be explored further.

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