



The Weekly Observer

April 8-12

YOUR WEEKLY RECAP OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN JAPAN!

THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

Kishida's State Visit to the U.S.

Prime Minister Kishida Fumio is visiting the United States from April 8-14 as a state guest invited by **President Joe Biden**.

Japan-U.S. Summit: On Wednesday, the two leaders marked new heights in the alliance, signing onto over **seventy deliverables** ranging from defense to people-to-people ties.

Defense

- Upgrade **command and control** in Japan
- Seamless cooperation with **external partners** (AUKUS)
- Establish **Forum on Defense Industrial Cooperation, Acquisition, and Sustainment (DICAS)**

Economic Resilience

- Joint **supply chain** initiatives
- Joint **chip tech agenda**
- Commercialize **new energy**

technologies

Science and Technology

- **Two Japanese astronauts** to join Artemis lunar missions
- **\$110 million** joint R&D fund for global leadership in **AI**

Japan-U.S.-Philippines Summit: In the **first-ever summit** of its kind, the leaders expressed "**serious concerns**" about **Chinese actions in the South China Sea** and announced **trilateral maritime exercises** and **supply chain initiatives for critical minerals** and clean energy.

Address to Congress: In a speech entitled "For the Future: Our Global Partnership," Kishida emphasized that **Japan strives to become a reliable and committed ally** in upholding the international order. He also attempted to **allay fears about Japanese investments** in the United States (like **Nippon Steel**) by emphasizing the positive contributions to growth and job creation. He plans to visit **Toyota and Honda factories in North Carolina**, a key swing state.

Cabinet Approval



23% (-2 pts.)

58% (+1 pt.)

[NHK](#) (April 8)

State of the Economy

Economy Watchers Survey (March):
49.8 (-1.5 pts.)

Consumer Confidence Survey:
39.5 (+0.5 pt.)
First high since May 2019

Corporate Goods Price Index:
120.7 (+0.8%)

Current Account Balance (February):
¥2.64 trillion surplus (+20.2% from Feb. 2023)

Real Wages per Person:
-1.3% (23rd straight month down)