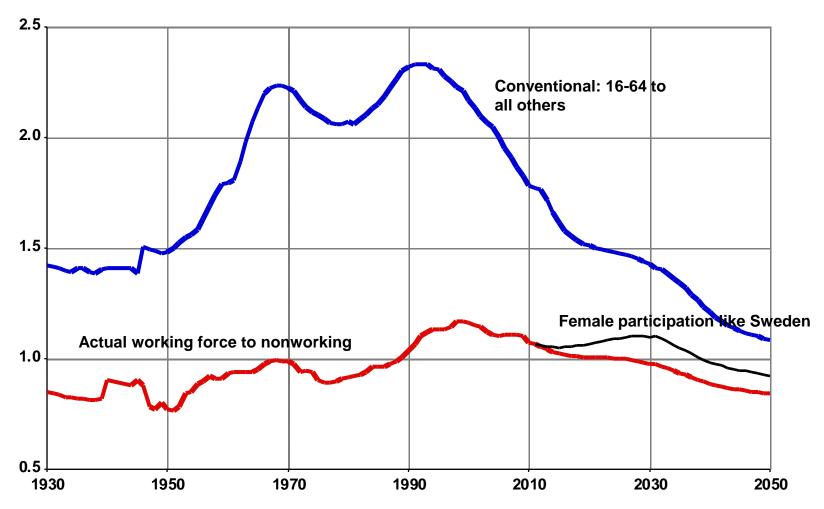
Some Things You Thought You Knew About the Japanese Economy ...

Arthur Alexander Georgetown University aja4@georgetown.edu

Common Misperceptions

- Demographics not as bad as portrayed
- Yen not so high
- Debt not that large
- Growth not so bad, relatively speaking
- Japan will be okay

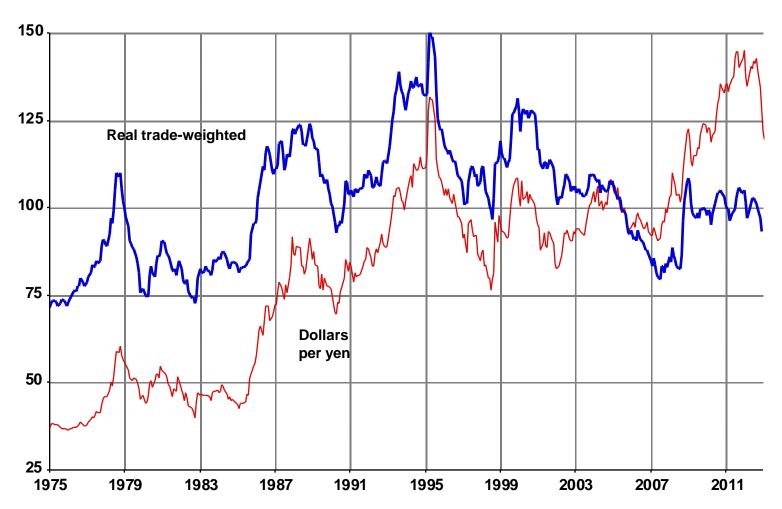
Working to Nonworking Population: Two Ways



Note: Labor force participation projected at 2010 rates.

Alternative female labor force participation assumes Japanese women transition over 20 years to Swedish rate

Price-adjusted Yen near Long-run Average



Note: 2005 = 100; producer prices used to calculate real exchange rates

Source: BOJ

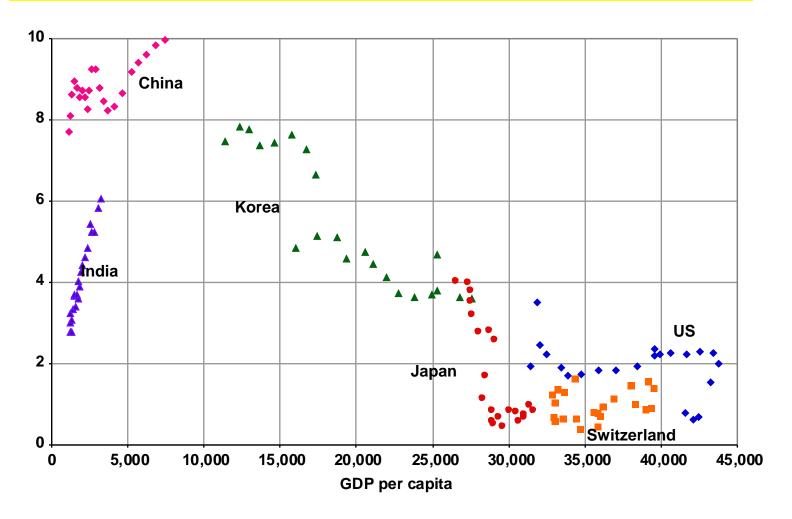
Japanese Government Debt

(% of GDP, March 31, 2012)

Central & local government gross liabilities	227
Central government gross liabilities	191
Central government net liabilities	146
Outstanding central government bonds	134
Japanese government bonds held privately	60
JGBs held by foreigners	9

Source: Bank of Japan (Flow of Funds)

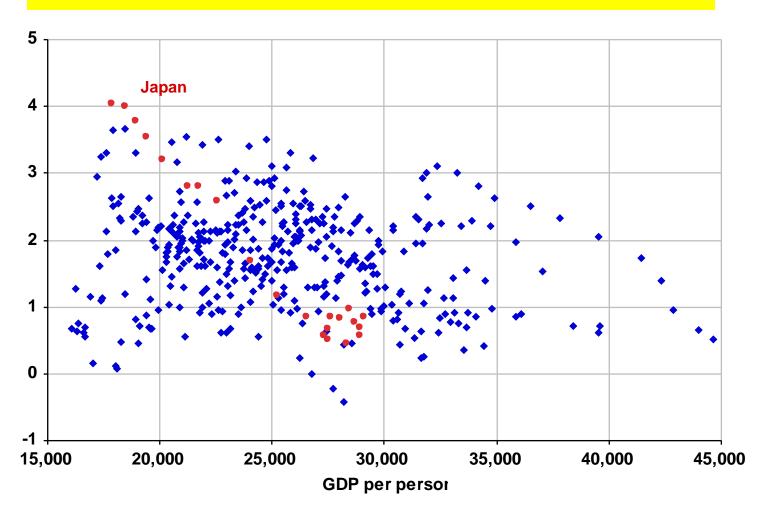
GDP Growth Slows as Countries Become Rich



Source: World Bank

Note: Growth rate averaged over previous 10 years, 1980-2011, 2005 PPP dollars

Japan's Experience Similar to 20 Richest Countries



Source: World Bank

Note: Growth rate averaged over previous 10 years, 1980-2011, 2005 PPP dollars

Conclusions: Japan Will Be Okay

- Japan has institutions, habits that work
- Population decline not as scary as portrayed
 - Productivity gains, better use of women could ease effects
- Slow, but steady, economic change
 - Financial, other deregulation
 - Corporate governance improvements
 - More competition
 - More FDI
- Political tension between helping individuals and larger collectives
- Change with Japanese characteristics
 - Slow, allow time for everyone to adjust
 - May not be fast enough in changing world