

# **Introduction of a New Series of Bank of Japan Notes and a New 500 Yen Coin<sup>1</sup>**

May 31, 2019  
Bank of Japan

The Ministry of Finance has decided to introduce a new series of the Bank of Japan notes and a new 500 yen coin, with a view to strengthening the ability to prevent counterfeiting and to enhancing the identifiability of denominations. The Ministry released its plan on April 9, 2019 as follows.

The Bank of Japan will proceed with the necessary preparations in coordination with the Ministry of Finance and other relevant parties.

## **I. Bank of Japan Notes**

### **A. Main Features**

#### **1. New Security Features**

##### **(1) High-definition watermark**

- High-definition watermark patterns will be added to the current watermark.

##### **(2) Holograms using state-of-the-art technology<sup>2</sup>**

- Holographic stripes will be incorporated for the first time into the 10,000 yen and 5,000 yen notes, and a holographic patch into the 1,000 yen note.

Meanwhile, serial numbers will be changed from a maximum of 9 digits to 10 digits.

#### **2. Universal Design (for ease of differentiation among denominations)**

##### **(1) Tactile marks**

- Tactile marks will be upgraded and placed in a different position depending on the denomination.

##### **(2) Enlarged numerals of the face value**

- The numerals for each denomination will be larger and placed on both sides of the banknotes.

##### **(3) Holograms and watermarks**

- The position of the holograms and watermarks will vary depending on the denomination.

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<sup>1</sup> This is an English translation of the Japanese original released on April 9, 2019.

<sup>2</sup> Using cutting-edge technology adopted for the first time in banknotes, the 3D portrait images rotate when tilted.

### 3. Designs

Denomination	Front (portrait)	Back
10,000 yen note	Eiichi Shibusawa	Tokyo Station Marunouchi Building
5,000 yen note	Umeko Tsuda	Japanese wisteria flowers ( <i>fuji</i> )
1,000 yen note	Shibasaburō Kitasato	<i>Fugaku sanjūrokkei</i> (Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji) <sup>3</sup>

Reference: Current series of banknotes

Denomination	Front (portrait)	Back
10,000 yen note	Yukichi Fukuzawa	Statue of Phoenix
5,000 yen note	Ichiyō Higuchi	" <i>Kakitsubata-zu</i> " (painting of irises)
1,000 yen note	Hideyo Noguchi	Mount Fuji and cherry blossoms

### 4. Sizes

Denomination	Size
10,000 yen note	76 x 160 mm
5,000 yen note	76 x 156 mm
1,000 yen note	76 x 150 mm

The new banknotes for each denomination will be the same size as the current series of banknotes.

### B. Date of Introduction

Scheduled for the first half of fiscal 2024 (April-September 2024).

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<sup>3</sup> "*Kanagawa-oki nami ura*" (Under the Great Wave off Kanagawa) from the series *Fugaku sanjūrokkei* (Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji), a Japanese *ukiyo-e* woodblock print by Katsushika Hokusai.

## II. 500 Yen Coin

### A. Main Features

#### 1. New Security Features

(1) Bicolor clad technology

- A combination of bicolor and clad technologies. The inner disk is a three-layered clad coin made of a metal plate sandwiched between two plates of a different type of metal. This disk is then fitted into an outer ring made of another type of metal, creating a bicolor coin consisting of the inner disk and the outer ring.

(2) Helical ridges with two different pitches

- Helical ridges with two different pitches will be introduced for the first time in regular, mass-produced coins.

(3) Micro lettering and numbers

- Micro lettering and numbers will be inscribed on the inside rim of the front of the coin.

#### 2. Materials and Specifications

	New 500 yen coin	Reference: Current 500 yen coin
Material	Nickel-brass, cupronickel, and copper (bicolor clad coin)	Nickel-brass
Quality	Copper 75.0%, Zinc 12.5% Nickel 12.5%	Copper 72.0%, Zinc 20.0% Nickel 8.0%
Weight	7.1 g	7.0 g
Edge	Helical ridges with two different pitches	Helical ridges
Diameter	26.5 mm	26.5 mm

### B. Date of Introduction

Scheduled for the first half of fiscal 2021 (April-September 2021). \*

\* On January 22, 2021, the Ministry of Finance announced that it was considering postponing the issuance of the new 500 yen coin, originally scheduled for the first half of fiscal 2021. The Ministry will announce the revised schedule after assessing the situation.

▼ [Issuance of New 500-Yen Coin and Commemorative Coins](#) (Link to the Ministry of Finance's website)

***Important Notices***

- The current series of banknotes and 500 yen coins will remain valid after the issuance of the new series.
- Please be aware of fraudulent practices claiming that the current series of banknotes and coins are invalid.

***Inquiries***

Bank of Japan

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## Portraits and Designs of the New Bank of Japan Notes<sup>1</sup>

### 1. New 10,000 Yen Note

Front (portrait): Eiichi Shibusawa (1840-1931)

A business leader and entrepreneur in early modern Japan who was involved in the founding of around 500 businesses and economic organizations, including the First National Bank, the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce (now the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry), and the Tokyo Stock Exchange. His dedication to improving society extended to education, social welfare, and private-sector diplomacy.

Back: Tokyo Station Marunouchi Building

Opened in 1914, the red-brick station is one of the historic landmarks of the Meiji and Taisho periods and was designated as an Important Cultural Property of Japan in 2003. The building was designed by Kingo Tatsuno, a prominent figure in modern Japanese architecture. The building was reconstructed in 1947 after being badly damaged during World War II, and then restored to its original three-story structure in 2012.

### 2. New 5,000 Yen Note

Front (portrait): Umeko Tsuda (1864-1929)

The pioneer of higher education for women in modern Japan, who founded one of the first private women's colleges in Japan, Joshi Eigaku Juku (now Tsuda University) in 1900. She was among the first female students sent to the U.S. as part of the government's overseas study program. They travelled to the U.S. in 1871, with a diplomatic delegation known as the Iwakura mission.

Back: Japanese wisteria flowers (*fuji*)

Popular among people in Japan since ancient times, these flowers appear frequently in classic Japanese literature such as the *Kojiki*, records of ancient Japan, and *Man'yōshū*, a collection of Japanese poetry.

### 3. New 1,000 Yen Note

Front (portrait): Shibasaburō Kitasato (1853-1931)

A pioneering microbiologist who developed the serum therapy for tetanus after he succeeded in growing the world's first pure culture of the bacteria. He is also known for discovering the plague bacillus. He established the Institute for Infectious Diseases in 1892 and founded the Kitasato Institute in 1914, dedicating himself to the education of future doctors and researchers.

Back: "*Kanagawa-oki nami ura*" (Under the Great Wave off Kanagawa) from the series *Fugaku sanjūrokkei* (Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji)

One of the most famous Japanese *ukiyo-e* woodblock prints (around 1831). This celebrated work of Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1849) has inspired artists around the world.

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<sup>1</sup> This is an English translation of an excerpt from the press release by the Ministry of Finance on April 9, 2019.

Provisional Designs of the New Bank of Japan Notes and Coin<sup>1</sup>

(1) Banknotes<sup>2</sup>

New 10,000 yen note (front)



New 10,000 yen note (back)



New 5,000 yen note (front)



New 5,000 yen note (back)



New 1,000 yen note (front)



New 1,000 yen note (back)



(2) Coin<sup>3</sup>



<Micro lettering and numbers>

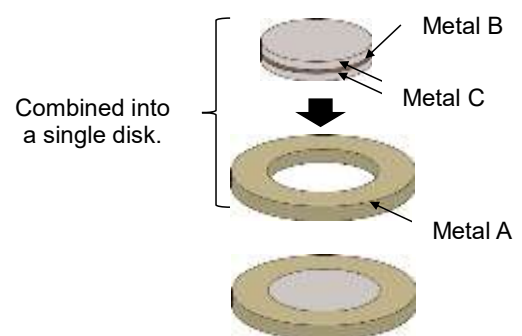
JAPAN



500YEN



<Bicolor clad technology><sup>4</sup>



<Helical ridges with two different pitches>



<sup>1</sup> The information above is based on the statement released by the Ministry of Finance on April 9, 2019 (in Japanese).

<sup>2</sup> Details of the designs, including holograms, will be decided upon consideration. Features of the new banknotes will be announced in a Ministry of Finance Notification following the appropriate procedures.

<sup>3</sup> For details of the design, see link to the Ministry of Finance's website on page 3.

<sup>4</sup> A combination of bicolor and clad technologies. The inner disk is a three-layered clad coin made of a metal plate sandwiched between two plates of a different type of metal. This disk is then fitted into an outer ring made of another type of metal, creating a bicolor coin consisting of the inner disk and the outer ring.