

# On Japanese Yen: Finance Minister Emphasizes Flexibility, Hints at Intervention

円安がどんどん進行しています。「歴史的円安」ともいわれるこの状況。私たちの生活にはどのような影響があるのでしょうか？もしあなたが何か対策を練るとしたらどうするのでしょうか？そんなことも想像しながら取り組んでみましょう！



## 1. Article

Read the following article aloud.

**Depreciation** of the Japanese yen has continued unabated, with the USD/JPY **exchange rate** approaching ¥155 JPY per US dollar on April 22. This led Finance Minister Shunichi Suzuki to address the issue following the April 23 cabinet meeting.

Answering questions about the yen's recent weakening against the dollar, the minister reaffirmed the government's "policy of responding flexibly to excessive market fluctuations without excluding any options remains unchanged."

Suzuki also suggested that he would not acquiesce in the face of the weakening yen. He added that the government would continue to monitor market trends and hinted at potential foreign exchange intervention to **mitigate** further yen **depreciation**.

When asked about his opinion on the current **exchange rate**, Suzuki stated, "Explaining day-to-day fluctuations always leads back to numbers. So, I would like to **refrain from commenting**."

As of 5 PM on April 22 in New York, the Japanese yen was trading at ¥154.80-154.90 against the **greenback** on the foreign exchange market. This marked a 23-sen decline from the end of the previous week.

Source : On Japanese Yen: Finance Minister Emphasizes Flexibility, Hints at Intervention  
JAPAN Forward

## 2. Key phrases and vocabulary

First repeat after your tutor and then read aloud by yourself.

1. **depreciation** 価値が下がること、減価償却、減価償却費

The **depreciation** of assets over time is inevitable.

2. **exchange rate** (外国) 為替相場

Tourists should be aware of the **exchange rate** when traveling abroad.

3. **mitigate** 軽減する、軽くする、(怒り、苦痛などを) 和らげる

The purpose of the project is to **mitigate** risks.

4. **refrain from commenting** コメントを控える、言及を避ける

It's best to **refrain from commenting** on sensitive topics.

5. **greenback** (アメリカの) ドル紙幣 \*かつて紙幣の裏面が緑色であったことからこう呼ばれる。

The **greenback** fell against the yen today.

## 3. Questions

Read the questions aloud and answer them.

1. What is the USD/JPY exchange rate mentioned in the text?
2. Why did Suzuki refrain from commenting on the current exchange rate?
3. How much did the yen decline against the greenback from the end of the previous week to 5 PM on April 22 in New York?
4. How do you think the depreciation of the yen affects the Japanese economy and people's lives?
5. If you were in Finance Minister Suzuki's position, how would you address the issue of the weakening yen?

## 4. 日本語関連記事： 鈴木俊一財務相「過度な変動にはあらゆるオプション」 為替介入示唆、155円迫る円安進行に

鈴木俊一財務相は4月23日の閣議後記者会見で、円相場が対ドルで下落し、1ドル＝155円に迫る円安ドル高水準で推移していることについて「過度な変動に対しては、あらゆるオプションを排除せずに適切に対応するという従来の方針は堅持し、市場の動向を見ている」と強調し、さらなる円安防止のために為替介入も辞さない考えを改めて示唆した。

現在の為替水準についての認識を問われた鈴木氏は「為替の日々の動きについて、私とその背景などを解説すると必ず数字に跳ね返ってくるので、コメントは控えたい」と述べるにとどめた。

ニューヨーク外国為替市場の22日の円相場は午後5時現在、前週末比23銭円安ドル高の1ドル＝154円80～90銭を付けた。