# Japan's Sovereign Rating

May 26, 2011 Kenji Sakuta Financial Law Board

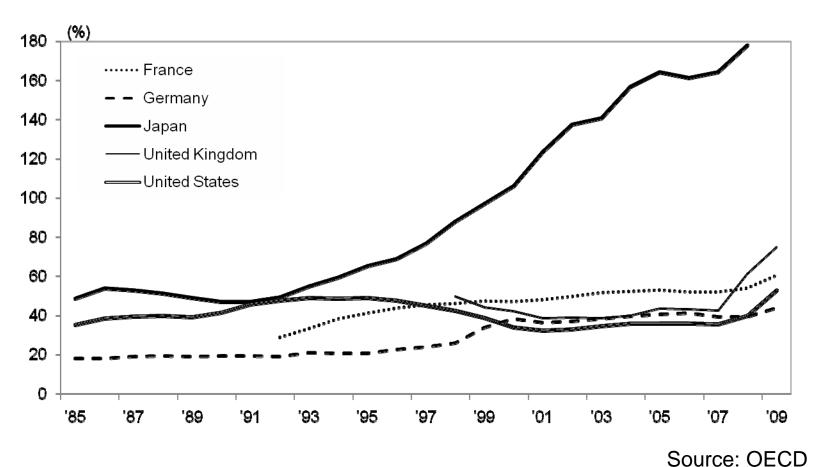
## Agenda

- 1. Review of Japan's Fiscal Position and Sovereign Rating
- 2. Impact of the Earthquake
- 3. Implications

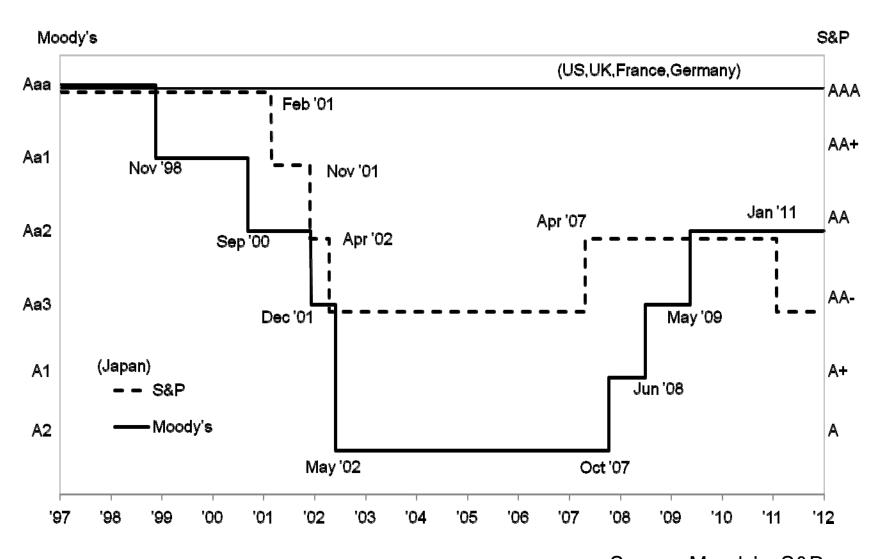
1. Review of Japan's Fiscal Position and Sovereign Rating

## Size of Sovereign Debt

#### Ratio of Central Government Debt to GDP



# Sovereign Rating



## Why Downgraded?

- 1. Increase in the Government Debt
- 2. Economic Weakness and Deflation
- 3. Demographic Pressure (Aging) and Pension Burdens
- 4. Difficulty in Political Consensus

### Why Upgraded?

- 1. Expectation for Continuity of Fiscal Consolidation
- 2. Likelihood of Sustained Improvement in Macroeconomic Performance
- 3. Relative Resilience of the Economy and Banking Sector Observed after 2008

## Long-term JGB Interest Rate

#### Interest Rate for 10-Year Japanese Government Bond



Note: Upgrades/Downgrades are indecated by vertical lines.

2. Impact of the Earthquake

### Estimated Damages

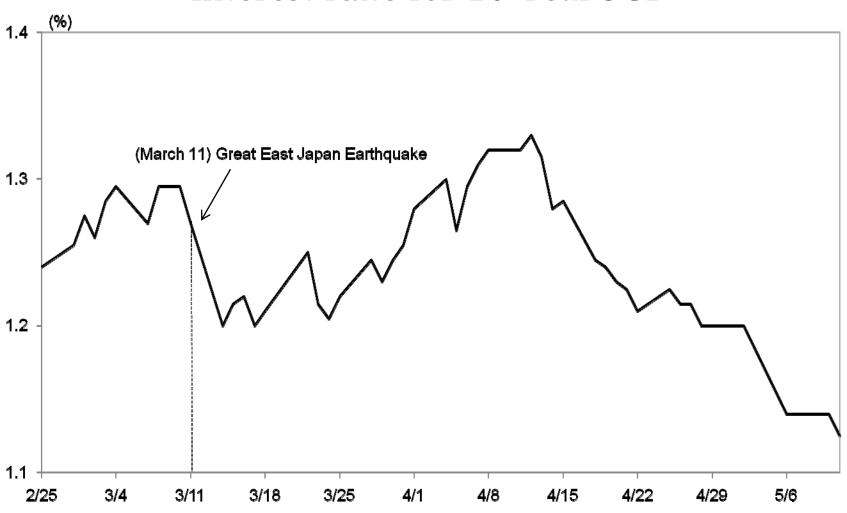
- The government temporarily estimates the damages to "capital stock" amount to 16 25 trillion yen.
- The estimate includes damages to:
  - Residential and commercial buildings
  - Electricity, gas, water supply facilities
  - Roads, ports and airports
  - Public park and other capital stocks

### First Extra Budget

- 4 trillion yen spending includes:
  - Public works (1.2 trillion)
  - Temporary home building (0.4 trillion)
  - Rubble clearance (0.4 trillion)
- No additional government debt this time.
- Additional extra budget(s) expected.
- S&P's outlook became "negative", although credit rating is unchanged.

### JGB Interest Rate after the Quake

#### Interest Rate for 10-Year JGB



# 3. Implications

### **Implications**

- Difficulty in evaluating risk of sovereign debt
- Political/Journalistic reactions as well as impacts on the market
- Difference in detailed situations among countries