

JAPAN MINT

**MANUFACTURER OF LONDON GOOD DELIVERY
400 OZ GOLD BARS SINCE 2008**

The **Japan Mint** has its headquarters and gold refinery on the bank of the Okawa river in the city of Osaka, about 400 km west of Tokyo.

Apart from issuing new 400 oz gold bars with different dimensions in 2008 following its accreditation to the London Bullion Market Association (LBMA) in December 2007, it also issues a range of 5 small cast bars: 1000 g, 500 g, 300 g, 200 g, 100 g.

The small bars are produced in limited quantities in order to return the gold content of old gold scrap that has been refined at the request of public and private entities in Japan.

BACKGROUND

The Japan Mint, formally established in Osaka as the national mint of Japan in 1871, is supported by sub-branches in Tokyo (since 1943) and Hiroshima (since 1945).

Although owned by the national government of Japan, it has been an independent organization since 2003. It had previously operated as the Mint Bureau of the Ministry of Finance.

Historically, the Mint manufactured gold bars weighing approximately 500 oz (15.5 kg) between 1875 and 1988, replaced by an earlier version of 400 oz bars that was produced between 1989 and 2007.

It is not known precisely when the small bars, 1000 g – 100 g, were first issued, but the Mint's archives indicate their manufacture started after 1967.

Within the gold industry, the Mint is world-renowned for having minted 11 million gold coins (220 tonnes), each with a face value of Yen 100,000, to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the reign of the Emperor Hirohito in 1986.

The gold refinery, which incorporated a new furnace in 1997, relies mainly on mine doré and gold scrap in the form of old medals and coins. Its refining process includes electrolysis. Current annual gold refining capacity: 15 tonnes.

Apart from gold bars, the Mint produces 33 kg silver bars, as well as around 1.2 billion circulation and precious metal coins annually. As an independent organization, it now also manufactures coins for other countries.

Number of employees: 1,050

Website: www.mint.go.jp



The Japan Mint was established in Osaka in 1871.



Manufacturing London Good Delivery (LGD) 400 oz bars.



The Mint has issued LGD bars for the international market since 2008.



TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION – CURRENT BARS

Weight	Type	Fineness	Shape	Dimensions (mm)	First Issued	Serial Number System	Year System Introduced
400 oz	Cast	999.9	Rectangular	245 x 78 x 40 223 x 60 (base)	2008	8 numbers	2008
1000 g	Cast	999.9	Rectangular	92 x 40 x 12	1967	1 – 4 numbers	1967
500 g	Cast	999.9	Rectangular	62 x 27 x 15	1967	1 – 4 numbers	1967
300 g	Cast	999.9	Rectangular	60 x 25 x 9	1967	1 – 4 numbers	1967
200 g	Cast	999.9	Rectangular	56 x 25 x 6	1967	1 – 4 numbers	1967
100 g	Cast	999.9	Rectangular	46 x 25 x 3	1967	1 – 4 numbers	1967

Source: Japan Mint

Serial Numbering Systems

400 oz: The 8 numbers incorporate the year date. For example, “20080151” indicates that the bar was manufactured in 2008.

1000 g – 100 g: Apart from a serial number (1-4 numbers), the bars also include two numbers that record the year date. For example, “98” indicates that the bar was manufactured in 1998.

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION – HISTORICAL BARS

Weight	Type	Fineness	Shape	Dimensions (mm)	First Issued	Last Issued	Serial Number System
400 oz	Cast	999.9	Rectangular	173 x 75 x 44 185 x 87 (base)	1989	2007	1 – 4 numbers
500 oz	Cast	996+	Rectangular	170 x 70 x 60 175 x 80 (base)	1875	1988	1 – 4 numbers

Source: Japan Mint



The Mint manufactured 500 oz (15.5 kg) gold bars between 1875 and 1988.



GOLD BARS



London Good Delivery 400 oz gold bar.



The small bars, 1000 g – 100 g, are used only to return old gold scrap that has been refined at the request of public and private entities in Japan.



The official stamp that has been applied to the Mint's gold bars since 1875.





Pouring and refining gold at the Japan Mint.



Kilobars.



IMPERIAL GOLD COINS



Obverse



Reverse

The Mint is world-renowned for having minted 11 million gold coins (220 tonnes) to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Emperor Hirohito's reign in December 1986.

The 20 g coins have a fineness of 999.9 and a face value of Yen 100,000.



The Coining Factory in Osaka.

The Japan Mint produces 1.2 billion circulation and precious metal coins annually.



The Mint Museum, established in 1969, attracts 50,000 visitors annually. It includes gold coins and bars manufactured in Japan since the 1600s.

Refer to disclaimer on website: www.goldbarsworldwide.com

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