

Ashiya Newsletter

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How Last Year's Municipal Budget Was Allocated

FY1999 General and Special Accounts Balance Sheet Summary

The estimated FY1999 balance sheet has been compiled. The following information applies primarily to the general account.

Inquiries: Finance Section (Tel: 38-2011)

To achieve the restoration of our community as quickly as possible and to create a city that is comfortable, safe, and highly resistant to disasters, high priority was given in FY1999 to earthquake restoration projects such as in land readjustment, road work, and the Wakamiya area restoration and development of residential environment project. We also launched an air pollution prevention green area construction project (comprehensive park improvement project) and rebuilt Yamate Elementary School.

Due to the effects of earthquake-related projects, the municipal bond (debt) balance in the general account has broken the ¥100 billion mark and has reached nearly four times its pre-earthquake levels. This, combined with the fact that city tax revenues have fallen from the previous fiscal year for two consecutive years due to tax reductions and the ongoing recession, has meant the continuation of this tight financial environment.

Thus, in addition to working to reduce and streamline expenses based on the Ashiya 2-Year Plan for Administrative Reform, we have made plans to secure funds for implementing projects by obtaining national and prefectural financial aid, dipping into reserve funds, and issuing municipal bonds.

Settlement Details

Settlement amounts in the general account indicate annual revenues of ¥56,354,287,000 and annual expenditures of ¥54,124,684,000. Revenues fell by ¥6.539 million (0.0%) from last year, and expenditures fell by ¥554.183 million (1.0%). The balance after subtracting expenditures from revenues is a positive ¥2,229,603,000.

However, because these figures include ¥1,425,864,000 which must be allotted to projects that will carry over into FY2000, the real balance after subtracting that amount is only ¥803,739,000.

Graph 1 shows the trends in annual revenues and expenditures for the past six years.

Revenues

The largest portion of revenues is accounted for by tax revenues collected from the city's residents, such as the Resident Tax and Fixed Assets Tax, which total ¥22,523,582,000. Due to reduced revenue from the individual Resident Tax caused by tax reductions and the ongoing recession, this figure dropped by ¥795,667,000 (3.4%) from last year. Other major sources of income include national government allotments and municipal bonds. A breakdown of sources is shown in Graph 2.

Expenditures

Graph 3 shows city expenditures by category. Civil engineering costs, which include reconstruction-related expenses, account for the largest portion of expenditures at 39.3%, while social service costs, which include welfare expenses, account for 16.1% of expenses, and public bond costs, the costs incurred for loan repayment, account for 13.0%.

Efforts are being made to implement administrative reforms so as to facilitate the effective use of limited funds, and to try to revive "Ashiya: The Residential City of International Culture."

Explanation of Index Values

Ratio of current expenses to current income: 97.6%

This value indicates the ratio of current expenses such as personnel costs and financial aid costs which are determined and paid out every year, to the fixed revenues that come in every year, such as city taxes. It is said that the ideal is 70 to 80%. In Ashiya, the ratio was raised from 91.4% in FY1998.

Bond issue limit ratio: 14.8%

This is the ratio of the amount needed to repay the principal and interest on municipal bonds (debt) to the total amount of general financial resources. If this ratio exceeds 20%, municipal bond permits are partially restricted. The FY1998 ratio was 13.4%.

Current balance of local loans: ¥104.2 billion

This is the amount that the city has borrowed from the national government or banks to secure funds needed for construction and other projects. It has increased with increasing issuance of municipal bonds and has reached nearly four times pre-earthquake levels.

Current reserve balance: ¥16.2 billion

Funds saved not only to ensure the availability of resources in the future, but also to allow for efficient financial management. The balance has greatly decreased since FY1993 when it reached ¥22.0 billion.

Amounts spent per capita: ¥651,336

Amounts spent per capita refers to the amount of each annual expenditure by category divided by the population as of March 31, 2000 (83,098).

Civil engineering:

¥255,890

Social services: ¥104,542

Public bonds: ¥84,535

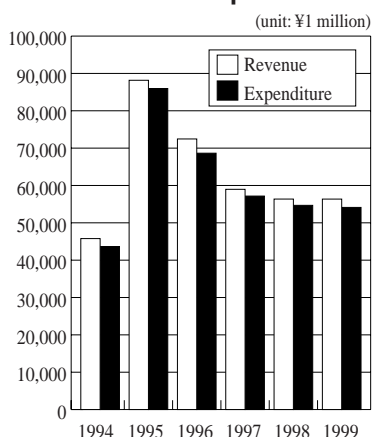
Education: ¥62,847

Sanitation: ¥54,576

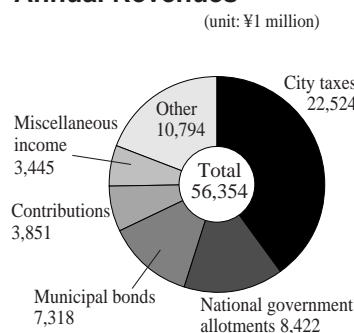
General affairs: ¥49,065

Other: ¥39,881

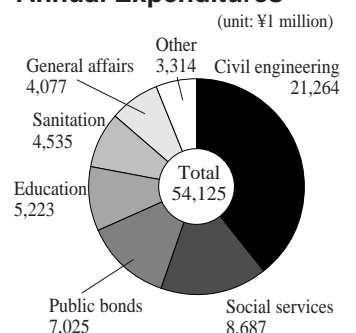
Graph 1. Trends in Annual Revenues and Expenditures



Graph 2. Breakdown of Annual Revenues



Graph 3. Breakdown of Annual Expenditures



Long-term Nursing Care Insurance Premium Payments for Those 65 Years of Age or Older Started as of October

Although the Long-term Nursing Care Insurance System began as of April of this year, collection of the insurance premiums for those who are 65 years of age or older has begun as of October. The notification/invoice was sent in early October.

Since Long-term Nursing Care Insurance premiums are an important capital resource for the operation of the insurance programs, we would like to ask for the understanding and cooperation of all residents.

Inquiries: Long-term Nursing Care Insurance Section, Public Health and Welfare Department

Tel: 38-2046

National Pension Q & A

Q: I am a foreign resident operating my own business here in Japan. When I retire, I plan to return to my home country. Since I do not plan to receive a pension from Japan, would it be all right if I did not enroll in the National Pension Plan?

A: Everyone between the ages of 20 and 59 years of age with an address in Japan must enroll in the National Pension Plan, regardless of nationality. The purpose of the National Pension Plan is not only to provide financial security in old age, but also to provide disability benefits in the event of an accident or sudden illness and bereaved family benefits as well. If you are not enrolled in the National Pension Plan, you will not be eligible for these benefits. Everyone should understand the objectives of the program, enroll in the plan and pay the pension premiums.

Those who pay the premiums for 25 years or longer can receive the pension from 65 years of age even if they are not living in Japan at that time. In addition, you will be eligible to receive a Lump-sum Payment if you withdraw from the program because you return to your home country, with the amount determined according to the length of your payment, if you paid the premiums for at least six months.

Tax Q & A

Q: I plan to return to my home country very soon. What should I do about my Resident Tax?

A: Resident Tax (City and Prefectural Resident Tax) is levied on those who are living in Ashiya City as of January 1 of that particular year. Even if you return to your home country in the middle of

FY2000 Large-Sized Garbage Collection Schedule

Town Name	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.
Yama-ashiya-cho, Nishiyama-cho, Nishi-ashiya-cho	13	11	10
Asahigaoka-cho	14	12	11
Ise-cho, Takezono-cho, Hama-ashiya-cho, Matsuhama-cho	15	13	12
Sanjo-cho, Tsukiwaka-cho, Hirata-cho, Okuike-cho, Okuike-minami-cho	16	14	13
Chayano-cho, Omasu-cho, Kimmitsu-cho, Narihira-cho, Kami-miyagawa-cho	17	15	14
Miyazuka-cho, Hirata-kita-machi	18	16	15
Kusunoki-cho, Kasuga-cho	20	18	17
Rokurokuso-cho, Iwazono-cho	21	19	18
Funado-cho, Matsunouchi-cho, Shimizu-cho, Maeda-cho	22	20	19
Yamate-cho, Okuyama, Sanjo-minami-cho	23	21	20
Higashiyama-cho, Higashi-ashiya-cho	24	22	21
Uchide-kozuchi-cho, Wakamiya-cho, Uchide-cho	25	23	22
Daito-cho, Kurekawa-cho	27	25	24
Midorigaoka-cho	28	26	25
Nangu-cho, Nishikura-cho	1, 29	27	26
Ohara-cho, Shinnozuka-cho	2, 30	28	27
Tsuji-cho, Kawanishi-cho, Seido-cho, Miyagawa-cho	3	1	28
Hama-cho	4	2	29
Takahama-cho 1 to 4	6	4	31
Takahama-cho 5 to 10	7	5	-
Wakaba-cho 1 to 3, Midori-cho	8	6	5
Wakaba-cho 4 to 7	9	7	6
Hamakaze-cho, Niihama-cho, Yoko-cho	10	8	7
Shiomi-cho	11	9	8

Hyogo Prefectural Ashiya Health Center (Tel: 32-0707)

Program	Hours	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Eligibility, Cost and Others
Healthy infants clinic	1:00 to 2:30 p.m.	9	14	22	Those eligible will be notified by mail.
Psychological checkups for 3-year-olds	from 9:00 a.m. from 10:15 a.m.	14 21	12 19	9 16	Advice on training and rearing children who are 3 years old.
Psychological consultations for 3-year-olds	1:30 to 2:30 p.m.	14	12	9	Appointment required: Analysis of delayed language skills and social skills. Counseling by medical specialists.
Child-rearing consultations	1:30 to 2:30 p.m.	13	11	29	Those eligible will be notified by mail. Counseling for child development by medical specialists.
Mental health counseling	1:30 to 2:30 p.m.	21	19	16	Appointment required: Counseling for social rehabilitation, depression, neuroses and other conditions by medical specialists.
Consultations for senior citizens' health	1:30 to 2:30 p.m.	1	6	24	Appointment required: Counseling for senile dementia, insomnia and other conditions by medical specialists.
General health consultations (fee charged), Company checkups (fee charged)	1:00 to 2:00 p.m.	10, 17	1, 15	5, 19	Appointment required: Examination, urinalysis, blood test, x-ray, electrocardiogram, hearing acuity, body measurements, STD test etc.
HIV tests	2:00 to 2:30 p.m.	10, 17	1, 15	5, 19	Confidential test possible, fee charged for test results certificate.
Stool test (fee charged) Water quality analysis (fee charged)	9:00 a.m. to 12 noon	Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays			Water quality analysis on special items; 1st and 3rd Mondays only.

the year, you are responsible for paying the entire Resident Tax for that particular fiscal year. If your employer usually makes a deduction for the Resident Tax from your monthly salary (special collection), then you must either have the remaining tax deducted in one lump sum from the last salary you receive in Japan, or you must designate someone as a representative to take care of this in your absence, submit the proper notification to the City Office and have the representative pay the tax on your behalf

after you return to your country. If you pay your Resident Tax in four installments throughout the year (personal liability method), then you must either pay the remaining tax with your invoice or designate someone in the same way as for special collection, before you depart from Japan.

If you plan to leave Japan, please contact the Resident Tax Subsection.

Inquiries: Resident Tax Subsection, Taxation Section

Tel: 38-2016

Ashiya Health Center

Tel: 31-1586, Fax: 31-1018

Program	Hours	Place		Nov.	Dec.	Jan.
Tuberculin skin tests, BCG vaccinations	1:30 ~ 2:30 p.m.	Ashiya Health Center	T. skin test	-	-	15
			BCG	-	-	17
Expectant mothers' classes (appointment required)	1:30 p.m. ~	Ashiya Health Center	First period	7, 22	5	-
			Second period	-	-	16, 30
Health consultations for pregnant women	1:30 p.m. ~	Ashiya Health Center		20	18	22
Home visits to newborn babies	Anytime	Ashiya Health Center	Anytime			
Child-rearing consultations	9:30 ~ 11:00 a.m.	Ashiya Health Center		20	18	22
Child-rearing classes	9:45 ~ 11:30 a.m.	Ashiya Health Center		13	4	15
Health checkups for 4-month-olds	1:00 ~ 2:00 p.m.	Hyogo Prefectural Ashiya Health Center		8, 22	13, 20	10, 24
Health checkups for 1-year-olds	Anytime	Designated medical facilities	Anytime at designated medical facilities			
Health checkups for 18-month-olds	1:00 ~ 2:00 p.m.	Ashiya Health Center		16	21	18
Health checkups for 3-year-olds	1:00 ~ 2:00 p.m.	Hyogo Prefectural Ashiya Health Center		2	7	11
Allergy consultations (appointment required)	9:30 ~ 10:30 a.m.	Ashiya Health Center		27	11	29
Free dental consultations and checkups	1:00 ~ 2:30 p.m.	Dentists Association Hall		15	20	17
Home visit to those who are bedridden		Apply with Ashiya Health Center	Anytime			
Home visit for dental care to those who are bedridden						
Citizens' health checkups (lung cancer tests for those aged 40 or above)	9:30 ~ 10:30 a.m.	Ashiya Health Center		10, 14	1	12
Anemia tests						
Health checkups (appointment required)	9:15 a.m. ~	Ashiya Health Center		7, 13	4, 5	9, 16
Osteoporosis checkups (appointment required)	9:30 ~ 10:30 a.m.	Ashiya Health Center		28	19	23
Nutritional consultations (appointment required)	9:30 ~ 11:00 a.m.	Ashiya Health Center		28	19	23
Health consultations	1:00 ~ 3:00 p.m.	Ashiya Health Center		7, 21	5, 19	9, 16
Stomach cancer tests (appointment required)	9:15 ~ 10:30 a.m.	Ashiya Health Center		Mondays and Thursdays		
Tests for uterine, cervical and breast cancer	Anytime	Designated medical facilities	Anytime at designated medical facilities			
Cancer of the large intestine tests	To be submitted in the morning	Ashiya Health Center		Tuesday mornings		
Nutritional instructions classes (reservation required)	1:30 p.m. ~	Ashiya Health Center		29 to 12/1	-	-
Health classes (reservation required)	1:30 p.m. ~	Ashiya Health Center		-	20	26

Clinic Open during the Holidays

Name: Ashiya Municipal Holiday and Emergency Clinic

Address: 5-13 Kimmitsu-cho, Ashiya-shi

Tel: 21-2782

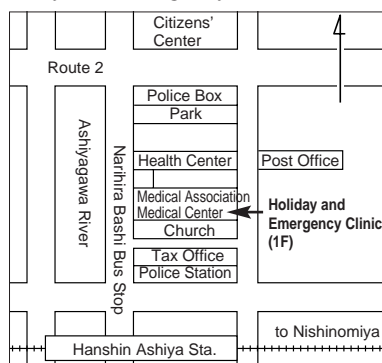
Medical Departments:

Internal Medicine, Pediatrics

Days: Sundays and national holidays

Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

* Evening/night services are available on a rotating basis. Please call the Fire Department (Tel: 32-2345) for the clinic on duty.



Dentists (Hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon)

	Clinic Name	Address	Tel.
Nov. 3	Ishihara Dental Clinic	1-4 Shinnozuka-cho	31-1388
5	Inagaki Dental Clinic	5-19 Ohara-cho	22-2870
12	Arimoto Dental Clinic	6-15 Kasuga-cho	31-1087
19	Uwazumi Dental Clinic	11-24 Miyazuka-cho	34-1560
23	Oka Dental Clinic	11-24-206 Ohara-cho	22-0139
26	Ono Dental Clinic	2-4 Ise-cho	22-3989
Dec. 3	Ono D.C., Hamakaze Office	3-5 Hamakaze-cho	23-6474
10	Kishida Dental Clinic	2-12 Yamate-cho	22-1723
17	Kinoshita Dental Clinic	2-12 Asahigaoka-cho	31-1115
23	Kodera Dental Clinic	7-3 Shiomi-cho	32-3836
24	Sugii Dental Clinic	3F, 1-7 Iwazono-cho	21-2525
29	Hashimoto Dental Clinic	6-2 Chayano-cho	22-3393
30	Harada Dental Clinic	3-7 Maeda-cho	31-3033
31	Fujimoto Dental Clinic	5-2-202 Funado-cho	31-4193
Jan. 1	Muraoka Dental Clinic	5-14-202 Higashiyama-cho	34-6430
2	Yoshikawa Dental Clinic	5-12-202 Kurekawa-cho	32-6178
3	Seiai Dental Clinic	1-11 Kasuga-cho	32-0356
7	Takada Dental Clinic	10-5 Hama-cho	31-2229
8	Tatara Dental Clinic	1-5-101 Higashi-ashiya-cho	32-1913
14	Tabata Dental Clinic	10-18 Funado-cho	21-5655
21	Tsubouchi Dental Clinic	6-10-103 Seido-cho	22-1712
28	Toshima Dental Clinic	PCL Bldg. 2F, 7-13 Kusunoki-cho	35-2188

We Want Your Opinion!!

Ashiya Newsletter is designed to provide information that will enrich the lives of both foreign residents living in Japan for extended periods and those here on short stays. To improve the newsletter and pack it full of the information most desired by the foreign community, we solicit your requests, questions and comments via e-mail, fax or post.

E-mail: info@city.ashiya.hyogo.jp

Fax: 0797-38-2175

Post: Ashiya Newsletter Editing Staff, Ashiya City International and Cultural Section, La Mall Ashiya, 2-9 Ohara-cho, Ashiya-shi, 659-0092

Events

Child Upbringing Center “Autumn Rhythm and Fun”

Date and time: November 4 (Sat.), 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.
Place: Ashiya Municipal Gymnasium and Youth Center arena
Program: Rhythm and Fun
Instructor: Ms. Hiroko Inoue
What to bring: A bag to put your shoes in
Admission: Free of charge
Inquiries and applications: Please call or fax the Child Upbringing Center
Tel/Fax: 31-8006

14th Ashiya City Komisuku Joint Cultural Festival

People who participate in such cultural classes as crafts, painting, flower arrangement, ceramics, *origami* (folding paper crafts) and calligraphy, held at Komisuku in the city will show the fruits of their activities.
Date and time: December 8 (Fri.) and 9 (Sat.), 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
December 10 (Sun.), 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Place: Ashiya Citizens' Center, Multipurpose Hall, Room 301
Inquiries: Lifelong Learning Section
Tel: 38-2091

The 11th Ashiya City Komisuku Exchange Sports Meet

Date and time: November 23 (Thu.), 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon
Place: Seido Elementary School Sports ground and gymnasium
Events:
1. Petanque: Ground (canceled if it rains)
2. Kuroriti: Gymnasium (will be held whether or not it rains)
Inquiries: Lifelong Learning Section
Tel: 38-2091

Library Events — Friday Cinema Salon

Date and time: Fridays, from 1:30 p.m.
Place: Ashiya Municipal Library, 2F meeting room
Program: Film showing focusing on famous works
Admission: Free of charge
Other: Please come directly to the site on the day of the event. There are no subtitles other than those in Japanese.

The “foreign language materials corner” of the library now has 230 volumes of Penguin Books British literary works. Please feel free to use the corner.

For inquiries concerning the above, please call the Ashiya Public Library (Tel: 31-2301).

60th Anniversary of Ashiya City Participation in the Hanshin Arts Festival

10th Ashiya Noh and Kyogen Appreciation Program
Date and time: November 24 (Fri.), Hall opens at 5:00 p.m. Performance begins at 5:45 p.m.
Place: Luna Hall (Ashiya)
Admission (All seats are non-reserved): ¥3,000 for advance tickets, ¥3,500 on the day of the performance

Empire Brass Christmas Concert

A bright and classy performance by Empire Brass, the number one brass quintet of North America
Date and time: December 20 (Wed.), Hall opens at 6:00 p.m. Performance begins at 6:30 p.m.
Place: Luna Hall (Ashiya)

Admission (All seats are non-reserved): Adults: ¥4,000 for advance tickets, ¥4,500 on the day of the performance; High school students and younger: ¥2,500 for advance tickets, ¥3,000 on the day of the performance
Performance by: Empire Brass and Ashiya Youth Chorus Group
Inquiries: Ashiya City Culture Promotion Foundation (Tel: 31-4962)

ACA

City Bus Tour for Foreign Residents

Date and time: November 11 (Sat.), 12:45 to 5:00 p.m.
Meeting place and time: ACA at 12:45 p.m.
Tour sites: Hyogo Prefectural Marine Gymnasium, Ashiya Municipal Tanizaki Jun'ichiro Memorial Museum, Yodogawa Steel Works Guest House, Okuike Pond
Eligibility: Foreign residents who live in Ashiya City
Capacity: 45 people
Participation Fee: ¥500

ACA Twilight Concert

42nd “Country Music Concert”
Performer: Mr. Kazuhiro Inaba
Date and time: November 17 (Fri.), 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

43rd “Handbell & Christmas Songs”
Performers: Cosmos, Ashiya Youth Chorus Group
Date and time: December 15 (Fri.), 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

For Both Performances
Place: La Mall Ashiya 1F Plaza (Atrium)
Admission: Free of charge

ACA Seminars

World Heritage
(In English, with an English-Japanese volunteer interpreter available.)

45th “World Heritage of Seychelles — Aldabra Atolls and Lifestyle”
Speaker: Mr. Jean-Paul Charles Marie
Date and time: November 21 (Tue.), 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

46th “World Heritage of Malawi — Malawi Lake National Park and Lifestyle”
Speakers: Mr. Lawrence Chisenga and Mr. Lloyd Willy Saidi Banda
Date and time: December 5 (Tue.), 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

For Both Seminars
Place: ACA
Admission: ¥1,000 (for reference materials and tea)
Seating Capacity: 30 people (reservation required)
Co-sponsored by: Ashiya UNESCO Association

An Evening of Arles

Introduction to a southern French province and its music.
Speaker: Ms. Sadame Harada (leader of Province Study Group)
Date and time: December 13 (Wed.), 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Location: Ashiya Citizens' Center, Room 301
Admission: ¥1,000 (with beverage and snacks)
Capacity: 100 people (reservation required)

Application and inquiries: Ashiya Cosmopolitan Association (ACA)
Address: La Mall Ashiya 2F, 2-6-209 Ohara-cho, Ashiya-shi 659-0092
Tel.: 34-6340 **Fax:** 34-6341
E-mail: aca@sannet.ne.jp **URL:** <http://www02.so-net.ne.jp/~aca/>