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Report: Global solar cell market to quadruple by 2012

The global solar cell market will surge fourfold to roughly ¥4.6T (US \$41.74B) by 2012, with much faster growth in the sector for silicon-conserving solar cells, according to Japanese market research firm Fuji Keizai, cited by the *Nikkei Business Daily*.

The firm projects the market for [crystalline silicon](#) solar cells, the most widely used, to more than triple to nearly ¥3.5B (\$31.76). But demand for solar cells such as spherical and thin-film models, which use significantly less silicon (and also don't compete for demand with semiconductors), is seen growing 11× to ¥640B (\$5.81B). Silicon-free compound solar cells are seen reaching ¥560B (\$5.08B), about 7.5× the size of that market in 2007, with more than half of that (¥300B/\$2.72B) projected to be [copper-indium-selenide \(CIGS\)](#), the paper notes.

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