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Report Highlights:

Following Japan's latest reopening of the beef market on July 27, initial sales of U.S. beef are slow. 2006 Japanese imports of U.S. beef are forecasts to be 14,000 MT. Total beef imports in 2007 are expected to grow modestly and the United States will reclaim modest market share from Australia. 2007 Japanese imports of U.S. beef are forecast to be 114,000 MT. The beef safeguard could be triggered in JFY 2007. On pork, the Japanese market for processing cuts will continue to change in 2007, hurting EU suppliers. Total pork imports are expected to fall modestly with the reduction of frozen raw pork partially offset by increased imports of seasoned ground pork, which is an increasingly popular alternative for sausage making.

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Please note that PS&D tables were prepared based on revised guidance for the 2004 annual report ([JA 4073](#)), which incorporates imports of prepared and processed beef and pork products into the total imports and the consumption figures. The new PS&D figures in this report are NOT OFFICIAL USDA DATA.

The conversion factors from Product Weight Equivalent (PWE) to Carcass Weight Equivalent (CWE) are:

- Beef and Pork (Generic): 1.43 (1/0.7)
- Prepared and Processed Beef Products: 1.79 (1/0.56)
- Prepared and Processed Pork Products: 1.43 (1/0.7)

Unless specified, volumes described in the text are on a CWE basis as PS&D tables.

Import quantities referenced in discussions of the beef and pork safeguards refer to customs clearance figures as announced by the Government of Japan (GOJ). The safeguard (SG) is monitored and implemented based on the Japanese fiscal year (JFY), which starts April and ends March next year. Other discussions are all based on calendar year (CY) unless it is specified in the text.

Beef Section

2007 Japan Beef Market Outlook

U.S. Beef Imports to Grow in 2007

On July 27, 2006, Japan reopened its market for U.S. beef, six and half months after it imposed a virtual import ban (a temporary import suspension) on all U.S. beef shipments due to a non-compliance case to the [Export Verification Program](#) (EV) – (See [JA 6009](#)). As of September 1, 35 facilities are approved as eligible to export beef to Japan under the EV program. About half of these facilities are believed to be currently exporting to Japan.

The initial market response to U.S. beef has been slow and is constrained by consumer anxieties, strict scrutiny at the ports, high U.S. offer prices, uncertainties about the supply of specific cuts under the EV conditions, and a “wait and see stance” by many in the food industry and trade. While bulk ocean shipments (mainly frozen) started arriving in late August, many in the meat trade predict that it will take some time for import volumes to pick up.

We estimate U.S. beef imports in 2007 will be around 114,000 MT, with the food service sector being the primary user. Beef bowl and barbecue restaurants will initially be the main vehicles to carry U.S. beef and their success should lead retailers, who are currently taking a “wait and see stance”, to resume bulk purchases of U.S. beef.

At the projected level of 2007 imports, U.S. beef should have a cooling effect on prices, which are currently high. This should in turn lead to a modest increase in the overall distribution of beef. Our current PS&D estimate (not official USDA data), raises total imports by 10% to 765,000 MT. Total supply is estimated to be up by 7% to 1.36 million MT, and the total consumption estimate is up by 6% to 1.26 million MT.

Within this market dynamic, a modest shift from Australian beef to U.S. beef will likely take place in 2007. Imports of Australian beef are projected down 4 % to 564,000 MT (550,000 MT of chilled and frozen beef and 14,000 MT of processed and prepared products

The Future of Beef Trade Depends on Observing International Guidelines

Japan currently only allows U.S. beef from animals aged 20 months or younger. One large factor in the 2007 import estimate is the ability of the U.S. beef industry to supply cattle that qualify under USDA's [EV](#) program, which is used to identify animals that meet the Japanese age restrictions. [A minority of the cattle slaughtered in the United States qualify for this program. The Japanese policy is not based on sound science and is not consistent with international standards.](#) If Japan were to adopt international standards in 2007, it would greatly increase the exportable supply of U.S. beef and would contribute to the United States regaining its historic market share.

Safeguard Concerns Emerging Over Low Trigger Levels in JFY 2007

Preliminary calculations indicate that trigger levels for the Japan Fiscal Year (JFY,) 2007 safeguard may be far from adequate to accommodate anticipated increases in Japanese beef imports. For chilled beef, the trigger level for the 1st Qtr. JFY 2007 (April – June 07) is at 67,509 MT (6,830 MT under JFY 06 trigger) and for frozen beef at 78,478 MT (7,759 MT over JFY 06 trigger). (Note: Trigger levels for the beef safeguard are attained separately for chilled and frozen beef. Triggers are calculated quarterly based on actual imports of the corresponding periods of the previous fiscal year multiplied by 1.17 or 117%. They are cumulative.) (See table 1)

Given its relatively large share in the chilled beef trade with Japan, Australia will be most impacted should the chilled beef safeguard be triggered. The United States, on the other hand, will be hurt most if the frozen beef safeguard is triggered. Bulk U.S. shipments are expected to be mainly frozen beef. If triggered, beef tariffs will rise to 50% (from 38.5%), which would be a drag on the forecast increase in consumption.

For JFY 2006, Japan took the unusual step of changing the beef safeguard trigger level calculation to accommodate additional imports (See [JA 6009](#)). The Japanese Tariff Council will meet to discuss the coming year's tariff packages in December 2006 and beef exporting countries will again be consult with the Japanese government on this policy priority.

2006 Situation Summary Update and Outlook

Revised cattle and beef PS&D figures for CY 2005 and 2006 are constructed based on preliminary production, trade and stock data available to date.

Initial Business for U.S. beef Started Slow in 2006

We forecast that Japan will import around 14,000 MT of U.S. beef in 2006. After the reopening of the Japanese market was announced on July 27, the first shipment of about six MT arrived in early August by air. It was quickly sold in a U.S.-owned warehouse-style club store. Bulk shipments are beginning to arrive in late August, mainly carrying frozen beef for restaurants and food service clients. Unlike the last reopening of the beef market in December 2005, many Japanese importers are electing to wait and see how successful initial shipments are in terms consumer acceptance and negotiating regulatory risks. [The forecast number includes about 890 MT (CWE) of U.S. beef that entered this January and an estimated 1,400 MT (CWE) that entered cold storage in January but has not yet been cleared

for import.] This low level of imports will have no meaningful impact on Japan's on overall demand and supply picture for 2006.

Imports Slumps in 2006 as High Price Weakens Beef Consumption in 2006

Given the above, total domestic beef consumption in 2006 is forecast to decrease 1% to 1.186 million MT, due to weak consumption and high overall market prices. (See tables 4, 5 & 6). Based on Jan. – June import data, total beef imports in 2006 are forecast to also decrease by 1% to 693,000 MT. This decline is driven by weak retail and food service sales [Generic beef imports are: 657,000 MT, (unchanged) from Australia (Projected Share: 87%), New Zealand (9%) and U.S. (2%) and others such as Canada, Mexico and Chile (11%); Prepared Beef: 36,000 MT, down 16% with China (Projected Share: 40%) and Australia (40%)] (See table 8-a, 8-b, 8-c and 8-d).

Australian exports of generic beef to Japan for January – July 2006 show an 8% decline over the same period last year (See table 7). Relatively high priced medium grade Japanese beef also experienced a reduction in consumption. For the first half of 2006, household consumption of beef fell 5% over the same period last year (See table 2). Some in the industry blame the weak performance for abnormal weather prevailed through this summer and hope for recovery toward the year and.

Slightly Downward Domestic Cattle Slaughter Projected in 2006

In 2006, total slaughter and beef production are forecast to fall slightly from a year ago to 1.21 million head and 495,000 MT, respectively. This reflects a smaller number of calves at an appropriate slaughter age and a reduced number of spent cows. Due to tight supply and continued high beef calf prices, Japan's imports of feeder calves from Australia and New Zealand are expected to increase 12% in 2006 to 28,000 head.

Table 1. Japanese Beef Safeguard Monitor for JFY 2006

Beef Safeguard Trigger Levels for JFY 2006 and Actual Imports (\$18)					
Unit: Metric Ton (Product Weight Basis)					
Chilled Beef	Trigger Level	Cum. Total	April	May	June
	Quarterly Cum.	Actual Entry			
I (Apr. - Jun.)	74,339	57,700	19,525	17,464	20,711
			July	August	September
I - II (Apr. – Sept.)	152,455	57,700	0	0	0
			October	November	December
II - III (Apr. - Dec.)	230,642	57,700	0	0	0
			January	February	March
III - IV (Apr. - Mar.)	292,354	57,700	0	0	0
Frozen Beef	Trigger Level	Cum. Total	April	May	June
	Quarterly Cum.	Actual Entry			
I (Apr. - Jun.)	70,716	67,073	22,881	16,779	27,413

			July	August	September
I - II (Apr. - Sept.)	160,040	67,073	0	0	0
			October	November	December
II - III (Apr. - Dec.)	246,871	67,073	0	0	0
			January	February	March
III - IV (Apr. - Mar.)	323,924	67,073	0	0	0
Source: Ministry of Finance (ALIC Monthly)					

Table 2. Japanese Household Consumption of Beef and Pork

Unit: Grams per Household					
Beef					
	2004	2005	% Chg.	2006	% Chg.
Jan.	525	575	10%	553	-4%
Feb.	520	537	3%	518	-4%
Mar.	611	602	-1%	546	-9%
Apr.	573	579	1%	549	-5%
May	618	651	5%	565	-13%
Jun.	587	548	-7%	576	5%
1st Half	3,434	3,492	2%	3307	-5%
July	593	545	-8%		
Aug.	663	629	-5%		
Sept.	535	556	4%		
Oct.	599	612	2%		
Nov.	555	589	6%		
Dec.	743	782	5%		
2nd Half	3,688	3,713	1%		
Year Total	7,122	7,205	1%		
Pork					
	2004	2005	% Chg.	2006	% Chg.
Jan.	1,389	1,412	2%	1,380	-2%
Feb.	1,447	1,375	-5%	1,369	0%
Mar.	1,511	1,453	-4%	1,445	-1%
Apr.	1,427	1,435	1%	1,381	-4%
May	1,458	1,455	0%	1,415	-3%
Jun.	1,463	1,396	-5%	1,408	1%
1st Half	8,695	8,526	-2%	8398	-2%
July	1,403	1,351	-4%		
Aug.	1,443	1,376	-5%		
Sept.	1,353	1,403	4%		
Oct.	1,499	1,491	-1%		

Nov.	1,448	1,512	4%		
Dec.	1,497	1,601	7%		
2nd Half	8,643	8,734	1%		
Year Total	17,338	17,260	0%		

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

Table 3. Japanese Monthly Beef Stock Estimates

Unit: Carcass Equivalent MT							
	2003	2004	% Chg.	2005	% Chg.	2006	% Chg.
Jan.	133,924	92,816	-31%	85,716	-8%	88,396	3%
Feb.	133,984	99,883	-25%	87,856	-12%	86,699	-1%
Mar.	138,349	95,441	-31%	91,827	-4%	92,063	0%
Apr.	126,871	88,716	-30%	94,326	6%	96,636	2%
May	122,140	84,867	-31%	104,870	24%	97,596	-7%
Jun.	115,050	83,976	-27%	107,107	28%	104,973	-2%
Jul.	125,347	89,974	-28%	117,334	30%	0	-100%
Aug.	114,453	95,267	-17%	113,109	19%	0	-100%
Sept.	113,511	94,473	-17%	103,691	10%	0	-100%
Oct.	117,189	90,754	-23%	96,687	7%	0	-100%
Nov.	119,547	91,279	-24%	93,781	3%	0	-100%
Dec.	109,487	89,390	-18%	88,859	-1%	0	-100%

Source: ALIC Monthly Statistics

Table 4. Average Wholesale Prices of Medium Grade Domestic Beef Carcass in Tokyo

Unit: Yen per kg.					
WAGYU STEER A-3 GRADE					
Year/Month	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Yearly Ave.
2002	887	1,208	1,505	1,724	1,331
2003	1,664	1,668	1,728	1,789	1,712
% Chg.	88%	38%	15%	4%	29%
2004	1,740	1,875	1,897	1,953	1,866
% Chg.	5%	12%	10%	9%	9%
2005	1,949	1,944	1,926	2,088	1,977
% Chg.	12%	4%	2%	7%	6%
2006	1,957	1,986			
% Chg.	0%	2%			
WAGYU STEER A-2 GRADE					
Year/Month	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Yearly Ave.

2002	531	964	1,303	1,423	1,055
2003	1,380	1,403	1,476	1,518	1,444
% Chg.	160%	46%	13%	7%	37%
2004	1,550	1,660	1,700	1,735	1,661
% Chg.	12%	18%	15%	14%	15%
2005	1,730	1,712	1,672	1,782	1,724
% Chg.	12%	3%	-2%	3%	4%
2006	1,723	1,713			
% Chg.	-0%	0%			

WAGYU Heifer A-3 GRADE

Year/Month	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Yearly Ave.
2002	871	1,181	1,481	1,716	1,313
2003	1,653	1,649	1,706	1,774	1,696
% Chg.	90%	40%	15%	3%	29%
2004	1,746	1,872	1,908	1,970	1,874
% Chg.	6%	13%	12%	11%	11%
2005	1,957	1,944	1,947	2,106	1,989
% Chg.	12%	4%	2%	7%	6%
2006	1,981	2,006			
% Chg.	1%	3%			

Holstein Steer B-2 Grade

Year/Month	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Yearly Ave.
2002	166	325	515	671	420
2003	500	518	561	671	562
% Chg.	201%	59%	9%	-0%	34%
2004	789	836	770	784	795
% Chg.	58%	61%	37%	17%	41%
2005	828	836	786	886	834
% Chg.	5%	0%	2%	13%	5%
2006	874	896			
% Chg.	6%	7%			

Holstein Cow C-2 GRADE

Year/Month	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Yearly Ave.
2002	99	151	261	372	221
2003	319	364	372	388	361
% Chg.	223%	142%	43%	4%	64%
2004	506	605	574	487	543
% Chg.	58%	66%	54%	25%	50%
2005	507	565	562	536	543
% Chg.	0%	-7%	-2%	10%	-0%
2006	517	594			

% Chg.	2%	5%			
F1 Cross Breed Heifer B-3 GRADE					
Year/Month	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Yearly Ave.
2002	449	726	1,120	1,291	897
2003	1,202	1,207	1,240	1,266	1,229
% Chg.	168%	66%	11%	-2%	37%
2004	1,198	1,336	1,384	1,429	1,337
% Chg.	-0%	11%	12%	13%	9%
2005	1,433	1,467	1,460	1,486	1,462
% Chg.	20%	10%	5%	4%	9%
2006	1,455	1,407			
% Chg.	2%	-4%			
F1 Cross Breed Heifer B-2 GRADE					
Year/Month	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Yearly Ave.
2002	289	568	937	1,012	701
2003	890	871	928	954	911
% Chg.	208%	53%	-1%	-6%	30%
2004	1,014	1,183	1,216	1,214	1,157
% Chg.	14%	36%	31%	27%	27%
2005	1,259	1,320	1,277	1,290	1,287
% Chg.	24%	12%	5%	6%	11%
2006	1,277	1,216			
% Chg.	1%	-8%			
F1 Cross Breed Steer B-3 GRADE					
Year/Month	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Yearly Ave.
2002	453	737	1,148	1,330	917
2003	1,252	1,235	1,276	1,298	1,265
% Chg.	177%	67%	11%	-2%	38%
2004	1,316	1,356	1,407	1,458	1,360
% Chg.	5%	10%	10%	12%	7%
2005	1,484	1,497	1,498	1,527	1,487
% Chg.	13%	10%	6%	5%	9%
2006	1,487	1,452			
% Chg.	0%	-3%			
F1 Cross Breed Steer B-2 GRADE					
Year/Month	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Yearly Ave.
2002	304	579	947	1,056	722
2003	922	909	966	999	949
% Chg.	203%	57%	2%	-5%	32%
2004	1,016	1,212	1,248	1,261	1,184
% Chg.	10%	33%	29%	26%	25%

2005	1,292	1,345	1,320	1,334	1,323
% Chg.	27%	11%	6%	6%	12%
2006	1,308	1,250			
% Chg.	1%	-7%			

Source: ALIC Monthly (Original monthly data converted into quarterly by Post)

Table 5. Average Wholesale Price of Imported Beef (Aussie Chilled Cuts)

Unit: Yen per Kg.					
Full Set, Aussie Beef, Chilled, (Short Grain Fed)					
Year/Month	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Yearly Ave.
2002	601	597	589	658	611
2003	669	700	753	821	736
% Chg.	11%	17%	28%	25%	20%
2004	920	869	835	864	872
% Chg.	38%	24%	11%	5%	18%
2005	877	832	821	934	866
% Chg.	-5%	-4%	-2%	8%	-1%
2006	949	904			
% Chg.	8%	9%			
Full Set, Aussie Beef, Chilled, (Grass Fed)					
Year/Month	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Yearly Ave.
2002	563	510	489	602	541
2003	631	615	643	725	654
% Chg.	12%	21%	31%	20%	21%
2004	773	733	699	748	738
% Chg.	22%	19%	9%	3%	13%
2005	771	672	664	786	723
% Chg.	-0%	-8%	-5%	5%	-2%
2006	812	761			
% Chg.	5%	13%			
Navel-end Brisket, Aussie Beef, Chilled					
Year/Month	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Yearly Ave.
2002	413	363	357	431	391
2003	432	446	509	621	502
% Chg.	5%	23%	42%	44%	28%
2004	759	958	737	712	792
% Chg.	76%	115%	45%	15%	58%
2005	769	715	715	711	728
% Chg.	1%	-25%	-3%	-0%	-8%
2006	703	696			
% Chg.	-9%	-3%			

Strip Loin, Aussie Beef, Chilled					
Year/Month	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Yearly Ave.
2002	1,018	786	993	973	943
2003	1,032	1,108	1,042	1,103	1,071
% Chg.	1%	41%	5%	13%	14%
2004	1,289	1,177	1,185	1,245	1,224
% Chg.	25%	6%	14%	13%	14%
2005	1,328	1,118	1,239	1,279	1,241
% Chg.	3%	-5%	5%	3%	1%
2006	1,495	1,333			
% Chg.	13%	19%			
Source: ALIC Monthly (Original monthly data converted into quarterly by Post)					

Table 6. Average Wholesale price of Imported Beef (Aussie Frozen Cuts)

Unit: Yen per Kg.					
Chuck & Blade, Aussie Beef, Frozen					
Year/Month	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Yearly Ave.
2002	416	411	370	412	402
2003	419	405	425	450	425
% Chg.	1%	-1%	15%	9%	6%
2004	520	517	552	584	543
% Chg.	24%	27%	30%	30%	28%
2005	562	495	494	547	524
% Chg.	8%	-4%	-11%	-6%	-3%
2006	573	532			
% Chg.	2%	8%			
Top Side, Aussie Beef, Frozen					
Year/Month	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Yearly Ave.
2002	482	483	478	484	481
2003	503	501	514	525	511
% Chg.	4%	4%	8%	8%	6%
2004	570	508	538	583	550
% Chg.	13%	1%	5%	11%	8%
2005	567	512	524	598	550
% Chg.	-0%	1%	-3%	3%	0%
2006	624	583			
% Chg.	10%	14%			
Trimming, Aussie Beef, Frozen					
Year/Month	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Yearly Ave.
2002	381	375	343	340	360
2003	343	352	349	404	362

% Chg.	-10%	-6%	2%	19%	1%
2004	417	432	445	464	440
% Chg.	22%	23%	28%	15%	21%
2005	454	414	427	443	435
% Chg.	9%	-4%	-4%	-5%	-1%
2006	452	436			
% Chg.	-1%	5%			

Source: ALIC Monthly (Original monthly data converted into quarterly by Post)

Table 7. Australian Beef Exports to Japan

Metric Ton (Product Weight On Board Vessel Basis)							
Year to Date	2004	2005	% Chg	2006	% Chg	05 Share	06 Share
	Jan/July	Jan/July	Jan/July	Jan/July	Jan/July	Jan/July	Jan/July
Chilled Beef	115,737	136,710	18%	119,873	-12%	100%	100%
Grass	47,160	51,396	9%	42,030	-18%	38%	35%
Grain fed	68,577	85,314	24%	77,843	-9%	62%	65%
Frozen Beef	110,964	111,381	0%	107,777	-3%	100%	100%
Grass	86,826	83,134	-4%	78,745	-5%	75%	73%
Grain fed	24,138	28,247	17%	29,032	3%	25%	27%
TOTAL	226,701	248,091	9%	227,650	-8%	100%	100%
Grass	133,986	134,530	0%	120,775	-10%	54%	53%
Grain fed	92,715	113,561	22%	106,875	-6%	46%	47%

Source: Meat Livestock Australia (MLA)

Table 8-a. Japanese Chilled and Frozen Beef Combined Imports 2006 Jan. – June

Beef (Chilled and Frozen Combined)						
Unit: Metric Ton (Customs Clearance Basis)						
					% Change	%
Rank	Country	2004	2005	2006	- 06/05 -	- 06 Share -
		Jan/Jun	Jan/Jun	Jan/Jun	Jan/Jun	Jan/Jun
0	--World--	198,348	227,494	229,686	1%	100%
1	Australia	179,685	201,058	201,560	0%	88%
2	New Zealand	16,696	22,137	23,190	5%	10%
3	Mexico	228	2,671	3,080	15%	1%
4	United States	1,276	0	622	-	0%
5	Canada	0	0	484	-	0%
6	Chile	247	1,314	325	-75%	0%
7	Vanuatu	204	183	223	22%	0%
8	Others	13	132	202	53%	0%

Product HS: HS 0201, HS 0202

Source of data: Japan Customs (World Atlas)

Table 8-b. Japanese Chilled Beef Imports 2006 Jan. - June

Chilled Beef						
Unit: Metric Ton (Customs Clearance Basis)						
					% Change	%
Rank	Country	2004	2005	2006	- 06/05 -	- 06 Share -
		Jan/Jun	Jan/Jun	Jan/Jun	Jan/Jun	Jan/Jun
0	--World--	92,495	112,138	107,294	-4%	100%
1	Australia	90,627	109,011	102,384	-6%	95%
2	New Zealand	1,794	2,139	2,736	28%	3%
3	Mexico	74	978	1,130	16%	1%
4	United States	0	0	588	-	1%
5	Canada	0	0	455	-	0%
6	Others	0	10	0	-100%	0%
Product HS Code: HS 0201						
Source of data: Japan Customs (World Atlas)						

Table 8-c. Japanese Frozen Beef Imports 2006 Jan. - June

Frozen Beef						
Unit: Metric Ton (Customs Clearance Basis)						
					% Change	
Rank	Country	2004	2005	2006	- 06/05 -	- 06 Share -
		Jan/Jun	Jan/Jun	Jan/Jun	Jan/Jun	Jan/Jun
0	--World--	105,853	115,356	122,392	6%	100%
1	Australia	89,058	92,047	99,176	8%	81%
2	New Zealand	14,902	19,998	20,453	2%	17%
3	Mexico	154	1,693	1,950	15%	2%
4	Chile	247	1,303	325	-75%	0%
5	Vanuatu	204	183	223	22%	0%
6	Panama	0	49	85	75%	0%
7	Norway	0	0	60	-	0%
8	Costa Rica	0	83	56	-32%	0%
9	United States	1,276	0	34	-	0%
10	Canada	0	0	29	-	0%
11	Others	13	0	0	-	0%
Product HS Code: HS 0202						
Source of data: Japan Customs (World Trade Atlas)						

Table 8-d. Japanese Imports of Prepared and Processed Beef Products 2006 Jan. – June

Prepared and Processed Beef						
Unit: Metric Ton (Customs Clearance Basis)						
					% Change	%
Rank	Country	2004	2005	2006	- 06/05 -	- 06 Share -
		Jan/Jun	Jan/Jun	Jan/Jun	Jan/Jun	Jan/Jun
0	--World--	5,199	10,426	9,559	-8%	100%
1	Australia	3,289	3,715	3,940	6%	41%
2	China	703	4,376	3,631	-17%	38%
3	Brazil	519	1,192	1,141	-4%	12%
4	New Zealand	613	575	708	23%	7%
5	Thailand	27	339	62	-82%	1%
6	Argentina	27	210	48	-77%	1%
7	Philippines	4	12	14	24%	0%
8	Vietnam	0	0	11	-	0%
9	Others	16	8	4	-49%	0%
Source of data: Japan Customs (World Atlas)						

Pork Section

2007 Japan Pork Market Outlook

Raw Material Frozen Pork Trade Continues to Undergo Adjustments in 2007

As detailed in [JA 6009](#), Japan has been cracking down on illegal pork imports that use false invoices to avoid paying duties under the complex "Pork Differential Duty" system. The business environment surrounding the raw material frozen pork trade has changed since the government began also holding end users responsible for ensuring that the proper duties are being paid. This is forcing the meat trade to adjust the way they import inexpensive raw material frozen cuts, which in effect lowered monthly imports, increased seasoned ground pork imports substantially (mainly for sausages making), and raised the price of ham and sausage products. As a result, abnormally high ending stocks over the past few years are dissipating. Japan's raw material pork market will continue to undergo the same adjustments in 2007, which will further lower frozen pork imports and ending stocks.

Return of U.S. Beef to Have Limited Impacts on Japan's Pork Market in 2007

Meanwhile, Japan's pork market in 2007 will likely see few changes due to the return of U.S. beef. At the projected level of U.S. beef imports, overall market prices of beef compared to pork are expected to stay relatively high. When and if total beef distribution grows (for example, if the 20 month and under restriction is lifted for U.S. beef) and prices for beef drop, will there be a noticeable substitution effect.

In light of the above, total pork consumption in 2007 is projected down by 2% to 2.501 million MT. Total imports are projected modestly lower by 2% to 1.228 million MT (Generic pork; down 4% at 1.057 million MT, Prepared and processed products; up 14% at 171,000 MT). The projected decline in generic pork imports in 2007 is mainly due to a continued decline in imports of frozen raw material cuts used by processed products manufacturers.

Pork importers are forced to mix cuts based on value in order to minimize the differential duties they pay under Japan's complicated Pork Differential Duty System (which is also called the 'gate price' system). Compared to the United States and Canada, who have the ability to supply high value chilled pork and seasoned ground pork (HS 1602.40.090 – ad valorem of 20% - an alternative to picnic cuts) EU countries will be more disadvantaged because of their specialization in the supply of raw material frozen cuts. Building on last year's trend, Japan's imports of seasoned ground pork from the United States and Canada are expected to trend up in 2007 as well. (See 2006 Summary Update and Outlook Section).

A modest increase in chilled pork imports is likely in 2007, which should benefit the United States and Canada. Imported chilled pork is a popular alternative to domestic fresh/chilled pork, especially in terms of price. The forecast for domestic pork production in 2007 is slightly lower, 1.235 million MT, to accommodate additional imported chilled pork. As overall beef prices are forecast to stay relatively high in 2007, only a minor consumption shift at the retail level is expected from fresh/chilled pork to chilled beef. Ending stocks are expected to continue lowering in 2007, projected down 15% to 222,000 MT.

[Note: According to MAFF (the latest data is of 2004), pork consumption by sectors are estimated; household (40%), processing utilization (29%) and others including food service and catering (31%). Generally speaking, domestic pork satisfies household demand and is only supplemented by imported chilled pork. Approximately two thirds of the processing demand is met by imported pork, mostly frozen. Both imported and domestic pork are extensively used in the food service and catering.]

2006 Situation Summary Update and Outlook

Revised swine and pork PS&D figures for CY 2005 and 2006 are constructed based on preliminary production, trade and stock data available to date.

Raw Material Pork Imports Bound to Drop in 2006

Illegal pork imports are now said to be diminishing as illustrated clearly in monthly imports of frozen pork for January – June 2006, which dropped 27% over the same period last year to 382,000 MT (On customs clearance basis 267,467 MT - See table 12-c). Imports of raw material frozen pork is expected continue trending down through 2006.

Based on Jan. – June import data, total pork imports in 2006 are projected down by 7% over last year to 1.25 million MT [Generic pork; 1.10 million MT, down 12% with U.S. (projected share 31%), Denmark (25%) and Canada (18%) and etc., Prepared and processed pork; 150,000 MT, up 67% with U.S. (Projected share 65%), Canada (24%) and China (10%)]. (See table 12-a, 12-b, 12-c, and 12-d).

Japan's abnormally large stocks are projected to decline by 13% to 260,000 MT by the end of 2006 (See table 11). Total pork consumption, on the other hand, is projected up by 1% to 2.53 million MT, with a large increase in the imports of prepared and processed products more than offsetting a slight decline in generic pork consumption.

Some Good Growth of Chilled Pork and Seasoned Ground Pork Forecast in 2006

U.S. and Canadian chilled pork are performing better than expected, helped by solid retail and food service demand. U.S. and Canada are also expected to enjoy greater demand for seasoned ground pork as processed pork manufacturers increasingly use the product for sausage making instead of using imported picnic (generic raw material for sausage). Due to greater tariff enforcement, it has become increasingly difficult for the meat trade to make an efficient combination of cuts to include very cheap picnic meat to meet the gate price. As such, Japan's processed and prepared products imports (mostly seasoned ground pork) jumped 50% for the half of 2006. (See table 10)

Changing Circumstances on Raw Material Pork Trade to Affect EU Most in 2006

Denmark and other EU Countries, due to their exclusive reliance on generic frozen raw material trade with Japan, are hard hit by changing circumstances surrounding Japan's complex pork import regime. They are expected to lose their high shares in frozen generic pork trade in 2006. [Note: Large majority of Japan's pork imports from Denmark and EU are said to be frozen cuts like belly (single rib belly) for bacon and loin (MM loin) for loin role ham.]

Japanese meat traders are now in the process of revising their strategy to avoid unnecessary risks associated with raw material frozen pork trade under the differential pork duty system. In the meantime, some are reportedly trying to diversify sources of their supply to new EU members, such as Poland. Japan completed an animal health protocol with Poland this year allowing pork imports and at least one Japanese importer plans to bring pork from a U.S.-owned packer in Poland. Polish cuts will likely cater to both the processing and food service sectors. Struck by increased raw material cost, domestic ham and sausage manufacturers raised prices 5 – 10% in 2006 with apparently no decline in sales.

Sausage Imports to Grow in 2006 Catering to Value Segment Market in 2006

Japanese meat traders are also increasingly importing sausages made abroad to taking advantage of a relatively low 10% tariff. These imported sausages are used in fast foods, catering, and a brisk business in 'bento' lunch boxes. For Jan. – Jun. 2006, Japan's sausage imports rose 18% to 18,513 MT, with continued growth expected. China is by far the biggest supplier with a 63% share of total imports. (Note: Sausage imports are not included in PS&D table.)

No Pork Safeguard Likely

The import safeguard for pork is not expected to be triggered anytime soon. Because of large imports over the past several years, the trigger level will be kept sufficiently high to accommodate forecast imports. [Note: The calculation of the safeguard trigger levels takes the average imports of three proceeding years multiplied by 1.19 (119%) on a quarterly cumulative basis for any given Japanese fiscal year. (See table 9).]

Slightly Downward Domestic Hog Slaughter Projected in 2006

Reflecting slightly smaller sow figures, a slight decline in domestic hog slaughtered is forecast in 2006. Market demand for domestic pork is fair, while the wholesale prices for the first 6 months this year are modestly lower compared to last year. The situation is expected to stay relatively unchanged though 2006.

Table 9. Japanese Pork Safeguard Monitor for JFY 2004 – 2006

Pork Safeguard Trigger Levels for JFY 2004 and Actual Imports					
Unit: Metric Ton (Product Weight Basis)					
	Trigger Level	Cum. Total	April	May	June
	Quarterly Cum.	Actual Entry			
I (Apr. - Jun.)	257,004	316,755	133,511	89,735	93,509
			July	August	September
I - II (Apr. - Sept.)	483,275	518,098	104,608	49,758	46,977
			October	November	December
II - III (Apr. - Dec.)	694,603	696,016	54,492	57,094	66,332
			January	February	March
III - IV (Apr. - Mar.)	890,399	867,769	70,780	57,033	43,940
Pork Safeguard Trigger Levels for JFY 2005 and Actual Imports					
Unit: Metric Ton					
	Trigger Level	Cum. Total	April	May	June
	Quarterly Cum.	Actual Entry			
I (Apr. - Jun.)	307,305	288,909	139,203	86,343	63,363
			July	August	September
I - II (Apr. - Sept.)	549,947	520,966	94,082	71,978	65,997
			October	November	December
II - III (Apr. - Dec.)	758,902	702,512	62,087	65,826	53,633
			January	February	March
III - IV (Apr. - Mar.)	953,153	875,425	50,841	57,434	64,638
Pork Safeguard Trigger Levels for JFY 2006 and Actual Imports					
Unit: Metric Ton					
	Trigger Level	Cum. Total	April	May	June
	Quarterly Cum.	Actual Entry			
I (Apr. - Jun.)	335,377	196,088	65,720	66,289	64,079
			July	August	September
I - II (Apr. - Sept.)	589,122	196,088	0	0	0
			October	November	December
II - III (Apr. - Dec.)	797,056	196,088	0	0	0
			January	February	March
III - IV (Apr. - Mar.)	1,002,164	196,088	0	0	0

Source: Ministry of Finance

Table 10. Average Wholesale Price of Domestic Pork Carcass

Unit: Yen per Kg.					
Excellent Grade					
Year/Month	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Yearly Ave.
2002	498	559	510	396	491
2003	413	460	426	397	424
% Chg.	-17%	-18%	-16%	0%	-14%
2004	498	487	523	424	483
% Chg.	21%	6%	23%	7%	14%
2005	472	496	509	443	480
% Chg.	-5%	2%	-3%	4%	-1%
2006	442	501	0	0	236
% Chg.	-6%	1%	-100%	-100%	-51%
Medium Grade					
Year/Month	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Yearly Ave.
2002	459	525	469	355	452
2003	362	408	359	332	365
% Chg.	-21%	-22%	-23%	-7%	-19%
2004	438	427	465	381	428
% Chg.	21%	5%	29%	15%	17%
2005	426	464	482	416	447
% Chg.	-3%	9%	4%	9%	5%
2006	412	458	0	0	217
% Chg.	-3%	-1%	-100%	-100%	-51%

Source: ALIC Monthly (Original monthly data converted into quarterly by Post)

Table 11. Japanese Monthly Pork Stock Estimates

Unit: Metric Ton (Carcass Equivalent)							
Month/Year	2003	2004	% Chg.	2005	% Chg.	2006	% Chg.
Jan.	210,374	212,876	1%	242,553	14%	298,709	23%
Feb.	209,909	209,590	-0%	247,297	18%	292,199	18%
Mar.	202,273	215,531	7%	253,109	17%	299,410	18%
Apr.	239,071	259,394	9%	300,199	16%	300,557	0%
May	257,789	295,539	15%	326,394	10%	308,479	-5%
Jun.	252,813	315,399	25%	324,949	3%	306,377	- 6%
Jul.	303,764	334,969	10%	344,059	3%	0	-100%
Aug.	272,654	304,363	12%	338,291	11%	0	-100%
Sept.	253,967	273,546	8%	322,837	18%	0	-100%
Oct.	233,366	244,701	5%	327,361	34%	0	-100%

Nov.	221,971	225,691	2%	321,483	42%	0	-100%
Dec.	210,947	222,780	6%	299,774	35%	0	-100%

Source: ALIC Monthly Statistics

Table 12-a. Japanese Chilled and Frozen Pork Combined Imports 2006 Jan. – June

PORK (Chilled and Frozen Combined)						
Unit: Metric Ton (Customs Clearance Basis)						
					% Change	%
Rank	Country	2004	2005	2006	- 06/05 -	- 06 Share -
		Jan/Jun	Jan/Jun	Jan/Jun	Jan/Jun	Jan/Jun
0	--World--	486,936	458,592	375,773	-18%	100%
1	United States	142,589	158,040	126,445	-20%	34%
2	Denmark	154,790	117,001	91,802	-22%	24%
3	Canada	104,332	109,995	78,616	-29%	21%
4	Chile	20,555	23,067	27,208	18%	7%
5	Mexico	17,617	16,861	20,140	19%	5%
6	Hungary	10,695	7,854	6,516	-17%	2%
7	France	7,372	3,780	6,035	60%	2%
8	Ireland	4,401	6,131	4,692	-23%	1%
9	Spain	682	1,467	3,974	171%	1%
10	Austria	5,072	5,977	3,016	-50%	1%
11	Others	18,831	8,421	7,331	-13%	2%
Product HS Code: HS 0203						
Source of data: Japan Customs (World Trade Atlas)						

Table 12-b. Japanese Chilled Pork Imports 2006 Jan. – June

Chilled Pork						
Unit: Metric Ton (Customs Clearance Basis)						
					% Change	%
Rank	Country	2004	2005	2006	- 06/05 -	- 06 Share -
		Jan/Jun	Jan/Jun	Jan/Jun	Jan/Jun	Jan/Jun
0	--World--	97,225	92,237	108,306	17%	100%
1	United States	68,791	66,373	76,592	15%	71%
2	Canada	19,668	19,393	25,222	30%	23%
3	Mexico	5,008	5,077	5,510	9%	5%
4	Australia	3,498	1,263	800	-37%	1%
5	Denmark	185	99	114	15%	0%
6	Others	76	32	67	112%	0%
Product HS Code: HS 0203.11, HS 0203.12 and HS 0203.19						
Source of data: Japan Customs (World Trade Atlas)						

Table 12-c. Japanese Frozen Pork Imports 2006 Jan. – June

Frozen Pork						
Metric Ton (Customs Clearance Basis)						
					% Change	%
Rank	Country	2004	2005	2006	- 06/05 -	- 06 Share -
		Jan/Jun	Jan/Jun	Jan/Jun	Jan/Jun	Jan/Jun
0	--World--	389,711	366,355	267,467	-27%	100%
1	Denmark	154,605	116,902	91,688	-22%	34%
2	Canada	84,664	90,602	53,394	-41%	20%
3	United States	73,799	91,667	49,853	-46%	19%
4	Chile	20,555	23,065	27,208	18%	10%
5	Mexico	12,609	11,783	14,629	24%	5%
6	Hungary	10,695	7,854	6,492	-17%	2%
7	France	7,370	3,775	6,028	60%	2%
8	Ireland	4,401	6,131	4,692	-23%	2%
9	Spain	660	1,444	3,940	173%	1%
10	Austria	5,072	5,977	3,016	-50%	1%
11	Netherlands	6,827	2,972	2,055	-31%	1%
12	Others	8,456	4,184	4,474	7%	2%
Product HS Code: HS 0203.21, HS 0203.22 and HS 0203.29						
Source of data: Japan Customs (World Trade Atlas)						

Table 12-d. Japanese Imports of Prepared and Processed Pork Products 2006 Jan. - June

Prepared and Processed Pork						
Unit: Metric Ton (Customs Clearance Basis)						
					% Change	%
Rank	Country	2004	2005	2006	- 06/05 -	- 06 Share-
		Jan/Jun	Jan/Jun	Jan/Jun	Jan/Jun	Jan/Jun
0	--World--	20,402	26,028	38,995	50%	100%
1	United States	11,911	13,610	23,312	71%	60%
2	Canada	3,196	5,504	9,203	67%	24%
3	China	3,603	4,281	4,708	10%	12%
4	Italy	426	462	513	11%	1%
5	Mexico	109	64	412	540%	1%
6	Thailand	133	113	289	155%	1%
7	Denmark	476	688	197	-71%	1%
8	France	0	96	121	26%	0%
9	Taiwan	72	76	93	22%	0%

10	Spain	54	59	87	49%	0%
11	Chile	3	745	48	-94%	0%
12	Others	417	329	12	-96%	0%
Product HS Code: HS 0210.11, HS 0210.12, HS 0210.19, and HS 1602.42						
Source of data: Japan Customs (World Trade Atlas)						

Cattle PS&D Table

Japan Animal Numbers, Cattle							
	2005	Revised	2006	Estimate	2007	Forecast	UOM
	USDA Official [Old]	Post Estimate [New]	USDA Official [Old]	Post Estimate [New]	USDA Official [Old]	Post Estimate [New]	
Market Year Begin		01/2005		01/2006		01/2007	MM/YYYY
Total Cattle Beg. Stks	4401	4401	4340	4390	4277	4410	(1000 HEAD)
Dairy Cows Beg. Stks	910	910	900	900	0	890	(1000 HEAD)
Beef Cows Beg. Stocks	623	623	620	621	0	620	(1000 HEAD)
Production (Calf Crop)	1375	1415	1360	1400	0	1390	(1000 HEAD)
Intra EC Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 HEAD)
Total Imports	25	25	22	28	0	30	(1000 HEAD)
TOTAL Imports	25	25	22	28	0	30	(1000 HEAD)
TOTAL SUPPLY	5801	5841	5722	5818	4277	5830	(1000 HEAD)
Intra EC Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 HEAD)
Total Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 HEAD)
TOTAL Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 HEAD)
Cow Slaughter	560	554	550	550	0	565	(1000 HEAD)
Calf Slaughter	10	9	10	10	0	10	(1000 HEAD)
Other Slaughter	660	667	660	650	0	660	(1000 HEAD)
Total Slaughter	1230	1230	1220	1210	0	1235	(1000 HEAD)
Loss	231	221	225	198	0	225	(1000 HEAD)
Ending Inventories	4340	4390	4277	4410	0	4370	(1000 HEAD)
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	5801	5841	5722	5818	0	5830	(1000 HEAD)
Calendar Yr. Imp. from U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 HEAD)
Calendar Yr. Exp. to U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 HEAD)

(Not Official USDA Data)

Beef PS&D Table

Japan Meat, Beef and Veal							
	2005	Revised	2006	Estimate	2007	Forecast	UOM
	USDA Official [Old]	Post Estimate [New]	USDA Official [Old]	Post Estimate [New]	USDA Official [Old]	Post Estimate [New]	
Market Year Begin		01/2005		01/2006		01/2007	MM/YYYY
Slaughter (Reference)	1230	1230	1220	1210	0	1235	(1000 HEAD)
Beginning Stocks	90	89	95	89	90	91	(1000 MT CWE)
Production	500	500	495	495	0	505	(1000 MT CWE)
Intra EC Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 MT CWE)
Total Imports	700	700	737	693	0	765	(1000 MT CWE)
TOTAL Imports	700	700	737	693	0	765	(1000 MT CWE)
TOTAL SUPPLY	1290	1289	1327	1277	90	1361	(1000 MT CWE)
Intra EC Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 MT CWE)
Total Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 MT CWE)
TOTAL Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 MT CWE)
Human Dom. Consumption	1195	1200	1237	1186	0	1256	(1000 MT CWE)
Other Use, Losses	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 MT CWE)
TOTAL Dom. Consumption	1195	1200	1237	1186	0	1256	(1000 MT CWE)
Ending Stocks	95	89	90	91	0	105	(1000 MT CWE)
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	1290	1289	1327	1277	0	1361	(1000 MT CWE)
Calendar Yr. Imp. from U.S.	0	0	0	14	0	114	(1000 MT CWE)
Calendar Yr. Exp. to U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 MT CWE)

(Not USDA Official Data)

Swine PS&D Table

Japan Animal Numbers, Swine							
	2005	Revised	2006	Estimate	2007	Forecast	UOM
	USDA Official [Old]	Post Estimate [New]	USDA Official [Old]	Post Estimate [New]	USDA Official [Old]	Post Estimate [New]	
Market Year Begin		01/2005		01/2006		01/2007	MM/YYYY
TOTAL Beginning Stocks	9550	9600	9545	9620	9545	9600	(1000 HEAD)
Sow Beginning Stocks	910	910	915	907	0	905	(1000 HEAD)
Production (Pig Crop)	17000	17000	17100	16900	0	16850	(1000 HEAD)
Intra EC Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 HEAD)
Total Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 HEAD)
TOTAL Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 HEAD)
TOTAL SUPPLY	26550	26600	26645	26520	9545	26450	(1000 HEAD)
Intra EC Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 HEAD)
Total Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 HEAD)
TOTAL Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 HEAD)
Sow Slaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 HEAD)
OTHER SLAUGHTER	16255	16240	16350	16170	0	16100	(1000 HEAD)
Total Slaughter	16255	16240	16350	16170	0	16100	(1000 HEAD)
Loss	750	740	750	750	0	750	(1000 HEAD)
Ending Inventories	9545	9620	9545	9600	0	9600	(1000 HEAD)
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	26550	26600	26645	26520	0	26450	(1000 HEAD)
Calendar Yr. Imp. from U.S.	116	116	115	70	0	80	(1000 HEAD)
Calendar Yr. Exp. to U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 HEAD)

(Not USDA Official Data)

Pork PS&D Table

Japan Meat, Swine							
	2005	Revised	2006	Estimate	2007	Forecast	UOM
	USDA Official [Old]	Post Estimate [New]	USDA Official [Old]	Post Estimate [New]	USDA Official [Old]	Post Estimate [New]	
Market Year Begin		01/2005		01/2006		01/2007	MM/YYYY
Slaughter (Reference)	16255	16240	16350	16170	0	16100	(1000 HEAD)
Beginning Stocks	223	223	300	300	260	260	(1000 MT CWE)
Production	1250	1245	1260	1240	0	1235	(1000 MT CWE)
Intra EC Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 MT CWE)
Total Imports	1339	1337	1200	1250	0	1228	(1000 MT CWE)
TOTAL Imports	1339	1337	1200	1250	0	1228	(1000 MT CWE)
TOTAL SUPPLY	2812	2805	2760	2790	260	2723	(1000 MT CWE)
Intra EC Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 MT CWE)
Total Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 MT CWE)
TOTAL Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 MT CWE)
Human Dom. Consumption	2512	2505	2500	2530	0	2501	(1000 MT CWE)
Other Use, Losses	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 MT CWE)
TOTAL Dom. Consumption	2512	2505	2500	2530	0	2501	(1000 MT CWE)
Ending Stocks	300	300	260	260	0	222	(1000 MT CWE)
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	2812	2805	2760	2790	0	2723	(1000 MT CWE)
Calendar Yr. Imp. from U.S.	454	454	421	436	0	436	(1000 MT CWE)
Calendar Yr. Exp. to U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1000 MT CWE)

(Not USDA Official Data)