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Report Highlights:

Japan's rice production in marketing year (MY) 2026/27 continues to rebound from a slump in MY 2024/25, with the latest forecast edging out last year's official tally. Rice prices are projected to decline significantly from the historical highs observed through 2024 and 2025, and rice will reclaim market share from wheat in MY 2026/27. With domestic supplies stabilized, Japan will import just the minimum market access volume of rice. The government's rice stock management decisions in MY 2026/27, especially regarding excess private table rice stocks and replenishing government reserves, will hold heavy sway over the feed market as increases in rice supplies could reduce consumption of feed corn and wheat. Food corn and barley consumption will recover in MY 2026/27 after a cool summer dampened demand for beverages in MY 2025/26. The Takaichi administration's plan to lower the consumption tax rate on food and beverages, effective April 2027, is likely to provide a tailwind for overall food consumption.

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Corn

Table 1.

Corn Production, Supply and Distribution

Corn Market Year Begins Japan	2024/2025		2025/2026		2026/2027	
	Oct 2024		Oct 2025		Oct 2026	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Harvested (1000 HA)	3	3	3	3	3	3
Beginning Stocks (1000 MT)	1,299	1,299	1,372	1,271	1,388	1,287
Production (1000 MT)	17	16	16	16	17	16
MY Imports (1000 MT)	15,456	15,456	15,500	15,700	15,500	15,600
TY Imports (1000 MT)	15,456	15,456	15,500	15,700	15,500	15,600
Total Supply (1000 MT)	16,772	16,771	16,888	16,987	16,905	16,903
MY Exports (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
TY Exports (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feed and Residual (1000 MT)	12,100	12,200	12,200	12,500	12,200	12,350
FSI Consumption (1000 MT)	3,300	3,300	3,300	3,200	3,300	3,250
Total Consumption (1000 MT)	15,400	15,500	15,500	15,700	15,500	15,600
Ending Stocks (1000 MT)	1,372	1,271	1,388	1,287	1,405	1,303
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	16,772	16,771	16,888	16,987	16,905	16,903
Yield (MT/HA)	5.7	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.7	5.3
(1000 HA), (1000 MT), (MT/HA)						
MY = Marketing Year, begins with the month listed at the top of each column. MY 2026/2027 = October 2026 - September 2027						
TY = Trade Year, which for Corn begins in October for all countries. TY 2026/2027 = October 2026 - September 2027						
OFFICIAL DATA CAN BE ACCESSED AT: PSD Online Advanced Query						

Production

Japan's corn harvested area is minimal, with most production stemming from experimental projects supported by public funding. Post expects MY 2026/27 corn harvested area and production to remain stable relative to previous years.

Japan planted maize on approximately 119,000 ha in MY 2025/26. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Japan harvested mature dry corn from only 2,771 ha of this area, producing 16,036 MT, for a yield of 5.8 MT/ha. Of the remaining area, 95,100 ha was planted for silage, and 21,000 ha for sweet corn and young corn (as vegetables).

Most maize cultivation takes place in Hokkaido, Japan's northern island, where farmers grow maize on dry fields in rotation with soybeans, wheat, and other legumes to prevent problems from continuous cropping. Because corn is vulnerable to excess moisture damage, soil improvement and infrastructure development are essential prerequisites for planting maize in former rice paddy fields. Otherwise, corn is prone to root rot in paddy rice fields with poor drainage.

Consumption

Food, Seed, and Industrial (FSI) Consumption

Post expects corn consumption for FSI use to gradually recover to 3,250,000 MT in MY 2026/27 from MY 2025/26, reflecting government policies to curb food price inflation. In August 2026, Japan's Cabinet unanimously approved a basic policy plan to cut the consumption tax on retail food items from 8 to 1 percent, beginning in April 2027 ([JA2026-0055](#)). This tax reduction is expected to boost food corn demand for beverages, snacks, and other processed food in the latter half of MY 2026/27. Accordingly, FAS/Tokyo forecasts that food corn consumption will increase in MY 2026/27.

Post decreased the MY 2025/26 FSI consumption estimate to 3.2 million MT to reflect lower than expected corn starch consumption for beverage production stemming from weak demand in summer 2026 due to cool weather and rising packaging costs.

Japan annually uses slightly more than 2 million MT of corn to produce corn starch. Official MAFF cornstarch production data confirm stable demand, driven by consistent production of high fructose corn syrup (HFCS) in recent years. As of February 2026, MAFF forecasted a stable trend in future starch consumption. However, energy prices and the price of plastic bottles derived from naphtha have risen due to heightened tensions in the Middle East (see Japan Biofuels Annual 2026). As a result, retail prices for soft drinks, dairy-based beverages, and alcoholic beverages, which together account for nearly 70 percent of HFCS demand, have been rising due to the prolonged increase in raw material costs. Furthermore, in the summer of 2026, an extended rainy season and frequent typhoons kept temperatures relatively cool in densely populated urban areas such as Tokyo, weakening overall beverage market demand compared to the previous MY. According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), despite rising unit prices, household spending on “other beverages” (mainly soft drinks) in July 2026 dropped by 6 percent compared to the same month the previous year. As a result, food and industrial corn demand for corn starch declined in MY 2025/26.

Demand for other food-use corn also weakened moderately through MY 2025/26. Amid the growing global popularity of Japanese whisky, the National Tax Agency (NTA) had been issuing unprecedented numbers of distilling licenses, but the previously strong market for whisky-brewing grains shows signs of settling in 2026. Meanwhile, as Japanese consumers increasingly choose granola and oatmeal, corn flake demand continues its gradual decline.

Since corn planted area, including area for silage, will remain steady, FAS/Tokyo does not expect any change to corn seed consumption in the near future.

Feed Consumption

In MY 2026/27, FAS/Tokyo forecasts that feed corn consumption will partially decline to 12.35 million MT as rice-based feed use slowly recovers. Japanese farmers reduced MY 2026/27 feed

rice planting according to MAFF's planting intentions survey; however, as inventory levels will be very high, the Japanese government may decide to increase the feed rice supply through imported rice and existing stocks. As a result, FAS/Tokyo forecasts that Japan will decrease feed corn consumption by 1.2 percent in MY 2026/27.

In MY 2025/26, FAS/Tokyo estimates Japan's corn-for-feed consumption will rise by 2.5 percent to 12.5 million MT, driven by increased use of corn in feed rations in place of rice.

Japanese feed consumption has been, and is expected to remain, broadly stable. Monthly feed statistics published by MAFF track feed ingredient consumption for the Japan Feed Manufacturers Association's production of compound feed (feed produced by mixing multiple raw ingredients and additives in fixed proportions for efficient livestock and farmed fish production) and mixed feed (any combination of separate feed ingredients mixed together). While these statistics capture the vast majority of Japanese feed consumption, they are not complete. As the basis for its forecasts, FAS/Tokyo estimates the apparent metabolizable energy (AME) for poultry and metabolizable energy (ME) for other animals using the figures shown in Table 2.

Table 2.
Estimated Metabolic Energy Consumed by Animal Groups (unit: tera calories)

MY (Oct-Sep)		2021/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26e	26/27f
Poultry	Total AME	29,201	28,221	28,337	28,344	28,700	28,700
	Change	0.5%	-3.4%	0.4%	0.0%	1.3%	0.0%
	from Corn	15,991	15,340	15,823	16,539	17,492	--
Swine	Total ME	17,810	17,763	17,572	17,426	17,502	17,500
	Change	-1.8%	-0.3%	-1.1%	-0.8%	0.4%	0.0%
	from Corn	9,712	9,620	9,850	10,275	10,710	--
Cattle	Total ME	19,954	20,097	20,257	20,178	19,888	19,590
	Change	0.0%	0.7%	0.8%	-0.4%	-1.4%	-1.5%
	from Corn	8,939	8,948	9,061	9,094	9,094	--
Aquaculture	Total ME	1,125	1,124	1,166	1,051	1,173	1,180
	Change	-1.7%	-0.1%	3.7%	-9.8%	11.7%	0.6%
	from Corn	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	AME + ME	68,090	67,205	67,332	66,998	67,264	66,970
	Change	-0.3%	-1.3%	0.2%	-0.5%	0.4%	-0.4%
	from Corn	34,643	33,908	34,733	35,908	37,296	--

Note: MY 2025/26 estimation is based on October 2025-July 2026 YTD data. MY 2026/27 forecasts are by FAS/Tokyo. Source: [MAFF Feed Statistics](#)

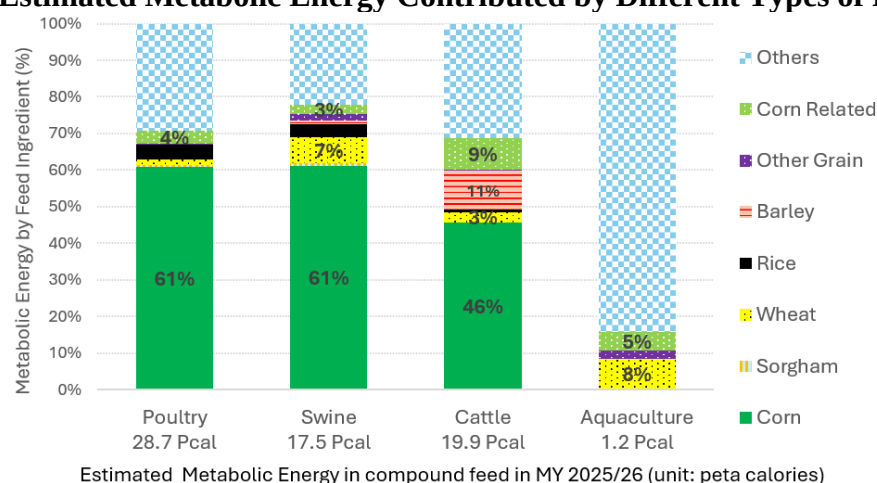
The energy consumption forecasts for MY 2026/27 in Table 2 align with FAS/Tokyo's related reports. For additional details, see the [Livestock and Products Semi-annual](#) and [Livestock and Products Annual](#) for cattle and swine; the [Dairy and Products Annual](#) for dairy cows; the [Poultry and Products Annual](#) for poultry; and the [Oilseeds and Products Annual](#) for aquaculture.

Due to persistent food price inflation and a decline in real disposable income, Japanese consumers shifted from beef to cheaper pork and chicken in MY 2025/26, and post expects this trend to continue into MY 2026/27. Accordingly, beef cattle and dairy cows consumed 1.4 percent less ME in MY 2025/26, and FAS/Tokyo forecasts an additional 1.5 percent decline in MY 2026/27. As highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) cases decreased in MY 2025/26, Japanese poultry consumed 1.3 percent more AME than in the previous MY, while swine consumed 0.4 percent more ME. Post forecasts that feed consumption by poultry and swine will remain at the same level in MY 2026/27.

Figure 1 shows FAS/Tokyo estimates of the AME and ME breakdown by feed ingredient in MY 2025/26. Poultry, swine, and cattle derive 61 percent, 61 percent, and 46 percent of their metabolizable energy from corn, respectively. In contrast, the aquaculture sector derives little energy from corn.

Figure 1.

Estimated Metabolic Energy Contributed by Different Types of Feed Ingredients



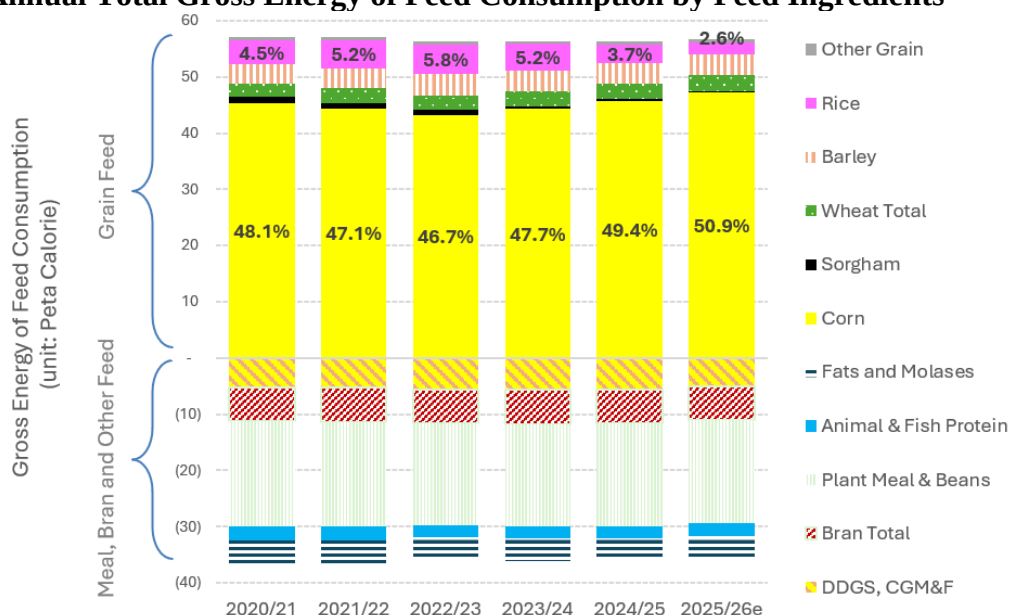
Note: Salmonidae conversion factors applied to calculate the ME for aquaculture. Other genuses, such as *Seriola*, *Scombridae*, *Sparidae*, and *Anguillidae*, have different patterns of ME. Source: [MAFF Feed Statistics](#)

To compare the volume of overall feed ingredients across different animal sectors, FAS/Tokyo also calculates comparable total gross energy (GE) from MAFF feed statistics, as shown in Figure 2. Based on year-to-date data from October to June, FAS/Tokyo estimates that Japanese feed manufacturers provided 92.4 Peta calories of GE in MY 2025/26, a 0.3 percent decrease from MY 2024/25. Corn is estimated to account for 50.9 percent of GE, the highest level in several years. Total feed corn consumption in MY 2025/26 is estimated at 12.5 million MT, a 2.5

percent increase from MY 2024/25. This increase largely resulted from the decline in feed rice use.

Figure 2.

Annual Total Gross Energy of Feed Consumption by Feed Ingredients



Note: MY 2025/26 estimation is based on October 2025-July 2026 YTD data.

Source: [MAFF Feed Statistics](#)

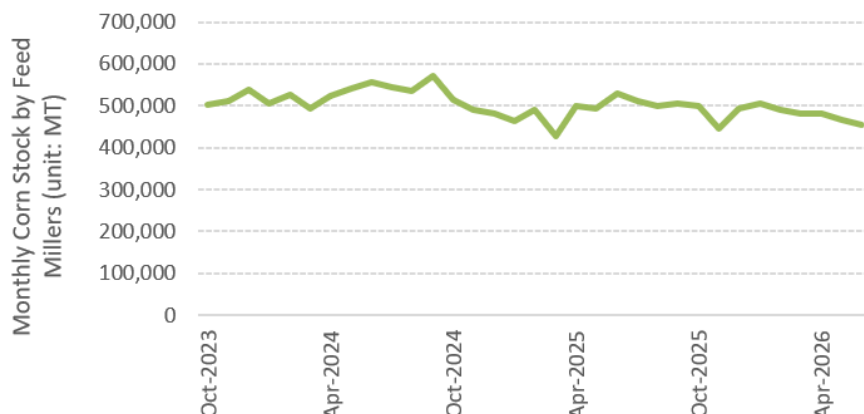
Trade

Japan relies on imports for almost all of its corn consumption. As feed corn consumption declines slightly with the recovery in feed rice, FAS/Tokyo forecasts that Japan will import 15.6 million MT in MY 2026/27, a 0.5 percent decrease from MY 2025/26. Projecting out year-to-date trade statistics through July 2026 to the full marketing year, FAS/Tokyo estimates MY 2025/26 corn imports will total 15.7 million MT, a 1.5 percent increase from MY 2024/25.

Japan imports corn predominantly from the United States and Brazil, with shares varying according to relative prices. From January to July 2026, Japan has imported 99 percent of corn from the United States due to its price competitiveness, maintaining this trend since February 2025.

Stocks

Post forecasts that Japan's corn ending stocks will remain at around 1.3 million MT. According to MAFF feed statistics, monthly corn ending stocks held by feed millers have remained broadly stable at around 500,000 MT (Figure 3). Even accounting for stocks held by corn starch producers and others, FAS/Tokyo forecasts that ending stocks will remain broadly stable in the coming marketing years, as corn importers and traders carefully manage stock volumes.

Figure 3.**Monthly Corn Ending Stocks Held by Feed Manufacturers**Source: [MAFF Feed Statistics](#)**Sorghum****Table 3.****Sorghum Production, Supply and Distribution**

Sorghum Market Year Begins	2024/2025		2025/2026		2026/2027	
	Oct 2024		Oct 2025		Oct 2026	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Japan						
Area Harvested (1000 HA)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beginning Stocks (1000 MT)	11	11	1	1	1	2
Production (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
MY Imports (1000 MT)	73	73	60	67	50	62
TY Imports (1000 MT)	73	73	60	67	50	62
Total Supply (1000 MT)	84	84	61	68	51	64
MY Exports (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
TY Exports (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feed and Residual (1000 MT)	83	83	60	65	50	60
FSI Consumption (1000 MT)	0	0	0	1	0	1
Total Consumption (1000 MT)	83	83	60	66	50	61
Ending Stocks (1000 MT)	1	1	1	2	1	3
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	84	84	61	68	51	64
Yield (MT/HA)	0	0	0	0	0	0
(1000 HA), (1000 MT), (MT/HA)						
MY = Marketing Year, begins with the month listed at the top of each column. MY 2026/2027 = October 2026 - September 2027						
TY = Trade Year, which for Sorghum begins in October for all countries. TY 2026/2027 = October 2026 - September 2027						
OFFICIAL DATA CAN BE ACCESSED AT: PSD Online Advanced Query						

Production

Japan produces and harvests sorghum for food use, but annual production is negligible. Separately, Japan plants the short-stalk "Sorgo" variety on 10-12 thousand ha for use as green manure (sub-plowed into soil to enrich organic matter content and suppress soil nematodes) and for biomass projects, not for grain or feed use.

Consumption

Post forecasts feed sorghum consumption will be 65,000 MT in MY 2025/26 and decrease to 60,000 MT in MY 2026/27. In MY 2026/27, Japan may increase feed rice use, and wheat prices are expected to rise. However, there will be little economic incentive for Japanese feed millers to increase sorghum use.

The carotenoids in yellow corn can slightly tint animal fat a creamy or yellowish color. Since some Japanese consumers prefer white fat over yellowish fat in chicken meat and pork, some broiler and swine farmers use sorghum, rice, or wheat instead of corn to finish the animals before processing. As Japan has increased feed rice use, feed sorghum consumption has declined every MY since MY 2012/13.

Although rice feed consumption dropped drastically in MY 2025/26, Japanese feed millers decreased feed sorghum consumption by 23 percent from the previous MY, substituting corn and wheat instead. Industry experts noted that China resumed purchasing U.S. sorghum, prompting Japanese traders to forgo their purchases. Based on year-to-date feed statistics through June 2026, Japanese feed manufacturers consumed 64,450 MT of sorghum in MY 2025/26, accounting for only 0.3 percent of gross energy consumption compared to other feed ingredients.

Annual food sorghum consumption has remained constant, though still limited to a few hundred MT, targeting the health-conscious niche market, traditional Japanese sweets market, and other segments. Japan does not produce alcoholic beverages from sorghum.

Trade

Virtually all sorghum consumed in Japan is imported. To match consumption, Japan's sorghum imports for MY 2025/26 and MY 2026/27 are expected to decrease to 67,000 MT and 62,000 MT, respectively.

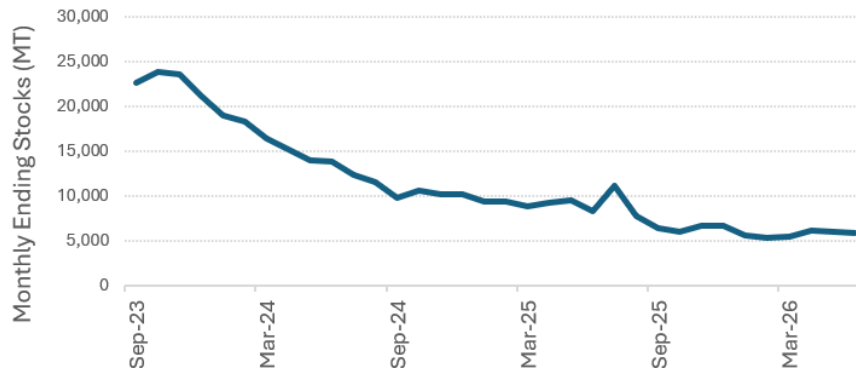
Stocks

Post forecasts that Japan's sorghum ending stocks will decline to very low levels over the next two MYs. As sorghum consumption has declined, stock levels have also fallen (Figure 4). According to MAFF, feed millers' sorghum stocks stood at 9,749 MT at the end of September 2024, 6,404 MT at the end of September 2025, and 5,805 MT as of June 2026.

Additional, unaccounted-for sorghum stocks previously existed along distribution channels. Because of reporting timing in official government statistics, moisture content, measurement

methods, and these unobservable stocks, the beginning and ending stock figures in Production, Supply and Distribution (PSD) Table 3 are lower than actual conditions. While these discrepancies appear large in relative terms, absolute stock volumes are so low that Post did not adjust the numbers.

Figure 4.
Monthly Sorghum Ending Stocks Held by Feed Millers



Source: [MAFF Feed Statistics](#)

Barley

Table 4.
Barley Production, Supply and Distribution

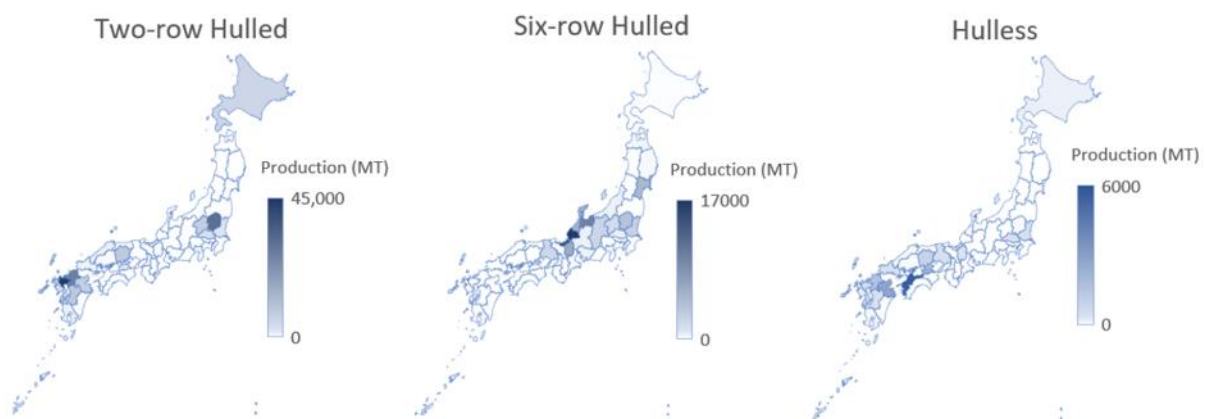
Barley Market Year Begins	2024/2025		2025/2026		2026/2027	
	Oct 2024		Oct 2025		Oct 2026	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Japan						
Area Harvested (1000 HA)	65	65	64	64	65	64
Beginning Stocks (1000 MT)	133	133	142	107	122	135
Production (1000 MT)	186	186	230	228	235	230
MY Imports (1000 MT)	1,138	1,138	1,250	1,130	1,150	1,110
TY Imports (1000 MT)	1,138	1,138	1,250	1,130	1,150	1,110
Total Supply (1000 MT)	1,457	1,457	1,622	1,465	1,507	1,475
MY Exports (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
TY Exports (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feed and Residual (1000 MT)	935	1,020	1,100	990	960	980
FSI Consumption (1000 MT)	380	330	400	340	375	360
Total Consumption (1000 MT)	1,315	1,350	1,500	1,330	1,335	1,340
Ending Stocks (1000 MT)	142	107	122	135	172	135
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	1,457	1,457	1,622	1,465	1,507	1,475
Yield (MT/HA)	2.86	2.85	3.59	3.57	3.6	3.6
(1000 HA), (1000 MT), (MT/HA)						
MY = Marketing Year, begins with the month listed at the top of each column. MY 2026/2027 = October 2026 - September 2027						
TY = Trade Year, which for Barley begins in October for all countries. TY 2026/2027 = October 2026 - September 2027						
OFFICIAL DATA CAN BE ACCESSED AT: PSD Online Advanced Query						

Production

Post forecasts the MY 2026/27 harvested area for barley will stay around the same at 64,000 ha. Assuming a yield of 3.6 MT/ha, production is forecast at 230,000 MT in MY 2026/27.

Official MAFF crop data show the MY 2025/26 harvested area for barley was 64,060 ha, a 1.5 percent decrease from the previous MY. As rice prices remained high, some rice farmers switched back to rice production on their own paddies. However, since the majority of barley is grown on dry fields, conversion has some limitations. As food barley demand is strong, Japanese farmers have kept barley production stable.

Figure 5.
Maps of Three Different Types of Barley Production, by Prefecture, in MY 2024/25



Source: [MAFF](#), GeoNames, Microsoft, Zenrin

According to MAFF, MY 2025/26 barley production recovered to 228,400 MT, a significant 23.1 percent increase over the poor crop year in MY 2024/25, when production was only 185,600 MT due to waterlogging damage. Of the new barley crop, 66.9 percent was two-row hulled barley (mainly for beer production), 25.8 percent was six-row hulled barley (mainly for food use), and 7.2 percent was hull-less barley (mainly six-row hull-less, also for food use). Production volumes of these three barley types, by prefecture, are shown in maps in Figure 5.

Due to waterlogging damage in spring 2025, particularly in Kyushu, the MY 2024/25 yield was historically low at 2.9 MT/ha. The average yield recovered to 3.6 MT/ha in MY 2025/26, roughly in line with recent averages. Although spring 2026 was very dry, the MY 2026/27 yield is expected to be near the recent average.

Consumption

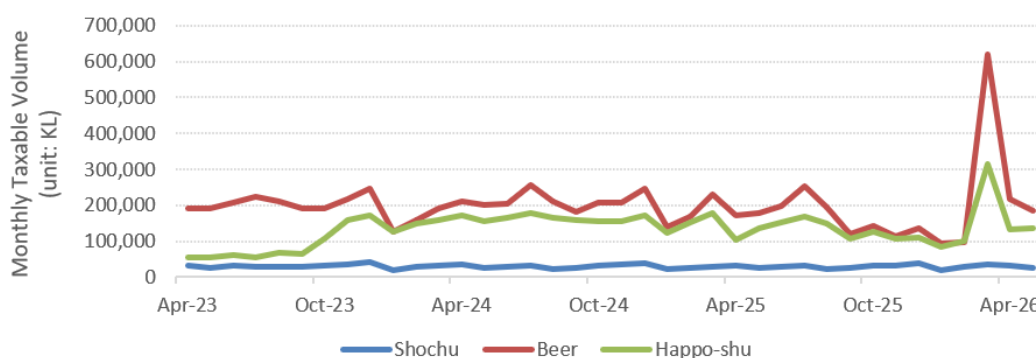
Food, Seed, and Industrial (FSI) Consumption

Assuming weather conditions return to normal in MY 2026/27 (i.e., a hot summer in 2027), FAS/Tokyo forecasts that FSI consumption of barley will recover to 360,000 MT, from 340,000 MT in MY 2025/26.

Food barley is used in a range of Japanese staple foods and beverages, including beer, shochu liquor, barley tea, barley miso, roasted barley "hattai" flour, and granola. Food service sectors also often use pearl barley as a rice extender to add value to their products. According to MAFF estimates, on average each year from 2020 to 2024, Japanese beer producers used 80,000 MT of barley (50,000 MT domestic, 30,000 MT imported); barley tea producers used 80,000 MT (50,000 MT domestic, 30,000 MT imported); and other food and shochu producers used 210,000 MT (120,000 MT domestic, 90,000 MT imported). However, food barley consumption has shown a long-term declining trend, driven by factors such as fewer after-work drinking gatherings since the COVID-19 pandemic and reduced alcohol consumption among younger consumers.

Pale lager is by far the most popular alcoholic beverage in Japan, with the vast majority produced by four major breweries: Asahi, Kirin, Sapporo, and Suntory. In addition to standard beer, low-malt beer, called happo-shu, was introduced in the mid-1990s to target price-sensitive consumers and avoid Japan's notoriously high beer tax. According to NTA, recent beer sales are approximately 60 percent of 1994 levels, when Japan recorded peak sales.

Figure 6.
Monthly Beer, Beer-Like Drinks and Shochu Sales



Source: [NTA](#)

In April 2025, all major breweries simultaneously raised the shipping prices for their beer products. Consumer hoarding followed, and sales of beer and beer-like products were somewhat depressed afterward, weakening beer production and barley consumption in MY 2024/25. On September 29, 2025, Asahi, which accounts for about 40 percent of Japan's beer market, suffered a major ransomware cyberattack that crippled its ordering and shipping systems, forcing the brewer to temporarily halt operations across most of its 30 factories in Japan. Full recovery of the distribution system took five to six months, as shown in Figure 6. In addition, a cloudy and cooler summer in 2026 negatively affected beer sales. As a result, beer production and barley malt consumption were even weaker in MY 2025/26.

However, two tailwinds are expected to support beer production in MY 2026/27. Beer and low-malt happo-shu have, until September 2026, been subject to different liquor tax rates ([JA2025-](#)

[0013](#)). Starting in October 2026, these tax rates will be unified: for a single 350 ml can, the beer tax will decrease by 9.1 yen (from 63.4 yen to 54.3 yen), while the happo-shu tax will increase by 7.3 yen (also reaching 54.3 yen). As a result, Japanese consumers will perceive beer prices as moving downward and happo-shu prices as moving upward, boosting beer sales and, in turn, barley consumption. Additionally, starting in April 2027, the consumption tax on beer sold at grocery stores will decrease from 8 percent to 1 percent ([JA2026-0055](#)), further increasing beer sales and barley consumption.

Roasted barley tea, which contains no caffeine, is enjoyed by people of all ages, particularly when served chilled. During hot summer months, it is commonly brewed at home from barley tea packs and kept refrigerated in many households. Bottled barley tea drinks have also seen a sharp rise recently in sales, becoming a staple item in vending machines and convenience stores. However, the cloudy, cool summer of 2026 temporary reduced strong barley tea demand in MY 2025/26.

As rice prices surged in MY 2025/26, restaurant demand for hull-less barley as a rice extender increased significantly. This demand is expected to level off as rice prices decline in MY 2026/27.

As barley planting areas remain largely constant, seed consumption is expected to stay stable.

Feed Consumption

Japan uses Australian and Canadian barley, as well as domestic off-grade barley, for feed. However, FAS/Tokyo projects that feed barley consumption will decrease to 990,000 MT in MY 2025/26 and further decrease to 980,000 MT in MY 2026/27, reflecting a decline in Japan's cattle herd.

According to year-to-date MAFF feed statistics through June 2026, Japanese livestock farmers will consume approximately 920,000 MT of feed barley in MY 2025/26, a 3.6 percent decrease from MY 2024/25. Beef cattle account for approximately 85 percent of feed barley consumption in Japan. For many Japanese cattle farmers, developing optimal marbling is a top priority in Wagyu beef, and they consistently feed their cattle barley to produce the pure white, rich, melt-in-your-mouth fat Wagyu is known for. As shown in Figure 1 in the Corn section, cattle derive 11 percent of their metabolizable energy from barley. Barley accounted for 3.9 percent of total gross energy in Japanese feed consumption in MY 2024/25, declining to 3.8 percent in MY 2025/26.

In Japanese society today, dietary restrictions for meat are generally uncommon. Food inflation and declining real disposable income have prompted price-sensitive consumers to increasingly shift from beef to more economical pork and chicken. The weakened consumer demand for beef further suppressed beef cattle inventories in MY 2025/26 and now MY 2026/27, reinforcing the

downward trend in feed barley consumption. To learn more about Japanese cattle production, please see the [Japan Livestock and Products Annual](#).

Trade

Barley is a state-traded commodity, and Japan relies on imports for about 85 percent of its barley consumption. Post estimates Japan's MY 2025/26 barley imports at 1,130,000 MT, a 0.9 percent decline from the previous MY. Post forecasts MY 2026/27 barley imports will further decrease to 1,110,000 MT, as feed demand remains weak. See detailed trade figures and recent trends in Table 5.

In general, Japan imports two-row hulled barley for beer malt and shochu from Australia, six-row hulled barley for barley tea and other uses from Canada, and hull-less barley for use as a rice extender from the United States.

Table 5.

Barley Supply by Country of Origin

(unit: 1000 MT)

MY (Oct-Sep)		2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26e
Total Supply		1,354	1,419	1,461	1,435	1,324	1,356
Domestic Production		222	235	233	232	186	228
Total Imports		1,132	1,185	1,228	1,203	1,138	1,130
Feed Barley	Sub Total	952	1,029	1,060	1,065	1,003	1,010
	Australia	893	1,029	1,041	826	555	190
	Canada	59	-	19	238	448	802
Food Barley	Sub Total	179	156	168	138	135	120
	USA	13	14	7	5	11	19
	Australia	111	102	119	85	92	65
	Canada	55	39	42	48	33	37
Seed Barley		0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2

Note: 2025/26 estimation is based on October 2025-July 2026 YTD data.

Sources: [MOE](#), [MAFF](#)

Stocks

Post projects that Japan's food barley stocks will have recovered to 135,000 MT by the end of MY 2025/26. Barley stocks in MY 2026/27 are expected to remain stable and unchanged.

Feed millers hold around 60,000-80,000 MT of barley stocks. As feed demand from cattle was weak in MY 2024/25, barley stocks held by feed millers increased from 66,897 MT at the end of September 2024 to 78,899 MT by the end of September 2025, according to MAFF feed statistics.

Domestic barley production was poor in MY 2024/25, prompting Japanese food processors to draw heavily on old-crop food barley from stocked inventory. As a result, food barley stocks were depleted significantly in MY 2024/25. As food barley demand was unexpectedly weak in MY 2025/26, despite good barley production, food barley stock levels are expected to recover to their original level. Barley production in MY 2026/27 is forecast to be normal, so FAS/Tokyo expects food barley ending stocks will be stable.

Wheat

Table 6.

Wheat Production, Supply and Distribution

Wheat Market Year Begins Japan	2024/2025		2025/2026		2026/2027	
	Jul 2024		Jul 2025		Jul 2026	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Harvested (1000 HA)	232	232	230	230	232	222
Beginning Stocks (1000 MT)	1,094	1,094	1,121	1,082	1,220	1,085
Production (1000 MT)	1,069	1,029	1,059	1,031	1,130	1,022
MY Imports (1000 MT)	5,573	5,519	5,714	5,651	5,550	5,500
TY Imports (1000 MT)	5,573	5,519	5,714	5,651	5,550	5,500
Total Supply (1000 MT)	7,736	7,642	7,894	7,764	7,900	7,607
MY Exports (1000 MT)	335	335	319	319	340	320
TY Exports (1000 MT)	335	335	319	319	340	320
Feed and Residual (1000 MT)	730	775	780	840	750	780
FSI Consumption (1000 MT)	5,550	5,450	5,575	5,520	5,600	5,420
Total Consumption (1000 MT)	6,280	6,225	6,355	6,360	6,350	6,200
Ending Stocks (1000 MT)	1,121	1,082	1,220	1,085	1,210	1,087
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	7,736	7,642	7,894	7,764	7,900	7,607
Yield (MT/HA)	4.61	4.44	4.60	4.48	4.9	4.6
(1000 HA), (1000 MT), (MT/HA)						
MY = Marketing Year, begins with the month listed at the top of each column. MY 2026/2027 = July 2026 - June 2027						
TY = Trade Year, which for Wheat begins in July for all countries. TY 2026/2027 = July 2026 - June 2027						
OFFICIAL DATA CAN BE ACCESSED AT: PSD Online Advanced Query						

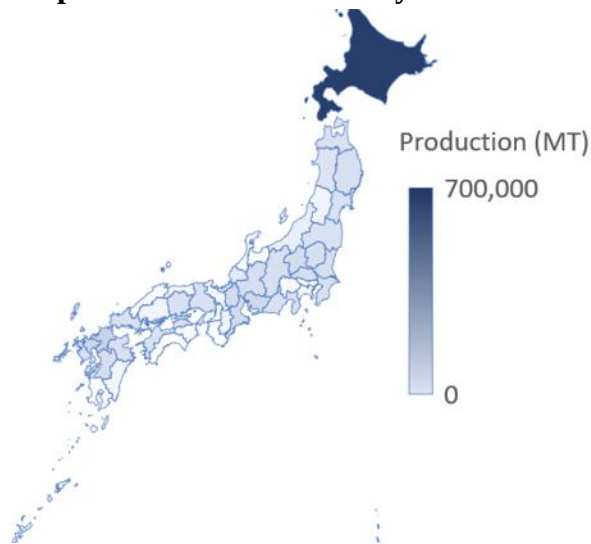
Production

Post forecasts the MY 2026/27 area harvested for wheat will decrease to 222,000 ha, as some rice farmers continue prioritizing rice production on their paddies. Assuming a yield of 4.6 MT/ha, production is forecast at 1,022,000 MT in MY 2026/27, a 1 percent decline from the previous MY. For MY 2026/27, many reports indicate the wheat yield in Hokkaido was average or somewhat better.

Official MAFF crop data show the MY 2025/26 wheat harvested area was 229,600 ha, a 0.9 percent decrease from the previous MY. According to MAFF, MY 2025/26 wheat production totaled 1,031,000 MT, largely unchanged from the previous MY, with a yield of 4.5 MT/ha.

As rice prices stayed high, some rice farmers have switched back to table rice production on their paddies. According to MAFF, wheat planted on paddy fields will total 86,000 ha in 2026, down from 95,000 ha in 2025. As shown in Figure 7, Hokkaido is Japan's leading wheat region. Since most wheat in Hokkaido is grown on dry fields, it does not compete with rice production. Some rice farmers in Kyushu and the Pacific regions practice double cropping with winter wheat; rice prices do not affect this double-cropped wheat either.

Figure 7.
Map of Wheat Production by Prefecture in MY 2025/26



Source: [MAFF](#), GeoNames, Microsoft, Zenrin

It is important to note the wheat MY begins in July, differing from the MYs for corn, sorghum, and barley.

Consumption

Food, Seed, and Industrial (FSI) Consumption

Post projects FSI consumption will fall to 5.4 million MT in MY 2026/27, down from 5.5 million MT in MY 2025/26, a 1.8 percent decline. According to MAFF, the resale price of wheat will rise by 12 percent from October 2026. Meanwhile, rice prices are expected to continue falling. As a result, consumers are likely to shift toward more rice and less wheat in MY 2026/27.

In MY 2024/25 and MY 2025/26, high rice prices drove a shift from rice to wheat consumption. However, prices for the new MY 2026/27 rice crop dropped suddenly, while global wheat prices have been climbing since the start of 2026, prompting MAFF to announce it will raise the resale price of state-traded wheat to the four biggest millers by 12 percent from October 2026 through March 2027. As such, FAS/Tokyo predicts the boost in demand for wheat caused by high rice prices will largely dissipate in MY 2026/27.

On average over the last five years, MAFF reported domestic wheat millers used 5,370,000 MT of wheat to supply flour to businesses and households, while food processors, such as soy sauce and miso manufacturers, directly used approximately 100,000 MT. Please see FAS/Tokyo's overview of food-grade soybean use in Japan ([JA2021-0040](#)) for details of how these food processors utilize wheat. It is also worth noting that some off-grade wheat flour produced by Japanese wheat millers is consumed by the feed industry.

Table 7 shows Japanese wheat flour types, their primary uses, and main wheat type.

Table 7.

Flour Types and Main Uses in Japan

Flour Type	Protein Content	Primary Uses	Main Wheat Type
Strong Flour (Bread)	11.5-13.0%	bread	DNS, HRW, CW
Semi-Strong Flour	10.5-12.5%	ramen noodles, dumpling wrappers	DNS, HRW, PH
Medium Flour (All-Purpose)	7.5–10.5%	udon noodles, instant noodles, snacks, confectionery	ASW, Domestic
Soft Flour (Cake)	6.5–9.0%	cakes, confectionery, tempura batter, snacks	WW
Durum Semolina	11.0-14.0%	pasta	DRM

Note: U.S. Dark Northern Spring (DNS), U.S. Hard Red Winter (HRW), U.S. Western White (WW), Canadian Western Red Spring (CW), Canadian Durum (DRM), Australian Prime Hard (PH), Australian Standard White (ASW). Source: [MAFF](#)

According to MIC, Japan's population was 122.7 million as of March 2026, a 4.2 percent decline from its peak in 2008. At the same time, the number of non-Japanese residents reached a record high of 3.8 million, accounting for 3.1 percent of the total population. However, overall carbohydrate consumption is expected to continue declining, as some foreign residents do not share the same rice-eating habits as native Japanese but tend to consume more wheat-based foods. Meanwhile, a weak Japanese yen helped drive a record 42.7 million inbound tourists in 2025, a 15 percent increase over 2024, according to the Japan National Tourism Organization. These visitors, for example, enjoy Japanese signature foods like ramen noodles and *tamago sando* (egg sandwiches), in addition to purchasing large quantities of perishable snack items from *conbinis* (convenience stores) and souvenir shops. While previously treated as anecdotal, official statistics now appear to confirm these trends. Post predicts that wheat demand will maintain an overall upward trend in the long run, though short-term fluctuations may occur due to relative price movements and rice supply conditions.

As wheat planting areas remain largely constant, seed consumption is expected to stay stable.

Feed Consumption

In line with expectations of increased feed rice use in MY 2026/27, FAS/Tokyo forecasts feed wheat consumption will decline to 780,000 MT in wheat grain equivalent (WGE¹), similar to MY 2024/25 levels.

Japanese feed millers use designated imported feed wheat, off-grade domestic wheat, and off-grade wheat flour for feed. According to MAFF feed statistics, compound feed millers consumed

¹ 1 MT of wheat flour, pasta, couscous and bulgur = 1.368 MT of Wheat Grain

at least 827,989 MT WGE of wheat and wheat flour in MY 2025/26, a significant 8.2 percent increase from the previous MY (Table 8). After adding estimates for missing data, particularly from the pet food and aquaculture industries, FAS/Tokyo estimates total MY 2025/26 feed and residual consumption of wheat was 840,000 MT, the highest level in recent history. Due to a significant decline in feed rice use, feed millers increased feed wheat consumption, still favoring wheat over sorghum.

Separately, Japanese compound feed millers annually consume about 1 million MT of wheat bran, a by-product of wheat flour milling.

Table 8.

Feed Consumption by Compound Feed Manufacturers

(unit: 1000 MT)

Wheat MY (Jul-Jun)	2020/21	2021/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26
Wheat	377	466	490	458	457	507
Wheat Flour*	203	216	210	216	225	234
Total (MT WGE)	655	761	777	754	765	828
Wheat Bran	975	1,006	1,017	1,024	1,002	1,019
Corn	11,945	11,605	11,308	11,474	11,771	12,257
Sorghum	324	261	219	156	91	69
Rice	1,040	1,297	1,385	1,324	990	648

* Total wheat (MT WGE) = wheat volume + wheat flour volume * 1.368

Source: [MAFF Feed Statistics](#)

Trade

Imports

Wheat is a state-traded commodity, and Japan relies on imports for roughly 85 percent of its wheat consumption. Post predicts Japanese wheat imports will drop to 5,500,000 MT in MY 2026/27 as rice supply increases. In MY 2025/26, Japan imported 5,370,000 MT of wheat. Including wheat flour, noodles and pasta, couscous, and bulgur, Japan imported 5,651,000 MT WGE, a 2.4 percent increase from the previous MY's 5,519,000 MT WGE, as both food and feed demand remained strong.

Under harmonized system (HS) code 1902.19, subcode 1902.19.010 covers rice noodles and subcode 1902.19.099 covers noodles and vermicelli made from mung beans, potatoes, and tapioca starch, as well as pasta made from non-gluten or high-protein non-wheat ingredients. As these noodle and pasta categories are not wheat-based, FAS/Tokyo has excluded 1902.19.010 and 1902.19.099 from PSD Table 6 import values.

Exports

Post predicts Japanese wheat exports will remain unchanged in MY 2026/27. In MY 2025/26, Japan exported 318,519 MT WGE, a 4.9 percent decrease from the previous MY. Wheat flour accounted for approximately 80 percent of Japan's wheat exports. High-quality Japanese wheat

flour, valued as a premium processed product, is steadily exported mainly to Asian markets for use in boutique bakeries. Wheat flour exports to China totaled 47,950 MT WGE in MY 2024/25 but dropped to 35,828 MT WGE in MY 2025/26.

Although not covered in the PSD (Table 6), Japan also exported 36,707 MT of baked bread, pastry, and snack products (HS: 1905.90), which rely heavily on wheat flour, in MY 2025/26. This is the third-largest food export category from Japan by value, at \$375 million.

Stocks

Post expects wheat stock levels to remain stable in the coming marketing year.

Rice

Table 9.
Milled Rice Production, Supply and Distribution

Rice, Milled Market Year Begins	2024/2025		2025/2026		2026/2027	
	Nov 2024		Nov 2025		Nov 2026	
Japan	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Harvested (1000 HA)	1,458	1,458	1,471	1,471	1,458	1,486
Beginning Stocks (1000 MT)	1,598	2,220	1,631	1,970	1,850	2,486
Milled Production (1000 MT)	7,294	7,153	7,484	7,293	7,380	7,370
Rough Production (1000 MT)	10,019	10,024	10,280	10,266	10,137	10,305
Milling Rate (.9999)	.7280	.7136	.7280	.7104	.7280	.7152
MY Imports (1000 MT)	839	839	750	751	700	686
TY Imports (1000 MT)	862	862	750	793	700	670
Total Supply (1000 MT)	9,731	10,212	9,865	10,014	9,930	10,542
MY Exports (1000 MT)	50	72	65	66	80	80
TY Exports (1000 MT)	50	73	65	70	80	85
Consumption & Residual (1000 MT)	8,050	8,170	7,950	7,462	8,000	7,940
Ending Stocks (1000 MT)	1,631	1,970	1,850	2,486	1,850	2,522
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	9,731	10,212	9,865	10,014	9,930	10,542
Yield (Rough) (MT/HA)	6.87	6.88	6.99	6.98	6.95	6.93
(1000 HA), (1000 MT), (MT/HA)						
MY = Marketing Year, begins with the month listed at the top of each column. MY 2026/2027 = November 2026 - October 2027						
TY = Trade Year, which for Rice, Milled begins in January for all countries. TY 2026/2027 = January 2027 - December 2027						
OFFICIAL DATA CAN BE ACCESSED AT: PSD Online Advanced Query						

Note: Except for Rough Production and Yield (Rough), all rice quantities in PSD are expressed in milled rice equivalent.

It is important to note that the rice MY begins in November, differing from the MYs for corn, sorghum, barley, and wheat. Rice quantities in MAFF data are generally expressed in brown rice equivalent, but FAS/Tokyo converts them to milled rice equivalent as needed in this report.

Production

According to the MAFF Planting Intentions Survey as of June 2026, Japan's MY 2026/27 rice harvested area will be 1,486,000 ha, larger than the previous year (Table 10) and slightly above the [previous report](#) at 7.4 million MT (milled basis). Overall rice production in MY 2026/27 is expected to be marginally higher than in the previous year's 7.3 million MT, driven mainly by increases to non-table rice production.

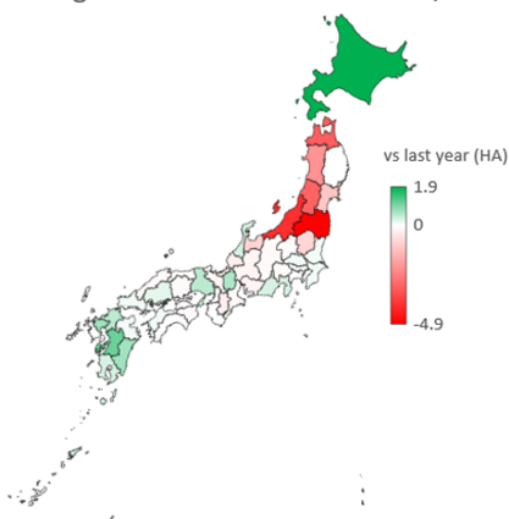
Based on the MAFF Progress and Condition Survey as of August 15 (Figure 8) and expectations of waterlogging damage in early September from heavy rains, FAS/Tokyo forecasts that rice yield in MY 2026/27 will be 5.6 MT brown rice equivalent (BR-eq) per ha, or 6.9 MT milled rice equivalent (MR-eq), similar to yield for MY 2025/26.

Post's MY 2026/27 rice production forecast reflects the five-year average milling rate (Table 11). In recent years, milling rates have been declining because of cracking from overgrown grains and quality deterioration from heat damage.

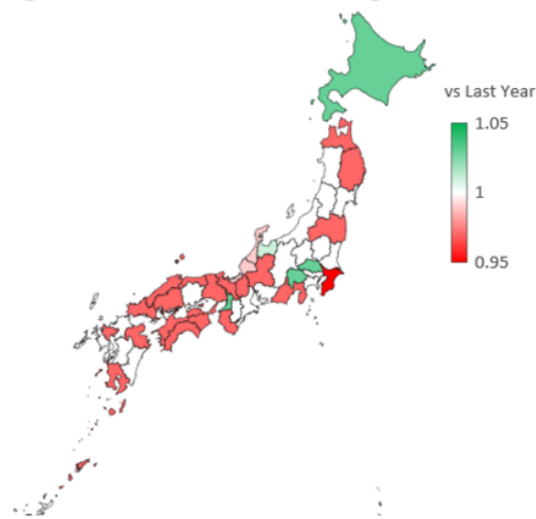
Figure 8.

Maps of Planting Areas and Expected Yield Changes from MY 2025/26 by Prefectures

Change in Area Planted in MY 2026/27



Progress and Condition as of Aug 15, 2026



Source: [MAFF](#), GeoNames, Microsoft, Zenrin

During the MY 2026/27 planting season (spring 2026), it was already clear that table rice stock levels were very high and rice prices were on track to fall. However, because the majority of rice farmers made decent profits in the previous year, they decided to continue planting rice on their paddies. Based on the Planting Intentions Survey, feed rice planting area declined significantly to 26,000 ha; table rice planting area declined marginally to 1,360,000 ha; and planting area of other rice, including rice for inventory stocks, processors, exports, and flour, increased to 100,000 ha in MY 2026/27 (Table 10). Accordingly, Japan's total rice planting area increased marginally to 1,486,000 ha. As shown in the left map in Figure 8, Hokkaido and Kyushu

especially expanded rice planting areas, while Tohoku and Chubu decreased planting area from the previous year shown in Figure 9.

Because Japan experienced a favorably long monsoon season, weather conditions in summer 2026 were suitable for rice farming. The results of the MAFF Progress and Condition Survey as of August 15, shown in the right map in Figure 8, support this view. In MY 2026/27, rice yields in top rice-growing regions, such as Hokkaido, western Tohoku and Niigata, northern Kanto, and the Tsukushi Plain and Kumamoto in Kyushu, are expected to be the same as or better than the previous MY.

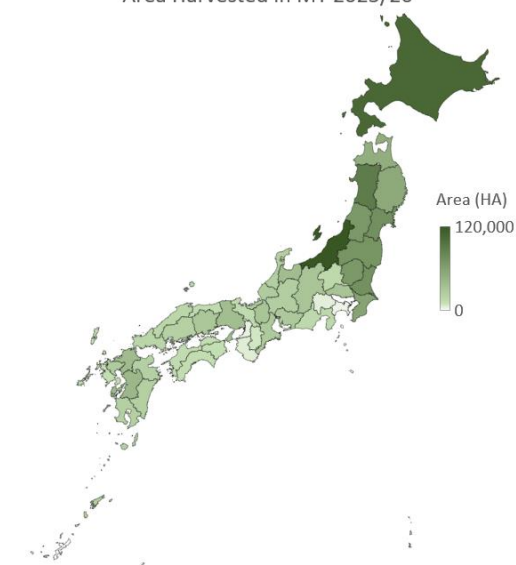
Table 10.
Japan's Rice Harvested Area and Brown Rice Production

MY	Harvested Area (1,000 ha)					Brown Rice Production (MMT-BReq)						
	Paddy Field			Dry Rice	Total	Paddy Field			Dry Rice	Off-Grade	Total	Brown Rice Yield (MT/ha)
	Table	Feed	Others			Table	Feed	Others				
2021/22	1,303	116	100	0.6	1,520	7.01	0.66	0.56	0.0	0.19	8.42	5.54
2022/23	1,251	142	104	0.5	1,498	6.70	0.80	0.57	0.0	0.19	8.26	5.51
2023/24	1,242	134	102	0.4	1,478	6.61	0.74	0.56	0.0	0.11	8.02	5.43
2024/25	1,259	99	100	0.3	1,458	6.79	0.52	0.55	0.0	0.15	8.01	5.49
2025/26	1,367	46	58	0.3	1,471	7.47	0.25	0.32	0.0	0.17	8.21	5.58
2026/27e	1,360	26	100	0.3	1,486	7.40	0.14	0.54	0.0	0.16	8.24	5.55

Note: "Table" rice includes rice for sake. Others on paddy fields include rice for contingency stocks, for food processing (e.g., snacks), for export, and for rice flour. MY2026/27e is estimated by FAS/Tokyo relying on MAFF surveys.

Source: [MAFF](#)

Figure 9.
Map of Rice Harvested Areas by Prefectures in MY 2025/26
Area Harvested in MY 2025/26



Source: [MAFF](#), GeoNames, Microsoft, Zenrin

Post has revised down the MY 2025/26 rice production estimate to 7,293,000 MT (milled basis) based on updated official data for brown rice production (Table 10) and the actual milling rate (Table 11).

Because MAFF publishes statistics on a brown rice basis, FAS/Tokyo uses the five-year average conversion rate from brown rice to milled rice of 89.4 percent (Table 11) for forecasting. Rice bran, a milling byproduct, is an important feed ingredient, and rice bran oil accounts for approximately 5 percent of Japanese vegetable oil consumption ([JA2026-0016](#)). Given that MAFF generally uses 80 percent as the conversion rate from rough rice to brown rice, Japan's milling rate from rough rice to milled rice in MY 2026/27 is 71.5 percent, significantly lower than the [previous report](#). Thus, MY 2026/27 rough rice production will be 10.3 million MT, and the yield will be 6.9 MT rough rice equivalent per ha.

Table 11.
Actual Conversion Rate from Brown Rice to Milled Rice

MY	2020/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	5yr. Average
Brown → Milled	0.897	0.903	0.900	0.886	0.892	0.888	0.894
Rough → Milled	0.718	0.722	0.720	0.709	0.714	0.710	0.715

Note: MAFF data are generally expressed in brown rice equivalent. MAFF generally uses 0.8 as a conversion rate from rough rice to brown rice.

Source: [MAFF](#)

Consumption

Post Tokyo forecasts that MY 2026/27 rice consumption will bounce back to 7.9 million MT MR-eq as rice prices moderate from historic highs in MY 2025/26. Post has revised estimates of Japan's MY 2025/26 food and feed rice consumption down to 7.5 million MT MR-eq.

Food Consumption

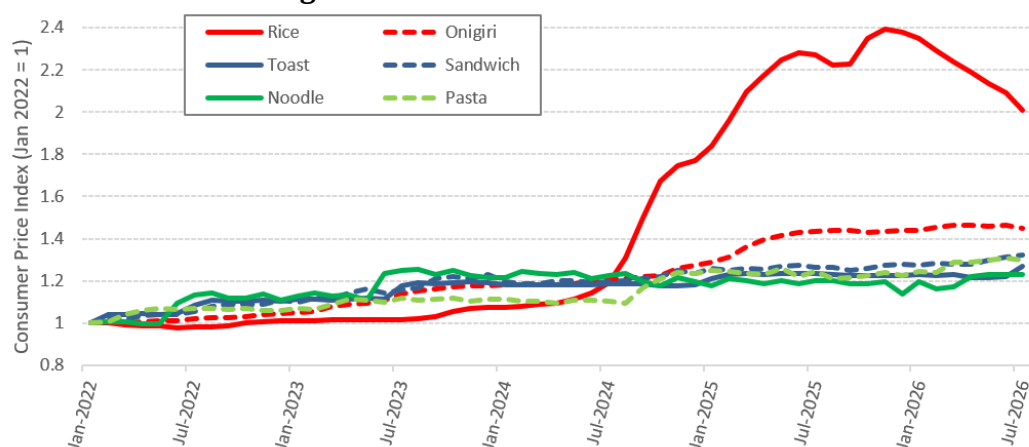
Rice had long been the traditional main source of energy in Japan, but rice consumption per capita has been declining as Japan has become economically prosperous. On average, people consumed 1,106 kcal from rice in 1960, but this declined to 475–500 kcal by the 2020s as Japanese consumers diversified their food choices. In addition, Japan's population peaked in 2008, and the society has been aging. A growing foreign resident population has partially offset the declining population, but many foreign residents eat less rice. In line with this declining rice demand, MAFF used a linear downward trend to predict future rice consumption patterns.

However, starting around spring 2022, the Japanese yen suddenly began depreciating, and global energy and food prices climbed. As a result, grocery prices for most food items in Japan, especially imported items, increased ([JA2023-0131](#)). Rice was the one exception, since its self-sufficiency rate is very high and its prices were somewhat insulated from exchange rate fluctuations and global commodity markets. This boosted rice demand in 2022 and 2023. For example, onigiri (rice ball) shops sprang up rapidly across the country. Meanwhile, the number

of inbound foreign visitors taking advantage of the weak yen spiked after the COVID-19 pandemic, and they consumed a considerable volume of food, including rice, during their stays in Japan. According to MAFF, food rice consumption by inbound tourists is estimated at 61,000 MT MR-eq in MY 2025/26 and is forecast to increase to 66,000 MT MR-eq in MY 2026/27.

As shown in Figure 10, rice prices suddenly spiked around summer 2024 (see also [JA2025-0009](#)). Media coverage fueled social anxiety, which triggered panic buying and, at times, left supermarket shelves completely empty. Households gradually increased their consumption of noodles and bread while reducing rice consumption. Businesses also adjusted: many restaurants stopped offering free rice refills, convenience stores raised the prices of their onigiri, and some consumers shifted from onigiri to sandwiches and noodles for lunch. Post estimates that food consumption of rice, including table rice, rice for food processors, and rice for sake production, dropped to 7.4 million MT MR-eq in MY 2024/25 and fell further to 6.7 million MT MR-eq in MY 2025/26.

Figure 10.
Consumer Price Changes of Main Starch Items



Source: [MIC](#)

Japanese consumers naturally want rice prices as low as possible, while farmers generally benefit from high prices. Some citizens, and even some experts, mistakenly believe the government can freely control rice prices. Arbitrageurs predicted that the government would move slowly and allow high rice prices to persist. As rice prices spiked, the approval rating of the then-Ishiba administration continued to fall. In September 2025, Ishiba announced his resignation, and Sanae Takaichi became Japan's first female Prime Minister. The Takaichi administration places a high priority on measures against rising prices and has specifically emphasized efforts to curb both gasoline ([JA2025-0063](#)) and rice prices. However, most rice farmers, long a core support base for the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), are concerned about reduced revenue from falling rice prices. In its FY 2025 Annual White Paper on Agriculture, MAFF candidly acknowledged several factors that contributed to the crisis ([JA2026-0036](#)). The ministry will need to strike a delicate balance amid these conflicting interests.

With stock levels remaining very high, prices for MY 2026/27 new-crop rice have dropped significantly. As businesses adjust retail prices accordingly, FAS/Tokyo forecasts that table rice and other food rice consumption will recover partway to 7.1 million MT MR-eq in MY 2026/27.

Feed Consumption

Between March and September 2025, the government sold 590,000 MT BR-eq from contingency reserves to ease retail rice prices ([JA2026-0015](#)). This measure reduced the feed rice supply from contingency reserves, and imported rice was sold as food. As a result, feed rice consumption by compound feed manufacturers has remained low for two years: 774,000 MT MR-eq in MY 2024/25 and 770,000 MT MR-eq in MY 2025/26, based on MAFF feed statistics (Table 12). In addition, approximately 80,000 MT MR-eq of feed rice is sold directly to livestock farms.

Because stock levels will remain high in MY 2026/27, many industry observers expect that the Government of Japan will release some old and imported rice to feed manufacturers to reduce inventory in the second half of MY 2026/27. Accordingly, FAS/Tokyo forecasts that feed rice consumption will increase to 950,000 MT BR-eq in MY 2026/27, which will have ramifications for the volumes of feed corn and feed wheat consumption in MY 2026/27. However, since it remains uncertain whether the government can make this decision to release imported rice stocks quickly during MY 2026/27, upward revisions may be needed to feed corn consumption in Table 1 and feed wheat consumption in Table 6.

Table 12.

Annual Feed Rice Consumption by Feed Millers

(unit: 1000 MT)

MY (Nov-Oct)	2020/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26e
Brown Rice	1,150	1,315	1,412	1,240	867	867
calc. to Milled Rice	1,032	1,187	1,271	1,099	774	770
Corn	11,714	11,543	11,283	11,582	11,967	11,967
Wheat	695	765	779	749	780	780
Sorghum	299	249	201	131	82	82
Rice Bran	60	61	63	57	59	59
Low-Fat Rice Bran	193	184	203	234	208	208

Note: Conversion rates from brown rice to milled rice are based on Table 10. 2025/26e is YTD estimates from November to June 2026. Low-fat rice bran is left over after rice bran oil is extracted from rice bran.

Source: [MAFF Feed Statistics](#)

Trade

Imports

Because Japan's stock level is quite high, FAS/Tokyo forecasts that Japan will satisfy only the minimum rice import obligation in MY 2026/27. Rice is a state-traded commodity, and Japan's World Trade Organization Tariff-Rate Quota (WTO TRQ) obligation, commonly referred to as minimum access (MA) rice, is 686,000 MT MR-eq. In addition, under the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), Japan imports 7,200 tons of rice

from Australia through the Simultaneous Buy and Sell (SBS) system. The Government of Japan manages MA rice to avoid affecting the domestic rice market. Imported rice is used mainly in processed foods, as well as for feed and food aid.

A rice shortage pushed demand for foreign rice imports beyond the MA obligation in the last two MYs. Japan imported 839,023 MT of USDA-MRE² in MY 2024/25 and is expected to import 751,000 MT USDA-MRE in MY 2025/26, based on trade statistics. Because imported rice is grown in foreign countries, this import volume uses the USDA MRE conversion rate rather than the domestic conversion rate in Table 11. Please see [JA2026-0015](#) for details on Japanese rice imports during these two MYs.

Exports

Post forecasts Japan's MY 2026/27 rice exports at 80,000 MT MR-eq, a 22 percent increase from the MY 2025/26 estimate, driven by an anticipated recovery in food aid exports from government stocks and robust commercial sales. Japanese farmers are expected to increase production of export rice to 48,634 MT MR-eq in MY 2026/27 (Table 13). It is important to note that trade statistics partially include food aid trade. Total annual food aid quantities had held steady at 400,000 MT BR-eq through MY 2024/25 but dropped to 300,000 MT BR-eq in MY 2025/26. Post expects Japan's food aid volume will recover to 400,000 MT BR-eq in MY 2026/27.

Table 13.
Japan's Annual Rice Exports and Production

Marketing Year (Nov-Oct)	2021/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26e	26/27f
Supply						
Rice for Export Area (ha)	6,748	7,248	9,091	11,246	9,003	10,000
Rice Production for Export (MT BR-eq)	36,869	39,780	49,775	61,133	49,377	54,400
Rice Production for Export (MT MR-eq)	33,293	35,802	44,101	54,531	43,847	48,634
Exports						
Rice on Trade Stats (MT MR-eq)	28,489	38,013	45,006	46,799	40,777	45,000
Est. Unrecorded Food Aid (MT MR-eq)	33,752	31,454	25,161	25,072	25,000	35,000
Total PSD Rice Exports (MT MR-eq)	62,242	69,467	70,167	71,871	65,777	80,000
Other Exports not on PSD						
Cooked Rice (MT)	1,303	1,521	2,189	2,799	2,836	--
Rice Flour (MT)	156	56	105	80	104	--
Rice Snacks (MT)	4,503	4,518	4,761	4,209	4,000	--
Sake (KL)	36,674	29,796	30,070	33,664	32,400	--
Total Other Exports (MT MR-eq)	22,883	19,336	19,716	21,497	20,653	21,000

Note: Estimated unrecorded food aid by subtracting the food aid volume that recorded in trade statistics from the total estimated food aid volume. 1 MT of cooked rice, rice flour and rice snacks and 1 KL of sake contain 0.53 MT, 1.24 MT, 0.85 MT and 0.56 MT of brown rice, respectively. Sources: [MOF](#), [MAFF](#)

² USDA MRE conversion rates to milled equivalent from rough rice is 0.7 and from brown rice is 0.875.

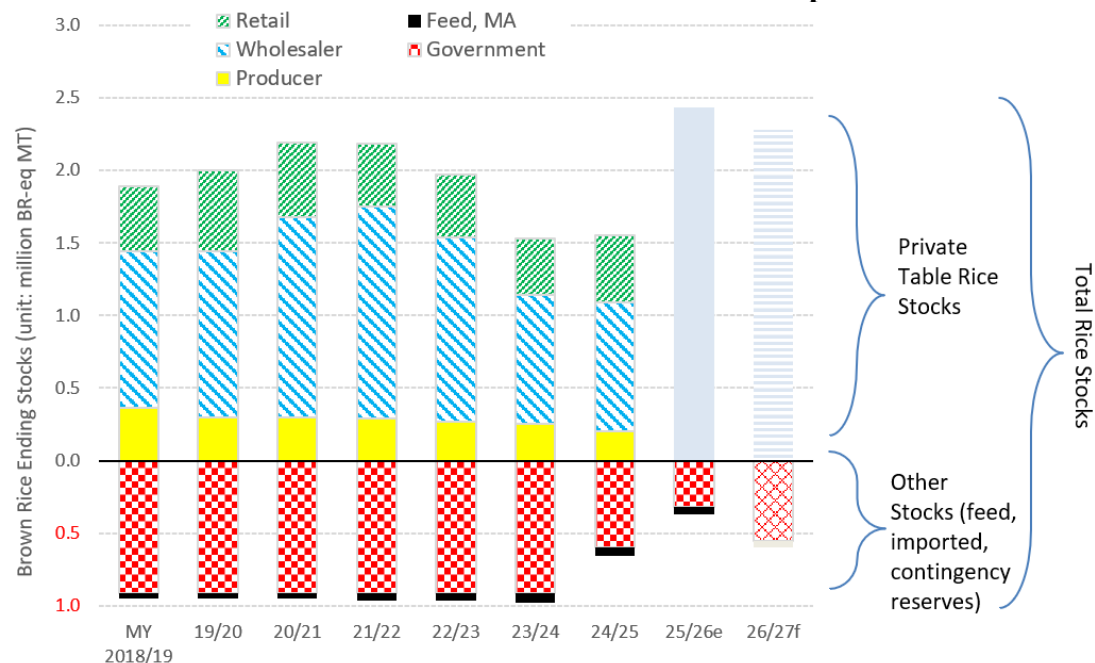
Although the PSD table export value (Table 9) does not include processed rice products, Japan has increased exports of food products made from rice as an ingredient, including aseptic-packaged pre-cooked rice, rice flour, rice crackers and snacks, and sake. In MY 2025/26, FAS/Tokyo estimates that about 20,653 MT MR-eq of rice was additionally used in these exported items.

Stocks

Post estimates that ending rice stocks for MY 2026/27 will increase to 2.5 million MT MR-eq, a marginal increase from MY 2025/26 ending stocks. According to the Japan Rice and Rice Industry Stabilization Association, table rice stocks held by the private sector at the end of MY 2024/25 were 1.6 million MT BR-eq, but this climbed to 2.4 million MT BR-eq by the end of MY 2025/26 (Figure 11).

Government stock reserves remained stable at 910,000 MT BR-eq through the beginning of MY 2024/25. However, to suppress retail rice prices, the government gradually sold a total of 590,000 MT BR-eq to distributors, wholesalers, retailers, and food service operators between March and September 2025 ([JA2026-0015](#)). Government-held rice stock reserves stood at 600,000 MT BR-eq at the end of MY 2024/25 and declined further to 320,000 MT BR-eq by the end of MY 2025/26 (Figure 11).

Figure 11.
Stock Levels of Food and Feed Brown Rice before New Crop Introduction



Note: These rice stock numbers do not include household and business hoarding or stocks by food processors.

Source: [MAFF](#), [Japan Rice and Rice Industry Stabilization Association](#)

According to an announcement from MAFF, the government will gradually repurchase 210,000 MT BR-eq of private rice stocks into government reserves starting in fall 2026. Because the rice

would simply move from private stocks to government stocks, this repurchase will not affect total stock volumes. Many stakeholders in rice production want the government to repurchase private rice stocks more aggressively and restore government reserves to normal levels, around 910,000 MT, in order to prevent rice prices from falling. However, many consumer stakeholders hold the opposite view.

In addition, Japanese feed millers consistently hold 50,000-60,000 MT BR-eq of feed brown rice. The Japan Rice and Rice Industry Stabilization Association also estimates that the average household holds about 6.0-6.7 kg of rice, though FAS/Tokyo does not include this quantity in PSD rice stock figures.

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Attachments:

No Attachments