



Foreign Agricultural Service

**GAIN Report**

Global Agriculture Information Network

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## Japan

### Oilseeds and Products

## January -October Soybean Imports Show Modest Growth

1999

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#### Report Highlights:

**Japan's trade data for January -October 1999 shows a 4.8 percent increase in soybean imports from the United States compared to the same period last year. Imports from all sources were up by 3.7 percent to reach 4 million metric tons. There was a notable increase in Canadian soybean imports which rose 60.3 percent. Also up were imports from Brazil which rose 16.1 percent to reach 531,757 metric tons.**

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Includes PSD changes: No

Includes Trade Matrix: No

Unscheduled Report

Tokyo[JA1], JA

According to Ministry of Finance trade data for January-October 1999, U.S. soybean imports were up 4.8 percent

compared to the same period last year amounting to 3.2 million metric tons. Imports from all sources were up by 3.7 percent compared to the same period last year to reach 4 million metric tons. There was a notable increase in Canadian soybean imports which rose 60.3 percent to reach 127,283 metric tons. Also up were imports from Brazil which rose 16.1 percent to reach 531,757 metric tons.

It is estimated that of Japan's total annual soybean imports (about 5 million metric tons), food soybean imports amount to one million metric tons (please note, there is no separate HS code or trade category for food-use soybeans, so estimates are based on industry information). The United States maintains a 80 percent market share in food-use soybean imports. However, as a result of the Government of Japan's announcement (August 1999) to introduce mandatory labeling for certain GMO products beginning 2001, many Japanese trading companies, food manufactures and supermarkets have announced plans to shift to non-GMO foods and food ingredients. Details of the January-October 1999 soybean trade are shown in the following table.

**Japan's Soybean Imports  
During Jan - Oct Period  
(Metric Tons)**

	Jan-Oct 1997	Jan-Oct 1998	Jan-Oct 1999	% Change	
				98/97	99/98
United States	3,169,991	3,008,019	3,153,617	-5.11	4.84
Brazil	519,438	458,068	531,757	-11.81	16.09
Canada	74,710	79,428	127,283	6.32	60.25
China	145,321	120,332	118,775	-17.20	-1.29
Paraguay	209,477	209,899	78,370	0.20	-62.66
Argentina	29,813	26,123	26,275	-12.38	0.58
Others	20,047	1,743	10,261	-91.31	488.70
TOTAL	4,168,797	3,903,612	4,046,338	-6.36	3.66