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## Thailand

### Potatoes and Potato Products

### Potato TRQ Expanded

**2008**

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**Report Highlights:**

On August 27, 2008, the Thai Government allocated a third round for its 2008 potato import quota. Imports of U.S. chip stock potatoes are likely to increase sharply in 2008 due to price competitiveness and good quality. A technical dialogue on phytosanitary requirements for U.S. seed potatoes to Thailand remains ongoing.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Trade Report  
Bangkok [TH1]  
[TH]

On August 27, 2008, Department of Foreign Trade (DFT), Ministry of Commerce, allocated an additional tariff rate quota (TRQ) of 5,024 tons for seed potatoes. This is the third round allocation for the 2008 import quota. As a result, the total allocation for seed potatoes and chip stock potatoes are currently 7,310 tons and 32,555 tons, respectively. The details of the 2008 quota allocation are presented below:

Unit: Metric Tons

	Seed Potatoes	Chip Stock Potatoes for Processing	Total
1 <sup>st</sup> Round (Dec 28, 2007)	636	32,555	33,191
2 <sup>nd</sup> Round (May 8, 2008)	1,650	0	1,650
3 <sup>rd</sup> Round (Aug 27, 2008)	5,024	0	5,024
Total	7,310	32,555	39,865

In general, the actual amount of imports is lower than the level of allocated quota since eligible importers (three potato chip manufacturers) normally report higher than actual demand in their quota request to allow for potential domestic production shortfalls. Domestic absorption requirements for potatoes continue to apply.

According to trade sources, imports of chip stock potatoes are estimated to increase by 5 percent in 2008 from 14,701 tons in 2007 to 15-16,000 tons in response to domestic crop damage and continued growth in the potato chip market. In the meantime, imports of U.S. chip stock continued to rise in 2008 due to price competitiveness and good quality. Trade sources estimate imports of U.S. chip stock may reach 8,000-9,000 tons in 2008.

For seed potatoes, trade sources report that potato chip manufacturers, which operate contract farming for domestic chip stock production, are seeking to source U.S. seed potatoes in 2008 more heavily due to the quality of U.S. seed potatoes and short supplies from Australia and U.K. Potential sales for U.S. seed potatoes are being limited by restrictive Thai phytosanitary requirements. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), is currently engaged with Thai Plant Quarantine Officials to discuss the health protocol for U.S. seed potatoes.

Appendix

Table 1: Thailand's Imports of Seed Potatoes by Origin

Thailand Import Statistics												
Commodity: 070110, Potatoes Seed, Fresh Or Chilled												
Year To Date: January - December												
Country of Origin	Unit	Quantity					% Share					% Change 2008/2007
		2005	2006	2007	2007 (Jan-Aug)	2008 (Jan-Aug)	2005	2006	2007	2007 (Jan-Aug)	2008 (Jan-Aug)	
World	KG	5,403,700	4,682,677	3,862,793	1,122,703	916,960	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	-18.33
United Kingdom	KG	3,842,500	2,829,875	1,977,840	0	94,000	71.11	60.43	51.20	0.00	8.37	0.00
Australia	KG	1,361,250	1,504,000	1,213,000	634,500	376,000	25.19	32.12	31.40	56.52	33.49	-40.74
Canada	KG	0	0	235,000	235,000	0	0.00	0.00	6.08	20.93	0.00	-100.00
China	KG	0	158,000	231,178	228,703	252,100	0.00	3.37	5.98	20.37	22.45	10.23
Netherlands	KG	150,000	162,500	136,900	0	75,000	2.78	3.47	3.54	0.00	6.68	0.00
New Zealand	KG	50	24,240	68,875	24,500	0	0.00	0.52	1.78	2.18	0.00	-100.00
United States	KG	0	42	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Myanmar	KG	0	0	0	0	2,360	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.21	0.00
Israel	KG	49,900	0	0	0	0	0.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Philippines	KG	0	0	0	0	117,500	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.47	0.00
Laos	KG	0	4,020	0	0	0	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Table 2: Thailand's Imports of Chip Stock Potatoes for Processing by Origin

Thailand Import Statistics												
Commodity: 070190, Potatoes, Fresh Or Chilled Nes												
Year To Date: January - December												
Country of Origin	Unit	Quantity					% Share					% Change 2008/2007
		2005	2006	2007	2007 (Jan-Aug)	2008 (Jan-Aug)	2005	2006	2007	2007 (Jan-Aug)	2008 (Jan-Aug)	
World	KG	11,121,197	14,653,303	14,701,478	3,232,460	8,308,012	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	157.02
China	KG	2,810,441	7,803,030	8,671,100	3,227,382	4,282,610	25.27	53.25	58.98	99.84	51.55	32.70
Canada	KG	5,301,500	5,520,000	5,976,000	0	0	47.67	37.67	40.65	0.00	0.00	0.00
Netherlands	KG	25,000	38,750	25,000	0	0	0.22	0.26	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.00
United States	KG	21,773	877,620	19,860	0	3,768,182	0.20	5.99	0.14	0.00	45.36	0.00
Saudi Arabia	KG	0	0	0	0	208,985	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.52	0.00
Myanmar	KG	0	5,580	5,585	1,150	47,630	0.00	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.57	4041.74
Malaysia	KG	126	0	2,266	2,266	365	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.07	0.00	-83.89
Australia	KG	1,305,994	46,423	1,655	1,655	36	11.74	0.32	0.01	0.05	0.00	-97.82
Germany	KG	0	0	0	0	30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bangladesh	KG	0	0	0	0	10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Japan	KG	83	25	12	7	4	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-42.86
Laos	KG	1,656,050	306,375	0	0	0	14.89	2.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
France	KG	200	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Indonesia	KG	0	55,500	0	0	0	0.00	0.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
New Zealand	KG	30	0	0	0	160	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

End of Report.