

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** January 03,2020

**Report Number:** JA2020-0001

**Report Name:** USJTA Treatment for Beef and Beef Products

**Country:** Japan

**Post:** Tokyo

**Report Category:** Country/Regional FTA's, Product Brief, Livestock and Products

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**Report Highlights:**

The U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement (USJTA) entered into force on January 1, 2020. Once USJTA is fully implemented, nearly 90 percent of U.S. food and agricultural products imported into Japan will be duty free or receive preferential tariff access. This is one of a series of reports providing concise overviews of how the agreement affects certain product groups. Please note that the information provided is not fully comprehensive and additional details may be found in the agreement text itself. Additional information is available at [www.usdajapan.org/usjta](http://www.usdajapan.org/usjta).

**Overview:** In 2018, the United States exported \$2.1 billion of beef products to Japan, making Japan the #1 overseas market for U.S. beef. The United States accounted for nearly half of Japan’s total beef imports. Under the U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement, the United States will obtain tariff treatment for beef equal to the countries in the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership. The years below correspond to Japan’s fiscal year beginning April 1.

Product Name Japan Customs HS Code	Base Rate	Year 1 (2019)	Year 2 (2020)	Year 3 (2021)	Final Tariff (Year)	2018 Imports
Meat (chilled/frozen) 020110000, 020120000, 020130010, 020130020, 020130030, 020130090, 020210000, 020220000, 020230010, 020230020, 020230030, 020230090	38.5%	26.6%	25.8%	25.0%	9.0% (2033)	\$1,496,580,699
Tongue (chilled/frozen) 020610011, 020621000	12.8%	5.7%	5.1%	4.4%	Free (2028)	\$298,764,001
Internal organs (chilled/frozen, incl. skirts) 020610019, 020629010	12.8%	5.8%	5.3%	4.8%	Free (2030)	\$230,228,782
Frozen liver 020622000	12.8%	11.2%	10.4%	9.6%	Free (2033)	\$1,150,055
Other offal (incl. oxtail) 020629090	21.3%	18.6%	17.3%	15.9%	Free (2033)	\$1,034,869
Meat extract, juices 160300010	12.0%	8.0%	6.0%	4.0%	Free (2023)	\$466,069
Prepared beef products (incl. beef jerky) 160250510, 160250590	10.0%	8.7%	8.1%	7.5%	Free (2033)	\$84,968
Other prepared beef products (not in airtight containers, incl. meatballs) 160250999	50.0%	43.7%	40.6%	37.5%	Free (2033)	\$18,284
Other prepared beef products (in airtight containers, not chilled or frozen) 160250890	38.3%	33.5%	31.1%	28.7%	Free (2033)	\$5,460
Cheek and head meat (fresh/chilled/frozen) 020610020, 020629020	50.0%	36.8%	34.7%	32.6%	9.0% (2033)	\$0

**Safeguard:** The United States will no longer be subject to Japan’s World Trade Organization beef safeguard. Instead, Japan will apply a U.S.-specific safeguard starting at 242,000 MT, growing around one to two percent each year. If the safeguard volume is surpassed, tariffs on certain U.S. beef exports will increase for the remainder of that year. The safeguard tariff starts at 38.5% and declines over time. The safeguard will be eliminated if not triggered in the four consecutive years after 2032.

**Market Considerations:** Japan relies on imports for around 65 percent of its beef consumption. The United States is a dominant supplier, along with Australia. Consumption is trending upward, but not yet recovered to pre-2001 levels (when demand plunged following domestic detection of mad cow disease). In recent years, consumer preferences have shifted away from heavily marbled Japanese wagyu beef toward thicker, leaner cuts of imported grain-fed beef. U.S.-style steak is now readily available in family restaurants and fast-casual style eateries. In May 2019, Japan lifted longstanding age restrictions on U.S. beef, paving the way for greater imports of trimmings and offal products.

**Additional Resources:** Further details on the U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement is available at [www.usdajapan.org/usjta](http://www.usdajapan.org/usjta). Information on regulatory requirements and industry trends in the Japanese market is available in USDA Japan’s reports at <https://gain.fas.usda.gov>. For additional questions, please contact the USDA Agricultural Trade Office at [atotokyo@fas.usda.gov](mailto:atotokyo@fas.usda.gov), Tel: 81-3-3224-5115.

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.