

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: USJTA Treatment for Potatoes and Potato Products

Country: Japan

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Report Highlights:

This is one in a series of reports providing concise overviews of how the U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement (USJTA), which entered into force on January 1, 2020, affects certain product groups. Once USJTA is fully implemented, nearly 90 percent of all U.S. food and agricultural products imported into Japan will be duty free or receive preferential tariff access. 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.

Overview: In 2018, the United States exported nearly \$348 million of potatoes and potato products to Japan, making Japan the #1 overseas market for U.S. potatoes. Japan is a major importer of cooked and prepared frozen potatoes. The U.S. potato products accounted for nearly 70 percent of Japan’s total potato product imports. 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
Frozen potato products (e.g. French fries) 200410100	8.5%	4.2%	2.1%	Free	Free (2021)	\$218,403,190
Frozen, seasoned potato products (e.g., croquette) 200410220	9.0%	6.0%	4.5%	3.0%	Free (2023)	\$115,209,786
Potato flakes, granules and pellets 110520000	20.0%	13.3%	10.0%	6.6%	Free (2023)	\$28,936,418
Fresh or chilled potatoes (excl. seed potatoes) 070190000	4.3%	Free			Free (2019)	\$15,837,817
Frozen potatoes (uncooked, steamed or boiled) 071010000	8.5%	5.6%	4.2%	2.8%	Free (2023)	\$15,714,614
Potatoes (prepared or preserved) 200520220	9.0%	6.7%	5.6%	4.5%	Free (2025)	\$7,660,382
Potato flour and meal 110510000	20.0%	16.3%	14.5%	12.7%	Free (2028)	\$4,348,092
Mashed potatoes and potato flakes 200520100	13.6%	11.1%	9.8%	8.6%	Free (2028)	\$1,402,229
Crisp savory food products (made from dough based on potato powder) 190590314, 190590323	9.0%	6.0%	4.5%	3.0%	Free (2023)	\$732,640
Potatoes (prepared or preserved in airtight containers less than 10kg, no added sugar) 200520210	12.0%	8.0%	6.0%	4.0%	Free (2023)	\$355,170
Frozen mashed potatoes 200410210	13.6%	9.0%	6.8%	4.5%	Free (2023)	\$108,403

Phytosanitary Issues: In 2017, Japan lifted a ten-year ban on imports of chipping potatoes from Idaho. Currently, 16 states are eligible to export chipping potatoes to Japan. However, chipping potato shipments continue to be subject to a six-month import window (February to July) with no carry over permitted beyond October 1. U.S. potato imports are subject to further restrictions on overland transportation and ports of entry. There are no regional or seasonal restrictions on imports of processed potatoes, such as frozen French fries. U.S. table stock potatoes are not currently eligible for export to Japan.

Market Considerations: Japan’s market for U.S. potato (non-fresh) products is strong with potatoes increasing in popularity as a side-dish in Japanese cuisine. Favored for their reliable quality, uniform size, and white color, U.S. frozen French fries lead all potato export product categories. Opportunities for continued growth exist in both the food service and retail sectors, especially for frozen potato products. According to Industry estimates, between 2013-2018, Japan’s market for French fries grew annually by 3.5 percent. The Japanese retail market favors convenient, small and/or single-serve, microwavable, and/or ready-to-eat products such as fries, frozen mashed potatoes, and mixed vegetables with potatoes. The United States is the sole foreign supplier of fresh chipping potatoes in Japan.

Additional Resources: Further details are available at www.usdajapan.org/usjta/.

Attachments:

No Attachments.