

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: USJTA Treatment for Potatoes and Potato Products 2021

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Report Highlights:

The U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement (USJTA) has been in effect for 16 months, however the timing of Japan's fiscal year meant that the agreement entered "Year 3" of implementation on April 1, 2021. This report is one in a series of product briefs highlighting the tariff benefits for specific commodities and products from Year 3 (2021) to Year 5 (2023) of the agreement. Additional information is available at www.usdajapan.org/usjta/.

Overview: In 2020, the United States exported over \$342 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 3 (2021)	Year 4 (2022)	Year 5 (2023)	Final Tariff (Year)	2020 Imports from U.S.
Frozen potato products (e.g. French fries) 200410100	8.5%	Free			Free (2021)	\$230,432,339
Frozen, seasoned potato products (e.g., croquette) 200410220	9.0%	3.0%	1.5%	Free	Free (2023)	\$113,039,330
Potato flakes, granules and pellets 110520000	20.0 %	6.6%	3.3%	Free	Free (2023)	\$37,836,551
Frozen potatoes (uncooked, steamed or boiled) 071010000	8.5%	2.8%	1.4%	Free	Free (2023)	\$14,987,914
Fresh or chilled potatoes (excl. seed potatoes) 070190000	4.3%	Free			Free (2019)	\$13,268,555
Potatoes (prepared or preserved) 200520220	9.0%	4.5%	3.3%	2.2%	Free (2025)	\$8,299,203
Potato flour and meal 110510000	20.0 %	12.7%	10.9%	9.0%	Free (2028)	\$1,937,959
Crisp savory food products (made from dough based on potato powder) 190590314, 190590323	9.0%	3.0%	1.5%	Free	Free (2023)	\$1,280,133
Mashed potatoes and potato flakes 200520100	13.6 %	8.6%	7.4%	6.1%	Free (2028)	\$524,198
Potatoes (prepared or preserved in airtight containers less than 10kg, no added sugar) 200520210	12.0 %	4.0%	2.0%	Free	Free (2023)	\$486,106
Frozen mashed potatoes 200410210	13.6 %	4.5%	2.2%	Free	Free (2023)	\$119,232

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. 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 demand 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 information is available at www.usdajapan.org. For additional questions, please contact the USDA Agricultural Trade Office at atotokyo@usda.gov, Tel: 81-3-3224-5115.

Attachments:

No Attachments.