

Japan's frozen shrimp imports have increased steadily since 1966.

Japan's Frozen Shrimp Imports: 1973

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INTRODUCTION

Japan imported 117,474 metric tons of frozen shrimp worth US\$436 million in 1973. This represents a 33 percent increase in quantity and a 49 percent increase in value over 1972 imports. Table 1 shows the steady increases in Japan's shrimp imports since 1960.

Japan's shrimp imports in 1973 followed monthly import patterns set in previous years, albeit on a much higher scale, both in quantity and in value. The year began with sharply reduced imports after heavy year-end purchases in late 1972. During the second quarter imports generally increased, followed by a slack during the third quarter. During the last quarter, however, imports increased dramatically as Japanese traders began making heavy purchases designed to provide them with ample stocks for New Years celebrations when the

Japanese public consumes an enormous amount of this seafood delicacy.

Of special note is the 13,307 metric tons imported in October 1973, the highest monthly importation of shrimp on record. Also noteworthy is the steady growth of imports since 1970-71. Figure 1 provides a clear display of Japan's monthly imports of frozen shrimp, both by quantity and by value, for the period 1967-73. The graph clearly shows the increasing trend of imports during this seven-

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year period, and it also suggests the future direction of Japanese imports of frozen shrimp.

India was Japan's principal supplier of frozen shrimp in 1973 with 21,903 tons, regaining the lead from Indonesia which came in second with 18,764 tons. Thailand's exports of 9,884 tons ranked that country third. Mexico was fourth in 1973 with 8,839 tons, replacing Malaysia whose shrimp exports in 1973 were 6,537 tons.

Table 2 provides detailed statistics on Japan's monthly shrimp imports by region and by country. U.S. seafood dealers will find it useful to note when Japanese shrimp importers are most active in a particular country. The list and subsequent statistics may also provide U.S. importers with potentially new areas for supplies of shrimp.

As shown in Table 2 the countries of Southeast Asia are Japan's main

Table 1.—Japan's frozen shrimp imports, 1960-73.

| Year | Value | Quantity ⁴ |
|------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| | US\$1,000 | Kilograms |
| 1973 | 436,322 ¹ | 117,474,000 ⁵ |
| 1972 | 291,944 ¹ | 88,120,260 ⁶ |
| 1971 | 214,598 ¹ | 78,874,006 ⁶ |
| 1970 | 137,025 ² | 57,145,972 ⁶ |
| 1969 | 121,748 ² | 48,885,788 ⁶ |
| 1968 | 78,079 ² | 35,203,692 ⁶ |
| 1967 | 79,732 ² | 44,465,669 ⁶ |
| 1966 | 60,085 ² | 36,156,000 ⁶ |
| 1965 | 35,938 ² | 21,011,000 ⁶ |
| 1964 | 31,437 ² | 17,087,000 ⁶ |
| 1963 | 23,470 ³ | 11,708,000 ⁷ |
| 1962 | 6,169 ³ | 3,642,000 ⁷ |
| 1961 | 6,970 ³ | 4,058,000 ⁷ |
| 1960 | 652 ³ | unavailable |

¹Based on monthly custom clearance declarations in the "Foreign Fishery Information Releases," owing to wide fluctuations in Japanese yen values (360 yen:US\$1, 1971; 263:US\$1, 1972; and up to 300:US\$1, 1973).

²Source: Japan Exports and Imports, Commodity by Country. Based on 360 yen:US\$1.

³Source: Fisheries Statistics of Japan, 1969.

⁴Heads-off weight.

⁵Source: Japanese fishery newspapers.

⁶Source: Japan Exports and Imports, Commodity by Country (considered official).

⁷Source: Japanese trade publications.

Metric tons

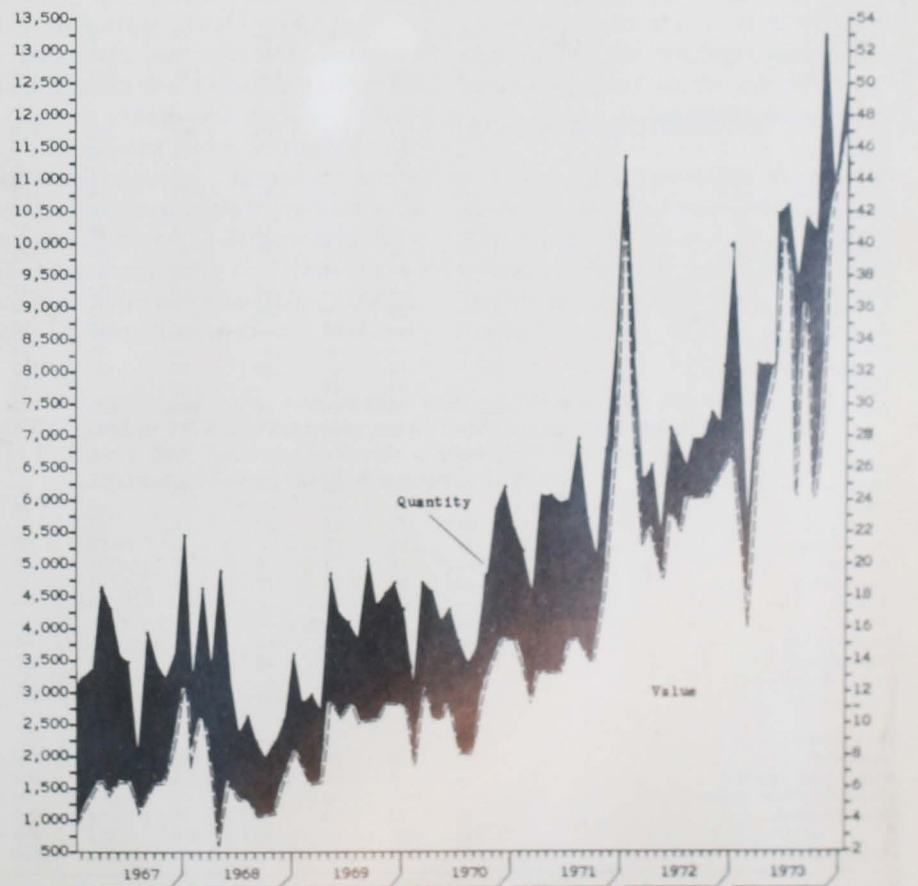


Figure 1.—Quantity and value of Japan's monthly frozen shrimp imports (1967-73).

Table 2. — Japan's monthly imports of frozen shrimp, by region, country, and by quantity, 1973.

| Region and Country | Jan. | Feb. | March | April | May | June | July | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Total |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Southeast Asia | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| South Korea | 47 | 56 | 47 | 87 | 109 | 207 | 256 | 345 | 211 | 450 | 463 | 293 | 2,571 |
| North Korea | 1 | 9 | 3 | — | 10 | 29 | — | 5 | — | 14 | 16 | 2 | 90 |
| Mainland China | 369 | 377 | 892 | 508 | 193 | 63 | 141 | 103 | 230 | 465 | 301 | 832 | 4,475 |
| Taiwan | 344 | 234 | 230 | 329 | 223 | 157 | 363 | 387 | 709 | 675 | 605 | 784 | 5,040 |
| Hong Kong | 65 | 110 | 143 | 239 | 284 | 241 | 314 | 218 | 437 | 336 | 383 | 281 | 3,052 |
| S. Vietnam | 107 | 84 | 116 | 150 | 10 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 195 |
| Thailand | 406 | 800 | 689 | 925 | 1,010 | 898 | 766 | 838 | 669 | 1,280 | 908 | 696 | 9,884 |
| Singapore | 13 | 12 | 37 | 52 | 44 | 111 | 56 | 185 | 6 | 74 | 93 | 146 | 831 |
| Malaysia: | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| West Malaya | 164 | 224 | 278 | 312 | 650 | 440 | 896 | 659 | 416 | 442 | 412 | 299 | 5,190 |
| Sarawak | 10 | 8 | 25 | 7 | 39 | 51 | 47 | 43 | — | 123 | 9 | 11 | 373 |
| Sabah | 26 | 183 | 128 | 69 | 138 | 139 | 68 | 140 | 73 | 162 | 106 | 115 | 1,347 |
| Total | 200 | 415 | 431 | 388 | 827 | 630 | 1,011 | 842 | 489 | 727 | 527 | 425 | 6,910 |
| Philippines | 101 | 146 | 149 | 110 | 115 | 137 | 181 | 208 | 215 | 305 | 379 | 234 | 2,281 |
| Indonesia | 757 | 1,458 | 1,299 | 1,157 | 2,029 | 1,365 | 1,629 | 1,605 | 1,159 | 1,810 | 1,774 | 2,720 | 18,764 |
| Cambodia | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 8 | 6 | — | 14 |
| India | 1,237 | 1,832 | 1,540 | 1,592 | 1,811 | 2,301 | 1,081 | 1,621 | 1,936 | 2,958 | 2,143 | 1,850 | 21,903 |
| Pakistan | 587 | 454 | 437 | 229 | 152 | 466 | 106 | 164 | 140 | 352 | 489 | 653 | 4,231 |
| Bangladesh | — | — | 28 | 14 | 93 | — | 15 | 9 | 11 | 137 | 176 | 145 | 628 |
| Sri Lanka (Ceylon) | 4 | 2 | — | 37 | 18 | 77 | 9 | 31 | 32 | 35 | 3 | — | 249 |
| Macao | 7 | 7 | 5 | — | 4 | 9 | — | 10 | — | 13 | 22 | — | 76 |
| Burma | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| Total | 4,245 | 5,996 | 6,046 | 5,817 | 6,932 | 6,691 | 5,928 | 6,571 | 6,244 | 9,639 | 8,288 | 9,258 | 81,663 |
| Middle East | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Iran | 225 | — | — | — | 135 | — | 2 | 396 | — | — | — | 100 | 859 |
| Bahrain | 153 | 92 | 84 | 118 | — | 37 | 132 | — | 392 | — | 176 | 264 | 1,447 |
| Yemen, South | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Saudi Arabia | — | 70 | — | 36 | — | — | 9 | — | — | 212 | — | — | 327 |
| Kuwait | 1 | — | — | 24 | 37 | 312 | 198 | 139 | — | — | 56 | — | 768 |
| Trucial Oman & Qatar | 9 | 28 | — | 56 | 25 | 5 | — | 136 | 80 | — | 42 | — | 381 |
| Yemen | — | 45 | — | — | — | — | 29 | — | — | — | — | — | 74 |
| Total | 388 | 235 | 84 | 234 | 197 | 354 | 370 | 671 | 472 | 212 | 274 | 364 | 3,856 |
| Europe | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Netherlands | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 14 | 14 |
| Iceland | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| Soviet Union | 322 | — | — | 2 | 299 | 152 | — | 764 | 1,420 | 1,647 | 638 | 898 | 6,141 |
| Norway | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 5 | — | — | — | — | — | 6 |
| West Germany | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 8 | — | — | — | 8 |
| Total | 322 | — | — | 2 | 299 | 153 | 5 | 764 | 1,428 | 1,648 | 638 | 912 | 6,169 |
| North America | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Canada | — | — | — | — | 13 | 3 | — | 26 | — | 1 | — | — | 44 |
| United States | 5 | 38 | — | 100 | 132 | 141 | 51 | 66 | 14 | 4 | 15 | 69 | 636 |
| Total | 5 | 38 | — | 100 | 145 | 144 | 51 | 92 | 14 | 5 | 15 | 69 | 680 |
| Latin American & Caribbean | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mexico | 444 | 1,177 | 1,466 | 1,160 | 1,178 | 725 | 908 | 333 | 369 | 98 | 184 | 796 | 8,839 |
| Guatemala | — | — | — | — | 44 | 5 | 8 | 6 | — | — | — | — | 85 |
| Honduras | — | — | — | — | 9 | 17 | 9 | 23 | — | 1 | 21 | — | 58 |
| El Salvador | — | — | — | 17 | 36 | 24 | 45 | 84 | 61 | — | 1 | — | 268 |
| Nicaragua | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 37 | — | — | 4 | — | 41 |
| Panama | — | — | — | 19 | 12 | 20 | 37 | 12 | — | 27 | — | — | 128 |
| Trinidad & Tobago | — | — | 7 | — | 34 | 44 | 26 | 115 | 25 | 28 | 8 | 13 | 301 |
| Cuba | 77 | 63 | 49 | — | 280 | 121 | — | — | 315 | 186 | 391 | 392 | 1,985 |
| Colombia | — | — | — | 26 | 25 | 53 | 41 | 43 | — | — | — | — | 188 |
| Venezuela | — | 109 | — | 125 | 7 | 115 | 156 | — | 9 | 199 | 123 | 38 | 882 |
| Guyana | 13 | — | 46 | — | 26 | 125 | 97 | 241 | 84 | 143 | — | 74 | 850 |
| French Guiana | — | — | — | — | — | 34 | 24 | — | — | — | — | — | 58 |
| Ecuador | — | 4 | — | 123 | 16 | 197 | 106 | 76 | 37 | 8 | — | — | 567 |
| Peru | — | 23 | 10 | — | 24 | — | 30 | — | — | — | 6 | — | 94 |
| Brazil | — | 16 | 20 | 26 | 320 | 203 | 83 | 122 | 239 | 71 | 44 | 51 | 1,196 |
| Total | 534 | 1,392 | 1,598 | 1,496 | 2,011 | 1,683 | 1,570 | 1,092 | 1,139 | 761 | 782 | 1,364 | 15,540 |
| Africa | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dahomey | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 21 | 21 |
| Senegal | — | — | — | — | — | — | 14 | 1 | 23 | — | 24 | — | 62 |
| Liberia | 31 | 5 | 20 | 20 | 15 | 19 | — | 33 | 125 | 38 | 53 | 115 | 475 |
| Ivory Coast | 10 | 18 | 25 | — | — | 56 | 80 | — | 71 | — | — | 5 | 265 |
| Nigeria | — | 17 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 96 | 26 | 26 | — | 15 | 96 | 79 | 375 |
| Cameroons | 24 | 83 | 29 | 72 | — | 95 | — | 127 | 102 | 117 | 116 | — | 768 |
| Angola | — | — | — | — | — | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3 |
| Kenya | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 17 | — | 17 |
| Mozambique | — | 36 | 19 | — | — | — | 45 | — | 39 | 59 | 5 | 5 | 208 |
| Madagascar | — | 52 | 35 | 43 | 267 | 375 | 280 | 279 | 81 | 120 | 140 | — | 1,673 |
| South Africa | — | — | — | — | — | — | 12 | — | — | 20 | 39 | 37 | 108 |
| Total | 65 | 211 | 135 | 141 | 288 | 644 | 457 | 466 | 441 | 369 | 490 | 790 | 3,975 |
| Australasia | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Australia | 91 | 103 | 58 | 185 | 632 | 923 | 859 | 666 | 231 | 484 | 302 | 235 | 4,769 |
| Papua/New Guinea | — | 5 | — | — | 9 | 22 | 102 | — | 66 | 156 | — | 18 | 378 |
| Trust Ter. New Guinea | — | — | — | — | — | — | 14 | — | — | — | — | — | 14 |
| New Zealand | 10 | 15 | 24 | 5 | 18 | 14 | 3 | 31 | 151 | 32 | 28 | 99 | 430 |
| Total | 101 | 123 | 82 | 190 | 659 | 959 | 978 | 697 | 448 | 672 | 330 | 352 | 5,591 |
| Grand total | 5,658 | 7,995 | 7,947 | 7,981 | 10,557 | 10,627 | 9,359 | 10,352 | 10,185 | 13,307 | 10,816 | 13,109 | 117,474 |

SOURCE: Statistics were obtained from the Japanese fishery newspaper *Suisan Keizai Shimbun*. These figures are published monthly and are considered preliminary. Also, many figures have been rounded and as a result many of the total figures do not agree with statistical figures provided each country. The figures, however, provide a reasonable approximation of Japan's monthly imports by country.

suppliers of shrimp. The next most significant region is Latin America with Mexico being the most important single supplier. Among European nations the Soviet Union increased its exports of shrimp to Japan from 2,576 tons in 1972 to 6,141 tons in 1973. For the first time exports of shrimp from Norway, Iceland, and West Germany were made to Japan. In Africa, Madagascar remained Japan's most important supplier of shrimp, but this situation may not last long. Political pressures are mounting to remove the strong Japanese influence in that country's fisheries.

Tables 3 and 4 provide statistical tabulations on Japan's monthly imports of frozen shrimp by quantity and value respectively. With the statistical data in these two tables, seafood dealers may be able to estimate approximate quantities and prices for Japan's shrimp imports during 1974, thus allowing them to plan their own purchases in the face of Japan's increasing competition for world supplies of shrimp.

OUTLOOK FOR 1974

Assuming that the Japanese economy remains relatively stable, and assuming a reasonable continuation of Japan's shrimp imports, it is likely that 1974 imports will increase to over 150,000 tons worth more than \$500 million.

As in previous years the period between January and April should see reduced imports (5,000 to 8,000 tons/month) which will gradually increase (10,000 to 11,000 tons/month) through July. Between that month and September imports should remain steady (around 10,000 tons) and then increase to 12,000 tons or more during October and November. December 1974 imports should remain very high, depending on the level of the November imports.

Naturally Japan's shrimp imports will depend heavily on the value of the Japanese yen. The outlook for the yen is not particularly bright for the near future. The yen was valued at 263:US\$1 in September 1973, but has since declined in value to approximately 300:US\$1. Some Japanese traders believe that the yen will ultimately return to the old valuation of 360:US\$1. Japanese shrimp importers,

Table 3.—Japan's monthly¹ imports of frozen shrimp, by quantity, 1967-73.

| Month | 1967 | 1968 | 1969 | 1970 | 1971 | 1972 | 1973 |
|-----------|-------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| | Metric tons | | | | | | |
| January | 3,240 | 3,392 | 2,884 | 3,112 | 5,291 | 8,301 | 5,658 |
| February | 3,374 | 4,611 | 2,956 | 4,767 | 4,671 | 6,439 | 7,995 |
| March | 4,619 | 3,300 | 2,779 | 4,614 | 6,143 | 6,681 | 7,947 |
| April | 4,311 | 2,507 | 4,817 | 4,123 | 6,100 | 5,568 | 7,981 |
| May | 3,604 | 3,215 | 4,232 | 6,472 | 5,975 | 7,253 | 10,557 |
| June | 3,589 | 2,324 | 4,122 | 3,871 | 6,095 | 6,653 | 10,626 |
| July | 2,065 | 2,649 | 3,832 | 3,579 | 7,022 | 7,157 | 9,359 |
| August | 3,908 | 2,233 | 5,194 | 3,797 | 5,764 | 7,131 | 10,352 |
| September | 3,451 | 2,022 | 4,404 | 4,868 | 5,101 | 7,431 | 10,185 |
| October | 3,247 | 2,496 | 4,630 | 5,980 | 6,808 | 7,321 | 13,307 |
| November | 3,601 | 2,853 | 4,726 | 6,283 | 8,471 | 8,175 | 10,816 |
| December | 5,452 | 3,606 | 4,306 | 5,675 | 11,429 | 10,007 | 13,109 |
| Total | 44,461 | 35,204 | 48,886 | 57,146 | 78,874 | 88,120 | 117,474 |

¹ Monthly figures do not add to official statistics for each year.

Table 4.—Japan's monthly¹ imports of frozen shrimp, by value, 1967-73.

| Month | 1967 | 1968 | 1969 | 1970 | 1971 | 1972 | 1973 |
|-----------|------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | US\$,1,000 | | | | | | |
| January | 4,655 | 7,623 | 7,000 | 7,933 | 13,202 | 28,837 | 16,617 |
| February | 5,666 | 10,291 | 6,791 | 12,053 | 11,517 | 21,305 | 27,429 |
| March | 6,519 | 7,775 | 6,468 | 10,794 | 13,783 | 22,435 | 27,909 |
| April | 5,789 | 5,676 | 11,656 | 10,436 | 13,761 | 19,103 | 29,949 |
| May | 6,103 | 6,675 | 10,458 | 11,631 | 13,481 | 23,718 | 40,869 |
| June | 6,273 | 5,417 | 11,003 | 8,547 | 15,403 | 22,537 | 41,878 |
| July | 4,244 | 5,969 | 10,197 | 8,689 | 15,516 | 22,607 | 39,721 |
| August | 5,914 | 4,675 | 13,025 | 9,817 | 14,455 | 24,769 | 39,319 |
| September | 6,753 | 4,114 | 10,403 | 12,330 | 14,953 | 24,344 | 36,546 |
| October | 6,966 | 4,794 | 11,731 | 14,305 | 18,939 | 24,740 | 46,898 |
| November | 8,475 | 6,286 | 11,908 | 15,428 | 28,232 | 25,529 | 40,521 |
| December | 12,353 | 8,754 | 11,100 | 15,051 | 41,356 | 32,020 | 48,666 |
| Total | 79,732 | 78,079 | 121,748 | 137,025 | 214,598 | 291,944 | 436,322 |

¹ Monthly figures do not add to official statistics for each year.

in that event, would tend to reduce their imports to avoid losses.

However, in spite of monetary fluctuations, the Japanese public has grown to expect and demand shrimp. This is especially true during the year-end celebrations. Japanese housewives have used their influence to purchase home refrigerators, thus allowing them to store frozen shrimp at home. With more and more Japanese able to keep frozen shrimp and with

more Japanese growing accustomed to enjoying shrimp it is a certainty that Japan's shrimp imports will continue to expand in the coming years.

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