

U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement

Beef and Beef Products



Overview: In 2024, the United States exported \$1.87 billion of beef products to Japan, making Japan the #2 overseas market for U.S. beef. Japan is a major importer of chilled and frozen meat and offal (mainly tongues and skirts). The United States accounted for nearly half of Japan’s total beef imports. Under the U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement, the United States obtained 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	MFN Rate	Year 7 (2025)	Year 8 (2026)	Year 9 (2027)	Final Tariff (Year)	2024 Imports from U.S.
Meat (chilled/frozen) 020110000, 020120000, 020130010, 020130020, 020130030, 020130090, 020210000, 020220000, 020230010, 020230020, 020230030, 020230090	38.5%	21.6%	20.8%	20.0%	9.0% (2033)	\$1,188,479,077
Tongue (chilled/frozen) 020610011, 020621000	12.8%	1.9%	1.2%	0.6%	Free (2028)	\$389,027,398
Internal organs (chilled/frozen, incl. skirts) 020610019, 020629010	12.8%	2.6%	2.1%	1.6%	Free (2030)	\$238,555,807
Frozen liver 020622000	12.8%	6.4%	5.6%	4.8%	Free (2033)	\$1,073,488
Meat extract, juices 160300010	12.0%	Free			Free (2023)	\$370,523
Prepared beef products (incl. beef jerky) 160250510, 160250590	10.0%	5.0%	4.3%	3.7%	Free (2033)	\$10,526
Other prepared beef products (not in airtight containers, incl. meatballs) 160250999	50.0%	25.0%	21.8%	18.7%	Free (2033)	\$0
Other offal (incl. oxtail) 020629090	21.3%	10.6%	9.3%	7.9%	Free (2033)	\$0
Cheek and head meat (fresh/chilled/frozen) 020610020, 020629020	50.0%	24.2%	22.1%	20.0%	9.0% (2033)	\$0
Other prepared beef products (in airtight containers, not chilled or frozen) 160250890	38.3%	19.1%	16.7%	14.3%	Free (2033)	\$0

Safeguard: U.S. beef is subject to a country-specific safeguard which started at 242,000 MT in Year 1 and grows around one to two percent each year. The safeguard is composed of a three-trigger mechanism requiring exact conditions to be met in order for Japan to implement the safeguard and impose higher tariffs. If the conditions are met and the safeguard is implemented on or before January 31, tariffs on certain U.S. beef exports will increase for the remainder of that Japan fiscal year (March-ending). In cases where the conditions are met during February or March, the safeguard measure will be applied for 45 days and 30 days, respectively. The safeguard tariff started 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. 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. Under the U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement, the United States gained beef tariff parity with Australia for the first time since 2015.

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.