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Japan Announces Beef and Pork SGs for JFY 2019 Q4

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation
Livestock and Products
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Report Highlights:

On May 31, Japan's Ministry of Finance announced the safeguard (SG) trigger levels for beef and pork for the fourth quarter of Japanese Fiscal Year 2019 (January 2020-March 2020). This follows a March 31 announcement which detailed trigger levels for the first three quarters of JFY 2019. The beef SG trigger is set at 117 percent of the previous year's trade while the pork SG trigger level is set at 119 percent of the average of the three previous years of trade.

General Information:

On May 31, 2019, Japan's Ministry of Finance announced the safeguard trigger (SG) levels for beef and pork for the fourth quarter of Japanese Fiscal Year (JFY) 2019, based on Japan's cumulative actual imports from April 2018 to March 2019. Japan had already announced the beef and pork SG trigger levels for the first three quarters of JFY 2019 as well as the full year trigger level for the pork special safeguard (SSG) in late March (see [JA9045](#)). All three safeguards have a double trigger system based on imports from all trade partners and imports from countries with which Japan does not have an economic partnership agreement (non-EPA).

SG trigger levels for beef and pork are calculated on a cumulative quarterly basis.

In December 2018 and February 2019, Japan made revisions to all three safeguard calculations following the entry into force of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the Japan-EU EPA (see [JA9026](#)). If any of these safeguards trigger, the tariff increases apply only to countries that do not have a free trade agreement with Japan, including the United States.

Beef SG Trigger Levels for JFY 2019

Unit: Metric Ton

Chilled beef				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
All partners	86,020	171,475	255,016	326,485
Non-EPA	40,764	83,735	123,725	158,518
Frozen Beef				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
All partners	105,413	225,345	318,122	398,627
Non-EPA	37,317	81,213	116,424	142,124

Note: Japan's fiscal year is from April to March.

Source: Japan Ministry of Finance

Pork SG and SSG for JFY 2019

Unit: Metric Ton

SG				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
All partners	276,408	543,034	826,632	1,089,808
Non-EPA	79,305	158,535	242,870	322,576
SSG (annual)				
All partners	960,648			
Non-EPA	286,931			

Note:

1. Japan's fiscal year is from April to March.
2. SSG volumes include live animal imports (see [JA9026](#)).
3. SSG volumes based on actual trade from three previous calendar years (January – December).

Source: Japan Ministry of Finance

Actual Trade in the First Month of JFY 2019

Also on May 31, Japan's Ministry of Finance announced actual import data for April 2019, the first month of JFY 2019. Chilled beef imports from all trade partners was 25,860 MT (30 percent of Q1 trigger) and from non-EPA countries was 11,480 MT (28 percent of Q1 trigger). Frozen beef imports from all partners was 41,408 MT (39 percent of Q1 trigger) and from non-EPA partners was 15,518 MT (42 percent of Q1 trigger).

For the pork SG, imports from all partners was 99,230 MT (36 percent of Q1 trigger) and from non-EPA countries was 22,301 MT (28 percent of Q1 trigger). For the pork SSG, imports from all partners was 99,236 MT (10 percent of annual trigger) and from non-EPA countries was 22,301 MT (8 percent of annual trigger).

For more information on Japan's livestock product market, see FAS/Tokyo's Livestock and Products Semi-Annual Report [JA9023](#).