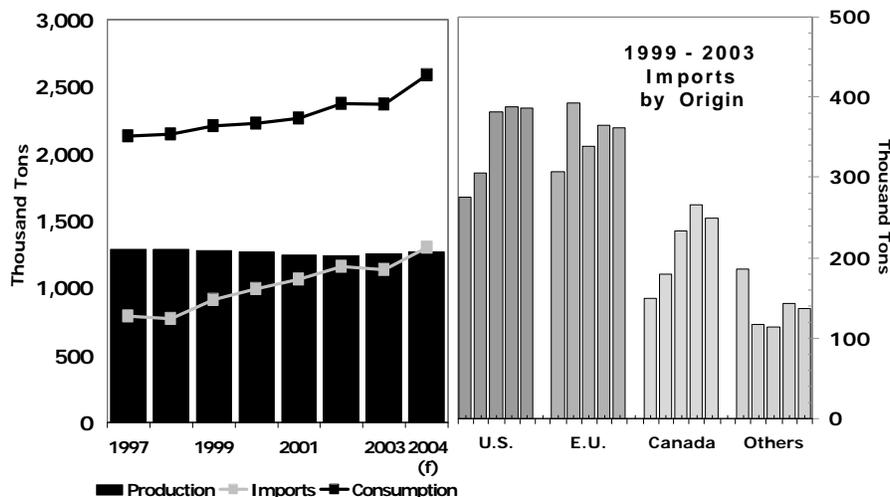


Japan's Pork Situation

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004(f)
(1,000 tons; CWE)								
Beginning Stocks	255	190	106	90	126	170	191	211
Production	1,283	1,285	1,277	1,269	1,245	1,236	1,259	1,270
Imports	786	777	919	995	1,068	1,162	1,133	1,300
Consumption	2,134	2,146	2,212	2,228	2,268	2,377	2,372	2,590
Ending Stocks	190	106	90	126	170	191	211	191

Japanese Pork Consumption is Expected to Grow by More Than 9 Percent in 2004



Although Japan is still the world's largest pork importer, imports declined by nearly 3 percent in 2003. Accumulating inventories of frozen pork helped to weaken import demand, particularly for pork processing. At the same time, 2003 Japanese domestic production reversed earlier trends by growing 2 percent over the previous year. In 2004, domestic production is expected to increase again by almost 1 percent. Nevertheless, declining stocks and strong consumer demand are expected to push 2004 pork imports to 1.3 million tons, a new record and almost 15 percent above 2003 levels. The safeguard duty on pork imports, which raises the gate price for carcass imports from 409 Yen to 510 Yen per kg (\$1.54 per lb to \$1.92 per lb), and the gate price for pork cuts from 546 to 681 Yen per kg (\$2.05 per lb to \$2.56 per lb), will expire on March 31, 2004. This special safeguard provision is designed to trigger when quarterly imports exceed the average of the three previous corresponding quarters by 19 percent or more. A surge in imports could once again trigger the safeguard.

Japan
PORK IMPORTS
(in metric tons)

Fresh/Chilled								
Origin	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Australia	25	403	1,549	2,139	3,824	6,325	11,364	9,466
Canada	7,242	15,804	20,347	28,314	41,133	44,661	44,370	35,078
EU-15	67	415	390	435	476	193	326	707
Korea	4,534	10,576	18,405	21,725	4,842	0	0	0
Mexico	23	267	1,910	6,622	12,927	14,356	11,956	9,338
Taiwan	79,772	12,332	0	0	0	0	0	0
United States	77,233	89,116	101,956	112,730	128,189	134,988	137,634	120,168
Others	1	0	0	3	9	42	6	0
Total	168,897	128,913	144,557	171,968	191,400	200,565	205,656	176,760

US market share	46%	69%	71%	66%	67%	67%	67%	68%
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Frozen								
Origin	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Australia	447	2,842	4,395	2,876	2,326	2,493	1,824	2,928
Canada	32,088	38,630	41,496	62,707	70,033	108,389	134,747	131,527
Chile	0	768	5,019	4,708	8,358	10,112	21,586	28,188
EU-15	157,426	194,918	150,529	213,614	273,645	236,219	256,950	250,344
Hungary	0	0	0	196	5,413	13,197	16,852	14,414
Korea	30,328	37,925	71,793	58,774	11,997	0	0	0
Mexico	13,012	24,771	28,694	30,167	26,866	27,844	28,677	25,136
Taiwan	186,454	35,206	0	0	0	0	0	0
United States	64,559	47,926	58,258	54,984	60,895	109,859	111,233	125,260
Others	82	61	196	67	138	12	56	0
Total	484,396	383,047	360,380	428,093	459,671	508,125	571,925	579,800

US market share	13%	13%	16%	13%	13%	22%	19%	22%
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Processed								
Origin	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Australia	0	0	2	1	0	167	770	839
Canada	14,417	8,546	9,880	13,674	14,715	10,291	7,142	7,350
China	332	927	1,092	1,655	2,282	2,696	3,357	4,406
EU-15	1,379	591	1,729	1,764	2,961	2,043	1,076	2,245
Korea	1	12	400	339	49	0	0	0
Mexico	2,063	1,712	1,042	361	470	342	94	0
Switzerland	49	29	22	22	16	12	7	3
Taiwan	1,046	141	0	39	200	618	295	222
Thailand	104	90	96	73	49	52	162	204
United States	34,015	25,467	24,338	24,798	23,690	22,006	22,101	24,328
Others	2	0	3	0	1	8	4	1
Total	53,408	37,515	38,604	42,726	44,433	38,235	35,008	39,598

US market share	64%	68%	63%	58%	53%	58%	63%	61%
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Grand Total	706,701	549,475	543,541	642,787	695,504	746,925	812,589	796,158
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US market share	25%	30%	34%	30%	31%	36%	33%	34%
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Note: All data are reported in product weight

Source: Japan Customs