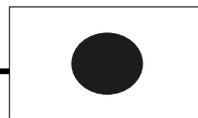
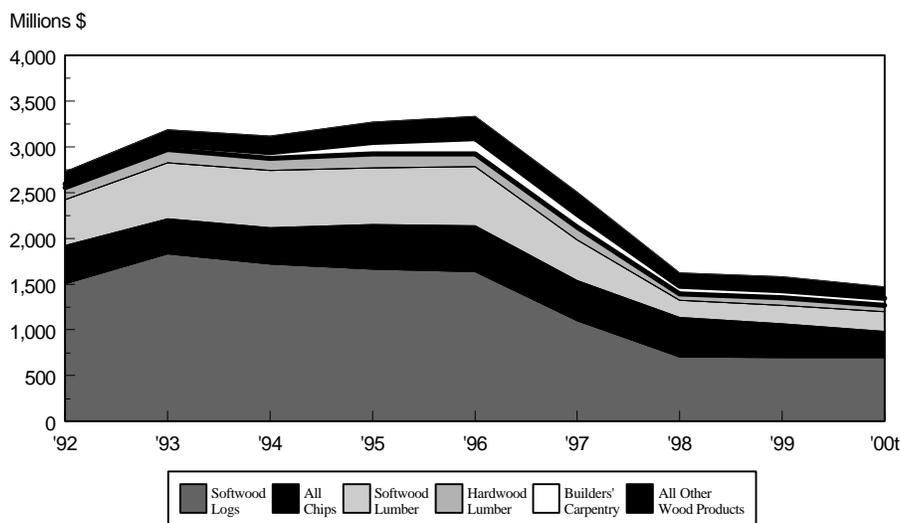


# Japan



**Total Exports in 1999: \$1,584 million**



## Tariff Schedule for U.S. products:

Item	HS Code	2000 Applied Rate	Bound Rate
Logs	4403	0-3.5%	0-3.5%
Softwood Lumber	4407.10	0-6%	0-6%
Hardwood Lumber (ex. Dirterocarpacae)	4407.91-4407.99	0%	0%
Veneer	4408	5-5.6%	5-5.6%
Softwood Moulding	ex 4409.10	3.6-5%	3.6-5%
Hardwood Moulding	ex 4409.20	0-5%	0-5%
Particleboard/OSB	4410.11 - 4410.19	5- 6%	5-6%
Fiberboard	4411	2.6%	2.6%
Plywood	4412	6-10%	6-10%
Windows & Doors	4418.10 - 4418.20	0-5%	0-5%
Parquet Panels	4418.30	2.4%	2%

# Japan

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## Non-Tariff Barriers

- Japan provides both direct and indirect subsidies to the forest products industry.
- Provisions in the Japanese building code continue to limit the approval and acceptance of imported building materials, such as those limiting the height and area of wood-frame construction.

## Trends and Recent Developments

- In October 2000, the new Housing Quality Assurance Law became effective. The law requires a minimum ten year warranty of all homes (based upon specified performance criteria). The warranty-driven quality requirements of the law has motivated an increase in the demand for kiln-dried lumber.
- In June 2000, MOC clarified the performance requirements for fireproof buildings that will allow the construction of four-story, multi-family and mixed-use wood-frame buildings that satisfy those requirements.
- The Japanese Agricultural Standards Law was revised in July 1999 to allow foreign (product) certifying and grading organizations to function as JAS Registered Grading Organizations/Certification Organizations. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has subsequently clarified that a prerequisite for making application is a determination by Japan that the standards systems in the applicant country is equivalent to that of Japan.
- On April 1, 1999, the Ministry of Construction (MOC) introduced the use of Public Comment Procedures in the development of cabinet ordinances, ministerial ordinances, notifications and other relevant regulations.
- MOC announced in June 1998 that it was revising the Building Standard Law (effective June 2000) to make it performance based. This allows any building product, including wood, to be used for structural purposes once the performance properties of the material have been verified for functional viability.
- On September 1, 1997, following extensive testing, MOC lifted the ban on the construction of three-story, multi-family and mixed-use, wood-frame construction in urban areas. This expanded upon earlier measures taken in June of 1990 under the terms of the U.S.-Japan Wood Products Agreement, whereby Japan agreed to allow the construction of three-story, multi-family and mixed-use, wood-frame buildings in non-urban areas within Japan.