

Statistics of Imported Foods Monitoring for FY 2023

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Public Health Bureau,
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The number of notifications, imported weight, the number of inspections, the number of violations under the Food Sanitation Act (Act No. 233 of 1947; hereinafter referred to as "the Act"), etc. for imported foods in FY 2023 were as follows.

1. Notifications, inspections, and violations by year (Table 1, Figure 1)

The total number of imported foods (foods, additives, apparatus, containers and packaging or toys for infants (referred to as 'the food (s)' collectively hereinafter) in FY 2023 was 2,350,033 notifications and was 29,866,575 tons in weight.

Inspections were conducted for 199,272 products, accounting for 8.5% of all those notified, consisting of 69,744 administrative inspections (3.0% of all notified products), 152,304 inspections by registered inspection organizations (6.5%: including 62,333 ordered inspections), and 3,494 inspections by foreign official laboratories (0.1%).

For 763 accounting for 0.03% of all notified products violated the Act, measures such as reshipment, disposals, or diversion to non-food use were taken.

Change in quantities of imports and notifications by year are shown in Figure 1.

2. Notifications, inspections, and violations by quarantine station (Table 2)

For the number of notifications, the highest was 680,754 in Tokyo (29.0% of all notified products), followed by 305,504 in Osaka (13.0%), 269,583 in Yokohama (11.5%), 197,208 in Narita Airport (8.4%), 141,898 in Kawasaki (6.0%), 136,252 in Nagoya (5.8%), 99,470 in Kobe (4.2%), and 98,480 in Fukuoka (4.2%).

3. Major examples of violations of the Food Sanitation Act (Table 3, Figure 2)

For the number of violations of the Act by articles (total; 763*), the highest was 459 against Article 13 (60.2%), followed by 224 against Article 6 (29.4%), 39 against Article 12 (5.1%), 32 against Article 18 (4.2%), 8 against Article 10 (1.0%), and 3 against Article 68 (0.4%).

*Among the 763 violations, one against both Articles 6 and 13; and one against both Articles 12 and 13.

The breakdown for the number of violations under the Food Sanitation Act by article is shown in Figure 2.

4. Notifications, Inspections, and Violations by Product (Table 4, Figure 3)

For the number of notifications by product, other tools and apparatus for the highest, 272,628 (11.6% of all notified products), followed by tableware accounts, 264,431 (11.3%), alcoholic beverages, 215,701 (9.2%), fresh meat (including edible offal), 187,690 (8.0%), processed vegeables (other than processed mushrooms, spices, processed herb and tea), 169,924 (7.2%), and cookware, 133,544 (5.7%).

Nuts and seeds have the highest number of violations with 72 (9.4% of the total number of violations), followed by cereals with 70 (9.2%), confectionery (other than frozen food)

with 56 (7.3%), vegetables with 55 (7.2%), and aquatic animal products (other than fish and shellfish) and processed vegetables (other than processed mushroom products, spices, processed herb, and tea) with 54 (7.1%) each.

Composition of weight of imports by classification of items is shown in Figure 3.

5. Notifications, Inspections, and Violations by Country of Origin (Table 5, Figure 4)

For the number of notifications by country (including regions), the highest was 905,785 for China (38.5% of all notified products), followed by 188,383 for the France (8.0%), 165,858 for U.S.A. (7.1%), 155,397 for Thailand (6.6%), 101,656 for South Korea (4.3%), and 101,497 for Viet Nam (4.3%).

For the number of violations, the highest was 206 for China (27.0% of the total number of violations), followed by 100 for the U.S.A. (13.1%), 65 for Viet Nam (8.5%), 54 for India (7.1%), 44 for Thailand (5.8%) and 32 for Italy (4.2%).

Composition of weight of imports by regions is shown in Figure 4.