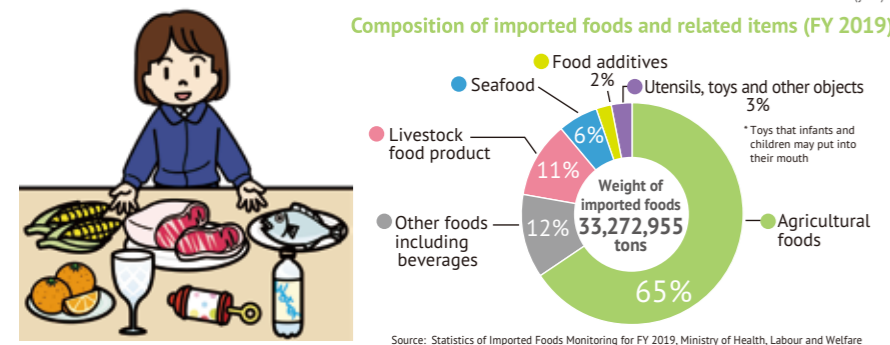
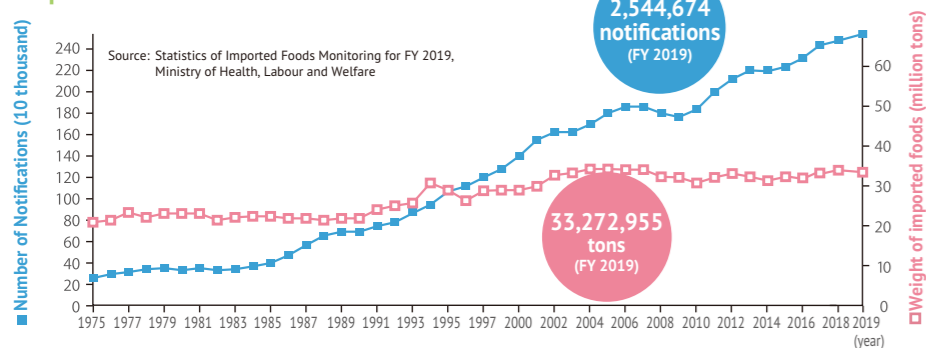


Change in Imported Foods

Changes in the number of food import notifications submitted, and the weight of imported foods and related items



Agricultural products account for about 70% of imported foods

Our daily diet in Japan depends heavily on imports. To ensure food safety in Japan, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) places particular emphasis on ensuring the safety of imported food products.

As shown in the line chart, the number of import notifications submitted in FY 2019 totaled 2,544,674, and the weight of imported foods was 33,272,955 tons. Among all the food items imported, the proportion of agricultural food was the highest at about 65%, followed by other foods and beverages also at about 12%, food made from livestock at about 11%, seafood at about 6%, food additives at about 2%, and utensils and toys at about 3% (See the pie chart).

The ministry's border enforcement efforts to ensure the safety of imported foods include the inspection of submitted import notifications. In FY 2019, 217,216 notifications from all food import notifications submitted were inspected and 763 of them were identified as violating relevant laws, resulting in re-shipping or disposal. The MHLW also implements safety measures in exporting countries through bilateral discussions and negotiations as well as on-site inspections. If any legal violation is detected, the ministry demands that the exporting country investigate the cause of the violation and take measures to prevent a recurrence.

List of offices where you can submit Food Import Notifications and receive consultations on relevant issues

Where to submit a Food Import Notification and consult on issues regarding food import

A Food Import Notification must be submitted to a quarantine station each time food products are imported from overseas for sale in Japan. For notification and consultation about imports, contact a quarantine station below:

Quarantine Station	Address	TEL
Otaru Quarantine Station	Otaru Regional Joint Government Bldg. 1st Floor, 5-2 Minato-machi, Otaru, Hokkaido 047-0007	0134-32-4304
Chitose Airport Quarantine Branch	New Chitose Airport Bldg. Bibi, Chitose, Hokkaido 066-0012	0123-45-7007
Sendai Quarantine Station	Shiogama Harbor Government Bldg. 2nd Floor, 3-4-1 Teizandori, Shiogama, Miyagi 985-0011	022-367-8102
Sendai Airport Quarantine Branch	Sendai Airport New Passenger Terminal Bldg. Minamihara, Shimomasuda, Natori, Miyagi 989-2401	022-383-1854
Narita Airport Quarantine Station	Narita Airport Joint Government Office Bldg. 2nd Floor, 2159 Tennamino, Komaino, Narita, Chiba 282-0021	0476-32-6728
Tokyo Quarantine Station	Tokyo Harbor Government Bldg. 8th Floor, 2-7-11 Aomi, Koto-ku, Tokyo 135-0064	03-3599-1519
Tokyo Quarantine Station (Second Food Inspection Division)	Funabashi Harbor Government Bldg., 32-5 Shiomi-cho, Funabashi, Chiba 273-0016	047-437-1381
Chiba Quarantine Branch	Chiba Harbor Government Bldg., 1-12-2 Chuoko, Chuo-ku, Chiba, 260-0024	043-241-6096
Tokyo Airport Quarantine Branch	Haneda Airport Cargo Joint Government Office Bldg., 2-6-3 Haneda Kuko, Ota-ku, Tokyo 144-0041	03-6847-9320
Kawasaki Quarantine Branch	Kawasaki FAZ comprehensive Distribution Center, 6-10, Higashiogijima, Kawasaki-ku, Kawasaki 210-0869	044-277-0025
Yokohama Quarantine Station	Yokohama Second Harbor Government Bldg., 1-1 Kaigandori, Naka-ku Yokohama 231-0002	045-201-0505
Niigata Quarantine Station	Niigata Harbor Government Bldg., 1-5-4 Ryugashima, Chuo-ku, Niigata 950-0072	025-244-4405
Komatsu Airport Branch	Komatsu Airport Terminal, 50 Yo, Ukiyanagi-machi, Komatsu, Ishikawa 923-0993	0761-21-3767
Nagoya Quarantine Station	11-1 Tsukiji-cho, Minato-ku, Nagoya 455-0045	052-661-4132
Shimizu Quarantine Branch	Shimizu Harbor Government Bldg., 9-1 Hinode-cho, Shimizu-ku, Shizuoka 424-0922	054-352-4540
Chubu Airport Quarantine Branch	Chubu Airport Cargo Clearance Bldg., 1-1 Centrair, Tokoname, Aichi 479-0881	0569-38-8195
Yokkaichi Quarantine Branch	Yokkaichi Harbor Government Bldg., 5-1 Chitose-cho, Yokkaichi, Mie 510-0051	059-352-3574
Osaka Quarantine Station	Osaka Harbor Government Bldg. 5th Floor, 4-10-3 Chikko, Minato-ku, Osaka 552-0021	06-6571-3554
Kansai Airport Quarantine Station	Kansai Airport Area Government Bldg., 1 Senshu-kuko Minami, Sennan, Osaka 549-0021	072-455-1295
Kobe Quarantine Station	1-1 Toyahama-cho, Hyogo-ku, Kobe 652-0866	078-672-9655
Kobe Quarantine Station (Second Food Inspection Division)	Kobe Customs Rokko Island Sub-Branch c/o Koyochi-nishi 1, Higashinada-ku, Kobe 658-0033	078-857-1671
Hiroshima Quarantine Station	Hiroshima Harbor Government Bldg. 3rd Floor, 3-10-17 Ujinakaigan, Minami-ku, Hiroshima 734-0011	082-255-1379
Sakai Branch	Sakai-minato Harbor Government Bldg., 9-1 Showa-machi, Sakai-minato, Tottori 684-0034	0859-42-3517
Hiroshima Airport Quarantine Branch	Hiroshima Airport Terminal Bldg., 64-31 Hiraiwa, Zennyuuj, Hongo-cho, Mihara, Hiroshima 729-0416	0848-86-8017
Fukuoka Quarantine Station	Fukuoka Harbor Government Bldg. 3rd Floor, 8-1 Okihama-cho, Hakata-ku, Fukuoka 812-0031	092-271-5873
Moji Quarantine Branch	Moji Harbor Government Bldg., 1-3-10 Nishikaigan, Moji-ku, Kitakyushu 801-0841	093-321-2611
Shimonoseki Branch	Shimonoseki Harbor Government Bldg., 1-71 Higashiyamato-machi, Shimonoseki, Yamaguchi 750-0066	0832-66-1402
Fukuoka Airport Quarantine Branch	Fukuoka Airport International Passenger Terminal Bldg., 739 Aoki, Hakata-ku, Fukuoka 812-0851	092-477-0208
Nagasaki Quarantine Branch	Nagasaki Customs Bldg., 1-36 Dejima-machi, Nagasaki 850-0862	095-826-8081
Kagoshima Quarantine Branch	Kagoshima Harbor Government Bldg. 2-5-1 Hama-machi, Kagoshima 892-0812	099-222-8670
Naha Quarantine Station	Naha Harbor Government Bldg., 2-11-1 Minato-machi, Naha 900-0001	098-868-4519
Naha Airport Quarantine Branch	Naha Airport Passenger Terminal Bldg. 3rd Floor, 150 Kagamimizu, Naha 901-0142	098-857-0057

Quarantine Stations marked with (—) provide consultations on import foods.

For inquiries about this brochure, contact the following:
Food Inspection and Safety Division, Pharmaceutical Safety and Environmental Health Bureau, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

TEL 03-5253-1111

Information about Imported Foods

Safety of Imported Foods



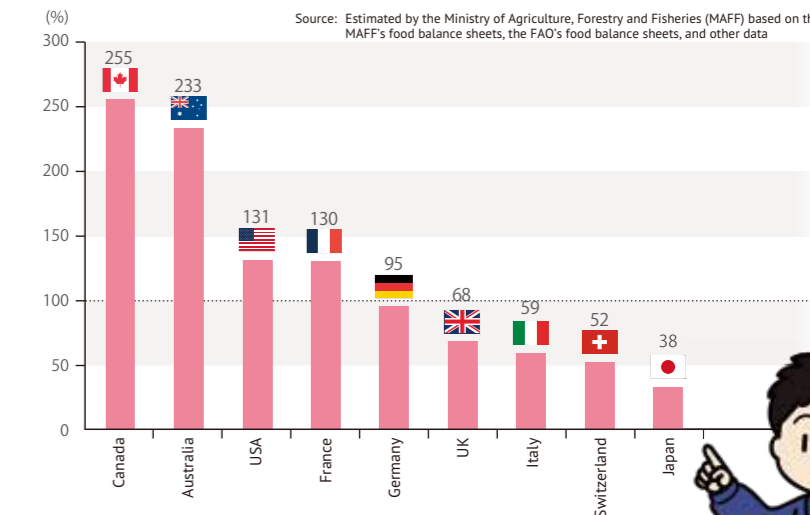
Food Inspection and Safety Division, Pharmaceutical Safety and Environmental Health Bureau, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan

2020.12

Japan's Food Self-sufficiency Ratio

Food self-sufficiency ratios (on a calorie basis) in different countries

Note: Figures for Japan are from FY 2019 data, while those for other countries are from 2017 data.



Lowest food self-sufficiency among major advanced countries

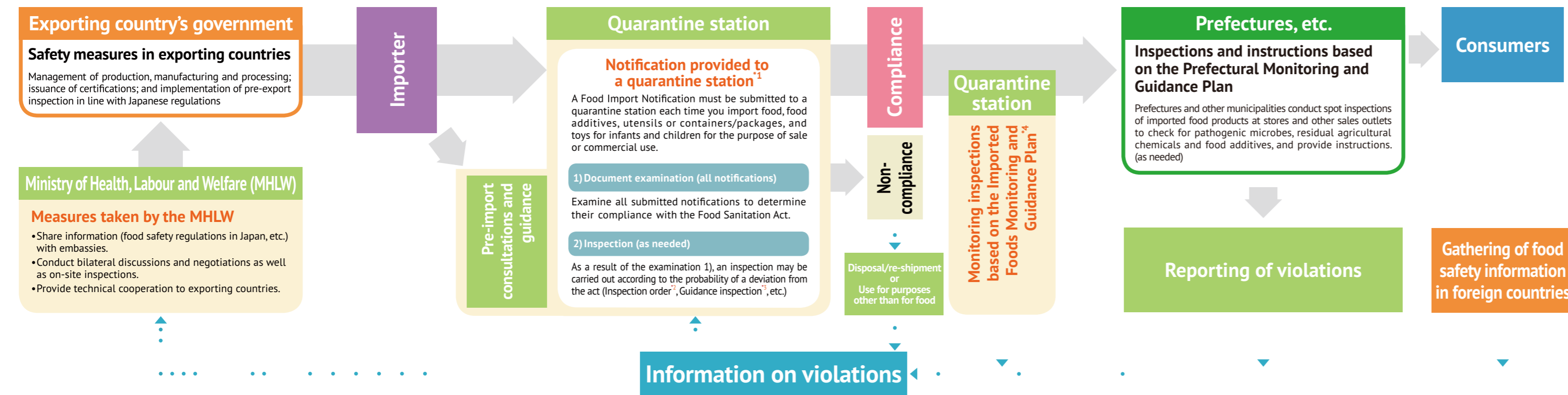
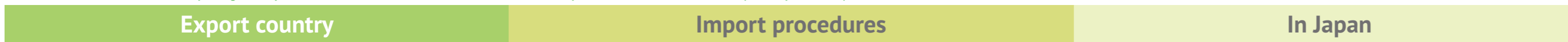
What did you eat for lunch today? If you ate curry and rice, the food self-sufficiency ratio (on a calorie basis) was 56%; loaf of bread, 13%; zaru soba, 21%; okonomi-yaki, 16%; and onigiri, 98% calculated by "Self-sufficiency Ratio Calculator", MAFF. If the lunch included rice, which is almost all domestically produced, the self-sufficiency ratio is much higher than if there was no rice. If your lunch included food made from livestock, such as meat, milk and eggs, even if they are produced in Japan, the self-sufficiency ratio becomes low because livestock feed depends on imported raw materials.

Low food self-sufficiency has been reported

to be attributed to a shift in the diets of people in Japan from those mainly based on fish, shellfish and rice to those rich in meats, oils and fats.

The self-sufficiency ratio is an index used to indicate the extent to which a country relies upon its own production resources. The self-sufficiency ratio (on a calorie basis) of Japan was 73% in FY 1965, but decreased to 38% in FY2019, which is the lowest among major advanced countries such as France, the United States, Germany and the United Kingdom. This means the ratio of imported food to domestic food is high.

Measures for Food Safety from Farm to Table



*1 The information present on a Food Import Notification, such as the exporting country, imported items, producer/production sites, raw materials, production methods and the use or non-use of additives, is examined. A Food Import Notification can be submitted seven days before the estimated time of arrival of the cargo. For contact information regarding inquiries about notification and consultation on imports, see the list of offices at the back of this brochure.

*2 Inspection order: If the food is highly likely to violate the Food Sanitation Act, the quarantine station orders the importer to conduct an inspection. Importation will not be allowed until the inspection result is obtained.

*3 Guidance inspection: This is an inspection that is conducted by importers on their own responsibility to ensure the safety of imported foods. The quarantine office may instruct importers who import food for the first time to conduct a voluntary inspection or instruct importers to conduct periodic inspections. Importation will not be allowed until the inspection result is obtained.

*4 Inspections conducted to ascertain the level of residue from agricultural chemicals and other substances according to the annual plan.

Q1

I've been told that only 10% of all imported foods are tested. Is that sufficient to ensure food safety?

A

Japan imported 2,544,674 food items in FY 2019, amounting to 33,272,955 tons. Of these, 217,216 items were tested (a violation rate of 0.03%). Quarantine stations and its branches provide necessary guidance to importers at consultation before importing, and they conduct document examination for all import notifications submitted at the time of import. Furthermore they conduct inspections according to the possibility for violation to effectively and efficiently ensure the safety of imported foods. More specifically, they monitor a wide variety of imported foods through monitoring inspections to identify the risk level of each food item (During FY 2019, 99,636 monitoring inspections were conducted). Based on these inspections, they identify items that are highly likely to violate the requirements, and all relevant import notifications are inspected each time they are submitted in order to prevent foods that do not meet the requirements from being imported to Japan. Furthermore, safety measures are also implemented in exporting countries through bilateral discussions and negotiations as well as on-site inspections. As described above, we implement safety measures in exporting countries to ensure food safety.



Q2

What kinds of safety measures are implemented in exporting countries?

A

With regard to food products that are highly likely to violate the requirements we perform more rigorous inspections when they are imported, and in addition, request that the exporting country investigate the cause of any violations, and based on the investigation result, take measures to prevent a recurrence. Furthermore, through bilateral discussions and negotiations, we take measures to ensure the proper management of production sites and the implementation of an enhanced monitoring system and pre-export inspections by the government of the exporting country in order to improve food safety. We also send specialists to exporting countries to confirm the implementation of safety measures, and organize seminars for government officials and producers of exporting countries so that they are well informed with regard to Japan's food safety regulations.



For frequently asked questions, visit the following URL:
<https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000072466.html>

