

2 Food Usage and Imports by the Food Service Industry

Food Usage

The food service industry spent about 38 per cent of total sales on food materials or about ¥7 trillion (\$67 billion Cdn) in 1984. Table 3 gives a breakdown of food material usage by type of restaurant. Western restaurants are the largest buyers of meat products as a proportion of overall food purchases (37 per cent). Japanese restaurants purchase proportionately more fish products (28 per cent) than the others. Group cafeterias such as those in factories or hospitals, are the largest single purchasers of processed foods and grains, particularly rice. Western-style restaurants also consume a high percentage of processed foods.

Table 4

Production of Frozen Food for Institutional Use
(1 000 tonnes)

	1982	1984	1987
Seafood	59	68	74
Fruit and Vegetable	62	73	71
Meat	15	16	15
Processed Food	300	353	433
Cake	14	13	20
Total	450	523	613

Source: Japan Frozen Food Association.

Table 3

Breakdown of Food Material Purchasing by Restaurant Type (1982) (%)

	Shokudo**	Japanese Restaurants	Western Restaurants	Group* Cafeterias	All Restaurants
Meat and Processed Meat	24	23	37	17	20
Fish	16	28	10	13	16
Fruit and Vegetable	14	12	11	16	13
Other Processed Foods	13	12	19	25	19
Beverages	13	11	12	2	14
Grains	20	14	11	27	18
Total	100	100	100	100	100
* Not including school cafeterias.					
** Shokudo are described in Chapter 3.					
Food Material Purchases (¥ billion)	533	422	242	1 174	6 285

Source: Gaishoku Sogo Chosa Center.

The production of frozen foods for institutions, i.e. the food service industry, rose to 613 000 tonnes in 1987 and has averaged six per cent annual growth since 1982. The trends in production of frozen foods for institutional use are shown in Table 4. Frozen processed foods make up about two-thirds of the total, and include frozen deep fried foods such as fried potatoes or shrimp, and frozen meat products such as hamburger patties.

The frozen food market in Japan is much less developed than in Canada, and frozen foods make up only a small percentage of the foods used by institutions.

Food Imports by the Food Service Industry

According to a 1980 survey, the food service industry purchased ¥257 billion (\$2.5 billion Cdn) of imported food products, accounting for about 10 per cent of Japan's total food imports. (A breakdown of food service use of imported foodstuffs is given in Table 5.) Processed food was the largest category amounting to ¥142.5 billion (\$1.4 billion Cdn) or over 55 per cent of total institutional consumption of imported food and beverages. Other important sectors of food imports included fruit, seafood, meat and alcoholic beverages.