

15. SEA URCHIN (UNI)

Imports (MT)	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Canada	148	176	190	453	495
S/Korea	1,091	1,158	1,110	1,292	1,008
N/Korea	258	239	252	436	389
China	145	225	194	242	205
Taiwan	55	61	18	33	30
Hong Kong	26	57	44	79	59
Philippines	37	79	65	58	60
USA	888	1,243	1,564	1,750	2,318
Mexico	19	98	125	75	164
Chile	182	263	122	223	106
Australia	-	3	14	7	4
Total	2,857	3,601	3,696	4,651	4,844

Prices - Tokyo wholesale (yen/250g box)

	Year ago	6 mo. ago	Last mo.	Mar 90
Canadian	1000-2000	1000-2000	1000-2000	1000-2000
Los Angeles	1000-4500	1000-5000	1000-5000	1000-5000

Market Situation and Outlook

- The market for imported sea urchin continues to increase in Japan and the outlook is good for future expansion.
- Exports from Canada also continue to increase and in 1989 were valued at \$13 million on CIF basis. Sea urchin is an underutilized species with excellent potential for Canada.
- The Embassy recently prepared a market study on the Japanese market for sea urchin which is available on request.
- The pricing info shown above is of limited value other than as an indication of the wide fluctuation due to quality.