

- Major items which recorded the largest increase in terms of yen import value in 1992 are (Yen million & %):

	1992	1991	Increase	
			Value	%
Salmon	129,915	101,479	28,436	28.0
Tuna	165,914	143,105	22,809	15.9
Pollack surimi	65,860	58,049	7,811	13.5
Pollack roe	52,973	45,546	7,427	16.3
Cod	17,250	11,733	5,517	47.0

- The large increase in salmon imports softened the salmon market considerably in 1992.
- The increase recorded for tuna is caused by the increase in import price as the import quantity of tuna increased only by 5.3% from 282,790 metric tons in 1991 to 297,911 metric tons in 1992.
- While imports of pollack surimi recorded a 13.5% gain in terms of yen value, the import quantity increased by 29.3% from 118,971 metric tons in 1991 to 153,774 metric tons in 1992. This large increase in import quantity has led to a softening of the surimi market in Japan and a large inventory (which is estimated to be 150,000 metric tons) has been carried over to 1993.
- The five major items which recorded the largest decrease in 1992 were as follows (in Yen million and %):

	1992	1991	Decrease	
			Value	%
Shrimp	322,067	363,701	-41,634	-11.4
Mackerel	17,408	31,463	-14,055	-44.7
Octopus	52,829	63,882	-11,053	-17.3
Flatfish	26,582	36,060	-9,478	-26.3
Lobster	43,014	49,227	-6,213	-12.6

- Imports of shrimp (and prawns) decreased for the first time in the past 12 years. A sharp decline in price due to the chronic oversupply situation for black tiger shrimps in Southeast Asia, a decrease in Japanese consumption due to the economic slow down, and competition from US importers which have been increasing imports of shrimp from Southeast Asian countries are said to be the major reasons for the decrease.
- While the decrease in the yen value of mackerel imports was 44.7%, the decrease in quantity was 29.3% from 194,054 metric tons in 1991 to 137,270 metric tons in 1992, which means the import price of mackerel decreased significantly in 1992. The oversupply in 1991 softened the Japanese mackerel market and this was the major reason for such a sharp decrease in 1992 imports of mackerel.