

TABLE 9

Dried Mushroom Imports

		1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Shiitake	tonnes	47	139	124	893	1 866	2 201
	¥ million	121	285	234	1 494	2 821	3 274
Kikurage	tonnes	1 164	1 542	1 629	1 846	1 725	1 987
	¥ million	1 859	2 420	1 766	1 805	1 813	2 158
Others	tonnes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	593	120
	¥ million	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	354	193

Source: Ministry of Finance import statistics.

cent of the entire Japanese matsutake market in 1988 was accounted for by imported products.

Major exporters of fresh mushrooms to Japan include South Korea, North Korea, China and Taiwan, as well as Canada.

Dried mushrooms account for 20 per cent of the import market by value and 14 per cent by volume. Shiitake and kikurage together make up over 95 per cent of dried mushroom imports, as well as 20 per cent of total imports by value and 14 per cent by volume. Leading exporters to Japan are the low-cost producing nations of Asia, including South Korea, China and Taiwan.

Dried shiitake imports exploded from 124 t in 1986, to 893 t in 1987. Imports have increased in market share from 1.2 per cent in 1986 to 15.7 per cent in 1988. Over the past five years, import volume has grown an astonishing 4 558 per cent (value

increased 2 604 per cent) and average import prices have fallen from ¥4 327/kg in 1985 to ¥3 488/kg in 1988. As a result of import competition, many Japanese producers are being forced to drop out of the dried shiitake market.

The kikurage market in Japan is almost entirely (99 per cent) imports and always has been. For comparison with domestic volumes (and as shown in Table 3) import volumes are normally multiplied by 10 to reflect re-hydrated tonnage.

Prepared processed mushrooms occupy an overwhelming 75 per cent of all imports on a volume basis, although only 22 per cent on a value basis. It is difficult to judge the size of the prepared mushrooms market because most statistics are prepared at the wholesale market and prepared mushrooms do not use this market. However, imports are estimated to account for 80 per cent.

TABLE 10

Processed Mushroom Imports

		1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Champignon	tonnes	13 268	13 746	12 445	11 296	16 375	17 448
	¥ million	3 928	4 140	2 196	1 908	3 738	4 340
Others	tonnes	1 823	2 950	3 219	4 679	6 903	5 095
	¥ million	635	1 110	1 038	1 258	1 835	1 709

Source: Ministry of Finance imports statistics.