

Overview: In 2025, the United States exported \$239 million of lactose, milk albumin, and other dairy components (excluding cheese, butter, milk powder, and whey) to Japan. The United States accounted for 58 percent of Japan’s total imports of milk albumin and 57 percent for lactose imports in 2025.. Overall, Japan ranked as the #1 overseas market for milk albumin and #3 for lactose. The years below correspond to Japan’s fiscal year beginning April 1.

Product Name Japan Customs HS Code	Base Rate	Year 8 (2026)	Year 9 (2027)	Year 10 (2028)	Final Tariff (Year)	2025 Imports from U.S.	
Milk albumin 350220000	2.9%	Free			Free (2019)	\$176,572,519	
Lactose and lactose syrup 170211000, 170219000	8.5%	Free			Free (2019)	\$52,037,426	
Products consisting of natural milk constitutions used for infant formula (no added sugar) 040490-118/128/138	Fat content 1.5% or less	29.8% + 400 yen/kg	Free (within CSQ)			Free (2019)	\$10,297,167
	Fat content between 1.5% and 30%	29.8% + 679 yen/kg					
	Fat content exceeding 30%	29.8% + 1,023 yen/kg					
Casseinates and other casein derivatives, excl. casein (already duty free) 350190000	5.4%	Free			Free (2019)	\$0	
Dairy product preparations with over 30% of natural milk constituents, less than 30% fat (excl. base for non-alcoholic beverage and vitamin supplements), out of WTO quota 210690112	21.0%	5.2%	5.2%	5.2%	5.2% (2023)	\$0	
Frozen yogurt, containing sugar or other sweetening matter in immediate packaging less than 10kg 040310211	26.3%	4.7%	2.3%	Free	Free (2028)	\$0	
Other frozen yogurt 040310219	29.8%	5.4%	2.7%	Free	Free (2028)	n/a	

Country-Specific Quota (CSQ): Products consisting of natural milk constitutions used for infant formula (no added sugar) are included in the CSQ for U.S. whey which grows from 5,400 metric tons (MT) to 9,000 MT by 2028. In addition, Japan created a 750 MT tender within its current WTO dairy quota specifically for skimmed milk powder with a minimum 35 percent protein content by weight on a milk solids-not-fat-basis.

Market Considerations: The United States is a major supplier of lactose and milk albumin to Japan. These products are attractive to Japanese buyers since they can be imported outside of Japan’s government-operated dairy quota system (which manages imports of butter, nonfat dry milk, and whey). Under the U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement, ad valorem tariffs on lactose and milk albumin were eliminated immediately on January 1, 2020. Lactose is a key ingredient in seasonings, confectionary, and dairy drinks. Whey protein concentrate (with over 80% protein content) and whey protein isolate are imported as milk albumin.

Additional Resources: Further information is available at www.usdajapan.org. For additional questions, please contact the USDA Agricultural Trade Office at atotokyo@usda.gov, Tel: 81-3-3224-5115.