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GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Japan Maintains Planned Imports for Butter and NFDM in JFY 2019

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation
Dairy and Products
Trade Policy Monitoring

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Report Highlights:

On May 31, Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries affirmed that it will maintain the tariff-rate quota volumes for butter and non-fat dry milk (NFDM) at 20,000 MT each for Japanese fiscal year 2019, in line with its previous announcement in January.

General Information:

On May 31, 2019, Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) announced that the tariff-rate quota (TRQ) volumes for butter and non-fat dry milk (NFDM) for Japanese Fiscal Year 2019 (April 2019-March 2020) would remain at the same level previously announced on January 30, 2019 ([JA9019](#)). The TRQ volumes are set a 20,000 MT each, reflecting a 7,000 MT increase in planned butter imports from the previous year and a 7,000 MT decrease in NFDM imports.

These TRQs are a part of the designated dairy products TRQ operated by Japan's Agriculture and Livestock Industries Corporation (ALIC) in accordance with Japan's commitments to the World Trade Organization. Tenders for butter will be held every month and for NFDM every two months.

As previously reported in [JA9019](#), FAS/Tokyo estimates that increased butter imports are needed to meet growing food processor demand as domestic supplies of butter are increasingly diverted for table use. Meanwhile, modest increases in domestic NFDM production as well as significant volumes of NFDM entering Japan outside of the designated dairy products TRQ have reduced the need for NFDM imports under the TRQ. ALIC estimates that April 2019 ending stocks for butter (24,600 MT) and NFDM (68,236 MT) were relatively unchanged from the previous year.

TRQ volumes for other dairy products, including natural cheese for processing, skimmed milk powder, evaporated milk, butter and butteroil, and certain whey products, were announced by Japan's Ministry of Finance on April 1, 2019 ([JA9047](#)).

For more information on Japan's dairy market, see FAS/Tokyo's Dairy and Products Annual Report [JA8083](#). For more information on Japan's dairy import policies, see [ERS: Dairy Policies in Japan](#).