

The Food Self-sufficiency Rate for FY2009

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries published on August 10th the food self-sufficiency rate for FY2009.

The food self-sufficiency rate on a calorie basis was 40%, which fell by 1 point from the previous year as a result of decreases in the production of wheat and sugar, and in the consumption of rice.

The food self-sufficiency rate on a production value basis was 70%, which rose by 5 point due to declines in import volume and the unit prices of livestock, fish products, oils and fats, and vegetables, and due also to a decrease in feed import value led by a decline in the world grain prices.

1. The food self-sufficiency rate

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| • Calorie Basis | 40% | (a fall of 1 point from the previous year) |
| • Production Value Basis | 70% | (a rise of 5 points from the previous year) |

2. Influences on the food self-sufficiency rate

(1) The main factor contributing to the fall in the food self-sufficiency rate on a calorie basis

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| • Decrease in the domestic production of wheat and sugar (sugar beet, sugarcane) |
| • Decrease in the consumption of rice |

(2) The main factor contributing to the rise in the food self-sufficiency rate on a production value basis

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| • Fall in import volume and the unit prices of livestock, fish products, oils and fats, and vegetables |
| • Decrease in import value of feed (livestock) led by a decline in the world grain prices. |

Session of the Subcommittee of the JAS Council to be Held

MAFF will hold a session of the Subcommittee of the Council for Japanese Agricultural Standards (JAS) at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 29th, 2010. The session will be held in the Dai-3-Tokubetsu Meeting Room at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (the 7th floor, door #714 of the main building). The session will consider the following issues:

Japanese Agricultural Standards to be revised for:

- a. Agricultural products with production information,
- b. Soy milks,
- c. Canned / bottled livestock products,
- d. Carrot juice and carrot mix juice,
- e. Boiled and dried small fishes,
- f. Pickled agricultural products,
- g. Fruit juice and fruit beverage,
- h. Apple straight pure juice,
- i. Carbonated drinks.

- Those who wish to listen to the discussion or make comments at the session are asked to apply, in Japanese, either by fax or mail. Please indicate the name, address, membership (such as organization and company) and telephone number (and fax number if available) of the applicant, and whether you wish to make comments or just listen to the discussion. Please note that applications by telephone will not be accepted. One application per applicant is required.
 - If you are applying by mail, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or an envelope (a double postal card is also available).
 - Attendees wishing to make comments must submit an abstract, in Japanese, to the chairperson by the prescribed deadline. Attendees may not comment beyond what are said at submitted abstract. Attendees are allowed to make or circulate comments through their agents, with the chairperson's approval.
 - If you wish to be accompanied by an interpreter or a disability assistance dog (i.e. a guide dog), or if you use a wheelchair, please indicate as such in the applications.
- 1) The application should be made to the following address / number:
Labeling and Standards Division,
Food Safety and Consumers Affairs Bureau
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 100-8950
Fax: (03)-3502-0594
 - 2) All applications, whether by fax or mail, must be received no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, September 24th, 2010.
 - 3) If the number of applicants exceeds the capacity of the meeting room, attendees will be selected by lot (Around 35 attendees will be acceptable).

Remarks:

- Attendees are asked to be seated in the meeting room by 10 minutes before the session. Entrance/exit to and from the meeting room during the session is not allowed except in case of emergency.
- The use of cameras, video recorders, tape recorders, wireless microphones and other such devices are prohibited during the meeting.
- Attendees must keep quiet and follow the instruction of chairperson and staffs of secretariat all times during the session (Otherwise, attendees may be asked to go out of the meeting room).
- The session will be conducted entirely in Japanese and no interpretation will be provided. If you need an interpreter, please prepare by yourself.

For further information, please contact the Labeling and Standards Division by telephone at (03)-3502-8111(ext.4480) / (03)-6744-2096(dir.) or by fax at (03)-3502-0594.
Labeling and Standards Division, Food Safety and Consumers Affairs Bureau
Subcommittee of the JAS Council:

<http://www.maff.go.jp/j/jas/kaigi/bukai.html>

