

Economic effects of Japanese pickles industry

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Author: Kiyoshi FUJIKAWA

Co-Authors: Mariko Makita

Recently, Asian food draws international attention. As to Japanese food, it is such high-level food or drink as sushi or refined sake that are well known in the world and they are not what ordinary people eat in a daily life. The economic impact of those food, therefore are limited. Then, this paper sets a focus on pickles of vegetable or Tsukemono in Japanese that all Japanese eat almost every day while this paper introduces relative position of pickles in Japanese economy and estimates its economic effects.

Incidentally, Japan is famous for input output table with detailed industry classification. The recent I-O table is for the year 2011 whose size of the part of intermediates transactions is 520 rows by 407 columns. Tsukemono industry is included in the industry of preservation food of farming production (except jar and canned food) with code 111602. However, it is necessary to note that dehydrated vegetables and dried fruits besides pickles are also included in this industry classification.

In this report, first of all, we overview the pickles industry by looking into the consumption basket of Japanese households or calculating the import dependency in the supply of pickles in Japan and introduce pickles industry using measures of traditional input-output analysis such as backward and forward linkage, output ripple effects and final demand dependency. In addition, we estimate economic effects of demand increase in the pickles industry through increase in food exports and increase in foreign tourist to Japan.