1. Quantity of Exports and Imports by Commodity

The following is the quantity of exports by commodity in 1972:

- Metals, machinery and equipment comprised 43.5% (46.5 million tons) of the total exports. Among these items, crude oil accounted for 31.2%, iron ore 36.9%, and coal 11.9%
- Forest products comprised 8.9% (5.5 million tons) of the total exports. The percentage of lumber was 81.1%, chemical products constituted 6.8% (15.1 million tons), and heavy oil and petroleum products accounted for 8.0%.
- Agricultural and fishery products took up 11.7% (8.1 million tons) of the total imports, while the percentage of wheat, rice, other grains and pulses was 68.9%

In the quantity of exports and imports by area, Japan’s foreign trade showed a considerable excess of imports with areas having abundant raw materials, such as West Asia, Africa, Oceania, Southeast Asia, and North America, whereas it showed an excess of exports with European countries and some of the Asian countries.

In the volume of imports by commodity, mineral products assumed an overwhelming part of the imports from various areas excluding Europe and Central America. As shown on the map, crude oil constituted the large amount of imports from West Asian countries such as Iran, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, and Oman, as well as from Indonesia and Brazil. In the import of mined products from Australia, iron ore and coal were the main commodities. Iron ore was also imported from India and Brazil. Imports from Peru, Brazil, Chile, and other South American countries consisted mostly of manganese metal ores such as zinc, manganese, chrome and copper; from Liberia, Angola and Mozambique—iron ore; from Nigeria—cocoa; and from South Africa—chrome ore.

For the forest products shown in the map, lumber, imported mainly from the United States, Indonesia, the Soviet Union, Malaysia, and the Philippines.

As for agricultural products, imports from the United States were extremely large, followed by imports from Australia and Canada. Most of the imports from the United States and Canada consisted of wheat and other grains used for food and fodder. 30.6% of the imported rice to Japan was imported from Australia, and of which 70% was made up of rice and grain meat.

The remainder of the imported foods came from such countries as South Africa, Ecuador, Thailand, and Taiwan. There was a high percentage of imports of motor and raw sugar from South Africa, bananas from Ecuador, maize, fish and shellfish from Thailand, and bananas and raw sugar from Taiwan.

Metals, machinery and equipment constituted 43.5% of the total quantity of exports from Japan. Of these commodities, iron and steel were the most important export item, followed by automobiles and electrical machinery. Iron and steel were exported to the United States (38.8%), followed by China (37.9%) and Korea (6.8%). Most of the automobile exports went to the United States (41.5%), followed by Canada (16.8%) and Australia (9.5%).

The greatest quantity of chemical exports went to China, followed by the United States, Indonesia, Korea, and Taiwan. 49.5% of the exports to China consisted of chemical fertilizers. Chemical fertilizers were also exported to Indonesia and other Southeast Asian countries. Organic compounds and plastics were exported mainly to the United States, Korea and Taiwan.

2. Ratio of Import Dependency on Principal Raw Materials

The following is the ratio of import dependency on principal raw materials in 1972:

- Oil and natural gas: 80.3% (57.4 million tons) of the total imports of oil and natural gas were imported from the United States and Kuwait.
- Wheat, rice, other grains and pulses: The import ratio was 68.9%.
- Iron ore: 70% of the iron ore imports were from Australia, and of which 70% was made up of rice and grain meat.
- Coal: 70% of the coal imports were from China, followed by Australia, the United States and Canada.
- Copper: 70% of the copper imports were from Chile, followed by Peru and Australia.
- Zinc: 70% of the zinc imports were from Peru, followed by Chile and Australia.

The dependency of imports is defined as the ratio of imports to the total imports and the volume of domestic production. The figures are based on data by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

Sources: