

Japan-China Economic Relations from the Perspective of Trade Statistics between Japan and China (Summary)

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This article analyzes trade between Japan and China, especially changes in the major trade items as well as agricultural trade, using trade statistics from both countries. It also confirms that from the Reform and Opening-up to the present day, Japan and China have been major trading partners for each other, and in recent years China has become an important export market for Japan.

Particularly noteworthy is the change in the trade structure between Japan and China. In 1995, apparel, a labor-intensive product, was the number one export item from China to Japan, but by 2013 its export value had decreased, and technology-intensive machinery and electrical equipment had replaced clothing as the leading export item. China's imports from Japan have increased, including the value of imports of consumer goods such as automobiles and cosmetics, in addition to intermediate goods such as integrated circuits, semiconductor manufacturing equipment, and automobile parts. Furthermore, China has gradually shifted from a pure exporter of agricultural products to a pure importer, and Japan's export of agricultural products to China is increasing. One can assume that China has become an important export market for Japan due to the expansion of intra-industrial trade between the two nations.

Keywords: Japan-China trade, trade structure, agricultural trade

JEL Classification Codes : F40, F10, Q17