

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Date: 8/8/2018

GAIN Report Number: JA8047

Japan

Post: Tokyo

Heat Wave Hikes Japan Vegetable Prices

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

Vegetables

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Report Highlights:

Japan is currently experiencing rapid price hikes on fresh vegetables, especially leafy vegetables such as cabbage and lettuce, due to prolonged hot weather and low precipitation. Furthermore, flooding in July damaged infrastructures that has disrupted distribution networks. Japanese buyers are looking to imports to offset shortfalls in domestic supplies. If interested in supplying the Japanese market, contact the Osaka Agricultural Trade Office.

Keyword: JA8047

General Information:

The supply of Japanese fresh vegetables is available from different geographical regions (e.g. north and south, low and high altitude) throughout the year. Many leafy vegetables such as lettuce and cabbage are susceptible to high temperatures, and are therefore frequently grown in high altitude regions during the summer in Japan. In June and July 2018, Japan experienced extraordinarily hot weather and low precipitation, including regions supplying large volumes of summer cabbage and iceberg lettuce, especially in Gunma and Nagano prefectures, respectively. This combination of weather patterns resulted in severe damage such as tipburn and heading failure, which renders these products unsaleable in Japan. In addition, severe flooding in early July damaged agricultural fields and hence production, particularly of spinach, in western parts of Japan. Damage to infrastructure has also hampered the distribution of perishable produce.

As a result, vegetable prices have been increasing since mid-July. The following charts illustrate the price changes of cabbage, lettuce, and spinach at the Tokyo wholesale market in July. The observed price hike has triggered demand for imports, particularly for restaurant and industrial use. Multiple contacts informed FAS/Tokyo that they are seeking sources for vegetables from foreign countries, mainly China and Taiwan, but also from the United States.

If interested in exporting to Japan, please contact the Agricultural Trade Office in Osaka, Japan at atoosaka@fas.usda.gov.

Please be aware that Japan maintains a number of pesticide residue standards that differ from the United States. For more information about Japan's standards, please see Section III. Pesticides and Other Contaminants (pg. 6) of [JA7144](#).

Chart 1 - Temperatures in Gunma Prefecture
(Cabbage growing region)

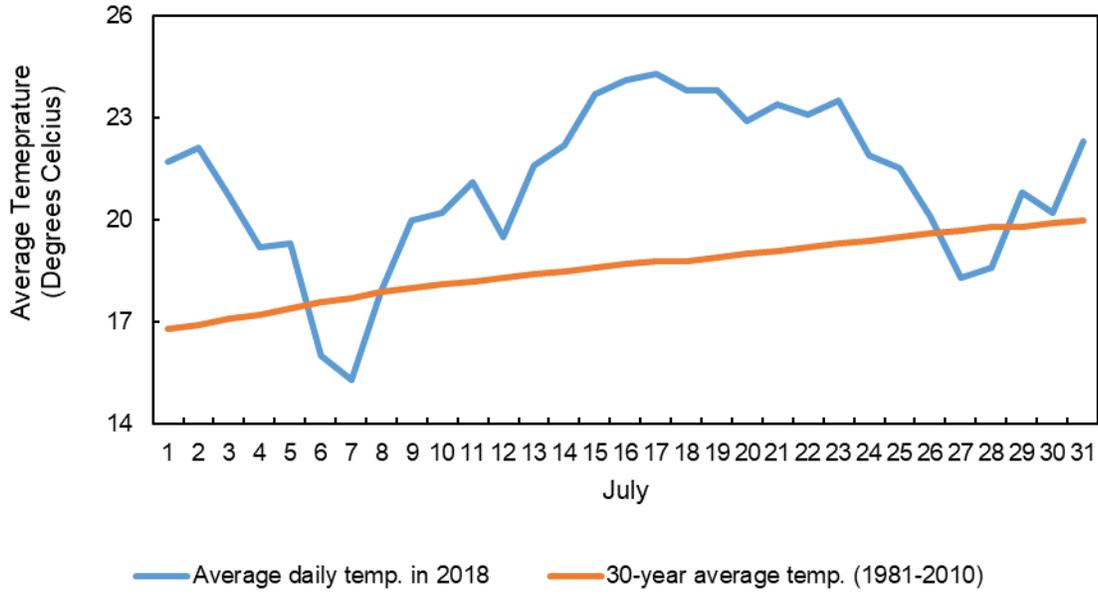


Chart 2 - Cabbage Price (at Tokyo wholesale market)

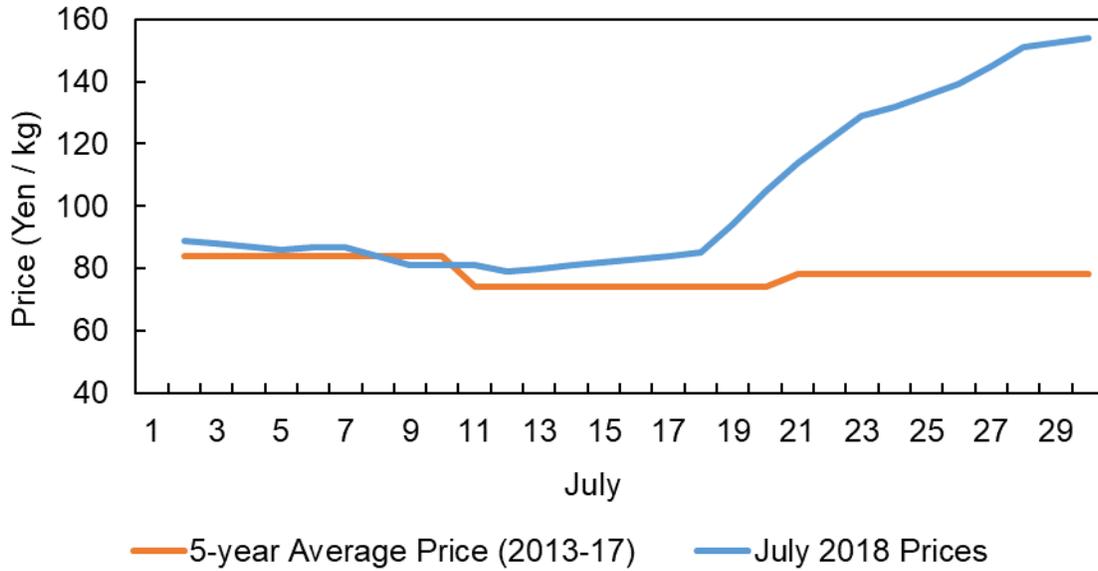


Chart 3 - Tempepratures in Nagano Prefecture
(Lettuce growing region)

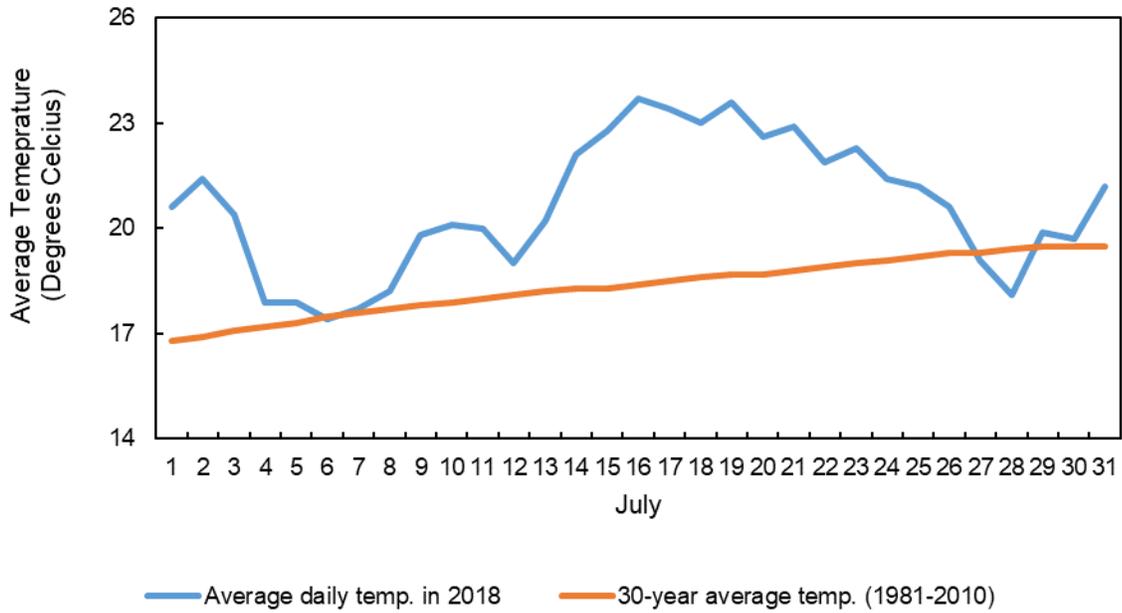


Chart 4 - Lettuce Price (at Tokyo wholesale market)

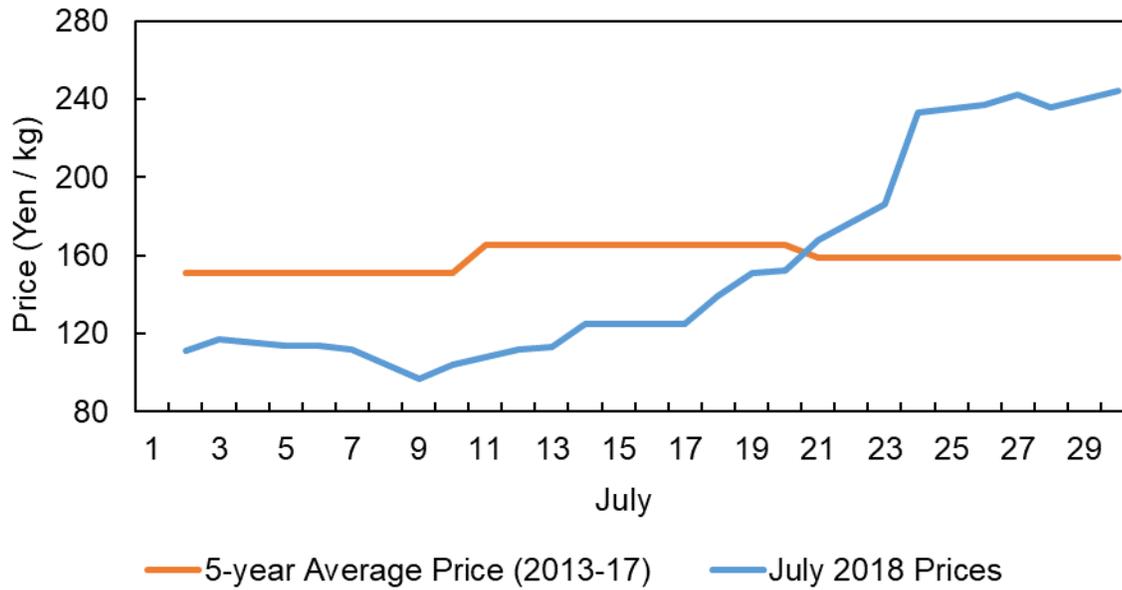


Chart 5 - Spinach Price (at Tokyo wholesale market)

