



Foreign Agricultural Service
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Korea Should Establish Standards to Lower Acrylamide, Cancer-Causing Substance, in Consumer Foods, Korea Consumer Agency

<https://www.yna.co.kr/view/AKR20190820066900030?input=1195m>

Summary: Korea Consumer Agency (KCA), a Korean government institute, reported on August 20 that its recent market monitoring of consumer food products for acrylamides found two products with acrylamide levels above EU safety limits. According to KCA, it tested 50 consumer food products in the market, including French fries, cereals, breads, and cookies for acrylamides. The amount of acrylamides found in the KCA test was below the local safety limit, which is 1,000 micrograms/kg for all foods. However, KCS pointed out that the Korean acrylamide standards should be further developed to specify safety limits for individual food product categories to reduce the amount of acrylamides in food. Acrylamides are classified as a Group 2A carcinogen in consumer foods. KCS emphasized that two of the products tested would have failed EU safety standards established for the individual product category.

Leading Korean Food Processors Report Solid Sales Growth in the First Half

<https://www.hankyung.com/economy/article/2019081807161>

Summary: Major food processors in Korea reported solid sales growth during the first half of this year. CJ Cheiljedang remains the largest processor in the country with 10.5 trillion Korean Won in sales (about U.S. \$9 billion) during the first half of 2019, up 19.7 percent from last year. Other major processors, including Dongwon F&B, Lotte Childung, and SPC Samlip, also reported 9 to 12 percent sales growth. Key trends in the industry this year include increased consumer demand for HMR products and on-line retailing. Food items accounted for almost a fifth of all on-line sales during the first half of 2019, up sharply from the year before.

Lotte Hotel Launches Gift Sets for Upcoming Chuseok

<http://www.donga.com/news/article/all/20190813/96940809/1>

Summary: Lotte Hotel launched its special gift sets for upcoming Chuseok (Korean Thanksgiving Day) on August 12. Lotte said the theme of gift sets this year was 'better value for money'. Gift sets include Natural Pine Mushroom with Lab-grown Mountain Ginseng, Traditional Soy Sauce & Sea Salt, and High-brix Persimmons from Cheongdo Province. Five star hotels in Korea have been key retailers for premium gift sets for major holiday seasons in Korea.



Coupang Launches Separate Site Designated for Pets

<http://www.donga.com/news/article/all/20190813/96940819/1>

Summary: Coupang, the leading on-line retailer in Korea, announced on August 12 that its shopping site was reorganized to have a separate section solely dedicated to pet owners. Coupang said the new pet section provides very detailed guidance for pet owners on pet breeding and care together with full categories of pet products for easy, one-stop shopping.

South Korea's Per-capita GDP (PPP) to Exceed Japan's in 2023

<http://www.donga.com/news/article/all/20190812/96924870/1>

Summary: The August 11 International Monetary Funds (IMF) World Economic Forecast reported that South Korea's per-capita Gross Domestic Production (GDP) in Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) term will amount to \$51,418 in 2023, exceeding Japan's \$51,283 for the first time. South Korea has been narrowing the gap with Japan. However, in actual per-capita GDP, Japan (\$52,140) will still be higher than South Korea (\$38,612).

EMART Reports Loss in the 2nd Q ... for the First Time ... Signals Further Restructuring of the Retail Industry

<http://www.fnnews.com/news/201908120837217031>

Summary: EMART, the leading hypermarket retail company in Korea, reported that its cash-register sales in the 2nd Q, 2019 amounted to 4.6 trillion won (about \$4 billion), up 14.8 percent from the same period last year. However, EMART saw 30 billion won (about \$27 million) of operation losses in the quarter. This was the first quarter that EMART recorded loss since its establishment in 1993. Marketers pointed out that the retail industry in Korea was going through a major restructuring due to the rise of on-line retailers, bringing serious challenges to conventional retail companies.

The information in this report was compiled by the [Agricultural Trade Office \(ATO\)](#) at the U.S. Embassy in Seoul, South Korea. The press summaries contained herein do NOT reflect USDA, the U.S. Embassy, or other U.S. government agency official policy or view point. U.S. food exporters can learn more about market opportunities in South Korea by reviewing ATO Seoul's [Exporter Guide](#) and other reports available at www.fas.usda.gov by clicking on "attaché reports."