



# Japan Focus

ジャパン フォーカス



*Japan Focus is a trade development program of World Trade Center Alaska. The program provides information and services to Alaskans seeking to do business in Japan.*

20 February 2007

## Japan: Alaska's #1 Trading Partner.

Dear Members and Friends of the Center:

When discussion in Alaska turns to the subject of international trade, many people start talking about Japan. There's good reason for this: for as long as anyone can remember, Japan has been Alaska's number one trading partner. Even after more than decade of economic difficulties in that country, Japan's #1 ranking remains true today. Last year, exports from Alaska totaled more than a billion dollars (\$1,048,068 Jan-Nov 2006), accounting for some 26% of the state's total worldwide exports.

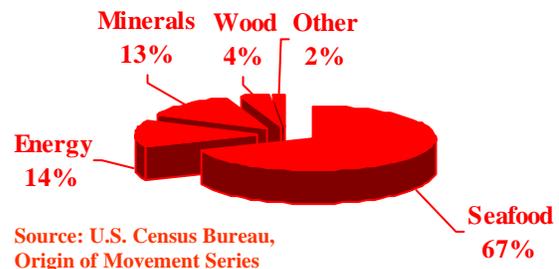
Japanese companies have also invested heavily in Alaska's major industries, from timber and mining to seafood and tourism. Beyond the commercial dimension, there are many long-standing and active cultural ties between Alaska and Japan. Without question, Alaska's strong ties with Japan have been, and are today, a vital component of our economic growth and prosperity.

Here at World Trade Center Alaska (WTCAL), we commenced our Japan trade development program, **Japan Focus**, in 2005. The program is designed to provide Alaskans with the information and hand-on assistance needed to explore or conduct business with Japan. To date, program activities have included a "how to do business in Japan" seminar, several luncheon presentations featuring Japanese diplomats and trade officials, and a session on cultural do's and don'ts. In the months ahead, we are planning a variety of events and activities as we continue this important program.

### Alaska's Exports To Japan

January through November 2006

(by commodity)



WTCAL's staff has many years of experience in the Japanese market. If you are interested in finding out more about the **Japan Focus** program or if you are interested in exploring business opportunities in Japan, please contact WTCAL on 278-7233 or by email: [info@wtcak.org](mailto:info@wtcak.org)

Best Regards,

*Greg Wolf*

Executive Director