

Damage and Recovery of Japanese Food Industries in the Great East Japan Earthquake

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Summary

In the Great East Japan earthquake, food industries suffered from various damages and shut down their operations. As for direct damage, they suffered from a tsunami in the Tohoku pacific area and trembling damage in the Tohoku and Kanto areas. As for indirect damage, they suffered from power cuts, shortage of materials and packages, and paralyzed transportation networks in the Kanto area. The most common countermeasures for those damages were narrowing the product range and outsourcing.

The duration of shutdown is an important measure of the stagnation in the food-supply industry. Econometric analysis showed that the duration tends to be longer for those that suffered from building and machinery damage and power cuts, and shorter for those that took countermeasures by narrowing the product ranges.

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