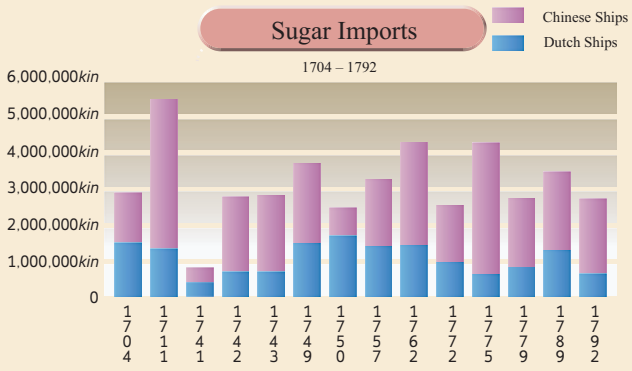
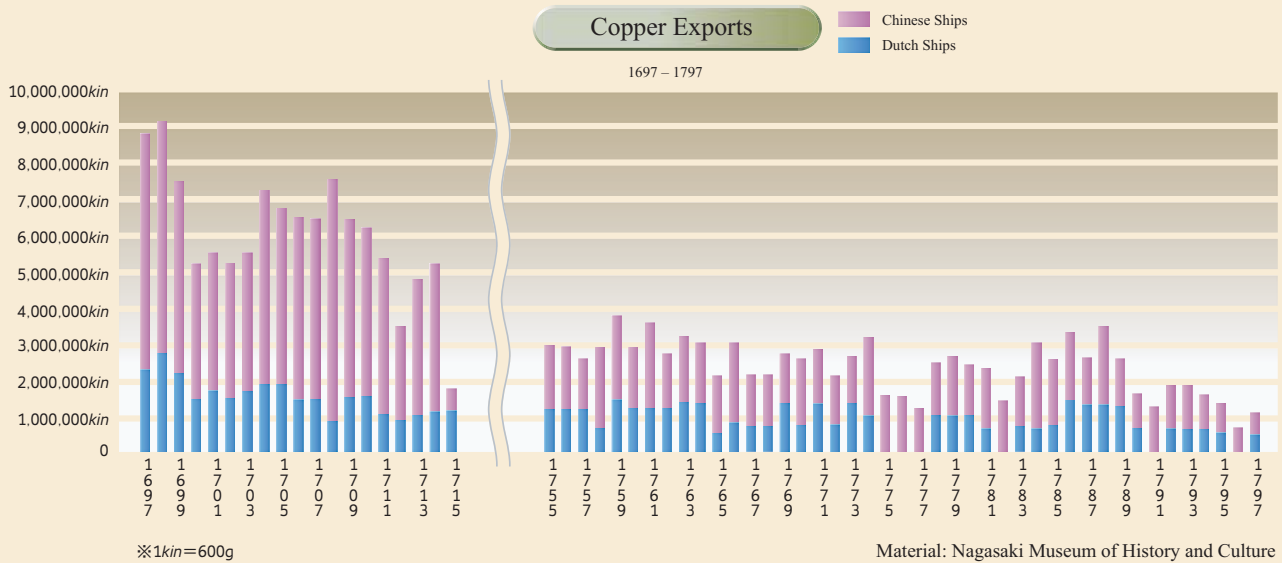


# Trade Prosperity (Business Transactions/ Trade Goods)

## Overview of Copper Exports and Sugar Imports



### Imports

Raw silk thread produced in Bengal and Tonkin was the main commodity imported via Chinese ships at the beginning of the Edo period. However, domestic production of silk thread had increased by the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century which led to a reduction in imports. Instead, sugar from Batavia became the main import. At the time, Batavian production of sugar had increased and was purchased by Chinese ships which then brought it to Japan in large quantities. Other imports included sappanwood and pharmaceutical ingredients, textiles such as silk and chintz, books, and glass products.

### Exports

At the beginning of the Edo period, Japan's main export aboard Chinese ships was silver. Japan was a prominent producer of good quality silver from the late-16<sup>th</sup> century to the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Gold coins were also exported. However, as they were of poor quality they were not widely sought after. Copper and marine produce then replaced silver and gold as the next great exports. Marine produce such as dried sea cucumber, dried abalone, and shark's fin, was exported wrapped in straw. Other popular exports included camphor (as an insect repellent) and seafood, ceramics, lacquerware, and copper products.



Wooden Box Containing 100 kin (approximately 60kg) of Saodo ("pole copper") (replica)  
Copper is 21cm long x 2cm wide.  
Nagasaki City Board of Education



Saodo (Pole Copper) Copper is 75cm long x 3cm wide.  
Nagasaki Museum of History and Culture

### Saodo Copper (Bottom) / Box of Saodo Copper (Middle)

Trade was originally settled in silver. However, harsh restrictions were later placed on silver exports. Copper came to replace silver as an export, and from 1690 it became the main trading commodity. The copper pictured was used for settling trade deals, and was called "saodo" (pole copper). It was smelted at Doza in Osaka, and then brought to Nagasaki. The pole copper is 21cm long x 2cm wide, and is stored in a wooden box with ink calligraphy stating that it contains 60kg of copper.