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[21106001]

Oil imports to Japan rose 12 % in September from year-earlier levels , according to statistics released by the government 's Ministry of International Trade and Industry .

[21106002]

The imports , totaling 98.5 million barrels , were 11 % lower than August levels .

[21106004]

Imports of crude from the Middle East grew 17 % from year-earlier levels , and Southeast Asian crude imports grew 43 % .

[21106005]

While Mideast crude imports were higher compared with year-earlier levels , they fell 18 % compared with August imports .

[21106006]

Southeast Asian crude imports , however , were 3.6 % higher than August .