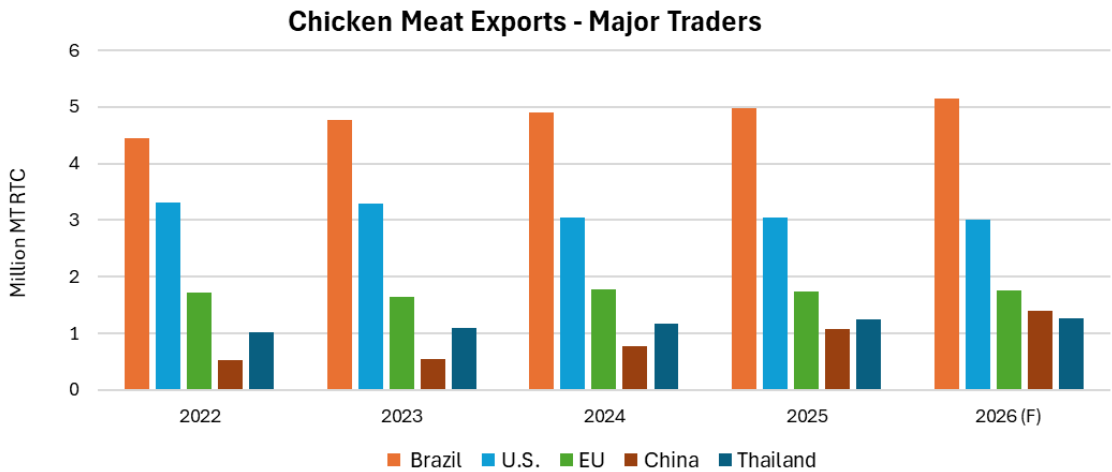
United States Department of Agriculture
Foreign Agricultural Service
April 9, 2026

Livestock and Poultry: World Markets and Trade

China Chicken Meat Exports Continue to Soar in 2026, Surpassing Thailand



In 2026, China chicken meat exports are forecast to surge and imports are forecast to fall, continuing the trend of the past 2 years. Rising exports are fueled on solid production growth primarily supported by high grandparent stock inventories, continuing expansion by large integrated producers, increasing processing capacity, and government support and subsidies[1]. With a shrinking and aging population as well as limited per capita consumption growth, China production increases outpace modest consumption gains, facilitating an upturn in exportable supplies. China's niche in the global market is supplying low-priced chicken meat. Demand from low and lower-middle-income countries has boosted China's chicken meat exports as demonstrated by growth in shipments to Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan, Iraq, and across Africa.

Rapid Growth

- China chicken meat exports reached $2.59 billion in 2025, nearly double the value of shipments in 2020.
- Exports by volume have increased more sharply, nearly tripling during the same period as China diversified markets, particularly to price sensitive developing countries.
- China became a net chicken meat exporter in 2024.

China Supply and Demand Can Significantly Impact World Trade

China is the world's second largest producer of chicken meat, significantly behind the United States and often on par with Brazil. However, China production is forecast to rise well above Brazil in 2026. Vast China production supports consumption for its population of 1.4 billion people (approximately 17 percent of the world population). Despite some longer-term shifts in diet and lifestyle, China chicken consumption remains relatively low (11 kg/per capita) compared to pork (43 kg/per capita) and beef (8 kg/per capita) in 2025. China chicken meat consumption is also lower compared to other countries such as the United States (55 kg), Japan (24 kg), and Taiwan (42 kg).

Trade has traditionally been a relatively small portion of China's chicken meat balance sheet, with some variations due to market events such as disease outbreaks. Historically, China was a net importer becoming a net exporter in 2024. Imports as a percentage of consumption have ranged from 2 to 5 percent. Exports as a percentage of production have ranged from 3 to 5 percent but have risen since 2024 and are forecast to reach 8 percent in 2026.

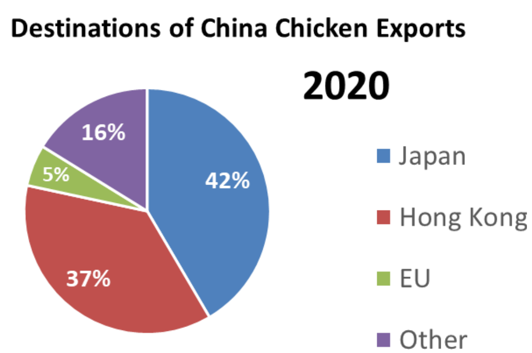
[1] USDA-FAS China Poultry and Products Semi-Annual Report, March 18, 2026.

Slight changes in China's balance sheet can be significant as they are the world's second largest producer. China was also ranked as the world's fifth largest exporter and thirteenth largest importer in 2025. As observed in global pork markets when China production was decimated by African swine fever, significant changes or shocks in China can have major implications for world trade.

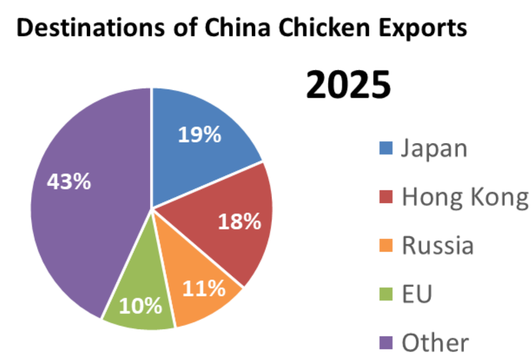
China - Chicken Meat PSD (1,000 MT)							
Attribute	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026 (F)**
Production	14,600	14,700	14,300	14,800	15,350	16,500	17,300
Total Imports	999	788	633	756	477	297	250
Total Exports	388	457	532	554	770	1,085	1,400
Total Domestic Consumption	15,211	15,031	14,401	15,002	15,057	15,712	16,150
Percent Change in Production	6%	1%	-3%	3%	4%	7%	5%
Percent Change in Imports	72%	-21%	-20%	19%	-37%	-38%	-16%
Percent Change in Exports	-9%	18%	16%	4%	39%	41%	29%
Imports as a Percent of Consumption	*7%*	*5%*	*4%*	*5%*	*3%*	*2%*	*2%*
Exports as a Percent of Production	*3%*	*3%*	*4%*	*4%*	*5%*	*7%*	*8%*

China: A Changing Export Profile for Chicken Meat

Between 2020 and 2025, China chicken meat production increased and new markets opened which resulted in a shifting export profile. Whereas China traditionally exported processed chicken products to Japan and Hong Kong, a wider variety of products are now shipped to a greater number of countries. In 2026, China is expected to make gains across all of its markets and continue to benefit from relatively new markets such as Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Iraq, Libya, and Angola.

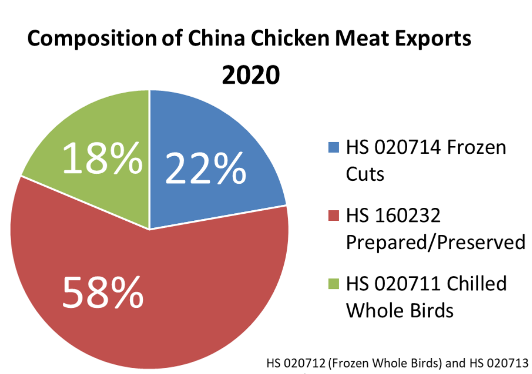


Source: Trade Data Monitor

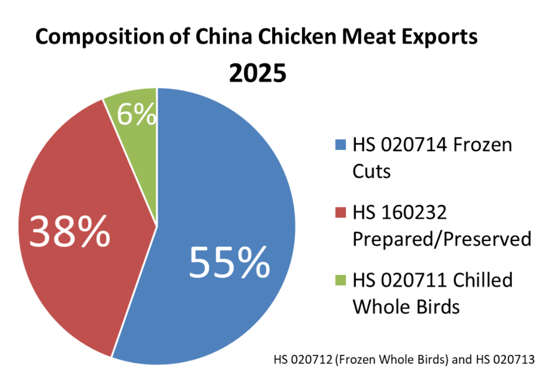


Source: Trade Data Monitor

- In 2025, China's top markets for chicken meat were Japan (19 percent), Hong Kong (18 percent), Russia (11 percent), and the EU (10 percent) with no other market accounting for more than 5 percent of shipments. This is a vastly different export profile compared to 2020 when Japan and Hong Kong accounted for 42 and 37 percent of shipments, respectively.
- In 2025, frozen cuts and prepared preserved products accounted for 55 percent and 38 percent of China chicken exports, respectively. In 2020, the majority of China shipments (by volume) were prepared/preserved products (39 percent) compared to frozen cuts (22 percent).



Source: Trade Data Monitor



Source: Trade Data Monitor

China Exportable Supplies Find Markets

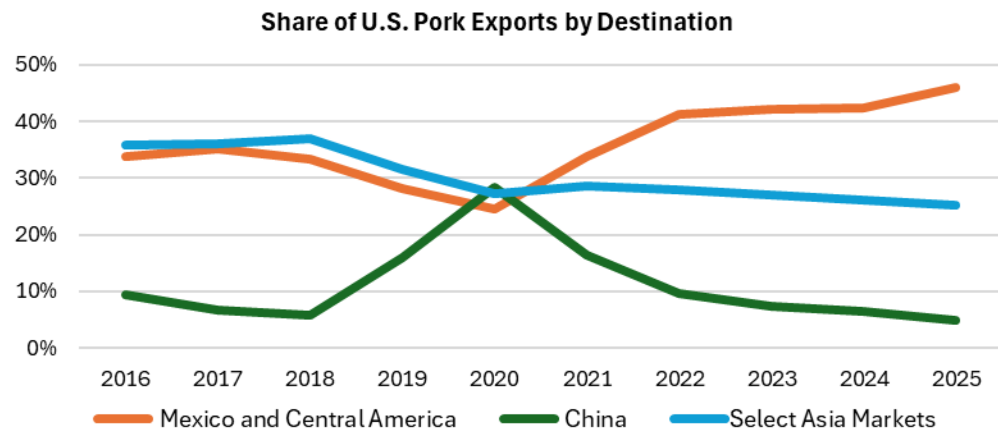
China needs markets to continue robust growth. During 2020 to 2025, world chicken meat trade grew 9 percent, with expansion expected to continue in 2026. Thus, China chicken meat exports can expand on rising global demand. However, if China export expansion outpaces rising world demand, some growth will have to be achieved by overtaking key competitor's sales. In addition, China does face market access challenges. Of the top 5 global import markets, China has limited access (Japan, UK, EU, and Saudi Arabia) or no access (Mexico). Thus, market development efforts are likely to be focused on mid-size and developing markets.

China Chicken Meat Exports - Top Markets (MT)								
Partner Country	Rank	Calendar Year						
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	%Δ 2024/25
WORLD		388,018	456,718	532,266	554,118	769,980	1,084,727	41
of which to:								
Africa		1,383	1,363	3,309	4,225	17,465	65,289	274
Japan	1	161,196	180,098	193,109	172,371	185,400	201,465	9
Hong Kong	2	142,879	162,953	168,879	166,925	182,334	192,008	5
Russia	3	0	341	4,154	17,701	73,832	114,664	55
EU 27	4	21,109	28,952	45,800	57,536	85,091	108,291	27
United Kingdom	5	6,144	8,352	18,442	25,432	37,548	49,995	33
Cambodia	6	2,379	3,256	5,292	7,067	10,595	42,249	299
Kyrgyzstan	7	0	193	3,555	10,922	24,595	40,300	64
Malaysia	8	13,172	16,904	22,535	11,430	23,572	35,017	49
Mongolia	9	13,120	14,179	19,252	25,917	32,939	34,494	5
UAE	10	705	874	1,906	2,496	10,314	33,569	225
Georgia	11	1,891	2,494	5,819	9,761	18,811	27,591	47
Bahrain	12	3,600	5,241	7,516	11,446	19,820	26,940	36
Iraq	13	0	0	271	251	2,903	25,859	791
Philippines	14	4,087	10,233	11,909	12,325	14,422	20,904	45
Afghanistan	15	2,508	3,998	6,870	4,532	13,642	19,394	42
Macao	16	11,712	12,981	13,506	15,035	16,434	16,619	1
Libya	17	0	0	28	0	2,569	16,014	523
Angola	18	9	0	274	220	3,653	14,461	296
Qatar	19	0	0	40	0	286	10,374	3,527
Ghana	20	13	106	1,218	1,506	3,733	8,330	123
Source: China Customs Statistics Via Trade Data Monitor								

Animal Diseases Continue to Shape 2026 Global Pork Trade

In 2026, China pork import volumes are forecast to decline 16 percent given ample supplies, leading major exporters to continue seeking opportunities in other markets. African swine fever (ASF) induced robust China import demand from 2019-2021. However, rapid domestic production recovery is pushing China import volumes below pre-ASF levels. Since 2020, the European Union and Brazil have increasingly shifted export focus to select Asia markets[1], particularly to those countries where production has been recently impacted by ASF, including the Philippines, South Korea, and Taiwan.[2] U.S. pork exports have pivoted more toward Mexico and Central America markets[3], while continuing to aggressively compete in key price-sensitive markets in Asia.

United States



Source: Economic Research Service

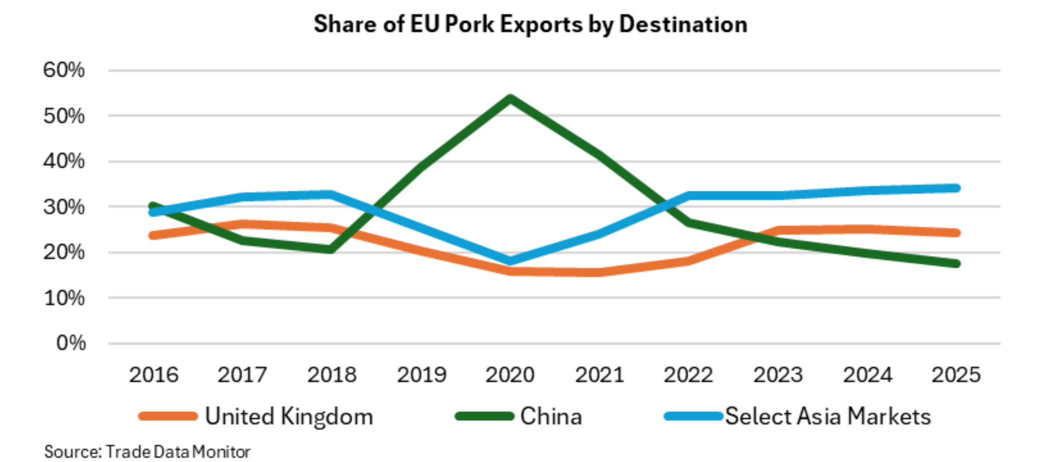
In 2025, U.S. pork exports declined 2 percent as large export increases to Mexico and Central America markets failed to offset reduced shipments to many Asia markets, including a 26 percent decline to China. As China pork imports declined, U.S. exporters shifted focus to rapidly expanding demand in Mexico and Central America, while also vying for market share in other Asia markets, including Japan and South Korea.

From 2020 to 2025, the share of U.S. exports destined for Mexico and Central America markets increased from 25 percent to 46 percent. Robust shipments to Mexico in recent years were

[1] For FAS Pork PSDs, Select Asia markets include Japan, the Philippines, South Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, Vietnam, and Macao.
[2] https://www.fao.org/animal-health/situation-updates/asf-in-asia-pacific/en
[3] For FAS Pork PSDs, Central America markets include Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Panama.

supported by the impact of porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) and porcine epidemic diarrhea (PED) on Mexico pork production, as well as increasing demand for affordable pork proteins[4]. During the same period, U.S. exports to select Asia markets remained relatively stable, averaging 27 percent of U.S. pork exports. However, the share of U.S. exports through February 2026 to select Asia markets increased by 3 percent, with solid growth to Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan. U.S. pork exports in 2026 are forecast 3 percent higher, with anticipated steady growth in Mexico and firm demand in Asia markets.

European Union

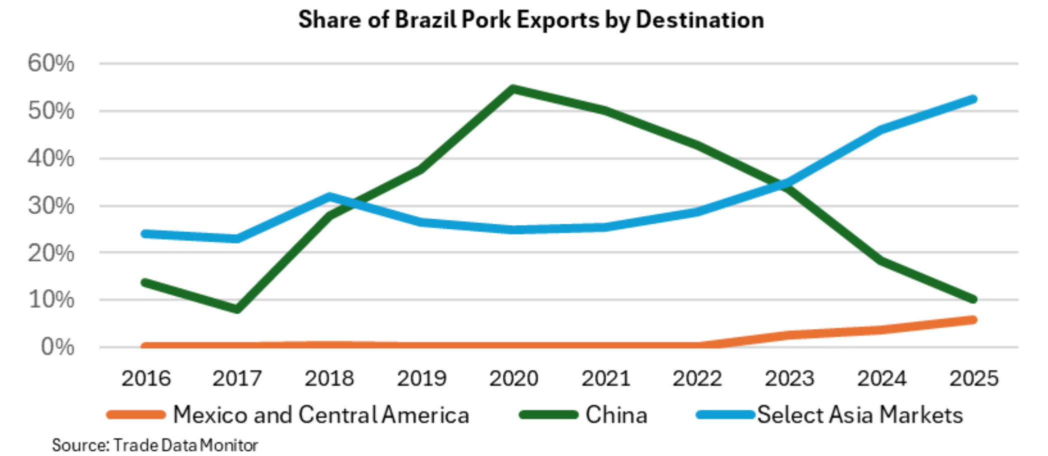


2025 EU pork exports increased 1 percent, supported by strong demand from several Asia markets including South Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam, and Hong Kong. EU exports accelerated in the last quarter of 2025, supported by stronger price competitiveness. Lower EU export prices were a result of stronger than expected production and weak EU demand. Additionally, the finding of ASF in Spain at the end of November, further pressured EU pork prices lower.

From 2020 to 2025, the EU's share of pork exports shipped to China declined from 54 percent to 18 percent, while exports to select Asia markets increased from 18 percent to 34 percent. Robust export growth in markets affected by local ASF cases – including South Korea, the Philippines, and Taiwan – only partially offset a nearly 2.25-million-ton decline in EU exports to China in 2025. EU pork exports are forecast to decline 8 percent in 2026 given lower production and disease-related trade restrictions that will likely limit Spain exports.

[4] Mexico Livestock and Products Semi-Annual

Brazil



In 2025, Brazil pork exports increased 12 percent to 1.71 million tons CWE. Similar to the EU, Brazil pork exporters have recently focused on select Asia markets. In 2020, 55 percent of Brazil pork exports were destined for China and 25 percent were destined for select Asia markets. Last year, select Asia markets accounted for 53 percent of Brazil pork exports, while China only accounted for 10 percent. Declines in Brazil pork exports to China were more than offset by increased exports to several Asia markets, specifically the Philippines, Japan, Singapore, and Vietnam. Brazil exports to the Philippines alone increased from 5,000 tons in 2020 to 430,000 tons in 2025.

Brazil also expanded exports to Mexico and Central America. From 2020 to 2025, Brazil exports to the region increased 100,000 tons, with nearly all growth attributed to the Mexico market. However, the recent imposition of Mexico's pork tariff rate quota may hinder Brazil export growth to Mexico in the future.[5] 2026 Brazil pork exports are forecast 7 percent higher as strong production will allow Brazil to capitalize on expanding market access.

	Total Exports (1000 MT CWE)							Share of Exports to China					
Exporter	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026(F)**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
United States	3,302	3,186	2,878	3,095	3,232	3,163	3,259	29%	16%	10%	7%	7%	5%
EU	5,176	4,993	4,182	3,131	3,009	3,030	2,800	54%	42%	27%	22%	20%	18%
Brazil	1,178	1,321	1,319	1,414	1,531	1,714	1,830	55%	50%	43%	34%	18%	10%

[5] Mexico Livestock and Products Semi-Annual

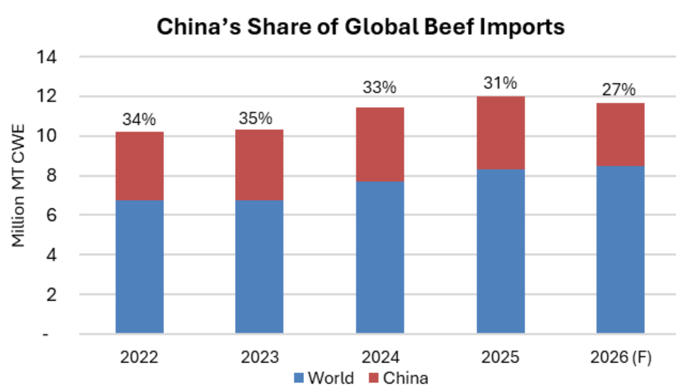
Table of Contents

Beef and Veal

Global production in 2026 is forecast 1 percent lower to 61.6 million tons as decreasing production in Brazil, the United States, China, the European Union, and Australia more than offsets increases in India, Mexico, and New Zealand. Following a record year in 2025, Brazil production is forecast 2 percent lower to 12.4 million tons. Despite the forecast decline, Brazil is expected to remain the world's largest beef producer. Australia beef production is forecast to decline 1 percent to 2.9 million tons on reduced cattle slaughter. EU production is forecast down 1 percent as high input costs and regulatory pressures limit growth. Mexico production is forecast to increase 11 percent in 2026 as the closure of the U.S.–Mexico border to live cattle has increased the availability of slaughter-ready animals.

Global exports are forecast to decrease 1 percent in 2026 to 13.8 million tons as reductions in Brazil, Australia, the United States, and the European Union outweigh increases to India, Argentina, New Zealand, and Mexico. Global trade flows are expected to undergo significant reshuffling as China, the world's largest importer, implements a series of tariff rate quotas (TRQ) that will limit its imports, particularly from Brazil and Australia. China beef imports are forecast down 13 percent in 2026. Despite lower production and China TRQs, Brazil and Australia exports are forecast down only 2 percent, supported by strong U.S. import demand. U.S. imports are forecast to increase 6 percent as demand for lean trimmings remains robust. Despite lower production, Argentina exports are forecast 3 percent higher to 800,000 tons due to a favorable China TRQ allocation and an expanded country-specific quota (CSQ) with the United States. Mexico exports are forecast to increase 23 percent on increased availability of slaughter-ready animals and firm demand for beef from the United States.

U.S. production and exports are forecast at 11.7 million tons and 1.1 million tons—down 1 percent and 8 percent, respectively. Beef production is forecast to decline due to the constrained availability of steers and heifers for feedlot placement, exacerbated by restrictions on cattle imports from Mexico. Lower production will drive down U.S. beef exports. High export prices resulting from tight domestic supplies, coupled with the loss of access to the China market, will continue to pose headwinds for U.S. shipments. Strong competition in key Asia markets — South Korea, Japan, and Taiwan — will also limit export opportunities.



Beef and Veal Production - Top Countries Summary

1,000 Metric Tons (Carcass Weight Equivalent)

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026 Dec	2026 Apr
Production						
Brazil	10,350	10,950	11,850	12,605	11,700	12,370
China	7,180	7,530	7,790	8,010	7,560	7,600
European Union	6,722	6,461	6,661	6,410	6,425	6,350
India	4,350	4,470	4,565	4,680	4,695	4,725
Argentina	3,140	3,280	3,180	3,145	3,210	3,080
Australia	1,878	2,224	2,582	2,885	2,865	2,850
Mexico	2,177	2,215	2,260	2,170	2,300	2,410
Russia	1,350	1,365	1,440	1,410	1,460	1,400
Canada	1,412	1,326	1,300	1,260	1,275	1,315
South Africa	1,015	1,025	1,090	1,025	1,050	1,010
Others	6,901	6,855	6,769	6,811	6,780	6,712
Total Foreign	46,475	47,701	49,487	50,411	49,320	49,822
United States	12,890	12,287	12,291	11,837	11,712	11,741
Total	59,365	59,988	61,778	62,248	61,032	61,563
Total Dom. Consumption						
China	10,661	11,089	11,515	11,644	11,290	10,775
Brazil	7,524	8,108	8,267	8,269	7,750	8,145
European Union	6,467	6,201	6,381	6,278	6,230	6,240
India	2,908	2,918	3,041	2,992	3,065	3,025
Mexico	1,945	2,080	2,197	2,185	2,220	2,320
Argentina	2,422	2,512	2,336	2,396	2,426	2,310
Russia	1,597	1,592	1,692	1,690	1,715	1,680
Japan	1,228	1,227	1,213	1,177	1,155	1,175
United Kingdom	1,156	1,143	1,178	1,138	1,145	1,120
Canada	1,043	1,001	1,000	1,010	1,030	1,057
Others	7,871	7,844	8,363	8,376	8,428	8,293
Total Foreign	44,822	45,715	47,183	47,155	46,454	46,140
United States	12,799	12,638	13,047	13,160	13,068	13,306
Total	57,621	58,353	60,230	60,315	59,522	59,446

Notes: Includes meat of other bovines for certain countries. India includes carabeef (water buffalo). The notation of a month beneath a year conveys the month in which the forecast for that year was released.

Beef and Veal Trade - Top Countries Summary

1,000 Metric Tons (Carcass Weight Equivalent)

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026 Dec	2026 Apr
Total Imports						
China	3,501	3,577	3,743	3,658	3,750	3,200
Japan	777	702	736	695	680	700
Korea, South	595	595	577	586	605	600
European Union	372	364	391	463	405	465
United Kingdom	400	384	403	396	410	390
Chile	350	356	398	356	370	360
Russia	295	275	300	330	315	330
Canada	214	241	264	314	305	320
Mexico	166	203	238	339	310	310
Philippines	256	197	276	282	285	285
Others	1,763	1,741	2,006	2,087	2,098	2,094
Total Foreign	8,689	8,635	9,332	9,506	9,533	9,054
United States	1,538	1,690	2,103	2,481	2,472	2,626
Total	10,227	10,325	11,435	11,987	12,005	11,680
Total Exports						
Brazil	2,898	2,897	3,638	4,380	4,000	4,275
Australia	1,238	1,560	1,898	2,208	2,165	2,160
India	1,442	1,552	1,524	1,688	1,630	1,700
Argentina	725	771	847	773	810	800
New Zealand	643	682	645	604	640	630
Canada	583	572	562	560	550	575
European Union	627	624	671	595	600	575
Uruguay	513	483	473	522	520	530
Paraguay	462	441	472	483	485	465
Mexico	398	338	301	324	390	400
Others	783	742	589	620	614	625
Total Foreign	10,312	10,662	11,620	12,757	12,404	12,735
United States	1,608	1,378	1,364	1,169	1,127	1,073
Total	11,920	12,040	12,984	13,926	13,531	13,808

Notes: Includes meat of other bovines for certain countries. Indian exports are carabeef (water buffalo). The notation of a month beneath a year conveys the month in which the forecast for that year was released.

Cattle Stocks - Top Countries Summary

(in 1,000 head)

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026 Dec	2026 Apr
Total Cattle Beg. Stks						
India	306,700	307,400	307,420	307,490	307,500	307,500
Brazil	193,780	194,365	192,572	186,875	178,225	177,425
China	98,172	102,160	105,090	100,470	94,080	94,080
European Union	75,705	74,808	73,745	71,896	70,685	70,850
Argentina	53,400	54,100	52,800	51,630	51,670	51,570
Australia	23,944	25,800	27,080	27,260	27,410	27,366
Mexico	17,314	17,763	17,840	17,965	18,975	18,995
Russia	17,798	17,435	17,285	17,050	16,810	16,950
Uruguay	11,646	11,795	11,366	11,583	11,733	11,623
Canada	11,515	11,245	10,970	10,860	11,060	11,135
Others	38,309	38,055	29,097	28,604	28,485	28,470
Total Foreign	848,283	854,926	845,265	831,683	816,633	815,964
United States	91,789	88,841	87,157	86,472	86,700	86,155
Total	940,072	943,767	932,422	918,155	903,333	902,119
Production (Calf Crop)						
India	70,000	70,200	70,580	71,100	71,500	71,600
Brazil	47,836	48,000	47,500	47,250	47,250	47,250
China	53,240	54,138	47,500	45,900	44,000	44,000
European Union	24,650	23,720	23,350	22,700	22,700	22,500
Argentina	15,100	14,700	14,600	14,500	14,700	14,750
Australia	8,760	9,500	9,800	10,800	10,880	10,880
Mexico	8,350	8,475	8,600	8,400	8,300	8,400
Russia	6,525	6,600	6,650	6,600	6,600	6,600
New Zealand	5,159	5,120	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,100
Canada	4,427	4,316	4,192	4,204	4,300	4,225
Others	11,871	11,099	9,619	9,386	9,200	9,115
Total Foreign	255,918	255,868	247,391	245,840	244,430	244,420
United States	34,440	33,563	33,417	32,896	33,300	32,900
Total	290,358	289,431	280,808	278,736	277,730	277,320

Notes: May contain other bovines. The notation of a month beneath a year conveys the month in which the forecast for that year was released.

Cattle Trade - Top Countries Summary

(in 1,000 head)

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026 Dec	2026 Apr
Total Imports						
Canada	317	294	407	551	290	400
China	350	148	56	30	40	30
United Kingdom	33	33	37	21	25	20
European Union	14	4	6	16	10	15
Mexico	112	57	30	38	10	10
Others	240	197	9	12	0	1
Total Foreign	1,066	733	545	668	375	476
United States	1,628	1,981	2,046	981	730	700
Total	2,694	2,714	2,591	1,649	1,105	1,176
Total Exports						
Brazil	195	582	1,001	1,050	1,000	1,000
Australia	593	626	724	806	700	750
Canada	754	734	797	752	730	700
European Union	1,077	974	891	636	600	670
Uruguay	80	299	347	371	380	200
Others	1,192	1,475	1,389	356	191	164
Total Foreign	3,891	4,690	5,149	3,971	3,601	3,484
United States	424	352	436	506	300	400
Total	4,315	5,042	5,585	4,477	3,901	3,884

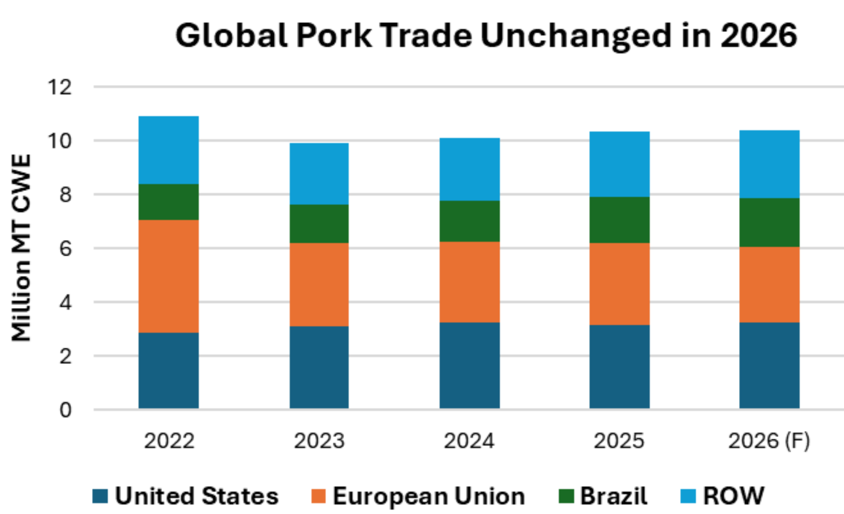
Notes: May contain other bovines. The notation of a month beneath a year conveys the month in which the forecast for that year was released.

Pork

Global production in 2026 is forecast 1 percent higher to 120.2 million tons as increased production in the United States, Brazil, China and Canada offsets lower production in the European Union. Brazil pork production is forecast 3 percent higher to 4.9 million tons as abundant feed supplies and strong international demand supports sector growth. China pork production is forecast marginally higher to 59.5 million tons as improvement in pigs per litter is anticipated to lead to higher slaughter, albeit at slightly lower weights given sector pressure to reduce production. Canada pork production is forecast 2 percent higher to 2.2 million tons as marginally higher sow stocks and steady pigs per litter growth will increase animals for slaughter. EU pork production is forecast 1 percent lower to 21.7 million tons given tightening profit margins and ample supplies of pork within the EU. The decline in EU hog prices at the end of 2025, partly due to tariffs on pork exports to China and the discovery of African swine fever (ASF) in Spain, will likely pressure the EU to reduce herd inventories.

Global exports are forecast virtually unchanged at 10.4 million tons as stronger shipments from Brazil, the United States, and Canada offset lower exports from the European Union. Brazil exports are forecast 7 percent higher given gains in market access and strong price competitiveness against other major exporters. Canada exports are forecast 4 percent higher given greater exportable supplies and government efforts to increase market access. EU exports are forecast 8 percent lower given reduced exportable supplies and disease-related trade restrictions.

U.S. production and exports: U.S. pork production is forecast 1 percent higher year over year to 12.7 million tons as continued growth in pigs per litter supports a larger 2026 slaughter despite a smaller sow inventory. Stable feed prices and relatively strong hog prices should support heavier hog weights in 2026. U.S. exports are forecast 3 percent higher in 2026 given robust demand in Mexico and Central America. Additionally, expected lower EU exports should provide opportunities for U.S. exports to expand in key markets in Asia.



Pork Production - Top Countries Summary

1,000 Metric Tons (Carcass Weight Equivalent)

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026 Dec	2026 Apr
Production						
China	55,410	57,940	57,060	59,380	57,150	59,500
European Union	22,277	20,829	21,278	21,950	21,530	21,690
Brazil	4,350	4,450	4,500	4,750	4,740	4,900
Russia	3,910	4,100	4,315	4,340	4,440	4,385
Vietnam	3,313	3,554	3,787	3,935	4,025	4,090
Canada	2,078	2,106	2,090	2,145	2,160	2,190
Korea, South	1,419	1,435	1,455	1,432	1,425	1,455
Mexico	1,524	1,481	1,395	1,370	1,410	1,410
Japan	1,293	1,293	1,287	1,275	1,270	1,275
Philippines	1,020	1,050	1,000	975	980	990
Others	5,758	5,696	5,482	5,446	5,569	5,602
Total Foreign	102,352	103,934	103,649	106,998	104,699	107,487
United States	12,252	12,391	12,611	12,515	12,469	12,696
Total	114,604	116,325	116,260	119,513	117,168	120,183
Total Dom. Consumption						
China	57,434	59,741	58,269	60,445	58,285	60,355
European Union	18,217	17,807	18,368	19,017	18,885	18,990
Vietnam	3,413	3,648	3,878	4,073	4,128	4,197
Russia	3,758	3,915	4,098	4,082	4,167	4,117
Brazil	3,033	3,038	2,972	3,040	2,954	3,074
Mexico	2,538	2,577	2,649	2,825	2,835	2,955
Japan	2,765	2,739	2,750	2,708	2,764	2,710
Korea, South	2,072	2,109	2,176	2,158	2,111	2,206
Philippines	1,545	1,505	1,555	1,687	1,734	1,784
United Kingdom	1,559	1,490	1,525	1,503	1,545	1,520
Others	7,000	7,233	6,909	7,028	7,055	7,255
Total Foreign	103,334	105,802	105,149	108,566	106,463	109,163
United States	9,957	9,829	9,915	9,862	9,818	9,952
Total	113,291	115,631	115,064	118,428	116,281	119,115

Note: The notation of a month beneath a year conveys the month in which the forecast for that year was released.

Pork Trade - Top Countries Summary

1,000 Metric Tons (Carcass Weight Equivalent)

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026 Dec	2026 Apr
Total Imports						
Mexico	1,299	1,354	1,470	1,651	1,615	1,715
Japan	1,523	1,431	1,487	1,430	1,480	1,425
China	2,125	1,897	1,306	1,188	1,255	1,000
Philippines	561	431	575	708	750	790
Korea, South	713	675	739	723	700	765
United Kingdom	779	757	753	716	730	735
Hong Kong	251	259	257	270	280	275
Canada	234	261	243	218	225	215
Australia	241	195	226	214	235	210
Colombia	165	160	196	205	240	210
Others	1,277	1,230	1,179	1,410	1,371	1,461
Total Foreign	9,168	8,650	8,431	8,733	8,881	8,801
United States	610	518	520	506	533	522
Total	9,778	9,168	8,951	9,239	9,414	9,323
Total Exports						
European Union	4,182	3,131	3,009	3,030	2,750	2,800
Brazil	1,319	1,414	1,531	1,714	1,790	1,830
Canada	1,416	1,150	1,255	1,331	1,465	1,380
Russia	170	200	220	260	275	270
Chile	230	263	262	246	255	245
United Kingdom	261	192	181	191	190	190
Mexico	285	258	216	196	190	170
China	101	96	97	123	120	145
Australia	35	46	48	46	50	50
South Africa	16	16	17	19	20	20
Others	47	52	47	45	44	47
Total Foreign	8,062	6,818	6,883	7,201	7,149	7,147
United States	2,878	3,095	3,232	3,162	3,184	3,266
Total	10,940	9,913	10,115	10,363	10,333	10,413

Note: The notation of a month beneath a year conveys the month in which the forecast for that year was released.

Swine Stocks - Top Countries Summary

(in 1,000 head)

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026 Dec	2026 Apr
Total Beginning Stocks						
China	449,220	452,560	434,220	427,430	425,000	429,670
European Union	141,681	134,410	132,846	132,136	128,500	127,000
Brazil	35,688	34,250	33,150	34,080	34,700	34,073
Russia	26,200	26,000	27,500	28,500	30,610	28,450
Mexico	16,630	16,678	16,424	16,532	16,720	16,725
Canada	14,155	13,895	13,985	13,980	13,700	13,875
Korea, South	11,217	11,124	11,089	10,846	10,815	10,792
Japan	8,949	8,956	8,798	8,684	8,650	8,650
Ukraine	5,718	5,058	5,204	4,621	4,400	4,742
United Kingdom	5,100	5,000	4,600	4,650	4,800	4,700
Total Foreign	714,558	707,931	687,816	681,459	677,895	678,677
United States	74,606	74,956	75,461	75,438	73,200	75,415
Total	789,164	782,887	763,277	756,897	751,095	754,092
Production (Pig Crop)						
China	712,510	717,249	704,970	731,000	709,500	732,000
European Union	238,760	226,950	230,700	230,000	226,000	228,000
Russia	59,000	61,800	63,550	63,400	65,460	64,000
Brazil	44,850	45,750	48,050	48,800	49,250	50,000
Canada	29,507	30,257	29,655	30,363	30,250	31,100
Mexico	20,500	20,300	20,300	20,180	20,600	20,550
Korea, South	20,389	19,831	19,791	19,650	19,510	19,600
Japan	16,795	16,740	16,400	16,200	16,200	16,200
United Kingdom	11,150	9,750	10,350	10,400	11,050	10,400
Ukraine	8,013	8,375	8,390	7,900	8,200	8,250
Total Foreign	1,161,474	1,157,002	1,152,156	1,177,893	1,156,020	1,180,100
United States	133,602	135,622	137,355	136,544	135,820	137,127
Total	1,295,076	1,292,624	1,289,511	1,314,437	1,291,840	1,317,227

Notes: The notation of a month beneath a year conveys the month in which the forecast for that year was released.

Swine Trade - Top Countries Summary
(in 1,000 head)

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026 Dec	2026 Apr
Total Imports						
United Kingdom	418	383	376	464	375	420
Mexico	13	27	57	58	50	55
European Union	24	13	12	10	8	10
Ukraine	2	6	8	8	8	9
China	5	8	4	8	4	8
Canada	4	3	2	1	2	2
Korea, South	2	4	2	2	2	2
Brazil	2	6	2	1	1	1
Japan	1	1	1	1	1	1
Russia	5	4	1	1	0	1
Total Foreign	476	455	465	554	451	509
United States	6,486	6,745	6,760	6,990	6,860	7,230
Total	6,962	7,200	7,225	7,544	7,311	7,739
Total Exports						
Canada	6,487	6,750	6,767	6,995	6,860	7,235
China	1,066	1,120	1,149	1,225	1,230	1,275
European Union	1,012	949	1,008	735	740	710
Russia	106	47	45	55	30	60
Brazil	3	3	4	8	6	8
Japan	0	0	0	0	0	0
Korea, South	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0
United Kingdom	6	7	4	0	2	0
Ukraine	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total Foreign	8,681	8,876	8,977	9,018	8,868	9,288
United States	44	68	90	99	100	95
Total	8,725	8,944	9,067	9,117	8,968	9,383

Notes: The notation of a month beneath a year conveys the month in which the forecast for that year was released.

Chicken Meat

Global production is forecast early 3 percent higher in 2026 to 110.7 million tons. While all major producers will make gains, expansion is driven by China and Brazil. China production is forecast to increase 5 percent to 17.3 million tons primarily supported by high grandparent stock inventories, continued expansion by large integrated producers, sufficient slaughtering and further processing capacity, robust export growth, and a modest increase in domestic consumption. Lower feed costs will help reduce the strain of weaker China chicken meat prices. Brazil production is forecast to increase 2 percent to 15.8 million tons on rising export demand, higher domestic consumption despite sluggish macroeconomic performance, lower production costs, and a relatively weak Real. Growth in EU production, 1 percent to 12.3 million tons, will be buoyed by robust internal demand and the assumption of a reduction in highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) outbreaks.

Global exports are forecast 3 percent higher in 2026 to 14.8 million tons, dominated by China and Brazil. China exports are forecast to grow 29 percent to 1.4 million tons in 2025, following astounding growth (41 percent increase) in 2025. Trade will flourish on competitive pricing and growth in new markets. Brazil shipments will also expand, rising 4 percent to nearly 5.2 million tons. Brazil expansion is driven by price competitiveness, firm international demand, a diverse product offering, its continuing status as free from HPAI, and the ability to redirect trade to alternative markets on instability in the Middle East. Brazil's product range and quality as well as market access enables the world's leading exporter to capture gains in markets that China cannot - such as Japan, Korea, and Mexico. The tremendous growth and competitiveness of Brazil and China leave marginal gains for other leading exporters such as the EU, Thailand, Turkey, and Ukraine.

U.S. production and exports: U.S. production is forecast 2 percent higher in 2026 to 22.2 million tons on heavier weights, positive profit margins, and firm domestic demand. Exports are forecast to unchanged at 3.0 million tons. The United States will remain challenged by weak price competitiveness in the global market, limited product offerings to Mexico where Brazil maintains duty-free access due to the anti-inflation decree, reduced demand from Cuba and lingering HPAI-related restrictions by China and South Africa.

Shares of Global Chicken Meat Trade					
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026 (F)
Brazil	33%	35%	36%	35%	35%
U.S.	24%	24%	22%	21%	20%
EU	13%	12%	13%	12%	12%
China	**4%**	**4%**	**6%**	**8%**	**9%**
Thailand	8%	8%	9%	9%	9%
Other	19%	16%	15%	15%	15%

Chicken Meat Production - Top Countries Summary

1,000 Metric Tons (Ready to Cook Equivalent)

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026 Dec	2026 Apr
Production						
China	14,300	14,800	15,350	16,500	16,700	17,300
Brazil	14,465	14,900	15,000	15,450	15,700	15,800
European Union	10,880	11,040	11,735	12,090	11,970	12,250
Russia	4,800	4,825	4,920	4,995	5,140	5,070
Mexico	3,763	3,888	3,990	4,153	4,150	4,285
Thailand	3,300	3,450	3,490	3,535	3,650	3,575
Turkey	2,418	2,329	2,512	2,797	2,900	2,910
Argentina	2,319	2,436	2,485	2,525	2,590	2,590
Colombia	1,893	1,890	1,895	2,074	2,090	2,150
United Kingdom	1,847	1,858	1,867	1,899	1,890	1,910
Others	21,310	21,321	19,812	20,194	20,805	20,698
Total Foreign	81,295	82,737	83,056	86,212	87,585	88,538
United States	20,994	21,082	21,343	21,773	22,029	22,190
Total	102,289	103,819	104,399	107,985	109,614	110,728
Total Dom. Consumption						
China	14,401	15,002	15,057	15,712	15,900	16,150
European Union	9,867	10,110	10,686	11,089	11,085	11,260
Brazil	10,023	10,135	10,110	10,485	10,455	10,655
Mexico	4,664	4,887	5,004	5,175	5,285	5,326
Russia	4,750	4,837	4,941	5,045	5,180	5,145
Japan	2,877	2,846	2,937	2,965	3,000	2,963
United Kingdom	2,484	2,569	2,605	2,706	2,730	2,750
Philippines	1,880	1,892	2,060	2,313	2,400	2,536
Argentina	2,138	2,298	2,317	2,397	2,490	2,485
Turkey	1,772	1,870	2,157	2,324	2,450	2,400
Others	27,340	27,169	25,743	26,152	26,927	26,629
Total Foreign	82,196	83,615	83,617	86,363	87,902	88,299
United States	17,677	17,877	18,408	18,781	19,020	19,237
Total	99,873	101,492	102,025	105,144	106,922	107,536

Notes: Chicken paws are excluded. The notation of a month beneath a year conveys the month in which the forecast for that year was released.

Chicken Meat Trade - Top Countries Summary

1,000 Metric Tons (Ready to Cook Equivalent)

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026 Dec	2026 Apr
Total Imports						
Japan	1,101	1,063	1,143	1,122	1,170	1,130
United Kingdom	903	935	977	1,049	1,075	1,075
Mexico	915	1,006	1,021	1,031	1,140	1,050
European Union	701	722	723	743	840	760
Philippines	496	434	496	612	585	710
Saudi Arabia	594	564	607	586	655	525
Iraq	531	529	552	492	500	520
Ghana	253	277	331	394	410	425
United Arab Emirates	356	375	385	400	415	375
Russia	200	232	285	325	275	350
Others	5,083	5,024	4,718	4,635	4,874	4,615
Total Foreign	11,133	11,161	11,238	11,389	11,939	11,535
United States	83	61	70	70	64	60
Total	11,216	11,222	11,308	11,459	12,003	11,595
Total Exports						
Brazil	4,447	4,767	4,895	4,970	5,250	5,150
European Union	1,714	1,652	1,772	1,744	1,725	1,750
China	532	554	770	1,085	1,200	1,400
Thailand	1,021	1,098	1,170	1,249	1,275	1,275
Turkey	646	459	355	473	450	510
Ukraine	419	428	463	451	475	460
Russia	245	220	264	275	235	275
United Kingdom	266	224	239	242	235	235
Argentina	194	144	175	153	135	125
Canada	112	114	121	107	120	115
Others	644	589	473	495	527	479
Total Foreign	10,240	10,249	10,697	11,244	11,627	11,774
United States	3,314	3,291	3,040	3,047	3,066	3,015
Total	13,554	13,540	13,737	14,291	14,693	14,789

Notes: Chicken paws are excluded. The notation of a month beneath a year conveys the month in which the forecast for that year was released.

Notes to Readers

The *Livestock and Poultry: World Markets and Trade* circular is designed to give a snapshot of the current situation among the major players in world beef, pork, and chicken meat trade.

Assumptions

Diseases: Forecast reflects animal disease policies/restrictions in place as of April 9, 2026, and assumes their continuation.

Trade Actions: This report only considers those trade actions which are in place or have had formal announcement of effective dates as of the time of publication. Further, unless a formal end date is specified, this report also assumes such actions are in place throughout the time period covered by these forecasts.

Conversion Rates and HS Codes

BEEF AND VEAL

HS Code	Description	Conversion Rate
020110	Bovine carcasses and half carcasses, fresh or chilled	1.00
020120	Bovine cuts bone in, fresh or chilled	1.00
020130	Bovine cuts boneless, fresh or chilled	1.36
020210	Bovine carcasses and half carcasses, frozen	1.00
020220	Bovine cuts bone in, frozen	1.00
020230	Bovine cuts boneless, frozen	1.36
021020	Bovine meat salted, dried or smoked	1.74
160250	Bovine meat, offal nes, not livers, prepared/preserve	1.79

Notes: Beef and veal estimates include meat of other bovines for certain countries. In particular, India estimates include carabeef (water buffalo). Exports of HS 160250 are partially excluded from Argentina export estimates.

PORK

HS Code	Description	Conversion Rate
020311	Carcasses/half-carcasses, fr/ch	1.00
020312	Bone-In hams, shoulders and cuts thereof, fr/ch	1.11
020319	Other pork cuts, fr/ch	1.30
020321	Carcasses/half-carcasses, frozen	1.00
020322	Bone-In hams, shoulders and cuts thereof, frozen	1.11
020329	Other pork cuts, frozen	1.30
021011	Bone-In hams, shoulders and cuts thereof, processed	1.30
021012	Bellies (streaky) and cuts thereof, processed	1.16
021019	Other meat of swine, processed	1.16
160241	Hams and cuts thereof, prep/pres	1.30
160242	Shoulders and cuts thereof, prep/pres	1.30
160249	Other meat of swine including mixtures, prep/pres	1.30

Chicken Meat Trade Codes: Fresh/Chilled (HS 020711 and HS 020713), Frozen (HS 020712 and HS 020714) and Processed (HS 160232). In general, chicken paws are excluded. Trade of “salted poultry” (HS 021099) is included in EU and UK imports as well as the exports of selected countries.

Technical Notes

CWE/PWE: All quantities (beef and pork) noted are in Carcass Weight Equivalent (CWE) unless otherwise noted as Product Weight Equivalent (PWE). CWE is the weight of an animal after slaughter and removal of most internal organs, head, and skin. PWE is the actual weight of the meat product exported.

RTC (Ready-to-Cook): RTC means any slaughtered poultry free from protruding pinfeathers and vestigial feathers (hair or down), from which the head, feet, crop, oil gland, trachea, esophagus, entrails, and lungs have been removed, and from which the mature reproductive organs and kidneys may have been removed, and with or without the giblets, and which is suitable for cooking without need of further processing. Ready-to-cook poultry also means any cut-up or disjointed portion of poultry or other parts of poultry, such as reproductive organs, head, or feet that are suitable for cooking without need of further processing.

PSD Online

The entire USDA PSD database is available online at: http://www.fas.usda.gov/psdonline.

Additional Resources

- Situation and outlook information on U.S. livestock and poultry can be obtained from the USDA-Economic Research Service at: https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/animal-products/.

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