



Nourishing Today
Sustaining Tomorrow

U.S. Meat and Poultry Trade: Canada and Mexico



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Meat and Poultry Export Trade: General Statistics

In 2024, U.S. meat and poultry exports exceeded \$24.6 billion. Annually, approximately 13% of U.S. beef production, 15% of U.S. poultry production, and 25% of U.S. pork production are exported, although those figures have been higher in recent years.¹

According to a 2022 report published by the Economic Research Service, U.S. agricultural exports support 86,127 jobs in the beef industry, 52,999 jobs in the pork industry, and 45,855 jobs in the poultry industry.² Exports add value to every animal produced and in turn increase demand for U.S. corn and soybeans. For example, on average, pork exports contribute \$64 in value to each hog that is marketed in the U.S. and U.S. beef exports yield more than \$400 in value per head of cattle.

Trade with Canada and Mexico: Meat and Poultry Products

- Canada was the U.S.'s fifth largest export market for beef (\$896 million), by value, in 2024, and finished the year as the fourth largest value market for U.S. pork exports (\$852 million) and the second largest value market for U.S. poultry exports (\$531 million).
 - Canada is the top market for U.S. processed pork.
- Mexico was the U.S.'s fourth largest beef (\$1.3 billion) export market by value, and the top value destination for U.S. pork (\$2.5 billion) and poultry (\$1.4 billion) exports in 2024.
- Importantly, Mexico is a key market for U.S. beef variety meat exports – products not commonly consumed domestically – including tripe, lips, hearts, and intestines. Increases in U.S. pork variety meat exports (stomach and intestines) to Mexico have offset losses to other markets, like China, in recent years.
- Additionally, Canada and Mexico are two of the largest suppliers of beef to the U.S., with value exceeding \$2.6 billion and \$1.7 billion, respectively, in 2024. Canada is the largest exporter of both pork (\$1.1 billion) and poultry (\$650 million) products, by value, to the U.S., whereas Mexico is the U.S.'s third largest supplier of both pork (\$194 million) and poultry (\$31 million) products by value.

Trade with Canada and Mexico: Live Animals

- Canada and Mexico are the U.S.'s top two cattle suppliers. The importance of imported livestock rises when the U.S. herd rebuilds, and U.S. beef and pork processing plants, particularly smaller- and medium-sized establishments, rely on a consistent, stable supply of imported livestock to remain operational.
 - In 2024, Mexico supplied 1,249,202 head of cattle to the U.S. industry, whereas cattle from Canada totaled 793,291 head. The U.S., meanwhile, exported 322,831 and 21,251 head of cattle to Canada and Mexico, respectively.³
 - The preponderance of imports from Mexico are lighter-weight cattle intended for stocker or feeder operations. More than 60% of imported cattle from Canada are destined for immediate slaughter; of Canadian cattle imported for immediate slaughter, on average, 60% are fed steers and heifers and 40% are cows. Feeder cattle imported for finishing in U.S. feedlots consist of more than 30% of the cattle imported from Canada.
- In 2024, the U.S. imported 6,761,807 live hogs from Canada, mostly as feeders to be finished and sold as market hogs. Canada is also the second largest exporter of broilers to the U.S., with imports totaling 40,547 in 2023. Moreover, U.S. live hog exports to Mexico and Canada reached 56,176 and 13,108, respectively, in 2024. Exports of U.S. broilers to Mexico and Canada were 1,588,217 and 318,547, respectively, in 2023.

¹ USDA GATS Data, <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/gats/default.aspx>

² Economic Research Service (ERS) Multiplier Data, <https://investigatamidwest.org/2024/11/06/graphic-us-agricultural-exports-support-1-25-million-jobs/>

³ ERS Trade Data, 2023, <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/livestock-and-meat-international-trade-data>

For more information, contact Michael Schumpp, Senior Director of International Affairs, Meat Institute.
mschumpp@meatinstitute.org • 202.587.4251