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**Report Highlights:**

The Canadian cattle herd has entered the consolidation phase. Heifer retention practices in 2025 and a slight increase to the breeding herd to begin 2026 will support a larger 2026 calf crop. Consequently, slaughter and beef production are forecast to see growth in 2026. Heifer retention and reduced cow culls will continue in 2026 in efforts towards a herd rebuild. Increased beef production and market access opportunities will see Canadian beef exports grow in 2026. The Canadian swine herd is also forecast to remain relatively stable in 2026. Slaughter is forecast to see slight growth with a slightly larger pig crop and more processing capacity utilization. Pork exports will continue to remain strong on sustained global demand.

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY

## Executive Summary:

### Cattle

A larger breeding herd will see a year-over-year increase in the calf crop for 2026. Improved pasture conditions in several regions in 2025 have supported reduced cow slaughter and increased heifer retention. The Canadian herd has entered the consolidation phase and is primed to begin a slow rebuild.

**Trade:**

Live cattle imports in 2025 were at a record level. While live imports are forecast to decline in 2026, they will remain robust. Western Canada continues to have available feedlot pen space. A larger 2026 calf crop will see more domestic availability of feeder cattle. Fed exports will remain strong in 2026 given tight U.S. supplies.

### Beef

**Production:**

Beef production will see growth in 2026 with heavier carcass weights and slightly higher slaughter numbers. Heavier weights have supported beef production amid tighter cattle supplies.

**Trade:**

Imports are forecast to see continued growth in 2026. High domestic and U.S. beef prices will support growth in imports from lower cost of production regions. Exports are forecast to grow in 2026. Canadian beef has regained access to the Chinese market and has achieved additional market access in Indonesia.

### Swine

**Production:**

Stability is forecast for the swine herd as producers seek to weather market volatility. Improved sow productivity sees a larger 2026 pig crop forecast and increased processing capacity utilization will support larger slaughter numbers.

**Trade:**

Producers will be watching closely for impacts to live exports from the full implementation of “Product of USA”. Live exports are forecast up two percent with market hog exports forecast lower while feeder pig exports will be supported by strong U.S. pricing.

### Pork

**Production:**

Pork production is forecast to see one percent growth in 2026, on higher slaughter volumes.

**Trade:**

Pork exports are forecast to see two percent growth in 2026. Export gains will be likely in the Indo-Pacific while exports to the United States are forecast to fall.

**Cattle:**

**Table 1- Production, Supply and Distribution Estimates**

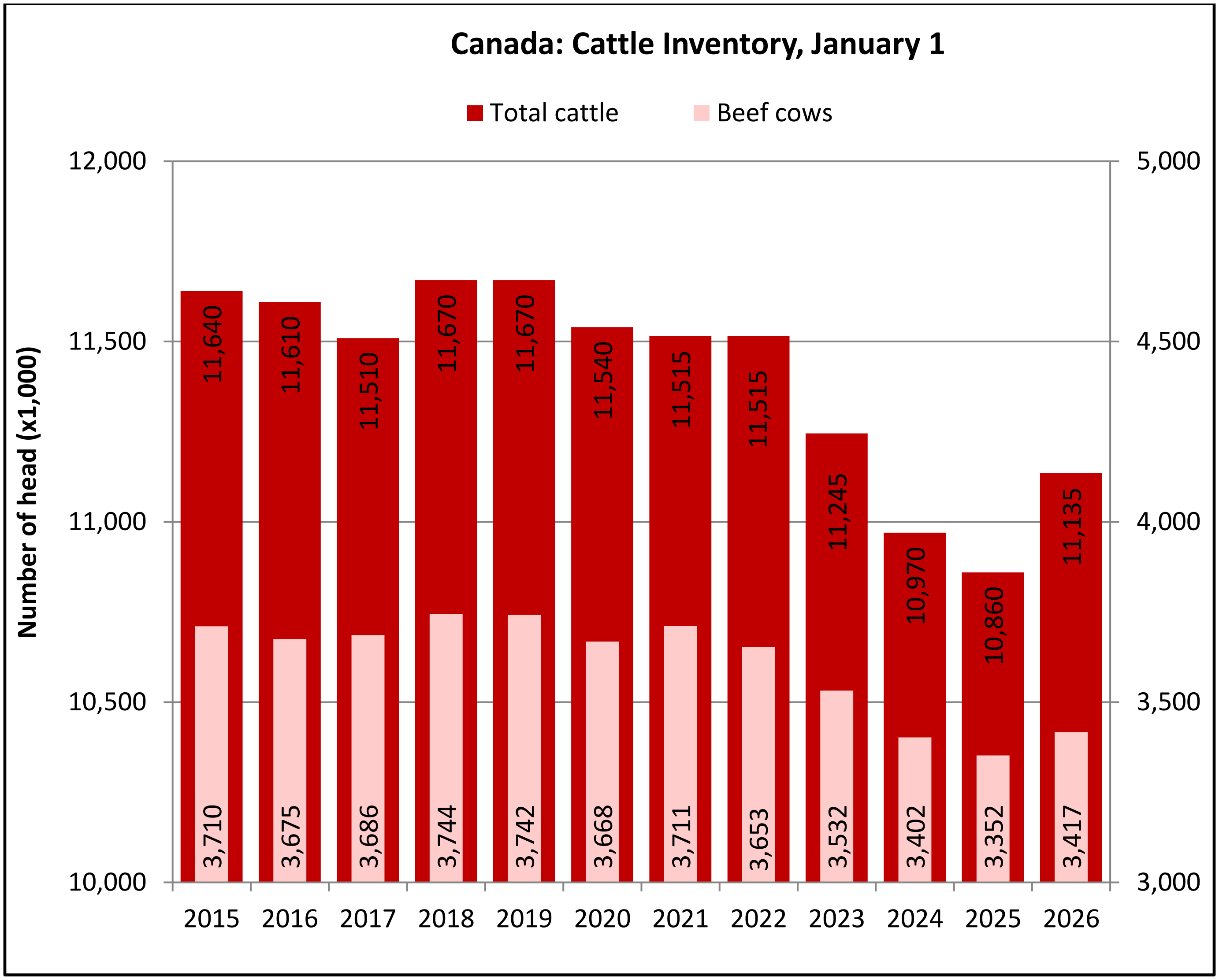
| CANADA Animal Numbers CATTLE ('000 head) | 2024 | | 2025 | | 2026 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | USDA Official Data | NEW FAS/Ottawa Data | USDA Official Data | NEW FAS/Ottawa Estimates | USDA Official Data | NEW FAS/Ottawa Estimates |
| Total Cattle Beg. Stocks | 11,015 | 10,970 | 10,940 | 10,860 | 11,060 | 11,135 |
| Dairy Cows Beg. Stocks | 964 | 964 | 963 | 965 | 965 | 971 |
| Beef Cows Beg. Stocks | 3,412 | 3,402 | 3,357 | 3,352 | 3,380 | 3,417 |
| Production (Calf Crop) | 4,232 | 4,192 | 4,270 | 4,204 | 4,300 | 4,300 |
| Total Imports | 407 | 407 | 385 | 551 | 290 | 450 |
| **Total Supply** | **15,654** | **15,569** | **15,595** | **15,615** | **15,650** | **15,885** |
| Total Exports | 797 | 797 | 730 | 752 | 730 | 750 |
| Cow Slaughter | 428 | 445 | 400 | 388 | 390 | 370 |
| Calf Slaughter | 207 | 193 | 195 | 160 | 190 | 160 |
| Other Slaughter | 2,780 | 2,763 | 2,660 | 2,673 | 2,670 | 2,770 |
| Total Slaughter | 3,415 | 3,401 | 3,255 | 3,221 | 3,250 | 3,300 |
| Loss | 502 | 511 | 550 | 507 | 515 | 510 |
| Ending Inventories | 10,940 | 10,860 | 11,060 | 11,135 | 11,155 | 11,325 |
| **Total Distribution** | **15,654** | **15,569** | **15,595** | **15,615** | **15,650** | **15,885** |

*Source: USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service using data from the Production, Supply, and Distribution System*

*Note: "NEW FAS/Ottawa" data reflect author's assessments and are NOT official USDA data*

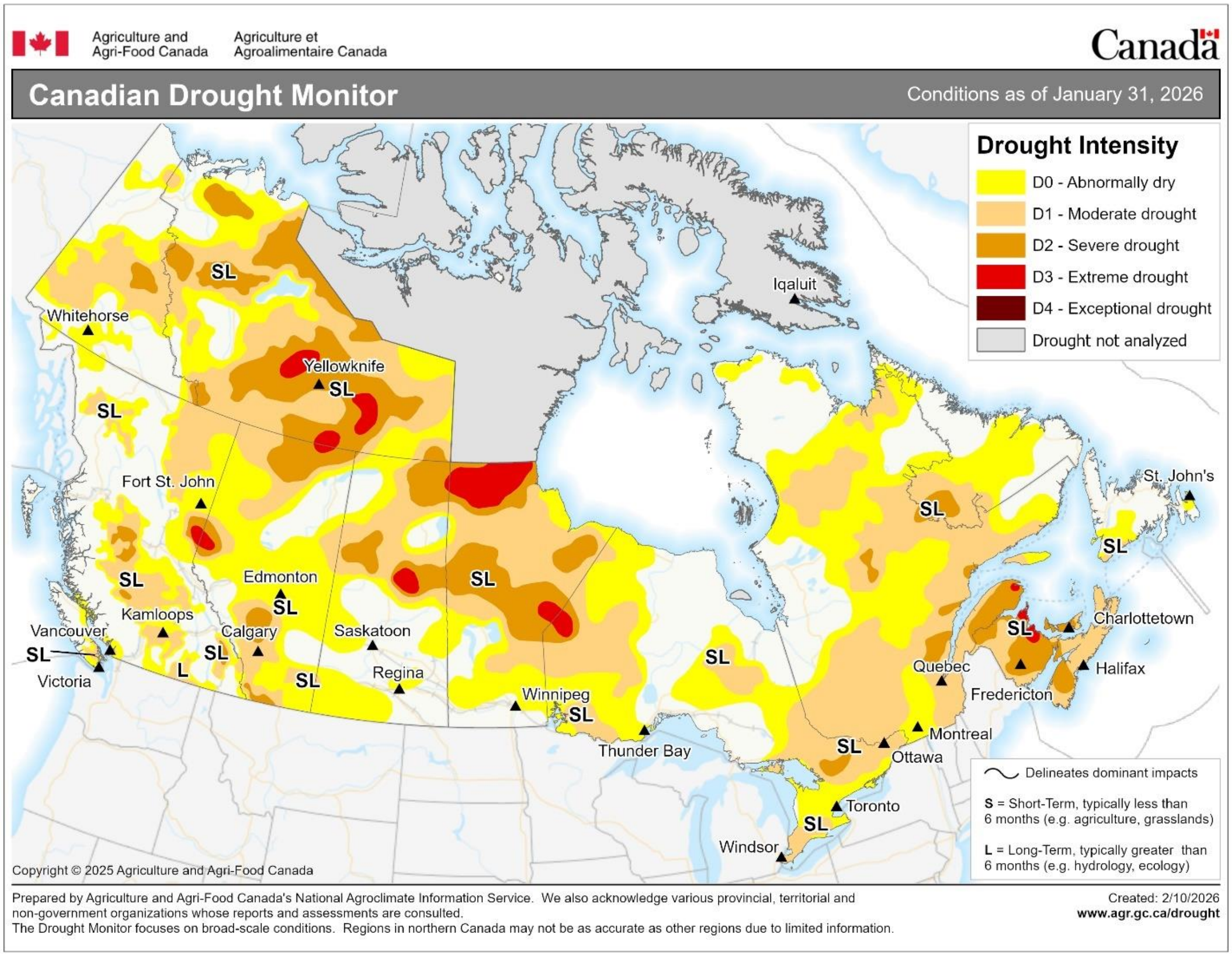
Statistics Canada official inventory data confirms that the Canadian cattle herd entered the consolidation phase and is positioned for expansion. The original forecast trend for 2026 beginning inventories of the cattle herd and beef cow herd were validated in the official data release, although numbers were adjusted upwards as Statistics Canada revised 2024 and 2025 data. The Canadian cattle herd begins 2026 with a year-over-year growth of three percent, supported by a larger 2025 calf crop and a historical high in live cattle imports from the United States. The 2025 calf crop was two percent larger than 2024 and the beef cow herd enters 2026 two percent above January 1, 2025 numbers. Additionally, data on heifer retention indicates that five percent more heifers are retained for breeding compared to January 1, 2025; this also represents not just an absolute numerical increase but also a slight increase in heifers retained for beef replacement relative to the total cattle herd size.

**Figure 1- Canadian Cattle Inventory, January 1**




*Source: Statistics Canada*

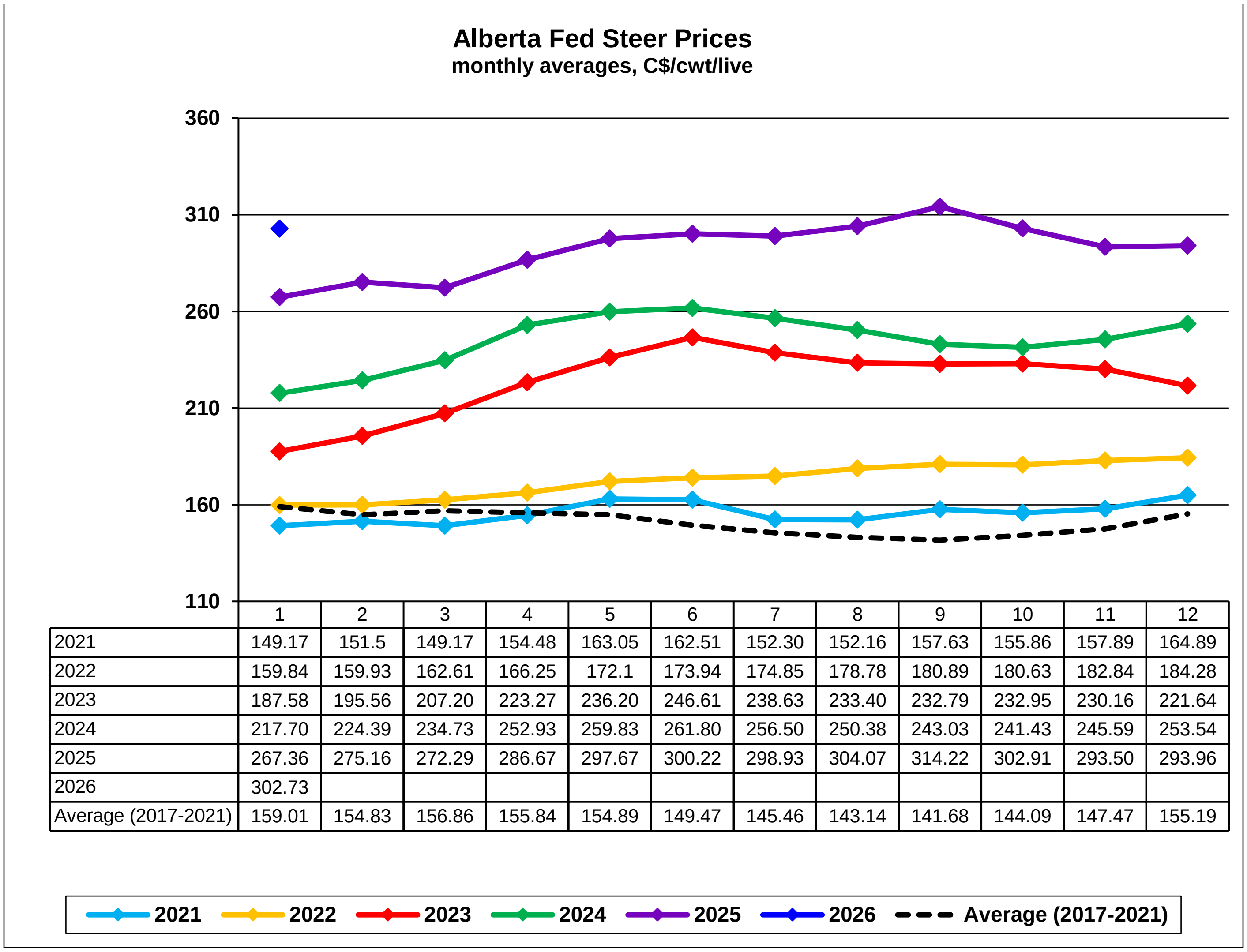
**Figure 2 – Canadian Drought Monitor map, Conditions as of January 31, 2026**




*Source: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada*

FAS/Canada continues to forecast a larger 2026 calf crop relative to 2025. Forecast numbers are adjusted upwards based on Statistics Canada inventory revisions. Significant culling in recent years has seen improvements in cow fertility as producers retained proven animals while selling others during times of tight feed supplies, high costs, and low returns. This should translate to a continued strong fertility performance in 2026, supported by good feed conditions and availability through the winter. While there are persistent drought conditions in both Western Canada and Eastern Canada, reports indicate that pasture conditions are largely improved, especially in the West. While there is optimism of good feed availability and pasture conditions for 2026, spring and summer moisture conditions will dictate whether conditions continue to improve or deteriorate. While producers appear to be embracing a move towards expansion with strong calf pricing and fewer concerns on feed availability relative to recent years, pasture conditions will continue to weigh on how quickly the expansion phase arrives depending on producers' ability and willingness to retain replacement heifers and grow the cow herd.

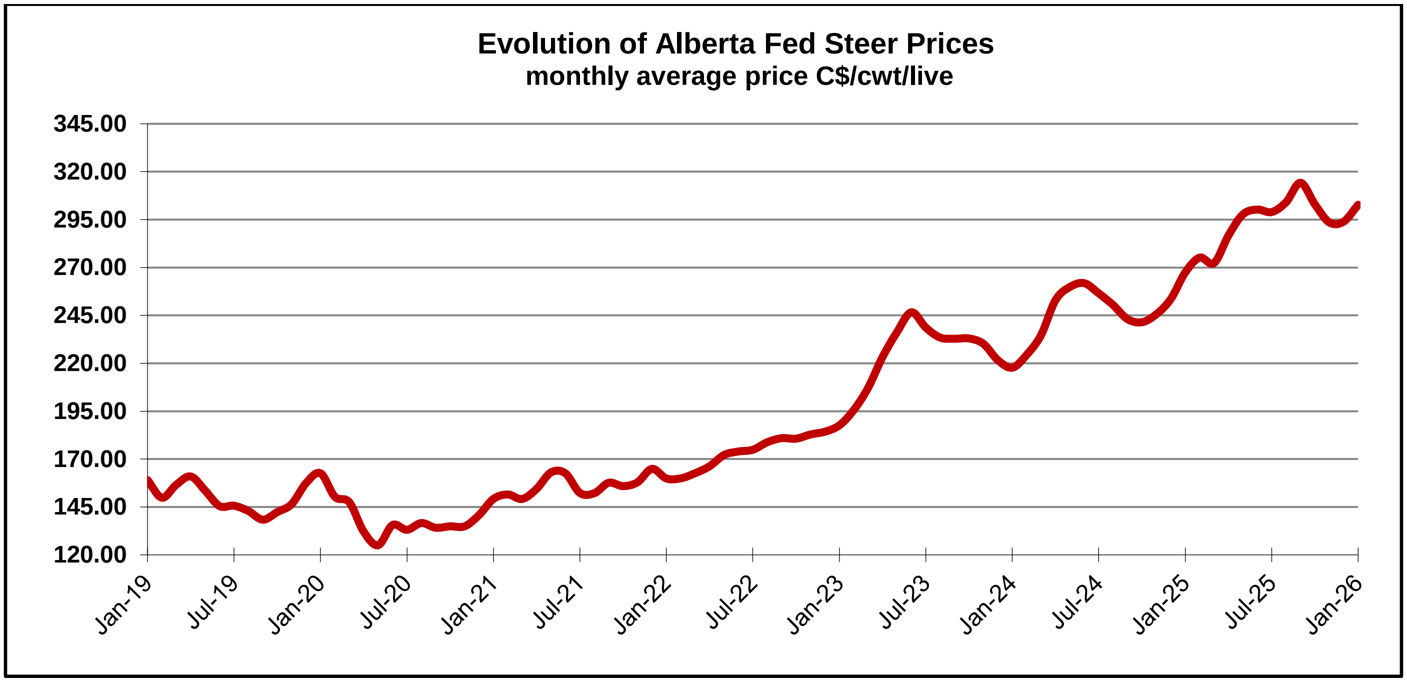
**Figure 3 – Monthly Average of Alberta Fed Steer Prices**




| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2021 | 149.17 | 151.5 | 149.17 | 154.48 | 163.05 | 162.51 | 152.30 | 152.16 | 157.63 | 155.86 | 157.89 | 164.89 |
| 2022 | 159.84 | 159.93 | 162.61 | 166.25 | 172.1 | 173.94 | 174.85 | 178.78 | 180.89 | 180.63 | 182.84 | 184.28 |
| 2023 | 187.58 | 195.56 | 207.20 | 223.27 | 236.20 | 246.61 | 238.63 | 233.40 | 232.79 | 232.95 | 230.16 | 221.64 |
| 2024 | 217.70 | 224.39 | 234.73 | 252.93 | 259.83 | 261.80 | 256.50 | 250.38 | 243.03 | 241.43 | 245.59 | 253.54 |
| 2025 | 267.36 | 275.16 | 272.29 | 286.67 | 297.67 | 300.22 | 298.93 | 304.07 | 314.22 | 302.91 | 293.50 | 293.96 |
| 2026 | 302.73 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Average (2017-2021) | 159.01 | 154.83 | 156.86 | 155.84 | 154.89 | 149.47 | 145.46 | 143.14 | 141.68 | 144.09 | 147.47 | 155.19 |

*Source: CanFax*

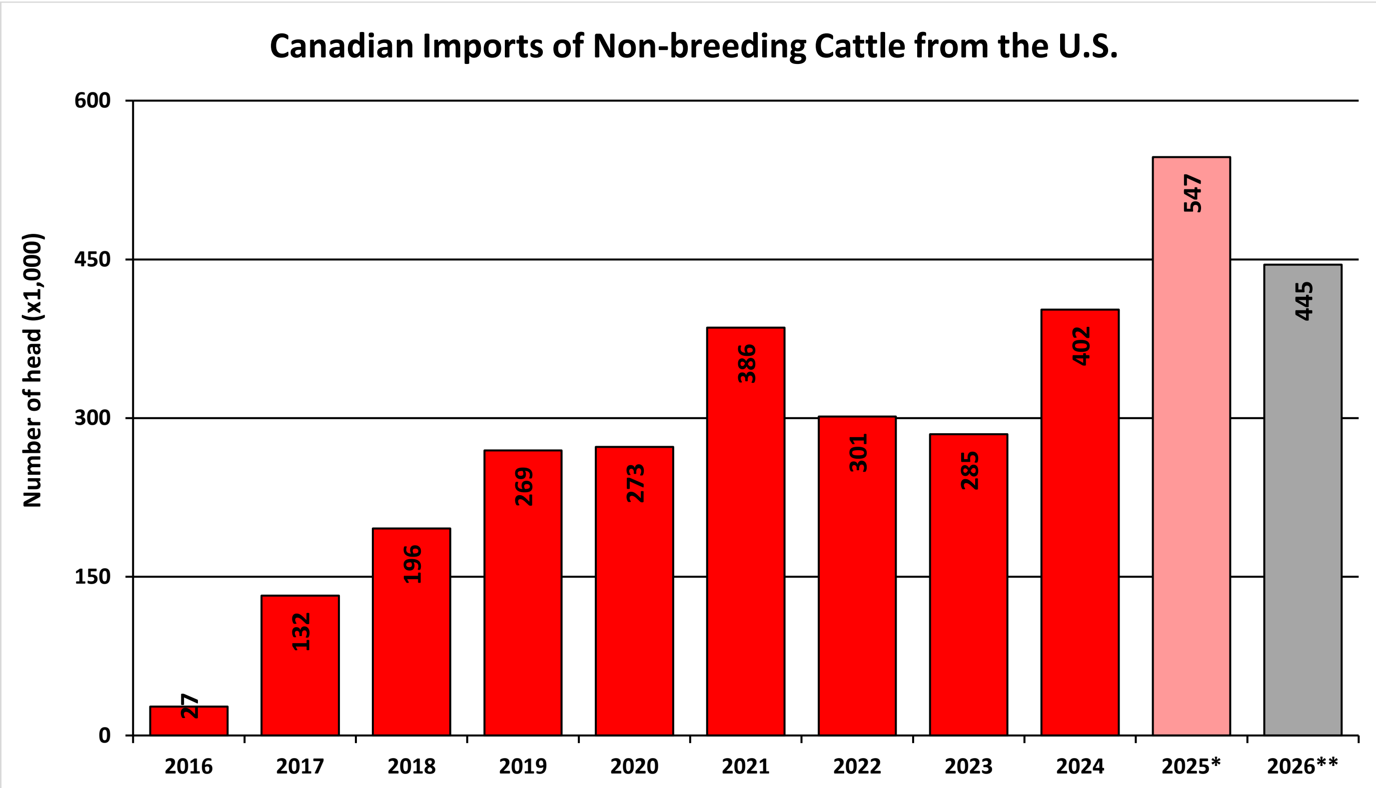
**Figure 4 – Evolution of Alberta Fed Steer Prices Since 2019**




*Source: CanFax*

Canada imported a record number of live cattle from the United States in 2025, exceeding the previously set high by almost 150,000 head. Although the total import number is small relative to the total U.S. herd, these imports do have a greater impact on the smaller Canadian herd and as Canadian supplies have tightened in recent years, these U.S. cattle have played an important role in supplementing the domestic supply. FAS/Canada is maintaining the original forecast for a decline in live cattle imports in 2026 despite the large volumes which came into Canada at the end of 2025. Although fed cattle prices continue to perform strongly, high calf prices and packer margins are likely to pressure feedlot profitability and make importing large volumes riskier in 2026. Additionally, ongoing tight cattle supplies in the United States and the ongoing closure of the U.S.-Mexico border to live cattle as a result of the New World Screwworm will see increased upward pressure on feeder cattle prices. Canada will also have a slight improvement in domestic supply as the Canadian herd is working towards the rebuilding phase a step ahead of the U.S. herd. Parts of the United States remain extremely dry and Canadian feedlots have shown a strong indication for trying to keep pens as full as possible. Canadian feeders have also carved out a niche in feeding dairy steers and beef-on-dairy steers that are sourced at lower prices from the United States. Larger feedlots with cross-border activities have leveraged opportunities to pick up loads of U.S. feeders after delivering fed cattle to U.S. processing plants. Canada will remain a net feeder cattle importer in 2026.

**Figure 6- Canadian Imports of Non-Breeding Cattle from the United States**



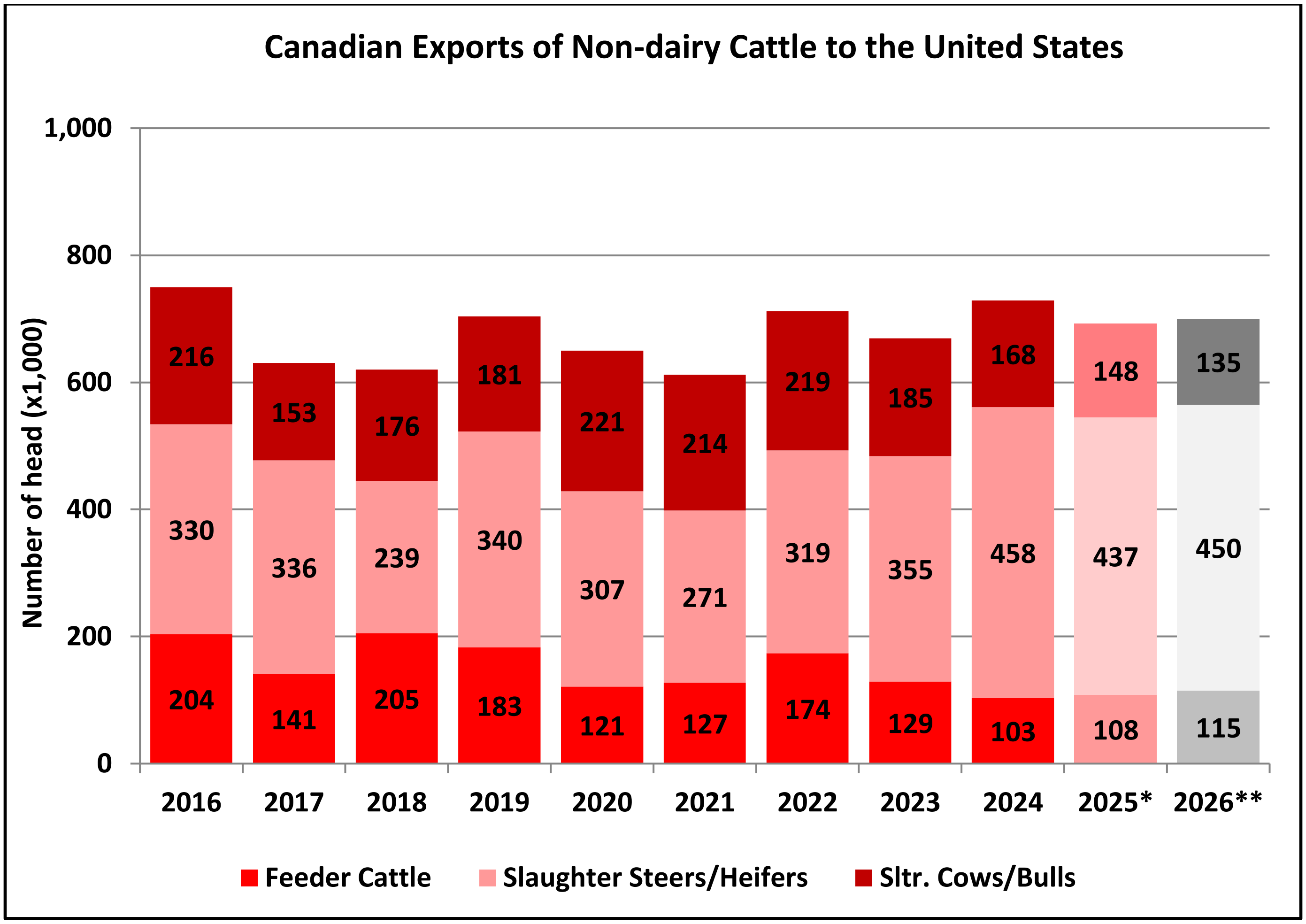

*Source: Trade Data Monitor, FAS/Ottawa*
*Note: *estimate **forecast*

As anticipated, Canada exported fewer live cattle to the United States in 2025 compared to 2024. Tighter supplies and reductions in culling were the main factors influencing this decline. Although exports were down numerically, exports as a percent of available inventory were similar, demonstrating the ongoing strong level of integration in the Canada-U.S. cattle industry. Canadian fed cattle are an important supplement to available U.S. inventory in certain regions where shipping in U.S. fed cattle from further afield would be less logistically and economically feasible.

FAS/Canada continues to forecast that live cattle exports will remain relative steady in 2026, with downward adjustments to the forecast number based on final 2025 trade data. A tighter supply in the United States should support fed exports although a strengthening Canadian dollar would put downward pressure on these, and other live exports, if the trend is maintained. Fewer herd reductions and increased heifer retention will see lower slaughter cow and heifer exports to the United States. Feeder exports are forecast to see an increase on a larger 2026 calf crop and overall fed exports should also trend higher on greater availability. However, U.S. packers are struggling with profitability which is leading to closure/idling announcements and processing reductions which will likely continue in 2026 with the tight supplies. Should significant declines to U.S. processing capacity materialize, there will be fewer opportunities for Canadian live exports.

Relative to the United States, Canada has much more limited processing capacity and even more so at the level of federal inspection, where Canada has only three large plants. The Canadian cattle industry cannot afford to see any of these plants idle. Canadian packers will continue to work on a reduced slaughter throughput and attempt to leverage any reductions to pressure fed prices downwards as much as possible. New and resumed market access for Canadian beef may help Canadian processors extract additional value from the carcass. As Canada reduces cow culling, fewer cull cows will be exported to U.S. plants and increased heifer retention will see fewer slaughter heifer exports.

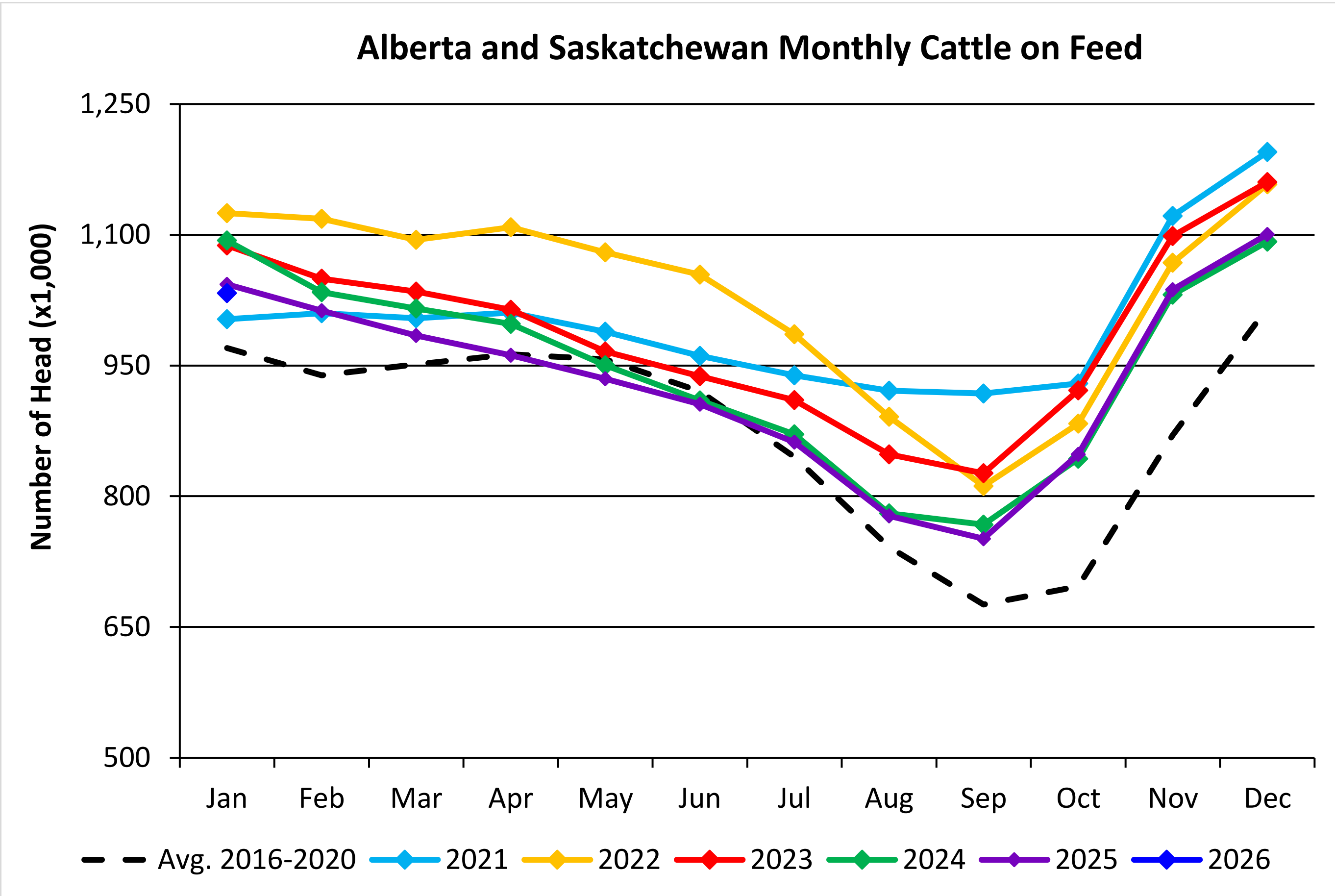
**Figure 6– Canadian Exports of Non-Dairy Cattle to the United States**




*Source: Trade Data Monitor, FAS/Ottawa*
*Note: *estimate **forecast*

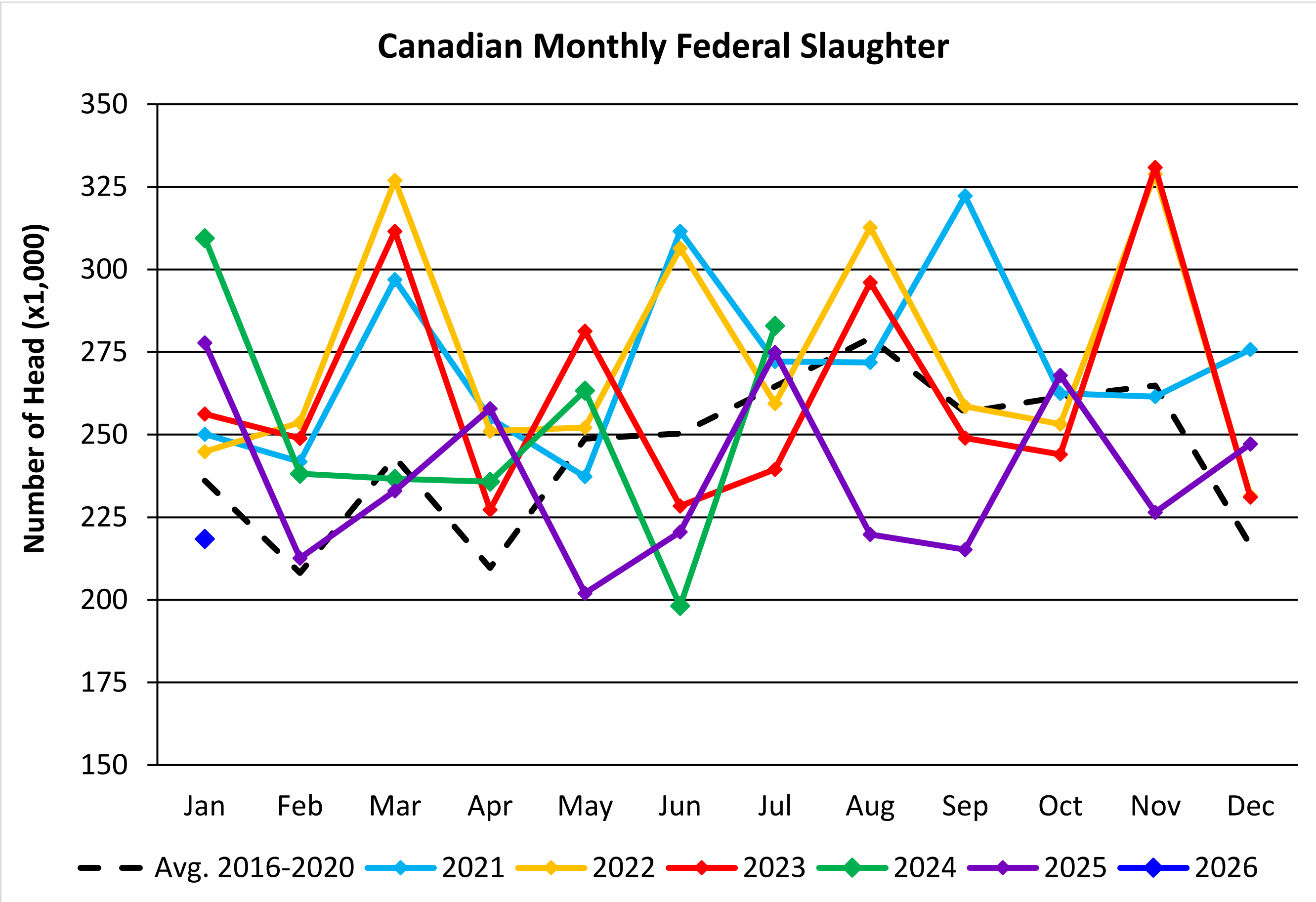
FAS/Canada is maintaining the original forecast trend that 2026 slaughter will be larger relative to 2025, however, a two percent growth in slaughter is now forecast on a larger calf crop and upward adjustments to live cattle imports. Heifer and cow slaughter will be lower as a result of ongoing efforts to rebuild the herd. Packers will continue to be price conscious but strong export value and demand will support keeping numbers steady. Cattle on feed numbers for January are maintaining the year-over-year trend of declining numbers since the recent high in 2022. However, numbers are still more robust than pre-pandemic years. Statistics Canada data indicates that there are a larger number of cattle intended for eventual slaughter still out on pasture and backgrounding operations. These will move into feedlots later in the year and there is a more robust available supply of feeder cattle outside of feedlots relative to 2025 based on this data.

**Figure 7- Alberta and Saskatchewan Cattle on Feed**




*Source: CanFax*

**Figure 8- Canadian Monthly Federal Cattle Slaughter**




*Source: CanFax*

**Beef:**

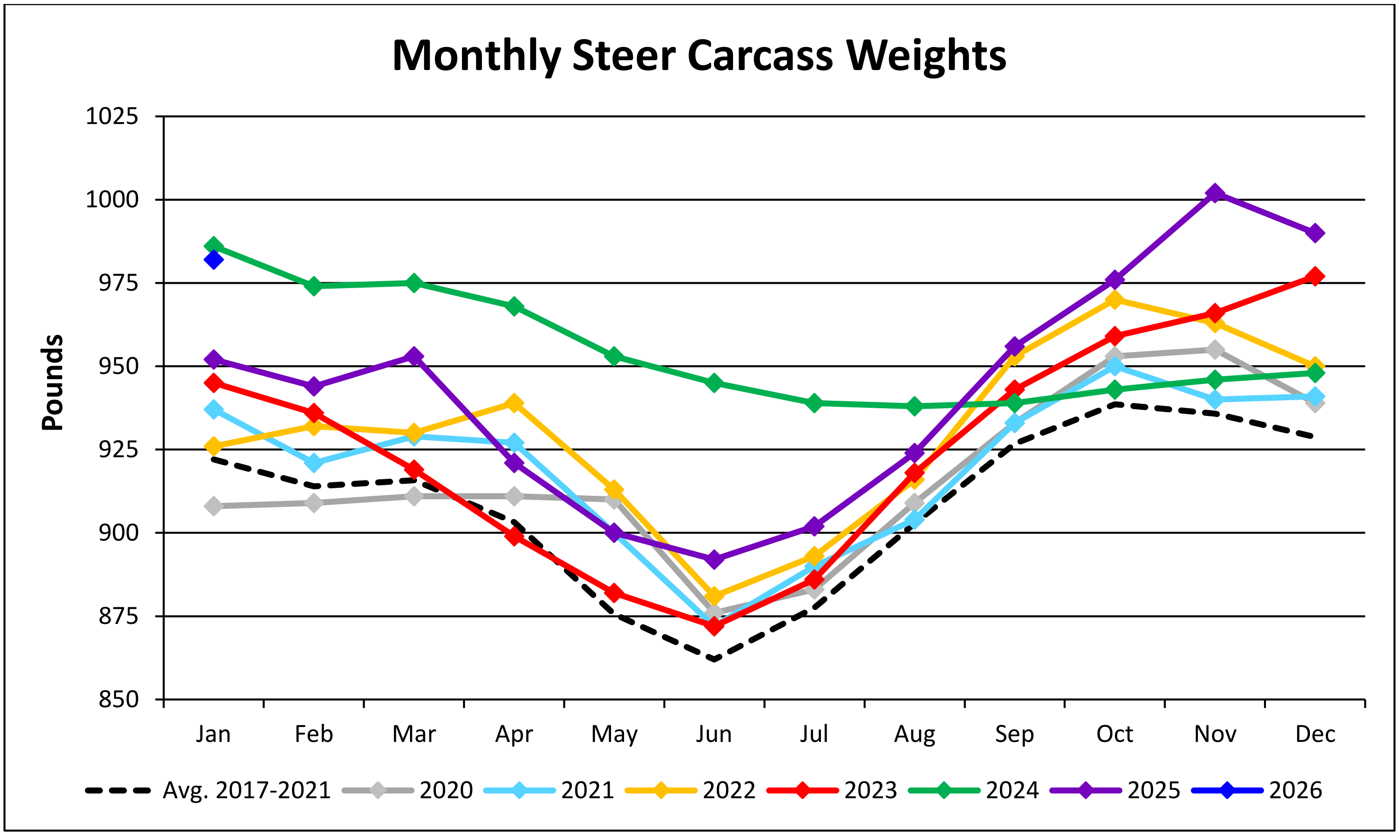
**Table 2- Production, Supply and Distribution Estimates**

| CANADA Meat BEEF and VEAL | 2024 | | 2025 | | 2026 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | USDA Official Data | NEW FAS/Ottawa Data | USDA Official Data | NEW FAS/Ottawa Estimates | USDA Official Data | NEW FAS/Ottawa Estimates |
| Slaughter (Reference) | 3,415 | 3,401 | 3,255 | 3,221 | 3,250 | 3,300 |
| Beginning Stocks | 36 | 36 | 38 | 38 | 35 | 42 |
| Production | 1,310 | 1,300 | 1,270 | 1,260 | 1,275 | 1,300 |
| Total Imports | 264 | 264 | 305 | 314 | 305 | 320 |
| Total Supply | 1,610 | 1,600 | 1,613 | 1,612 | 1,615 | 1,662 |
| Total Exports | 562 | 562 | 550 | 560 | 550 | 570 |
| Total Dom. Consumption | 1,010 | 1,000 | 1,028 | 1,010 | 1,030 | 1,047 |
| Ending Stocks | 38 | 38 | 35 | 42 | 35 | 45 |
| Total Distribution | 1,610 | 1,600 | 1,613 | 1,612 | 1,615 | 1,662 |

*Source: USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service using data from the Production, Supply, and Distribution System*
*Note: "NEW FAS/Ottawa" data reflect author's assessments and are NOT official USDA data*
*Data in '000 metric tons, except for "slaughter" which is in '000 head*

FAS/Canada has revised the 2026 beef production forecast upwards while maintaining the original forecast trend for beef production to increase year-over-year. Growth in beef production output in 2026 will be supported by a larger slaughter number and higher carcass weights. Beef output per animal has been trending higher in Canada, helping to offset impacts from lowering slaughter numbers. This has helped to somewhat maintain beef production despite tighter cattle supplies. While data from processing facilities supports this, it should be noted that Canada has not released official data on beef production since 2023. Updates to beef production, including data for 2024 and 2025, are anticipated to be released later in 2026. Currently, FAS/Canada continues to estimate production for 2024 and 2025 using data on carcass weights and beef output from federal processing facilities.

**Figure 9- Monthly Steer Carcass Weights**

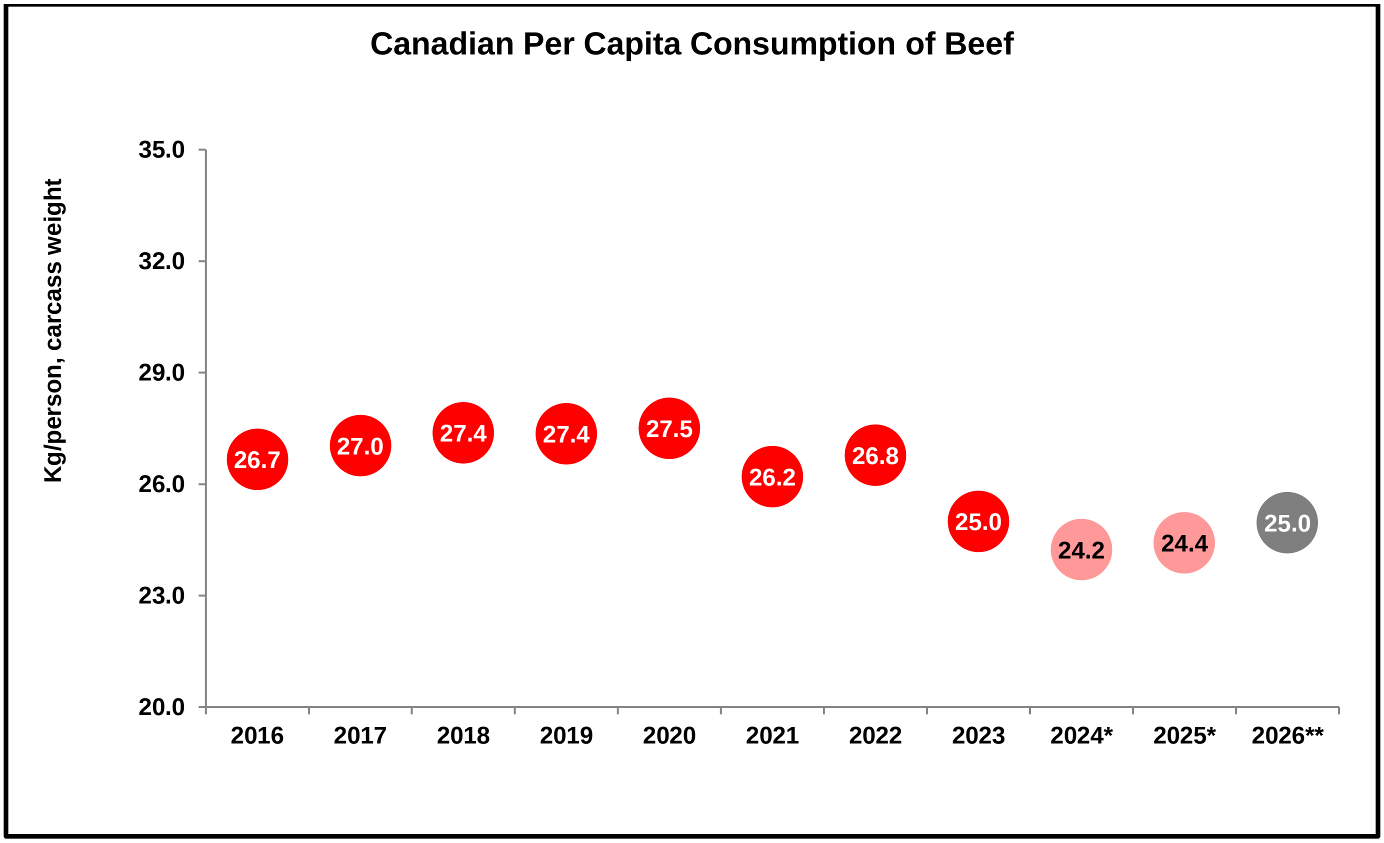



*Source: CanFax*

Canadian consumers continue to value beef even amidst rising prices. Demand for beef remains high and while prices have weighed a bit on consumption, consumers have not significantly decreased their intake of beef. FAS/Canada continues to forecast growth in beef consumption for 2026 based. While prices remain high, consumers will likely shift more to ground beef products, supported by imports from lower cost markets. Beef continues to show competitiveness against pork, despite a large price differential, and remains the preferred red meat amongst consumers.

Canada saw strong population growth in recent years fueled primarily by immigration. However, immigration reform has resulted in lower numbers of immigrants to Canada and has slowed the paced of population growth. This slowed growth may impact consumption in future.

**Figure 10- Canadian per Capita Consumption of Beef**




*Source: Statistics Canada, FAS/Ottawa*
*Note: *estimate **forecast*

Canadian beef exports by volume saw a very slight reduction in 2025 compared to 2024, demonstrating strong demand for Canadian beef. FAS/Canada now forecasts growth in exports of beef for 2026, revising the original forecast that exports would be steady in 2025. This upward revision is a result of upward revisions to slaughter and beef production, as well as revisions to market access for Canadian beef announced in early 2026.

The Chinese market was closed to Canadian beef exports following detection of an atypical bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) case in December 2021. Despite significant effort from Canadian industry, geopolitical tensions between Canada and China were likely a major factor in China maintaining ineligibility for Canadian beef. Following a visit by Prime Minister Mark Carney to China and a change in Canadian positioning on Chinese electric vehicles, and applicable tariffs, Canada has seen movement from change on reducing retaliatory measures against agriculture. Of significance, on January 15, 2026, China resumed market access for Canadian beef from approved federal establishments. Canada will fall under the “Other countries” quota for beef safeguards. While the announcement was received optimistically by Canadian industry, it is likely overly optimistic to anticipate an immediate return to the beef export volumes to China from 2021, when China was Canada’s third largest export market by volume. However, the announcement does give Canadian beef an advantage over U.S. beef with this access announcement. Market access to China will also give a cost advantage for adding value to the carcass as China places a higher value on certain products, such as offal, which have limited value domestically and in alternative markets.

Canada has also secured additional market access to Indonesia with an announcement on February 23, 2026, that over-thirty-month bone-in beef and beef offal is now export eligible. Additionally, residency provisions on imported cattle were also announced as lifted. One constraint which Canadian exporters could face in this market is related to Halal certification. Canada has been working on supporting Halal certification in processing facilities to improve the capacity to increase exports to those markets.

The Indo-Pacific region remains a target for export growth opportunities for Canadian Beef. These markets are largely seeing a growth in their middle class, which supports a shift to purchasing higher value protein. These are target markets for the Government of Canada which continues to push a market diversification strategy, particularly in diversifying away from reliance on the United States. However, industry integration and geographic proximity will continue to see the United States remain as Canada's top export market.

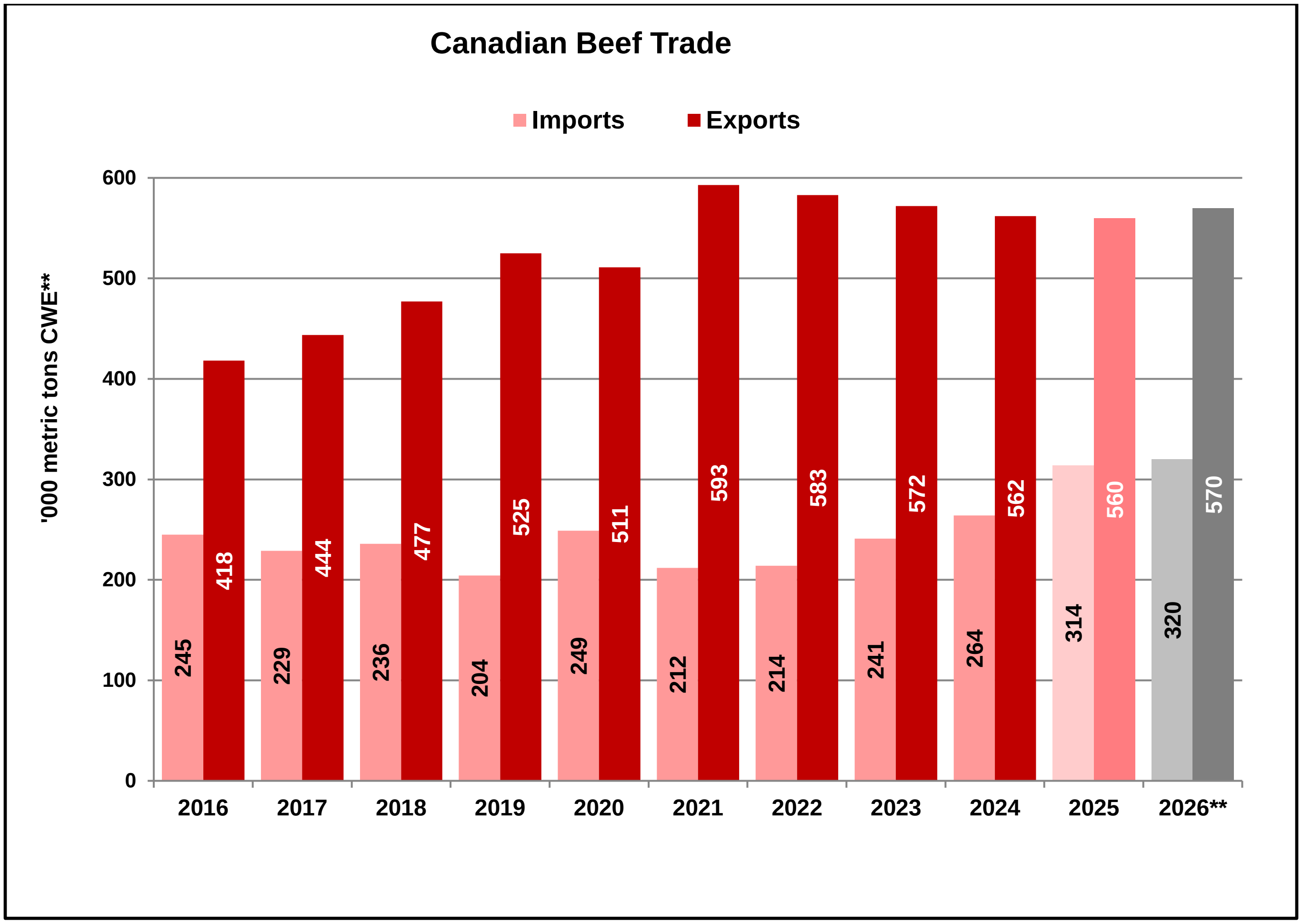
Strong consumer demand for beef saw imports increase in 2025. In anticipation of sustained demand and increased consumption of ground beef domestically, FAS/Canada is revising the 2026 forecast upwards while maintaining the original forecast trend that 2026 will once again see growth in imports.

Demand for Australian beef is likely to be maintained if the forecast of record or near-record beef production for Australia holds. Australia has long been a source market for lean trim imports to Canada to support ground beef production but increasingly, retailers have shown interest in importing muscle cuts, especially as prices are more competitive against Canadian and U.S. pricing. Imports from Australia jumped 83 percent by volume in 2025, with Australia surpassing 21 percent market share for beef imports to Canada. Similarly, New Zealand also enjoyed growth in market access and volume to Canada in 2025. While forecasts for New Zealand production in 2026 are more conservative compared to Australia, imports of beef from New Zealand should still perform strongly in 2026. However, price-wise, Australia is likely to be the preferred source market. Both Australia and New Zealand enjoy preferential access to Canada as members of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

Canada's imports of beef from the United States continued in a downward trajectory by volume in 2025. While the United States enjoys preferential access to the Canadian market under USMCA, tight U.S. supplies and high cattle and beef prices have reduced demand for imports of U.S. beef. In 2025, U.S. market share of Canada's beef imports fell to just under 37 percent. Typically, over 50 percent of Canada's imports of beef would be sourced from the United States. Ongoing tight supplies in the United States continuing in 2026 will see lower imports of U.S. beef into Canada once again. Despite this, geographic proximity and integration of the North American supply chain will continue to support the United States as the top source market for beef imports in 2026.

Imports of beef from South American countries have also been showing steady gains in recent years. The Government of Canada has signaled an intent to conclude free trade negotiations with the Mercosur trading bloc in 2026. Canada's cattle industry has raised significant concerns should such an agreement fully open the Canadian market to beef from these countries. Whether additional access for beef from Mercosur countries will be granted is unclear at this time.

**Figure 11 – Canadian Beef Trade**




*Source: Trade Data Monitor, FAS/Ottawa*

*Note: *estimate **forecast*

**Table 3- Canadian beef and veal exports.**

| Canada Beef and Veal Exports | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Partner** | **Annual Series (January - December)** | | | | | |
| | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** | **2025** |
| World | 510,814 | 592,640 | 582,902 | 571,761 | 562,445 | 560,274 |
| EU | 1,152 | 1,928 | 1,683 | 1,688 | 1,079 | 1,715 |
| CPTPP | 69,665 | 80,835 | 84,223 | 66,179 | 56,429 | 62,463 |
| **United States** | **385,228** | **439,730** | **452,753** | **471,186** | **466,146** | **457,626** |
| Japan | 53,766 | 60,107 | 60,643 | 34,432 | 32,033 | 33,175 |
| Hong Kong | 16,164 | 8,199 | 4,163 | 4,129 | 2,583 | 2,155 |
| Mexico | 15,762 | 20,570 | 23,515 | 31,110 | 23,815 | 28,783 |
| South Korea | 7,277 | 14,973 | 18,544 | 15,279 | 15,341 | 13,625 |
| All other countries | 32,617 | 49,061 | 23,284 | 15,625 | 22,527 | 24,910 |
| % Market Share | | | | | | |
| EU | 0.23 | 0.33 | 0.29 | 0.30 | 0.19 | 0.31 |
| CPTPP | 13.64 | 13.64 | 14.45 | 11.57 | 10.03 | 11.15 |
| **United States** | **75.41** | **74.20** | **77.67** | **82.41** | **82.88** | **81.68** |
| Japan | 10.53 | 10.14 | 10.40 | 6.02 | 5.70 | 5.92 |
| Hong Kong | 3.16 | 1.38 | 0.71 | 0.72 | 0.46 | 0.38 |
| Mexico | 3.09 | 3.47 | 4.03 | 5.44 | 4.23 | 5.14 |
| South Korea | 1.42 | 2.53 | 3.18 | 2.67 | 2.73 | 2.43 |
| All other countries | 6.39 | 8.28 | 3.99 | 2.73 | 4.01 | 4.45 |

*Source: Trade Data Monitor. *Conversion to carcass weight equivalent (CWE)*

**Table 4- Canadian beef and veal imports.**

| Canada Beef and Veal Imports | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Partner | Annual Series (January - December) | | | | | |
| | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
| World | 249,427 | 211,950 | 214,039 | 241,401 | 264,231 | 313,899 |
| CPTPP | 37,866 | 31,627 | 29,284 | 40,062 | 51,834 | 64,726 |
| EU | 17,794 | 16,928 | 15,174 | 10,762 | 10,387 | 7,363 |
| **United States** | **142,050** | **132,796** | **131,786** | **133,622** | **124,194** | **115,840** |
| Australia | 18,913 | 10,370 | 13,969 | 27,260 | 36,259 | 66,170 |
| New Zealand | 25,290 | 18,435 | 15,700 | 24,668 | 35,842 | 45,985 |
| Uruguay | 21,361 | 11,656 | 9,395 | 16,288 | 16,037 | 13,392 |
| Mexico | 10,458 | 11,629 | 12,609 | 14,465 | 14,851 | 15,847 |
| All other countries | 31,355 | 27,064 | 30,580 | 25,098 | 37,048 | 56,665 |
| **% Market Share** | | | | | | |
| CPTPP | 15.18 | 14.92 | 13.68 | 16.60 | 19.62 | 20.62 |
| EU | 7.13 | 7.99 | 7.09 | 4.46 | 3.93 | 2.35 |
| **United States** | **56.95** | **62.65** | **61.57** | **55.35** | **47.00** | **36.90** |
| Australia | 7.58 | 4.89 | 6.53 | 11.29 | 13.72 | 21.08 |
| New Zealand | 10.14 | 8.70 | 7.34 | 10.22 | 13.56 | 14.65 |
| Uruguay | 8.56 | 5.50 | 4.39 | 6.75 | 6.07 | 4.27 |
| Mexico | 4.19 | 5.49 | 5.89 | 5.99 | 5.62 | 5.05 |
| All other countries | 12.57 | 12.77 | 14.29 | 10.40 | 14.02 | 18.05 |

*Source: Trade Data Monitor. *Conversion to carcass weight equivalent (CWE)*

**Swine:**

**Table 5- Production, Supply and Distribution Estimates**

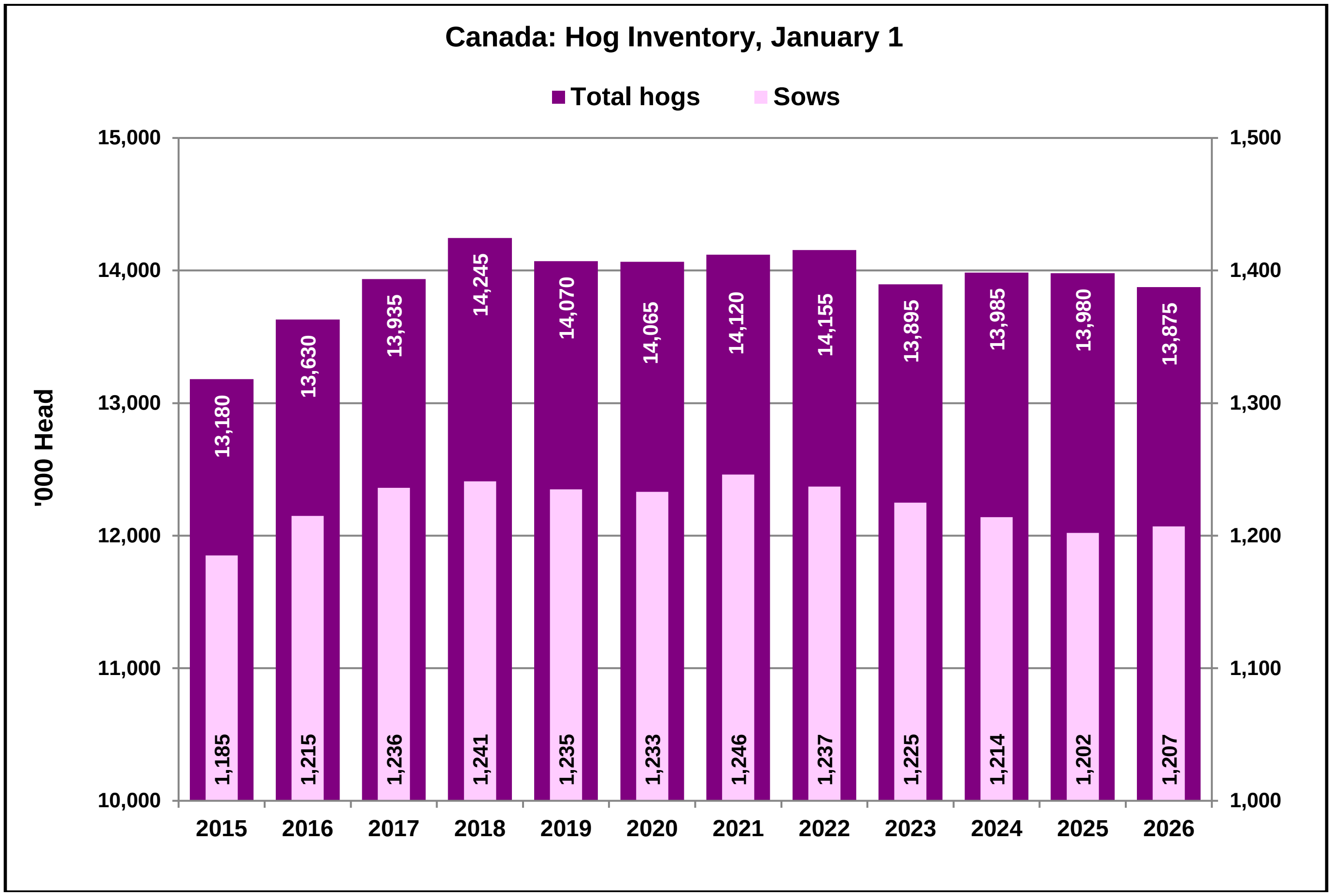
| CANADA Animal Numbers SWINE ('000 head) | 2024 | | 2025 | | 2026 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | USDA Official Data | NEW FAS/Ottawa Data | USDA Official Data | NEW FAS/Ottawa Estimates | USDA Official Data | NEW FAS/Ottawa Forecast |
| Total Beginning Stocks | 13,985 | 13,985 | 13,930 | 13,980 | 13,700 | 13,875 |
| Sow Beginning Stocks | 1,215 | 1,214 | 1,197 | 1,202 | 1,200 | 1,207 |
| Production (Pig Crop) | 29,603 | 29,655 | 30,050 | 30,363 | 30,250 | 31,000 |
| Total Imports | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Total Supply | 43,590 | 43,642 | 43,982 | 44,344 | 43,952 | 44,877 |
| Total Exports | 6,767 | 6,767 | 7,005 | 6,995 | 6,860 | 7,100 |
| Total Slaughter | 21,425 | 21,427 | 21,900 | 21,965 | 22,000 | 22,100 |
| Loss | 1,468 | 1,468 | 1,377 | 1,509 | 1,342 | 1,490 |
| Ending Inventories | 13,930 | 13,980 | 13,700 | 13,875 | 13,750 | 14,187 |
| Total Distribution | 43,590 | 43,642 | 43,982 | 44,344 | 43,952 | 44,877 |

*Source: USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service using data from the Production, Supply, and Distribution System*
*Note: "NEW FAS/Ottawa" data reflect author's assessments and are NOT official USDA data*

Statistics Canada data for 2025 beginning inventories of hogs showed a slight contraction in the Canadian herd but a slight increase in sow numbers. On revisions to official Canadian inventory data and final sow productivity data for 2025, FAS/Canada has adjusted the 2026 pig crop upwards and is forecasting a two percent year-over-year growth in the pig crop for 2026.

Canadian sow productivity was exceptional in 2025, supporting a large pig crop despite a smaller sow herd relative to 2024. Producer focus on biosecurity and farm management have kept disease incidences in check. While there was a reported case of porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDv) in Alberta in early 2026, that incidence appears to be isolated with no further reports following monitoring. However, it should be noted that previous PEDv outbreaks in Canadian provinces have substantially impacted piglet mortality as well as sow productivity.

**Figure 12- Canadian hog inventory, January 1**

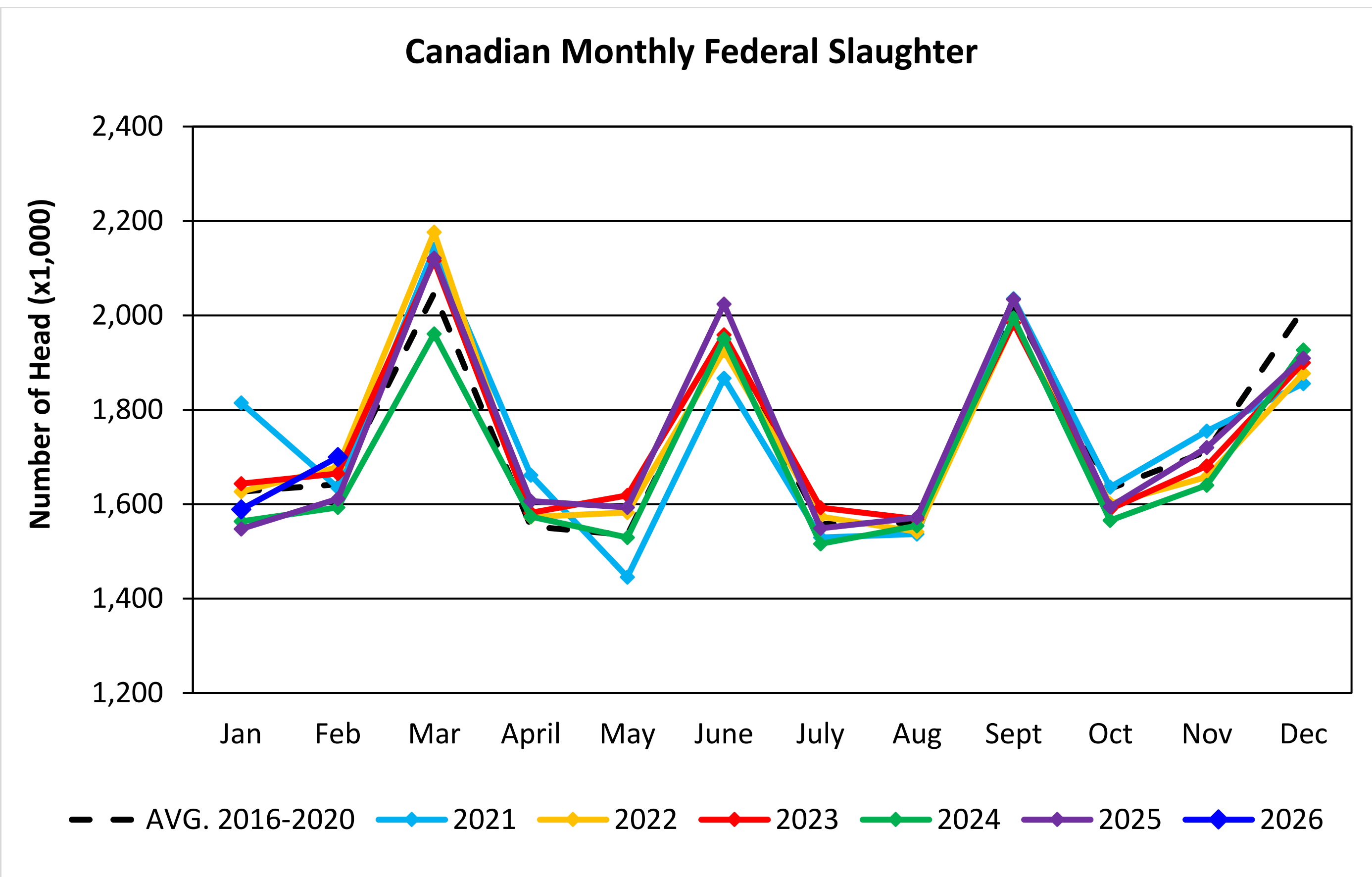



*Source: Statistics Canada*

Lower feed costs and strong pig pricing supported producer profitability in 2025 with optimism for a strong year in 2026. While drought conditions are markedly improved in many regions of Canada there does remain pockets of extreme dryness. However, expectations are that feed costs will remain reasonable for 2026, barring extreme weather conditions and depending on impacts from disruptions to global fertilizer shipments which could see shifts in planting and crop output. Producers also remain sensitive to ongoing trade discussions, particularly the upcoming review of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), given the integration between Canada and the United States for hog and pork trade. With this volatility in mind, it is anticipated that producers will largely maintain a status quo for 2026, relying on strong sow productivity to support pig crop production but anticipating that significant expansion is unlikely.

FAS/Canada is revising the slaughter forecast upwards for 2026, based on adjustments to inventory, sow productivity, and increased capacity utilization in processing plants. Following substantial reductions in hog slaughter in 2024, primarily a result of Olymel reductions and restructuring, hog slaughter rebounded in 2025 to prior levels. While there was some capacity expansion, especially for sow slaughter, this larger slaughter number is largely supported by increased capacity utilization. The loss of shackle space from the closure of Olymel facilities did not hinder processor throughput, as most packers were incentivized by profitability to increase output in the large hog producing provinces. Maple Leaf, now Canada Packers, has steadily increased capacity utilization with a goal to continue to further increase that utilization over the coming years; this will mainly come through increased processing at their Manitoba facility. While there are some provincially inspected abattoirs which may finalize a switch to federally inspected later in 2026, significant new processing capacity is not anticipated to be announced in 2026.

**Figure 13- Canadian Monthly Federal Market Hog Slaughter**

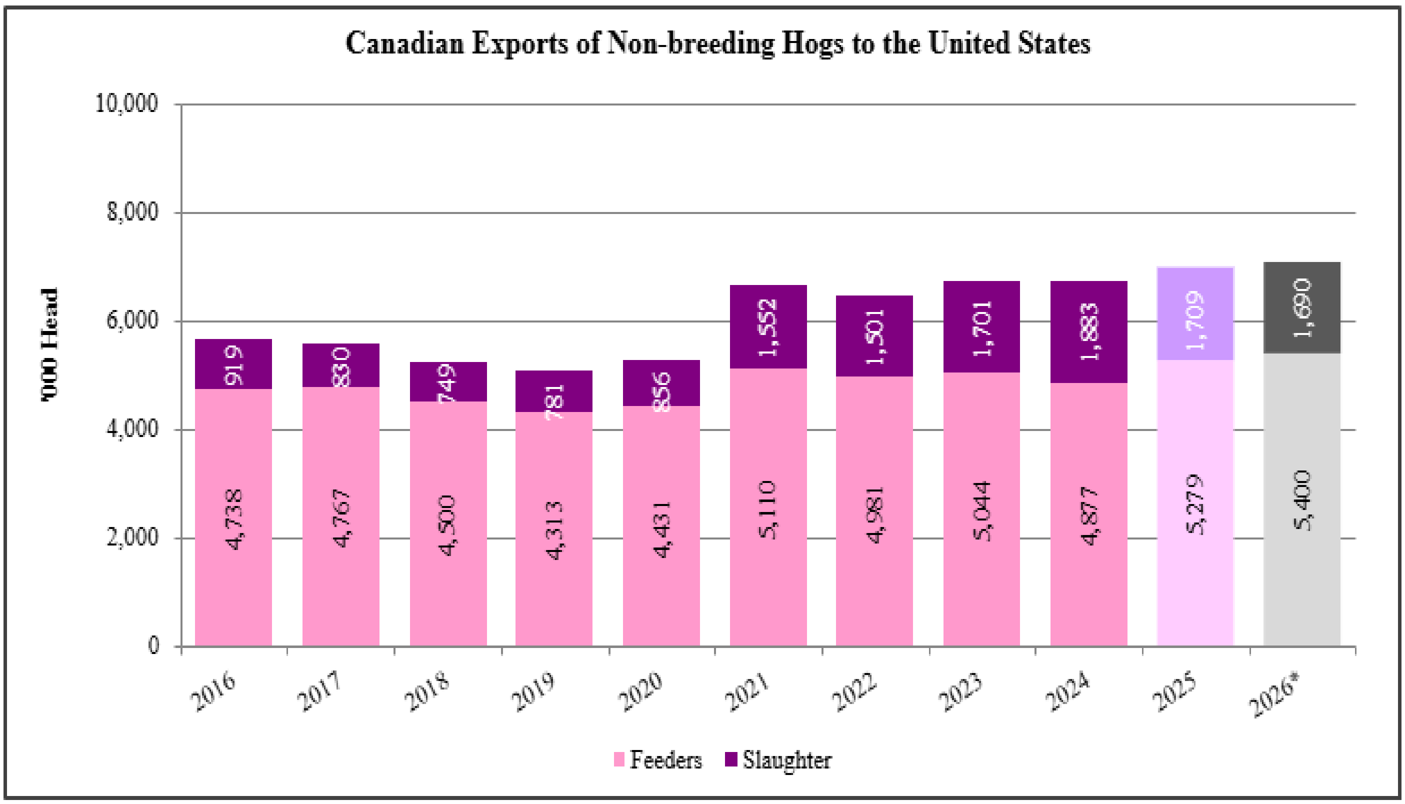



*Source: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada*

FAS/Canada is adjusting the forecast for live exports in 2026 to see continued growth in exports to the United States. Strong weanling prices and disease outbreaks in U.S. herds are supporting U.S. demand for Canadian weaners and feeders. Market hog exports are forecast to continue to see a decline in 2026 with expanded capacity utilization in Canada. Cross-border integration between Canadian farrowing operations and U.S. finishing operations will continue to sustain this trend. While Canadian producers continue to watch for impacts from state-level animal welfare regulations and the "Product of USA" voluntary labeling, there do not appear to be any significant detrimental impacts at this time. However, depending on U.S. market adoption and demand for the "Product of USA" label, there could be a future downward pressure on live exports from Canada if retailers and consumers show preference for the label.

With expanded processing capacity for cull sows in recent years, Canada continues to see a larger number of cull sows remaining domestically for processing, with fewer live exports for processing in the United States.

**Figure 14- Canadian Exports of Non-Breeding Hogs to the United States**




*Source: Trade Data Monitor, FAS/Ottawa*
*Note: *estimate **forecast*

**Pork:**

**Table 6- Production, Supply and Distribution Estimates**

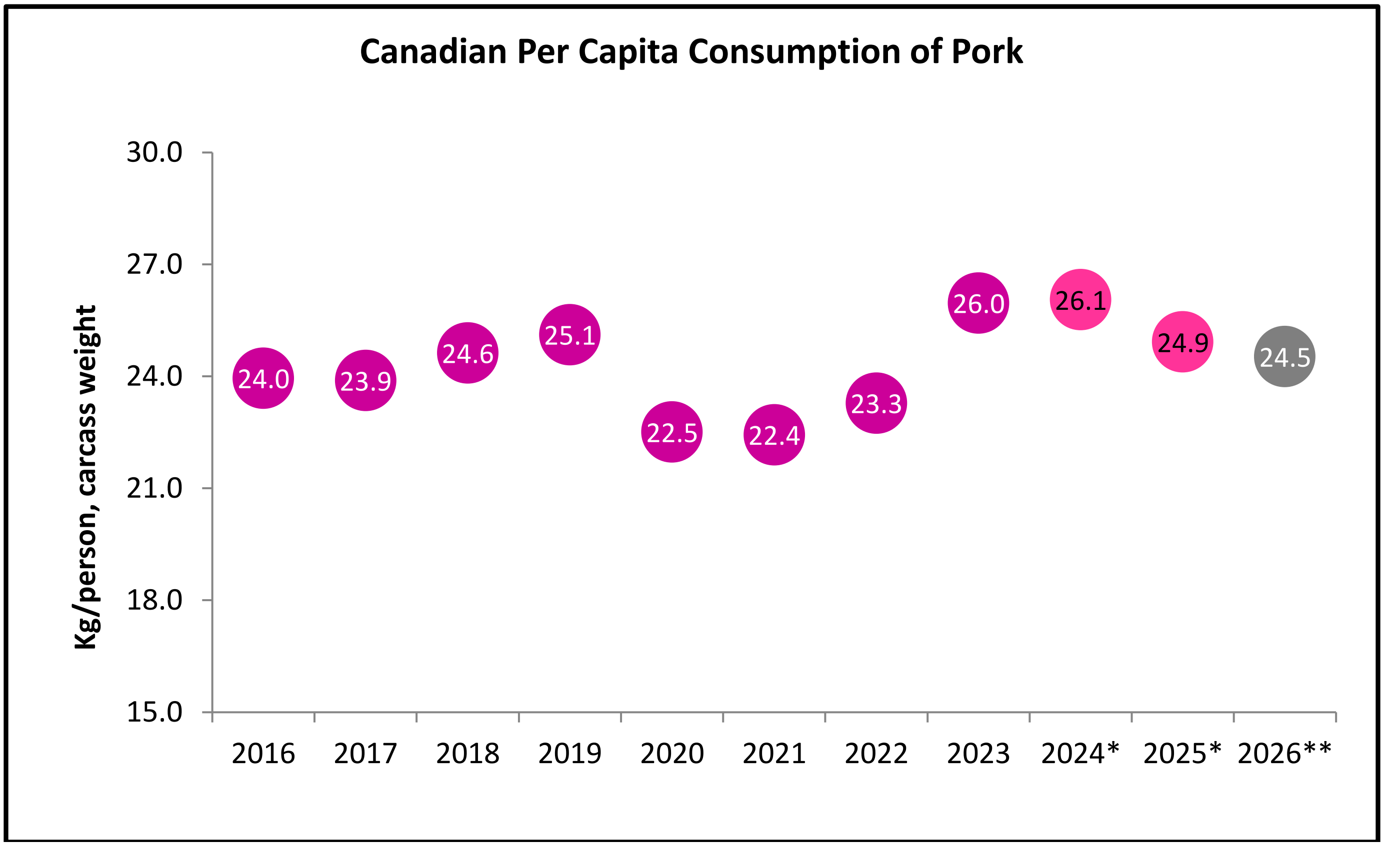
| CANADA Meat SWINE | 2024 | | 2025 | | 2026 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | USDA Official Data | NEW FAS/Ottawa Data | USDA Official Data | NEW FAS/Ottawa Estimates | USDA Official Data | NEW FAS/Ottawa Estimates |
| Slaughter (Reference) | 21,425 | 21,427 | 21,900 | 21,965 | 22,000 | 22,100 |
| Beginning Stocks | 78 | 78 | 81 | 81 | 80 | 74 |
| Production | 2,090 | 2,090 | 2,145 | 2,145 | 2,160 | 2,170 |
| Total Imports | 243 | 243 | 215 | 218 | 225 | 215 |
| Total Supply | 2,411 | 2,411 | 2,441 | 2,444 | 2,465 | 2,459 |
| Total Exports | 1,438 | 1,255 | 1,445 | 1,331 | 1,465 | 1,360 |
| Total Dom. Consumption | 892 | 1,075 | 916 | 1,039 | 930 | 1,029 |
| Ending Stocks | 81 | 81 | 80 | 74 | 70 | 70 |
| Total Distribution | 2,411 | 2,411 | 2,441 | 2,444 | 2,465 | 2,459 |

*Source: USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service using data from the Production, Supply, and Distribution System*
*Note: "NEW FAS/Ottawa" data reflect author's assessments and are NOT official USDA data*
*Data in '000 metric tons, except for "slaughter" which is in '000 head*

FAS/Canada has maintained the original forecast trend for pork production in 2026 but has revised forecast volumes upwards on expectations of a larger slaughter number and larger pig crop. Estimates for 2025 production are also further revised upwards on a larger pig crop and larger slaughter number. It should be noted that official data on pork production from Statistics Canada remains available only up to 2023. Statistics Canada should publish updated production data for 2024 and 2025 this year.

Accelerated population growth and a more affordable protein option have supported a slight surge in domestic pork consumption in recent years. However, despite beef prices remaining relatively high, pork still struggles to capture Canadian consumer attention with a lower demand from consumers relative to beef and chicken. Immigration reform will see lower immigration numbers to Canada, and with population growth reliant on support from immigration, growth of Canada's population will also slow. FAS/Canada is forecasting that domestic consumption will see a slight reduction in 2026.

**Figure 15- Canadian per Capita Consumption of Pork**




*Source: Statistics Canada*
*Note: *estimate **forecast*

Historical revisions were made to Canada's 2023 and 2024 pork export volumes. Consequently, pork export volumes for 2024 have been reduced by 13 percent. While the original trend for 2025 was maintained, 2025 volumes ended as lower than originally estimated based on previous trade data. Accordingly, FAS/Canada is revising the 2026 forecast volume to a lower number. However, Canada's efforts in securing new trade arrangements and market access opportunities will likely result in greater export opportunities in 2026. FAS/Canada is now forecasting a two percent growth in pork exports as a result.

The Government of Canada has been active in engaging with international partners to diversify Canada's exports and decrease reliance and dependency on the United States. Canada has secured market access for pork to Indonesia because of these efforts. While progress has been made for reducing or eliminating tariffs on other agricultural commodities to China, Canadian pork products continue to face a 25 percent surtax (retaliatory tariff) at this time.

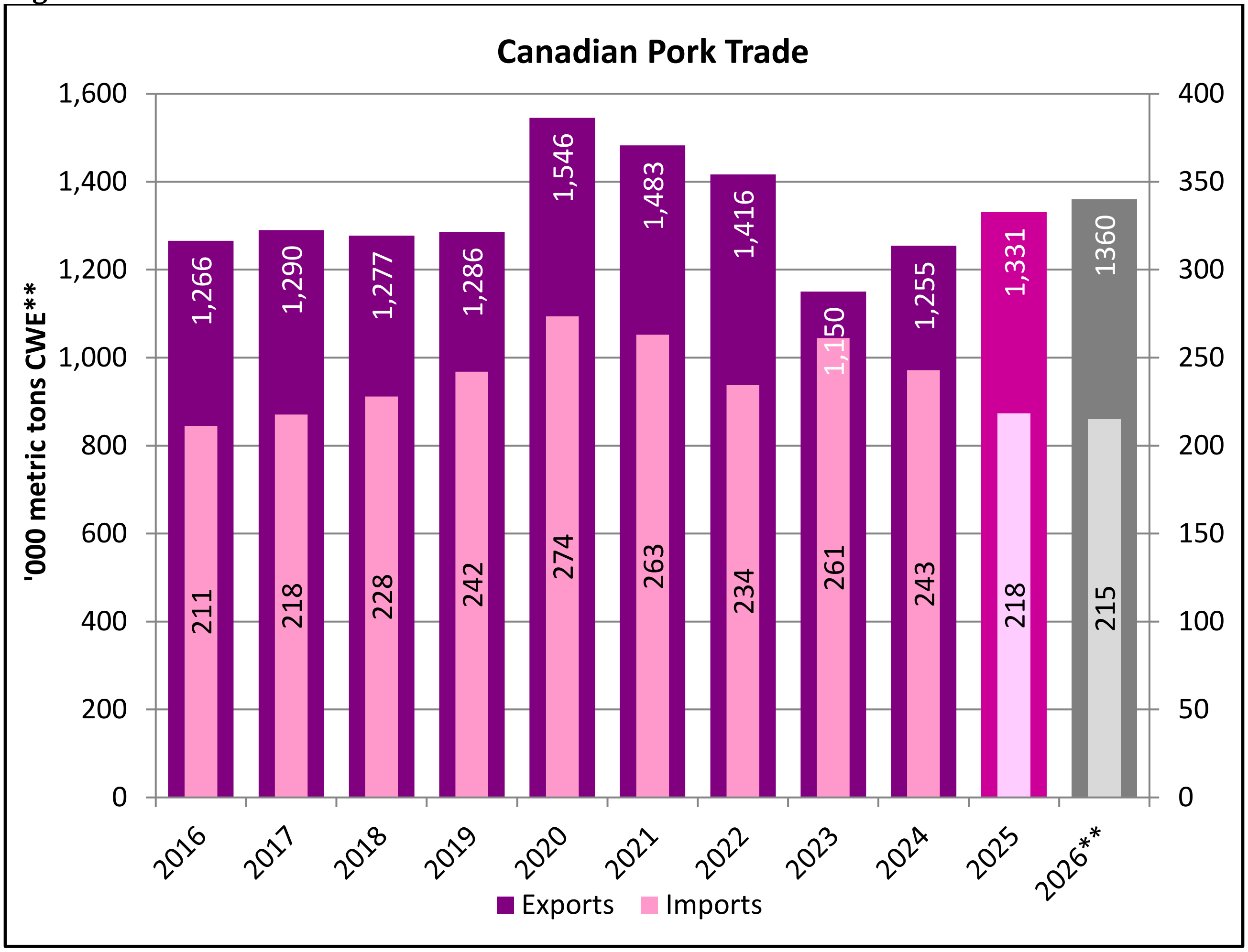
Canada’s pork industry is export dependent, with production far outpacing domestic demand. Typically, close to 70 percent of production is exported, however, trade data revisions resulted in export volumes, as a percentage of production, shifting closer to 60 percent in recent years. Still, strong global demand should support Canadian exports gaining ground in 2026.

Canada continues to generally target the Indo-Pacific region with Japan, South Korea, and the Philippines being important markets for Canadian pork outside of the United States. While China was a strong market when dealing with the impacts of African Swine Fever and remains a market for offal and niche product, tariffs will continue to weigh on export volumes in 2026. Exports to the United States are also likely to remain stagnant unless U.S. demand picks up substantially.

Mexico has also emerged as a significant market for Canadian pork exports in recent years, supported by a strengthening peso. Continuation of a strong performance of the peso in 2026 would continue to support Canadian exports to that market. Additionally, Canada has been cultivating its relationship with Mexico as part of the trade diversification strategy which could also support more Canadian pork moving to that market.

Canadian exporters have continued to reduce exports to the European Union as pork export performance under the Comprehensive and Progressive Trade Agreement (CETA) continues to be an irritant for the Canadian pork industry. As exporters increasingly focus on the Indo-Pacific, exports to the EU will likely stay at minimal volumes.

**Figure 16- Canadian Pork Trade**




*Source: Trade Data Monitor, FAS/Ottawa*
*Note: *estimate **forecast*

FAS/Canada forecasts Canadian pork imports to see a slight decline in 2026 on growth of production and steady domestic consumption. The United States will remain the top supplier to Canada given geographic proximity. Brazil is anticipated to continue to expand its exports to Canada, especially given Brazil-United States relations. Imports from Mexico may also continue to grow, especially if Brazilian product moves more into the Mexican market, which could in turn see Canada expand imports from Mexico as product is redistributed and displaced.

**Table 7- Canadian pork exports.**

| Canada Pork Exports | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Partner | Annual Series (January - December) | | | | | |
| | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
| World | 1,545,570 | 1,482,697 | 1,416,425 | 1,150,098 | 1,254,795 | 1,330,630 |
| | | | | | | |
| CPTPP | 394,173 | 458,583 | 429,567 | 363,489 | 505,670 | 598,793 |
| EU 27 | 700 | 809 | 406 | 2,822 | 1,732 | 1,226 |
| **United States** | **313,126** | **405,594** | **472,202** | **417,052** | **399,593** | **382,316** |
| Japan | 292,405 | 279,501 | 250,081 | 206,697 | 302,531 | 378,232 |
| China | 652,205 | 319,403 | 207,553 | 116,831 | 78,594 | 63,549 |
| Mexico | 85,916 | 164,449 | 168,262 | 142,794 | 176,219 | 202,994 |
| Taiwan | 21,948 | 24,060 | 25,987 | 44,251 | 41,647 | 50,282 |
| Philippines | 46,237 | 124,148 | 141,712 | 93,102 | 80,679 | 68,973 |
| South Korea | 38,332 | 54,105 | 66,183 | 46,803 | 67,359 | 82,403 |
| All other countries | 95,401 | 111,437 | 84,445 | 82,568 | 108,173 | 101,881 |
| % Market Share | | | | | | |
| CPTPP | 25.50 | 30.93 | 30.33 | 31.61 | 40.30 | 45.00 |
| EU 27 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.03 | 0.25 | 0.14 | 0.09 |
| **United States** | **20.26** | **27.36** | **33.34** | **36.26** | **31.85** | **28.73** |
| Japan | 18.92 | 18.85 | 17.66 | 17.97 | 24.11 | 28.43 |
| China | 42.20 | 21.54 | 14.65 | 10.16 | 6.26 | 4.78 |
| Mexico | 5.56 | 11.09 | 11.88 | 12.42 | 14.04 | 15.26 |
| Taiwan | 1.42 | 1.62 | 1.83 | 3.85 | 3.32 | 3.78 |
| Philippines | 2.99 | 8.37 | 10.00 | 8.10 | 6.43 | 5.18 |
| South Korea | 2.48 | 3.65 | 4.67 | 4.07 | 5.37 | 6.19 |
| All other countries | 6.17 | 7.52 | 5.96 | 7.18 | 8.62 | 7.66 |

*Source: Trade Data Monitor, LLC / *Conversion to carcass weight equivalent (CWE)*

**Table 8- Canadian pork imports.**

| Canada Pork Imports | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Partner | Annual Series (January - December) | | | | | |
| | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
| World | 273,546 | 263,002 | 234,416 | 261,213 | 242,872 | 218,168 |
| EU | 27,898 | 47,256 | 49,156 | 35,842 | 26,445 | 28,516 |
| CPTPP | 3,358 | 6,371 | 5,150 | 3,050 | 1,627 | 2,103 |
| **United States** | **240,336** | **206,886** | **177,593** | **215,603** | **201,287** | **169,520** |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Denmark | 6,857 | 5,975 | 10,013 | 11,743 | 8,108 | 14,104 |
| Germany | 7,061 | 23,921 | 19,531 | 12,281 | 8,728 | 3,420 |
| Spain | 3,233 | 6,096 | 7,529 | 4,261 | 2,750 | 2,629 |
| Brazil | 0 | 0 | 548 | 5,320 | 11,591 | 16,588 |
| All other countries | 16,059 | 20,124 | 19,202 | 12,005 | 10,408 | 11,907 |
| % Market Share | | | | | | |
| EU | 10.20 | 17.97 | 20.97 | 13.72 | 10.89 | 13.07 |
| CPTPP | 1.23 | 2.42 | 2.20 | 1.17 | 0.67 | 0.96 |
| **United States** | **87.86** | **78.66** | **75.76** | **82.54** | **82.88** | **77.70** |
| Denmark | 2.51 | 2.27 | 4.27 | 4.50 | 3.34 | 6.46 |
| Germany | 2.58 | 9.10 | 8.33 | 4.70 | 3.59 | 1.57 |
| Spain | 1.18 | 2.32 | 3.21 | 1.63 | 1.13 | 1.21 |
| Brazil | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.23 | 2.04 | 4.77 | 7.60 |
| All other countries | 5.87 | 7.65 | 8.19 | 4.60 | 4.29 | 5.46 |

*Source: Trade Data Monitor, LLC / *Conversion to carcass weight equivalent (CWE)*

**Policy:**

**Beef and Veal Supplemental Import Application Refusals**

On May 15, 2025, the Government of Canada issued a message to industry on supplemental import requests for beef and veal. The rationale for the notice was a trend of significant price discrepancy for products imported into North America where imports into the United States were at a higher reported price compared to Canada. Supplemental import requests for beef and veal where there is a significant price discrepancy between product entering Canada and comparable product entering the United States will be refused.

**Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)**

On September 24, 2025, Canada and Indonesia signed CEPA. It is anticipated that the agreement will be ratified by summer 2026. Global Affairs Canada notes that once fully implemented, over 95 percent of Canadian exports to Indonesia will receive preferential tariff treatment.

**China**

Following detection of an atypical BSE case in Western Canada in December 2021, China suspended imports of Canadian beef. On January 15, 2026, China resumed beef market access for Canadian beef from approved federal establishments. Canada will fall under the "Other Country" quota for the Chinese beef safeguards at this time.

On March 20, 2025, China applied a 25 percent tariff on select Canadian pork products in retaliation for Canadian tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles and steel and aluminum. While there have been recent announcements of tariff suspensions and reductions on other Canadian commodities targeted by retaliatory tariffs by China, these announcements have not included any changes to the status of tariffs on Canadian pork at this time.

**Health of Animals Regulations (Identification and Traceability)**

Canada has proposed changes to Part XV of the *Health of Animals Regulations* (Identification and Traceability). The proposed changes would add traceability requirements for goats and cervids, given shared diseases with other regulated species, reduce duration of time to report events, and add requirements for premises identification where animals are located and domestic movement reporting. Details are available in *Canada Gazette* Part I and on the CFIA website. On January 10, 2026, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency noted that the final regulations are yet to be published amidst ongoing dialogue with industry, they note that once published, there will be a one-year transition period for regulated parties followed by a graduated enforcement approach.

**Indonesia**

On February 23, 2026, Canada announced expanded market access for Canadian beef and market access for Canadian pork to Indonesia. Canadian producers are now able to export over-thirty-month bone-in beef and beef offal; prior access was limited to boneless beef. Nine additional Canadian processing plants also received approval to export to Indonesia. Additionally, the four-month residency provision on cattle imported to Canada for beef to be import eligible to Indonesia has also been lifted, which provides additional market access for beef produced in Canada.

**Pork Promotion and Research Agency**

The Canadian Pork Promotion and Research Agency (Pork PRA) was officially established under the Farm Products Agencies Act on December 16, 2020. Collection of the import levy began in May 2022. The import levy is CAD 0.80 per hog, or equivalent adjustment for pork products, based on matching the lowest provincial levy amount. Additional information can be found on the Pork PRA website.

**Attachments:**

No Attachments