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Report Highlights:

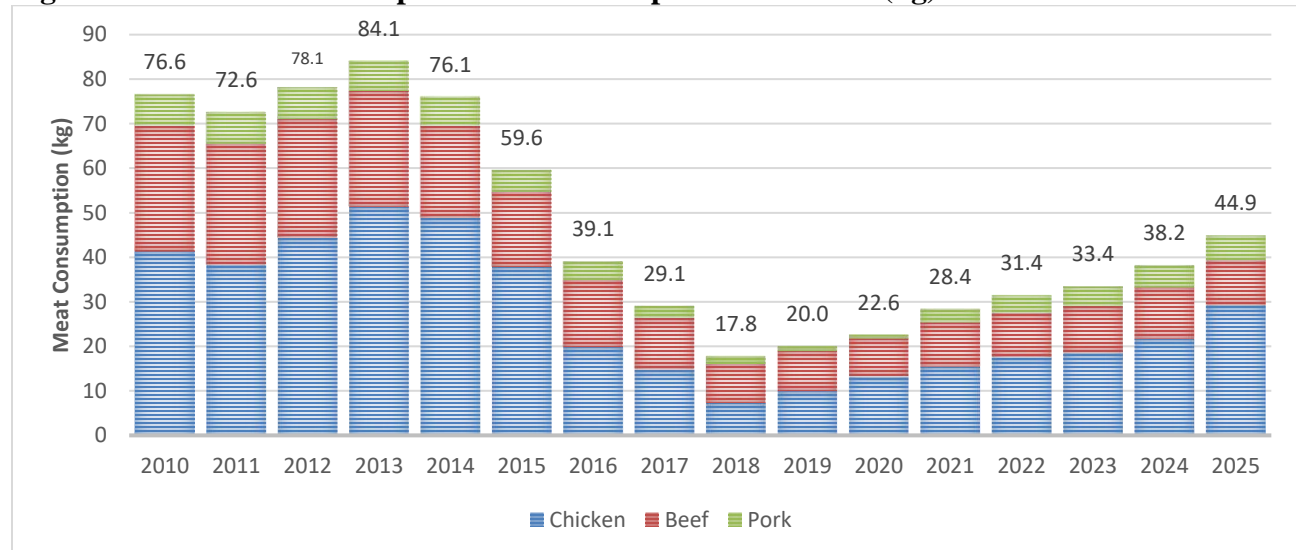
Venezuela's total per capita meat consumption in 2025 is projected to reach 45 kilograms, marking a 153 percent increase from its 2018 record low. FAS Caracas (Post) estimates Venezuela's beef production for 2025 at 267,000 metric tons (MT), reflecting a 13 percent year-on-year decline. Poultry meat production is forecast to grow by 40 percent, reaching 768,000 MT, while pork production is expected to increase by 12 percent to 143,000 metric tons. Domestic production remains the primary source of Venezuela's meat supply, with chicken meat as the only significant import category. Poultry meat imports for 2025 are estimated at 14,000 MT, a 50 percent decline from 2024 levels.

Report Overview

Meat Production and Consumption in Venezuela

Before Venezuela's 2015 economic collapse, the meat industry satisfied local demand with production and imports. Per capita meat consumption peaked at 84 kg in 2013 but dropped 79 percent to 18 kg by 2018 due to economic crisis and hyperinflation (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Venezuela: Per Capita Meat Consumption 2010–2024 (kg)



Data source: Venezuelan livestock and poultry industry; not official USDA data. *Forecast data.

Since 2019, the economic environment in Venezuela has improved and the removal of price controls in 2019, along with reduced market distortions, has allowed meat prices to adjust according to market conditions. For 2025, total per capita meat consumption is estimated at 45 kg, marking a 153 percent increase from 2018 (Table 2).¹ Chicken has become one of the most affordable sources of animal protein in Venezuela, second only to eggs, and remains well below pork and beef prices, thanks to its price competitiveness (Figure 2). The combination of attractive profit margins and continued investment in the poultry industry has created a favorable environment for market growth in response to domestic demand.

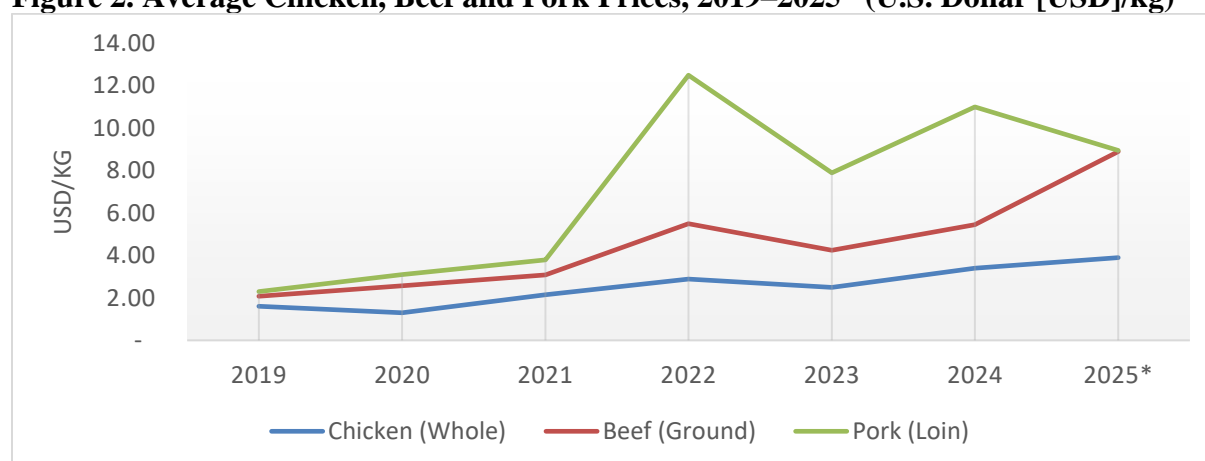
Table 2. Venezuela: Per Capita Meat Consumption, 2018 vs. 2025* (kg)

Year	Chicken	Beef	Pork	Total
2018	7.3	8.8	1.7	17.8
2025*	29.3	10.0	5.6	44.9
Change (kg)	22.0	1.3	3.9	27.1
Change (%)	301.7	14.3	231.1	152.8

Data Source: Venezuelan livestock and poultry industries; not official USDA data. *Forecast data.

¹ All yearly data reported on calendar year basis.

Figure 2. Average Chicken, Beef and Pork Prices, 2019–2025* (U.S. Dollar [USD]/kg)



Data source: Venezuelan livestock and poultry industries; not official USDA data. * Data for August 2025.

Poultry Meat

Industry Overview

Venezuela's poultry industry consists of approximately 37 medium- to large-scale private companies focused on chicken meat and egg production. Nearly all are affiliated with FENAVI (Federación Nacional de Avicultura de Venezuela), the national poultry federation, whose members account for about 98 percent of the country's total chicken meat and egg production. The Venezuelan poultry industry is mostly vertically integrated, overseeing every stage of production, including feed mills, breeding farms, hatcheries, production sheds, slaughterhouses, processing plants, and distribution networks. Operating with modern, high-productivity standards comparable to other South American poultry industries, chicken (broiler meat) is produced nationwide, though most production is concentrated in the central and western regions, typically near major consumer markets. The states of Aragua, Carabobo, and Zulia lead production, contributing approximately 60 percent of the country's broiler meat and egg output.

In 2024, the key productivity indicators showed a 40-day growth period, reaching an average final weight of 2.2 kg, an average daily gain of 54 grams, and a 1.6 feed conversion ratio.² In 2024, Venezuela's poultry industry (both broiler meat and egg production) required 1.02 million metric tons (MTM) of yellow corn and 512,000 MT of soybean meal for its operations. The United States was the sole supplier of soybean meal, while 45 to 50 percent of yellow corn usage was derived from imports supplied by the United States, Brazil, and Argentina.

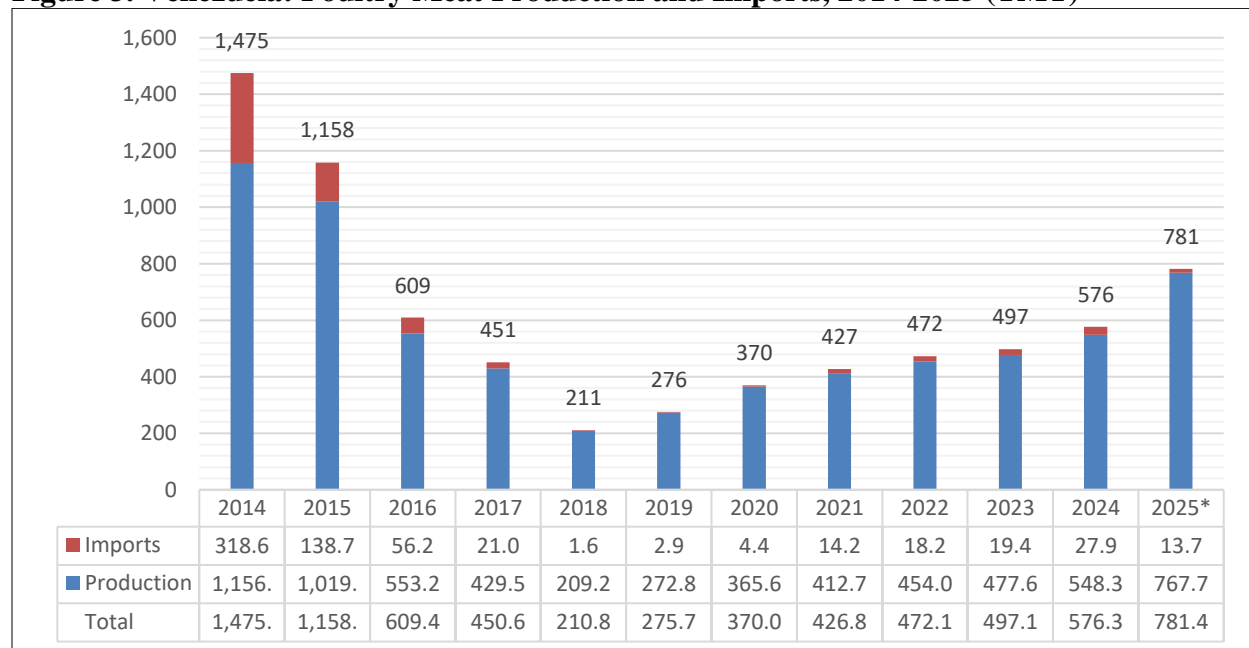
In 2025, Post estimates a 40 percent growth in broiler meat production and egg production to remain flat. The strong growth in chicken production has been driven by productivity gains and increased market share due to competitive pricing. Based on this projection, the Venezuelan poultry industry will require approximately 1.43 MMT of yellow corn and 717,500 MT of soybean meal for its feeding operations.

² The weight of feed intake divided by weight gained by the animal.

Production

Post sources report that Venezuela's chicken meat production in 2024 totaled 548,348 MT, a 15 percent year-over-year increase. For 2025, production is projected to rise by 40 percent, reaching approximately 768,000 metric tons (Figure 3). During the first half of 2025, average monthly chicken meat production reached 68,034 MT, a 49 percent increase compared to the same period in 2024.

Figure 3. Venezuela: Poultry Meat Production and Imports, 2014-2025 (TMT)



Data Source: Venezuelan poultry industry, Trade Data Monitor (TDM); not official USDA data. *2025 projected.

The robust growth in chicken production is attributed to improved productivity and growing market share, driven by its competitive pricing compared to other meats. In the last decade, the Venezuelan poultry industry has made substantial investments in infrastructure, equipment, and technologies across the production chain, such as high-tech poultry houses featuring efficient, automated systems. Additionally, the industry actively engages in national and international events to secure better suppliers and advanced technologies.

Low production costs have enabled the poultry industry to regain market share and restore chicken consumption to its highest levels in a decade, despite the Venezuelan population's stagnant purchasing power and the ongoing challenges of high inflation.

Price

Since 2019, and thanks to implicit economic liberalization and reduced market distortions, chicken meat has become more competitive compared to beef and pork and remains the most affordable meat available in the market. In August 2025, the average price of 1 kg of chicken was 56 percent lower than that of 1 kg of ground beef or pork chops (loin).³ (Tables 3 and 4).

³ Ground beef and pork loin, given their high consumption frequency in Venezuela compared to other cuts, serve as key price benchmarks for this report.

Table 3. August 2025 Average Retail Price of Select Meats in Venezuela (USD/kg)

Chicken (Whole)	Chicken (Breast)	Beef (High Quality)	Beef (Ground)	Pork (Chops)	Pork (Leg)
3.9	9.65	16.90	8.90	8.95	10.40

Data source: Venezuelan livestock and meat industry, Post research; not official USDA data.

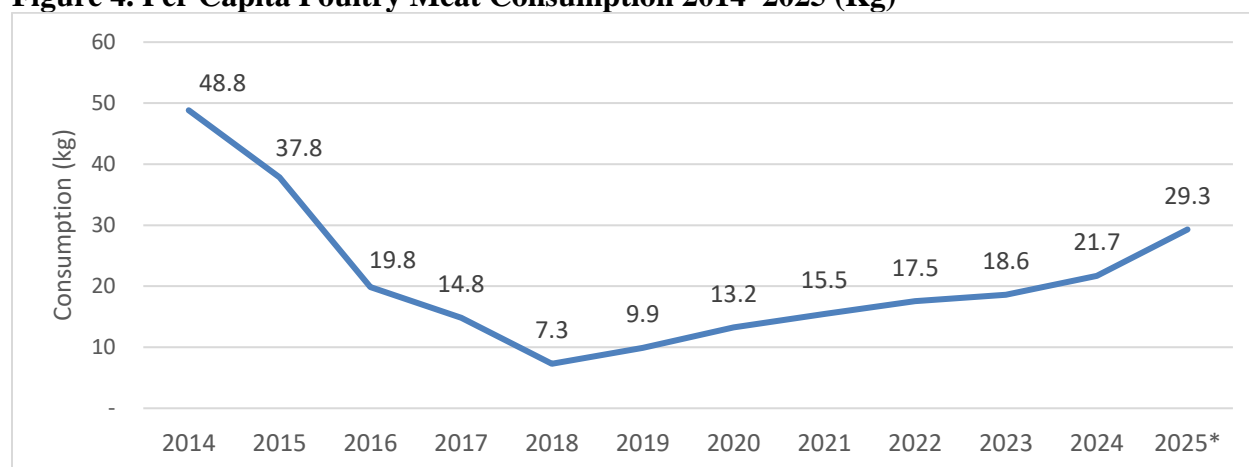
Table 4. Average Retail Price of Chicken (Whole), 2017-2025 (USD/kg)

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*
1.40	2.20	1.60	1.30	2.15	2.89	2.49	3.50	3.9

Data source: Post research; not official USDA data. *2024 data for month of August.

Consumption

Post projects that per capita poultry consumption in Venezuela will rise to 29 kg in 2025, a 35 percent increase from 2024 (Figure 4). Having hit a low of 7.3 kg in 2018, consumption has rebounded significantly, driven by increased domestic supply, improved purchasing power, and poultry's competitive pricing relative to other meats. Poultry consumption is composed of 95 percent chilled or frozen raw chicken and 5 percent processed chicken products. Of the raw product consumed, 80 percent is whole chicken, while 20 percent consists of cuts such as breasts, leg quarters, and wings.

Figure 4. Per Capita Poultry Meat Consumption 2014–2025 (Kg)

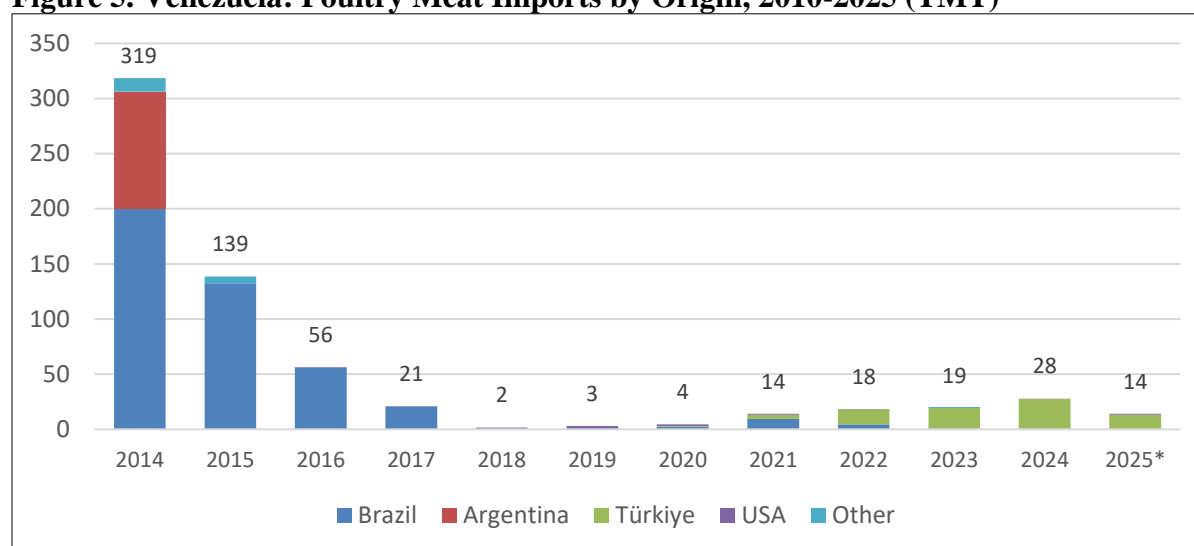
Data source: Venezuelan poultry industry; not official USDA data. *2025 projected.

Trade

For 2025, Venezuela's poultry meat imports are forecast at 14,000 MT, a 50 percent year-on-year decline due to increased local production (Figure 5). These imports consist mainly of processed chicken products from Türkiye which supply the regime's food aid program.⁴ In 2024, poultry and related product imports accounted for 5 percent of total availability, as Venezuela still relies heavily on local production. U.S. chilled, frozen, and cooked poultry products remain eligible for export.

⁴ Venezuela's primary food aid program, the Local Committees for Supply and Production (CLAP), occasionally distributes imported poultry products to food-insecure individuals purchased through importers aligned with the Maduro regime.

Figure 5. Venezuela: Poultry Meat Imports by Origin, 2010-2025 (TMT)



Data source: TDM. *2025 projected

Beef

Industry Overview

Venezuela's livestock production is organized into three distinct systems: non-specialized beef operations, dual-purpose operations focused on milk, cheese, and beef production, and a smaller sector dedicated to specialized milk production. Each system supplies animals to the beef industry to varying degrees. Venezuela's estimated herd size for 2025 is around 12 million head, spread over approximately 100,000 farms. The total potential area for cattle production is about 30 million hectares (ha), with around 10 million ha (33 percent) currently in use. The Venezuelan livestock industry is highly organized and typically employs a range of modern production technologies and methods, especially in beef and specialized milk production.⁵

Production

Beef production for 2025 is estimated at 267,000 MT, a 13 percent year-on-year decline (Table 5). This contraction is mainly due to weaker competitiveness in animal proteins, especially poultry. Last year, local beef production reached 306,000 MT, 10 percent higher year-over-year from 2023. Beef production peaked at 567,000 MT in 2011 but declined sharply after 2015 due to economic collapse. It began recovering in 2019, aided by economic stabilization and the suspension of beef and live cattle imports (Table 6).

⁵ The sector routinely participates in national and international events such as local livestock shows, the Houston Brahman Show, and the World Dairy Expo in Wisconsin.

Table 5. Venezuela: Beef Production, Imports, and Per Capita Availability, 2010–2025 (TMT, Carcass Weight Equivalent [CWE])

Year	Production	Imports #	Total	Per Capita Availability
2010	528	277	804	28.2
2011	567	220	787	27.2
2012	525	257	782	26.6
2013	501	273	773	26.0
2014	445	179	624	20.7
2015	370	144	514	16.8
2016	369	92	461	15.0
2017	338	16	353	11.6
2018	250	4	254	8.8
2019	252	0	252	9.0
2020	239	0	239	9.5
2021	274	0	274	9.7
2022	268	0	268	10.0
2023	279	0	279	10.4
2024	306	1	307	11.6
2025*	267	1	268	10.0

Data sources: Venezuelan livestock and meat industry, TDM; not Official USDA Data. *2025 forecast year.
Imports # includes beef and live cattle.

Table 6. Slaughter of National and Imported Live Cattle, 2010–2024 (Thousand Head)

Year	National Slaughter	Imported Live Cattle	Total
2010	2,224	669	2,894
2011	2,372	350	2,721
2012	2,254	498	2,751
2013	2,164	568	2,733
2014	1,962	479	2,441
2015	1,547	127	1,673
2016	1,601	20	1,621
2017	1,415	10	1,425
2018	1,131	0	1,131
2019	1,119	0	1,119
2020	1,110	0	1,110
2021	1,313	0	1,313
2022	1,266	0	1,266
2023	1,304	0	1,304
2024	1,443	0	1,443
2025*	1,262	0	1,262

Data source: Venezuelan livestock and meat industry; not official USDA data. *2025 forecast year.

Price

Since 2019, Venezuela's dollarization has led to live cattle and beef retail prices being set in dollars or their local currency equivalent.⁶ By 2024, beef carcass prices increased by 256 percent since 2019, with the upward trend continuing into 2025. In 2025 (January-August), beef carcass prices reached \$4.28/kg, up 16 percent from 2024 (Table 7). This price growth is influenced by rising costs of competing meats, Colombian cattle prices as an alternative market, and the industry's ability to regulate supply by delaying live cattle sales until favorable price levels and payment terms are achieved.⁷

Table 7. Venezuela: Average Beef Carcass Price (CWE) 2013–2025 (USD/kg)

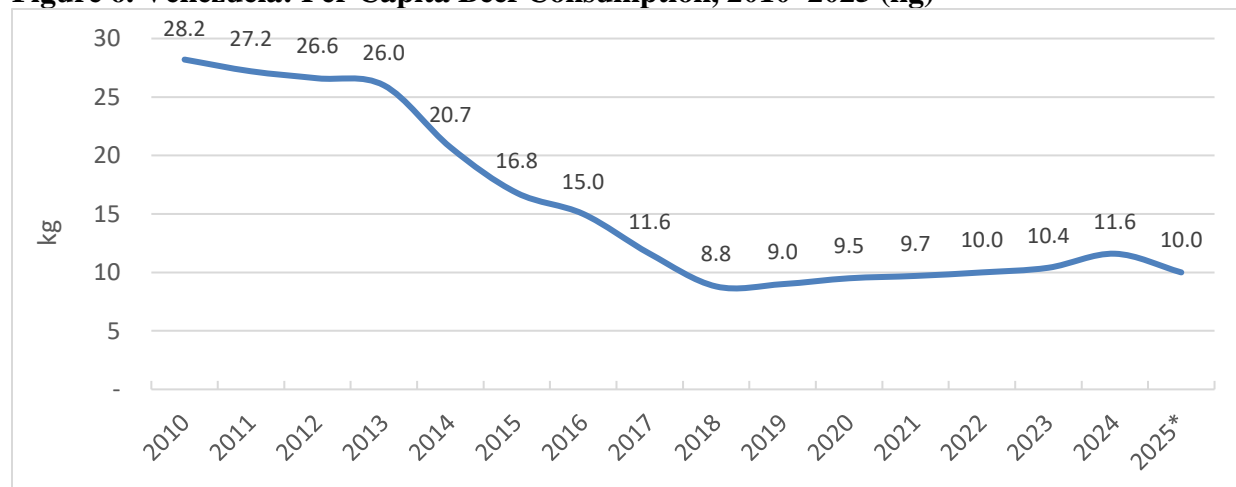
2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*
0.86	1.10	0.91	1.03	0.90	0.75	1.04	1.82	2.47	3.23	3.27	3.70	4.28

Data Source: Venezuelan Livestock and Meat Industry. *2025 average prices through August.

Consumption

Post estimates 2025 per capita beef consumption at 10 kg, representing a 13 percent decline from 2024 (Figure 6). Since 2021, local beef production in Venezuela has remained stable. As a traditional source of animal protein, beef is the second most-consumed meat in the country, following chicken. Beef consumption in Venezuela peaked at 28 kg/per capita in 2010 but sharply declined after 2013, hitting a record low of 8.8 kg per person in 2018. In August 2025, 1 kg of ground beef was 128 percent more expensive than 1 kg of whole chicken.

Figure 6. Venezuela: Per Capita Beef Consumption, 2010–2025 (kg)



Data source: Venezuelan livestock industry; not official USDA data. *Projected data for 2024.

⁶ By 2020, beef prices began rising following the regime's removal of strict price controls, which also drove up prices for pork and poultry.

⁷ A critical aspect of this sector is that beef value chains operate exclusively in U.S. dollars, avoiding the rapidly fluctuating bolivar, both at official and parallel exchange rates. As a result, the sector functions in an environment of dollar scarcity, prompting some cattle operations to scale down, reduce output, or prioritize high-margin products to optimize resource use.

Trade

Beef imports fell to almost zero in 2019 due to a sharp decline in domestic demand and have remained below 1,000 MT through 2025.⁸ In 2013, U.S. beef and beef products eligible for export to Venezuela were banned due to the regime's alleged regulatory concerns regarding bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). This ban continues, despite the World Organization for Animal Health's negligible BSE risk classification assigned to the United States.

The United States is currently the leading supplier of beef and dairy cattle genetics to Venezuela, exporting live cattle, sires, semen, and embryos.⁹ In recent years, U.S. cattle genetics have significantly improved the productivity, quality, and resilience of Venezuelan herds. In 2016, the United States and Venezuela signed a bilateral trade protocol for importing U.S. live cattle for breeding that also eliminated all BSE-related trade restrictions. In 2024, U.S. exports of bovine semen to Venezuela were estimated at 92,000 doses, making up 72 percent of the country's total semen imports, with an estimated value of \$250,000. Additionally, embryo exports were estimated at 600 units, valued at \$500,000. Direct exports of U.S. live breeding cattle to Venezuela resumed in 2024 after a seven-year pause, with 30 Brahman bulls and heifers valued at \$300,000. In 2025, an additional 23 American Red Brahman and American Red Brangus cattle, valued at \$180,000, were exported to Venezuela.

Pork

Industry Overview

Venezuela's pork sector comprises 17 medium- to large-scale private enterprises that employ modern production methods to produce pork and pork products. Most of these companies are members of PROCERDO, the national pork producers association. This group represents approximately 76 percent of national pork production, with some also involved in poultry operations, utilizing similar vertically integrated models which manage all stages of production and marketing. The industry produces fresh pork, as well as hams, sausages, and cured meats. Most commercial swine operations and processing facilities are concentrated in Guárico, Carabobo, Aragua, Cojedes, and Zulia, while around 700 smaller operations are distributed across the country.

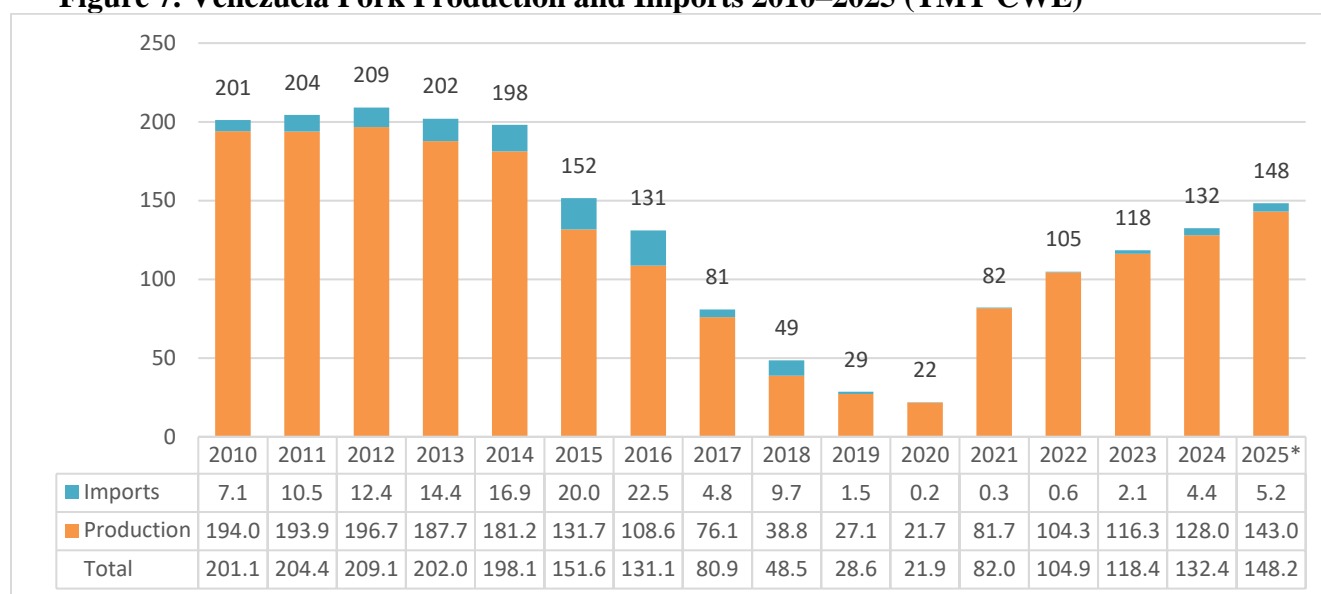
Production

Pork production in Venezuela peaked at 197,000 MT in 2012 but plummeted to a 21,700 MT low in 2020 owing to economic collapse. Since then, production has steadily recovered, driven by an improved economic environment, rising consumption, and renewed investment in the sector (Figure 7).

⁸ In 2015, close to 30 percent of the total available beef in Venezuela was supplied by imports.

⁹ For additional information in this sector, see USDA GAIN: The Bovine Genetics Market in Venezuela [VE2023-0014](#).

Figure 7. Venezuela Pork Production and Imports 2010–2025 (TMT CWE)



Data Sources: Venezuelan livestock and meat industries, TDM; not official USDA data. *2025 projected.

According to Post sources, pork production in 2024 reached approximately 128,000 MT, a ten percent increase year-over-year, a rate having almost quintupled since 2020. Last year, the sector required 246,000 MT of yellow corn and 82,000 MT of soybean meal for feed operations. Of these figures, the United States was the sole soymeal supplier, and between 45-50 percent of yellow corn imports were derived from the United States, Brazil, and Argentina. Post estimates 2025 Venezuelan pork production at 143,000 MT, a 12 percent increase over 2024. Based on this production projection, the Venezuelan pork industry will require approximately 275,500 MT of yellow corn and 92,000 MT of soybean meal this year.

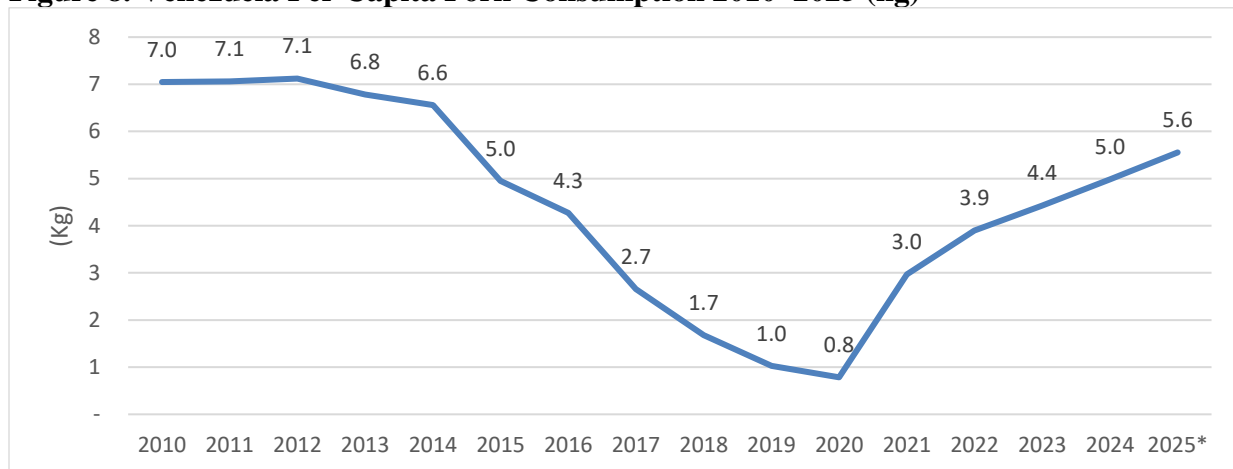
In medium and large companies, 75 percent of production is intended for the manufacturing of processed pork products and 25 percent for fresh pork cuts. In contrast, in the case of small producers, the proportion of production intended for fresh pork cuts is around 70 percent.

Consumption

Pork consumption last peaked in 2008 at 8.1 kg/per capita but crashed to 0.8 kg in 2020. Consumption has since recovered, owing to increased domestic supply, improved purchasing power, and convenience¹⁰ despite being more expensive than poultry. In 2024, per capita pork consumption was estimated at 5 kg, consisting of approximately 64 percent processed products (3.2 kg) and 36 percent fresh pork (1.8 kg). For 2025, per capita consumption is projected to rise to 5.6 kg, a 12 percent increase year-over-year (Figure 8).

¹⁰ Widely available in ready to eat processed pork products.

Figure 8. Venezuela Per Capita Pork Consumption 2010–2025 (kg)



Data source: Venezuelan livestock industry; not official USDA data. *Projected.

Trade

Venezuela's pork imports for 2025 are projected at 5,200 MT, an 18 percent increase from 2024 (Figure 6). Between January and June 2025, the United States exported approximately 370 MT of pork products to Venezuela, valued at \$1.8 million. Imports primarily consist of value-added products such as ribs, hams, and deli meats, catering to higher-income consumers. Pork imports peaked in 2016 at 22,540 MT, representing 17 percent of total supply. Since then, imports have significantly declined, totaling 4,430 MT in 2024, or 3 percent of total supply. U.S. chilled and frozen pork meat remains eligible for export to Venezuela.

For more information on how to export U.S. pork or poultry to Venezuela, see: [USDA-FSIS Export Library](#), [FAS 2025 Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards \(FAIRS\) Report](#), and [2025 FAIRS Certificate Report](#).

Attachments:

No Attachments