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Report Highlights:

The Dominican Republic (DR) is ranked among the top three destination markets in the Western Hemisphere and within the top 10 markets globally for U.S. consumer-oriented products. In 2025, U.S. exports of consumer-oriented products to DR topped $1.33 billion, 10 percent higher year-on-year primarily due to strong demand from foreign tourism and the retail sector. During the first four months of 2026, U.S. consumer-oriented exports reached over $524 million, up 24 percent relative to the same period last year. While trade in the consumer-oriented category continues to expand, the United States is on pace to continue strengthening its position as the top supplier of consumer-oriented agricultural products to the Dominican Republic, capturing almost 50 percent share of the import market.

Market Fact Sheet: Dominican Republic

The Dominican Republic (DR) is an upper-middle income country with low, stable inflation. In 2025, the gross domestic product (GDP) rose 2.1 percent and inflation 4.95 percent. The DR's export profile has shifted from its traditional agricultural products to gold, tobacco, medical instruments, circuit breakers for voltage, jewelry items, and ferronickel. Notably, the country's major agricultural imports are comprised of consumer-oriented products and livestock feed, with the United States as the primary supplier.

Consumer-Oriented Agricultural Imports

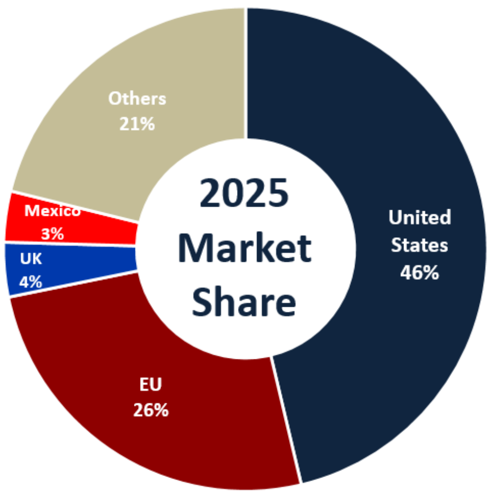

Chart 1: Top Exporting Countries to Dominican Republic
Source: TDM LLC

Food Processing Industry:

As of September 2025, the Central Bank of the Dominican Republic (BCDR) valued the food processing industry at $4.3 billion under the category of "food industry," with an additional $1.6 billion attributed to processed beverages and other products. Key sectors, such as processing of sugar, meat processing, wheat milling, bakery products, and dairy processing continue to be primary drivers. The United States remains a top supplier of meats, edible oils, fats, dairy products, wheat, and other essential ingredients.

Food Retail Industry:

The modern retail sector in the Dominican Republic boasts an extensive array of U.S. products. The sector continues to remain largely dominated by locally owned companies. Supermarkets have been gaining more market share in retail sales. Most retail sales still move through traditional channels, such as neighborhood stores (i.e. *colmados*) and warehouses.

Food Service Industry:

According to the BCDR, the food service industry, encompassing activities such as "hotels, bars, and restaurants," was valued at $11 billion in 2025, experiencing 3.5 percent growth year over year. The growth was largely driven by demand from international tourism, which reached a record-breaking 11.6 million visitors in calendar year (CY) 2025.

Quick Facts Calendar Year 2025

Imports of Consumer-Oriented Products

World Total: $3.09 million

List of Top 10 Growth Products in the DR

1) Dairy Products
2) Pork & Pork Products
3) Soup & Other Food Preparations
4) Distilled Spirits
5) Bakery Goods, Cereals, & Pasta
6) Poultry Meat & Prods. (ex. eggs)
7) Processed Vegetables
8) Beef & Beef Products
9) Non-Alcoholic Bev. (ex. juices, coffee, tea)
10) Wine & Related Products

Food Industry by Channels (U.S. billion)

Food Service-HRI	$11.02
Food Processing	$4.30
Food and Agriculture Exports	$3.30

Top 10 DR Retailers*

1) Aprezio
2) Sirena
3) Bravo
4) Nacional Supermarkets
5) Hypermercados Olé
6)

6) Jumbo
7) Plaza Lama
8) Sirena Market
9) Merca Jumbo
10) PriceSmart

GDP/Population

Population:	11.6 million
GDP:	US$132 billion
GDP per capita:	US$11,750
Median annual income:	US$6,254

Source: Table 1. Source: Global Agricultural Trade System (GATS), TDM; World Bank; IMF. *Ordered by quantity of establishments.

Strengths/Weaknesses/Opportunities/Threats

Strengths	Weaknesses
• Implementation of CAFTA-DR provides preferential tariff treatment for U.S. exports, over other foreign suppliers. • Geographic proximity to the U.S and heightened demand for high-quality food products.	• Higher cost of some U.S. products compared to competitors. • Agricultural exports may face non-tariff barriers such as regulatory hurdles, and delays in import permits. • Import sensitivity of several products.
Opportunities	**Threats**
• Full implementation of CAFTA-DR. • Expansion of the middle class which is seeking higher-value food options. U.S. exports, are well-positioned to meet the demand from this market segment.	• Competition from other CAFTA-DR countries and DR's other free trade agreement partners. • Inflationary pressures, rising fuel prices, limited cold chain capacity, and supply chain disruptions could increase the cost of goods in the DR.

Figure 2. CAFTA-DR SWOT Analysis for U.S. exports.

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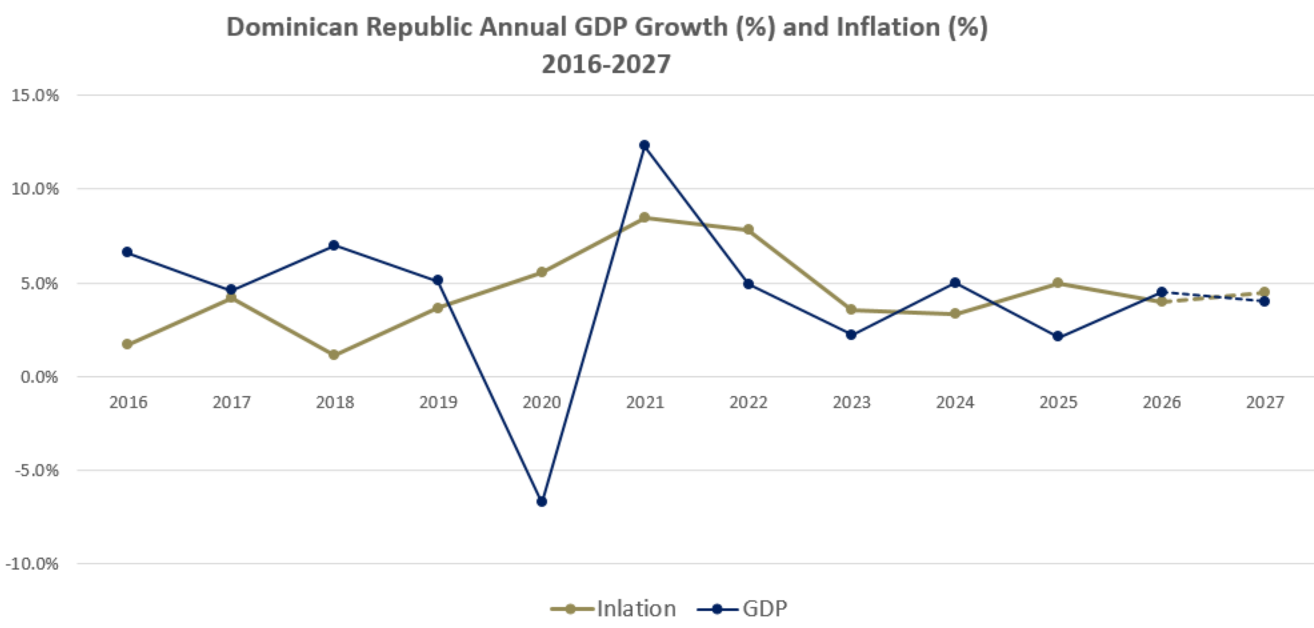
SECTION I. MARKET OVERVIEW

The Dominican Republic (DR) continues to outperform most Latin American economies and the Caribbean, supported by resilient domestic demand, tourism, and export-oriented industries. According to the Central Bank of the Dominican Republic (BCRD), the economy expanded by 2.1 percent in calendar year (CY) 2025, following a 5-percent growth in 2024. Although economic growth moderated amid global uncertainty and weaker private sector investments, household spending, exports, tourism and commerce continued to support economic activity. Inflation remained within the Central Bank's target range for 32 consecutive months, reaching almost 5 percent at the end of 2025.

The services sector continued to drive economic activity. Hotels, bars, and restaurants expanded by 3.5 percent, while transportation and storage grew by 4.1 percent and commerce by 2.1 percent. The country welcomed a record 11.6 million international visitors in 2025, including 8.9 million air arrivals and 2.8 million cruise passengers, generating a 3.2 percent increase in tourism receipts. For a detailed analysis of the HRI sector, refer to the HRI[1] report for the Dominican Republic. The free trade zone sector also continued to expand, employing more than 200,000 workers and approving 82 new companies, reinforcing the Dominican Republic's position as a regional manufacturing and logistics hub.

Looking forward, the BCRD projects GDP growth at 4.5 percent for 2026 and inflation at 4 percent. This forecast aligns with projections from both the IMF and World Bank, which anticipate economic expansion to reach 3.7 percent by year-end and 4.4 by 2027.



Graph 1. Source Dominican Central Bank (BCRD in Spanish)

Despite slower GDP growth in 2025, the country's economy remains strong. Stable inflation, continued growth in tourism, resilient consumer spending, expanding free trade zone activity, and sustained export performance continue to support demand for imported food and agricultural products, positioning the Dominican Republic as one of the largest and most attractive markets for U.S. agricultural exports in the Caribbean.

[1] https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Food%20Service%20-%20Hotel%20Restaurant%20Institutional%20Annual_Santo%20Domingo_Dominican%20Republic_DR2025-0018

Advantages and Challenges

Table 3: *Advantages and Challenges*

Advantages	Challenges
The implementation of CAFTA-DR, which has lowered or eliminated duties on nearly 100 percent of products.	Global economic uncertainty and inflationary pressures may dampen consumer purchasing power and slow growth in discretionary food spending.
A large and growing tourist population demands high-value food products.	Competition from other CAFTA-DR signees and DR's other free trade agreement partners.
A growing number of consumers demanding higher quality and healthier products - they generally perceive that U.S. products meet their requirements - as well as an increasingly modern HRI sector which also seeks new, high-quality products.	Delays for import permits and sanitary registration, which can affect the availability of imported products.
Efficient food distribution channels (new highways, modernized seaports/airports).	Requirement that imported products must have a label in Spanish that must be placed at origin or in the DR.
Consumers greatly influenced by U.S. culture, with a positive perception of U.S. products.	Remaining cold chain challenges and limitations, which have been reduced through USDA technical and financial support.
The proximity of the DR to the United States and a strong bilateral relationship throughout the public and private sectors, which facilitates trade.	18 percent value-added tax (VAT) and high internal logistical costs.
Growing population in urban centers and increased rate of employment.	Corruption and lack of transparency, which continue to earn the DR relatively low scores in international comparison tables.
A Dominican diaspora in the United States of more than one million people, clustered primarily in the northeastern states and Florida, whose remittances help support the Dominican economy.	A lack of institutional continuity across changes in government administrations.

SECTION II. EXPORTER BUSINESS TIPS

The DR has a few but persistent market access issues, which are best navigated in consultation with Dominican importers. A common market entry option is to appoint an agent or distributor in the DR; licensing agreements and franchises can also be successful. Because of the proximity of DR to the United States and low air travel costs, the optimal market entry method is through a coordinated strategy that includes personally visiting potential partners or distributors. U.S. exporters should also be prepared to provide all promotional materials in the Spanish language. Good after-sales service is a prerequisite of doing business successfully in the country. It is recommended that a U.S. exporter who would like to enter the Dominican market perform in-depth market research to identify potential niches and develop an effective marketing plan. The U.S. Embassy's Office of Agricultural Affairs in Santo Domingo can provide contact information on the major importers, retailers, and distributors in DR. The Office also provides information on tariff rates, import duties, and other customs charges.

Local Business Customs and Trends

Establishing personal connections are essential to cultivating business relationships in the Dominican Republic. Generally, Dominicans place great significance on courtesy in all business endeavors. A friendly handshake, combined with conversations about an individual's well-being, family, or other similar topic prior to delving into any conversation related to business is considered a common courtesy. This form of communication helps to develop trust and confidence among Dominican buyers prior to any business commitment. When scheduling meetings, it is important to be mindful of local holidays, particularly during Christmas and New Year's. Dominicans are open to meeting foreigners and are known for their warm and friendly nature. However, it's advisable to ensure that every aspect of the business transaction is clearly documented in writing between the parties.

General Consumer Tastes and Trends

Dominicans share many aspects of U.S. culture, such as sports, entertainment, and fashion. Similarly, consumption trends in Dominican culinary preferences mirror those in the United States. Whereas in the past, it may have taken a few years for U.S. trends to gain traction in the DR, CAFTA-DR has accelerated this transfer. For instance, middle-class consumers and above routinely visit U.S. fast-food chains and restaurants established in the DR. Dominican consumers perceive products from the United States and other developed countries as more reliable in terms of quality and safety. Also, higher-income consumers are increasingly seeking natural and healthy products, including those with lower levels of saturated fat, cholesterol, and sugar, thus creating a rising demand for specialized diet products, presenting numerous opportunities for a variety of U.S. products.

SECTION III. IMPORT FOOD STANDARDS & REGULATIONS AND IMPORT PROCEDURES

Several import requirements are mentioned below. For additional information, review Post's most recent Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS)[2] report.

Customs Clearance

The General Directorate of Customs (DGA) requires the importer to present the following documents to release all shipments valued over US$100:

- Bill of lading (English or Spanish)
- Commercial invoice
- Insurance certificate issued by a local insurance company.
- Export certificate issued by the country of origin.
- For products of animals (including dairy), plant, or fish origin only: Sanitary No-objection Certificate (import permit) issued by the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)
- For alcoholic beverages only: Import permit issued by the General Directorate of Internal Taxes (DGII).

When importers secure all the required documents, including a sanitary certificate, the DGA clearance procedure can be completed in 24 hours. The process has been streamlined since September 2017 when the electronic customs systems (one stop-shop of external trade or VUCE in Spanish) began to be implemented. This system digitizes the agricultural import authorization process and allows the importer to request import permits and process other transactions online. Since January 31, 2019, the system has been used for all commodities. This system increases transparency for traders who can view the status of their approvals and reasons for any

[2] https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Country%20Report%20Annual_Santo%20Domingo_Dominican%20Republic_DR2025-0009

rejections. However, importers usually hire a knowledgeable customs agent who expedites the process. Larger importers will have a customs agent within their company. It is also important to note that after ten days in port, shipping lines assess a daily charge for the use of their containers; port authorities also charge for the use of their space.

After the invoice is reviewed, DGA officials determine the duty. If it is determined that the invoice does not reflect what DGA believes is an accurate price, DGA officials will review the duty based on its own appraisal list (Lista de Valoración Aduanera, LVA). The actual product value may be lower than the one in the list, so importers sometimes may need to appeal their findings.

Country Language Labeling Requirements

Imported products must have a label in Spanish. This can be a sticker applied to the packaging, which can be applied at origin or in country as a Complementary Label (sticker).

Tariffs and Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)

Tariffs follow commitments under CAFTA-DR, which has been fully implemented in 2025, except for rice. The Dominican Republic issued Decree 693-24 to limit rice imports into the country. The Decree establishes a quota of 23,300 metric tons (MT) for U.S. rice, subject to a 0 percent ad valorem tariff. Imports of U.S. rice exceeding that quota may use the WTO quota of 17,810 MT subject to a 20% ad valorem tariff. Outside of these two quotas, U.S. rice will face a 99 percent tariff. You can read more about this issue in this report[3].

Exporters also should be aware of internal taxes applied to imported luxury products, such as wine, during the clearance process. Although the duty may be as low as zero, luxury taxes may be as much as 300 percent. These taxes, charged at customs, increase the price for the end consumer significantly. Copyrights and trademarks are handled by the DR's National Office of Industrial Property (ONAPI).

SECTION IV. MARKET SECTOR STRUCTURE AND TRENDS

The DR market is price sensitive, with limited consumer buying power in the lower classes. However, a wide range of opportunities exists for U.S. agricultural products in the Dominican market, specifically in the following categories:

Consumer-Oriented Products: In 2025, world exports to the DR of consumer-oriented products increased by 2 percent ($2.9 billion). During CY 2025, the DR ranked as the third-largest market in the Western Hemisphere for U.S. consumer-oriented products, with a 10 percent increase from the previous year. As a signatory of CAFTA-DR, the United States stands out as the primary supplier of consumer-oriented products to the DR, seizing 46 percent ($1.3 billion) of total imports. Competitors include the European Union (26 percent), United Kingdom (4 percent), Mexico (3 percent), Costa Rica (3 percent) and Peru (3 percent).

[3] https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=The%20Dominican%20Republic%20Moves%20Ahead%20with%20Measures%20to%20Protect%20Its%20Rice%20Industry%20from%20US%20Competition%20under%20CAFTA-DR_Santo%20Domingo_Dominican%20Republic_DR2025-0001

Figure 3: *Dominican Republic's Consumer Oriented Products Market Structure 202-2025 ($Million)*

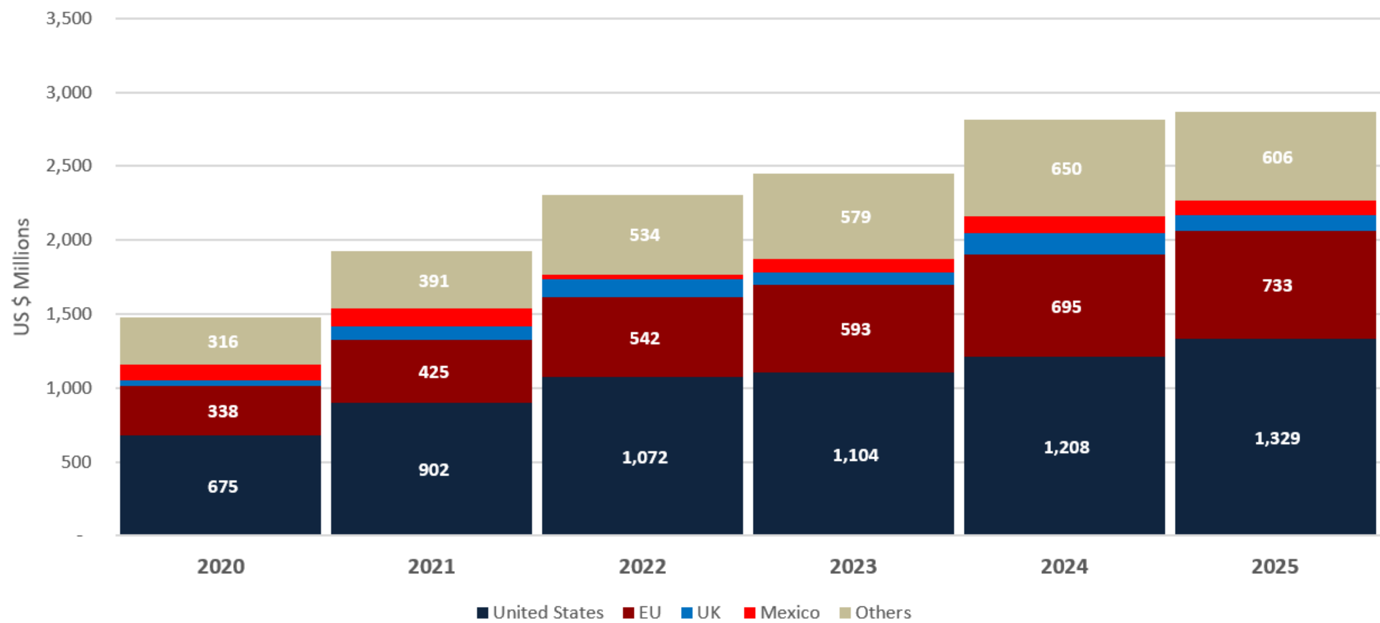


Figure 1: TDM, Built by post

Top U.S. products in this category include: pork (frozen meats, hams, and a variety of cold cuts and other meat preparations); dairy products, such as food preparations for infant use, cheddar cheese, fresh cheese, full and low fat powder milk; Soup and other food preparations; distilled spirits; baked goods, cereals and pasta; beef (frozen and fresh beef cuts, meat preparations, salted, brined or smoked meat); poultry; processed vegetables, beef and beef products; non-alcoholic beverages, wine and related products.

Hotel Restaurant Institutional (HRI) Sector: The leading U.S. products for distribution in the growing HRI sector include premium beef cuts, pork, poultry parts, seafood, cheeses, frozen potatoes and vegetables, fresh fruit, wine, and craft beer. U.S. beef, including special meat cuts is growing in popularity at high-end restaurants, especially in Santo Domingo. While the DR has substantial domestic poultry and pork sectors, the growing food service sector creates additional demand for specific cuts.

The DR's food service sector largely depends on imported seafood products, which create opportunities for U.S. lobster, salmon, and other seafood products in this price-sensitive market. Cheeses, whether served individually or as ingredients (especially cheddar, mozzarella, and provolone), are widely used in the food service sector. In addition, frozen potato products continue to be very popular. U.S. wines, mainly from California, are gaining market share despite fierce competition from the European Union. There is also increasing demand for U.S. craft beer. For more information on the HRI sector please consult Post's Food Service Report.[4]

Retail Foods: The Dominican retail sector can be divided into two distinct segments or channels: modern and traditional. The modern retail distribution channel is comprised of three main components: supermarket chains, independent supermarkets, and convenience stores. Supermarket chains dominate this segment and offer a wide variety of U.S. products. However, despite their prominence and growth, only 20-25 percent of retail sales are via the modern retail channel.

[4] https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Food%20Service%20-%20Hotel%20Restaurant%20Institutional%20Annual_Santo%20Domingo_Dominican%20Republic_DR2025-0018

The traditional retail channel is subdivided into two main components: neighborhood stores known as "*colmados*" and walk-in food warehouses known as "*almacenes,*" located mainly in traditional street markets. In addition to direct sales to the public, *almacenes* also serve as suppliers to *colmados.* It is estimated that 70-80 percent of retail food sales are recorded by the traditional retail channel. For more information, please consult Post's most recent Retail Food Report.[5]

Supermarket Chains: The number of Dominican supermarkets has doubled over the last 20 years. Supermarkets are concentrated in the greater Santo Domingo area and other large urban areas. There are currently approximately 150 supermarkets nationwide.

Independent Supermarkets: With more than 40 points of sale, most independent supermarkets are based in Santo Domingo and Santiago, the two largest cities. Most of these independent supermarkets have joined forces under an umbrella group known as the National Union of Low-Cost Supermarkets (UNASE).

Convenience Stores: Most convenience stores are in gas stations and focus on pre-packaged and ready-to-eat foods and beverages. They offer a high selection of U.S. brands (some produced outside the United States), including snacks, sodas, other non-alcoholic beverages, rum, wine, and beer. Customers generally only purchase food and beverages to consume in this inexpensive and social environment. There are no regional or national chains in this sub segment. For additional information, please refer to Post's most recent Retail Foods report.[6]

Food Processing Ingredients: In 2025 the Dominican Republic's food processing industry totaled $4.3 billion. Meat processing, wheat milling, bakery products, and dairy processing continue to lead the domestic food processing sector.

The United States has a strong history of supplying wheat, meat, edible meat offal, and animal and vegetable fats (e.g., soybean oil) to the Dominican meat processing industry, which is expected to continue. There is also potential for increased exports of U.S. ingredients to the Dominican milling, dairy, and confectionary industries, especially since CAFTA-DR full implementation in 2025. For additional information, please refer to Post's most recent Food Processing Ingredients report (FPI)[7].

SECTION V. AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD IMPORTS STATISTICS

In CY 2025, Dominican Republic imports of agricultural-related products (including biodiesel and biodiesel blends, seafood, and forest products) totaled $591 million, an increase of 10 percent compared to 2024. The United States remained the leading supplier, accounting for 20 percent of total imports despite a slight decline of 1 percent in market share from the previous year. China ranked as the second-largest supplier, expanding its exports by 10 percent year-over-year and increasing its market share to 19 percent.

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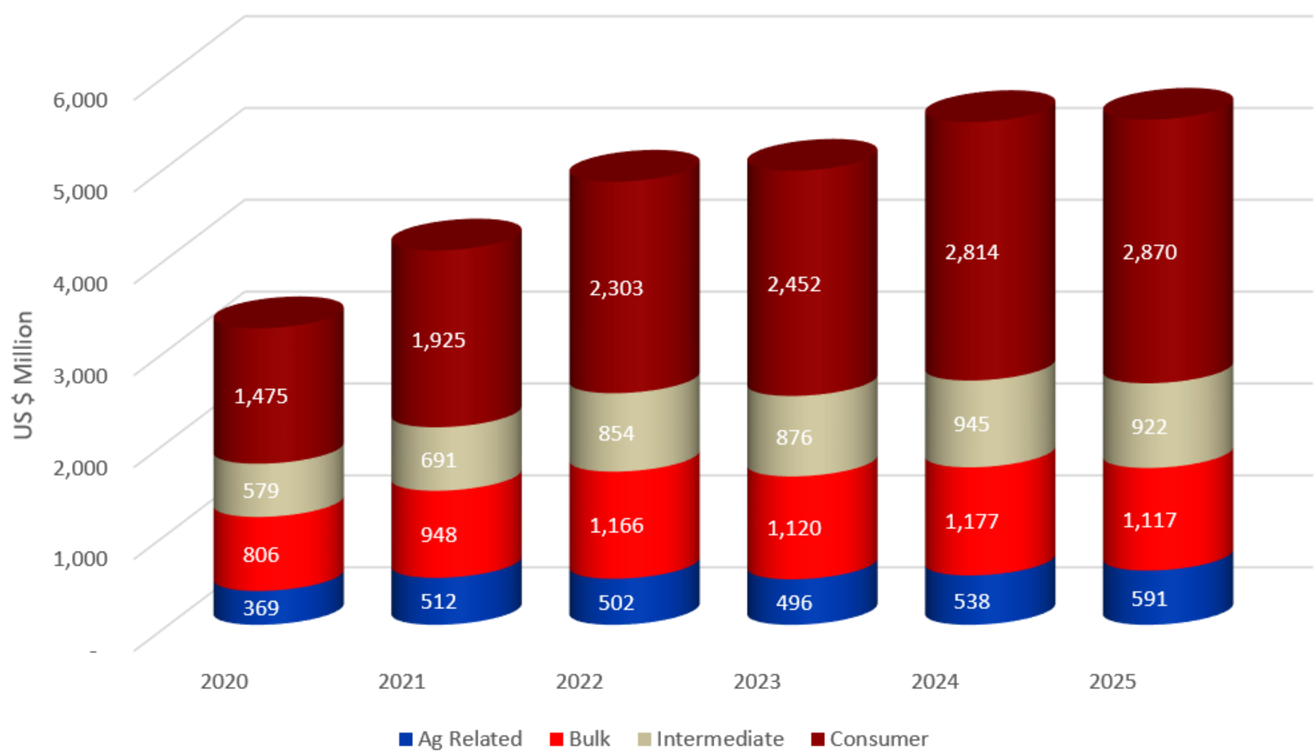
5 https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Retail%20Foods%20Annual_Santo%20Domingo_Dominican%20Republic_DR2025-0012

6 https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Retail%20Foods%20Annual_Santo%20Domingo_Dominican%20Republic_DR2025-0012

7 https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Food%20Processing%20Ingredients%20Annual_Santo%20Domingo_Dominican%20Republic_DR2026-0003

Figure 4: *Dominican Republic's Agricultural Imports from World ($Million)*



Source: TDM, Built by Post

Seafood remained the largest agricultural-related import category in 2025, accounting for 54 percent of total agricultural-related imports. Imports increased 14 percent year-over-year, reflecting continued strong demand from both retail consumers and the hotel, restaurant, and institutional (HRI) sector. China remained the leading supplier with a 26 percent market share, followed by Norway (22 percent), India (10 percent), and Canada (9 percent). The largest imported products by value included sawn or chipped pine wood, cod, sardines, herring, tuna, and plywood.

World exports of bulk agricultural products to the Dominican Republic declined 5 percent in 2025. Despite the contraction, the United States remained the dominant supplier, accounting for 55 percent of total imports, followed by Brazil with a 21 percent market share.

Imports of intermediate agricultural products also declined modestly, falling 2 percent year-over-year. However, U.S. exports increased 19 percent, further strengthening the United States' position as the leading supplier with a 49 percent market share. Other major suppliers included Argentina (11 percent), the European Union (10 percent), and Colombia (9 percent).

Best High-Value, Consumer-Oriented Product Prospects

Dominican Republic imports of consumer-oriented agricultural products continued to expand in 2025, reaching approximately $3.1 billion, compared to $2.88 billion in 2024, an increase of nearly 8 percent. The United States remained the leading supplier of consumer-oriented products to the Dominican Republic. Key competitors include the European Union, the United Kingdom, Mexico, and Costa Rica.

Dairy products remained the largest consumer-oriented import category, followed by pork products, prepared food products, distilled spirits, and bakery goods. Strong growth was also observed in premium meats, specialty dairy products, processed foods, confectionery, and non-alcoholic beverages, reflecting evolving consumer preferences for higher-value and convenience-oriented products.

Trade data indicate that this positive trend continues into 2026. During the first five months of the year, consumer-oriented imports totaled $1.34 billion, representing an 8 percent increase over the same period in 2025. Although growth moderated in a few mature product categories, overall import demand remained strong, highlighting favorable prospects for U.S. exporters of high-value consumer-oriented agricultural products.

Table 4: *World Exports of Consumer-Oriented Products to the DR (US$ Millions)*

	World Exports of Consumer-Oriented Products to DR (US$ Millions)	Year over Year Change	U.S. Market Share of Consumer-Oriented Products in DR
2020	1,475	-1%	46%
2021	1,925	30.5%	47%
2022	2,303	19.6%	47%
2023	2,452	6.5%	45%
2024	2,814	14%	43%
2025	2,870	2%	46%

***Source*:** TDM, Built by Post

DR reported imports of dairy products represent 21 percent of all imports of consumer-oriented products. They have increased by 18 percent year-over-year with a total of $644 million. As of May 2026, the DR imported 12 percent less dairy products than in the same period last year, valued at $241 million.

Imports of pork and pork products rose by 8 percent in 2025, valued at $348 million and maintain 11 percent of the consumer-oriented product market in the country. As of May of 2026, imports of pork and pork products have grown 21 percent with a total value of $172 million, compared to 2025. Pork and pork product imports have achieved incredible growth in the last few years, a trend that is expected to hold as the country continues to battle African Swine Fever (ASF) with new outbreaks that have been detected over the last year.

The Soup and Other Food Preparation category remains a significant segment in the Dominican Republic import market, with a 1 percent increase in value to $226 million in CY 2025 compared to CY 2024. The U.S. holds a 7 percent market share in this category. As of May 2026, overall imports in the category decreased by 5 percent.

Imports of distilled spirits decreased by 2 percent in CY 2025 and capturing 6 percent of the market. The United Kingdom holds the largest market share at 67.5 percent, valued at $89 million. The U.S. has captured 22 percent of the market share and increased its exports to the DR by 3 percent in 2025, valued at $33 million. Whiskies remain the dominant product in this segment.

Beef and Beef products increased by 18 percent ($153 million), the U.S. continues to be the leading supplier to the DR, sustaining 94 percent market share a reflecting a 10 percent year over year growth. Competitors in this category include Brazil (3 percent) and Guatemala (2 percent). Higher demand from hotels, restaurants, supermarkets, and premium consumers continues supporting imported beef.

Table 5: *Top Ten DR Imports of Consumer-Oriented Agricultural Categories by Value (US$ Millions)*

Rank	Category	Imports Value (US$ million)	2025 Change vs. 2024
1	Dairy Products	644	18%
2	Pork & Pork Products	348	8%
3	Soup & Other Food Preparations	226	1%
4	Distilled Spirits	196	-2%
5	Bakery Goods, Cereals & Pasta	187	-3%
6	Poultry Meat & Products	156	3%
7	Beef & Beef Products	153	18%
8	Processed Vegetables	141	9%
9	Manufactured Tobacco	135	45%
10	Non-Alcoholic Beverages	133	11%

***Source*:** Built by Post, TDM

Dairy Products

Imports of dairy products climbed from $544 to $644 in 2025, reinforcing dairy as the country's largest consumer-oriented import category. The United States captured 28 percent of this market, while the EU represented 62 percent. DR's dairy industry accounts for 2 percent of the country's GDP and satisfies approximately 70 percent of all domestic demand. According to BCRD, the DR's dairy processing industry has grown 3 percent in 2025. The country imported 18 percent more dairy products during CY 2025. The top-performing products in this category include infant formula and other food preparations for infant use, fresh cheeses, cheese curds, grated and powdered cheeses, concentrated milk, and specialty dairy ingredients.

Pork & Pork Products

The DR imported $348 million of pork and pork products, 8 percent more than in CY 2024; the United States captured 84 percent of this market, followed by the EU (9 percent) and Brazil (5 percent). The pork and pork product import sector experienced a total growth of 8 percent during CY 2025, largely attributable to the ongoing battle the country has waged against ASF. According to BCRD, swine production experienced a reduction of 25 percent due to the resurgence of ASF in various locations across the country since the beginning of the year. This situation demanded the culling of hundreds of infected animals and the temporary closure of affected farms. From January through May 2026, DR's imports of pork and pork products have grown by 21 percent.

Table 6: *DR Top Imported Consumer-Oriented Agricultural Individual Products 2025 (US$ Millions)*

Product	2025 Imports (US$ million)	Growth vs. 2024	Competitors
Infant Food Preparations	116	20%	EU, Switzerland, US
Fresh Cheese & Curd	114	37%	EU, U.S. U.K.
Frozen Swine Offal	43	87%	U.S., EU, Brazil
Food Preparations Containing Cocoa	40	18%	EU, Peru, Colombia
Fluid Milk (1–6% fat)	37	16%	EU, U.S. Costa Rica
Fresh Grapes	33	18%	Peru, U.S., Chile
Liqueurs & Cordials	32	33%	U.S., EU, U.K.
Grated or Powdered Cheese	31	19%	U.S., U.K., EU
Desiccated Coconut	21	91%	Indonesia, Ghana, Philippines
Concentrated Unsweetened Milk and Cream	21	31%	U.S., Peru, Brazil
Filled Chocolate Bars	19	46%	U.S., EU, Turkey
Fermented Beverages (cider, mead, etc.)	12	100%	U.S., EU, Brazil

Source: Built by Post, TDM

Long-term import trends indicate that Dominican consumer demand continues to shift toward higher-value, protein-rich, and convenience-oriented food products. Analysis of 2020–2025 import data show sustained growth across several consumer-oriented product categories, reflecting structural changes in food consumption patterns rather than short-term market variations. Frozen boneless beef recorded the fastest annualized growth among major import products, followed by fresh cheese and curd, frozen pork cuts, frozen bone-in hams and shoulders, and frozen prepared potatoes. These trends highlight growing demand from both the expanding hotel, restaurant, and institutional (HRI) sector and increasingly affluent consumers seeking premium food products.

Dairy products continue to represent one of the strongest growth opportunities for U.S. exporters. Fresh cheese and curd, grated and powdered cheese, and other specialty dairy products have all recorded strong long-term growth, supported by rising consumption through supermarkets, restaurants, and quick-service food establishments. The continued expansion of modern retail, together with increasing consumer preference for premium and value-added dairy products, is expected to sustain import demand over the medium term.

Convenience and value-added food products continue to gain market share within the Dominican retail sector. Imports of frozen prepared potatoes, processed food preparations, premium non-alcoholic beverages, and specialty alcoholic beverages have grown steadily since 2020, reflecting changing consumer lifestyles and the rapid expansion of quick-service restaurants and modern supermarket chains. The sustained growth of these categories suggests increasing opportunities for U.S. suppliers.

SECTION VI. KEY CONTACTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information, including a list of relevant Dominican government agencies, please see the Dominican Republic's FAIRS[8] Country Report.

GOVERNMENT AGENCY		CONTACT INFO	WEB PAGE
Ministry of Agriculture	Imports of Products & By-products of Animal and Vegetable Origin	Autopista Duarte KM 6 ½ Los Jardines del Norte. Santo Domingo. Telephone: (809) 732-1331 Email: info@agricultura.gob.do	https://agricultura.gob.do/
Ministry of Health *(MSP)*	Importing food and beverage products. Sanitary Registration guidance and renewal process	Av. Dr. Héctor Homero Hernández Esq. Av. Tiradentes, Ensanche La Fe, Santo Domingo. Telephone: 809-541-3121 Email: Info@ministeriodesalud.gob.do	https://www.msp.gob.do/web/
General Directorate of Customs *(DGA)*	DGA is the official entity in charge of customs and the local regulations related to it	Av. Abraham Lincoln No. 1101, Ens. Serrallés, Santo Domingo. Telephone: 809-547-7070 E-mail: info@aduanas.gob.do	https://www.aduanas.gob.do/

Foreign Agricultural Service Santo Domingo

Address: República de Colombia Av. #57, Arroyo Hondo,
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.
U.S. Embassy in Santo Domingo, DR.

Phone: 809-368-7638

Email: agsantodomingo@usda.gov

http://www.fas.usda.gov

Comment: Please contact this office for more detailed information about the Dominican food market, lists of importers, major players in the sector, questions, etc.

Note: *With the release of the January 2021 monthly trade data on March 5, USDA, in coordination with the U.S. Census Bureau, adopted the World Trade Organization's internationally recognized definition of "Agricultural Products" as its standard definition for the purposes of reporting U.S. agricultural trade. For that reason, trade data from previous reports might differ.*

[8] https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Country%20Report%20Annual_Santo%20Domingo_Dominican%20Republic_DR2025-0009

Appendix I

U.S. Exports of Agricultural & Related Products to *Dominican Republic*
FY 2021 - 2025 and Year-to-Date Comparisons
(in millions of dollars+)

Export Market: *Dominican Republic*

Product	Fiscal Years (Oct-Sept) 2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	October - April Comparisons 2025	2026	%Chg
Bulk Total	500.0	522.7	535.9	524.4	634.0 *	414.2	321.8	-22.3
Wheat	96.0	117.2	93.0	115.1	151.4	77.7	76.2	-1.8
Corn	119.0	160.7	91.7	56.9	184.4	119.9	84.2	-29.8
Coarse Grains (excl. corn)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-
Rice	20.0	14.3	19.5	58.0 *	7.5	6.4	13.8	116.5
Soybeans	17.0	19.6	21.4 *	17.6	11.7	6.0	5.4	-9.4
Oilseeds (excl. soybean)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	-
Cotton	1.0	0.9	0.4	0.7	1.2	0.7	0.7	-3.0
Pulses	44.0	33.3	54.0	57.3	60.5 *	40.5	27.4	-32.3
Tobacco	203.0	175.3	254.6 *	217.5	215.6	161.9	113.0	-30.2
Other Bulk Commodities	1.0	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.5	1.1	1.0	-1.1
Intermediate Total	401.0	417.3	383.9	399.3	466.8 *	304.9	320.7	5.2
Milled Grains & Products	5.0	5.9	5.7	7.2	4.8	2.9	2.0	-30.9
Soybean Meal	224.0	237.1	257.2	270.6 *	228.2	139.8	196.1	40.2
Soybean Oil	82.0	71.2	10.4	9.5	105.0	84.0	48.2	-42.6
Vegetable Oils (excl. soybean)	19.0	24.8	16.2	11.8	12.2	7.8	7.4	-5.6
Animal Fats	6.0	3.5	5.4	5.8	8.1	5.8	3.5	-40.6
Live Animals	4.0	5.7	6.8	6.8	7.4 *	4.6	5.9	29.2
Hides & Skins	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	-
Hay	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-
Distillers Grains	0.0	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	-24.3
Other Feeds, Meals & Fodders	10.0	11.8	10.3	10.7	13.9	7.8	7.0	-9.7
Ethanol (non-bev.)	2.0	1.6	4.1 *	1.3	1.2	0.8	0.6	-26.9
Planting Seeds	10.0	13.8	23.0	30.6	34.2 *	24.8	21.8	-12.1
Sugar, Sweeteners, Bev. Bases	4.0	5.3	4.9	4.2	3.1	1.9	1.5	-22.7
Dextrins, Peptones, & Proteins	16.0	14.3	15.6	14.8	26.0 *	10.8	9.1	-16.3
Essential Oils	9.0	12.8	13.8	15.0 *	12.4	7.4	11.8	58.8
Other Intermediate Products	10.0	9.2	10.0	10.7	9.9	6.1	5.8	-5.2
Consumer Oriented Total	832.0	1,038.3	1,081.3	1,171.9	1,273.4 *	763.3	922.9	20.9
Beef & Beef Products	55.0	105.0	104.7	113.9	130.2 *	78.2	100.0	27.9
Pork & Pork Products	134.0	195.4	279.5 *	276.3	274.0	168.0	215.9	28.5
Poultry Meat & Prods. (excl. eggs)	95.0	88.5	82.6	122.9	126.2 *	81.1	109.4	35.0
Meat Products NESOI	5.0	7.7	7.9	14.8	16.4 *	8.4	10.3	23.8
Eggs & Products	2.0	1.8	0.0	0.5	0.3	0.1	2.4	2980.9
Dairy Products	108.0	147.1	143.7	129.6	149.8 *	81.7	101.2	23.9
Fresh Fruit	36.0	44.3	44.5	51.9	61.7 *	43.7	45.8	4.7
Processed Fruit	10.0	9.5	9.2	12.1 *	10.0	6.9	6.3	-8.5
Fresh Vegetables	15.0	17.2	15.1	17.4 *	17.0	9.3	17.2	85.6
Processed Vegetables	27.0	23.2	18.8	20.1	28.2 *	14.6	14.6	-
Fruit & Vegetable Juices	44.0	59.0 *	27.0	33.8	34.0	21.4	22.7	5.8
Tree Nuts	9.0	12.3	13.3	12.8	15.3 *	10.0	10.5	4.2
Confectionery	5.0	5.9	5.7	6.1	5.8	2.9	3.5	19.2
Chocolate & Cocoa Products	12.0	17.4	17.8	19.8 *	19.0	12.2	13.8	13.1
Bakery Goods, Cereals, & Pasta	36.0	40.7	44.3	51.1	47.2	29.6	30.3	2.5
Food Preparations	35.0	36.1	36.7	46.9	49.6 *	29.9	27.6	-7.9
Condiments & Sauces	24.0	32.1	32.1	40.1	41.6 *	25.5	24.9	-2.3
Non-Alcoholic Bev. (excl. juice)	15.0	11.0	13.8	16.4	20.5 *	10.5	14.3	36.1
Beer	9.0	11.1	10.1	11.6 *	10.1	6.6	9.0	36.0
Wine & Related Products	18.0	21.6	21.3	25.0	26.2 *	15.9	14.7	-7.2
Distilled Spirits	26.0	45.6 *	41.8	31.5	30.8	16.2	20.3	25.7
Nursery Products & Cut Flowers	1.0	2.1	1.7	1.7	1.9	1.7	1.5	-11.2
Dog & Cat Food	6.0	9.6 *	9.0	8.1	7.6	4.2	5.0	20.2
Other Consumer Oriented	106.0	94.1	100.5	107.6	150.1 *	84.8	101.8	20.1
Agricultural Related Products	133.0 *	117.4	127.0	124.9	106.0	61.1	73.7	20.7
Biodiesel & Blends > B30	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-
Forest Products	128.0 *	103.4	113.8	113.9	96.0	54.5	67.4	23.6
Seafood Products	6.0	14.0	13.2	11.0	10.1	6.5	6.3	-3.4
Agricultural Products	1,733.0	1,978.3	2,001.2	2,095.5	2,374.2 *	1,482.3	1,565.4	5.6
Agricultural & Related Products	1,866.0	2,095.7	2,128.2	2,220.5	2,480.2 *	1,543.4	1,639.1	6.2

Prepared By: Trade & Economic Analysis Division/GMA/FAS/USDA
Source: U.S. Census Bureau Trade Data

* Denote Highest Export Levels Since at Least FY 1970

www.fas.usda.gov/GATS
GATSHelp@fas.usda.gov

Biodiesel aggregate includes only higher-level and pure biodiesel HTS chapter 38 codes; biodiesel blends below 30% by volume (aka. petroleum oils containing biodiesel) found in chapter 27 are excluded.

Attachments:

No Attachments