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Report Highlights:

FAS China forecasts chicken meat production will reach 19.0 MMT in 2027, driven by white broiler expansion, as large integrated companies continue investing in new capacity. Higher domestic production is outpacing demand growth, pushing imports lower while exports surge — China's chicken meat exports by volume rose 51 percent year-on-year during January–May 2026, reaching 546,000 MT. Post raised its 2026 production and export estimates and lowered its 2026 import estimate based on January-June 2026 trade data. Following the May 2026 presidential summit in Beijing, China restored poultry market access for 17 U.S. states based on HPAI status, with the near-term impact on U.S. poultry exports to China is expected to be limited.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

FAS China provides this reporting and analysis as a service to U.S. farmers, ranchers, rural communities, and agribusinesses in support of a worldwide agricultural information system and a level playing field for U.S. agriculture.

The forecasts and revised estimates provided in this report are issued by FAS China and are not official USDA data.

Production

Post forecasts China's chicken meat production to continue increasing in 2027, driven primarily by continued expansion of white broiler production, while yellow broiler production remains stable. Post also raised its 2026 production estimate to reflect stronger-than-expected production growth during the first half of the year.

Consumption

China's chicken meat consumption is forecast to continue increasing in 2027. White broiler products are expected to account for most of the growth, while yellow broiler consumption remains relatively stable.

Trade

China's chicken meat imports are forecast to continue declining in 2027 as domestic production growth outpaces demand. Post also lowered its 2026 import estimate to reflect weaker-than-expected imports during the first half of the year.

China's chicken meat exports are expected to continue increasing in 2027, supported by competitive export prices and continued market expansion. Post also raised its 2026 export estimate based on stronger-than-expected export performance.

Chicken Paws

Post expects chicken paw imports to remain under pressure in 2027 due to abundant domestic supplies and cautious import demand. Expanded U.S. market access is expected to create additional opportunities, but market recovery is likely to remain gradual.

PRODUCTION

Table 1. China: Production, Supply, and Distribution for Chicken Meat

Meat, Chicken	2025		2026		2027	
Market Begin Year	Jan 2025		Jan 2026		Jan 2027	
China	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
						Unit: 1000 MT
Beginning Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production	16,500	16,500	17,300	18,000	0	19,000
Total Imports	297	297	250	200	0	170
Total Supply	16,797	16,797	17,550	18,200	0	19,170
Total Exports	1,085	1,085	1,400	1,500	0	1,800
Human Consumption	15,712	15,712	16,150	16,700	0	17,370
Other Use, Losses	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Dom. Consumption	15,712	15,712	16,150	16,700	0	17,370
Total Use	16,797	16,797	17,550	18,200	0	19,170
Ending Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Distribution	16,797	16,797	17,550	18,200	0	19,170

Note: Chicken paws (HS 0207.14.22) are excluded from PSD calculations and trade numbers.
Note: Not official USDA data.

China's Chicken Meat Production to Continue Growing

China's chicken meat production is forecast to increase in 2027. Industry estimates indicate that white broilers account for approximately 70 percent of China's chicken meat production, while yellow broilers account for approximately 20 percent. The remainder of China's chicken meat production comes from hybrid broilers. White broiler production will remain the primary driver of growth, supported by expanding export opportunities, sufficient breeding stock supplies, and continued investment by large integrated poultry companies. In contrast, Post forecasts yellow broiler production to remain stable as production gains by large producers offset declines among smaller operations.

Export Demand Drives White Broiler Growth

Post expects export demand to remain an important driver of white broiler production growth in 2027. China's chicken meat exports reached 546,000 metric tons (MT) between January and May 2026, up 51 percent year-on-year. Poultry industry contacts reported that a growing share of additional production is being marketed overseas. As export demand continues to grow, the expanding export market will continue to support white broiler production growth in 2027.

Breeding Stock Supplies Remain Adequate

Breeding stock supplies are expected to be sufficient to support continued white broiler production growth in 2027. Industry data indicate that grandparent stock inventories remain adequate to support parent stock and commercial broiler production, while continued expansion of domestic breeding programs has strengthened supply security.

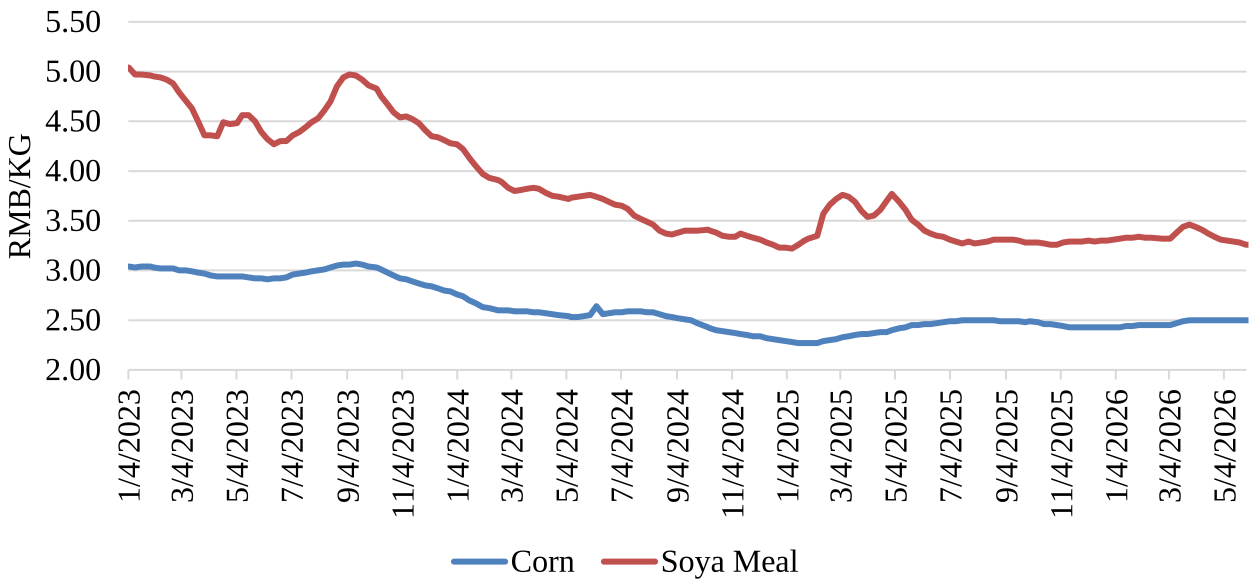
Domestic breeding varieties continue to gain market share. Industry data indicate that domestic varieties accounted for approximately one-third of grandparent stock updates in 2025, compared to a significantly smaller share several years ago. Government support for domestic breeding programs and continued adoption of domestic genetics have further expanded domestic breeding capacity and reduced reliance on direct imports. In addition, imported breeding lines continue to contribute to production through domestic propagation programs.

U.S. breeding stock exports to China were disrupted following the implementation of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)-related restrictions, which limited access to one of China's traditional breeding stock suppliers. By May 2026, China had restored poultry export eligibility for 17 U.S. states. The May 2026 reopening of poultry trade from 17 U.S. states improves access to U.S. breeding stock and provides additional opportunities for future imports.

Investment by Large Integrated Companies to Support Expansion

Post expects large integrated white broiler companies to continue increasing production through investments in breeding, hatching, growing, slaughtering, and further-processing facilities. Relatively stable corn and soybean meal prices have also supported continued investment by helping contain feed costs for integrated poultry companies, creating favorable conditions for further production expansion (Chart 1).

Chart 1. China: Corn and Soybean Meal Prices



Source: MARA

Recent investments illustrate this trend. For example, a large integrated broiler project in Northeast China began trial operations in January 2026 and officially commenced operations in May 2026. During the first quarter of 2026, the project slaughtered 5.3 million broilers and sold more than 12,700 MT of poultry products. The first phase includes annual slaughtering capacity of 40 million broilers and eight broiler farms. Once all three phases are completed, the project is designed to support annual production and slaughtering capacity of 80 million broilers, with additional breeder, hatchery, and further-processing facilities planned.

Another example is a project with continued expansion in broiler growing and hatchery capacity. In Central China, a large-scale broiler project began operations in June 2026, with the first placement of 280,000 broiler chicks across seven poultry houses. By August 2026, 18 poultry houses are expected to be fully operational, supporting a single-cycle inventory of approximately 720,000 broilers. Additional production sites are planned, and the project targets annual production exceeding 15 million broilers after full implementation. Post believes continued investment by large integrated poultry companies will support further growth in white broiler production through 2027.

Yellow Broiler Production to Remain Stable

Post forecasts yellow broiler production to remain stable in 2027. Expansion by large integrated producers is likely to offset production declines among smaller producers, while relatively weak consumption growth limits incentives for significant industry-wide expansion. The largest yellow broiler producer sold 1.3 billion birds in 2025 (up 7.9 percent year-on-year), while the second largest sold 567 million (up 9.9 percent) and reported continued growth in Q1 2026. However, smaller producers continue to exit the market due to weak profitability, rising production standards, and higher environmental compliance costs.

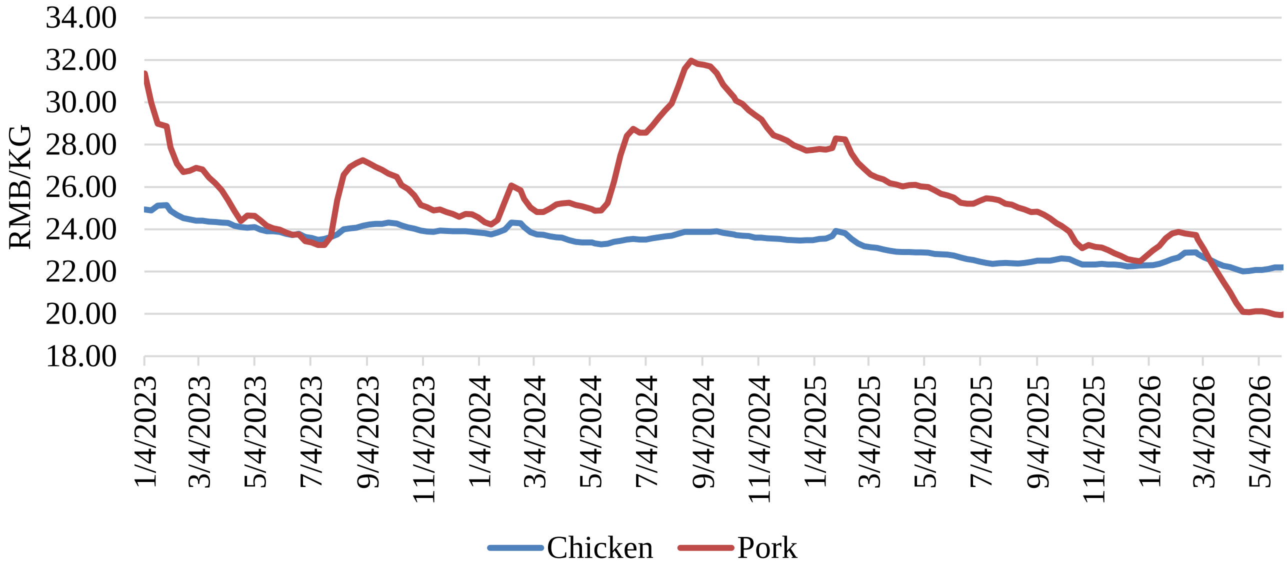
China's Ecological and Environmental Code, which takes effect in August 2026, further strengthens the environmental compliance framework for livestock and poultry operations. Large integrated producers generally spread environmental investments and compliance costs over much larger production volumes, while smaller producers have fewer resources to upgrade facilities and meet the new requirements, accelerating industry consolidation. Production gains by large integrated producers largely offset these declines.

Demand is unlikely to support meaningful expansion: consumer preferences continue to shift toward white broiler products, and traditional live yellow broiler sales channels remain under pressure.

2026 Production Estimate Revised Upward

Post raised its 2026 chicken production estimate to reflect stronger-than-expected production growth during the first half of the year. Expansion by large integrated companies, commissioning of new capacity, and robust export growth all contributed. Official data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) confirm the trend, with poultry meat production up 9.3 percent year-on-year to 7.01 million MT and poultry slaughter up 7.5 percent in Q1 2026. Higher production contributed to softer chicken meat prices in 2026 (Chart 2). While increased domestic supply was the primary driver of lower chicken prices, weaker pork prices, shown in Chart 2 for comparison, also contributed to downward pressure on the chicken market, as pork remains the primary competing animal protein in China.

Chart 2. China: National Average Chicken and Pork[1] Prices[2]



Source: China's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA)

CONSUMPTION

Chicken Meat Consumption Continues to Increase

Post forecasts chicken meat consumption to continue increasing in 2027. Although pork remains the primary animal protein in China, consumers continue to diversify their protein choices. Chicken has become increasingly popular because of its convenience, and versatility across both traditional Chinese cuisine and modern foodservice channels. Its expanding use in prepared foods, quick-service restaurants, and retail products continues to support consumption growth. Foodservice demand expanded during 2026, with NBS data indicating catering revenue increased 3.8 percent from January–April 2026, and chain restaurant penetration rising from 21 percent in 2023 to 25 percent in 2025. Despite this growth, industry contacts reported that slowing economic growth has made consumers more cautious with discretionary spending, prompting restaurants to increasingly emphasize affordability and value-oriented menu offerings.

White Broiler Consumption Continues to Grow

White broiler consumption is expected to remain the primary driver of growth in China's chicken market. Younger consumers increasingly prefer convenient and easy-to-prepare chicken products, supporting demand for white broiler meat in prepared foods, further-processed products, foodservice channels, and home cooking. Continued growth in processed chicken products and expanding chain foodservice channels will support further increases in white broiler consumption in 2027.

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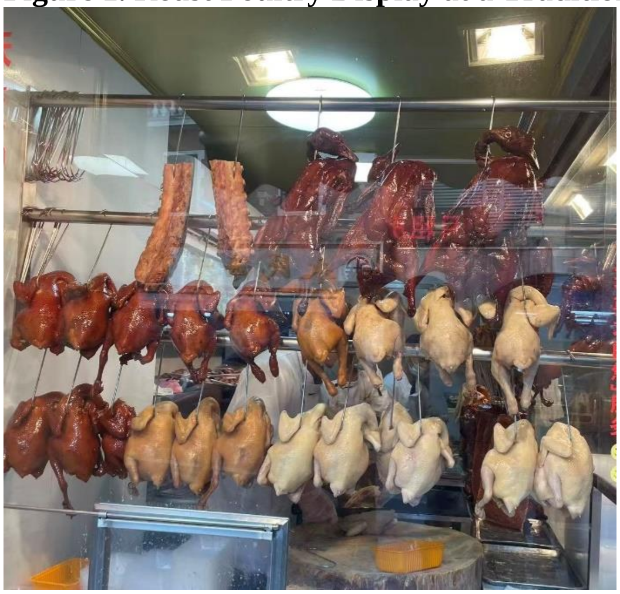
[1] Chart 2 includes national average pork prices for comparison. Pork is the primary competing animal protein in China. While increased chicken production was the primary factor behind lower chicken prices in 2026, weaker pork prices also contributed to downward pressure on the chicken market.
[2] The chicken meat price here refers to the average price collected by MARA from monitored traditional markets across China.

Yellow Broiler Consumption Remains Stable

Post forecasts yellow broiler consumption to remain relatively stable in 2027. While younger consumers increasingly favor white broiler products, yellow broilers continue to maintain a loyal consumer base in southern China, where traditional consumption preferences, and willingness to pay a price premium and invest preparation time, remain strong. These factors limit opportunities for significant growth but support a stable consumption base.

Figure 1. Roast Poultry Display at a Traditional Cantonese Barbecue Shop in Guangzhou[3]



Source: FAS China

TRADE

<u>Imports</u>

Chicken Meat Imports to Continue Declining

Post forecasts chicken meat imports to continue declining in 2027 (Chart 3). Although chicken meat consumption is expected to increase in 2027, domestic production growth could outpace demand, reducing the need for imported chicken products and pressuring market prices. Industry contacts reported that major importers plan to reduce purchases.

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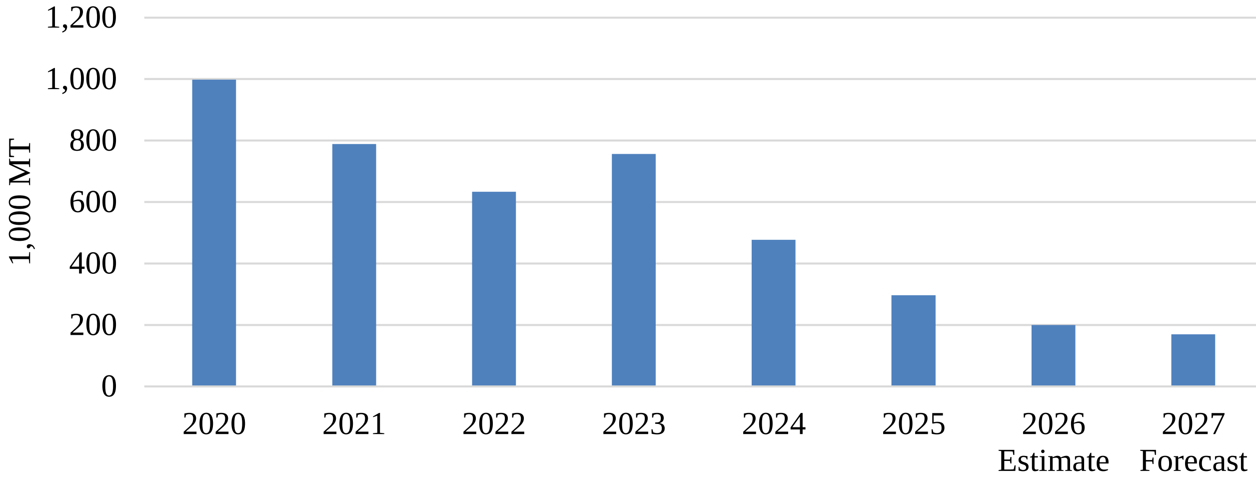
[3] Yellow broilers are commonly used in Cantonese roasted and poached chicken dishes and remain an important part of traditional poultry consumption in southern China.

Chart 3. China: Imports[4] of Chicken Products



Source: USDA Official Data and Post Forecast

Brazil Remains the Leading Supplier

Post expects Brazil to remain China's largest chicken meat supplier in 2027, followed by Russia and the United States. Although imports from all major suppliers declined during the first quarter of 2026, Brazil maintained a dominant market position and increased its share. Post believes Brazil will remain highly competitive due to its scale, established trade relationships, and broad product offering.

Market Access Constraints Limit U.S. and Other Suppliers

China restored poultry market access for products originating from 17 U.S. states, representing around 25 percent of production, effective May 15, 2026 (see Policy section for more information). The renewed access for these states is not expected to materially impact China's overall declining chicken import trend.

Post notes that market access restrictions continue to affect some suppliers, although these restrictions are expected to have only a limited impact on China's overall chicken meat imports in 2027. Imports from Chile remain suspended following HPAI detections[5], although Chile represents only a small share of China's chicken meat imports. In addition, several Thai processing establishments remain suspended from exporting poultry products to China, although most approved Thai establishments continue to maintain market access.

2026 Import Estimate Revised Downward

Post lowered its 2026 chicken import estimate to reflect weaker than expected imports during the first half of the year. Stronger than expected domestic production, supported by continued expansion of large integrated poultry companies, has reduced import demand more than previously anticipated. Chicken

[4] In this report, unless otherwise specified, chicken imports and exports refer to the following HS codes: 020711, 020712, 020713, 020714, and 160232.
[5] China suspended imports of poultry and poultry products from Chile on April 20, 2026, following reports of HPAI in Chile.

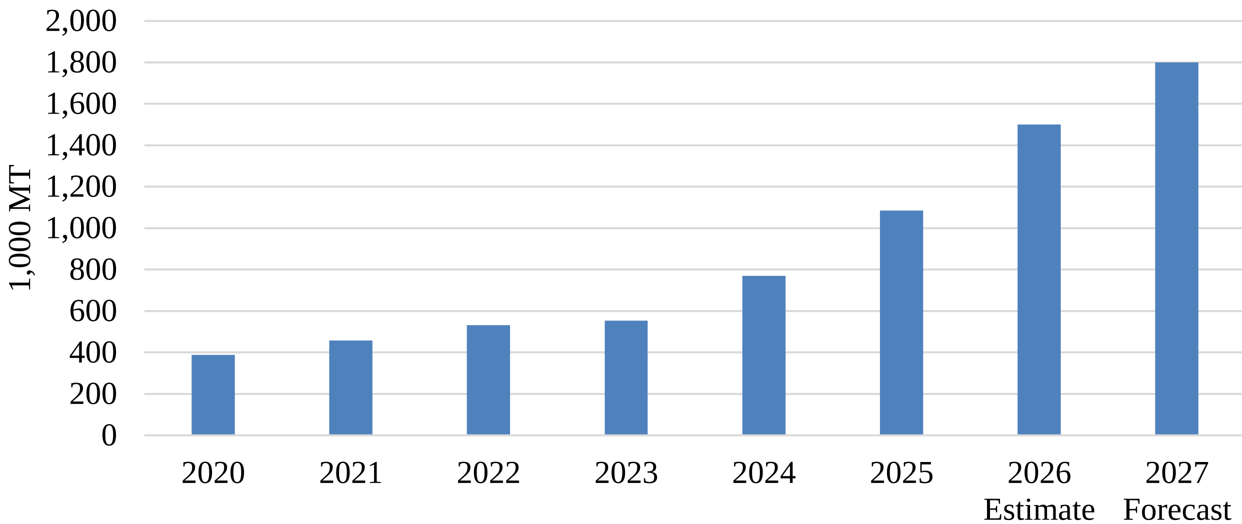
paw imports declined approximately 35 percent year-on-year during January-April 2026, falling from 158,000 MT to 103,000 MT.

Exports

Chicken Meat Exports to Increase

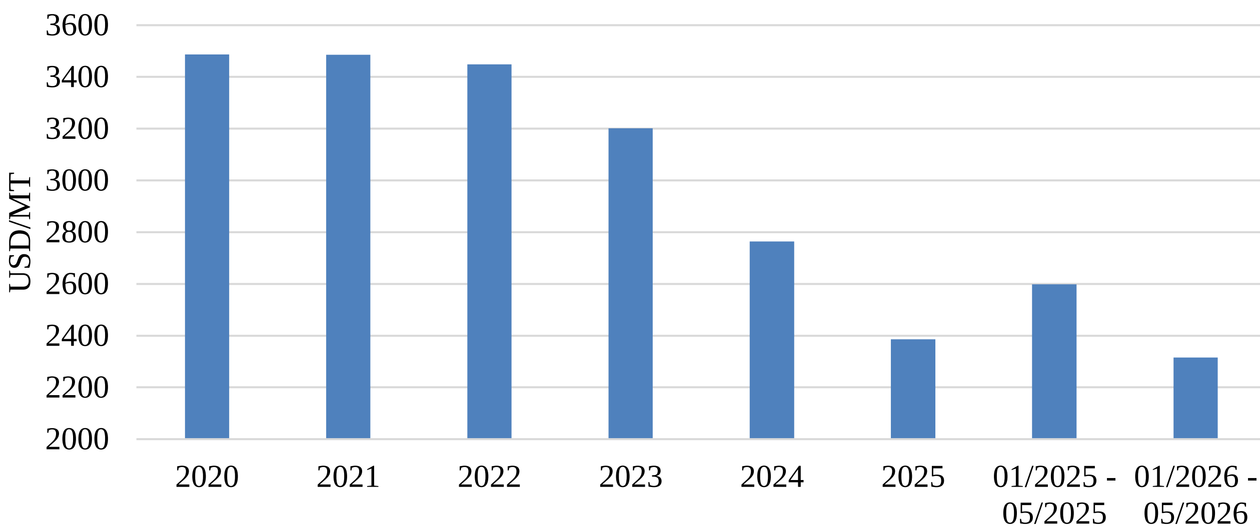
Post forecasts chicken meat exports to continue increasing in 2027 (Chart 4). Large integrated poultry companies continue to actively develop export markets and diversify overseas customers, while competitive export prices have strengthened China's position in international markets (Chart 5).

Chart 4. China: Exports of Chicken Products



Source: USDA Official Data and Post Forecast

Chart 5. China: Chicken Meat Export Unit Value

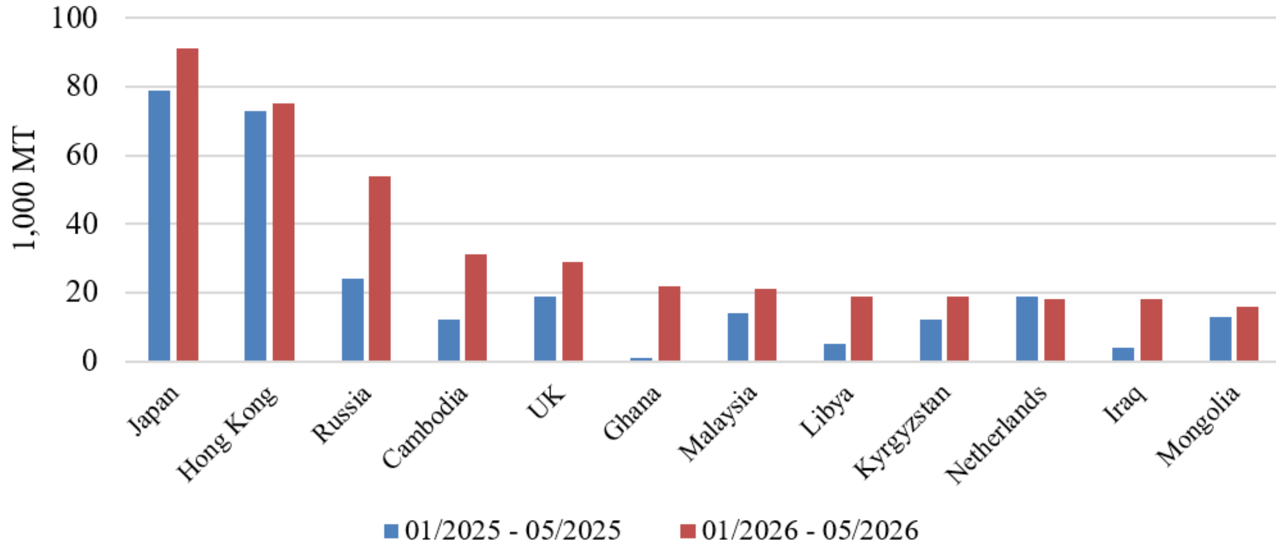


Source: Trade Data Monitor, LLC

Japan, Hong Kong, Russia, and Middle Eastern Markets Remain Key Export Destinations

Post expects Japan, Hong Kong, Russia, and Middle Eastern markets to remain China's most important chicken meat export destinations (Chart 6), with exports also expanding into selected markets in Africa and Central Asia. While competition among exporters has intensified and profit margins have narrowed, exporters continue to pursue market expansion as domestic production increases.

Chart 6. China: Selected Chicken Meat Export Destinations



Source: Trade Data Monitor, LLC

Chicken Breast Products Continue to Drive Export Growth

Chicken breast products remained the largest export category. Industry sources reported that chicken breast exports accounted for more than half of total chicken meat exports during the first quarter of 2026 and increased by more than 50 percent year-over-year.

Exports of bone-in chicken cuts also increased rapidly during the same period. Post believes processed chicken products and value-added products will also continue to support export growth as Chinese companies expand overseas market opportunities.

Post Raises 2026 Export Estimate

Post raises its 2026 chicken meat export estimate based on stronger than expected export performance during the first five months of 2026. China's chicken meat exports reached 546,000 MT during January-May 2026, up approximately 51 percent from the same period in 2025.

Industry contacts noted that international shipping costs increased during 2026 due to geopolitical tensions in the Middle East. However, Post believes transportation costs represent a relatively small share of total processed chicken product value and therefore are unlikely to significantly constrain export growth.

CHICKEN PAWS

Domestic Supply Growth Limits Import Demand

China's white broiler production continued to expand in 2026, increasing domestic availability of chicken paws. Industry sources reported that domestic supply remains adequate for most market segments, reducing demand for imported commodity products. However, domestically produced chicken paws generally do not meet the size specifications preferred by some high-end foodservice operators and processors. As a result, import demand is expected to be limited and will remain concentrated in products with unique market advantages, particularly jumbo-sized chicken paws.

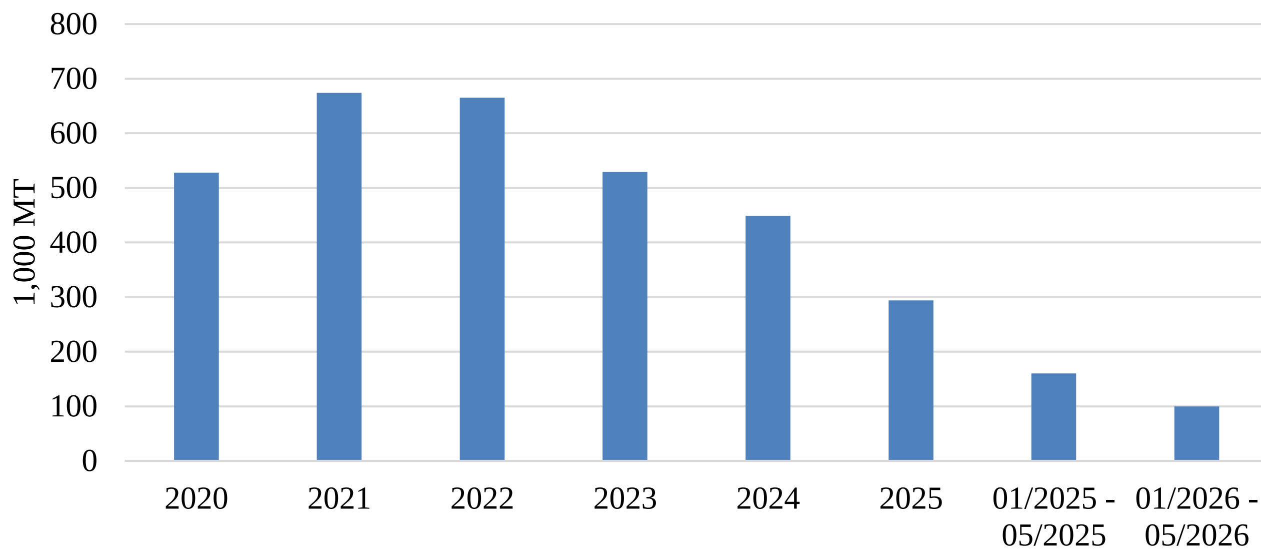
Demand Remains Under Pressure

Chicken paws remain a popular ingredient in southern China, particularly in Cantonese cuisine and dim sum products. Demand from the ready-to-eat snack sector also continues to support consumption. However, industry contacts reported that macroeconomic pressures and government austerity measures weakened demand from foodservice, retail, and processing channels during 2026. In addition, industry sources reported weaker sales of chicken paw snack products following a widely publicized food safety incident involving chicken paw processors in early 2026.

Frozen Chicken Paw Imports Continue to Decline

Imports of frozen chicken paws (HS 02071422) continued to decline during the first five months of 2026 (Chart 7). Total imports reached 100,000 MT from January through May 2026, down 37.5 percent from 160,000 MT during the same period in 2025.

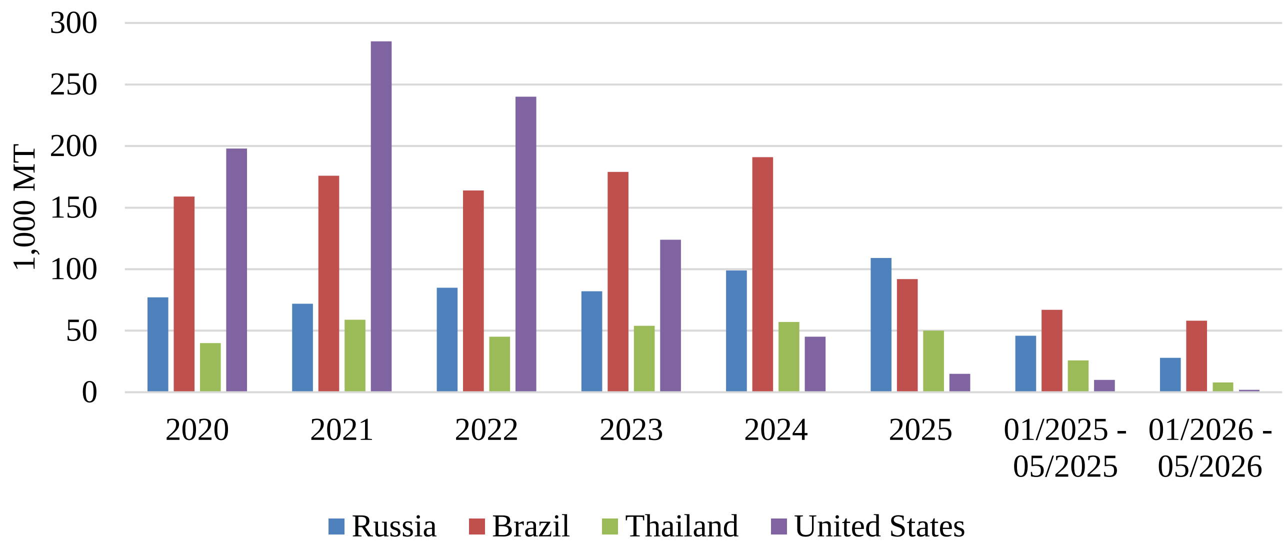
Chart 7. China: Frozen Chicken Paw Imports



Source: Trade Data Monitor, LLC

Brazil remained the dominant supplier, accounting for approximately 58 percent of total imports during January-May 2026 with shipments of 58,000 MT. Russia supplied 28,000 MT. Thailand supplied 8,000 MT, while imports from the United States totaled 2,000 MT during the period (Chart 8).

Chart 8. China: Frozen Chicken Paw Imports from Top Suppliers



Source: Trade Data Monitor, LLC

Industry sources reported that importers remained cautious because domestic supplies were abundant, inventories remained elevated, and market prices were under pressure. Market participants also expressed concerns that additional U.S. supply could further weaken prices.

Heat-Treated Chicken Paw Imports Also Declined

Imports of heat-treated chicken paws (HS 16023299) declined moderately during the first five months of 2026. Industry sources attributed the decline primarily to expanding domestic poultry production. In addition, industry sources reported that continued inspection and testing requirements increased uncertainty for importers.

While expanded U.S. market access will create additional opportunities for U.S. chicken paw exports, abundant domestic supplies, and continued inspection and testing requirements on U.S. poultry shipments (see Policy section below) are expected to constrain import demand and limit the pace of market recovery in the near term.

POLICY

U.S. Market Access

China restored market access for poultry products from 17 U.S. states, representing around 25 percent of U.S. production, effective May 15, 2026. Aside from export eligibility, industry sources report increased inspection rates resulting in higher compliance costs.

Tariffs on U.S. Products

On November 5, 2025, the State Council Tariff Commission (SCTC) announced the removal of the 10-15 percent tariffs imposed on 740 U.S. agricultural products (SCTC Announcement No. 9 of 2025), including chicken products, with an effective date of November 10, 2025 (see GAIN Report CH2025-0050). However, the 10 percent tariffs on all products from the United States (SCTC Announcement No. 7 of 2025), including chicken products, remain in place. See GAIN Report CH2025-0209) for additional information on the timeline of China's tariffs on U.S. agricultural products.

The tariff exclusion process introduced by the State Council Tariff Commission (SCTC) in March 2020 (see GAIN report CH2020-0017) remains in effect. The program allows importers to apply for tariff exclusions on the Chinese Government's retaliatory Section 301 tariffs on U.S. products, including chicken products. The Ministry of Finance has reportedly extended the market-based Section 301 tariff exclusion process to December 31, 2026 (see GAIN Report CH2025-0223). The following tables summarize the current tariffs on U.S. chicken exports to China.

Table 2. China: Tariff Schedule for U.S. Chicken Meat and Chicken Paws

HS Code (8-digit)	**Product Description**	**MFN Rate**	**Section 301 Retaliation***	**SCTC Ann. No. 2 March 10, 2025**	**SCTC Ann. No. 7 May 12, 2025**	**Total Applied Tariff**	**TOTAL APPLIED TARIFF WITH 301 EXCLUSION***
	Implementation Date	**1/1/2025**	**2/14/2020**	**3/10/2025**	**5/14/2025**	**5/14/2025**	**5/14/2025**
02071100	Chickens, not cut in pieces, fresh or chilled	20%	30.0%	0%	10%	60.0%	30.0%
02071200	Frozen Whole Chickens	20%	30.0%	0%	10%	60.0%	30.0%
02071311	Fresh Or Chilled Cuts Of Chicken, With Bone	20%	30.0%	0%	10%	60.0%	30.0%
02071319	Fresh or chilled cuts of chicken, other	20%	30.0%	0%	10%	60.0%	30.0%
02071321	Fresh or chilled wing of chicken (excluding wingtips	20%	30.0%	0%	10%	60.0%	30.0%
02071329	Fresh or chilled offal of chicken, other	20%	30.0%	0%	10%	60.0%	30.0%
02071411	Frozen Chicken Cuts, With Bone	0.6 RMB/kg	30.0%	0%	10%	40.0% + 0.6 RMB/kg	10.0% + 0.6 RMB/kg
02071419	Frozen Chicken Cuts, Nes	10%	30.0%	0%	10%	50.0%	20.0%
02071421	Frozen Midjoint Wing Of Chicken	0.8 RMB/kg	30.0%	0%	10%	40.0% + 0.8 RMB/kg	10.0% + 0.8 RMB/kg
02071422	Frozen Chicken Claw	1.0 RMB/kg	30.0%	0%	10%	40.0% + 1.0 RMB/kg	10.0% + 1.0 RMB/kg

02071429	Frozen Offal Of Chicken, Nes	0.5 RMB/kg	30.0%	0%	10%	40.0% + 0.5 RMB/kg	10.0% + 0.5 RMB/kg
16023210	Preparations Of Chicken, In Airtight Containers	5%	2.5%	0%	10%	17.5%	15.0%
16023291	Other Prepared Chicken Breast Filets	5%	10.0%	0%	10%	25.0%	15.0%
16023292	Other Prepared Meat Of Chicken Legs	5%	2.5%	0%	10%	17.5%	15.0%
16023299	Other Prepared Chicken, Chicken Offal Or Blood	5%	2.5%	0%	10%	17.5%	15.0%

Source: Customs Import and Export Tariff of China, State Council Tariff Commission Announcements

Attachments:

No Attachments