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GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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South Africa suspends meat imports from Brazil

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Poultry and Products

Livestock and Products

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

On March 22, 2017, the South African Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries announced that it has suspended meat imports from establishments suspected to be involved in the Brazil meat scandal. The suspension will remain in place until the issue has been resolved to the satisfaction of the South African Veterinary Authority. Brazil has been the largest exporter of poultry meat to South African since 2001.

South Africa suspends meat imports from certain Brazilian Establishments

On March 22, 2017, the South African Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) announced that it has suspended meat imports from establishments suspected to be involved in the Brazil meat scandal ([DAFF suspends Imports of meat from establishments suspected to be involved in the Brazil meat scandal](#)). This follows [media reports](#) suggesting that some establishments in Brazil were bribing inspectors to certify meat that was either rotten or contaminated with salmonella. The media statement released by DAFF suggests that there is a possibility that there could be some consignments on their way to South Africa from the Brazilian establishments implicated in the meat scandal. Therefore, every container of meat from Brazil will be tested at the points of entry by the DAFF officials. The suspension will remain in place until the issue has been resolved to the satisfaction of the South African Veterinary Authority. DAFF noted that such measures have been taken in order to protect consumers against food safety hazards and also animals against animal diseases.

The DAFF media statement does not explicitly state the HS codes of the meat being exported from Brazil. Nonetheless Table 1 shows Brazilian meat and poultry exports to South Africa for the past three years. Brazil is the largest exporter of meat and poultry products to South Africa since 2002. In 2004 and 2005, Brazil accounted for about 61 percent of the total South African meat and poultry products imports. Even though, Brazil accounted for only about 36 percent of the total South African meat and poultry products imports in 2016, it was still the largest exporter of meat and poultry products to South Africa. Most of the meat and poultry exports from Brazil to South Africa are mechanically deboned chicken meat (HS code: 02071210). In fact, mechanically deboned chicken meat accounted for about 73 percent of the total Brazilian meat and poultry products exports to South Africa in 2016 (Table 1). Therefore, the suspension of Brazilian establishments from exporting meat to South Africa is likely to affect consumers of poultry meat products rather than red meat consumers since most of Brazil's exports to South Africa are poultry meat.

At the moment it is not clear how many Brazilian establishments have been suspended from exporting meat to South Africa. In addition, there is no indication of how much meat was being exported to South Africa from the suspended establishments. Nonetheless, the suspension of the Brazilian establishments from exporting meat to South Africa could present an opportunity for the U.S. to increase meat exports to South Africa. After the U.S. obtained market access for beef, pork and poultry in 2016, the U.S. exported meat to the value of US\$30.3 million to South Africa in 2016.

Table 1: South African meat imports from Brazil

Product	Trading partner	2014 (tons)	% of total	2015 (tons)	% of total	2016 (tons)	% of total
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Total poultry meat	Brazil	168,759	43	241,180	50	233,788	42
	Other countries	224,425	57	236,918	50	326,192	58
	Total	393,184	100	478,098	100	559,980	100
Mechanically deboned meat (MDM) (HS code 02071210)	Brazil	127,251	87	166,122	92	170,045	87
	Other countries	19,732	13	13,769	8	25,208	13
	Total	146,983	100	179,891	100	195,253	100
Chicken bone-in (HS code 0207149)	Brazil	7,067	4	26,591	14	18,799	8
	Other countries	150,051	96	165,799	86	220,790	92
	Total	157,118	100	192,390	100	239,589	100
Frozen whole birds, frozen (02071290)	Brazil	0	0	161	4	249	3
	Other countries	2,602	100	4,160	96	9,348	97
	Total	2,602	100	4,321	100	9,597	100
Pork	Brazil	0	0	189	0.6	1,429	6
	Other countries	18,929	100	31,590	99.4	22,591	94
	Total	18,929	100	31,779	100	24,020	100

Source: GTA