



DECEMBER EXPORTS FINISH OFF 2020 ON A STRONG NOTE

REPORT FOR DEC 2020 YTD TRADE



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Canadian beef exports in the month of December were 36,492 tonne valued at \$274 million, up 16% in volume and up 14% in value from December 2019. International exports saw a variety of influences such as continued restrictions in Europe and struggling food service industries, but strong retail demand for quality beef helped exports remain above the 5-year average and are following seasonal trends.

December federally inspected slaughter numbers were 318,366 head registering the second highest slaughter month of the year. Carcass weights the middle of December were recorded to be 32lbs larger than the same week in 2019.

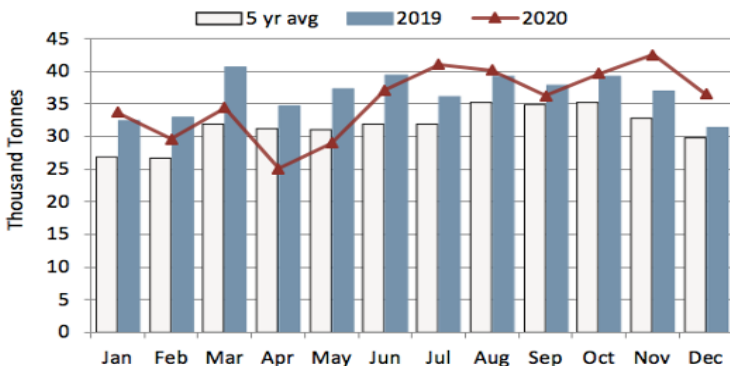
For the 2020-year, beef exports of 425,060 tonnes valued at \$3.25 billion were down 3.1% in volume but up 1.2% in value compared to 2019. This was up 12% in volume and 26% in value from the five-year average.

Of total beef and veal exports from Canada, the average unit price in 2020 was \$7.66/kg up 4.5% from 2019. The largest declines in per unit value occurred in Hong Kong (-16%) and South Korea (-12%).

The small decrease in export volumes was heavily influenced by exports in March, April and May due to processing and transportation issues caused by COVID-19. This created a backlog in processing which resulted in heavy carcass weights and ramped up production at processing plants in the following months.

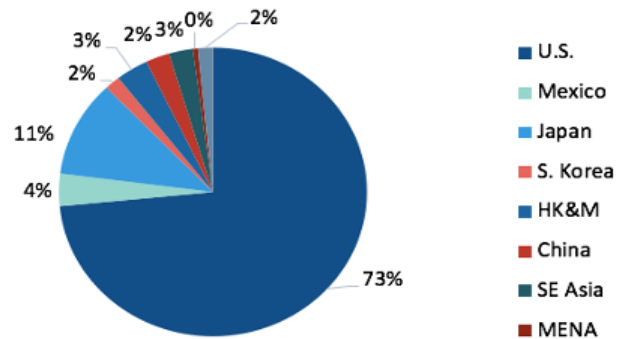
As Canadian processing plants better handled positive cases and restrictions lifted, exports from Canada increased to above or consistent with 2019 trends. Exports in 2021 can be expected to stay strong as the second wave of COVID-19 becomes less prevalent and restrictions are lessened once again as vaccine roll outs happen across the world. According to the USDA FAS, Canadian beef and veal exports are predicted to increase by 4.0%, and imports decline by 8.3% in 2021.

Canadian Monthly Beef and Veal Exports



Source: Statistics Canada

Canadian Beef Exports 2020



Source: Statistics Canada, CFIA



2020 Exports by Country

- Exports to the **U.S.** at 309,562 tonne valued at \$2.45 billion were down 2.3% in volume but up 5.3% in value as the unit price increased 7.7% from an average \$7.37/kg in Jan-Dec 2019 to \$7.94/kg in Jan-Dec 2020. The U.S. represents 72.8% of total beef export volumes in 2020.
- Exports to **Japan** at 45,146 tonne valued at \$305 million were down 8.5% in volume and down 13.9% in value as the unit price decreased 5.9% from an average \$7.17/kg in Jan-Dec 2019 to \$6.75/kg in Jan-Dec 2020. Japan represents 10.6% of total beef export volumes in 2020.
- Exports to **mainland China and Hong Kong** at 24,702 tonne valued at \$212 million were down 14.5% in volume and down 18.5% in value as the unit price decreased 4.6% from an average \$9.00/kg in Jan-Dec 2019 to \$8.58/kg in Jan-Dec 2020. Mainland China and Hong Kong represent 5.8% of total beef exports in 2020.
- Exports to **Mexico** at 15,155 tonne valued at \$106 million were down 8.8% in volume and 16.7% in value with the unit price decreased 8.6% from an average \$7.67/kg in Jan-Dec 2019 to \$7.01 kg in Jan-Dec 2020. Mexico represents 3.6% of total beef export volumes in 2020.
- Exports to **Southeast Asia (including Taiwan)** at 12,743 tonne valued at \$82 million were up 45% in volume and up 40.9% in value as the unit price decreased 2.9% from an average \$6.67 kg in Jan-Dec 2019 to \$6.48/kg in Jan-Dec 2020. Southeast Asia represents 3.0% of total beef exports in 2020.
- Exports to **South Korea** at 6,783 tonne valued at \$45 million were up 20% in volume and up 5.3% in value as the unit price decreased 12.1% from an average \$7.57/kg in Jan-Dec 2019 to \$6.65/kg in Jan-Dec 2020. South Korea represents 1.6% of total beef exports in 2020.

2020 Exports by Month

- **January** exports of 33,739 tonne valued at \$250 million were up 4% in volume and up 3% in value from 2019.
- **February** exports of 29,611 tonne valued at \$218 million were down 10% in volume and down 9% in value from 2019.
- **March** exports of 34,419 tonne valued at \$261 million were down 15% in volume and down 14% in value from 2019.
- **April** exports of 25,086 tonne valued at \$168 million were down 28% in volume and down 33% in value from 2019.
- **May** exports of 28,974 tonne valued at \$310 million were down 22% in volume and up 11% in value from 2019.
- **June** exports of 37,147 tonne valued at \$319 million were down 5.7% in volume and up 15% in value from 2019.
- **July** exports of 41,024 tonne valued at \$286 million were up 13.4% in volume and up 15% in value.
- **August** exports of 40,151 tonne valued at \$278 million were up 2.5% in volume and up 1% in value from 2019.
- **September** exports of 36,217 tonne valued at \$254 million were down 4.6% in volume and down 7.7% in value from 2019.
- **October** exports of 39,699 tonne valued at \$310 million were up 1% in volume and up 5.3% in value from 2019.
- **November** exports of 42,502 tonne valued at \$237 million were up 14.8% in volume and up 12.9% in value from 2019.
- **December** exports of 36,492 tonne valued at \$274 million were up 16% in volume and up