

CANADIAN BEEF TRADE



Beef Exports in May 2026

In May 2026, Canadian beef export volumes were up 19% from May 2025 and up 5% from the five-year average for May.

From January to May 2026, beef exports were up 5% in volume and up 13% in value from last year.

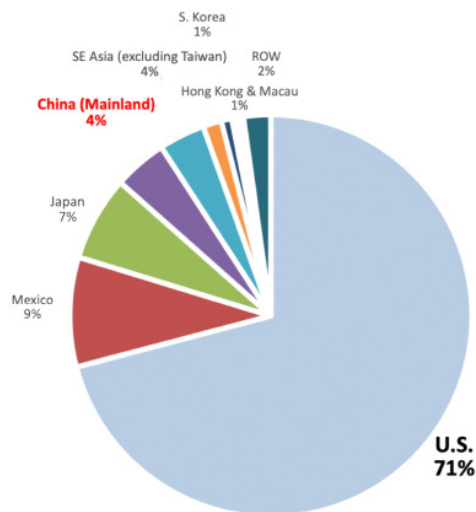
Year-to-date export volumes increased to the U.S. (+1%), Hong Kong and Macau (+49%), Mexico (+28%), Southeast Asia excluding Taiwan (+38%), the EU27 (+39%); but declined to Japan (-24%), South Korea (-54%), Taiwan (-29%), and MENA (-21%). Exports to China totaled 8,803 tonnes. There were no exports to the U.K.

Federally inspected slaughter in May 2026 did not change significantly (-0.1%) versus May of last year at 201,823 head, and down 23% from April 2026.

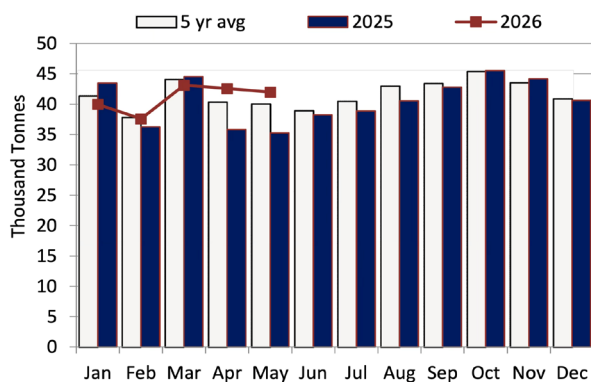
Canadian beef exports to China (Mainland), Hong Kong and Macau, were up 803% in volume, and up 762% in value. For the period from January to May, export volumes went up from 1,168 tonnes in 2025 to 10,549 in 2026; and export values went up from \$17 million to \$148 million.

Canadian Beef Export volumes January - May 2026

* ROW = Rest of the World



Canadian Monthly Beef and Veal Exports

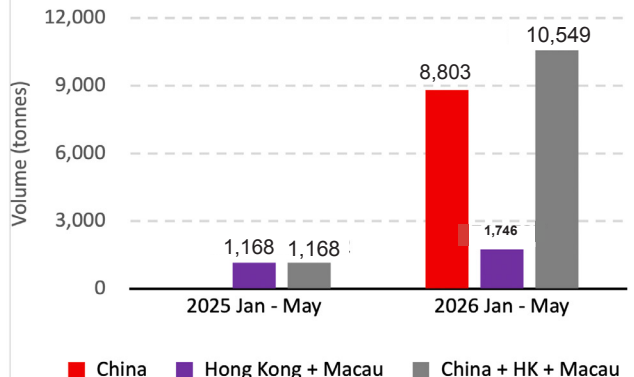


Source: Statistics Canada

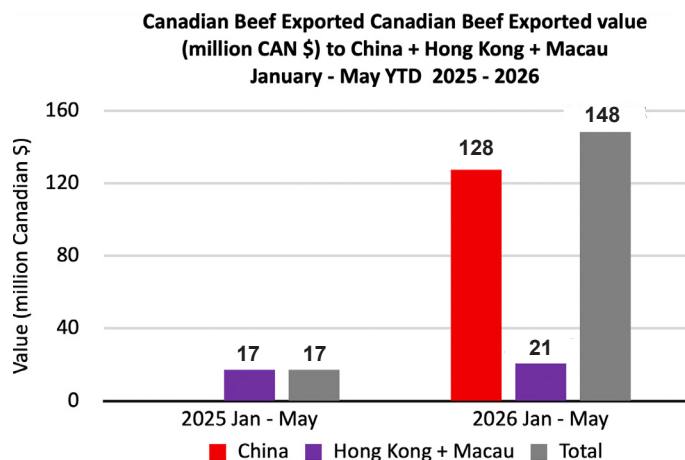
Canadian Beef Exports to China

In January 2026, Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Heath MacDonald announced that China had restored market access for Canadian beef, lifting the suspension that had been in place since 2021 and from now on, this market will stand out as a major importer of Canadian beef. (1) Recently in 2026, China introduced a country specific import quota for major beef suppliers, with a 55% tariff for any volumes above a set limit. In 2026 Brazil was allocated 1.1 million tonnes, while Australia was allocated 205,000 tonnes. (2)

Canadian Beef Exported volume (tonnes) to China + Hong Kong + Macau January - May 2025 - 2026



Source: Statistics Canada

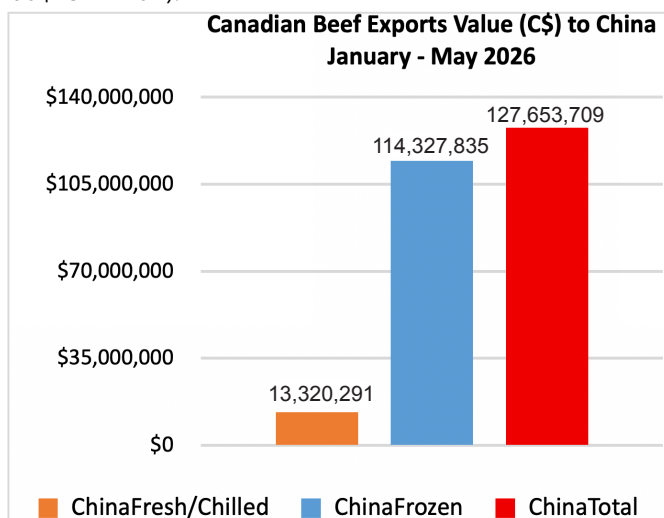


Source: Statistics Canada

Mainland China

As of May 2026, Mainland China is Canada's fourth largest market after the U.S., Mexico and Japan with a 4% share of total beef exports. Canadian beef exports increased from zero in 2025 to 8,803 tonnes as of May 2026, with a value of CAD \$128 million.

The top products exported to China (Mainland) year-to-date May 2026 include Frozen beef products (7,919 tonnes, value at \$114 million) and Fresh/Chilled beef (880 tonnes, valued at \$13 million).



Source: Statistics Canada

Hong Kong and Macau

Canadian beef shipments to Hong Kong and Macau represent 1% of the volume and 1% of the total value. Canadian beef exports to Hong Kong and Macau in the period January-May 2026 were up 49% in volume, and up 20% in value at 1,746 tonnes and \$21 million.

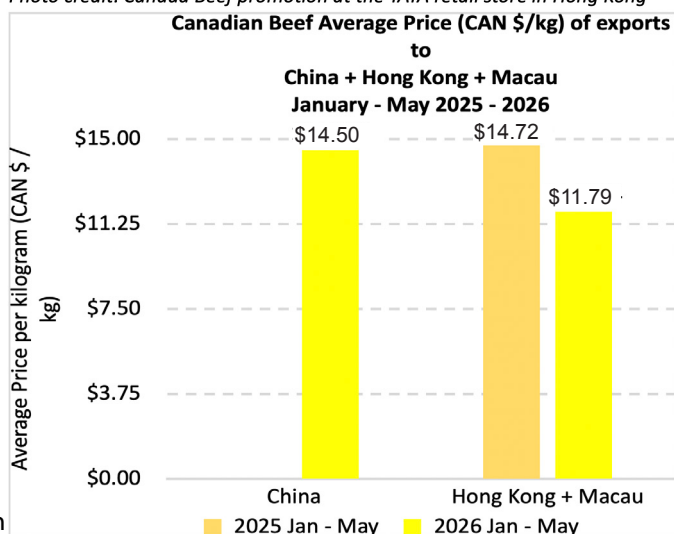
The top products exported to Hong Kong and Macau year-to-date May 2026 include Frozen beef products (1,599 tonnes, valued at C\$ 19 million) and Fresh/Chilled beef (67 tonnes, valued at C\$0.9 million).



Photo credit: Canadian Beef at Costco in Shanghai



Photo credit: Canada Beef promotion at the YATA retail store in Hong Kong



Sources

1. [Canada Beef Newsletter, canadabeef.ca/news/cb-newsletter_02-2026/en/?article=lead](https://canadabeef.ca/news/cb-newsletter_02-2026/en/?article=lead), February 2026.
2. AHDB News, [Impact of Australia and Brazil's diminishing beef quota into China: Beef market update](https://ahdb.co.uk/news/impact-of-australia-and-brazil-s-diminishing-beef-quota-into-china), July 1, 2026.