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Report Highlights:

The ongoing revival of South Korea's food service sector strengthened consumer demand for beef and pork in 2022. This positive trend is expected to continue in 2023 as Korea's hotel, restaurant, and institutional sectors gain momentum in a post-covid market. However, the pace and scale of food service growth is unclear as the country grapples with notable macroeconomic challenges such as inflation and a depreciating currency. Korean cattle producers will aim to capitalize on high meat prices and strong demand for domestic beef and will increase slaughter rates into 2023. Swine production will wane over the first half of 2023 on high input costs. Large import volumes for beef and pork that were witnessed in 2022 are expected to remain elevated in 2023.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Conversion Rates:

In a continuous effort to improve data reliability, the “New Post” trade forecast in this report reflects new conversion rates. Historical data revisions (from 2005 onward) will be published in the PSD database (<http://www.fas.usda.gov/psdonline>).

Beef and Veal Conversion Factors		
Code	Description	Conversion Rate*
020110	Bovine carcasses and half carcasses, fresh or chilled	1.0
020120	Bovine cuts bone in, fresh or chilled	1.0
020130	Bovine cuts boneless, fresh or chilled	1.36
020210	Bovine carcasses and half carcasses, frozen	1.0
020220	Bovine cuts bone in, frozen	1.0
020230	Bovine cuts boneless, frozen	1.36
021020	Bovine meat salted, dried or smoked	1.74
160250	Bovine meat, offal nes, not livers, prepared/preserve	1.79
* Exception		
Argentina - Exports of HS 160250 are excluded.		

Pork Conversion Factors		Conversion factor
HS Code	Description	(T to CWE)
020311	Carcasses/half-carcasses, fr/ch	1.00
020312	Bone-In hams, shoulders and cuts thereof, fr/ch	1.00
020319	Other pork cuts, fr/ch	1.30
020321	Carcasses/half-carcasses, frozen	1.00
020322	Bone-In hams, shoulders and cuts thereof, frozen	1.00
020329	Other pork cuts, frozen	1.30
021011	Bone-In hams, shoulders and cuts thereof, processed	1.10
021012	Bellies (streaky) and cuts thereof, processed	1.20
021019	Other meat of swine, processed	1.16
160241	Hams and cuts thereof, prep/pres	1.30
160242	Shoulders and cuts thereof, prep/pres	1.30
160249	Other meat of swine including mixtures, prep/pres	1.30

The definition of Carcass Weight Equivalent/Product Weight Equivalent remains the same. All quantities (beef and pork) are in Carcass Weight Equivalent (CWE) unless otherwise noted as Product Weight Equivalent (PWE). CWE is the weight of an animal after slaughter and removal of internal organs, head, and skin. PWE is the actual weight of the meat product exported.

Cattle

Production

An increase in Korea's calf production is expected for 2022 and slowly decline in 2023. This forecasted slowdown stems from consistent live cattle price reduction through most of 2022. Cow prices have fallen over 18 percent in August 2022 after peaking in October 2021. Steer prices that peaked in June 2021 have dropped 33 percent over the last year. Similarly, steer calf prices have dropped 28 percent over the same time. As a result, Korean farmers have narrowed their production outlook and eased Hanwoo semen purchases during the first nine months of 2022. Additionally, the National Agricultural Cooperative Federation and Korea Hanwoo Association is providing incentives to Hanwoo farmers that slaughter cows and heifers to reduce market inventory. Farmers that agree to dedicate heifers for slaughter without being fecundated before 36 months will receive 200,000 won per head. The program also provides incentives for up to 40,000 heads of multiparous cows, under 50 months old, to be slaughtered between February 2023 to June 30, 2023. Farmers will receive 180,000 won per head and free bull semen up to 110 straws. Finally, this program provides free proven semen to farmers that voluntarily reduce cow inventory- up to 50,000 heads (30,000 heads of heifers and 20,000 heads of multiparous cows). These incentive programs will contribute to lower calf production in 2023.

Conversely, cattle inventory will rise in 2023 as the increased 2022 calf production drives up total supply. Monthly Hanwoo calf births increased 1.6 percent during the first half of 2022 when compared to the same period in 2021.

Table 1: Hanwoo Inventory by Age (1,000 head and percent)

Description		2016-2020 Average	2020	2021	June 2022
Hanwoo	Under 1 year	867	962	1,008	969
	1 – 2 years	827	897	949	973
	Over 2 years	1,277	1,369	1,458	1,568
	Sub-total ①	2,970	3,227	3,415	3,511
	Cows	1,428	1,548	1,631	1,638
Holstein steer ②		155	168	174	163
Total beef cattle ①+②		3,125	3,395	3,589	3,674

Note: Cattle inventory as of end of December for each year.

Source: Korea Rural Economic Institute

Table 2: Hanwoo Semen Sales (Unit: 1,000 straws)

Month	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	% Change
Jan	134	138	157	172	171	-0.5
Feb	119	48	168	162	171	5.6
Mar	166	207	155	179	171	-4.5
Apr	55	196	213	209	183	-12.4
May	237	195	207	209	206	-1.4
Jun	233	196	231	233	233	0.0
Jul	223	231	207	226	199	-11.9
Aug	195	183	211	214	192	-10.3
Sep	189	183	227	183	202	10.4
Oct	179	185	205	220	220	0.0
Nov	151	192	186	170		
Dec	174	141	194	197		
Total	2,055	2,095	2,361	2,374	1,948	

Source: Korea Rural Economic Institute, National Agricultural Cooperative Federation, Korea Hanwoo Association [전국한우협회 - 통계·자료실 - 한우자료실 \(ihanwoo.org\)](http://www.ihanwoo.org)

Note: 1/ The percent change column compares of 2022 sales versus the same month in 2021.

2/ The low semen sales in Apr. 2018 was due to an outbreak of FMD. The drop in Feb. 2019 was likely due to a price reduction in calves that discouraged farmers from increasing herd size.

Table 3: Monthly Hanwoo Calf Birth Number (Thousand heads)

Month	2017-2021 Average	2021	2022
Jan	54.4	65.1	65.1
Feb	69.1	79.7	81.7
Mar	118.7	131.6	136.5
Apr	134.8	142.6	145.2
May	121.0	123.9	125.8
Jun	96.7	101.8	105.8
Jul	80.5	88.9	90.5
Aug	72.1	78.3	76.3
Sep	58.3	67.6	62.4
Oct	55.8	63.3	
Nov	49.5	60.6	
Dec	53.3	63.0	
Total	964.2	1,066.4	889.3

Source: Korea Rural Economic Institute

Note: The 2017-2021 average is the average number excluding the minimum and maximum number for each year. The above Hanwoo calf birth data is the tentative number based on farmers' reporting and can be adjusted after accounting the delayed reports, etc.

Table 4: Live Hanwoo Beef Cattle Prices (Thousand won / head)

Month	Calf (4-5 month old)						Cow (600 Kg.)			Steer (600 Kg.)		
	Female			Male			2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022						
Jan	2840	2990	N/A	3246	3877	3329	5895	6372	6026	5672	5372	5370
Feb	2960	2880	N/A	3068	3891	3198	5893	6209	5882	5479	5207	5148
Mar	N/A	3500	N/A	3132	3641	2893	5943	6263	5701	4983	5348	5154
Apr	3010	4500	N/A	3332	3597	3048	5837	6322	5600	5326	6434	4967
May	N/A	3350	N/A	3554	3709	3379	6015	6379	5521	5536	6289	5163
Jun	3189	3350	2278	4393	3956	3547	6255	6508	5753	5504	7159	5193
Jul	3196	3351	2050	3426	4342	3158	6051	6369	5551	5171	6412	5053
Aug	2848	4185	1630	3667	3851	3217	6232	6499	5511	5423	6447	4801
Sep	2571	3200	2400	3733	3893	3147	6101	6529	5621	5420	5854	5317
Oct	2629	2850	2001	3736	3669	3045	6291	6751	5538	5232	5504	4944
Nov	3180	N/A	1553	3348	3409	3018	6430	6602	5391	5429	5735	5016
Dec	2792	1800		3321	3315		6266	6534		5461	6407	

Source: National Agricultural Cooperative Federation

(Exchange rate US\$1 = 1,371.5 won (As of September 5, 2022))

[농협 축산정보센터 \(nonghyup.com\)](http://nonghyup.com)

Table 5: Monthly Cattle Slaughter Trend

Year	Month	Cow		Bulls/steers		Total	
		Head	Percent of total	Head	Percent of total	Sub-total	Percent of annual
2020	Jan	42,770	44.1	54,161	55.9	96,931	10.9
	Feb	25,275	45.3	30,466	54.7	55,741	6.3
	Mar	31,943	48.2	34,361	51.8	66,304	7.5
	Apr	33,230	47.9	36,104	52.1	69,334	7.8
	May	33,278	49.2	34,376	50.8	67,654	7.6
	Jun	36,646	49.4	37,537	50.6	74,183	8.4
	Jul	33,202	48.6	35,178	51.4	68,380	7.7
	Aug	34,696	46.0	40,725	54.0	75,421	8.5
	Sep	47,866	45.6	57,086	54.4	104,952	11.8
	Oct	26,750	41.9	37,141	58.1	63,891	7.2
	Nov	29,960	43.9	38,219	56.1	68,179	7.7

	Dec	34,405	45.1	41,822	54.9	76,227	8.6
	Total	410,021	46.2	477,176	53.8	887,197	100.0
2021	Jan	48,642	43.1	64,331	56.9	112,973	12.1
	Feb	24,740	47.8	27,018	52.2	51,758	5.5
	Mar	33,715	47.4	37,340	52.6	71,055	7.6
	Apr	34,549	48.5	36,620	51.5	71,169	7.6
	May	32,959	49.0	34,337	51.0	67,296	7.2
	Jun	34,854	49.4	35,673	50.6	70,527	7.6
	Jul	31,448	49.4	32,164	50.6	63,612	6.8
	Aug	41,550	44.6	51,698	55.4	93,248	10.0
	Sep	42,572	45.9	50,202	54.1	92,774	9.9
	Oct	30,943	44.2	39,037	55.8	69,980	7.5
	Nov	33,988	43.4	44,340	56.6	78,328	8.4
	Dec	40,562	44.5	50,579	55.5	91,141	9.8
	Total	430,522	46.1	503,339	53.9	933,861	100.0
2022	Jan	50,055	43.5	65,081	56.5	115,136	14.0
	Feb	23,529	45.7	27,945	54.3	51,474	6.3
	Mar	35,288	47.2	39,399	52.8	74,687	9.1
	Apr	38,311	48.7	40,418	51.3	78,729	9.6
	May	40,693	50.0	40,745	50.0	81,438	9.9
	Jun	37,771	51.4	35,680	48.6	73,451	8.9
	Jul	36,975	51.9	34,333	48.1	71,308	8.7
	Aug	63,279	48.7	66,681	51.3	129,960	15.8
	Sep	32,673	48.6	34,569	51.4	67,242	8.2
	Oct	36,501	46.8	41,486	53.2	77,987	9.5
		Total	395,075	48.1	426,337	51.9	821,412

Source: Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency

[도축실적 - 동물검역 - 농장도축관리 - 농림축산검역본부 \(qia.go.kr\)](http://qia.go.kr)

PS&D

Animal Numbers, Cattle	2021		2022		2023	
	Jan 2021		Jan 2022		Jan 2023	
Korea, Republic of	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Total Cattle Beg. Stks (1000 HEAD)	3805	3805	3956	3956	4059	4098
Dairy Cows Beg. Stocks (1000 HEAD)	314	314	307	307	305	305
Beef Cows Beg. Stocks (1000 HEAD)	1555	1555	1640	1640	1704	1699
Production (Calf Crop) (1000 HEAD)	1096	1096	1114	1156	1073	1122

Total Imports (1000 HEAD)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Supply (1000 HEAD)	4901	4901	5070	5112	5132	5220
Total Exports (1000 HEAD)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cow Slaughter (1000 HEAD)	431	431	465	470	485	513
Calf Slaughter (1000 HEAD)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Slaughter (1000 HEAD)	503	503	535	533	555	577
Total Slaughter (1000 HEAD)	934	934	1000	1003	1040	1090
Loss and Residual (1000 HEAD)	11	11	11	11	12	12
Ending Inventories (1000 HEAD)	3956	3956	4059	4098	4080	4118
Total Distribution (1000 HEAD)	4901	4901	5070	5112	5132	5220
(1000 HEAD)						

Beef

Production

Sizeable herd inventory will increase beef production into 2023. Total cattle slaughter during the first ten months of 2022 was 7.5 percent higher than the same period in 2021. As some of the heifers and multiparous cows that received incentives are slaughtered during the months of February-June 2023, total beef production will continue to rise. The Korea Rural Economic Institute is cautioning local farmers of a potential imbalance in supply and demand in the near future. As a result, Korean ranchers are closely monitoring lower cattle prices and higher input costs and may quickly move to clear inventory if financial losses are anticipated.

Moreover, loosened COVID-related restrictions on restaurant capacity limits and operating hours have enabled businesses to increase sales as more customers return to dine. The Korean government predicts it will be able to remove all COVID restrictions by the Spring of 2023. This action will boost commerce across many Korean sectors, including the food industry. Local beef production will look to keep pace with the return of consumer demand in its restaurant sector.

Consumption

Korea’s overall meat consumption rebounded in 2022 and should continue upward in 2023. However, while the removal of COVID restrictions has buoyed restaurant operations in Korea, new issues have kept consumption growth in check, namely, inflation and a weak Korean won. Sharp hikes in the cost of living, including food purchases, has squeezed disposable incomes for many Koreans and has triggered the government to act. In July, Korea announced a duty-free tariff rate quota (TRQ) for beef imported from the United States, Australia, and other eligible trade partners. The current duty for beef imports from Australia is 16.0 percent and 10.6 percent for U.S. beef. These duties will go to zero on a total 100,000 MT of beef products imported between July 20 to December 31, 2022. The government sought to lower the import prices that would ultimately permeate down to retail customers. However, the depreciation of the Korean won has offset such efforts for lowering import prices.

Increased supply of Hanwoo beef will lower domestic beef price and should attract consumers. Yet, a widening currency exchange between the Korean won and U.S. dollar will have a negative impact on price competitiveness of imported American beef.

Although statistics for at-home beef consumption in 2022 are not yet available, most likely the consumption gap between Hanwoo and imported beef has narrowed with Koreans favoring domestic beef due to affordability and greater availability.

Table 6: Average Amount of Beef Purchased for Consumption at Home (Kilogram)

Type of beef	2019	2020	2021
Hanwoo (domestic beef)	0.61	0.67	0.68
Imported beef	2.78	2.83	2.83

Source: Korea Rural Economic Institute

The following table shows the price gap between domestic beef and imported beef has shrunk in 2022 due to falling domestic cattle prices, higher trade prices, and depreciation of the local currency against the U.S. dollar. This trend is expected to continue into early 2023 as the exchange rate gap remains high and Korean farmers work to sell off inventory.

Table 7: Comparison of Average Retail Price for Beef Short Ribs and Pork Bellies (Won per 100 gram)

Origin	Quality	2020	2021	2022 1/	Change in price		Price ratio over U.S. frozen beef		
					2021 over 2020	2022 over 2021	2020	2021	2022
Korean Hanwoo	Grade 1	6103	6857	7752	1.12	1.13	2.48	2.66	1.83
U.S. Beef	Frozen	2464	2581	4245	1.05	1.64	1.00	1.00	1.00

Australian Beef	Frozen	2368	2496	4171	1.05	1.67	0.96	0.97	0.98
Korean Chilled Pork Belly		2122	2429	2599	1.14	1.07	0.86	0.94	0.61
Imported Frozen Pork Belly		1078	1309	1443	1.21	1.10	0.44	0.51	0.34

Source: Korea Institute for Animal Products Quality Evaluation

Korea Agricultural Marketing Information Service (KAMIS)

Note 1/: The source providing the price data changed from KAMIS to Korea Institute for Animal Products Quality Evaluation as of January 1, 2022. The reason for the increase in imported beef prices was due to imported beef prices that jumped 29 percent during the first 7 months of 2022 over the 2021 average import price. In addition, the Korean won depreciated against the U.S. dollar from 1,184.67 won/dollar in December 2021 to 1,373.70 won in September, 2022.

Data for 2022 is the average price for the data that is available up to September 2022.

(Exchange rate US\$1 = 1,371.5 won (As of September 5, 2022))

[축산물품질평가원 축산유통정보 | 소비자가격 | 기간별가격 | 월별가격 \(ekapepia.com\)](http://ekapepia.com)

Trade

A strong U.S. dollar and the tighter supply of U.S. red meat in 2022 will temper the rate of growth for beef exports to Korea over the next twelve months. Additionally, a rebounding Australian beef industry coupled with a healthy Korean domestic supply of Hanwoo beef will increase overall competition in the country's meat market.

Beef imports during the first 7 months of 2022 dropped slightly over the previous year level on a Customs clearance basis. However, as importers took advantage of the zero duty TRQ and began to clear products in bonded warehouses, imports increased 3.5 percent from January to October of 2022. As imported beef is consumed more in restaurants over home use, the lifting of the COVID restrictions on restaurant business will help lift demand for imported beef in early 2023.

Australia, the second largest beef supplier to Korea, is subject to an Agricultural Safeguard (ASG) under the Korea-Australia Free Trade Agreement (FTA). In 2022, the trigger level for beef is set at 181,120 MT, with a safeguard duty of 30 percent. Traditionally, once Australia reaches its trigger level, it will focus on more price-competitive chilled product exports.

Table 8: Korea: Beef Imports (Thousand dollars and metric tons)

Country	Annual 2021		January – July 2021		January – July 2022	
	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume
United States	2,093,138	249,950	1,142,463	150,533	1,548,654	149,130

Australia	1,260,164	179,260	733,298	110,147	791,340	97,385
New Zealand	99,452	20,082	61,759	12,779	87,625	13,729
Mexico	33,715	7,444	19,853	4,546	26,051	4,711
Canada	61,003	9,675	31,357	5,746	88,364	10,602
Uruguay	13,021	2,626	5,851	1,239	8,405	1,418
Chile	1,699	416	1,060	257	575	140
Others	10,076	1,750	4,583	830	7,869	1,266
Total	3,572,268	471,203	2,000,224	286,077	2,558,883	278,381

Source: Trade Data Monitor

Product weight equivalent basis

Includes HS 0201 (fresh/chilled), HS 0202 (frozen), HS 021020 and 160250 (processed beef products)

Table 9: Wholesale price competitiveness of U.S. Beef against Australian Beef

Category	Country	Unit	2021	2022 (P)	2023(P)	2026(P)	2031(P)
Exchange rate		Won / US dollar	1,140	1,169	1,162	1,160	1,147
Import price	U.S.A.	U.S. dollar	8.0	8.4	8.6	9.1	8.9
	Australia	/ Kg.	6.9	7.2	7.3	7.8	7.6
Import duty	U.S.A.	Percent	13.3	10.6	8.0	0	0
	Australia		18.7	16.0	13.3	5.3	0
Wholesale price	U.S.A.	Won / Kg.	11,314	11,828	11,734	11,584	11,222
	Australia		10,105	10,574	10,499	10,398	9,607

* (P) Data for 2022 – 2031 are projections.

Source: Korea Rural Economic Institute

Table 10: Comparison of Beef Import Duties Among Free Trade Agreements

Commodity		KORUS FTA	Korea – Australia FTA	Korea – Canada FTA
Beef	Content of Free Trade Agreement	Duty phased out in 15 years plus Agricultural Safeguard (Already in 10 th year of phase out)	Duty phased out in 15 years plus Agricultural Safeguard (Already in 5 th year of phase out)	Duty phased out in 15 years plus Agricultural Safeguard (In its 4 th year of phase out)
	Base duty	40%	40%	40%
	Applicable duty in 2021	13.3%	18.6%	21.3%
	Applicable duty in 2022	10.6%	16.0%	18.6%

	Applicable duty in 2023	8.0%	13.3%	16.0%
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PS&D

Meat, Beef and Veal	2021		2022		2023	
	Jan 2021		Jan 2022		Jan 2023	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Market Year Begins						
Korea, Republic of						
Slaughter (Reference) (1000 HEAD)	934	934	1000	1003	1040	1090
Beginning Stocks (1000 MT CWE)	15	15	15	15	15	15
Production (1000 MT CWE)	304	304	325	326	338	354
Total Imports (1000 MT CWE)	588	588	610	628	620	630
Total Supply (1000 MT CWE)	907	907	950	969	973	999
Total Exports (1000 MT CWE)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Human Dom. Consumption (1000 MT CWE)	892	892	935	954	958	984
Other Use, Losses (1000 MT CWE)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Dom. Consumption (1000 MT CWE)	892	892	935	954	958	984
Ending Stocks (1000 MT CWE)	15	15	15	15	15	15
Total Distribution (1000 MT CWE)	907	907	950	969	973	999
(1000 HEAD) ,(1000 MT CWE)						

Swine

Production

Korea's total swine supply gradually declined since March 2022 due to increased feed costs. Given that inputs account for more than 60 percent of hog production costs, the increase in feed cost has tempered producers' eagerness to increase its inventory. Average swine feed prices increased 26 percent over the last three years, ranging from 562 won/kg. in 2019 to 709 won/kg. in 2022. Without relief in the currency exchange rate, feed prices are expected continue their upward trajectory into 2023.

The following table shows producers will look to decrease their sow numbers. Despite farmgate price of hogs being higher in 2022 compared to 2021, the drop in intention to raise sows is chiefly attributed to lower profit rates caused by higher feed prices.

Table 11: Producers' Intention to Raise Sows

Year	August	September	October	November	December
2022	99.9	99.9	100.0	99.9	99.9
2021	100.0	100.0	100.1	103.8	103.7
Change (Percent)	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	-3.8	-3.8

Source: Korea Rural Economic Institute

The index uses the producers' intention in August 2021 as a basis.

Table 12: Average Hog Production Cost by Farm Size (Won per 100 kilograms)

Description	Under 1,000 head	1,000 – 1,999 head	2,000 – 2,999 head	Over 3,000 head	Average	2021 Wholesale price
Production cost (Won/100 Kg.)	350,692	308,967	282,038	264,658	283,662	4,200 ~ 4,300 won/Kg.
Converted into wholesale price (Won/Kg.)	4,572	4,028	3,677	3,451	3,698	

Source: Korea Statistics Service and Korea Rural Economic Institute

(Exchange rate US\$1 = 1,371.5 won (As of September 5, 2022))

Table 13: Farm Gate Hog Prices (Thousand Won/Head, 110 kg./head)

Month	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
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January	325	273	247	309	370
February	347	265	274	298	349
March	343	318	330	345	361
April	375	369	362	390	443
May	391	351	432	421	539
June	438	354	399	439	494
July	432	344	412	433	474
August	408	353	363	452	499
September	414	404	399	453	472
October	330	265	339	386	447
November	310	313	356	445	442
December	303	282	356	433	
Annual average	368	285	353	398	

Source: National Agricultural Cooperative Federation

(Exchange rate US\$1 = 1,371.5 won (As of September 5, 2022))

African Swine Fever (ASF) continues to be found in wild boars along Korea's northern military border and has been detected in areas further south. Korea recorded 80 positive heads of ASF in seven (7) commercial farms in 2022. Depopulated farms along Korea's northern military border have begun to restock their operations.

Table 14: Number of Porcine Disease Outbreak Cases

Disease	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
PED	5	1	12	169	94	82	77	221	137	161	37
PRRS	44	47	69	47	44	40	20	29	29	18	44
ASF									14	3	5

Source: Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency, Korea Animal Health Integrated System

[국가가축방역통합시스템 \(kahis.go.kr\)](http://kahis.go.kr)

Table 15: Number of Sows and Swine by Age (Thousand head)

Year	Month	Sow 1/	Number of swine by age				
			Under 2 months	2-4 month	4-6 month	6-8 month	Over 8 months
2016	Mar	968	3210	3183	2922	105	896
	Jun	981	3238	3124	2980	108	905
	Sep	984	3313	3238	3100	104	914
	Dec	974	3216	3099	3041	109	901
2017	Mar	1045	3422	3284	3215	120	963
	Jun	1062	3473	3391	3222	135	966
	Sep	1052	3534	3508	3365	118	969
	Dec	1058	3438	3362	3374	124	974
2018	Mar	1058	3488	3279	3302	113	974

	Jun	1069	3545	3411	3252	116	981
	Sep	1063	3619	3598	3313	139	971
	Dec	1063	3508	3474	3248	131	972
2019	Mar	1063	3512	3434	3160	116	977
	Jun	1070	3554	3468	3196	122	977
	Sep	1063	3660	3586	3374	117	976
	Dec	1026	3497	3453	3257	132	941
2020	Mar	1041	3525	3415	3188	127	954
	Jun	1023	3505	3314	3205	125	939
	Sep	1010	3522	3429	3363	121	930
	Dec	1001	3399	3379	3257	120	923
2021	Mar	1025	3525	3315	3244	124	939
	Jun	1041	3559	3373	3142	131	946
	Sep	1024	3601	3550	3248	118	947
	Dec	1023	3482	3454	3215	121	944
2022	Mar	1024	3501	3404	3198	123	943
	Jun	1021	3546	3349	3212	121	938
	Sep	1008	3545	3481	3254	116	930

Source: Korea Statistics Administration

1/ Swine over eight months are sows and part of the swine herd that are 6-8 months old are sows

2/ Sow numbers are based on the first day of each month and may not match with PS&D sow numbers, which are based on Dec, 31.

3/ The Korea Statistics Administration changed the data basis from sampling basis to traceability numbers from April 2018 and swine numbers have been updated based on traceability numbers from the March 2017 data.

Table 16: Monthly Swine Slaughter

Year	Month	Slaughter number (heads)		
		Total	Gilt/Sows	Boar
2020	Jan	1,562,642	766,028	826,614
	Feb	1,566,810	754,242	812,568
	Mar	1,583,419	758,429	824,990
	Apr	1,604,913	767,901	837,012
	May	1,410,414	676,240	734,174
	Jun	1,398,273	675,198	723,075

	Jul	1,485,424	713,511	771,913
	Aug	1,341,670	650,946	690,724
	Sep	1,496,322	732,666	763,656
	Oct	1,546,152	747,053	799,099
	Nov	1,616,111	779,277	838,834
	Dec	1,685,802	812,280	873,522
	Total	18,329,952	8,833,771	9,496,181
2021	Jan	1,600,274	777,247	823,027
	Feb	1,416,529	687,952	728,577
	Mar	1,689,063	819,876	869,187
	Apr	1,551,034	756,170	794,864
	May	1,440,219	705,781	734,438
	Jun	1,448,976	713,406	735,570
	Jul	1,347,743	661,469	686,274
	Aug	1,416,102	697,540	718,562
	Sep	1,489,258	732,265	756,993
	Oct	1,540,333	753,586	786,747
	Nov	1,720,536	843,497	877,039
	Dec	1,722,700	842,811	879,889
	Total	18,382,767	8,991,600	9,391,167
2022	Jan	1,577,332	771,979	805,353
	Feb	1,483,825	728,796	755,029
	Mar	1,701,190	839,645	861,545
	Apr	1,539,877	753,717	786,160

May	1,528,772	747,428	781,344
Jun	1,445,203	706,816	738,387
Jul	1,309,132	646,093	663,039
Aug	1,533,399	754,571	778,828
Sep	1,420,093	696,255	723,838
Oct	1,576,589	769,230	807,359
Nov			
Dec			
Total	15,115,412	7,414,530	7,700,882

Source: Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency

Table 17: Pork Wholesale Prices

Month Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	Won per kilogram						
January	4396	4582	3853	3241	2922	3663	4385
February	3920	4536	4114	3143	3247	3526	4135
March	4246	4710	4063	3768	3914	4083	4273
April	4461	5153	4439	4370	4285	4626	5250
May	4969	5222	4635	4159	5114	4990	6385
June	5437	5751	5192	4200	4733	5203	5861
July	4881	5528	5120	4076	4888	5137	5612
August	4829	5643	4838	4179	4303	5363	5919
September	4970	5421	4909	4791	4727	5374	5596
October	4415	4281	3911	3143	3335	4572	5296
November	4540	4507	3675	3705	4221	5272	5240
December	4335	4345	3597	3341	4217	5129	

Source: Korea Meat Trade Association, National Agricultural Cooperative Federation

(Exchange rate US\$1 = 1,371.5 won (As of September 5, 2022))

[농협 축산정보센터 \(nonghyup.com\)](http://nonghyup.com)

PS&D

Animal Numbers, Swine	2021	2022	2023
Market Year Begins	Jan 2021	Jan 2022	Jan 2023

Korea, Republic of	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Total Beginning Stocks (1000 HEAD)	11078	11078	11217	11217	11040	11832
Sow Beginning Stocks (1000 HEAD)	1001	1001	1023	1023	1015	1015
Production (Pig Crop) (1000 HEAD)	20473	20473	20190	21164	20090	20313
Total Imports (1000 HEAD)	2	2	1	1	1	1
Total Supply (1000 HEAD)	31553	31553	31408	32382	31131	32146
Total Exports (1000 HEAD)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sow Slaughter (1000 HEAD)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Slaughter (1000 HEAD)	18383	18383	18450	18500	18215	18350
Total Slaughter (1000 HEAD)	18383	18383	18450	18500	18215	18350
Loss and Residual (1000 HEAD)	1953	1953	1918	2050	1916	2045
Ending Inventories (1000 HEAD)	11217	11217	11040	11832	11000	11751
Total Distribution (1000 HEAD)	31553	31553	31408	32382	31131	32146
(1000 HEAD)						

Pork

Production

Note: Please refer to the explanatory notes in the cattle section for conversion rates.

The Korea Rural Economic Institute projects 2022 swine slaughter will increase compared to 2021 levels due to increased piglet production during the second half of 2021 that has come online. Increased 2022 slaughter will augment pork production totals for the year. However, cuts in Korean sow numbers during the second half of 2022 will drop pork production totals in 2023.

Consumption

Like beef, overall pork consumption volume is expected to be up for 2022 with the removal of pandemic related restrictions in Korea's restaurant sector. The average amount of pork purchased by restaurants increased 1.4 percent during the third quarter (July-September) of 2022, compared to the same period in 2021. Although this figure was modest, it signals restaurant owners anticipate a return of clientele into their establishments.

Table 18: Average Pork Consumption in Restaurants during the July-September period.

Amount of pork planned to be purchased	2021	2022	Comparison (%)
	102.3 kg./restaurant	103.7 kg./restaurant	1.4

Source: Korea Rural Economic Institute

Trade

Korea's imports of pork for processing dropped in 2021 due to high prices and abundant domestic supply. Nevertheless, in 2022, Korea's TRQ allocation for pork helped meat processors to access lower-priced imported product intended for processing.

Korea's initial 2022 pork TRQ allocation was 50,000 MT (zero duty). Out of this 50,000 MT, 10,000 MT was allocated for pork bellies. The government then provided an additional allocation of 20,000 MT of TRQ for pork bellies from July 20 to December 31, 2022. With this addition, the total TRQ for pork increased to 70,000 MT for the year.

As of September 2, 2022 Korea will recognize regionalization for ASF controls in European countries. While individual establishments in countries with ASF outbreaks still require approval, European suppliers will ultimately benefit from this new policy. Re-entry of German pork, which had been banned from exporting pork to Korea since 2020 due to ASF, will increase the competition for other European suppliers such as Spain, Austria and the Netherlands. The United States may face some increased competition with Germany in single-rib belly exports. In 2022, the U.S. market share for single-rib belly exports to Korea was 6.9 percent.

Picnic and collar butts remain the as the major pork categories the United States exports to Korea. In the first half of 2022, the United States made up 46 percent of Korea's picnic imports and 39 percent of collar butts.

Table 19: Average Pork Import Price (Unit: U.S. dollar per kilogram, percent)

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
2022 (A)	3.72	3.70	3.83	3.78	3.69	3.76	3.83	3.78	3.74	3.65			
2021 (B)	3.65	3.76	3.74	3.61	3.87	3.75	4.53	4.45	4.27	4.21	3.96	3.84	3.97
2020	3.12	3.24	3.40	3.19	3.31	3.07	3.49	3.32	3.29	3.25	3.51	3.40	3.30
2019	2.85	2.93	2.91	2.86	2.90	2.90	3.13	3.25	3.17	3.11	3.15	3.11	3.02
(A)/(B)	1.02	0.98	1.02	1.05	0.95	1.00	0.85	0.85	0.88	0.87			

Source: Trade Data Monitor and Korea Rural Economic Institute

The following table highlights the type of pork cuts most traded into Korea. Tenderloin and loins are used for producing pork cutlets and sweet and sour pork. Picnic and hams are for producing processed meat products, and collar butt, single rib belly, and ribs are targeted for household sales. Korea's pork

TRQs allowed for greater-than-usual import volumes in 2022. A rebounding restaurant sector is expected to further the demand for imported product into 2023.

Table 20: Pork Imports by Cuts

Unit: MT and percent

Cut		2018	2019	2020	2021	Jan. 1 - June 20, 2022
Chilled	Tenderloin	0	0	0	0	0
	Loin	1	7	33	18	12
	Collar butt	7,130	6,604	5,924	7,675	3,611
	Picnic	440	448	613	662	797
	Ham	6	0	0	0	0
	Single rib belly	16,264	14,173	12,203	16,472	7,209
	Rib	0	1	0	2	1
Frozen	Tenderloin	8	3	2	0	0
	Loin	13,858	15,933	5,295	11,026	7,589
	Collar butt	42,715	59,290	48,426	37,774	29,384
	Picnic	197,047	152,029	109,754	103,461	77,822
	Ham	5,645	9,555	1,045	814	6,926
	Single rib belly	168,564	150,650	116,756	149,811	79,051
	Rib	10,081	10,756	9,691	5,001	5,165
	Other	1,762	1,893	725	41	215
TOTAL		463,521	421,342	310,467	332,757	217,782

Source: Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (The above data is based on inspection conducted for imported pork on a Product Weight Equivalence (PWE) basis.

Table 21: Price competitiveness of U.S. Pork against EU Pork

Category	Country	Unit	2021	Projection			
				2022	2023	2026	2031
Exchange rate		Won / U.S. dollar	1,140	1,169	1,162	1,160	1,147
Import price	U.S.A.	U.S. dollar / Kg.	3.23	2.83	2.73	2.77	2.76
	EU		4.66	4.09	3.94	3.99	3.98
	Other		3.14	2.76	2.66	2.70	2.69
Import duty	U.S.A.	Percent	0	0	0	0	0
	EU		0	0	0	0	0
	Other		6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2
Wholesale price	U.S.A.	Won / Kg.	4,051	3,642	3,492	3,534	3,484
	EU		5,842	5,253	5,037	5,097	5,025
	Other		4,167	3,747	3,593	3,636	3,584

Data for 2022 – 2031 are projections.

(Exchange rate US\$1 = 1,371.5 won (As of September 5, 2022))

Source: Korea Rural Economic Institute

Table 22: Korea: Pork Imports

Unit: Thousands USD and Metric Tons

Country	Annual 2021		January – July 2021		January – July 2022	
	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume
United States	490,927	144,709	287,132	90,331	326,755	86,463
Germany	12,139	2,832	11,875	2,787		
Spain	399,876	88,094	207,103	43,813	348,738	96,804
Chile	140,896	27,155	64,135	13,259	102,630	19,742
Canada	139,673	43,894	86,714	27,586	105,345	31,845
Netherlands	152,335	33,260	81,642	17,482	116,337	29,352
Austria	158,446	30,059	84,133	16,175	86,006	18,614
Mexico	37,797	8,798	22,946	5,506	18,698	4,693
Denmark	114,386	26,510	67,344	15,753	47,078	13,224
Finland	24,064	4,763	11,874	2,482	14,474	2,820
France	46,511	8,764	27,283	5,064	34,497	6,739
Brazil	14,257	3,746	8,011	2,215	15,024	3,496
Others	43,087	16,287	18,578	7,466	50,539	17,679
Total	1,774,394	438,871	978,770	249,919	1,266,121	331,471

Source: Korea Trade Statistics Promotion Institute

Product Weight Equivalent basis

Includes: HS 020311, 020312, 020319 (fresh/chilled), HS 020321, 020322, 020329 (frozen), 021011, 021012,021019, 160241, 160242, and 160249 (processed pork products)

PS&D

Meat, Swine	2021		2022		2023	
	Jan 2021		Jan 2022		Jan 2023	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Market Year Begins						
Korea, Republic of						
Slaughter (Reference) (1000 HEAD)	18383	18383	18450	18500	18215	18350
Beginning Stocks (1000 MT CWE)	201	201	171	171	220	220
Production (1000 MT CWE)	1407	1407	1405	1415	1385	1403
Total Imports (1000 MT CWE)	570	570	735	737	725	720
Total Supply (1000 MT CWE)	2178	2178	2311	2323	2330	2343
Total Exports (1000 MT CWE)	10	10	7	7	7	7
Human Dom. Consumption (1000 MT CWE)	1997	1997	2084	2096	2113	2126
Other Use, Losses (1000 MT CWE)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Dom. Consumption (1000 MT CWE)	1997	1997	2084	2096	2113	2126
Ending Stocks (1000 MT CWE)	171	171	220	220	210	210
Total Distribution (1000 MT CWE)	2178	2178	2311	2323	2330	2343
(1000 HEAD) ,(1000 MT CWE)						

Attachments:

No Attachments