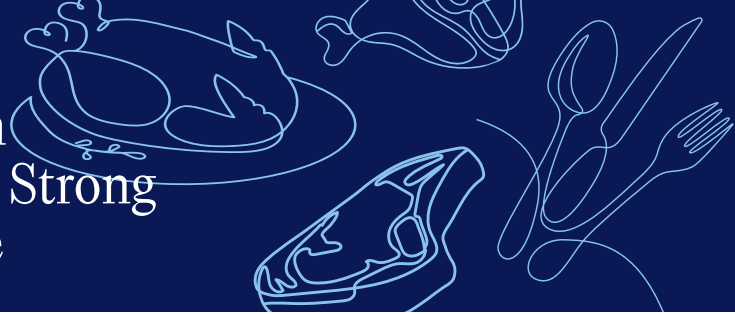




Nourishing Today
Sustaining Tomorrow

USMCA Supports American Economic Growth Through Strong U.S. Meat and Poultry Trade



Summary

The U.S. meat and poultry industry is the economic engine powering the American agriculture sector, and the wider North American industry is one of the most integrated supply chains globally. This integration supports American businesses, rural and agricultural communities, and American workers, while lifting U.S. economic growth, stabilizing domestic food prices, and securing American supply chains against shocks.

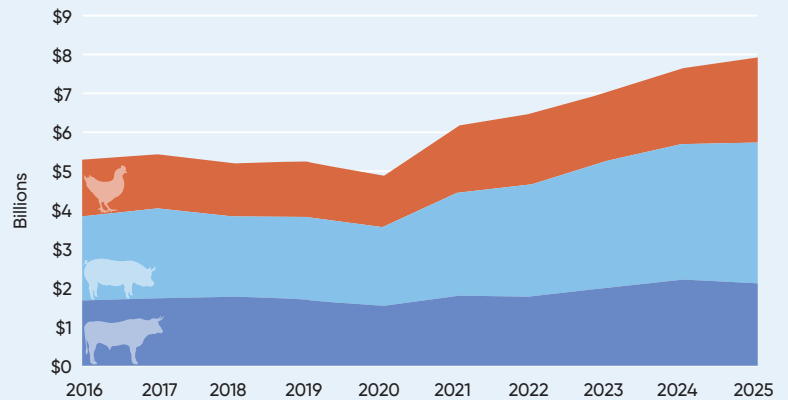
Canada and Mexico are two of the leading markets for U.S. beef, pork, and poultry exports, with a combined export value of nearly \$8 billion. Maintaining robust U.S. meat and poultry trade with Canada and Mexico is crucial to reclaiming America's agricultural trade surplus. USMCA eliminates or reduces tariffs on most U.S. meat, poultry, and live animal products, and streamlines regulations, which greatly benefits America's farmers, producers, packers, processors, and agricultural economy. Because of this, **the Meat Institute supports the USMCA's continuation for another 16-year term.**

USMCA Advances U.S. Economic Prosperity

Trade with Mexico and Canada through the USMCA continues to play a vital role in the strength and growth of the U.S. meat and livestock sector, and provides American consumers with the most abundant, affordable food supply in the world.

Canada and Mexico are consistently leading markets for U.S. meat and poultry exports. In 2025, the United States exported \$2.2 billion in beef, \$3.6 billion in pork, and \$2.2 billion in poultry to Canada and Mexico combined. These exports support tens of thousands of American jobs and increase demand for U.S. row crops, like corn, soybeans, and wheat.

U.S. Beef, Pork, and Poultry Exports to USMCA Partners



Canada is the leading market for processed pork exports, while Mexico is a major market for U.S. variety meat exports – products like beef tongues and pork jowls – which find stronger prices and consumer demand outside the U.S. In 2025, beef exports to Canada and Mexico added \$91 in value per fed head and pork exports to those markets added more than \$28 per market hog.

Market	Value (2025)	Rank (2025)
Mexico	\$5.7 billion	#1
Beef	\$1.3 billion	#3
Pork	\$2.9 billion	#1
Poultry	\$1.5 billion	#1
Canada	\$2.2 billion	#4
Beef	\$874 million	#4
Pork	\$759 million	#4
Poultry	\$611 million	#2

The benefits of the integrated market extend to live animal trade. The trade of live cattle, hogs, and broilers maintains product availability for American consumers at a time of domestic scarcity and allows processing plants, especially smaller- and medium-sized establishments, to operate efficiently.



Canada and Mexico are also leading suppliers of beef, pork, and poultry products, illustrating the dynamic nature of the North American packing and processing economy. Imported products from our USMCA partners contribute to the resilience of the U.S. food supply chain and moderate inflationary pressures driven by strong demand. Live animals and meat products from Canada and Mexico complement, rather than displace, domestic production. In fact, imports from Canada and Mexico generate more than \$3.39 billion for American cattle producers and meat and poultry companies, and increase U.S. corn consumption by more than \$303 million.

USMCA is the Gold Standard Trade Agreement

The USMCA negotiation process yielded an unparalleled agreement, advanced critical science- and risk-based sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) principles, enshrined robust consultative and dispute settlement provisions, and secured access commitments that maintain a level playing field for American farmers, ranchers, agricultural producers, and meat and poultry companies. In short, it created a strong framework to resolve bilateral and trilateral disputes in support of American workers and companies.

The USMCA's SPS chapter ensures that within the North American market, U.S. exports and American producers and businesses face the fewest regulatory barriers and enjoy the most unfettered access to the Canadian and Mexican markets. USMCA requires Canada and Mexico to employ science and risk-based SPS analyses, measures, and certification and demands implementation of improved audit procedures, import checks, equivalence assessments, and transparency measures to facilitate and increase the predictability of trade across North America.

Likewise, improvements to disciplines on technical barriers to trade – including strengthened alignment on standards and regulations – mean American farmers, ranchers, and meat and poultry packers and processors are not subject to excessive documentation requirements, onerous audit processes, unfounded animal health and production attestations on export certificates, and unwarranted, nontransparent testing and residue requirements. USMCA shields American producers and exporters from these and other trade barriers that countries in Asia, South America, and Europe impose.

Some of USMCA's most beneficial consultative mechanisms include:

- **Committee on Trade Facilitation (Article 7.24):** to streamline the review of customs administration procedures and prevent regulatory constraints
- **Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (9.17):** to proactively resolve nontariff disputes and promote compliance
- **SPS Technical Working Group (9.18):** to reduce trade irritants
- **Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (11.11):** to minimize trade-inhibiting domestic laws in Canada and Mexico

The American meat and poultry industry faces few trade-restrictive regulatory hindrances when shipping products to Canada and Mexico. At a time when American farmers, ranchers, and meat and poultry companies have encountered unprecedented disruptions, persistent and widespread drought conditions, and foreign animal disease, the fluidity and certainty provided by USMCA have returned dividends to America's farm economy, maintained high-paying U.S. jobs, and offered the American consumer an affordable option for protein and other essential nutrients.