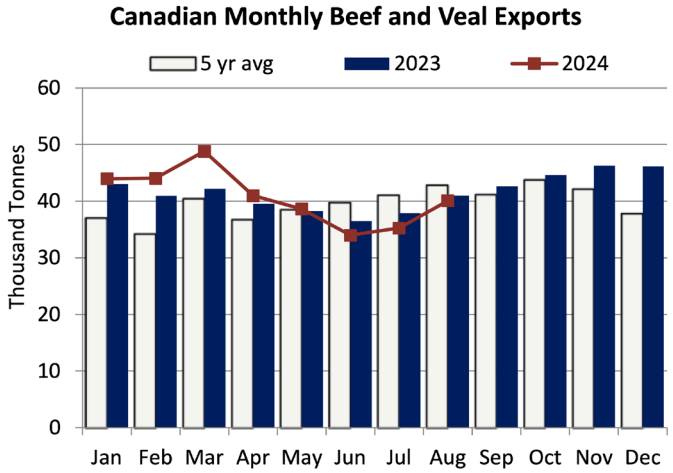
REPORT FOR AUGUST 2024 YTD TRADE

Beef Exports in August 2024

In August 2024, Canadian beef export volumes were down 2% from August 2023 and down 6% from the five-year average for August. From January to August 2024, beef exports were up 2% in volume and steady in value with last year.

Year-to-date, export volumes increased to the U.S. (+3%), Japan (+1%), South Korea (+8%), Taiwan (+38%), and MENA (+83%), but declined to Hong Kong and Macau (-40%), Mexico (-5%), Southeast Asia excluding Taiwan (-3%), and the EU (-54%). There were no exports to China or the U.K.

Federally inspected slaughter in August 2024 was down 22.2% from last year at 230,338 head, and down 18.6% from July 2024.



Source: Statistics Canada

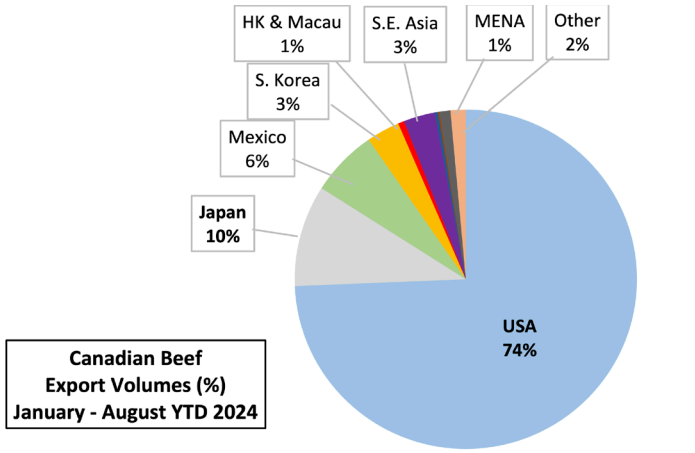
Exports to Japan

From January to August 2024 (YTD), beef exports to Japan were up 1 % in volume and up 11% in value at 31,489 tonnes and $259 million respectively.

Despite a 1% increase from 2023, YTD export volumes to Japan remained 34% lower than 2022. The rising import prices of Canadian beef have pressured demand in Japan. The spike in prices have been driven by a combination of tightening Canadian beef supplies, rising beef prices and the depreciation of the Japanese Yen against the Canadian dollars in recent years . [1]

The annual inflation rate in Japan rose to 3.0% in August 2024 from 2.8% in the prior three months, pointing to the highest level since October 2023. While some indicators suggest Japan's economy is starting to recover, the rate of growth is slow. Japanese consumer demand for Wagyu beef was weak during times of inflation and tight economic conditions. Wholesale weighted average carcass weight price for the highest ranked A5 Wagyu beef came to 2,377 yen (US$16.13) per kg in the Tokyo market in July, down 7% from a year earlier, according to the Japan Meat Market Wholesalers Association. [2]

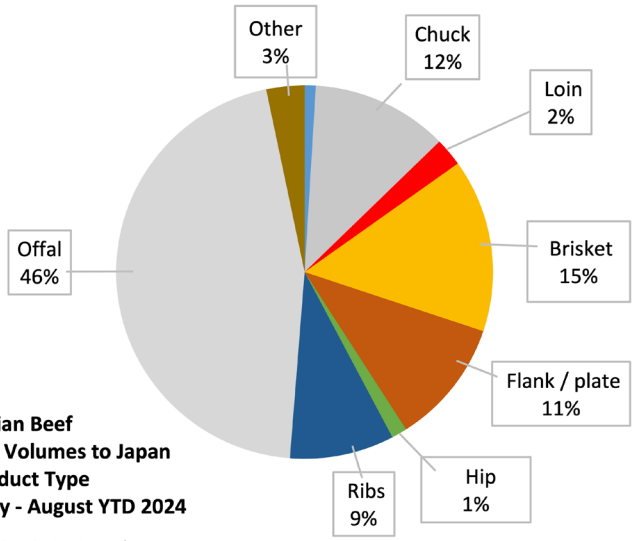
Japan is Canada's second largest beef export market after the U.S. with a 10 % share of total export volumes.



Source: Statistics Canada

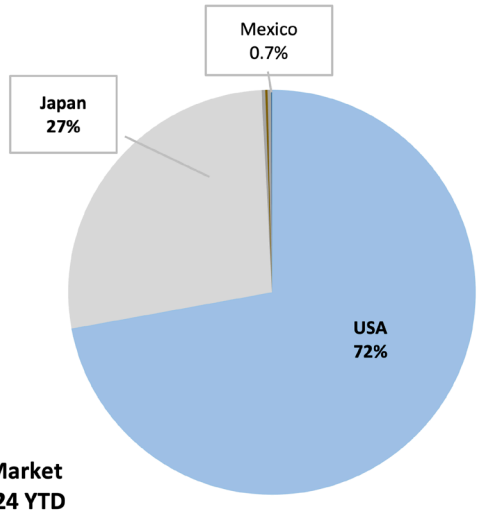
Photo credit: Canada Beef

Canadian Beef Exports to Japan



Canadian Beef Export Volumes to Japan by Product Type January - August YTD 2024

Source: Statistics Canada

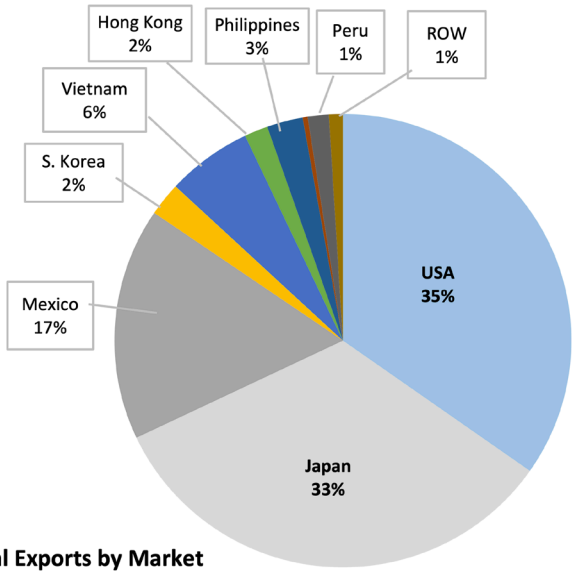


Brisket Exports by Market January - August 2024 YTD

Source: Statistics Canada

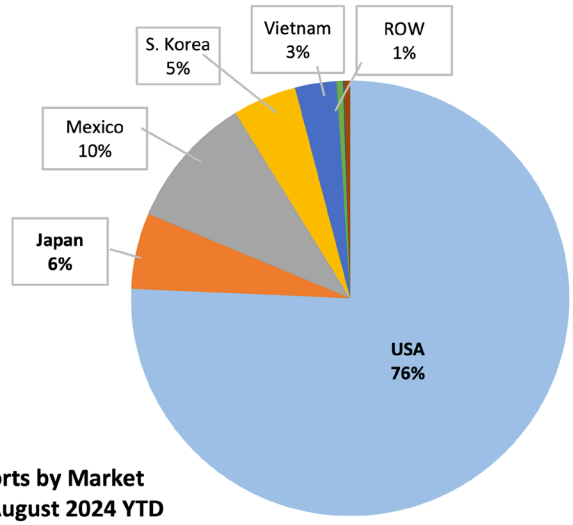
Offal at 14,320 tonnes valued $124 million for the period from January to August 2024 were up 7% in volume and 24% in value from the same period in 2023. Offal represented 46% of the total volume exported to Japan. Close to the U.S., Japan is the second largest importer of Canadian variety meats.

Chuck at 3,695 tonnes valued $37 million were down 48% in volume and down 43% in value from the same period in 2023. Chuck represented 12% of total volume exported to Japan. Following the U.S. and Mexico, Japan is the third largest importer of Canadian Chuck.



Offal Exports by Market January - August 2024 YTD

Source: Statistics Canada



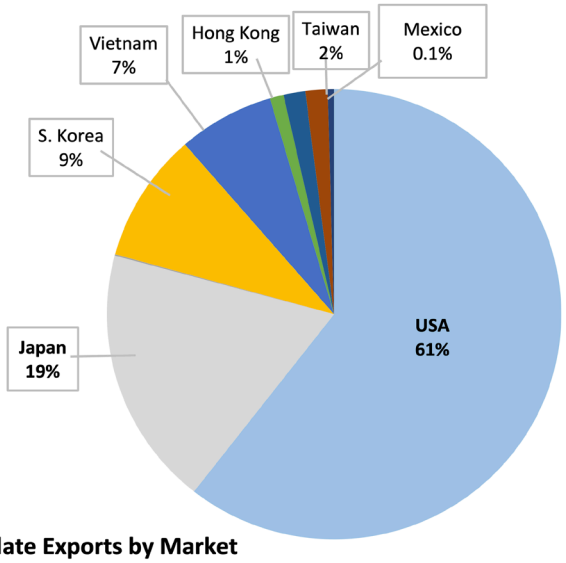
Chuck Exports by Market January - August 2024 YTD

Source: Statistics Canada

Brisket at 4,724 tonnes valued $26 million were up 126% in volume and up 162% in value from the same period in 2023. Brisket represented 15% of the total volume exported to Japan. Following the U.S., Japan is the second largest importer of Canadian Brisket.

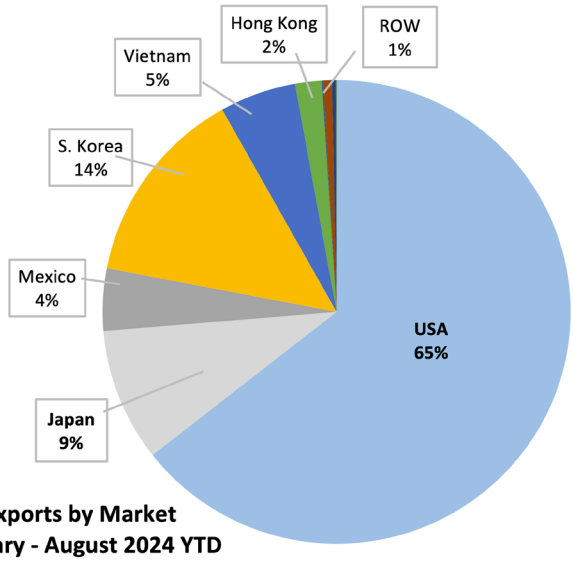
Flank & plate at 3,405 tonnes valued $25 million were down 21% in volume but up 3% in value from the same period of 2023. Flank & plate represent¬ed 11% of the total volume exported to Japan. Following the U.S., Japan is the second largest importer of Canadian Flank & Plate.

CANADIAN BEEF TRADE



Flank & Plate Exports by Market
January - August 2024 YTD

Source: Statistics Canada



Rib Exports by Market
January - August 2024 YTD

Source: Statistics Canada

Ribs at 2,821 tonnes valued $21 million were up 37% in volume and up 53% in value from the same period in 2023. Ribs represented 9% of the total beef volume exported to Japan. Following the U.S. and South Korea, Japan is the third largest importer of Canadian Ribs.

References:

1. Soaring prices make U.S. beef procurement hard in Japan - The Japan Times, July 4, 2024

2. Beef Central, Japan's domestic Wagyu beef prices hit four-year low - Beef Central, September 4, 2024