



# International Agricultural Trade Report

## Beef, Pork, & Poultry Trade Update

June 13, 2000

### 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter (January-March) 2000 Trade Performance

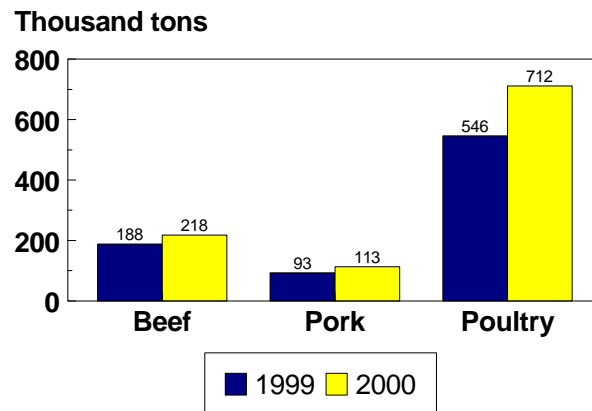
#### Summary

USDA increased its estimates<sup>1</sup> for U.S. total meat exports for the first quarter 2000 due to continued strong demand in foreign markets. U.S. beef exports for the first quarter are estimated at 218,500 tons, an increase of 16 percent over the same time a year ago. U.S. pork exports for the period are estimated at 113,400 tons an increase of 22 percent, while poultry exports are estimated at 711,693 tons, 30 percent higher than the same time a year ago.

#### Beef

USDA estimates for beef exports for first quarter 2000 increased 16 percent to 218,500 tons (product weight equivalent) over the same period last year. Exports to Japan, Mexico, Korea, and Canada, the top U.S. beef export markets, contributed to the increase. Beef exports to Japan increased 3 percent to 92,000 tons compared to the first quarter of 1999, while the value increased 21 percent to \$389 million. Beef exports to Mexico increased 28 percent to 44,100 tons compared to the first quarter of 1999, while the value increased 34 percent to \$131 million. Beef exports to Korea increased 29 percent to 32,000 tons compared to the first quarter of 1999, while the value increased 89 percent to \$125 million. Beef exports to Canada increased 10 percent to 23,000 tons compared to the first quarter of 1999, while the value increased 21 percent to \$79 million.

Beef, Pork, and Poultry Exports for 1st Qtr 1999 and 2000



<sup>1</sup> Recent Dairy, Livestock, and Poultry Division publications have noted that trade published by the Census do not accurately account for the beef, pork, and poultry that the United States shipped to Russia as part of the Russia food aid program in late 1999 and early 2000. As a result, total trade figures for U.S. exports of these products are affected, thereby distorting year-to-year comparisons of total U.S. beef, pork, and poultry exports. As a result, USDA developed its own estimates for U.S. total meat exports. These estimates are used in this report.

## **Pork**

USDA estimates for pork exports for the first quarter 2000 increased 22 percent to 113,400 tons (pwe) over the same period a year ago, with much of the increase resulting from exports to Mexico, Canada, and Japan. Pork exports to Mexico increased 114 percent to 24,961 tons over the first quarter of 1999, while value increased 127 percent to \$46 million. Exports to Mexico increased due to strong demand in the processing sector and a competitive U.S. quality/price relationship. Mexico's compensatory duty against U.S. slaughter hogs also encouraged pork imports as U.S. slaughter hog imports are cost prohibitive. Pork exports to Canada increased 27 percent in volume (10,891 tons) and 35 percent in value (\$28 million), which is the highest since the second quarter of 1998. Pork exports to Japan increased 14 percent over the first quarter of 1999 to 49,998 tons, while value increased 29 percent to \$188 million.

## **Poultry**

USDA increased its export estimates for U.S. total poultry meats to 711,693 tons for the first quarter of 2000, an increase of 30 percent from the same period a year ago. Broiler meat exports are estimated at 614,623 tons, a 31-percent increase from the same time a year ago, while turkey exports are estimated at 54,431 tons, a 50-percent increase. Exports for other chicken meats increased 10 percent. Low prices and high demand in major markets, particularly Canada, China, Korea, and Mexico, resulted in higher poultry meat exports. Poultry exports to Canada and Mexico increased 51 percent to 26,325 tons and 27 percent to 63,981 tons, respectively, over the first quarter of 1999, while exports to Korea and China increased 119 percent to 20,946 tons and 47 percent to 19,310 tons, respectively. U.S. poultry exports to Russia for the first quarter of 2000 are estimated at 122,000 tons, compared with 61,000 tons the same time last year.

<b>U.S. Beef, Pork, and Poultry Meat Exports</b>			
Exports (1,000 MT)	<b>Jan-Mar 1999</b>	<b>Jan-Mar 2000</b>	<b>% change</b>
Beef	188	218	16
Pork	93	113	22
Poultry	546	712	30
Broilers	470	615	31
Turkey	36	54	50
Other chicken	39	43	10
<b>Red Meat &amp; Poultry</b>	<b>827</b>	<b>1,043</b>	<b>26</b>

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