

Make Informed Decisions

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## Canadian Beef Export Performance 2021

The recent release of the Statistics Canada December beef trade data shows that total 2021 exports of beef amounted to 442,000 tonnes. That is an increase of 17% over 2020. For their part, 2021 imports declined by 17%. Putting it all together, exports were record large, at least going back to 2000, by a wide measure. Imports on other hand were the second smallest going back to 2006.

In 2021, exports to the U.S., the largest export market, were up by 15%. Shipments to Japan, the second largest export market were up by 14%. Year over year increases to China and Korea amounted to 92% and 99% respectively. China was the third largest export market in 2021 while Korea was the fifth largest after number four Mexico.

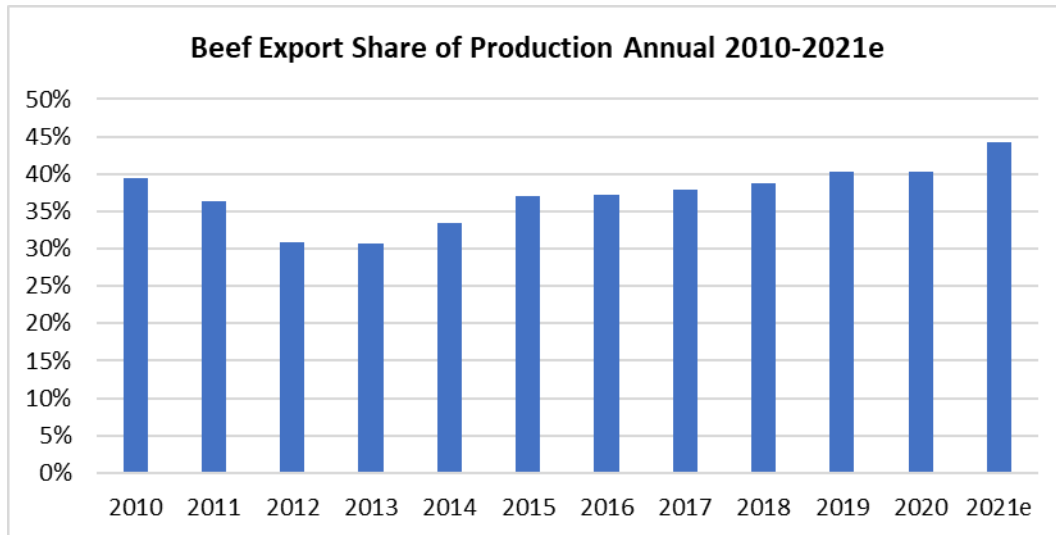


The 2021 Chinese percentage increase is likely exaggerated by the fact that Canadian 2020 production and exports were hindered due to COVID production disruptions. In addition, Chinese exports were off to a slow start in 2020 given that in 2019 beef trade was stopped due to Canada-China trade disputes. As the graph above shows, there was no beef trade to China for much of the second half of 2019. In other words, the percentage increase in 2021 may be misleading, given distortions in 2020. Nevertheless, the Chinese tonnage in 2021 was significant in share of total and growth rate.

## U.S. Share Declines

The U.S. represented 73% of Canada's exports in 2021. That is down from 75% in 2020, 77% in 2017 and 79% in 2010. China which despite the huge increase in tonnage in 2021, represented about 5% of total Canadian exports.

In 2021, based on preliminary estimates, exports comprised about 44% of Canada's production. That compares to 40% the last two years and 31% in 2012. Combining export share of production with country share of exports shows that the U.S. took about one third of all Canadian beef produced in 2021. The same arithmetic shows that China took about 2% of total Canadian beef production.



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