USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, Livestock, Poultry & Grain Market News Division publishes weekly reports titled Imported Meat Passed for Entry in the U.S. by Country (LSWIMPE). Data is available for beef, pork, goat, lamb, mutton, veal, and poultry. This DLR will focus on beef imports which the report separates into fresh and processed beef.

Year-to-date through July weekly fresh beef imports are 668,793 metric tons (MT), up 7.8% from the same period a year ago. Compared to last year 23 out of the 30 weeks reported have been above the same week last year. The last four weeks imports have jumped 37.0% from 21,798 MT the week of July 4th to 29,860 MT the last week of July. This year on average 45.5% of fresh beef imports have been boneless beef trimmings. Primals & subprimals and cuts make up the remaining bulk.

In 2020, Canada has been the top supplier followed by Mexico, Australia, and New Zealand. Combined the four countries represent about 87% of weekly U.S. fresh beef imports. Although Canada is the top supplier year-to-date at just over 173,000 MT, shipments this year are down 2.3% from the same period last year. Australia is down 3.2% having shipped just over 163,000 MT. Mexico’s shipments are up 23.4% through July totaling nearly 163,000 MT and New Zealand is 6.7% higher at about 111,000 MT.

The report also provides statistics on U.S. processed beef imports which are down 14.2% year-to-date totaling 34,846 MT. Brazil has been the primary supplier this year followed by Canada with a combined market share of nearly 83%. The majority of processed beef products imported are classified as fully cooked, heat-treated, or thermally processed on the LSWIMPE report.

Today, August 5, USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) will be releasing trade data for June which is reported on a product weight basis (PWE). The next day, August 6, USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) releases the data on a carcass weight basis (CWE). Through May cumulative beef and veal imports have been 1.3 million pounds (CWE) up marginally (0.4%) from the same period last year. Based on the weekly data reported by AMS June is likely to be higher than 2019. July data will not be released for another month, but weekly data is suggesting another strong month for fresh beef imports.

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