

## Daily Livestock Report

**USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service released export data for December today and both the beef and pork sectors finished 2008 strong with excellent December export performance.** The charts at right show 2008 total product-weight exports for beef and pork. Note that world totals are represented by the blue bars and read off the left axis. Individual countries are represented by the lines and read off the right-hand axis. Charts for beef and pork export values and variety meat exports appear on page 2. Some important items are:

- Beef exports in total 98.6 million pounds, 15.6% higher than in December 2007. Mexico and Canada were the leading destinations for those exports as they were for most months in 2008. Shipments to Korea amounted to 7.0 million pounds, down from its monthly high of 36.7 million pounds in July. The value of December beef exports was 18.1% higher than in 2007.
- 2008 beef exports finished 34.8% higher than one year ago and back to within 450 million pounds of the pre-BSE levels of 2003. Mexico was that largest customer for U.S. beef at just under 500 million pounds, 11% higher than last year. Canada was the second largest customer for U.S. beef. The big growth markets in percentage terms were Japan and Korea — primarily because of the very low level of exports there in 2007.
- 2008 beef export value was 40.3% higher than last year (Figure 1 on page 2) — indicating and improvement in export pricing. Beef variety meat exports ended the year 16.5% with Mexico remaining far and away our largest variety meat customer.
- Pork exports ended the year 49.4% higher than last year — no surprise there after the remarkable performance of pork shipments last summer. The surprise was that December shipments were up 11% from last year. Many observers thought pork shipments would come up short of last year's level as world demand cooled and the dollar gained value. Japan is still the clear leader among U.S. pork customers and shipments there grew 20.9% last year. China-Hong Kong, the big story last summer, ended the year as the number two U.S. customer at just under 600 million pounds, 153.2% higher than in 2007. December shipments were marginally higher than those of November but were still 78% lower than last their peak last June. Export to Mexico recovered from a dismal 2007 to set a new record, 52% higher than last year and 9.5% higher than the previous record in 2006.
- Pork export value (Figure 3) in 2008 was \$4.116 billion, 49.5% higher than last year. Japan is far and away the value leader among U.S. pork customers and Canada remains the second highest-value market but China/Hong Kong moved into third, ahead of Mexico, buying nearly \$500 million of U.S. pork

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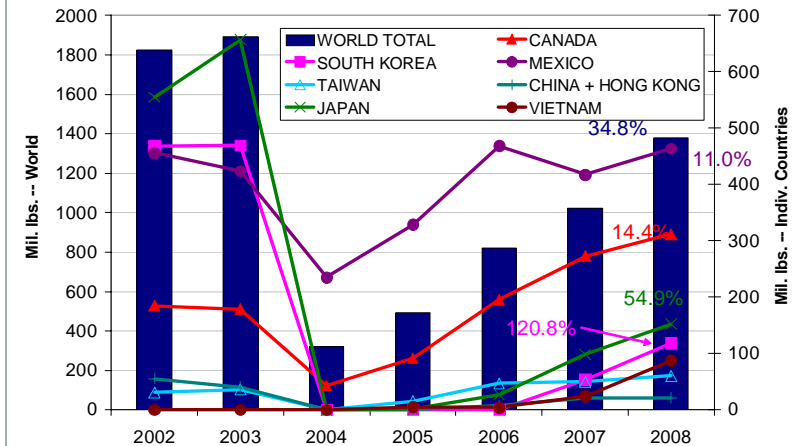
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E-Livestock Volume	2/11/09	2/10/09	2/4/09
LE (E-Live Cattle):	8650	21188	7563
GF (E-Feeder Cattle):	1538	1885	689
HE (E-Lean Hogs):	7640	10314	10896

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### YTD BEEF EXPORTS - PRODUCT WT.

JANUARY - DECEMBER



### YTD PORK EXPORTS - PRODUCT WT.

JANUARY - DECEMBER

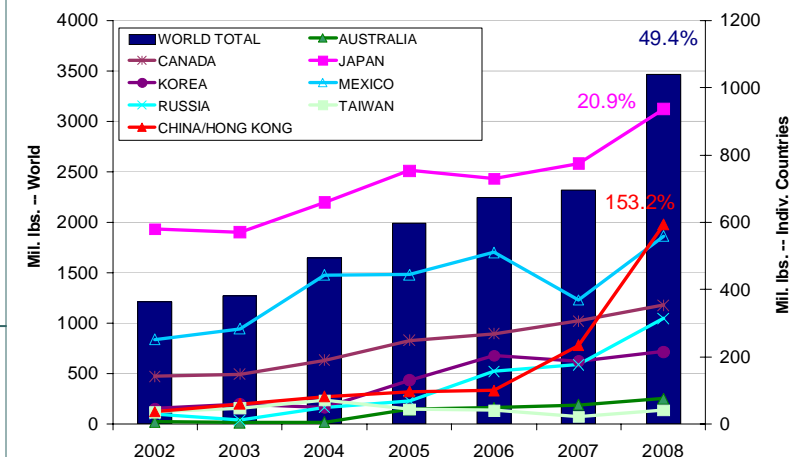


Figure 1

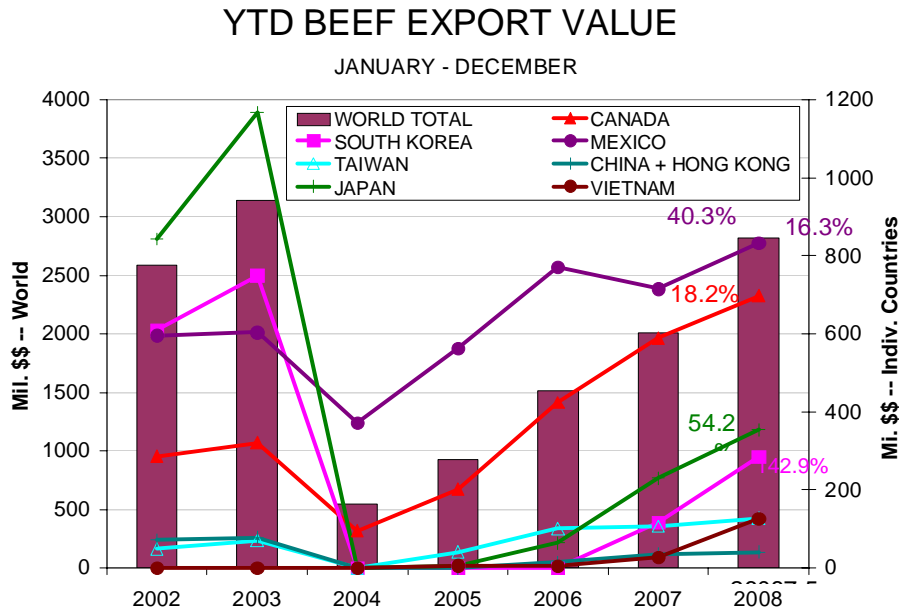


Figure 2

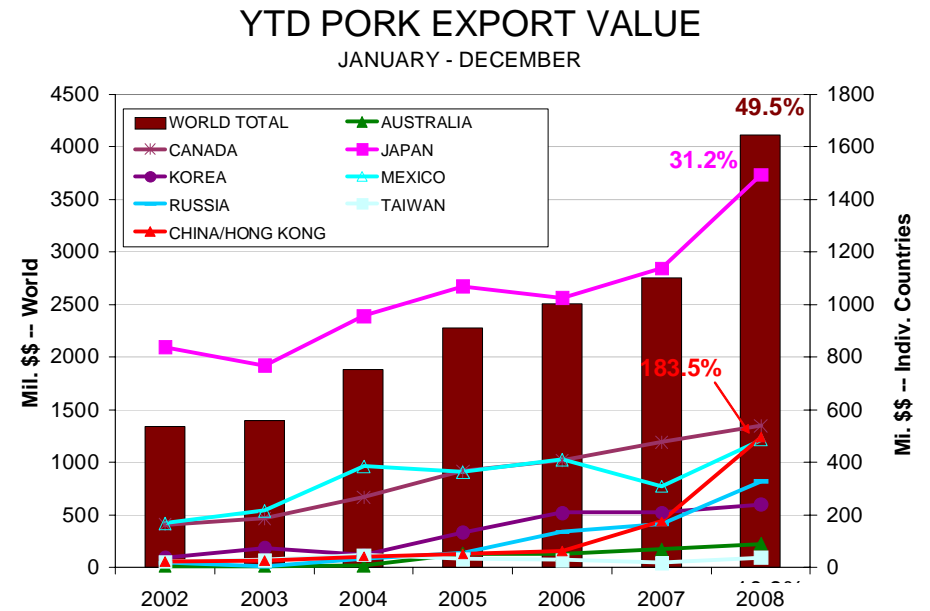


Figure 3

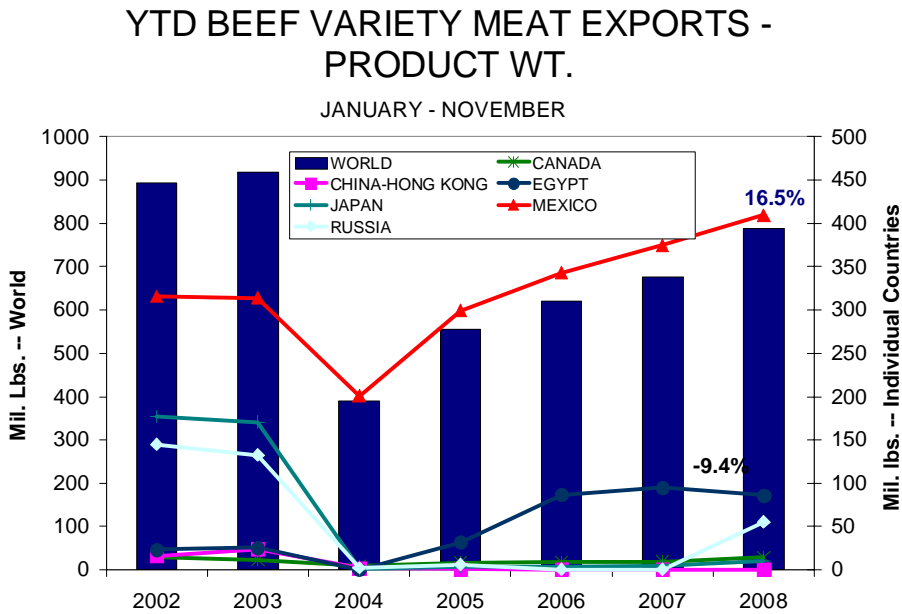


Figure 4

