

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)074

(Question Serial No. 2606)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Food Safety and Public Health

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Ms Irene YOUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Please advise this Committee of the following for each of the past 5 years: (1) the total quantities of livestock, poultry, meat and poultry meat imported into Hong Kong, with a list of countries of origin showing their respective quantities of these imports; (2) the manpower and expenditure involved in testing and its percentage out of the overall expenditure of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department; and (3) the number of samples of imported livestock, poultry, meat and poultry meat collected for testing, the number of samples detected with irregularities and the details.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kapui, Judy (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

- (1) The total quantities of livestock, poultry, meat and poultry meat imported into Hong Kong in the past 5 years are as follows:

2018

	Quantities imported (tonnes)						
	Top 5 economies					Others	Total
^Live cattle	Mainland 17 162	-	-	-	-	-	17 162
^Live goats	Mainland 3 513	-	-	-	-	-	3 513
^Live pigs	Mainland 1 468 150	-	-	-	-	-	1 468 150
Chilled beef	Australia 4 088	USA 2 973	Brazil 1 487	New Zealand 444	Japan 433	472	9 897
Frozen beef	Brazil 269 750	USA 92 143	Canada 15 812	UK 9 877	Ireland 8 796	27 804	424 182
Chilled mutton	Australia 325	New Zealand 217	UK 63	Mainland 29	Ireland 12	14	660
Frozen mutton	Australia 2 894	New Zealand 1 898	Mainland 1 148	UK 598	Ireland 570	942	8 050
Chilled pork	Mainland 5 421	Brazil 3 118	Canada 365	Spain 318	Australia 316	271	9 809
Frozen pork	Brazil 108 741	Mainland 33 265	USA 29 797	Netherlands 15 525	Germany 13 024	40 229	240 581
Chilled poultry	Mainland 90 812	Thailand 993	Australia 295	France 63	UK 47	52	92 262
Frozen poultry	USA 274 854	Brazil 223 571	Mainland 60 179	Poland 22 072	UK 10 585	75 959	667 220

^ The unit is “heads / number” instead of “tonnes”.

2019

	Quantities imported (tonnes)						
	Top 5 economies					Others	Total
^Live cattle	Mainland 15 295	-	-	-	-	-	15 295
^Live goats	Mainland 1 594	-	-	-	-	-	1 594
^Live pigs	Mainland 843 422	-	-	-	-	-	843 422
Chilled beef	Brazil 5 758	Australia 3 857	USA 2 805	Japan 519	New Zealand 439	606	13 984
Frozen beef	Brazil 186 755	USA 73 659	Canada 15 486	UK 10 372	Ireland 8 214	30 965	325 451
Chilled mutton	Australia 286	New Zealand 249	UK 59	Ireland 10	France 6	0	610
Frozen mutton	Australia 3 231	New Zealand 1 896	Mainland 992	Ireland 906	UK 841	471	8 337
Chilled pork	Mainland 7 411	Thailand 3 837	Brazil 2 317	Australia 724	Spain 550	1 011	15 850
Frozen pork	Brazil 97 879	Mainland 18 782	Netherlands 16 153	Vietnam 11 494	USA 10 837	29 615	184 760

	Quantities imported (tonnes)						
	Top 5 economies					Others	Total
Chilled poultry	Mainland 101 288	Thailand 1 292	USA 686	Australia 296	New Zealand 121	165	103 848
Frozen poultry	USA 257 973	Brazil 195 212	Mainland 57 614	Poland 17 719	France 14 027	74 980	617 525

^ The unit is “heads / number” instead of “tonnes”.

2020

	Quantities imported (tonnes)						
	Top 5 economies					Others	Total
^Live cattle	Mainland 14 626		-	-	-	-	14 626
^Live goats	Mainland 1 429		-	-	-	-	1 429
^Live pigs	Mainland 638 138		-	-	-	-	638 138
Chilled beef	Australia 4 150	Brazil 3 747	USA 2 717	Japan 634	Argentina 520	790	12 558
Frozen beef	Brazil 173 035	USA 63 297	India 24 482	Canada 11 469	UK 7 367	40 995	320 645
Chilled mutton	Australia 290	New Zealand 288	UK 42	Ireland 7	France 4	2	633
Frozen mutton	Australia 3 194	New Zealand 2 589	UK 897	Mainland 669	Ireland 253	205	7 807
Chilled pork	Thailand 19 211	Australia 2 879	Mainland 2 829	USA 1 783	Brazil 1 667	2 377	30 746
Frozen pork	Brazil 110 391	Netherlands 13 102	Germany 13 083	Poland 11 715	Mainland 10 522	38 778	197 591
Chilled poultry	Mainland 99 846	Thailand 1 682	USA 737	Australia 276	New Zealand 126	243	102 910
Frozen poultry	Brazil 155 856	USA 77 035	Mainland 58 068	Vietnam 16 817	Poland 13 500	82 564	403 840

^ The unit is “heads / number” instead of “tonnes”.

2021

	Quantities imported (tonnes)						
	Top 5 economies					Others	Total
^Live cattle	Mainland 13 500		-	-	-	-	13 500
^Live goats	Mainland 1 730		-	-	-	-	1 730
^Live pigs	Mainland 791 566		-	-	-	-	791 566
Chilled beef	Australia 3 702	USA 3 221	Japan 718	New Zealand 526	Canada 150	227	8 544

	Quantities imported (tonnes)						
	Top 5 economies					Others	Total
Frozen beef	Brazil 149 500	USA 35 688	India 21 283	Canada 6 736	Ireland 4 983	34 565	252 755
Chilled mutton	Australia 612	New Zealand 217	UK 57	France 6	Ireland 5	2	899
Frozen mutton	Australia 4 924	New Zealand 2 004	Mainland 873	UK 610	Iceland 55	103	8 569
Chilled pork	Thailand 11 396	Mainland 8 142	Australia 1 814	Brazil 1 219	Netherlands 1 028	2 023	25 622
Frozen pork	Brazil 112 654	Germany 35 248	Netherlands 16 991	Poland 13 539	Mainland 12 062	28 494	218 988
Chilled poultry	Mainland 111 118	Thailand 1 273	USA 255	Australia 249	New Zealand 136	189	113 220
Frozen poultry	Brazil 99 458	Mainland 58 812	USA 17 091	Thailand 9 026	France 4 706	33 575	222 668

^ The unit is “heads / number” instead of “tonnes”.

2022

	Quantities imported (tonnes)						
	Top 5 economies					Others	Total
^Live cattle	Mainland 11 906		-	-	-	-	11 906
^Live goats	Mainland 1 299		-	-	-	-	1 299
^Live pigs	Mainland 963 780		-	-	-	-	963 780
Chilled beef	Australia 3 249	USA 2 166	Japan 712	New Zealand 574	Argentina 127	241	7 069
Frozen beef	Brazil 46 245	USA 21 796	UK 3 434	Canada 2 942	Mainland 2 881	12 285	89 583
Chilled mutton	Australia 240	New Zealand 218	Ireland 31	UK 20	France 7	1	517
Frozen mutton	New Zealand 1 353	Australia 1 008	Mainland 541	UK 253	Russia 122	154	3 431
Chilled pork	Mainland 18 713	Thailand 720	Australia 697	Canada 439	Korea 227	595	21 391
Frozen pork	Brazil 84 813	Netherlands 15 828	Mainland 15 491	Poland 9 019	Vietnam 7 130	21 548	153 829
Chilled poultry	Mainland 105 942	Thailand 1 128	Australia 254	New Zealand 95	UK 49	49	107 517
Frozen poultry	Mainland 59 119	Brazil 50 014	USA 16 297	Thailand 9 103	Poland 2 679	10 263	147 475

^ The unit is “heads / number” instead of “tonnes”.

- (2) Staff of different sections of the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department are responsible for taking samples of live food animals, chilled and frozen meat and poultry meat in slaughterhouses and at import, wholesale and retail levels, before providing them to other government departments for testing. As the staff are also tasked with other duties, the Department does not keep a breakdown of the manpower and expenditure involved.

- (3) In the past 5 years, CFS collected more than 8 100 samples of meat, poultry meat and their products at the import level for chemical analysis (including analysis of veterinary drug residues, preservatives, etc). In 2018, 1 chilled goose sample was detected to have the veterinary drug residue of doxycycline exceeding the legal limit. In 2019, 1 giant salamander sample and 1 chilled beef sample were detected with veterinary drug residues of malachite green and chloramphenicol respectively. In 2020, 1 frozen suckling pig sample was detected to have the veterinary drug residue of enrofloxacin exceeding the legal limit. In 2022, 1 frozen suckling pig sample was detected to have the veterinary drug residue of chlortetracycline exceeding the legal limit. Apart from these, all other samples were found satisfactory. CFS has made public announcement on the unsatisfactory test results and taken follow-up actions accordingly, including tracing the sources, informing the relevant authorities of the places of origin, instructing the vendors to stop selling and taking off-shelf the identified batches of foods, and requesting the importers/distributors to recall and dispose of the implicated foods.

- End -