

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)062

(Question Serial No. 0895)

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 3 years:

- (1) the 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.: 22)

Reply:

- (1) The quantities of livestock, poultry, meat and poultry meat imported into Hong Kong in the past 3 years are as follows:

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
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

	Quantities imported (tonnes)						
	Top 5 economies					Others	Total
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” 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” instead of “tonnes”.

2023

	Quantities imported (tonnes)						
	Top 5 economies					Others	Total
^Live cattle	Mainland 10 968	-	-	-	-	-	10 968
^Live goats	Mainland 770	-	-	-	-	-	770
^Live pigs	Mainland 1 021 537	-	-	-	-	-	1 021 537

	Quantities imported (tonnes)						Others	Total
	Top 5 economies							
Chilled beef	Australia 3 017	USA 1 991	Japan 599	New Zealand 505	Argentina 170	189	6 471	
Frozen beef	Brazil 34 902	USA 25 634	Canada 3 733	Mainland 2 983	Mexico 2 447	13 617	83 316	
Chilled mutton	Australia 228	New Zealand 185	UK 12	France 6	Ireland 4	1	436	
Frozen mutton	New Zealand 1 441	Australia 1 050	Mainland 717	UK 245	Russia 59	52	3 564	
Chilled pork	Mainland 10 505	Thailand 1 309	Australia 417	Canada 288	Korea 164	342	13 025	
Frozen pork	Brazil 99 368	Mainland 19 676	Netherlands 15 224	Vietnam 8 736	Poland 6 935	21 865	171 804	
Chilled poultry	Mainland 99 562	Thailand 1 031	Australia 187	New Zealand 71	UK 54	23	100 928	
Frozen poultry	Mainland 65 935	Brazil 45 658	USA 37 758	Thailand 7 505	Argentina 4 065	15 936	176 857	

^ The unit is “heads” 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 3 years, CFS collected more than 5 300 samples of meat, poultry meat and their products at the import level for chemical analysis (including analysis of veterinary drug residues, preservatives, etc). In 2022, 1 frozen suckling pig sample was detected to have the veterinary drug residue of chlortetracycline exceeding the legal limit. In 2023, 1 chilled chicken sample and 1 chilled duck sample were detected to have veterinary drug residues of enrofloxacin and sulfonamides exceeding the legal limit respectively. 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.

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