



# Global Beef Market Monthly Review

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## Highlights

**China:** Imports in August were down 13% from a year ago, largely due to lower imports from Brazil. We expect imports from Brazil to recover given the pace of shipments from there. Our forecast for the year remains unchanged at +5% vs. 2023. Preliminary USDA forecast is for Chinese beef imports to increase only marginally (+1.2%) in 2025.

**Japan:** Japanese beef imports have seen a notable improvement compared to last year's levels. Stocks of frozen imports are down, and importers have been more active both in the US and Oceania. Current forecast is for Japanese beef imports to be up 3% y/y. CPTPP agreement continues to drive demand for New Zealand product. Early USDA forecasts call for minimal export growth in 2025.

**S. Korea:** Little has changed in our assessment, with imports so far this year down 4% and expected to be down 1.2% for all of 2024. Higher imports from Australia are expected to bolster supply while imports from the US are expected to be lower y/y.

**USA:** We have revised up beef import projections based on the pace of shipments from Australia as well as South American countries. Current forecast is for US imports in 2024 to be up 17.5%. USDA projections currently have beef imports in 2024 up 16% in 2024 and almost unchanged in 2025.

**Brazil:** Exports to China have been up and down. Shipments in August were down but then rebounded in September. Exports to the US have increased significantly. Quota in the US is likely to be filled as early as February, with exporters likely accelerating shipments in Q4. We now think exports to the US will surpass 150k MT in 2024.

**Argentina:** Slaughter continues to track below year ago levels but the weak currency and robust demand in key markets has resulted in higher exports.

## Main Global Meat Trading Countries, Both Export and Import, MT

Data sources: Various. Analysis and Forecasts by Steiner Consulting

Countries	% of global trade	Most Recent Trade Data	Y/Y Ch.	Y/Y % ch.	2023	2024 Estimate	Y/Y Ch.	Y/Y % ch.	
<b>EXPORTS</b>					5,227,711	5,957,554	729,843	14.0%	
Australia	11%	Aug 2024	121,797	19,446	19%	1,082,405	1,298,887	216,481	20.0%
Argentina	6%	Aug 2024	69,784	2,853	4%	683,397	726,451	43,054	6.3%
New Zealand	6%	Aug 2024	30,688	-10,778	-26%	497,609	500,800	3,191	0.6%
Brazil	20%	Sep 2024	251,756	56,707	29%	1,996,585	2,487,894	491,309	24.6%
USA	14%	Jul 2024	81,960	5,382	7%	967,714	943,521	-24,193	-2.5%
<b>IMPORTS</b>					5,005,310	5,348,223	342,913	6.9%	
USA	15%	Jul 2024	129,778	26,959	26%	1,194,175	1,403,156	208,981	17.5%
China	30%	Aug 2024	231,335	-34,469	-13%	2,736,186	2,873,036	136,850	5.0%
Hong Kong	4%	Aug 2024	9,354	2,034	28%	96,565	98,980	2,414	2.5%
Japan	8%	Aug 2024	48,879	3,211	7%	503,964	519,083	15,119	3.0%
S. Korea	6%	Aug 2024	38,114	-4,760	-11%	474,419	453,969	-20,450	-4.3%

\*\*\* Product wt. basis. Projections for 2022 made by Steiner Consulting.

## North America Market Update

**United States:** USDA reported that pasture conditions remained below the 10-year average for much of the summer and deteriorated further in September. By late September, only 25% of pastures and ranges were rated as good or excellent, while 45% were rated poor or very poor. These current ratings are as severe as they were in 2022, one of the worst years on record. Drought conditions have intensified in critical areas, particularly in the Panhandle, Oklahoma, the Eastern Corn Belt, and the western parts of the Dakotas, Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho.

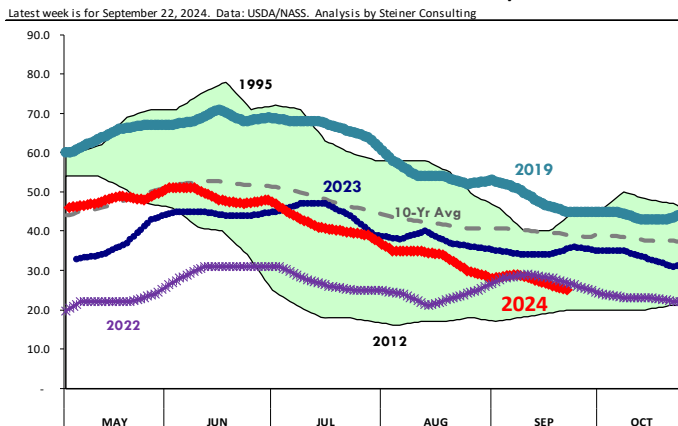
Earlier in the year, USDA noted that less than 10% of cattle were located in areas experiencing drought, and only 3% were in regions with severe or extreme drought. However, the situation has worsened, with 35% of cattle now in drought-affected areas and 10% in regions experiencing more severe drought conditions.

Cow slaughter this year has been approximately 14% below last year's levels. The smaller cow herd and improved feed supplies allowed producers to revert to a more typical culling rate. As drought pressures mount, a key question is whether the pace of cow slaughter will increase. Last fall, cow and bull slaughter rates were near the upper end of historical levels, but this trend is not expected to recur this year. However, if the current conditions persist, Q4 beef cull cow supplies may exceed initial projections.

Complicating the U.S. imported beef market is the recent strike at 15 ports along the East Coast and Gulf Coast. The Port of Philadelphia, the largest entry point for imported beef, processed 283,834 metric tons (MT) of beef through July, a 36% increase from a year ago and more than a third of the total volume imported during this period. Other significant entry points include Montana (for Canadian beef) and Laredo, Texas (for Mexican beef). Most West Coast beef imports come through the Port of Los Angeles, while the Port of Houston has grown in importance, handling 56,485 MT of beef imports so far this year—a 47% increase from the prior year. Nearly half of the beef entering through Houston is of Brazilian origin, with Australian imports reaching 11,533 MT year-to-date, a 226% increase, driven by demand for lean grinding beef in the South. This surge in imported beef volume may help shield end users from short-term disruptions caused by the port strike.

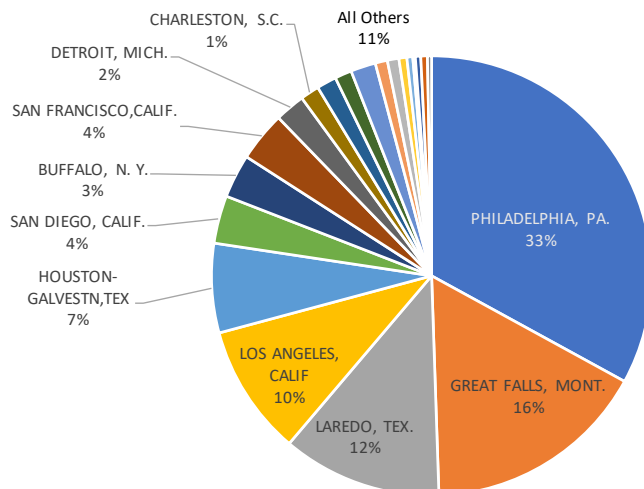
**Mexico:** A preliminary assessment by USDA officials in Mexico indicates that the country's beef and cattle production is expected to continue expanding, though at a slower rate. As of January 1, 2024, the cattle inventory was estimated at 17.84 million head, and by the beginning of 2025, it is expected to

### US PASTURE CONDITIONS: 30 YEAR HISTORY. GOOD/EXCELLENT %



### YTD Beef Imports by Border Crossing (Waterborne and Land). Metric Ton.

Data source: USDA-FAS. Analysis by Steiner Consulting



reach 17.85 million. This growth in inventory is projected despite an expected increase in cattle exports, primarily feeder cattle, which are forecasted to reach 1.4 million head in 2024—105,000 head (+8%) higher than in 2023 and 435,000 head (+45%) higher than two years ago. Drought conditions and high prices in the U.S. market during the spring and early summer prompted Mexican producers to accelerate shipments.

Despite the rise in feeder cattle exports to the U.S., the Mexican beef cow herd as of January 1, 2025, is expected to be 8.1 million head, an increase of 25,000 head from the previous year and 1.4 million head more than a decade ago. The cyclical decline in U.S. cattle production in 2014-15 acted as a catalyst for Mexican producers, spurring significant growth in the country's cattle and beef production.

Mexican beef production in 2024 is projected to increase by 1.9%, with a 2.2% rise forecasted for 2025. Beef imports have grown substantially over the past two years, primarily from the

## North America (continued)

U.S. and Canada. Australian beef shipments to Mexico totaled 807 metric tons (MT) through August. While Mexican beef exports to the U.S. slowed significantly in 2024, the USDA expects total exports to rebound in 2025, with a forecasted increase of 7.9%.

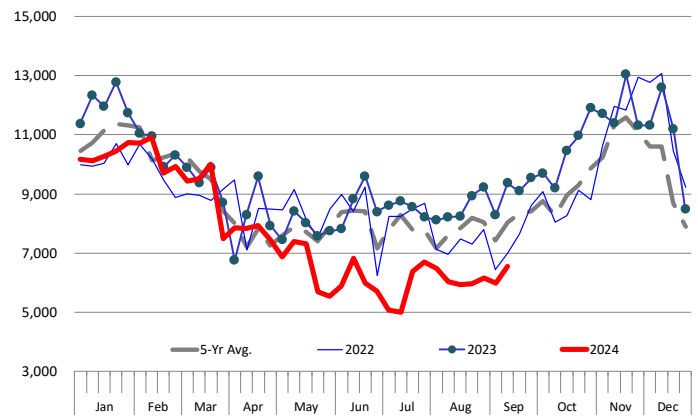
Domestic beef consumption in Mexico rose by 3.4% in 2024 and is expected to grow by another 0.7% in 2025, reflecting improving economic conditions. Since 2015, per capita beef consumption in Mexico has increased by 11%.

**Canada:** Cow slaughter in Canada remains significantly below last year's levels. In the four weeks ending September 28, slaughter totaled 25,963 head, a 28% decline from the same period in 2023 and 19.4% below the five-year average. A smaller beef cow herd, improved pasture conditions, and better returns have prompted producers to reduce the culling rate as much as possible. Canadian cattle inventories have been on a downward trend, and no significant recovery is expected until 2026. The USDA currently estimates that the total cattle inventory on January 1, 2025, will be 10.93 million head, a decrease of 95,000 head (-0.8%) from the previous year. The beef cow herd is projected to fall below 3.4 million head, down from an estimated 3.55 million head two years ago, largely due to significant herd liquidation driven by drought in 2023. While the pace of slaughter has slowed, rebuilding the herd will take several years.

A limited supply of lean beef and rising prices have led to a sharp increase in beef imports. As of September 21, total frozen beef imports from Australia, New Zealand, and other smaller markets (excluding the U.S.) reached 55,348 metric tons (MT), 40% higher than the previous year. Imports from Australia more than doubled to 15,186 MT but still fall short of the available quota, while imports from New Zealand rose 40% to 16,020 MT. Frozen boneless beef imports from Brazil have been relatively small, totaling just 2,500 MT through July. Interestingly, Canada had imported more beef from the European Union than from Brazil by mid-2024.

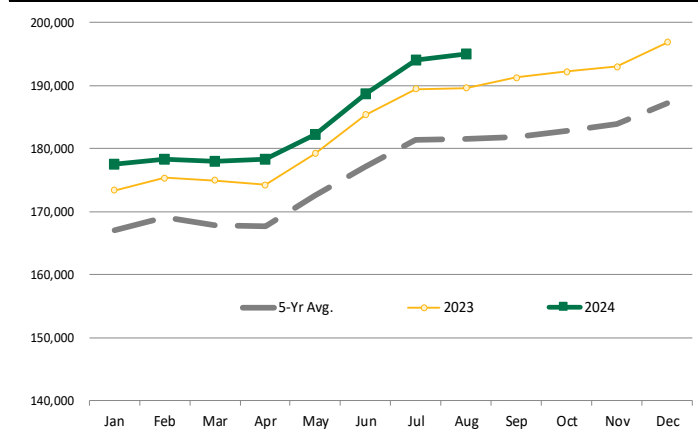
Canadian Weekly Cow Slaughter. Head

Data source: CanFax. Analysis by Steiner Consulting



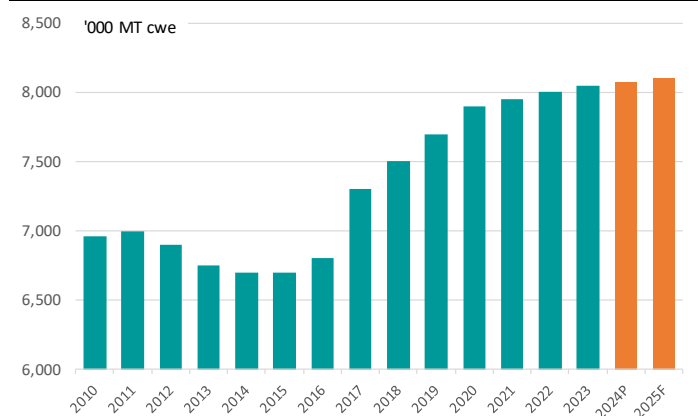
Mexico Beef Production

Source: SAGARPA



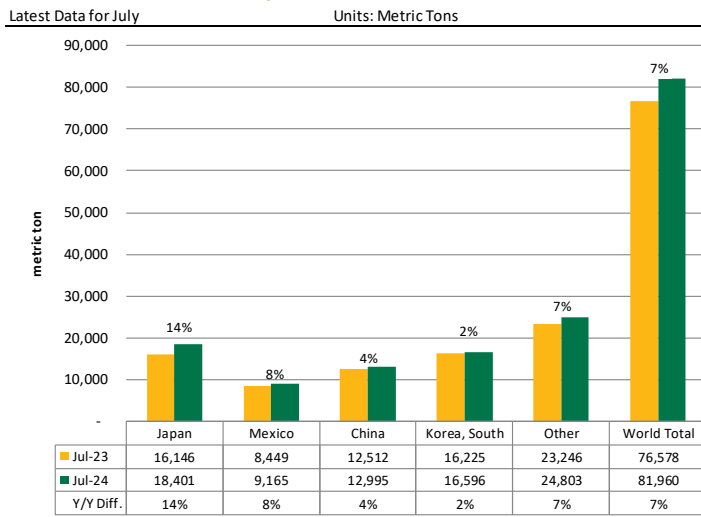
Beef Cow Herd in Mexico

Data Source & Forecasts: USDA-FAS. Analysis by Steiner Consulting

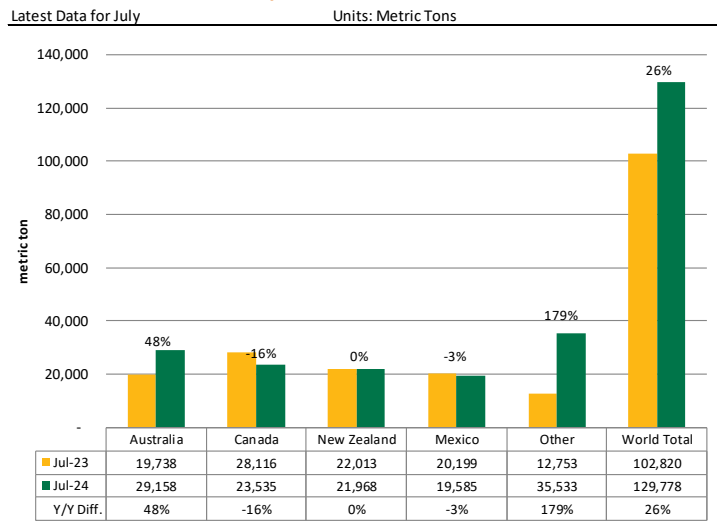


## North America Trade Statistics

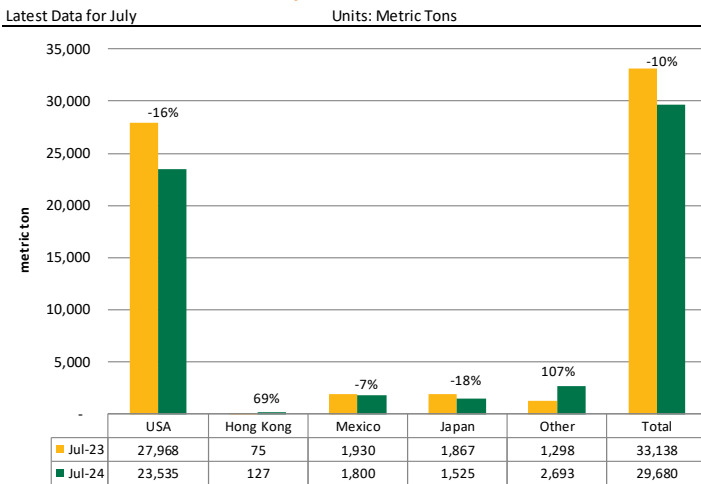
### USA Fresh/Frozen Beef Exports



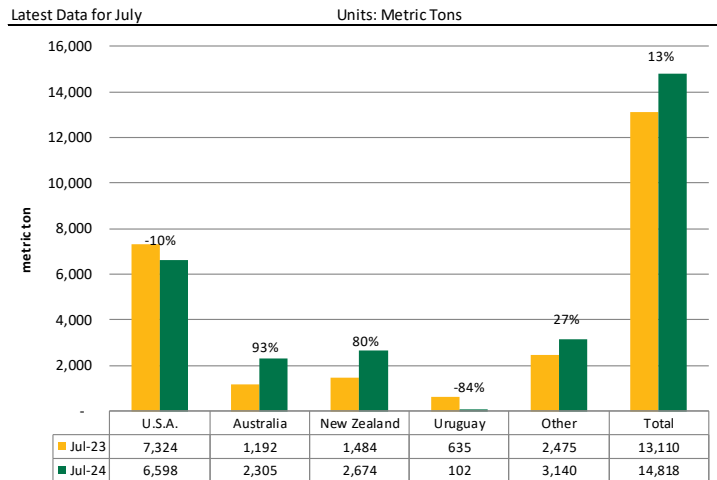
### USA Fresh/Frozen Beef Imports



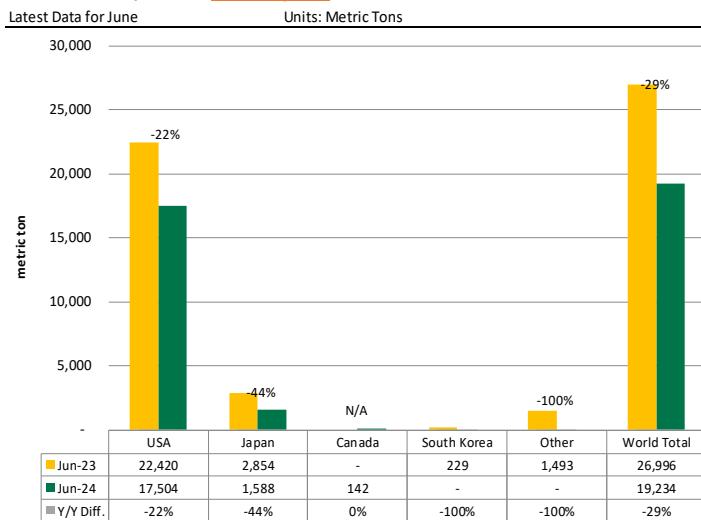
### Canada Fresh/Frozen Beef Exports



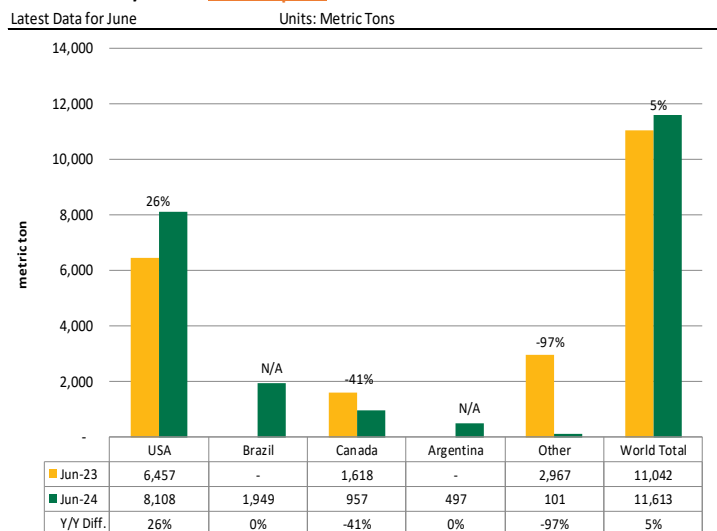
### Canada Fresh/Frozen Beef Imports



### Mexico Fresh/Frozen Beef Exports



### Mexico Fresh/Frozen Beef Imports



## South America Market Update

**Brazil:** Brazilian exports of fresh and frozen beef in August were estimated at 217,459 metric tons (MT), a 17% increase compared to the same month last year. This marks the second-highest monthly export volume on record, following July's all-time high of 237,000 MT. In four of the past five months, Brazil's monthly beef exports have exceeded 200,000 MT, a feat that only occurred once last year, in December, when processors accelerated shipments to the U.S. to meet the limited quota.

In August, exports to the U.S. reached 15,030 MT, a substantial increase of 11,664 MT (+347%) compared to a year ago, marking the third consecutive month of exports over 14,000 MT. Current projections estimate that Brazilian shipments to the U.S. in 2024 could approach 150,000 MT, compared to 98,000 MT shipped in 2023.

China remains the largest market for Brazilian beef, although the pace of shipments has slowed. In August, exports to China totaled 106,928 MT, down by 7,551 MT (-7%) compared to the previous year. However, exports to smaller markets have been strong. Notably, shipments to Mexico surged to 4,195 MT in August, compared to just 130 MT a year ago. Through August, Brazil has shipped 27,800 MT of beef to Mexico. Exports to the UAE, while lower than earlier in the year, still exceeded 6,000 MT in August, with total shipments to the UAE reaching over 102,000 MT between January and August.

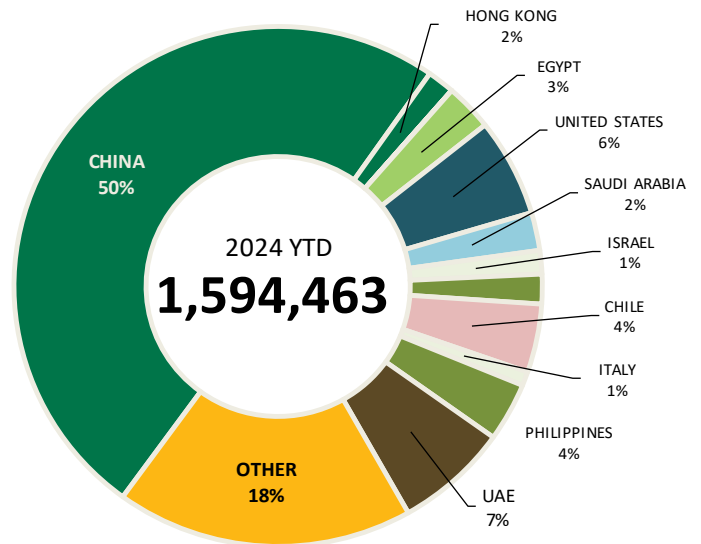
The strong export performance has led to an upward revision of the forecast for Brazilian beef exports in 2024, now projected to increase by 24% compared to the previous year.

**Argentina:** Cattle slaughter in Argentina has consistently remained below 2023 levels throughout 2024, a trend expected to continue for the rest of the year. In August, slaughter was estimated at 1.191 million head, 3.9% lower than the same month last year. Year-to-date, slaughter is down 9% compared to 2023. Based on this trend, total slaughter for 2024 is estimated to decrease by about 6-7% from the previous year. The USDA's latest forecasts align with this, predicting a decline of around 1 million head (-6.9%) compared to last year, with a modest 2% increase in slaughter expected in 2025.

Despite lower slaughter levels, Argentine beef exports have remained resilient. Strong global demand, combined with a weak currency, has more than offset the reduction in production, leading to a steady decline in domestic per capita beef supply and consumption. In August, exports of fresh and frozen beef reached 69,784 metric tons (MT), 4% higher than the same period in 2023. Exports to China, Argentina's top market, were 50,737 MT, roughly unchanged from last year. How-

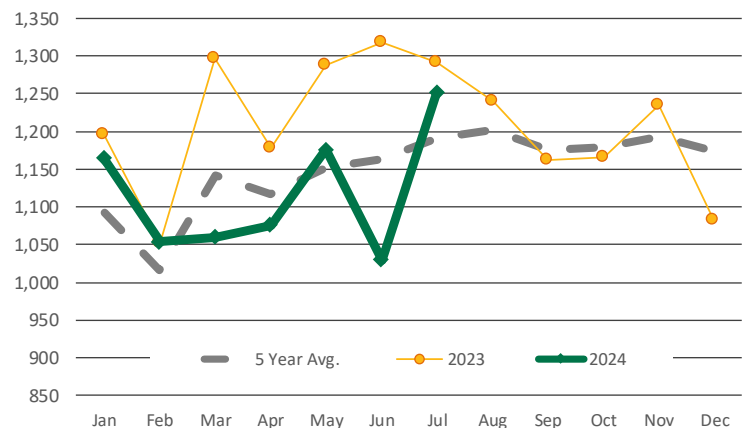
### YTD Brazil Beef Fr/Frz Beef Exports. Metric Ton

Source: COMEX. Jan - August



### Monthly Argentina Cattle Slaughter, Total Slaughter. '000 Head

Source: MAGYP. Analysis by Steiner Consulting



ever, exports to Chile increased by over 1,000 MT, and shipments to several smaller markets also saw growth.

Our current forecast anticipates Argentine beef exports to rise by 6% in 2024. Exports to the U.S. are projected to reach just over 31,000 MT, a 31% increase compared to 2023, while exports to China are forecast at 570,000 MT, accounting for 78% of total shipments.

**Uruguay:** Weekly cattle slaughter has followed the seasonal trend for most of the year, continuing into September. In the four weeks ending September 21, slaughter averaged 37,332 head per week, down 11% compared to both last year and the five-year average. While slaughter typically increases in the

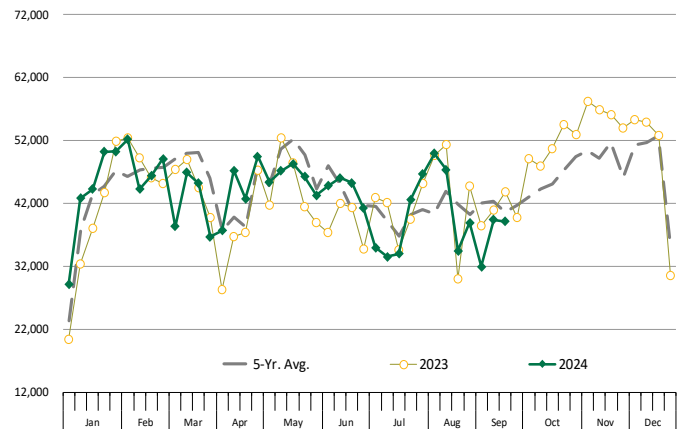
## South America (continued)

fourth quarter, overall levels are expected to remain below last year. Year-to-date, slaughter is up 2.6% from 2023, but the USDA's latest forecasts project a 3.7% year-over-year decline for 2024. For this forecast to hold, slaughter during Q4 would need to decrease by more than 20%.

Exports of fresh and frozen beef in August totaled 30,866 metric tons (MT), a 5% increase from the same month last year. Although China remains the top market, export volume there has been down for much of 2024. In August, shipments to China were 12,415 MT, 27% lower than a year ago and down 22% year-to-date. On the other hand, exports to the U.S. have surged, making it likely that total exports to the U.S. for the year could approach 100,000 MT on a product-weight basis. Through August, shipments of fresh and frozen beef to the U.S. reached 63,881 MT, double the volume from the same period in 2023.

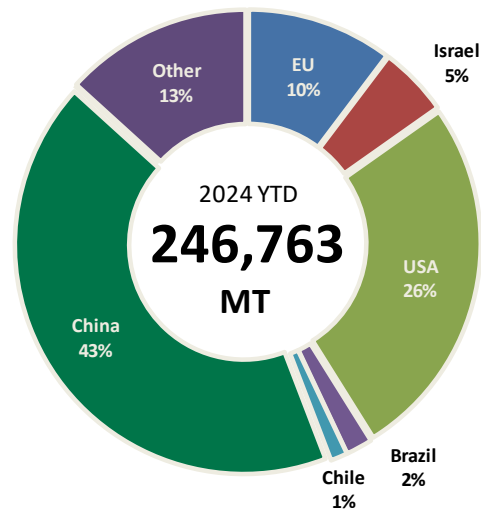
### Uruguay Cattle Slaughter, Total

Weekly Slaughter in Head. Source: World Beef Report



### YTD Uruguayan Exports of Fresh/Frozen Beef. Top Markets

Source: World Beef Report. Analysis by Steiner Consulting

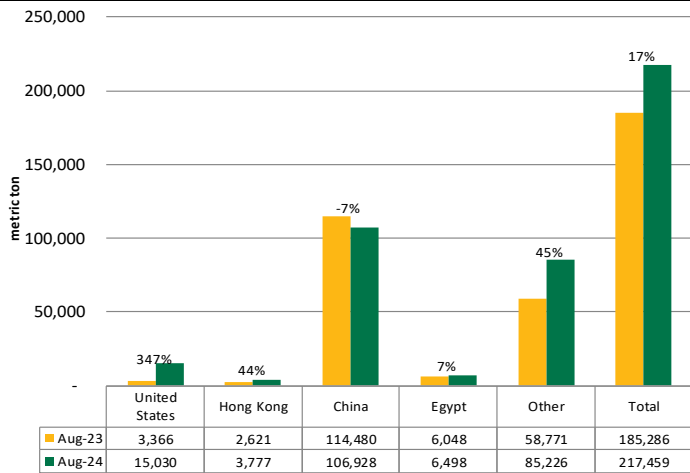


## South America Trade Statistics

### Brazilian Fresh/Frozen Beef Exports in August 2024 vs. August 2023

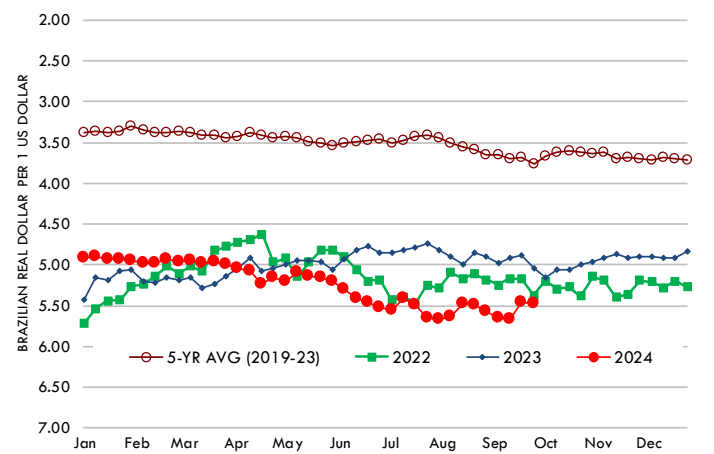
Analysis by Steiner Consulting

Units: Metric Tons



### Brazilian Real Per 1 US Dollar

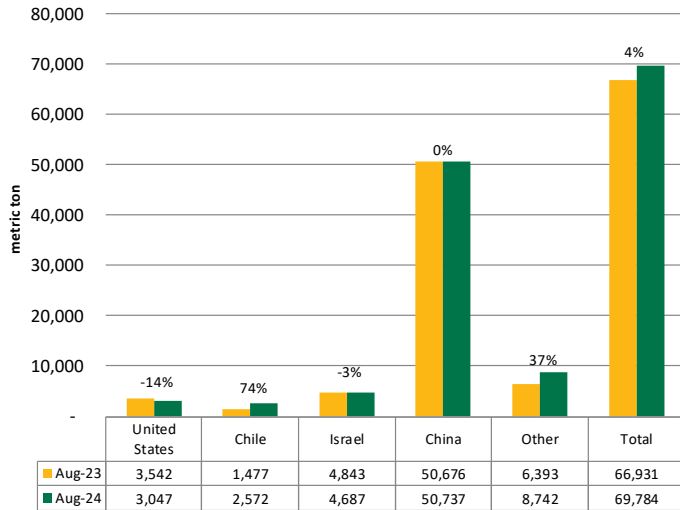
Y/Y Comparison of Weekly Exchange Rate



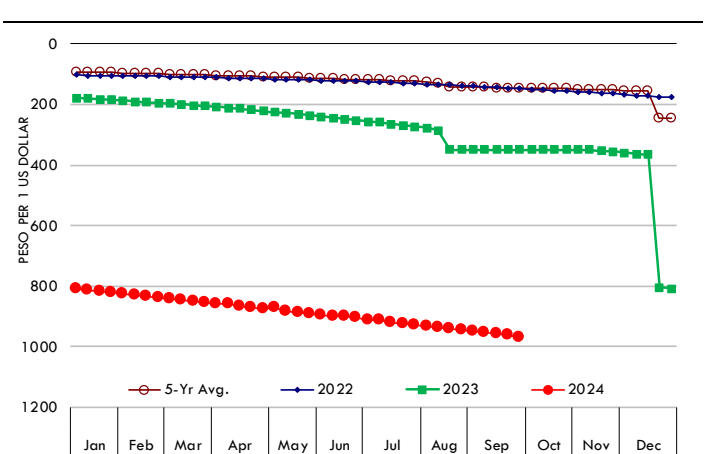
### Argentina Fresh/Frozen Beef Exports

Latest Data for August

Units: Metric Tons



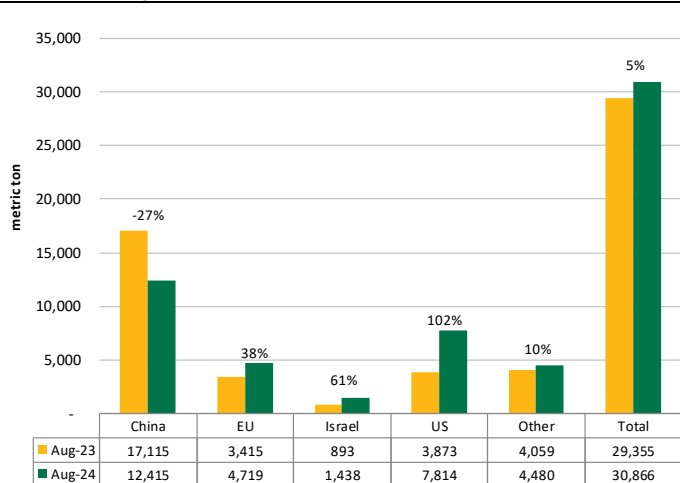
### Argentine Peso Per 1 US Dollar



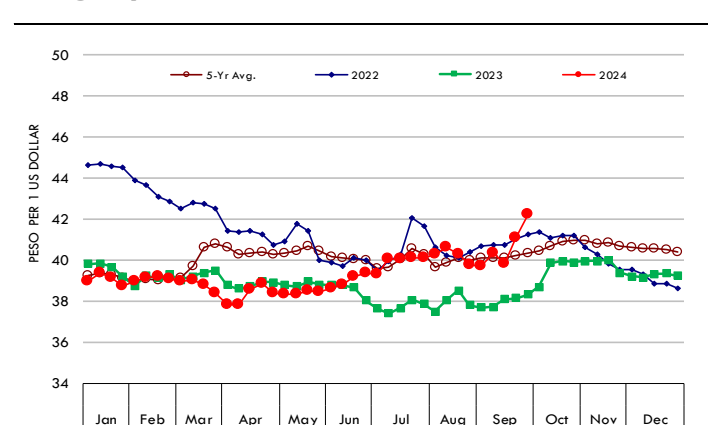
### Uruguayan Fresh/Frozen Beef Exports

Latest Data is for August 2024

Units: Metric Tons



### Uruguay Peso Per 1 US Dollar



## Asia / EU Market Update

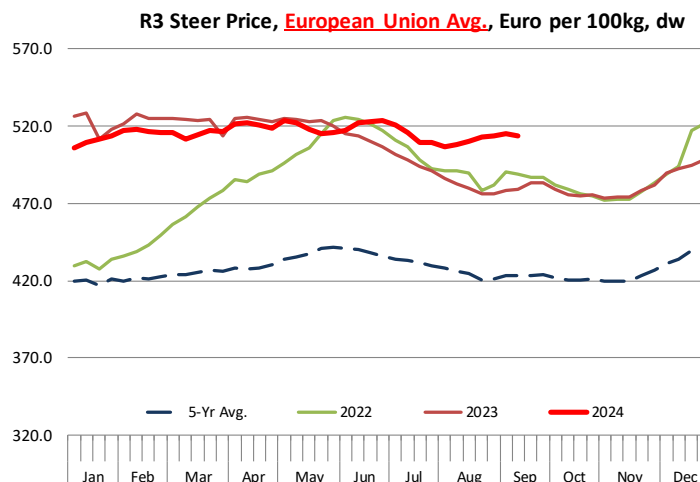
**European Union:** The slaughter rate typically declines in July and August as producers take advantage of pastures before winter. Over the past five years, weekly slaughter at the end of August and early September has averaged about 30% lower than at the end of July. This year followed a similar pattern, but the seasonal low occurred in early August. Tight cattle supply and rising prices have prompted producers to begin marketing cattle earlier than usual, which is likely to limit the availability of cattle in late November and December to levels below those seen last year.

In the four weeks ending September 22, slaughter totaled 149,717 head, nearly 15,000 head (+10.8%) higher than the same period in 2023. Producers have been sending more female cattle to slaughter, boosting near-term supply but potentially compromising future production. During the reference week, cow slaughter reached 31,926 head, 20% higher than last year, while heifer slaughter was 41,366 head, a 16% increase. Together, the increase in cow and heifer slaughter accounted for three-quarters of the overall rise in slaughter. The latest reference price for O3 cows in Ireland was 437 euros per 100 kg, 11% higher than a year ago. The average EU price was slightly higher at 438 euros, up 7% year-over-year. The average price for Irish R3 steers was quoted at 505 euros per 100 kg, 8% higher than last year, though still below the EU average of 513 euros.

U.S. imports of Irish beef remain minimal, as limited quota availability and strong prices in other markets are likely to restrict volume for the rest of the year. Brazil is expected to be particularly active in filling the 2025 quota, which could result in an even smaller volume of Irish beef exports to the U.S. in 2025, despite record-high lean beef prices in the U.S.

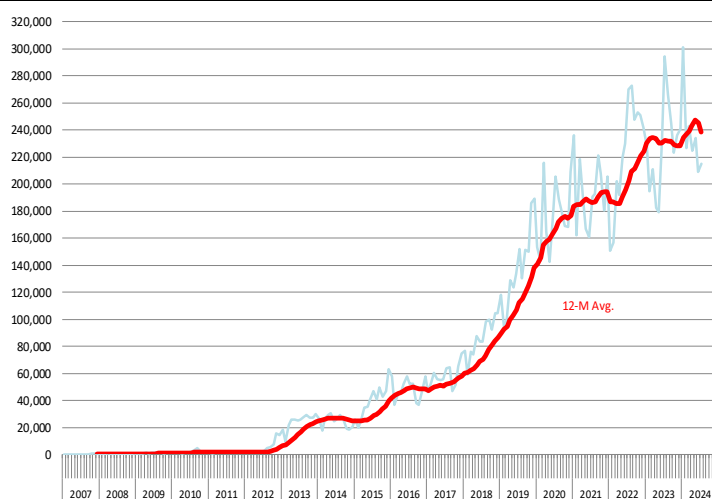
**China:** Chinese beef imports declined for the second consecutive month in August, dropping by nearly 35,000 metric tons (MT), or 13%, compared to the same month last year. Despite this, total imports for the year are still about 95,000 MT, or 5%, higher than last year. Imports are expected to rebound in September and October, based on shipment trends from key suppliers, particularly Brazil.

Brazil remains China's top supplier, with August imports estimated at around 111,000 MT, representing 48% of China's total beef imports. Although imports from Brazil were down 14% year-over-year in August, they remain 14% higher for the year overall. Imports from Uruguay and Argentina also declined in August, falling 7% and 9%, respectively. Imports from Australia were similarly lower, at about 19,000 MT, down 7% from the previous year.



Monthly **Chinese Imports of Fresh/Frozen Beef**. Metric Ton. Product Weight Basis

Data Source: China Customs Administration. Analysis by Steiner Consulting



High U.S. beef prices have further limited imports from the U.S., which were down 19% in August and 16% lower for the year to date. The USDA projects that Chinese beef imports will increase only marginally in 2025, as the economy continues its slow growth and consumers scale back on spending.

**Japan:** In August 2024, 82,193 adult cattle were slaughtered, a significant drop of 18% from July 2024 (100,067). This also marks a 4% decrease compared to August 2023 (85,392). However, year-to-date (YTD) figures show a 13% increase compared to the same period in 2023. August 2024 experienced a notable decline in cattle slaughter across almost all categories compared to July 2024, but some year-over-year comparisons (like Wagyu breeds) show slight in-

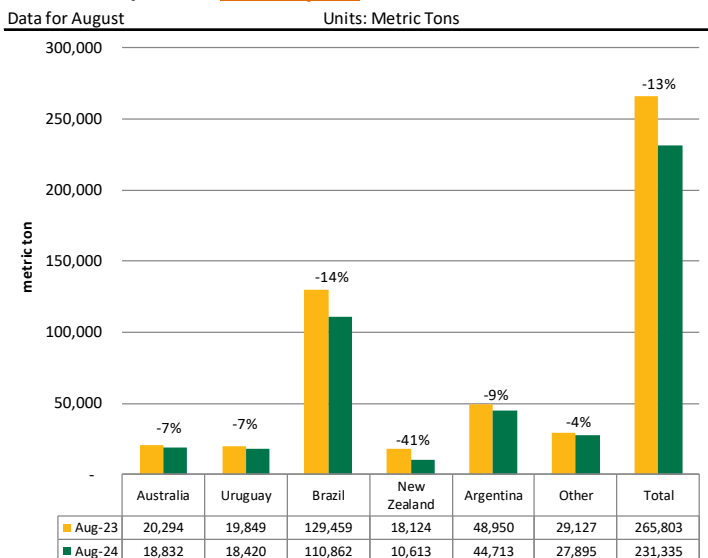


## Asia / EU Trade Statistics

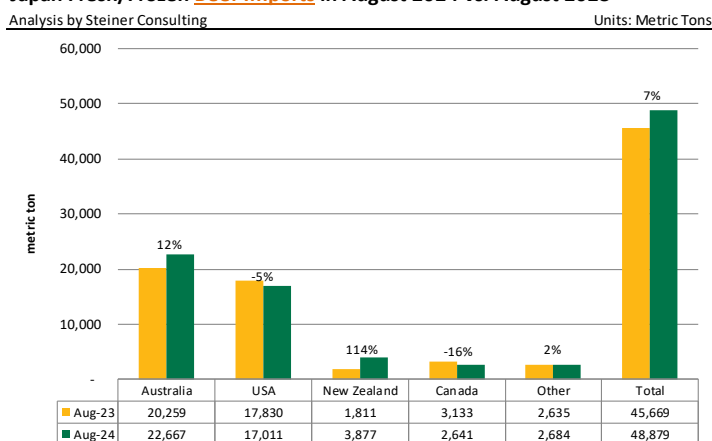
creases. Despite these month-over-month declines, the year-to-date figures for adult cattle slaughter indicate an overall growth.

Imports of beef were relatively stable, with a small 1% decline from July 2024 (48,897 tons vs. 49,342 tons). However, compared to August 2023, imports increased by 7%, indicating a notable rise in foreign beef coming into Japan. Stocks of imported beef rose by 5% in August 2024 compared to July 2024 (147,288 tons vs. 140,727 tons), although they were 1% lower compared to August 2023. Overall, August 2024 saw a significant reduction in beef production, stable import levels, and an increase in imported beef stocks, while domestic stocks declined further year over year.

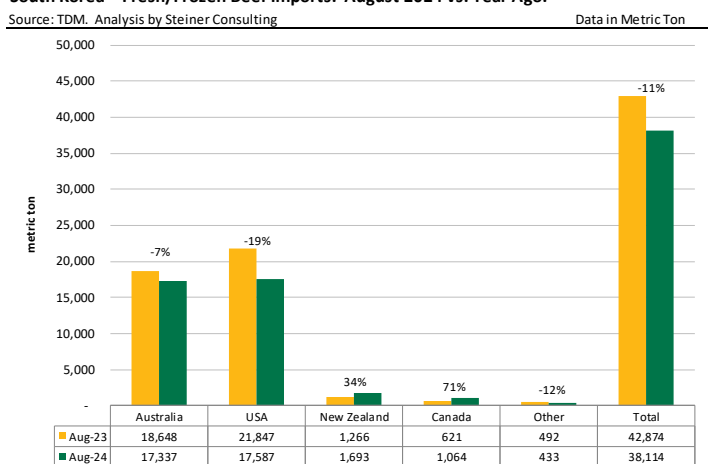
### China Fresh/Frozen Beef Imports



### Japan Fresh/Frozen Beef Imports in August 2024 vs. August 2023



### South Korea - Fresh/Frozen Beef Imports. August 2024 vs. Year Ago.



## Oceania Update

**New Zealand:** Slaughter in New Zealand has been well below year ago levels in the last three months. Robust dairy prices have impacted the culling rate as well as timing of drying out cows. In the four weeks ending August 3 (data reporting delayed by NZ), total cattle slaughter was 106,601 head, down 43k head (-29%) from a year ago and also 39k head (-27%) lower than the five year average. Bull slaughter during this period was 35% lower than a year ago, matching the weekly lows from a year ago. Considering the seasonal tendency for bull slaughter, supply is unlikely to recover much about current levels until early October. Cow slaughter during this period was down 27k head (-39%) from a year ago.

The decline in slaughter has significantly reduced the exportable supply. July shipments to all markets were 38,822 MT, 16% lower than year ago. Exports to China were down 6700 MT (-41%) while exports to the US, now the top market were down 1700 MT (-10%).

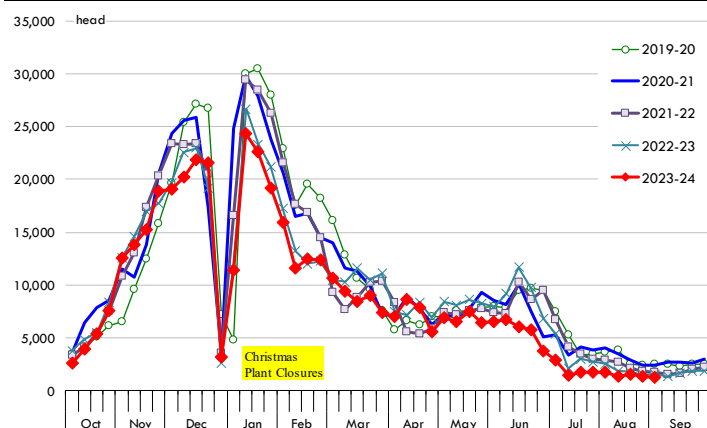
**Australia:** Slaughter in the Eastern States has been holding steady in the last three months, albeit still up by double digits from a year ago. In the four weeks ending August 30 cattle slaughter averaged 135,592 head/week (does not include Western Australia), up 13% from a year ago. Queensland (biggest producing state) slaughter averaged near 72k head/week, up 11% from a year ago while slaughter in Victoria at 21,860 head/week was 44% higher than last year's levels.

Cattle prices in Australia have stabilized and have been trending modestly higher in the last two months. Robust demand in export markets and a more stable weather situation has resulted in a more predictable flow. Often the EYCI has been viewed as a barometer of cattle prices but more recently MLA has developed a more comprehensive index, the NYCI (National Young Cattle Indicator). This is similar to the EYCI in some respects but tends to be more comprehensive. It offers a benchmark for "yearling, vealer and weaner cattle over 200kg liveweight which are bought and sold as restocker animals, meaning that they will return to a farm to replace livestock, be grown out, or join the breeding herd." The index is currently at 336 AUD/100kg, 12% higher than in July but near the same level as the start of the year. Note that the values are on a live weight basis vs. the EYCI that shows values on a carcass wt basis.

The increase in slaughter and robust demand continues to drive exports. July beef and veal shipments to all markets were near 130k MT, 33.6% higher than a year ago. Exports to the US in July were 38,540 MT, 61.2% higher than a year ago. We think exports in August are on track to surpass 42k MT, 63% higher than a year ago. Exports to Japan have shown a notable improvement as inventory levels in the coun-

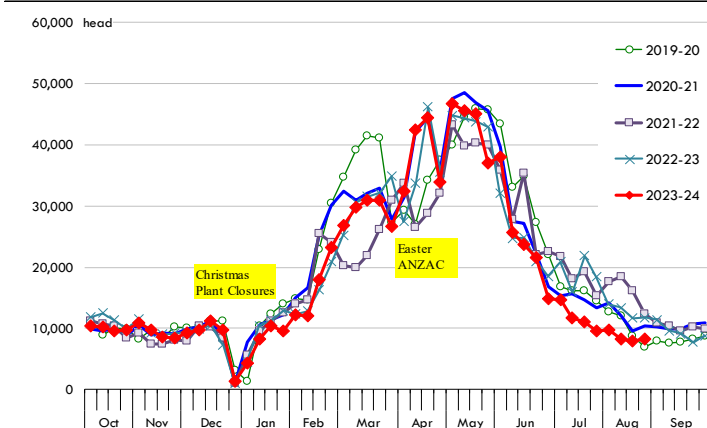
### New Zealand Weekly Bull Slaughter

Based on Oct - Sep Marketing Year. Source: New Zealand Meat Board



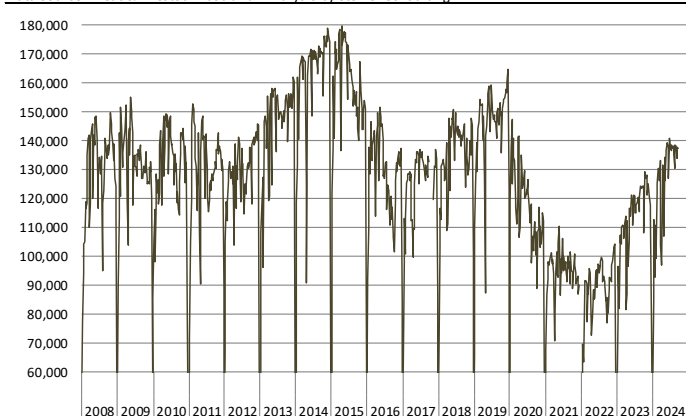
### New Zealand Weekly Cow Slaughter

Based on Oct - Sep Marketing Year. Source: New Zealand Meat Board. Analysis by Steiner Consulting



### Australian Weekly Eastern State Cattle Slaughter: Source MLA

Data Source: Meat & Livestock Australia. Analysis by Steiner Consulting

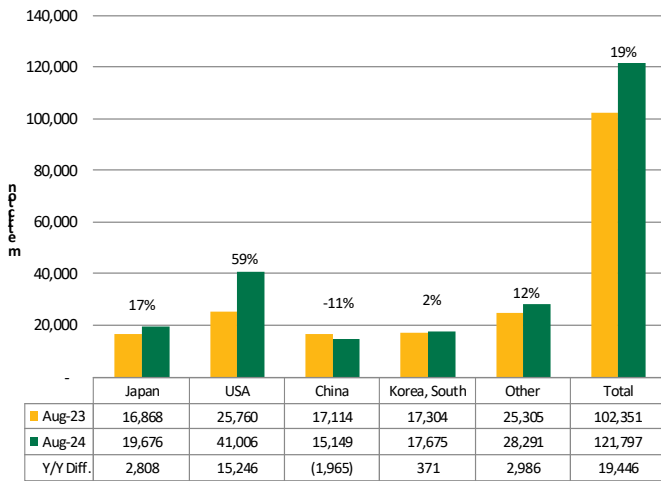


try have declined. Shipments to Japan in July were 26,297 MT, 48% higher than the very low base a year ago. August shipments to Japan are expected to be around 20k MT, about 20% higher than last year.

## Oceania Statistics

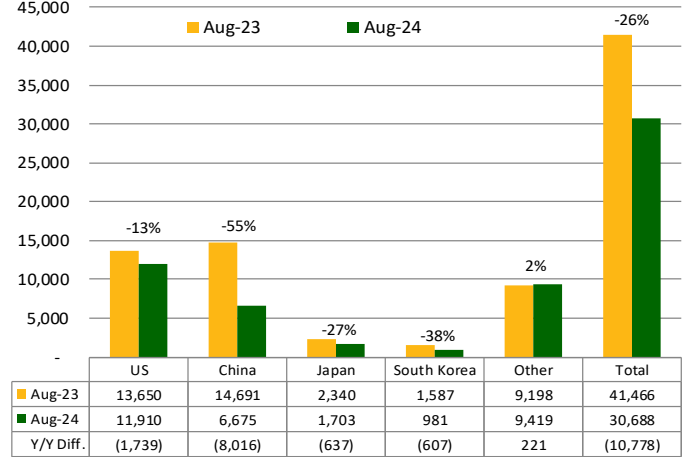
### Australia Fresh/Frozen Beef Exports In August 2024 vs. August Ago

Latest Data for August Units: Metric Tons



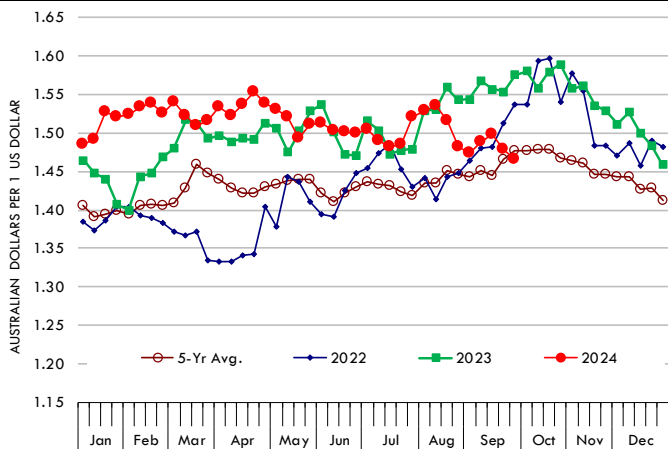
### New Zealand Fresh/Frozen Beef Exports in August. MT

Source: Statistics NZ. Analysis by Steiner Consulting



### AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR PER 1 US DOLLAR

Y/Y Comparison of Weekly Exchange Rate



### NEW ZEALAND DOLLAR PER 1 US DOLLAR

Y/Y Comparison of Weekly Exchange Rate

