

FAST FACTS

June 2026



60,697



Farms and Ranches with Beef Cattle

2021 Census of Agriculture

**11.1
million**

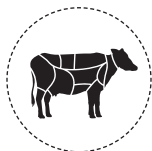


Total Cattle and Calves January 1, 2026 Up 2.5% from January 1, 2025

(includes 1.4 million dairy cattle)

Statistics Canada

**3.42
million**

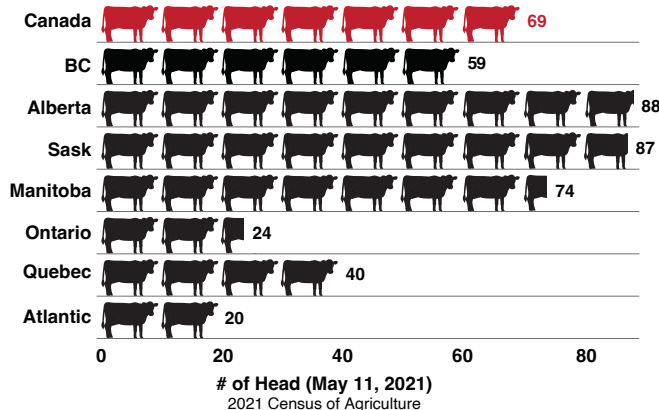


Beef Cows January 1, 2026 Up 1.9% from January 1, 2025

Statistics Canada

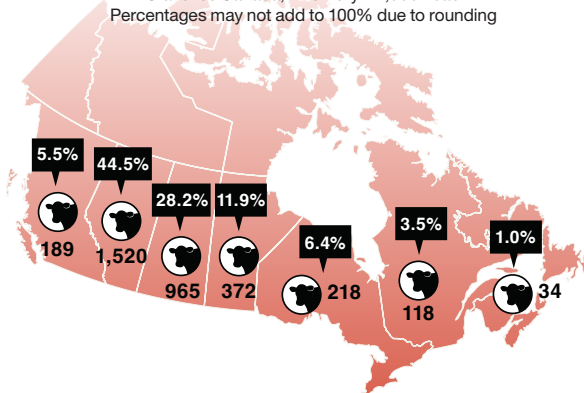
PRODUCTION

Average # of Beef Cows per Farm Reporting Beef Cows

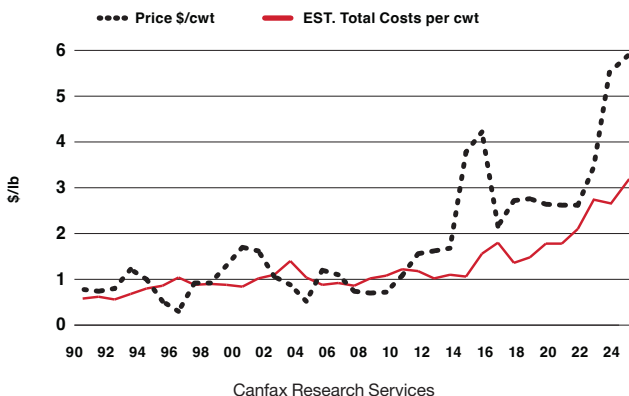


Beef Cows by Province

January 1, 2026
(beef cows = 3.42 million)
Statistics Canada; Inventory x 1,000 head
Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding

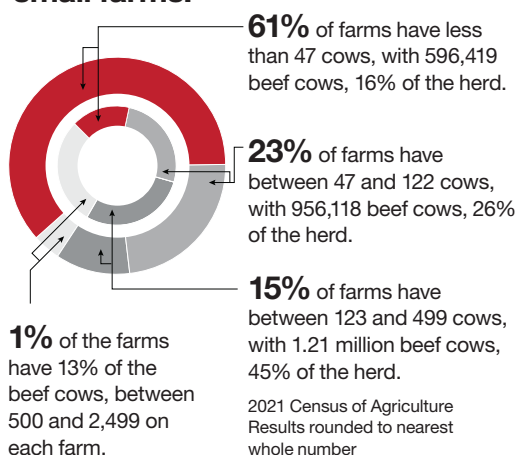


Average Cost of Production vs. Average Returns on an Alberta 550 lb Calf



Did you know...

The majority of farms reporting beef cows on cow-calf, stocking and finishing operations are small farms:



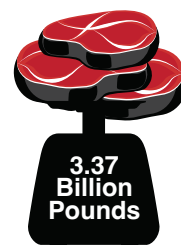
Canada fed **3.02 million cattle** in 2025 (finished to market weight) down 4% from 2024.

Canfax, Statistics Canada, AAFC

Western Canada finishes 77% of all fed cattle in Canada. Canfax

In 2025, Canada produced **3.37 billion pounds of beef**, (including offals), down 3.7% from 2024.

Canfax Research Services



Cattle and calf cash receipts in 2025 totaled **\$20.6 billion**, up 23% from 2024. Statistics Canada

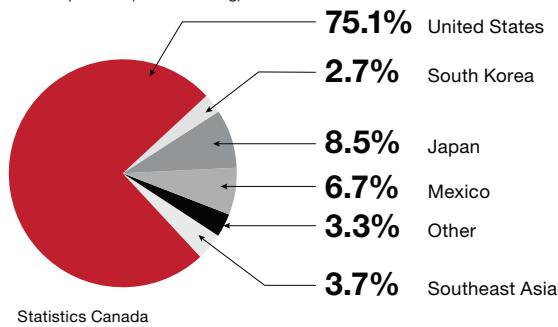
Beef production contributed **\$41 billion** to Canada's GDP (2023-2025 average).

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WHERE CANADA TRADES

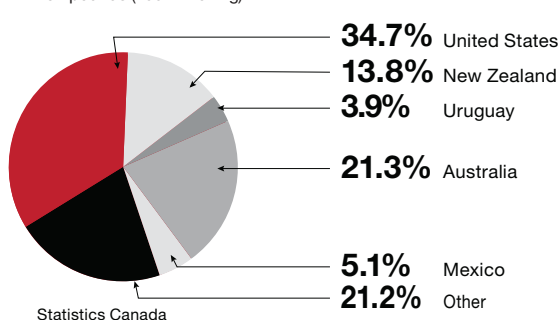
Beef Exports – 2025

1.07 billion pounds (486 million kg)



Beef Imports – 2025

557 million pounds (253 million kg)



In 2025, Canada exported **54%** of total beef and cattle produced in Canada.

Statistics Canada, Canfax, AAFC

In 2025, **47%** of Canadian production was exported (excluding slaughter cattle).

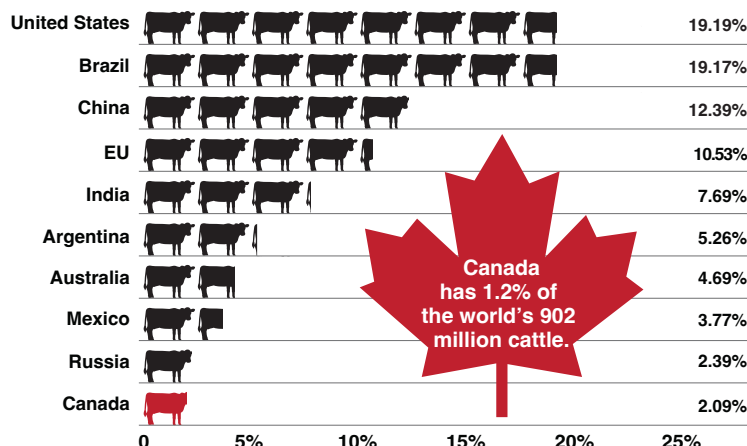
Statistics Canada, Canfax, AAFC

Canadian beef exports were valued at **\$5.31 billion** in 2025, up 7.7% from \$4.93 billion in 2024.

Statistics Canada

WHERE CANADA FITS

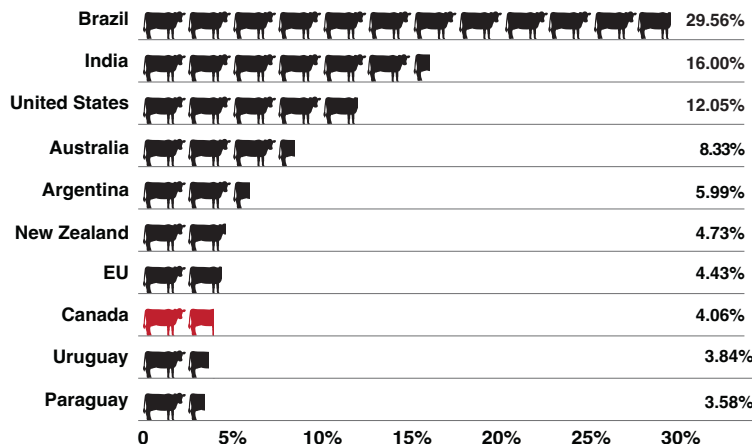
Top 10 Beef Producing Nations – 2026f



Canada produces 2% of the world's beef supply. Worldwide beef production is forecast to be 61.0 million metric tonnes in 2026.

USDA

Top 10 Beef Exporting Nations – 2026f (excludes live slaughter exports)

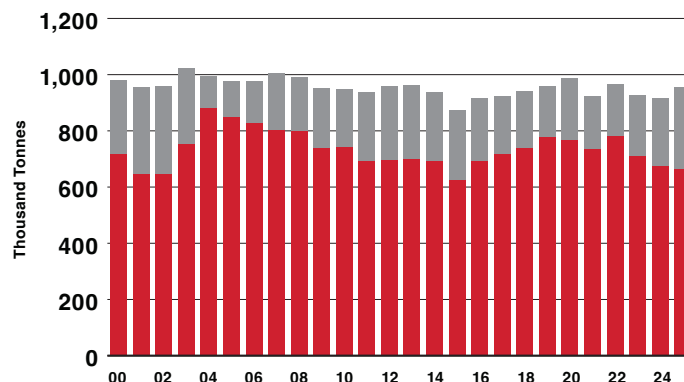


Total world exports in 2026 are forecast to be 13.5 million metric tonnes and Canada is projected to be the 8th largest beef exporter in the world (excluding live slaughter exports).

USDA

Canadian Beef Consumption

■ Domestic ■ Imports



Canadians consumed 954,815 metric tonnes of beef in 2025 .

Statistics Canada

CANADIAN BEEF CONSUMPTION

What are we really eating?



Up 3.4% versus last year.

1 metric tonne = 2,204.6 lbs.

Canfax Research Services 2025