



US Imported Beef Market

A Weekly Update

Prepared Exclusively for [Meat & Livestock Australia - Sydney](#)

Volume 25, Issue 35

August 30, 2024

Prepared by: Steiner Consulting Group | [SteinerConsulting.com](#) | 800-526-4612 | [service@steinerconsulting.com](#)

Market Highlights for the Week:

- Cow/bull slaughter last week was estimated at 123k head, about 8k head higher than the week before and the highest volume since early March.
- Imported beef prices were lower last week as buyers were more focused on sales/logistics issues over the long holiday weekend (Labor Day is first Monday in September).
- Imported beef volume in the pipeline is significantly higher than a year ago. A quick accounting of the volume of imported beef shipped from Oceania and South America shows the equivalent of 5,350 additional truckloads sent to the US market between January and July. Shipments for August expected to be big as well, bolstering availability into fall.
- US fat beef trim continues to follow the seasonal trend, with prices by the end of the week quoted at \$125/cwt, down from \$180/cwt two weeks ago.

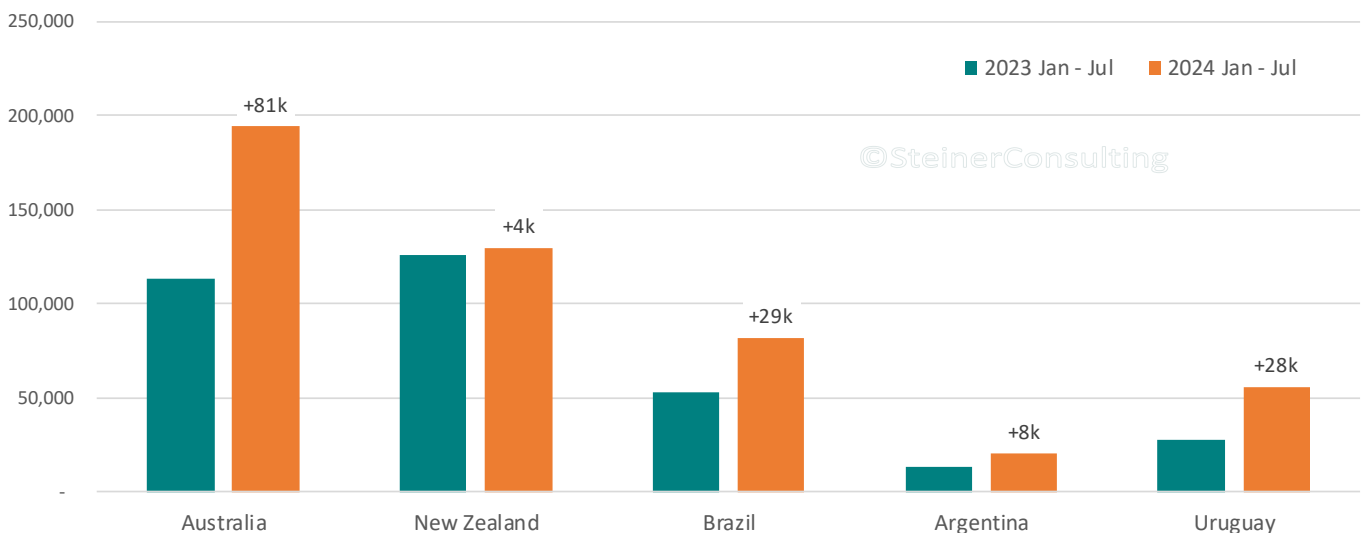
Imported Market Activity for the Week

Imported beef prices had a mostly softer undertone last week, with prices down across the board even though offerings and price levels varied greatly depending on supplier. Buyers for the most part seemed content to sit on the sidelines, with lower prices needed to draw bids. The upcoming holiday made for a thin trade, that probably contributed to this. Focus for the moment is on sales during the holiday weekend and logistics

issues rather than looking to add to positions. Lower prices for fat trim suggest that retail demand is starting to slow down, normal for this time of year but also an indication for buyers to tread lightly. Seasonally lean beef prices pull back in the fall both due to the slowdown in demand and the increase in domestic lean beef production. For importers timing is important considering that there has been a significant amount of imported beef directed towards the US so far this year.

Beef Shipments to the US Market from Oceania and South America: Jan - Jul. Metric Ton. Shipped Wt.

Data source: DAFF, Statistics NZ, Comex, Senasa, WBR. Analysis by Steiner Consulting



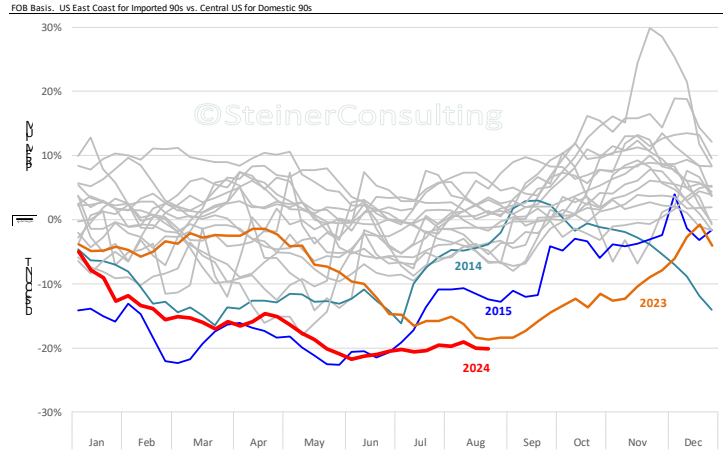
During the period Jan-Jul, beef shipments from Oceania and South America to the US market were a total of 482k MT, almost 150k MT (+45%) higher than the same seven month period a year ago. The volume is staggering and it will take some time for market to absorb the increase, especially if foodservice sales continue to decline after Labor Day. To put this number in context, the additional volume is the equivalent of 5,350 additional truckloads. Some of this product is replacing the shortfall in domestic product but some is product that's still on route. Australian shipments to the US in July were almost 15k MT higher than a year ago and August shipments are currently on track to surpass 42k MT, up 16k MT y/y. Brazilian shipments to the US in July were 11k MT higher y/y and August shipments could be up 10k MT as well.

Australia and Brazil are not the only markets shipping big quantities. Shipments from Uruguay to the US through July were over 56k MT, up 28k MT (+102%) from a year ago. The chart on page 10 shows the volume of Uruguayan beef cleared under the quota is still at around 14k MT. We think that's because those suppliers with quota allocation are managing the flow of product and there is a significant amount that's coming in under HTS codes that are subject to the higher tariff of 26.4%. It should be noted that while shipments to the US through July were up 28k MT, shipments to China during this period were down 24k MT. Overall Uruguayan beef exports through July were up 26k MT (+14%), suggesting that the higher tariff has not been enough to discourage exports to the US given higher prices and exchange rate effects.

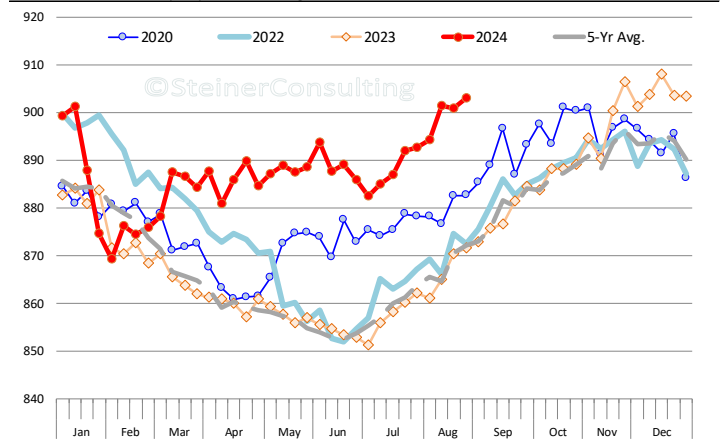
Other market notes

- Last week we noted the seasonal tendency for fat beef trim values to start to lose ground once Labor Day ground beef retail orders have been filled. So far the seasonal tendency remains intact. The average weekly price last week was \$139/cwt, \$22 lower than the week before. However, on Friday the average price was \$125, now below year ago levels. At this point expectations are for fat trim values to hover above \$100/cwt through September. Fed cattle weights are significantly higher than a year ago, however. Latest data from USDA shows weights as much as 3.6% higher than last year. Front end fat cattle inventory is also above year

% DISCOUNT OR PREMIUM OF 90CL IMPORTED VS. 90CL DOMESTIC. 2005 - 2024

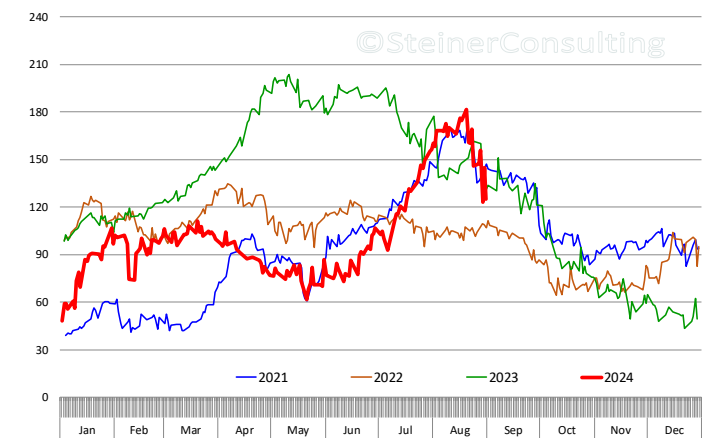


Fed Cattle (Steer+Heifer) Weights from USDA Weekly Comprehensive Cattle Report
Data source: USDA-AMS. Analysis by Steiner Consulting



50CL Beef Trim

Daily Prices. Source: USDA-AMS. Analysis by Steiner Consulting



ago levels, which should keep fed cattle slaughter above last year in the near term. Despite the correction, fat trim values face more downside risk

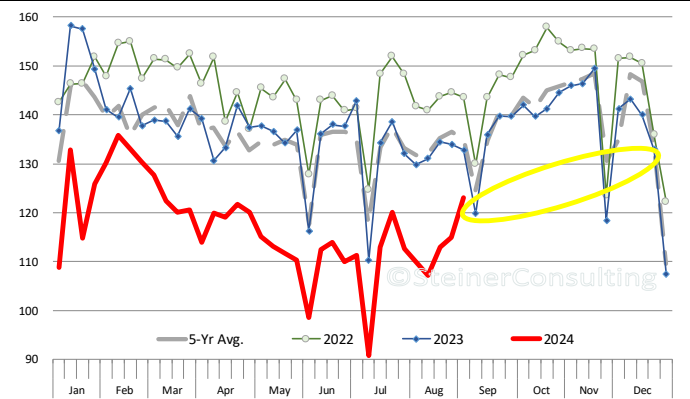
- Both fed and non fed cattle slaughter was higher last week as processors sought to increase production ahead of the short holiday week. Cow/bull slaughter for the week was estimated at 123k head,

up 8k head from the week before but still 7.4% lower than the previous year. This was the highest weekly slaughter since early March. This number is an estimate and we will get the actual figure when inspector reports are tabulated in a couple of weeks. In August the actual figures have been largely below the initial estimate. As the chart to the right shows that's largely been the case for much of this year. However, in the fall the initial estimate tends to undercount the total number, mostly because some of the estimates for missing slaughter figures are filled with previous week averages. Much of the guessing game out there revolves around cow slaughter and lean cow meat availability. This tends to enhance some of the normal discrepancies in statistics.

- Fed cattle slaughter last week was estimated at 488k head, 10k head (-2%) lower than a year ago. In the last four weeks, however, fed cattle slaughter has averaged 0.5% above last year, consistent with the supply of cattle on feed and the supply of cattle with +120k days on feed.

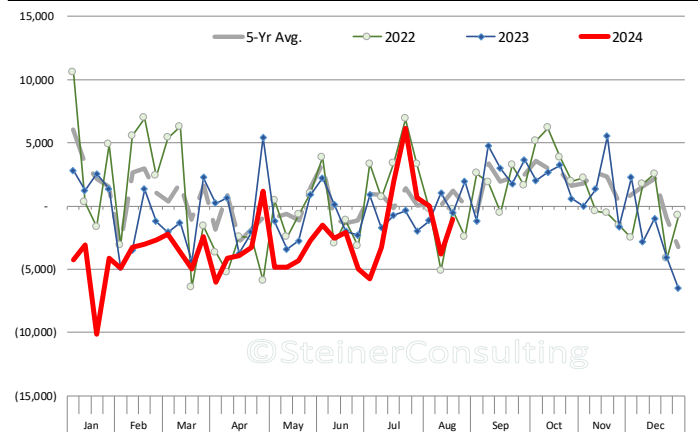
WEEKLY COW & BULL SLAUGHTER, '000 HEAD

Source: USDA-AMS



ACTUAL NON-FED CATTLE SLAUGHTER MINUS FIRST ESTIMATE

Source: USDA

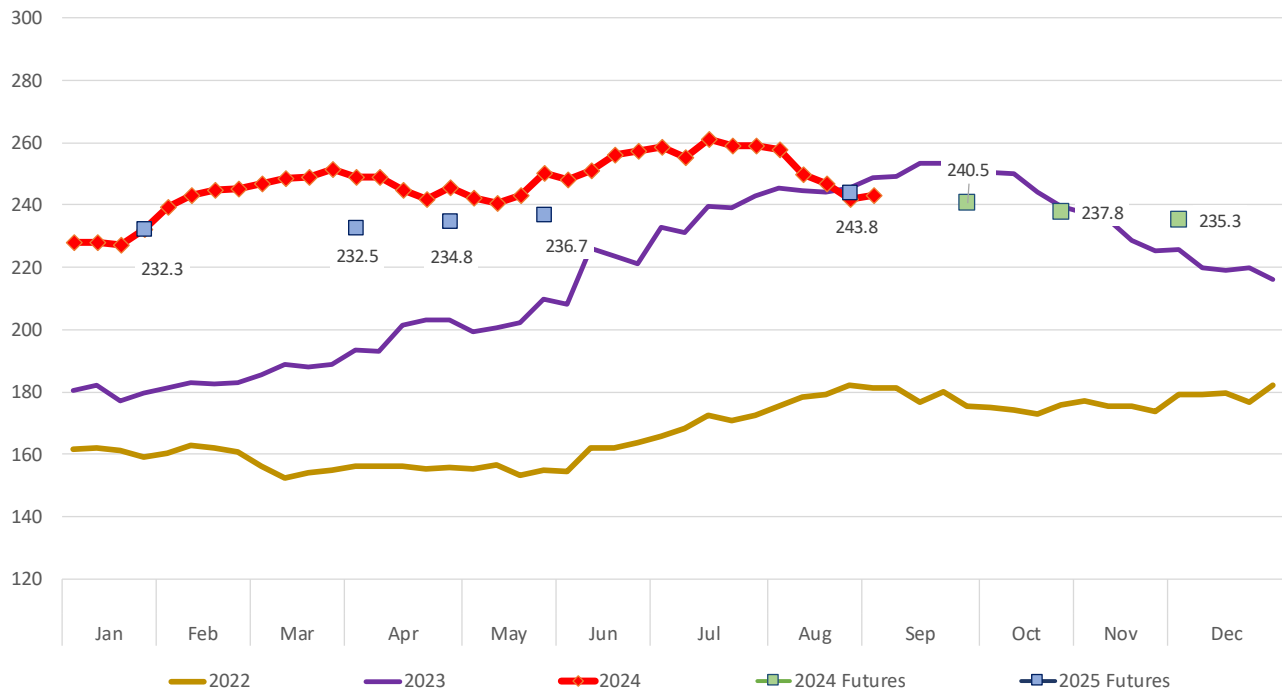


CME Cattle Feeder Index and US Cattle Markets

	Current Week	Prior Week	% CHANGE VS. WK AGO	Last Year	Change from Last Year
	29-Aug-24	22-Aug-24		31-Aug-23	
CME FEEDER CATTLE INDEX	242.95	241.70	0.5%	248.95	-2.4%
	30-Aug-24	23-Aug-24		1-Sep-23	
FED STEER (5-MKT AVG)	183.96	187.65	-2.0%	183.21	0.4%
CUTTER COW CARCASS, NATIONAL, 90% LEAN, 350-400 LB. (carcass wt.)	240.00	241.50	-0.6%	192.00	25.0%
BONER COW CARCASS, NATIONAL, 85% LEAN, 400-500 LB. (carcass wt.)	244.50	254.00	-3.7%	190.00	28.7%
BREAKER COW CARCASS, NATIONAL, 75% LEAN, 500+ (carcass wt.)	246.50	250.00	-1.4%	197.00	25.1%
CUTTER COW CARCASS CUTOUT, 5-DAY MA, USDA	294.18	294.84	-0.2%	244.13	20.5%

CME Feeder Cattle Index. Actual + Futures for 2024 and 2025

Source: CME. Analysis by Steiner Consulting



Source: Chicago Mercantile Exchange

TABLE 2 – IMPORTED BEEF PRICES, 7:45 DAYS, CIF

	Current Week		Prior Week		Change From Last Week	Last Year		Change From Last Year
	30-Aug-24		23-Aug-24			1-Sep-23		
<u>US East Coast Australian/NZ Lean, CIF</u>								
95 CL Bull, E. Coast	308.0	308.0	310.0		-2.0	257.0	258.0	50.0
90 CL Blended Cow	285.0	290.0	288.0	290.0	0.0	237.0	238.0	52.0
90 CL Shank	280.0	281.0	280.0	284.0	-3.0	235.0	237.0	44.0
85 CL Fores	270.0	271.0	272.0	273.0	-2.0	216.0	218.0	53.0
85 CL Chucks	UNQ		UNQ		N/A	UNQ		N/A
95 CL Bull, W. Coast	308.0	309.0	310.0		-2.0	255.0	257.0	51.0
Uruguay CFH 90CL, E. Coast	UNQ		UNQ		N/A	UNQ		N/A
<u>US East Coast, Trimmings, CIF</u>								
85 CL Trimmings	270.0		271.0		-1.0	215.0	216.0	54.0
80 CL Trimmings	240.0		240.0		0.0	200.0	205.0	35.0
75 CL Trimmings	205.0		205.0		0.0	UNQ		N/A
65 CL Trimmings	UNQ		UNQ		N/A	UNQ		N/A
<u>US East Coast Australian Cuts, CIF</u>								
Cap Off Steer Insides	350.0	360.0	355.0	360.0	0.0	325.0	335.0	25.0
Steer Insides 14/18	UNQ		UNQ		N/A	UNQ		N/A
Steer Flats	310.0	315.0		320.0	-5.0	290.0	295.0	20.0
Steer Knuckles	310.0	310.0	315.0		-5.0	295.0	305.0	5.0

TABLE 3 – IMPORTED BEEF PRICES, 7:45 DAYS, US WAREHOUSE

	Current Week		Prior Week		Change From Last Week	Last Year		Change From Last Year
	30-Aug-24	31-Aug-24	23-Aug-24	24-Aug-24		1-Sep-23	2-Sep-23	
<u>US East Coast Australian/NZ Lean, FOB US Port</u>								
95 CL Bull, E. Coast	315.0	317.0	318.0	321.0	-4.0	266.0	267.0	50.0
90 CL Blended Cow	295.0	297.0	297.0	298.0	-1.0	249.0	250.0	47.0
90 CL Shank	285.0	290.0	288.0	290.0	0.0	245.0		45.0
85 CL Fores	280.0	281.0		283.0	-2.0	227.0	228.0	53.0
85 CL Chucks		UNQ		UNQ	N/A		UNQ	N/A
95 CL Bull, W. Coast	315.0	316.0	317.0	319.0	-3.0	265.0	266.0	50.0
Uruguay CFH 90CL, E. Coast		UNQ		UNQ	N/A		UNQ	N/A
<u>US East Coast, Trimmings, FOB US Port</u>								
85 CL Trimmings		280.0		283.0	-3.0	226.0	227.0	53.0
80 CL Trimmings	245.0	246.0	247.0	248.0	-2.0	213.0	214.0	32.0
75 CL Trimmings	210.0	215.0		215.0	0.0	193.0	195.0	20.0
65 CL Trimmings		UNQ		UNQ	N/A		150.0	N/A
<u>US East Coast Australian Cuts, FOB US Port</u>								
Cap Off Steer Insides	370.0	375.0	370.0	375.0	0.0	350.0	360.0	15.0
Steer Insides 14/18		UNQ		UNQ	N/A		UNQ	N/A
Steer Flats	335.0	340.0	335.0	340.0	0.0	300.0	310.0	30.0
Steer Knuckles	325.0	330.0	325.0	330.0	0.0	310.0	315.0	15.0

TABLE 4 – US DOMESTIC BEEF AND CATTLE PRICES

	Current Week			Prior Week			Change From Last Week	Last Year			Change from Last Year
	Low	High	Wt.Avg	Low	High	Wt.Avg		Low	High	Wt.Avg	
	30-Aug-24			23-Aug-24				1-Sep-23			
<u>Domestic Cutouts</u>											
Choice Cutout	309.34			317.34			-8.0	314.49			-5.2
Select Cutout	295.82			300.46			-4.6	290.29			5.5
<u>Domestic Lean Grinding Beef</u>											
90 CL Boneless	372.0	381.5	375.9	372.0	381.5	375.4	0.5	300.0	324.0	308.5	67.4
85 CL Beef Trimmings	323.0	363.5	347.7	325.0	360.5	345.9	1.8	281.0	297.0	289.2	58.5
50 CL Beef Trim	103.0	188.0	138.7	133.0	185.0	160.7	-22.0	125.0	164.3	137.2	1.4
<u>Domestic Pork Trim</u>											
42 CL Pork Trim	65.0	100.5	70.4	69.4	114.9	80.4	-9.9	57.5	89.0	63.7	6.8
72 CL Pork Trim	83.0	117.6	90.0	84.0	119.8	93.5	-3.5	75.0	104.8	87.3	2.7
<u>Point of Lean Values</u>											
90 CL Domestic	417.7			417.1			0.6	342.8			74.9
50 CL Beef Trimming	277.3			321.4			-44.1	274.4			2.9
42 CL Pork Trim	167.7			191.3			-23.6	151.6			16.1
72 CL Pork Trim	125.0			129.8			-4.8	121.2			3.8
<u>National Direct Fed Steer</u> <u>(5-day accum. wt. avg. price)</u>	183.96			187.65			-3.7	183.21			0.8

TABLE 5 – FUTURES AND SLAUGHTER INFORMATION

Futures Contracts	Current Week	Prior Week	Change From Last		Last Year	Change From Last Year
			Week	Week		
	30-Aug-24	23-Aug-24			1-Sep-23	
<u>Live Cattle Futures</u>						
August '24	185.850	182.575	↑	3.28	---	↓ #VALUE!
October '24	178.600	175.700	↑	2.90	180.150	↓ -1.55
December '24	177.550	175.200	↑	2.35	184.175	↓ -6.63
February '25	178.450	176.475	↑	1.98	188.325	↓ -9.87
<u>Feeder Cattle Futures</u>						
August '24	242.950	242.575	↑	0.38	248.930	↓ -5.98
September '24	240.475	238.575	↑	1.90	251.850	↓ -11.38
October '24	237.750	234.375	↑	3.38	254.650	↓ -16.90
November '24	235.250	231.600	↑	3.65	256.375	↓ -21.13
<u>Corn Futures</u>						
September '24	378.000	367.750	↑	10.25	464.750	↓ -86.75
December '24	401.000	391.000	↑	10.00	481.500	↓ -80.50
March '25	419.000	409.500	↑	9.50	496.500	↓ -77.50
May '25	428.250	420.000	↑	8.25	505.000	↓ -76.75
<u>Ch Wheat Futures</u>						
September '24	532 3/4	502 1/4	↑	30.50	567 1/2	↓ -34.75
December '24	551 1/2	528	↑	23.50	595 1/2	↓ -44.00
March '25	572 1/4	549	↑	23.25	685 1/4	↓ -113.00
May '25	583 3/4	560 3/4	↑	23.00	687 3/4	↓ -104.00

Slaughter Information	7 Days Ending	7 Days Ending	Change From Last		7 Days Ending	Change From Last Year
			Week	Week		
	31-Aug-24	24-Aug-24			2-Sep-23	
<u>Total Cattle Slaughter</u>	611,000	608,000	↑	3,000	630,700	↓ -19,700
	17-Aug-24	10-Aug-24			19-Aug-23	
<u>Total Cow Slaughter</u>	102,126	97,651	↑	4,475	123,000	↓ -20,874
<u>Dairy Cow Slaughter</u>	54,522	50,165	↑	4,357	59,800	↓ -5,278
<u>Beef Cow Slaughter</u>	47,604	47,486	↑	118	63,200	↓ -15,596

TABLE 7 - US BEEF IMPORTS

(Source: USDA/AMS)

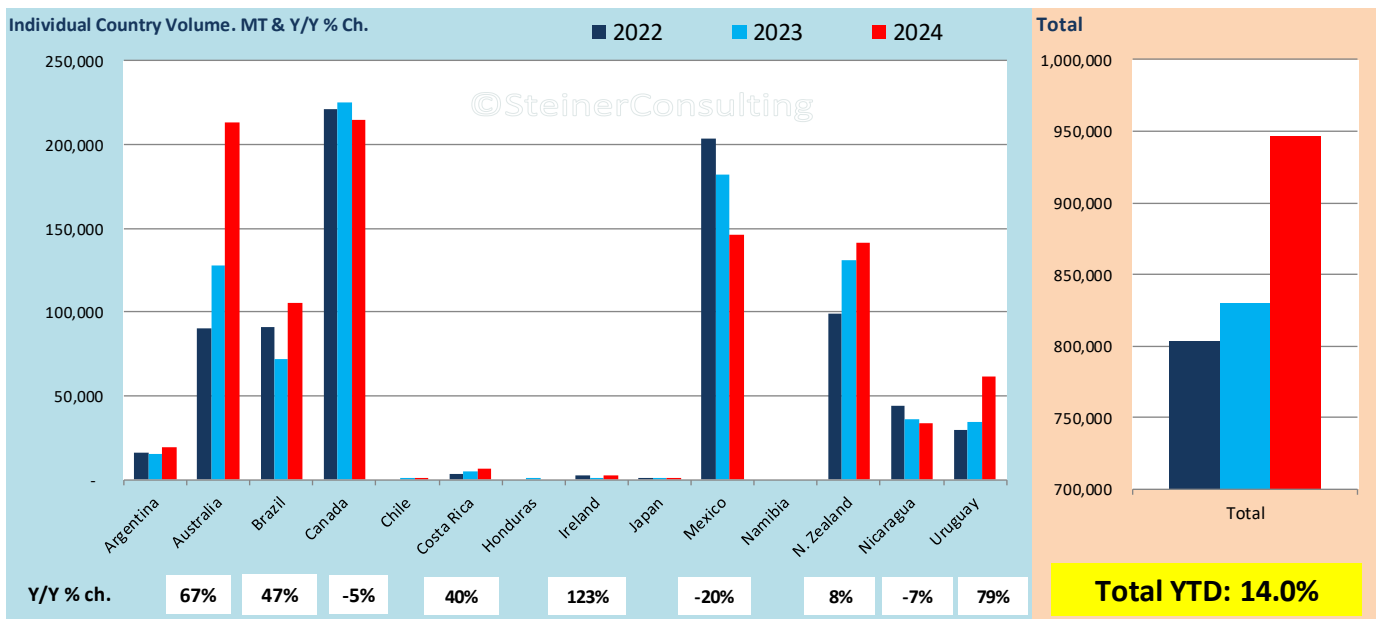
YTD Imported Fresh/Frz Beef Passed for Entry in the US

week 34	8/26/2023	8/24/2024		
Argentina	15,494	19,808	4,314	27.8%
Australia	127,551	213,248	85,697	67.2%
Brazil	72,116	105,879	33,763	46.8%
Canada	224,663	214,331	(10,332)	-4.6%
Chile	20	1	(19)	-95.0%
Costa Rica	4,768	6,699	1,931	40.5%
France	-	-	-	
Honduras	19	-	(19)	-100.0%
Ireland	1,384	3,085	1,701	122.9%
Japan	944	975	31	3.3%
Mexico	181,768	146,290	(35,478)	-19.5%
Namibia	-	-	-	
Netherlands	-	-	-	
New Zealand	131,176	141,228	10,052	7.7%
Nicaragua	36,219	33,552	(2,667)	-7.4%
Spain	-	-	-	
Uruguay	34,262	61,465	27,203	79.4%
Total	830,384	946,561	116,177	14.0%

Source: AMS - USDA

US Fresh/Frozen Beef Imports. Metric Ton. Data Source: USDA/Agricultural Marketing Service

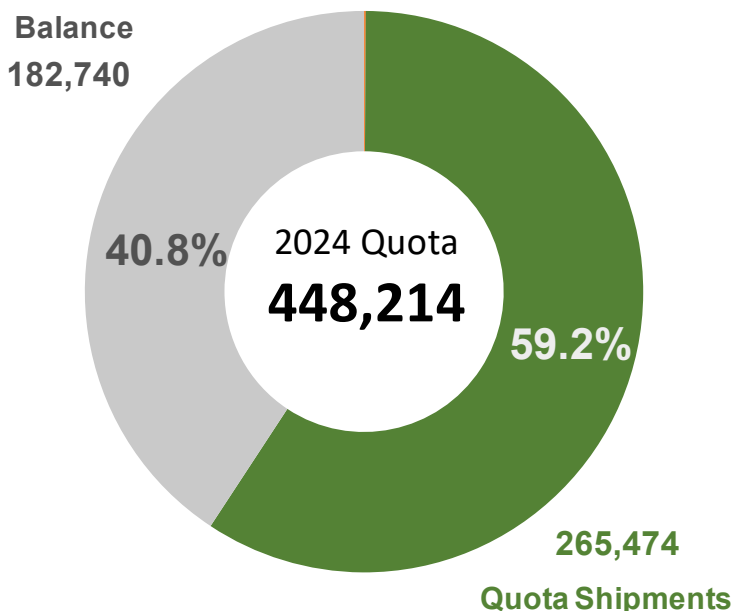
Imports as of August 24, 2024 Analysis by Steiner Consulting



Australian Beef Quota Position

29-Aug-24

Metric Ton. Australian Department of Agriculture Statistics



Australia still has a quota in place even though beef no longer faces a quota based tariff. The over quota product is now subject to a safeguard duty. Due to this DAFF continues to report volume shipped against quota.

USA Quota Entries through Week Ending August 19. Metric Ton

Data source: US Customs. Analysis by Steiner Consulting

