

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(F)063****(Question Serial No. 0397)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (1) Food Safety and Public HealthControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Donald NG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and EcologyQuestion:

Please advise this Committee of the following for each of the past 3 years:

- (1) the quantities of livestock, poultry, meat, poultry meat and aquatic product 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, poultry meat and aquatic product collected for testing, the number of samples detected with irregularities and the details.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kapui, Judy (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)Reply:

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

2022

	Quantities imported (tonnes)						Total
	Top 5 economies					Others	
^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

	Quantities imported (tonnes)						
	Top 5 economies					Others	Total
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
Aquatic product	Mainland 73 956	Vietnam 24 200	Norway 14 103	Japan 10 843	Taiwan 4 804	31 290	159 196

^ 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
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
Aquatic product	Mainland 71 710	Vietnam 25 051	Norway 13 659	Japan 9 790	Taiwan 7 105	29 486	156 801

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

2024

	Quantities imported (tonnes)						
	Top 5 economies					Others	Total
^Live cattle	Mainland 9 142	-	-	-	-	-	9 142
^Live goats	Mainland 769	-	-	-	-	-	769

	Quantities imported (tonnes)						
	Top 5 economies					Others	Total
^Live pigs	Mainland 1 040 205	-	-	-	-	-	1 040 205
Chilled beef	Australia 3 087	USA 1 918	Japan 523	New Zealand 378	Mainland 357	407	6 670
Frozen beef	Brazil 42 297	USA 25 373	Mainland 3 610	UK 3 307	Mexico 3 200	14 812	92 599
Chilled mutton	Australia 561	New Zealand 145	UK 17	France 6	Ireland 4	6	739
Frozen mutton	Australia 1 828	New Zealand 1 196	Mainland 846	UK 53	Ireland 22	18	3 963
Chilled pork	Mainland 11 605	Thailand 1 737	Canada 266	Australia 232	USA 96	217	14 153
Frozen pork	Brazil 91 804	Mainland 21 942	Netherlands 11 734	Russia 11 454	Vietnam 8 130	20 406	165 470
Chilled poultry	Mainland 97 832	Thailand 956	Australia 164	France 140	New Zealand 80	58	99 230
Frozen poultry	USA 79 613	Mainland 74 735	Brazil 62 561	Vietnam 8 448	Thailand 8 318	35 609	269 284
Aquatic product	Mainland 70 567	Vietnam 24 605	Norway 9 964	Japan 8 390	India 4 823	27 375	145 724

^ 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, poultry meat and aquatic product, etc. in slaughterhouses and at import, wholesale and retail levels, and afterwards passing 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 around 11 700 samples of meat, poultry meat, aquatic product and their processed products at the import level for chemical analysis (including analysis of veterinary drug residues, preservatives, metallic contaminants, etc.) and microbiological testing. In 2022, 1 frozen suckling pig sample was detected to have the veterinary drug residue of chlortetracycline exceeding the legal limit; and 1 lobster sample, 1 king crab sample and 1 Dungeness crab sample were detected to contain excessive methylmercury, a metallic contaminant. 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 limits respectively. In addition, 1 red crab sample and 1 scallop sample were detected to have excessive levels of metallic contamination of cadmium and inorganic arsenic respectively. In 2024, 1 prepackaged sausage sample was detected to contain the non-permitted preservative of sodium nitrate; 5 crab samples and 1 frozen shrimp sample were detected to have excessive levels of metallic contamination of cadmium; and 1 escolar sample and 1 frozen sole sample were detected to contain excessive methylmercury. Apart from these, all other samples were found satisfactory. CFS has made public announcements 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, etc.

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