

Halstrom-April-Export-Stats-V2

SPEAKERS

John Herath, Dan Halstrom

John Herath 00:00

Export statistics for U.S. red meat for the month of April have been released by USDA and compiled by the U.S. Meat Export Federation. USMEF President and CEO Dan Halstrom says the strength in pork exports continues.

Dan Halstrom 00:11

Pork continues to have the same momentum that we've seen for the last six, eight months. We have considerable growth in the Latin American region. If you look at both April and the whole year-to-date timeframe, Mexico, you're looking at record growth. Central America at 10% growth for April is also on a record pace, Caribbean as well, with the Dominican Republic also on a pace that's close to record. But the other thing that's interesting is, as we saw in March, the Asian markets continue to have growth as well, and Japan, in particular, is up 9% in April on pork, year-to-date up 17%. The numbers are good, but especially when you consider the global beef situation, I think that's an opportunity for pork for incremental per capita consumption, just as a potential alternative for beef in some of these markets, and I think that's a little bit, maybe what you're seeing in Japan right now.

John Herath 01:03

Beef exports also show a continuing trend of strong demand, despite exclusion from China.

Dan Halstrom 01:08

We're down 10 or so percent, same as the year to date average. But if you take China out, we're actually growing a little bit. So, the rest of the world is performing. So, specifically, the growth markets for the month of April: Taiwan up 9%, that's been a trend for the whole first quarter. Caribbean is up, similar to pork, Caribbean on beef is performing up 8-9%. The other thing that stood out was Southeast Asia, which in the month of March was also up, mainly with Indonesia. So it's really encouraging to see Indonesia starting to come back and getting some of these permit issues, export permits, and all this figured out. And lastly, another story that's the same as it has been most of the quarter is beef variety meats had a strong month at \$115 million.

John Herath 01:52

Exports contributed nearly \$67 per head on hogs in April and almost \$416 on fed cattle. For more, please visit [USMEF.org](https://usmef.org). For the U.S. Meat Export Federation. I'm John Herath.