

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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**Report Name:** Dominican Republic to Open Pork and Beef Markets to Brazil  
Creating Increased Competition for United States

**Country:** Dominican Republic

**Post:** Santo Domingo

**Report Category:** Agricultural Situation, Livestock and Products

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**Report Highlights:**

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and Food Supply of Brazil (MAPA) announced the opening of the Dominican Republic market for pork and beef products on August 9, 2023. Although Brazilian meat is subject to tariffs when exported to the Dominican Republic, it is expected that their pork exports will be extremely competitive in the Dominican market, as seen in the growth of Brazilian poultry exports to the Dominican Republic in the last two years. In 2022, the United States supplied 91 percent of total pork exports to the Dominican Republic, totaling US\$220.8 million.

## **The Announcement**

On August 9, 2023, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and Food Supply of Brazil (MAPA) announced that Brazil had opened the market for pork and beef products to the Dominican Republic (DR). In a widely reproduced press release, the Minister of MAPA, Carlos Fávaro, announced that “this is one of the largest market openings for Brazilian pork in the last decade.” According to MAPA, seven Brazilian establishments are now eligible to ship pork and beef to the Dominican Republic, having complied with the Dominican sanitary requirements and negotiated an export certificate.

Dominican authorities have yet to make a formal announcement, but Post sources have confirmed that the authorization has been provided by both the Directory of Livestock (DIGEGA) of the Ministry of Agriculture of the DR and the General Directory of Drugs, Food and Sanitary Products (DIGEMAPS) of the Ministry of Health in the DR.

## **Brazilian Meat in the Dominican Market**

Brazilian meat products are subject to tariff rates when exported to the Dominican Republic. In the case of beef, Brazilian exports are subject to a 40 percent tariff rate while pork is subject to a 25 percent tariff rate. However, in recent years, Brazilian meat exports to the Dominican Republic have proved to be extremely competitive.

Although U.S. meat is not subject to tariff rates when accessing the Dominican Republic due to preferential access provided by the Central American-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR), U.S. pork exports, will be fiercely challenged by Brazilian pork in the Dominican market.

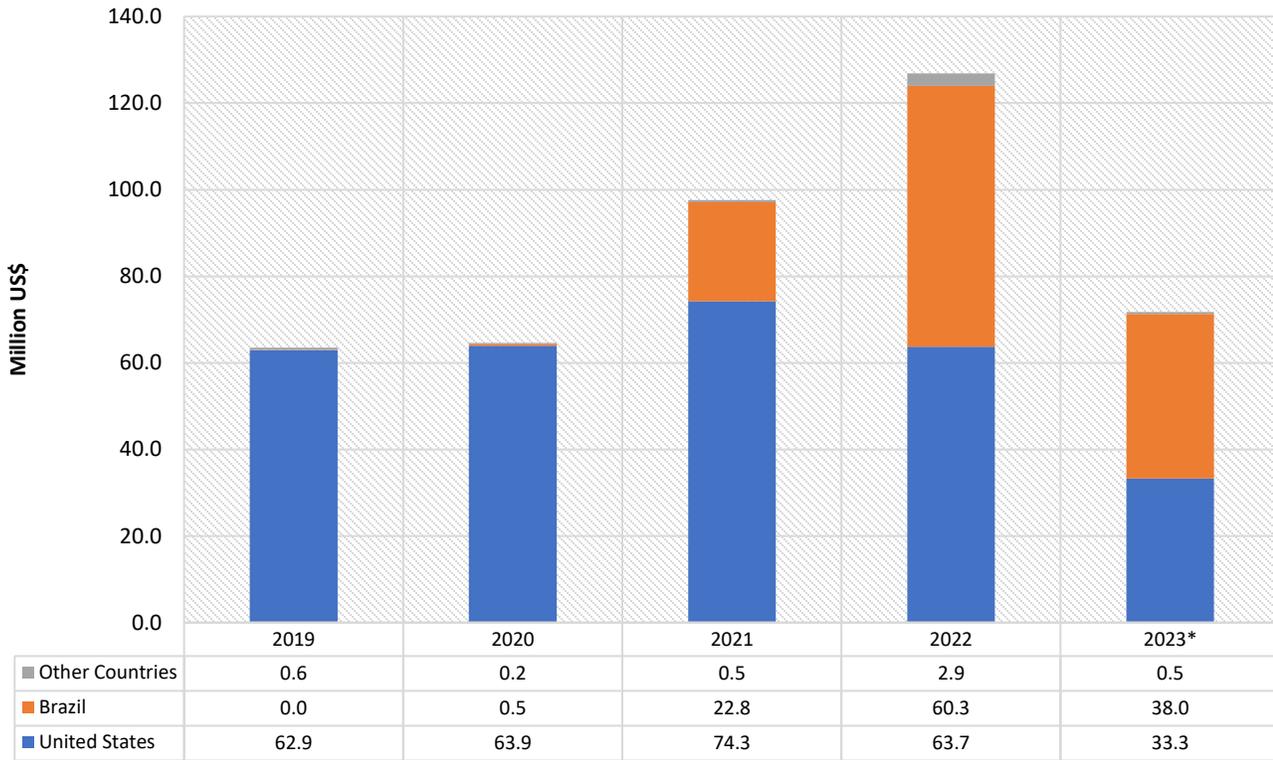
The United States supplied 91 percent of total pork exports to the Dominican Republic in 2022, totaling US\$220.8 million. The impact of African Swine Fever (ASF) on local swine production has caused pork and pork products to become the top agricultural product exported from the United States to the Dominican Republic in 2022. However, as Brazilian poultry meat exports to the Dominican Republic in the last few years have shown, U.S. dominance in the Dominican pork market could be in jeopardy.

## **The Case of Brazilian Poultry**

Brazil has positioned itself as a prime supplier of poultry meat to the Dominican Republic. In 2021, Brazilian poultry suppliers stepped in to fill the gap in the Dominican Republic's poultry market after local producers were unable to meet the increased demand following the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions. They were also able to offer more competitive prices than U.S. suppliers.

Currently, Brazil has become the largest supplier of poultry meat to the Dominican Republic, accounting for 53 percent (US\$38.0 million) of total reported exports (by all global suppliers) to the Dominican Republic as of June 2023. The United States has supplied 46 percent (US\$33.3 million) of the same.

Graph 1. Poultry Meat Exports to the Dominican Republic



\* As of June 2023.

Source: Built by FAS/Santo Domingo with data from Trade Data Monitor (TDM).

Normally, poultry meat products sourced from suppliers who are not a signatory to CAFTA-DR are subject to the technical rectification provision list under the World Trade Organization (WTO). The provisions entail a bound quota volume of 11,500 MT with a 25 percent in-quota tariff rate and a 99 percent out-of-quota tariff rate. However, from March to December, 2022, the Dominican Government issued [Law 6-22](#) to temporarily reduce to zero percent (0%) the tariff rates applied at the border for staple products in the country's basket of goods. Poultry was included as one of the products in this law. Although the law was abolished in December 2022, and the technical rectification provisions are currently in place, Brazilian poultry has remained extremely competitive in the local market, and logistical ties have been established and strengthened.

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.