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### **Report Highlights:**

Korea's overall demand for beef and pork in 2022 will remain steady and could improve in the second half of the year with a reopening of its restaurant sector. However, Covid-related restrictions continue to limit Korea's Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional businesses where meat is heavily consumed. As record omicron cases continue to grip the country, in-home dining has become a permanent fixture in Korea's everyday life. Korean cattle producers look to capitalize on high prices and rising demand for domestic beef and will increase production throughout 2022. Likewise, in the swine sector, Korea's 2022 domestic production will continue upward along with pork imports in order to keep pace with strong consumer demand.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### Conversion Rates:

In a continuous effort to improve data reliability, the “New Post” trade forecast in this report reflects new conversion rates. Historical data revisions (from 2005 onward) will be published on April 8, 2022 in the PSD database (<http://www.fas.usda.gov/psdonline>).

<b>Beef and Veal Conversion Factors</b>		
Code	Description	Conversion Rate*
020110	Bovine carcasses and half carcasses, fresh or chilled	1.0
020120	Bovine cuts bone in, fresh or chilled	1.0
020130	Bovine cuts boneless, fresh or chilled	1.36
020210	Bovine carcasses and half carcasses, frozen	1.0
020220	Bovine cuts bone in, frozen	1.0
020230	Bovine cuts boneless, frozen	1.36
021020	Bovine meat salted, dried or smoked	1.74
160250	Bovine meat, offal nes, not livers, prepared/preserve	1.79
* Exception		
Argentina - Exports of HS 160250 are excluded.		

<b>Pork Conversion Factors</b>		Conversion factor
HS Code	Description	(T to CWE)
020311	Carcasses/half-carcasses, fr/ch	1.00
020312	Bone-In hams, shoulders and cuts thereof, fr/ch	1.00
020319	Other pork cuts, fr/ch	1.30
020321	Carcasses/half-carcasses, frozen	1.00
020322	Bone-In hams, shoulders and cuts thereof, frozen	1.00
020329	Other pork cuts, frozen	1.30
021011	Bone-In hams, shoulders and cuts thereof, processed	1.10
021012	Bellies (streaky) and cuts thereof, processed	1.20
021019	Other meat of swine, processed	1.16
160241	Hams and cuts thereof, prep/pres	1.30
160242	Shoulders and cuts thereof, prep/pres	1.30
160249	Other meat of swine including mixtures, prep/pres	1.30

The definition of Carcass Weight Equivalent/Product Weight Equivalent remains the same. All quantities (beef and pork) are in Carcass Weight Equivalent (CWE) unless otherwise noted as Product Weight Equivalent (PWE). CWE is the weight of an animal after slaughter and removal of internal organs, head, and skin. PWE is the actual weight of the meat product exported.

## Cattle

### Production

An increase in Korea's calf production is expected to continue through 2023 as farmers capitalize on high cattle prices. The annual average price of a fully grown steer increased 11.7 percent in 2021 compared to 2020. Cow prices also increased 5.7 percent during the same period. Inventory growth has raised the average price of female calves by 11.8 percent and male calves by 8.4 percent. Hanwoo cow numbers were their highest since 2014 and semen sales increased marginally by 0.6 percent during 2021. Korea's cattle slaughter figures for 2020 and 2021 were similar, roughly 46 percent, signaling farmers intention to hold onto inventory and increase stocks. Increased inventory of Hanwoo beef under 1 year old will allow for total inventory to continue its upward trend in 2023.

**Table 1: Hanwoo Inventory by Age (1,000 head and percent)**

Description		2016-2020 Average	2020 (A)	2021 (B)	Change (%) (B) / (A)
Hanwoo	Under 1 year	867	962	978	1.7
	1 – 2 years	827	897	949	5.8
	Over 2 years	1,277	1,369	1,458	6.5
	Sub-total ①	2,970	3,227	3,385	4.9
	Cows	1,428	1,548	1,631	5.4
Holstein steer ②		155	168	170	1.2
Total beef cattle ①+②		3,125	3,395	3,555	4.7

Note: Cattle inventory as of end of December for each year.

Source: Korea Rural Economic Institute

**Table 2: Hanwoo Semen Sales (Unit: 1,000 straws)**

Month	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	% Change
Jan	141	134	138	157	172	9.6
Feb	47	119	48	168	162	-3.6
Mar	176	166	207	155	179	15.5
Apr	158	55	196	213	209	-1.9
May	160	237	195	207	209	1.0
Jun	211	233	196	231	233	.9
Jul	229	223	231	207	226	9.2
Aug	170	195	183	211	214	1.4
Sep	214	189	183	227	183	-19.4
Oct	180	179	185	205	220	7.3
Nov	148	151	192	186	170	-8.6
Dec	122	174	141	194	197	1.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,956</b>	<b>2,055</b>	<b>2,095</b>	<b>2,361</b>	<b>2,374</b>	<b>0.6</b>

Source: Global Strategy Networking Journal (GS&J), Korea Rural Economic Institute, National Agricultural Cooperative Federation

Note: 1/ The percent change column compares of 2021 sales versus the same month in 2020.

2/ The low semen sales in Feb. 2016, Feb. 2017 and Apr. 2018 were due to an outbreak of FMD. The drop in Feb. 2019 is likely due to a price reduction in calves that discouraged farmers from increasing herd size.

**Table 3: Live Hanwoo Beef Cattle Prices (Thousand won / head)**

Month	Calf (4-5 month old)						Cow (600 Kg.)			Steer (600 Kg.)		
	Female			Male			2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021						
Jan	2453	2840	2990	3021	3246	3877	5685	5895	6372	5422	5672	5372
Feb	3097	2960	2880	3217	3068	3891	5685	5893	6209	5451	5479	5207
Mar	3290	N/A	3500	3307	3132	3641	5619	5943	6263	5495	4983	5348
Apr	2691	3010	4500	3227	3332	3597	5613	5837	6322	5420	5326	6434
May	2830	N/A	3350	3337	3554	3709	5477	6015	6379	5276	5536	6289
Jun	2771	3189	3350	3562	4393	3956	5558	6255	6508	5685	5504	7159
Jul	3059	3196	3351	3577	3426	4342	5605	6051	6369	5022	5171	6412
Aug	2850	2848	4185	3341	3667	3851	5482	6232	6499	5457	5423	6447
Sep	2941	2571	3200	3570	3733	3893	5589	6101	6529	5556	5420	5854
Oct	2158	2629	2850	3742	3736	3669	5686	6291	6751	5644	5232	5504
Nov	2611	3180	N/A	3420	3348	3409	5863	6430	6602	5559	5429	5735
Dec	2733	2792	1800	3412	3321	3315	5890	6266	6534	5727	5461	6407

Source: National Agricultural Cooperative Federation 6455

(Exchange rate US\$1 = 1,204.5 won (As of February 28, 2022))

**Table 4: Monthly Cattle Slaughter Trend**

Year	Month	Cow		Bulls/steers		Total	
		Head	Percent of total	Head	Percent of total	Sub-total	Percent of annual
2019	Jan	52,251	43.9	66,728	56.1	118,979	13.4
	Feb	17,903	43.9	22,863	56.1	40,766	4.6
	Mar	27,865	46.5	32,012	53.5	59,877	6.8
	Apr	34,257	48.1	36,975	51.9	71,232	8.0
	May	30,776	48.2	33,011	51.8	63,787	7.2
	Jun	28,534	48.3	30,524	51.7	59,058	6.7
	Jul	34,034	48.4	36,260	51.6	70,294	7.9
	Aug	45,212	44.9	55,423	55.1	100,635	11.4
	Sep	31,271	45.6	37,288	54.4	68,559	7.7
	Oct	31,868	42.9	42,454	57.1	74,322	8.4
	Nov	28,882	42.9	38,516	57.1	67,398	7.6
	Dec	38,923	42.5	52,774	57.5	91,697	10.3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>401,776</b>	<b>45.3</b>	<b>484,828</b>	<b>54.7</b>	<b>886,604</b>	<b>100.0</b>
2020	Jan	42,770	44.1	54,161	55.9	96,931	10.9
	Feb	25,275	45.3	30,466	54.7	55,741	6.3
	Mar	31,943	48.2	34,361	51.8	66,304	7.5
	Apr	33,230	47.9	36,104	52.1	69,334	7.8
	May	33,278	49.2	34,376	50.8	67,654	7.6
	Jun	36,646	49.4	37,537	50.6	74,183	8.4
	Jul	33,202	48.6	35,178	51.4	68,380	7.7
	Aug	34,696	46.0	40,725	54.0	75,421	8.5
	Sep	47,866	45.6	57,086	54.4	104,952	11.8
	Oct	26,750	41.9	37,141	58.1	63,891	7.2
	Nov	29,960	43.9	38,219	56.1	68,179	7.7
	Dec	34,405	45.1	41,822	54.9	76,227	8.6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>410,021</b>	<b>46.2</b>	<b>477,176</b>	<b>53.8</b>	<b>887,197</b>	<b>100.0</b>
2021	Jan	48,642	43.1	64,331	56.9	112,973	12.1
	Feb	24,740	47.8	27,018	52.2	51,758	5.5
	Mar	33,715	47.4	37,340	52.6	71,055	7.6
	Apr	34,549	48.5	36,620	51.5	71,169	7.6
	May	32,959	49.0	34,337	51.0	67,296	7.2
	Jun	34,854	49.4	35,673	50.6	70,527	7.6
	Jul	31,448	49.4	32,164	50.6	63,612	6.8
	Aug	41,550	44.6	51,698	55.4	93,248	10.0
	Sep	42,572	45.9	50,202	54.1	92,774	9.9
	Oct	30,943	44.2	39,037	55.8	69,980	7.5
	Nov	33,988	43.4	44,340	56.6	78,328	8.4
	Dec	40,562	44.5	50,579	55.5	91,141	9.8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>430,522</b>	<b>46.1</b>	<b>503,339</b>	<b>53.9</b>	<b>933,861</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency

## Production, Supply and Distribution

Animal Numbers, Cattle	2020			2021			2022		
	Jan 2020			Jan 2021			Jan 2022		
	USDA Official	Old Post	New Post	USDA Official	Old Post	New Post	USDA Official	Old Post	New Post
Market Begin Year									
Korea, Republic of									
<b>Total Cattle Beg. Stks</b>	<b>3645</b>	<b>3645</b>	<b>3645</b>	<b>3774</b>	<b>3763</b>	<b>3805</b>	<b>3887</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3956</b>
Dairy Cows Beg. Stocks	316	316	316	316	315	314	316	0	309
Beef Cows Beg. Stocks	1491	1491	1491	1553	1542	1555	1600	0	1638
Production (Calf Crop)	1026	1031	1073	1089	1066	1096	1136	0	1110
Total Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Supply</b>	<b>4671</b>	<b>4676</b>	<b>4718</b>	<b>4863</b>	<b>4829</b>	<b>4901</b>	<b>5023</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5066</b>
Total Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cow Slaughter	410	428	428	460	467	431	500	0	452
Calf Slaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Slaughter	477	475	475	505	520	503	510	0	535
<b>Total Slaughter</b>	<b>887</b>	<b>903</b>	<b>903</b>	<b>965</b>	<b>987</b>	<b>934</b>	<b>1010</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>987</b>
Loss and Residual	10	10	10	11	10	11	11	0	11
Ending Inventories	3774	3763	3805	3887	3832	3956	4002	0	4068
<b>Total Distribution</b>	<b>4671</b>	<b>4676</b>	<b>4718</b>	<b>4863</b>	<b>4829</b>	<b>4901</b>	<b>5023</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5066</b>

## Beef

### Production

As farmers continue to increase herd inventory in 2022, total beef production is also projected to increase. Persistent consumer demand for local Hanwoo beef coupled with Korea's government plan to provide additional COVID relief funds to small business entities in 2022 has allowed cattle production to remain high in an otherwise saturated beef market. If positive cases of omicron begin to drop this Spring, as the government anticipates, it would help precipitate a market reopening that could reinvigorate beef consumption in Korea's restaurant sector and keep beef prices high throughout 2022 and into 2023.

### Consumption

Korea's omicron wave has prolonged restrictions imposed on the country's restaurant and catering sector. While there has been an occasional reprieve where operations resumed with semi-regular business, for the most part, there remains tightened controls on capacity and service hours across the country. During the past two years of pandemic, Korean consumers have chosen to dine at home. This change in dining patterns and increased disposable income, has allowed consumers to enjoy more Hanwoo beef at home. Higher demand for home use of Hanwoo beef has sustained the live beef cattle prices despite increased inventory. According to a survey conducted by the Korea Rural Economic Institute (KREI), the ratio of domestic beef vs. imported beef consumption for in-home use was 65.0 percent in 2021 in favor of Korean product. Survey responses for increased demand for domestic beef for home use were increased financial resources due to less spending and Korean government stimulus monies (54.1%), perceived nutrition and health benefits over competition (25.2%), better taste (11.0%) and ease of preparation (9.8%).

**Table 5: Average Amount of Beef Purchased for Consumption at Home (Kilogram)**

Type of beef	2019	2020	2021
Hanwoo (domestic beef)	0.61	0.67	0.68
Imported beef	2.78	2.83	2.83

Source: Korea Rural Economic Institute

COVID, social distancing, limits on restaurant operation hours, etc. have all brought about increased consumption of beef at home while reducing restaurant demand. Home dining has not only increased the consumption of beef at home, but it has also boosted the sale of Home Meal Replacement (HMR) items in Korean convenience stores. HMR and processed meat consumption pattern is expected to continue for 2022. As a result, imported beef used in these HMR and processed meat categories will also expand.

Looking ahead, Korea’s government is attempting to slowly remove controls on in-person restaurant dining in the coming months. These actions are being made to help revive an ailing restaurant industry that has suffered severe economic losses for the past 2 years. However, as Korea currently struggles with a massive omicron surge, it remains unclear how quickly Korean consumers are willing to return to restaurant dining.

**Table 6: Comparison of Average Retail Price for Beef Short Ribs and Pork Bellies**

(Won per 100 gram)

Origin	Quality	2019	2020	2021	Change in price		Price ratio over U.S. frozen beef		
					2020 over 2019	2021 over 2020	2019	2020	2021
Korean Hanwoo	Grade 1	5230	6103	6857	1.17	1.12	2.09	2.48	2.66
U.S. Beef	Chilled	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Frozen	2508	2464	2581	0.98	1.05	1.00	1.00	1.00
Australian Beef	Chilled	2577	2367	2647	0.92	1.12	1.03	0.96	1.03
	Frozen	2190	2368	2496	1.08	1.05	0.87	0.96	0.97
Korean Chilled Pork Belly		1843	2122	2429	1.15	1.14	0.73	0.86	0.94
Imported Frozen Pork Belly		1025	1078	1309	1.05	1.21	0.41	0.44	0.51

Source: Korea Agricultural Marketing Information Service (KAMIS)

Note: Data for 2021 is the average price for the data that is available up to August 2021.

(Exchange rate US\$1 = 1,204.5 won (As of February 28, 2022))

**Table 7: Retail Prices for Beef Short Ribs (2017 – 2019)** Unit: Won per 100 grams

Year	Month	Domestic Hanwoo (chilled)	U.S.A.	Australia	
		#1 Grade	Frozen	Chilled	Frozen
<b>2019</b>	January	5,203	2,478	2,374	2,051
	February	5,126	2,506	2,500	2,085
	March	5,257	2,527	2,594	2,088
	April	5,361	2,499	2,484	2,104
	May	5,183	2,481	2,451	2,100
	June	5,107	2,459	2,391	2,154
	July	5,190	2,447	2,494	2,161
	August	5,159	2,502	2,657	2,238
	September	5,637	2,572	2,769	2,333
	October	-	2,576	2,986	2,320
	November	-	2,539	2,773	2,293
	December	-	2,515	2,472	2,357
<b>2020</b>	January	6,178	2,514	2,596	2,364
	February	5,883	2,517	2,316	2,370
	March	5,869	2,517	2,316	2,382
	April	-	2,411	2,399	2,248
	May	-	2,491	2,295	2,358
	June	-	2,396	2,374	2,381
	July	-	2,363	2,448	2,271
	August	-	2,490	2,359	2,403

	September	6,424	2,478	2,491	2,412
	October	6,400	2,468	2,178	2,388
	November		2,470	2,171	2,421
	December		2,472	2,432	2,421
<b>2021</b>	January		2,475	2,413	2,469
	February	6,525	2,462	2,560	2,457
	March		2,452	2,431	2,401
	April		2,446	2,310	2,394
	May		2,452	2,337	2,414
	June		2,493	2,481	2,447
	July		2,562	2,608	2,493
	August		2,577	2,602	2,477
	September		2,609	2,849	2,457
	October		2,682	2,962	2,583
	November		2,796	3,035	2,622
	December	7,850	2,934	3,178	2,717

Source: Korea Agricultural Marketing Information Service (KAMIS)

(Exchange rate US\$1 = 1,204.5 won (As of February 28, 2022))

## Trade

A strong U.S. dollar and tighter supply of U.S. red meat forecast for 2022 will temper the rate of growth for beef exports to Korea over the next twelve months. Additionally, a rebounding Australian beef industry coupled with a healthy Korean domestic supply of Hanwoo beef will increase overall market competition in Korea's meat market.

The United States was Korea's largest supplier of imported beef in 2021. Strong consumer confidence in U.S. beef continues to be an important factor in the growth of sales to Korea. According to research

conducted by Gallup in 2021, Korea's perception on U.S. beef has improved significantly over the past decade. Likewise, competitive pricing and a shortage of Australian beef supplies through 2020 boosted the demand for high-value U.S. beef products over the last year.

Australia, the second largest beef supplier to Korea, is subject to an Agricultural Safeguard (ASG) under the Korea-Australia Free Trade Agreement (FTA). In 2022, the trigger level for beef is set at 181,120 MT, with a safeguard duty of 30 percent. Traditionally, once Australia reaches its trigger level, it will focus on more price-competitive chilled product exports.

**Table 8: Korea: Beef Imports** (Thousand dollars and metric tons)

Country	Annual 2019		Annual 2020		Annual 2021	
	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume
United States	1,745,507	235,729	1,731,836	243,198	2,093,138	249,950
Australia	1,038,788	177,806	1,026,799	170,238	1,260,164	179,260
New Zealand	71,505	16,015	70,077	15,362	99,452	20,082
Mexico	29,517	6,791	31,887	7,511	33,715	7,444
Canada	32,312	5,921	31,395	5,965	61,003	9,675
Uruguay	5,245	1,068	3,935	796	13,021	2,626
Chile	2,178	502	1,805	457	1,699	416
Others	1,131	223	4,449	925	10,076	1,750
Total	2,926,183	444,055	2,902,183	444,452	3,572,268	471,203

Source: Korea Trade Statistics Promotion Institute

Product weight equivalent basis

Includes HS 0201 (fresh/chilled), HS 0202 (frozen), HS 021020 and 160250 (processed beef products)

**Table 9: Wholesale price competitiveness of U.S. Beef against Australian Beef**

Category	Country	Unit	2021	2022 (P)	2023(P)	2026(P)	2031(P)
Exchange rate		Won / US dollar	1,140	1,169	1,162	1,160	1,147
Import price	U.S.A.	U.S. dollar / Kg.	8.0	8.4	8.6	9.1	8.9
	Australia		6.9	7.2	7.3	7.8	7.6
Import duty	U.S.A.	Percent	13.3	10.6	8.0	0	0
	Australia		18.7	16.0	13.3	5.3	0
Wholesale price	U.S.A.	Won / Kg.	11,314	11,828	11,734	11,584	11,222
	Australia		10,105	10,574	10,499	10,398	9,607

\* (P) Data for 2022 – 2031 are projections.

Source: Korea Rural Economic Institute

**Table 10: Comparison of Beef Import Duties Among Free Trade Agreements**

Commodity		KORUS FTA	Korea – Australia FTA	Korea – Canada FTA
Beef	Content of Free Trade Agreement	Duty phased out in 15 years plus Agricultural Safeguard (Already in 10 <sup>th</sup> year of phase out)	Duty phased out in 15 years plus Agricultural Safeguard (Already in 5 <sup>th</sup> year of phase out)	Duty phased out in 15 years plus Agricultural Safeguard (In its 4 <sup>th</sup> year of phase out)
	Base duty	40%	40%	40%
	Applicable duty in 2021	13.3%	18.6%	21.3%
	Applicable duty in 2022	10.6%	16.0%	18.6%
	Applicable duty in 2023	8.0%	13.3%	16.0%

## Production, Supply and Distribution

Meat, Beef and Veal Market Begin Year	2020			2021			2022		
	Jan 2020			Jan 2021			Jan 2022		
Korea, Republic of	USDA Official	Old Post	New Post	USDA Official	Old Post	New Post	USDA Official	Old Post	New Post
Slaughter (Reference)	887	903	903	965	987	934	1010	0	987
Beginning Stocks	15	15	15	20	15	15	25	0	15
Production	287	291	291	310	318	304	325	0	321
Total Imports	549	530	530	595	520	586	575	0	590
Total Supply	851	836	836	925	853	905	925	0	926
Total Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Human Dom. Consumpt	831	821	821	900	833	890	915	0	910
Other Use, Losses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Dom. Consumptio	831	821	821	900	833	890	915	0	910
Ending Stocks	20	15	15	25	20	15	10	0	16
Total Distribution	851	836	836	925	853	905	925	0	926

## Swine

### Production

Total swine supply continued upwards in 2021 and is expected to expand further in 2022. Farmgate hog prices rose through most of 2021, averaging 398,000 won per head. This was a 12.7 percent increase over the 2020 average price. As a result, farmers have increased herd sizes since July 2021 (See Tables 11 & 15). However, as 2022 pork wholesale prices stabilize, there will be a gradually decrease in production in the second half of 2022. Korean wholesale pork prices are projected to drop in 2022 due to high hog production volumes readying to enter the market. The following table shows the intention of producers to increase its sow numbers.

**Table 11: Producers Intention to Raise Sows**

Year	March	April	May	June	July
2022	100.1	100.1	100.1	100.1	100.1
2021	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.1
Change (Percent)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0

Source: Korea Rural Economic Institute

**Table 12: Average Hog Production Cost by Farm Size (Won per 100 kilograms)**

Description	Under 1,000 head	1,000 – 1,999 head	2,000 – 2,999 head	Over 3,000 head	Average	2021 Wholesale price
Production cost (Won/100 Kg.)	350,692	308,967	282,038	264,658	283,662	4,200 ~ 4,300 won/Kg.
Converted into wholesale price (Won/Kg.)	4,572	4,028	3,677	3,451	3,698	

Source: Korea Statistics Service and Korea Rural Economic Institute

(Exchange rate US\$1 = 1,204.5 won (As of February 28, 2022))

**Table 13: Farm Gate Hog Prices (Thousand Won/Head, 110 kg./head)**

Month	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
January	358	325	273	247	309
February	362	347	265	274	298
March	374	343	318	330	345
April	415	375	369	362	390
May	425	391	351	432	421
June	485	438	354	399	439
July	456	432	344	412	433
August	476	408	353	363	452
September	457	414	404	399	453
October	361	330	265	339	386
November	380	310	313	356	445
December	367	303	282	356	433
Annual average	417	368	285	353	398

Source: National Agricultural Cooperative Federation

(Exchange rate US\$1 = 1,204.5 won (As of February 28, 2022))

African Swine Fever (ASF) continues to be found in wild boars along Korea's northern military border and has been detected in areas further south. Korea recorded five cases of ASF in commercial farms in 2021. Depopulated farms along Korea's northern military border have begun to restock their operations. Also, in 2021 the prevalence of Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) increased slightly but Porcine Epidemic Disease (PED) remained fairly low compared to previous years. This has caused higher piglet production in 2021, despite lower sow numbers at the beginning of last year. Despite high sow numbers in 2022, piglet production is expected to stabilize due to an anticipated drop in farmgate prices and greater competition from pork imports.

**Table 14: Number of Porcine Disease Outbreak Cases**

Disease	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
PED	5	1	12	169	94	82	77	221	137	161	37
PRRS	44	47	69	47	44	40	20	29	29	18	59
ASF									14	3	5

Source: Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency, Korea Animal Health Integrated System

**Table 15: Number of Sows and Swine by Age (Thousand head)**

Year	Month	Sow 1/	Number of swine by age				
			Under 2 months	2-4 month	4-6 month	6-8 month	Over 8 months
2014	Mar	910	2921	3000	2805	112	859
	Jun	925	2934	2980	2789	113	864
	Sep	925	3011	3102	2876	115	861
	Dec	937	3043	3108	2949	120	869
2015	Mar	940	3094	2992	2898	110	877
	Jun	948	3116	3085	2827	111	879
	Sep	943	3155	3191	2993	118	876
	Dec	958	3110	3128	2957	105	886
2016	Mar	968	3210	3183	2922	105	896
	Jun	981	3238	3124	2980	108	905
	Sep	984	3313	3238	3100	104	914
	Dec	974	3216	3099	3041	109	901
2017	Mar	1045	3422	3284	3215	120	963
	Jun	1062	3473	3391	3222	135	966
	Sep	1052	3534	3508	3365	118	969
	Dec	1058	3438	3362	3374	124	974
2018	Mar	1058	3488	3279	3302	113	974
	Jun	1069	3545	3411	3252	116	981
	Sep	1063	3619	3598	3313	139	971
	Dec	1063	3508	3474	3248	131	972
2019	Mar	1063	3512	3434	3160	116	977
	Jun	1070	3554	3468	3196	122	977
	Sep	1063	3660	3586	3374	117	976
	Dec	1026	3497	3453	3257	132	941
2020	Mar	1041	3525	3415	3188	127	954
	Jun	1023	3505	3314	3205	125	939
	Sep	1010	3522	3429	3363	121	930
	Dec	1001	3399	3379	3257	120	923
2021	Mar	1025	3525	3315	3244	124	939
	Jun	1041	3559	3373	3142	131	946
	Sep	1024	3601	3550	3248	118	947
	Dec	1023	3482	3454	3215	121	944

Source: Korea Statistics Administration

1/ Swine over eight months are sows and part of the swine herd that are 6-8 months old are sows

2/ Sow numbers are based on the first day of each month and may not match with Production, Supply and Distribution sow numbers, which are based on Dec. 31.

3/ The Korea Statistics Administration changed the data basis from sampling basis to traceability numbers from April 2018 and swine numbers have been updated based on traceability numbers from the March 2017 data.

**Table 16: Monthly Swine Slaughter**

Year	Month	Slaughter number (heads)		
		Total	Gilt/Sows	Boar
2019	Jan	1,733,052	834,167	898,885
	Feb	1,301,415	626,677	674,738
	Mar	1,436,185	691,346	744,839
	Apr	1,489,680	716,442	773,238
	May	1,482,836	714,009	768,827
	Jun	1,278,971	613,222	665,749
	Jul	1,475,724	714,233	761,491
	Aug	1,393,022	673,612	719,410
	Sep	1,241,562	598,812	642,750
	Oct	1,712,780	820,120	892,660
	Nov	1,650,646	790,392	860,254
	Dec	1,629,376	784,669	844,707
	<b>Total</b>	<b>17,825,249</b>	<b>8,577,701</b>	<b>9,247,548</b>
2020	Jan	1,562,642	766,028	826,614
	Feb	1,566,810	754,242	812,568
	Mar	1,583,419	758,429	824,990

	Apr	1,604,913	767,901	837,012
	May	1,410,414	676,240	734,174
	Jun	1,398,273	675,198	723,075
	Jul	1,485,424	713,511	771,913
	Aug	1,341,670	650,946	690,724
	Sep	1,496,322	732,666	763,656
	Oct	1,546,152	747,053	799,099
	Nov	1,616,111	779,277	838,834
	Dec	1,685,802	812,280	873,522
	<b>Total</b>	<b>18,329,952</b>	<b>8,833,771</b>	<b>9,496,181</b>
2021	Jan	1,600,274	777,247	823,027
	Feb	1,416,529	687,952	728,577
	Mar	1,689,063	819,876	869,187
	Apr	1,551,034	756,170	794,864
	May	1,440,219	705,781	734,438
	Jun	1,448,976	713,406	735,570
	Jul	1,347,743	661,469	686,274
	Aug	1,416,102	697,540	718,562
	Sep	1,489,258	732,265	756,993
	Oct	1,540,333	753,586	786,747
	Nov	1,720,536	843,497	877,039
	Dec	1,722,700	842,811	879,889
	<b>Total</b>	<b>18,382,767</b>	<b>8,991,600</b>	<b>9,391,167</b>

Source: Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency

**Table 17: Pork Wholesale Prices**

Month Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
	Won per kilogram						
January	4590	4396	4582	3853	3241	2922	3663
February	4717	3920	4536	4114	3143	3247	3526
March	4657	4246	4710	4063	3768	3914	4083
April	5044	4461	5153	4439	4370	4285	4626
May	5845	4969	5222	4635	4159	5114	4990
June	5623	5437	5751	5192	4200	4733	5203
July	5664	4881	5528	5120	4076	4888	5137
August	5472	4829	5643	4838	4179	4303	5363
September	4840	4970	5421	4909	4791	4727	5374
October	4313	4415	4281	3911	3143	3335	4572
November	4745	4540	4507	3675	3705	4221	5272
December	4361	4335	4345	3597	3341	4217	5129

Source: Korea Meat Trade Association, National Agricultural Cooperative Federation

(Exchange rate US\$1 = 1,204.5 won (As of February 28, 2022))

### Production, Supply and Distribution

Animal Numbers, Swine	2020			2021			2022		
	Jan 2020			Jan 2021			Jan 2022		
Korea, Republic of	USDA Official	Old Post	New Post	USDA Official	Old Post	New Post	USDA Official	Old Post	New Post
Total Beginning Stocks	11280	11280	11280	11078	11255	11078	11000	0	11217
Sow Beginning Stocks	1026	1026	1026	1001	1023	1001	1000	0	1023
Production (Pig Crop)	19733	19973	19733	19500	19140	20473	19600	0	20433
Total Imports	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1
Total Supply	31014	31254	31014	30579	30396	31552	30601	0	31651
Total Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sow Slaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Slaughter	18330	18248	18330	18000	17192	18383	17850	0	18420
Total Slaughter	18330	18248	18330	18000	17192	18383	17850	0	18420
Loss and Residual	1606	1751	1606	1579	1974	1952	1576	0	1961
Ending Inventories	11078	11255	11078	11000	11230	11217	11175	0	11270
Total Distribution	31014	31254	31014	30579	30396	31552	30601	0	31651

## Pork

### Production

**Note: Please refer to the explanatory notes in the cattle section for conversion rates.**

The Korea Rural Economic Institute projects 2022 swine slaughter will increase in the first half of year compared to 2021 levels. However, this increase will cause hog prices to fall and temper the pace of slaughter for the last six months of 2022. As a result, 2022 overall slaughter figures are expected to remain on par with the previous year's total.

### Consumption

As Korea continues to cope with record omicron cases, the trend in meat consumption remains similar to the previous two years of the pandemic. Social distancing, capacity limits, and reduced business operating hours have kept Koreans at home and out of restaurants. As a result, in-restaurant dining further declined in 2021, with Korean businesses reporting a 71 percent decrease from pre-pandemic patronage levels. Conversely, in-home dining has risen dramatically and has revealed consumers food preferences when cooking for themselves. According to a recent Korea Rural Economic Institute survey, 65.7 percent of respondents indicated pork was their top meat choice while dining at home, followed by beef 18.4, chicken 14.1, and duck 1.8 percent. While Korea does plan to loosen its measures once omicron cases peak, as of March 21, 2022, many restrictions remain in place that limit capacity and reduce business in the restaurant and catering sectors.

### Trade

Korea's imports of pork for processing dropped in 2021 due to high prices and abundant domestic supply. However, as consumers increased their pork consumption at home, the popular cuts for household use continued to increase over the last year.

**Table 18: Average Pork Import Price** (Unit: U.S. dollar per kilogram, percent)

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
2021	3.65	3.76	3.74	3.61	3.87	3.75	4.53	4.45	4.27	4.21	3.96	3.84	3.97
2020	3.12	3.24	3.40	3.19	3.31	3.07	3.49	3.32	3.29	3.25	3.51	3.40	3.30
2019	2.85	2.93	2.91	2.86	2.90	2.90	3.13	3.25	3.17	3.11	3.15	3.11	3.02

Source: Trade Data Monitor and Korea Rural Economic Institute

The following table highlights the type of pork cuts most traded into Korea. Tenderloin and loins are used for producing pork cutlets and sweet and sour pork. Picnic and hams are for producing processed meat products, and collar butt, single rib belly, and ribs are targeted for household sales. While there were some reductions in frozen collar butt and picnic imports in 2021, overall pork imports increased due to an upswing in sales of Korea's most popular retail cut, single rib belly. As COVID-related restrictions ease in 2022, total pork consumption in Korea's restaurant sector is expected to rebound and result in higher demand for imported product.

**Table 19: Pork Imports by Cuts**

Unit: MT and 2020/21 Percent Change

Cut		2018 (A)	2019 (B)	2020 (C)	2021 (D)	2020/21 % Δ
Chilled	Tenderloin	0	0	0	0	N/A
	Loin	1	7	33	18	-45.5
	Collar butt	7,130	6,604	5,924	7,675	29.6
	Picnic	440	448	613	662	8.0
	Ham	6	0	0	0	N/A
	Single rib belly	16,264	14,173	12,203	16,472	35.0
	Rib	0	1	0	2	N/A
Frozen	Tenderloin	8	3	2	0	N/A
	Loin	13,858	15,933	5,295	11,026	108.2
	Collar butt	42,715	59,290	48,426	37,774	-22
	Picnic	197,047	152,029	109,754	103,461	-5.7
	Ham	5,645	9,555	1,045	814	-22
	Single rib belly	168,564	150,650	116,756	149,811	28.3
	Rib	10,081	10,756	9,691	5,001	-48.4
	Other	1,762	1,893	725	41	-94.3
TOTAL		463,521	421,342	310,467	332,757	6.7

Source: Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (The above data is based on inspection conducted for imported pork on a Product Weight Equivalence (PWE) basis.)

**Table 20: Price competitiveness of U.S. Pork against EU Pork**

Category	Country	Unit	2021	Projection			
				2022	2023	2026	2031
Exchange rate		Won / U.S. dollar	1,140	1,169	1,162	1,160	1,147
Import price	U.S.A.	U.S. dollar / Kg.	3.23	2.83	2.73	2.77	2.76
	EU		4.66	4.09	3.94	3.99	3.98
	Other		3.14	2.76	2.66	2.70	2.69
Import duty	U.S.A.	Percent	0	0	0	0	0
	EU		0	0	0	0	0
	Other		6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2
Wholesale price	U.S.A.	Won / Kg.	4,051	3,642	3,492	3,534	3,484
	EU		5,842	5,253	5,037	5,097	5,025
	Other		4,167	3,747	3,593	3,636	3,584

Data for 2022 – 2031 are projections.

(Exchange rate US\$1 = 1,204.5 won (As of February 28, 2022))

Source: Korea Rural Economic Institute

Due to Korea's ban on German pork that was imposed in September 2020, imports of these products have been supplanted by other suppliers, namely Spain, Austria, and the Netherlands.

**Table 21: Korea: Pork Imports**

Unit: Thousands USD and Metric Tons

Country	Annual 2019		Annual 2020		Annual 2021	
	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume
United States	537,739	189,432	468,022	162,864	490,927	144,709
Germany	343,108	109,868	289,771	81,812	12,139	2,832
Spain	263,659	77,560	203,965	49,445	399,876	88,094
Chile	116,718	30,695	112,186	27,092	140,896	27,155
Canada	127,874	43,475	120,084	39,550	139,673	43,894
Netherlands	70,545	20,396	59,329	13,281	152,335	33,260
Austria	48,612	13,544	55,054	13,463	158,446	30,059
Mexico	41,601	11,694	25,564	6,943	37,797	8,798
Denmark	39,048	15,110	33,698	10,836	114,386	26,510
Finland	14,836	4,067	19,499	5,036	24,064	4,763
France	22,394	5,374	20,021	4,268	46,511	8,764
Brazil	7,451	3,454	11,789	4,037	14,257	3,746

Others	21,257	9,563	18,236	7,925	43,087	16,287
Total	1,654,842	534,232	1,437,218	426,552	1,774,394	438,871

Source: Korea Trade Statistics Promotion Institute

Product Weight Equivalent basis

Includes: HS 020311, 020312, 020319 (fresh/chilled), HS 020321, 020322, 020329 (frozen), 021011, 021012, 021019, 160241, 160242, and 160249 (processed pork products)

### Production, Supply and Distribution

Meat, Swine	2020			2021			2022		
	Jan 2020			Jan 2021			Jan 2022		
	USDA Official	Old Post	New Post	USDA Official	Old Post	New Post	USDA Official	Old Post	New Post
Slaughter (Reference)	18330	18248	18330	18000	17192	18383	17850	0	18420
Beginning Stocks	225	225	225	201	252	201	200	0	171
Production	1403	1396	1403	1375	1315	1407	1365	0	1410
Total Imports	554	580	554	550	600	570	600	0	617
Total Supply	2182	2201	2182	2126	2167	2178	2165	0	2198
Total Exports	5	1	5	7	2	7	5	0	5
Human Dom. Consumpt	1976	1948	1976	1919	1940	2007	1985	0	2011
Other Use, Losses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Dom. Consumptio	1976	1948	1976	1919	1940	2007	1985	0	2011
Ending Stocks	201	252	201	200	225	171	175	0	182
Total Distribution	2182	2201	2182	2126	2167	2178	2165	0	2198

**Attachments:**

No Attachments