

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Hong Kong Agricultural Import and Re-Export Overview

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Report Highlights:

This report provides an overview of Hong Kong's agricultural imports and re-exports. As a free port with zero duties on nearly all agricultural products, Hong Kong serves as a regional distribution hub for a wide range of products, including fresh fruit, food preparations, wine and distilled spirits, and seafood. This status is reflected in Hong Kong's annual agricultural imports of \$24 billion, approximately 42 percent of which are re-exported, including significant volumes to mainland China, Macau, Vietnam, South Korea, and Taiwan.

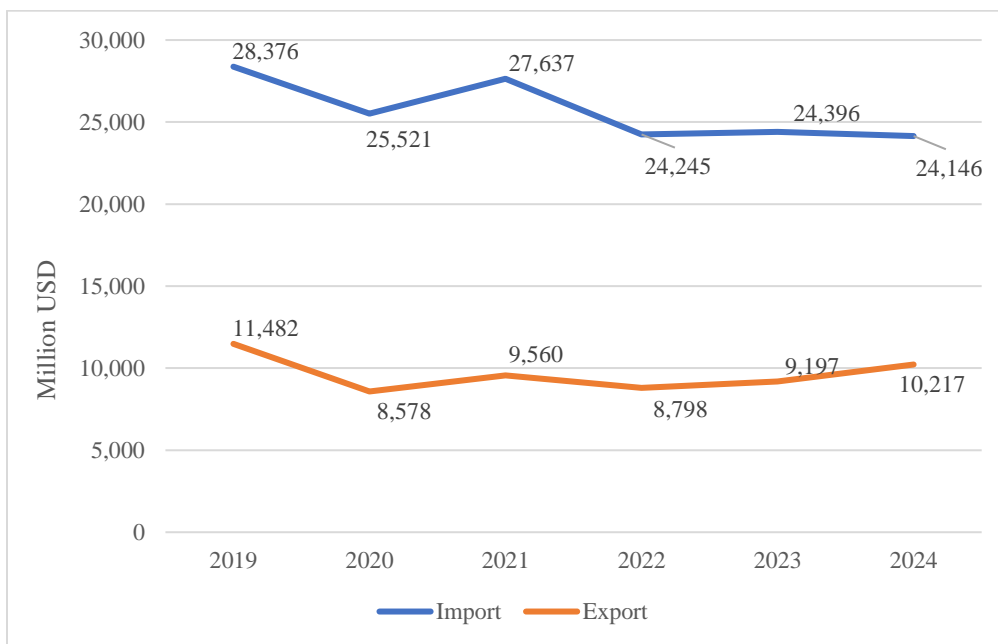
Background

Hong Kong is an important trading hub for agricultural products in Asia. As a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China, Hong Kong maintains a separate customs and legal system from the mainland. With the exception of distilled spirits, all agricultural products enter Hong Kong duty free, a status that has not changed following recent tariff actions between mainland China and the United States. In 2024, Hong Kong's total agricultural imports reached \$24 billion. Although the region's 7.5 million residents depend on imports for over 90 percent of food consumption needs and Hong Kong boasts an impressive per capita GDP (\$54,134 in 2024), only 58 percent of total imports are consumed in the region. The remainder, valued at approximately \$10 billion in 2024, is re-exported to nearby markets, with mainland China, Macau, Vietnam, South Korea, and Taiwan serving as top destinations. Although U.S. exports of agricultural and related products to Hong Kong have declined over the past 4 years, Hong Kong was the 21st largest trading partner to the United States in 2024, with exports of nearly \$1.6 billion. Including seafood products, Hong Kong is a top 10 market for U.S. consumer-oriented agricultural exports.

Agricultural Trade - 2019 to 2024

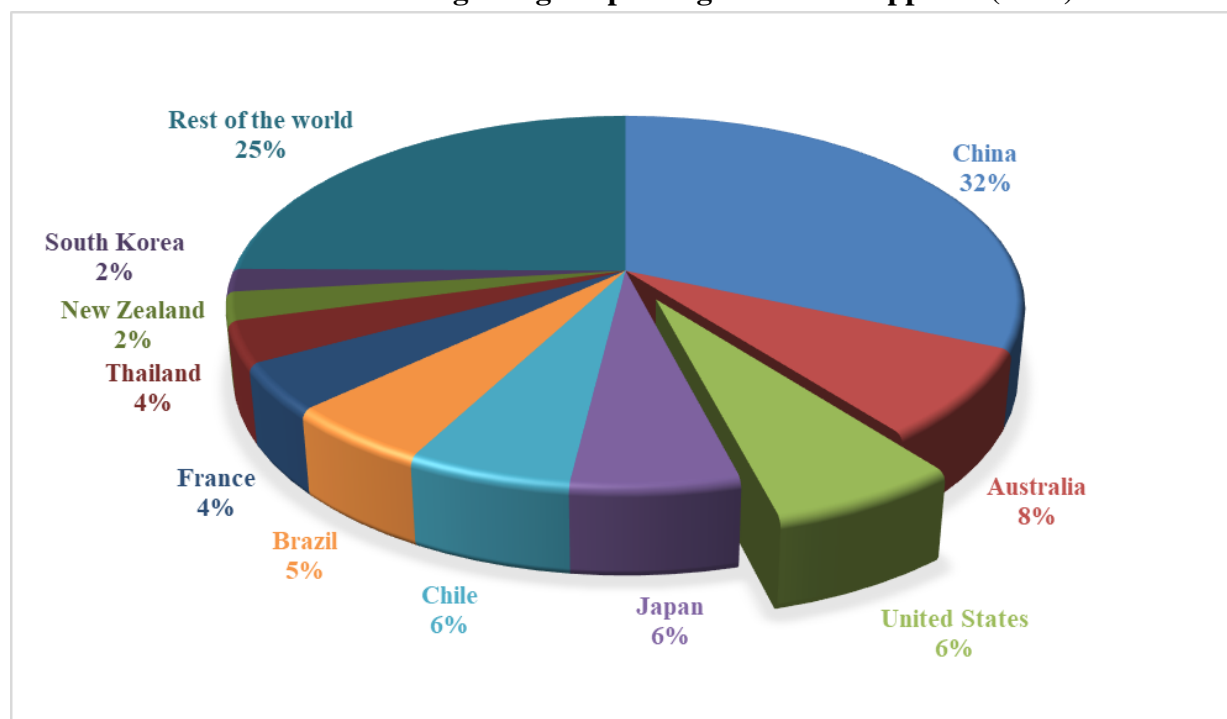
Since 2019, Hong Kong's agricultural imports have declined 14 percent, from \$28.3 billion to \$24.1 billion in 2024. During the same period, Hong Kong's agricultural exports declined 11 percent, from \$11.4 billion to \$10.2 billion. Since 2019, top agricultural suppliers to Hong Kong are mostly unchanged with China (\$7.6 billion), Australia (\$1.9 billion), United States (\$1.6 billion), Japan (\$1.4 billion) and Chile (\$1.4 billion) as the top five suppliers.

Chart 1. Hong Kong: Agricultural Imports and Re-Exports (2019 – 2024)



Source: Trade Data Monitor, LLC

Chart 2. Hong Kong: Top 10 Agricultural Suppliers (2024)



Since 2020, the United States has maintained a top three position supplying agricultural goods to Hong Kong. In 2024, U.S. beef (\$400 million), food preparations (\$171 million), tree nuts (\$145 million), seafood (\$139 million), and poultry (\$135 million) were the top exported commodities by value. By contrast, Australian exports were dominated by live animals (\$976 million), which are mostly live horses imported for racing, followed by seafood (\$191 million), fresh fruits (\$162 million), wine (\$156 million), and beef (\$100 million).

In terms of re-exports, fresh fruit is the top re-exported category, reaching over \$2 billion in 2024. Other major re-exports include food preparations (\$1.2 billion), live animals (\$938 million) [including horses mainly traded to China], distilled spirits (\$715 million), and seafood (\$687 million).

Table 1. Hong Kong: Top 10 Imported and Re-exported Commodities (2024)

Million USD			
Import		Re-export	
Seafood Products	3,172	Fresh Fruits	2,089
Fresh Fruits	3,107	Soup & Other Food Preparations	1,260
Soup & Other Food Preparations	1,576	Live Animals	938
Live Animals	1,488	Distilled Spirits	715
Beef & Beef Products	1,485	Seafood Products	687
Dairy Products	1,110	Dairy Products	571
Poultry Meat & Prods.	1,099	Beef & Beef Products	514
Non-Alcoholic Bev.	1,068	Bakery Goods, Cereals, & Pasta	491
Bakery Goods, Cereals, & Pasta	956	Wine & Related	252
Pork & Pork Products	895	Condiments and Sauce	215

Source: Trade Data Monitor, LLC

Fresh fruit and dairy products often arrive via air freight at Hong Kong International Airport, the number one global airport for cargo. Traders utilize the airport for its lower freight costs and quick connections to mainland China for highly perishable items, which can often arrive southern China in under 12 hours. For additional information, please see the [Hong Kong Fresh Fruit Market](#) GAIN Report.

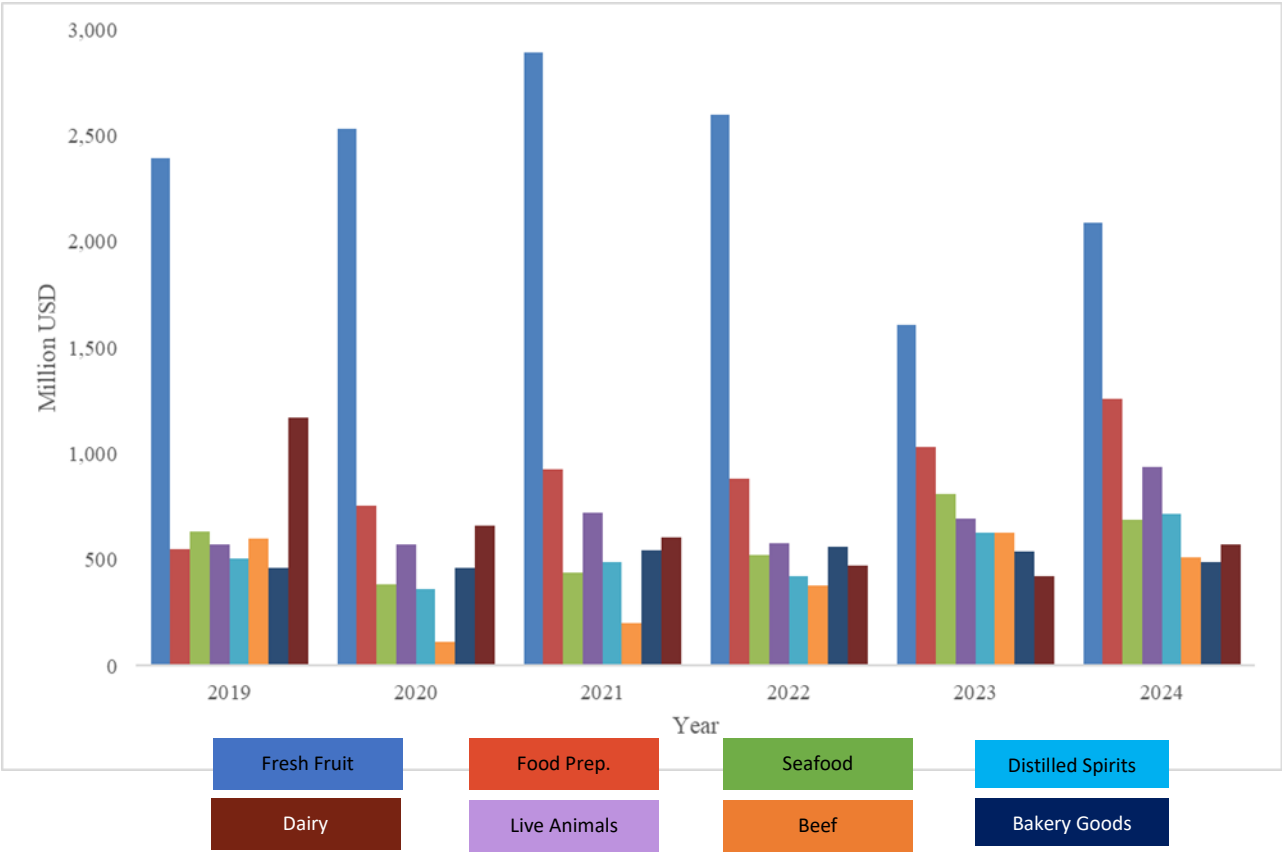
Table 2. Hong Kong: Top 5 Re-Export Destinations (2024)

Agri. Products	Million USD				
	China	Macau	Vietnam	S.Korea	Taiwan
Fresh Fruits	2,037	34	0	0	0
Soup & Other Food Preparations	1,135	79	6	1	3
Live Animals	937	0	0	0	0
Distilled Spirits	408	193	48	6	1
Dairy Products	381	180	0	7	1
Seafood Products	49	393	15	122	11
Wine & Related Products	66	104	5	3	9
Beef & Beef Products	0	102	297	44	67
Poultry Meat & Prods.	0	37	67	1	10
Tree Nuts	46	13	42	0	2
Pork & Pork Products	2	82	17	1	5
Other Intermediate Products	8	19	1	42	1
Condiments & Sauces	27	27	1	17	6
Chocolate & Cocoa Products	106	34	2	18	14
All Other Agri. Products	1,007	451	151	16	108
TOTAL Re-exported Value	6,209	1,749	652	278	241

Source: Trade Data Monitor, LLC

Despite relative consistency in top suppliers, Hong Kong’s top re-exported products have shifted over time. Food preparations and distilled spirits re-exports have increased, with the latter likely to continue to grow as a result of the Hong Kong government [reducing tariffs](#). Over the same period, dairy products and beef re-exports have declined, mostly due to less demand from and direct exports to mainland China.

Chart 3. Hong Kong: Top 5 Agricultural Items Re-exported (2019 – 2024)



Source: Trade Data Monitor, LLC

Data

For additional information on Hong Kong’s import and export (re-export) data, please see the Census and Statistics Department (<https://www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/>) and market profiles from Hong Kong Trade Development Council ([Economic and Trade Information: Hong Kong | HKTDC Research](#)).

Attachments:

No Attachments.