

INDUSTRY NEWS

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Government programs lift Philippine milk production by 12% in 2025

Local milk production rose by 12 percent in 2025 from the previous year as government interventions improved farm productivity, according to the National Dairy Authority (NDA).

According to Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the country's milk production reached 43.3 million liters in 2025, up from 38.6 million liters in 2024.

The value of dairy output also improved in 2025, growing by 27 percent to PhP 1.67 billion from PhP 1.31 billion in the previous year.

NDA said the increase in production translated into higher milk sufficiency, now pegged at 2.2 percent of the Philippines' dairy demand. This brings the country nearly halfway toward the government's target of reaching 5% milk sufficiency by 2028.

The country's total dairy animal inventory posted five-percent growth last year to 161,868 heads from 154,252 heads in the previous year.

(Source: Manila Bulletin, 2nd March, 2026)

Philippine Pig Sector Seeks Recovery Amid Import Pressures



The Philippine hog industry is showing signs of slow recovery but remains far from regaining its pre-African swine fever (ASF) footing, as the government pushes forward with repopulation programs while import volumes continue to rise.

Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) show that the country's hog inventory stood at 8.79 million head by the end of 2025, a marginal improvement from 8.75 million head in 2024. However, this figure remains significantly below the roughly 14 million head recorded before the first ASF outbreak hit the country in 2019.

As of February 27, 2026, ASF remains active in 14 barangays across five provinces, according to the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI). The persistent presence of the virus continues to pose a challenge to local producers.

To help bridge supply gaps, pork imports have increased sharply. The BAI reported that the Philippines imported 851,760 metric tons of pork last year, up 16 percent from 733,729 metric tons in the previous year. In response, the Department of Agriculture (DA) is





FEF pushes for cheaper corn tariffs to bring down meat prices

The Foundation for Economic Freedom (FEF) is calling on the government to slash corn import duties to a uniform five percent, arguing that the current protectionist trade structure is inflating meat prices.

FEF president Calixto Chikiamco said the country's policy on the minimum access volume (MAV) for imported corn is no longer sufficient to meet the "much higher" demand. For corn, imports within the MAV benefit from a 5% tariff, while those outside the quota face a 15% rate.

The entry of corn subject to higher tariffs has been cited as one of the reasons behind the increase in meat prices, since the commodity accounts for 50 to 55 percent of livestock feed and 50 to 65 percent of poultry feed. Feed represents 50 to 70 percent of production costs for both pork and chicken. By reducing tariffs on corn imports, FEF said pork prices could decline by two percent and chicken prices by 1.7 percent. (Source: Manila Bulletin, 18th March, 2026)

ramping up repopulation efforts. According to Dr. Palabrica, Department of Agriculture Undersecretary, the agency aims to distribute 40,000 breeder gilts this year as part of a broader target of 200,000 by 2028. The government also hopes to expand the national herd by one million pigs annually.

Despite these efforts, industry stakeholders caution that a full recovery to pre-ASF inventory levels of around 14 million head remains a distant goal, with import pressures and ongoing disease outbreaks weighing on local production. (Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, Department of Agriculture and Bureau of Animal Industry, 2nd March, 2026)

Philippines overtakes China as Brazil's top pork buyer



The Philippines overtook China as Brazil's largest market for pork products last year as the country turned to importation while local output remained insufficient to meet strong

domestic demand for the protein.

Based on the latest data from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Philippines is now Brazil's main destination for its pork products after the South American country exported 433,595 metric tons (MT) in carcass-weight equivalent in 2025.

The Philippines increased its market share in Brazilian pork imports to 25.3 percent last year, compared to 18.09 percent in the previous year, when it was still a close second to China's 18.45 percent.

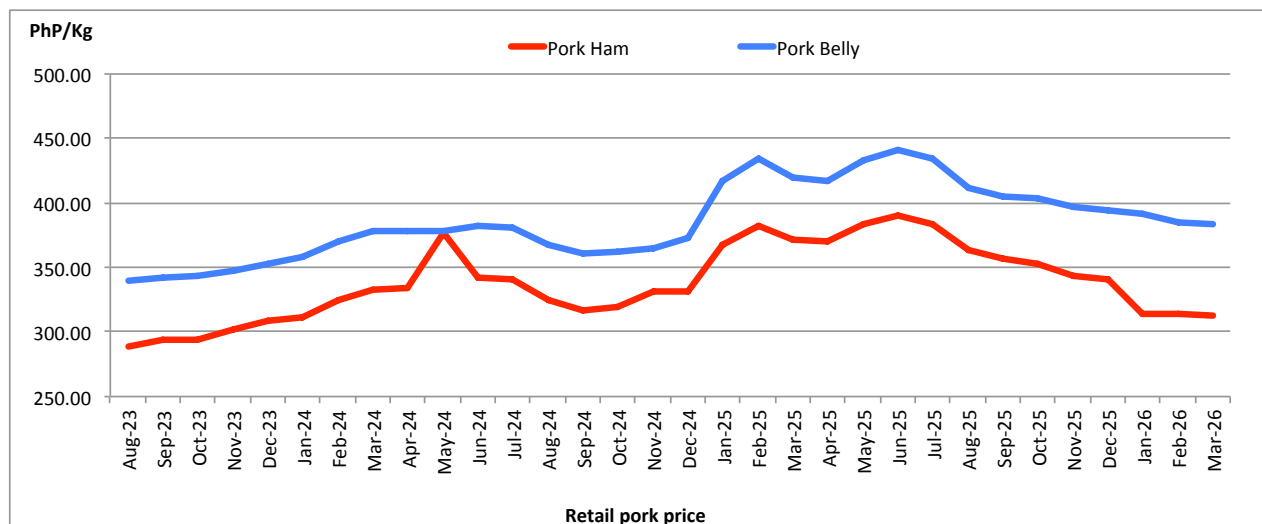
Philippines has already imported 74,791 MT of pork products in January 2026, around 46 percent of which, or 34,473 MT, were sourced from Brazil.

Based on BAI data, the Philippines' meat imports, including pork, reached 143,842 MT in January, up four percent from nearly 138,000 MT in the same month last year. (Source: Manila Bulletin, 9th March, 2026)



Pork price in March 2026

The average pork ham and pork belly price in March 2025 was 312.92 PhP/Kg and 383.26 PhP/Kg, respectively, show a decrease of 0.4% for pork ham and 0.2% for pork belly from the previous month, and 15.8% and 8.7% lower compared to the same period of 2025, respectively. (Source: Philippines Department of Agriculture, March 2026)



Whole chicken price in March 2026

The average price of whole chicken in March 2025 is 197.33 PhP/kg, show a decrease of 1.2% from the previous month. Year-on-year decrease of 4.1%. (Source: Philippines Department of Agriculture, March 2026)

