

# 4-7-23-Halstrom-Feb-Exports

## SPEAKERS

John Herath, Dan Halstrom

### **John Herath** 00:00

February was another strong month for U.S. pork exports. U.S. Meat Export Federation President and CEO Dan Halstrom has more details on the markets driving this growth.

### **Dan Halstrom** 00:08

The momentum continued on pork into February. Growth year-on-year of about 11% led by Mexico again. The Mexican market up about 6% off of a pretty good year last year, and we all know that Mexico's vital for hams but also variety meats as well as pork loins. We also saw continued growth in the Caribbean region as food service rebounds, of course led by the Dominican Republic but other countries as well within the Caribbean. Central America continues its growth of about 14% and the ASEAN region led by the Philippines. So really pretty broad based growth. It was several markets continuing to contribute.

### **John Herath** 00:51

Beef exports remained below last year but showed improvement over January.

### **Dan Halstrom** 00:53

February was a little bit better month for beef exports. We were still down but improvement over January. We were down 3% at a 105,000 tons. But Japan and Korea continue to be relatively solid on the volume side. We were up just slightly in both markets off of a pretty good month from a year ago. I do think that Japan and Korea are seeing the impacts of the strong U.S. dollar and the inflationary environment. Outside of Asia, you know Mexico and Caribbean in particular standout. Mexico is up 10%. Similar to pork, there's a lot of momentum and a lot of spending power coming to the surface in Mexico. Very important market for the end cuts, you know, rounds in particular but also chucks and of course variety meats. The Caribbean has been a success story for the last year honestly, a testament to the fact that food service and tourism in general is full bore recovering from the COVID impact.

### **John Herath** 01:52

For complete export results for U.S. pork, beef and lamb please visit [USMEF.org](https://usmef.org).. For the U.S. Meat Export Federation, I'm John Herath.