

OFFALS*

Bovine	41.9	53.9	120.0	40.3	56.5	43.9
Pork	79.5	86.0	93.1	45.3	52.4	61.4
Total	121.4	139.9	213.1	85.6	108.9	105.3
PORK FAT	29.6	29.4	23.4	15.5	14.0	9.5
COLD CUTS	14.0	24.3	27.8	13.8	26.3	26.9
GRAND TOTAL				508.2	445.2	402.8

Source: Own research based on data by SECOFI

* poultry offals are included under poultry

Imports of live animals have traditionally played an important role. This is due, in the first place, to lack of genetic development in Mexico, which has brought about significant imports of breeding animals. Approximately 18% of total imports (in terms of value) of live bovines were breeding cattle in 1989 and 1990 and 8.5% in 1988. The other large import category is that of milk cows, due to the chronic shortage of milk experienced in Mexico. These represented 11%, 40% and 68% of total imports in 1988, 1989 and 1990 respectively. The balance corresponds mostly to animals for slaughter and very little to calves, since Mexico is a major exporter of calves to the United States. In the case of pigs, 7%, 31% and 68% of imports in 1988, 1989 and 1990 were of breeding animals and the rest for slaughter. Finally, in the case of poultry, 38%, 68% and 79% were progenitors during the same years.

Total meat imports have on average been decreasing year to year, in particular those of pork and poultry, as a result of improved domestic productivity in the case of these two species and to the relatively faster response producers can achieve in the face of improved economic conditions due to their shorter cycles. Bovine meat imports, on the other hand, have increased with the economic upturn because American cuts are perceived to be luxury items. This is also true for cold cuts and sausages, which have shown significant growth rates.

Imports of offals have also increased in the past three years, in this case due to the liberalization of import restrictions and because their prices have been competitive with those of similar products made in Mexico, since offals are generally viewed as waste and have no market in their countries of origin.

According to official data from the Mexican Secretariat of Commerce (SECOFI), practically all of Mexico's imports come from the United States, basically because of geographical proximity and perceived quality, although Canada and certain Latin American countries have also shipped livestock products into Mexico. In the case of livestock, imports from the U.S. represent 93% of total imports of live animals, 91% of beef meat, 99% of beef offals, 97% of pork meat and offals, 99% of poultry and 68% of