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## **July red meat exports to China – highest on record**

Australian red meat (beef and veal, lamb, mutton and goat) exports to China during July reached the highest monthly volume on record, at 23,057 tonnes swt, compared to 4,110 tonnes swt in July 2012 (Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries). The record monthly shipments were assisted by historically high monthly beef and goat exports, at 15,065 tonnes swt and 622 tonnes swt, respectively, along with the second largest monthly sheepmeat exports, at 7,370 tonnes swt. The July export volume to China accounted for 17% of Australia's total red meat exports.

While the majority of beef shipments to China remained frozen grassfed product (at 11,407 tonnes swt during July), demand for chilled grassfed beef has improved on the back of reported increasing interest from Chinese retailers. Chilled grassfed beef shipments during July surged to 1,931 tonnes swt, from only 53 tonnes swt in July last year, with the total volume during the first seven months reaching 9,211 tonnes swt – 12% of the total Australian beef exported to China.

The beef cuts contributing the largest volume to the July recorded were shin/shank (2,997 tonnes swt), up 472% year-on-year, brisket (2,698 tonnes swt), up significantly from the 65 tonnes swt in July 2012, and carcase (2,037 tonnes swt). Loin cut exports (cube roll, tenderloin and striploin) during July surged (603%) year-on-year, to 543 tonnes swt, taking the total volume for the first seven months of 2013 to 2,227 tonnes swt, up substantially from the 499 tonnes swt during the corresponding period last year.

Australian lamb exports to China during July were the second highest monthly volume on record, at 3,500 tonnes swt, while mutton exports achieved the fourth largest volume, at 3,870 tonnes swt. The most popular sheepmeat cut shipped to China during the month was carcase, at 2,620 tonnes swt, the majority of which was mutton carcase, totalling 2,415 tonnes swt. Following carcase was sheepmeat breast and flap, at 2,456 tonnes swt (up 14% year-on-year), with mutton breast and flap exports during July, at 757 tonnes swt, up 102% year-on-year, offsetting a 5% year-on-year fall in lamb shipments, at 1,699 tonnes swt. Lamb shoulder export also remained strong during July, at 628 tonnes swt, up 834% year-on-year.

Not only have Australian beef and sheepmeat exports to China surged this year, but goat meat exports have also been growing considerably. Total goat meat exports to China during the first seven months of 2013 reached 1,490 tonnes swt, up significantly from only 69 tonnes swt for the corresponding period last year.

<http://www.mla.com.au/Prices-and-markets/Market-news/July-red-meat-exports-to-China-%E2%80%93-highest-on-record>