

BISON MARKET AND SUPPLY UPDATE

Prepared by Red Meat Section/Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada - January 25, 2025.



Weekly Federally Inspected Slaughter

for week ending:	30 - November	7 - December	14 - December	21 - December	28 - December	December Total	January - December YTD		
Total Canada	246	238	229	305	58	1,076	2024	2023	% Change
previous year	259	257	135	109	55	815	8,553	7,198	18.8%
							11,119	9,871	

Provincially Inspected Slaughter

	July 2024	August 2024	September 2024	October 2024	November 2024	November 2023	January - November YTD		
BC / Alberta	93	141	115	157	167	192	2024	2023	% Change
Sask / Manitoba	53	40	38	32	45	31	1,569	1,816	-13.6%
Ontario / Quebec	56	39	36	50	53	44	497	432	15.0%
Canada Total	202	220	189	239	265	267	500	425	17.6%
							2,566	2,673	-4.0%

	January - November YTD	2024	2023	% Change
Total Canadian Federal and Provincial Slaughter		11,119	9,871	12.6%

Canadian Production

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	January - November YTD		
Total Slaughter	9,585	7,860	9,798	10,794	9,871	11,119	2024	2023	% Change
Total Live Exports	20,060	24,574	27,986	32,362	39,170	35,706	11,119	9,871	12.6%
Total Production	29,645	32,434	37,784	43,156	49,041	46,825	32,244	35,945	-10.3%
							43,363	45,816	-5.4%

*Source : Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Provincial Governments, and USDA APHIS

US Federal Slaughter*

for week ending:	30 - November	7 - December	14 - December	21 - December	28 - December	December Total	January - December YTD		
	903	1,777	1,493	1,753	815	6,741	2024	2023	% Change
previous year	1,497	1,307	1,868	1,574	1,161	7,407	76,233	74,849	1.8%

*actual slaughter numbers in federally inspected plants, not necessarily inspected, source : USDA

Canada Live Bison Exports to US

	July 24	August 24	September 24	October 24	November 24	December 24	January - December YTD		
							2024	2023	% Change
Slaughter Male	1,049	460	747	882	460	685	10,348	12,444	-16.8%
Slaughter Female	1,110	834	832	834	767	950	12,714	15,026	-15.4%
Feeder Male	187	198	64	484	836	410	5,960	6,440	-7.5%
Feeder Female	103	0	220	35	837	650	5,012	5,260	-4.7%
Total	2,449	1,492	1,863	2,235	2,900	2,695	34,034	39,170	-13.1%

*source : USDA, APHIS

Canadian Fresh or Chilled Bison Meat Exports

							January - November YTD		
							2024	2023	% Change
Boneless									
United States	Kg	448	836	605	18,126	735	4,150	28,853	30,255
	Value (\$Cdn)	16,554	28,977	23,246	433,577	30,483	26,021	700,146	547,622
Netherlands	Kg	7,006	8,305	10,440	9,447	11,888	21,489	106,119	68,750
	Value (\$Cdn)	249,768	303,693	299,731	324,914	448,171	603,801	3,497,010	2,033,118
Switzerland	Kg	-	-	2,789	-	272	405	6,744	3,311
	Value (\$Cdn)	-	-	93,218	-	15,074	21,529	256,869	122,607
Italy	Kg	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,851	9,411
	Value (\$Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-	-	231,791	349,325
France	Kg	-	-	-	-	-	-	358	21,079
	Value (\$Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,116	522,404
Germany	Kg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Value (\$Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom	Kg	-	-	-	517	-	-	517	1,331
	Value (\$Cdn)	-	-	-	24,989	-	-	24,989	37,920
Other Countries	Kg	-	-	-	767	-	-	2,329	1,428
	Value (\$Cdn)	-	-	-	19,593	-	-	53,930	39,211
Total	Kg	7,454	9,337	13,834	28,857	12,895	26,044	152,771	135,565
	Value (\$Cdn)	266,322	336,292	416,195	803,073	493,728	651,351	4,774,851	3,652,207

Bone-in

	June 2024	July 2024	August 2024	September 2024	October 2024	November 2024	January - November YTD		
							2024	2023	% Change
Total	Kg	3,472	32,552	67,717	18,403	35,811	35,499	319,499	145,030
	Value (\$Cdn)	36,453	341,794	849,830	353,407	609,335	763,045	5,159,678	1,985,611

Total Exports, Boneless and Bone-in

	June 2024	July 2024	August 2024	September 2024	October 2024	November 2024	January - November YTD		
							2024	2023	% Change
	Kg	10,926	41,889	81,551	47,260	48,706	61,543	472,270	280,595
	Value (\$Cdn)	302,775	678,086	1,266,025	1,156,480	1,103,063	1,414,396	9,934,529	5,637,818

*Source: Statistics Canada (HS Code 02013010 - Bison cuts boneless, fresh or chilled and HS Code 02012010 - Bison cuts bone in, fresh or chilled)

Commentary

By Executive Director, CBA

This report can only be improved with your feedback. Please send any comments that you have to either director@canadianbison.ca or diane.blandford@agr.gc.ca

Unclassified / Non classifié

Bison Marketplace – December 2024

From January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024, 8,257 head of bison were slaughtered at federally inspected plants in Canada. This is 15% higher than the 7,198 animals slaughtered in 2023.

In the United States during 2024, 76,233 bison were slaughtered in federally inspected plants. This is up only slightly (2%) from the previous year, when 74,849 were slaughtered in the year.

According to most current USDA data that includes numbers to the end of 2024 (corresponding 2023 numbers and percentage are in brackets), Canada exported 10,348 slaughter males (12,444 – decrease of 16% over last year), 12,714 slaughter females (15,026 – decrease of 15% over last year), 5960 feeder males (6,440 – decrease of 7%) and 5,012 feeder females (5,260 – decrease of 5%). On average, 13% fewer animals crossed the border as feeders or slaughter animals.

2024 Year End Prices: Prices for prime finished bulls for the Canadian market have tended higher over the year. Recent sales have shown highs of \$620/CWT HHW with heifers up to \$610/CWT. Canadian bison headed to the US reached highs of \$465 (USD) for bulls and \$445 (USD) for heifers. Note that to ship to the US market, shippers are responsible for currency risk, shipping costs, vet checks and admin costs.

Chart 1

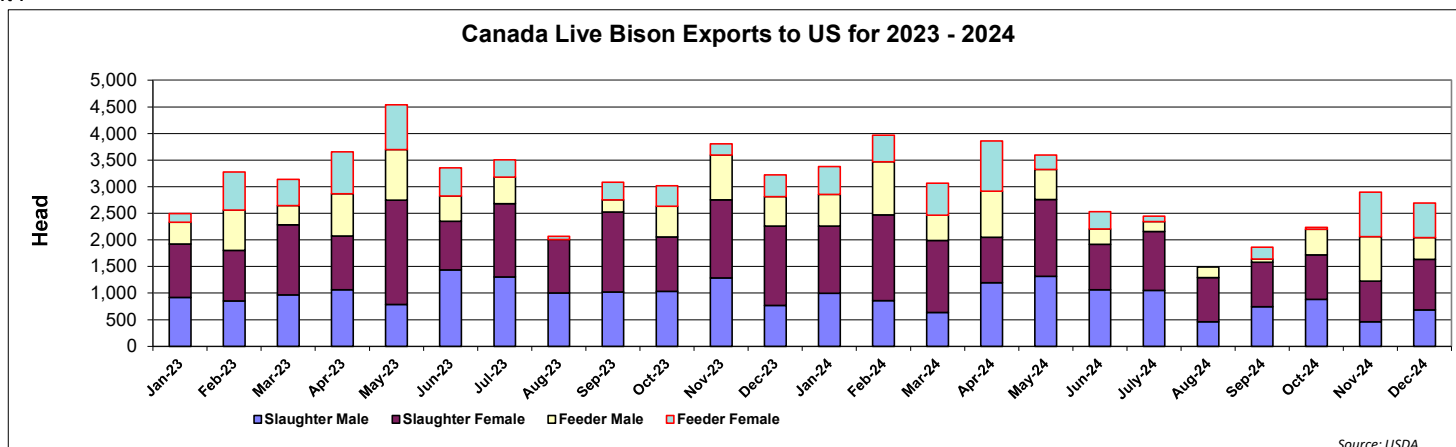
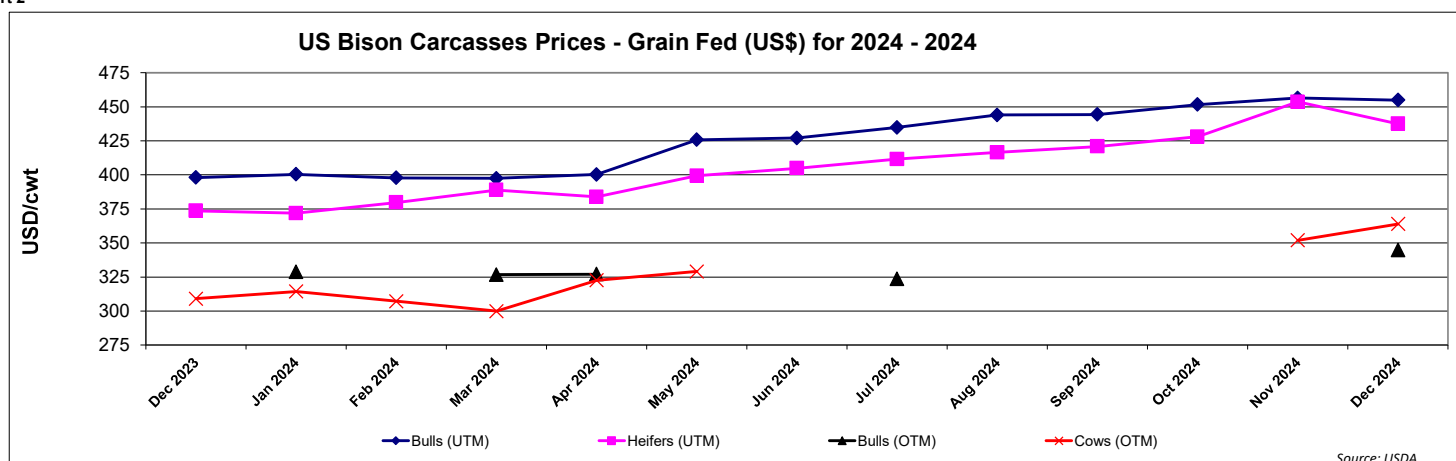


Chart 2



The Canadian Bison Industry by the Numbers.....

On another note, the 2021 Canadian Census of Agriculture data was released on May 11, 2022. Nationally, the number of bison farms and ranches reporting bison was up 1.4% from 2016 levels. The number of bison on farms and ranches in 2021 was reported to have increased by over 25% within the past five years. According to the data, the average bison herd size increased to 151 head (from 122 head in 2016).

The number of farms and ranches held relatively steady since 2016 (up by 14 farms); some provinces reported increases (Ontario and Alberta both up by 6.1%) and some reported declines (Quebec down by 23.5% and British Columbia down 12.7%).

Excluding the Atlantic Region, the only province to report a decrease in the number of bison was Manitoba (-16.4%), while British Columbia reported the most significant increase (+128.9%); more than doubling the 2016 provincial herd size.

	FARMS REPORTING BISON					NUMBER OF BISON REPORTED				
	2021	2016	2011	2006	%Chg '21 vs '16	2021	2016	2011	2006	%Chg '21 vs '16
Nfld and Labrador	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-
Prince Edward Island	0	0	0	1	-	0	0	0	*	-
Nova Scotia	1	2	2	1	-50.0%	*	*	*	*	-
New Brunswick	0	1	2	3	-100.0%	0	*	*	*	-
Quebec	26	34	45	69	-23.5%	1,682	1,538	2,380	4,322	9.4%
Ontario	52	49	60	71	6.1%	2,974	1,843	2,320	4,106	61.4%
Manitoba	82	86	108	166	-4.7%	11,725	14,025	14,116	19,609	-16.4%
Saskatchewan	308	303	352	597	1.7%	52,860	40,418	39,343	57,395	30.8%
Alberta	472	445	571	869	6.1%	65,405	54,907	57,483	97,366	19.1%
British Columbia	48	55	71	121	-12.7%	14,888	6,504	9,206	12,656	128.9%
Canada Total	989	975	1,211	1,898	1.4%	149,539	119,314	125,142	195,728	25.3%

* Note: In Atlantic Provinces, the number of farms reporting is too small to publically disclosure the number of bison