

BISON MARKET AND SUPPLY UPDATE

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



Weekly Federally Inspected Slaughter

for week ending:	5 - April	12 - April	19 - April	26 - April	April Total	January - April YTD		
Total Canada	235	219	233	244	931	2025	2024	% Change
	4,083	2,641						54.6%
previous year	99	157	256	130	642			
						4,743	3,325	

Provincially Inspected Slaughter

	November 2024	December 2024	January 2025	February 2025	March 2025	March 2024	January - March YTD		
	2025	2024					2025	2024	% Change
BC / Alberta	167	170	165	158	136	128	459	450	2.0%
Sask / Manitoba	45	31	37	29	36	43	102	134	-23.9%
Ontario / Quebec	53	18	44	32	23	33	99	100	-1.0%
Canada Total	265	219	246	219	195	204	660	684	-3.5%
							January - March YTD		
							2025	2024	% Change
Total Canadian Federal and Provincial Slaughter							4,743	3,325	42.6%

Canadian Production

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	January - March YTD		
	2025	2024					2025	2024	% Change
Total Slaughter	9,585	7,860	9,798	10,794	9,871	11,119	4,743	3,325	42.6%
Total Live Exports	20,060	24,574	27,986	32,362	39,170	35,706	10,834	10,413	4.0%
Total Production	29,645	32,434	37,784	43,156	49,041	46,825	15,577	13,738	13.4%

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

US Federal Slaughter*

for week ending:	5 - April	12 - April	19 - April	26 - April	April Total	January - April YTD		
	2025	2024				2025	2024	% Change
	4,633	27,035						4.7%
previous year	1,393	1,570	1,487	1,532	5,982			

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

Canada Live Bison Exports to US

	November 24	December 2024	January 2025	February 2025	March 2025	April 2025	January - April YTD		
	2025	2024					2025	2024	% Change
Slaughter Male	460	685	883	953	512	353	2,701	3,689	-26.8%
Slaughter Female	767	950	1,119	1,025	769	452	3,365	5,085	-33.8%
Feeder Male	836	410	1,110	1,093	691	233	3,127	2,932	6.7%
Feeder Female	837	650	696	1,253	730	263	2,942	2,570	14.5%
Total	2,900	2,695	3,808	4,324	2,702	1,301	12,135	14,276	-15.0%

*source : USDA, APHIS

Canadian Fresh or Chilled Bison Meat Exports

							January - March YTD			
Boneless		October 2024	November 2024	December 2024	January 2025	February 2025	March 2025	2025	2024	% Change
United States	Kg	735	4,150	4,670	7,650	8,887	1,537	18,074	2,282	692.0%
	Value (\$Cdn)	30,483	26,021	50,117	101,865	90,361	53,402	245,628	73,597	233.7%
Netherlands	Kg	11,888	21,489	17,574	14,978	17,457	19,076	51,511	16,775	207.1%
	Value (\$Cdn)	448,171	603,801	530,307	561,852	636,103	777,549	1,975,504	595,804	231.6%
Switzerland	Kg	272	405	1,868	1,733	1,843	1,873	5,449	1,270	-
	Value (\$Cdn)	15,074	21,529	54,250	49,912	71,151	53,387	174,450	36,184	-
Italy	Kg	-	-	557	-	11,448	-	11,448	-	-
	Value (\$Cdn)	-	-	25,040	-	361,424	-	361,424	-	-
France	Kg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	358	-100.0%
	Value (\$Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,116	-100.0%
Germany	Kg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Value (\$Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom	Kg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Value (\$Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Countries	Kg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Value (\$Cdn)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	Kg	12,895	26,044	24,669	24,361	39,635	22,486	86,482	20,685	318.1%
	Value (\$Cdn)	493,728	651,351	659,714	713,629	1,159,039	884,338	2,757,006	715,701	285.2%

Bone-in

		October 2024	November 2024	December 2024	January 2025	February 2025	March 2025	2025	2024	% Change
Total	Kg	35,811	35,499	18,157	36,307	55,085	14,847	106,239	81,173	30.9%
	Value (\$Cdn)	609,335	763,045	370,345	781,378	1,196,220	423,863	2,401,461	1,247,154	92.6%

Total Exports, Boneless and Bone-in

		October 2024	November 2024	December 2024	January 2025	February 2025	March 2025	2025	2024	% Change
Kg		48,706	61,543	42,826	60,668	94,720	37,333	192,721	101,858	89.2%
	Value (\$Cdn)	1,103,063	1,414,396	1,030,059	1,495,007	2,355,259	1,308,201	5,158,467	1,962,855	162.8%

*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 – May 2025

From January 1st, 2025 to May 31, 2025, 5,125 head of bison were slaughtered at federally inspected plants in Canada. This is 69% higher than the 3,033 animals slaughtered in 2024 over the approximate same time frame.

In the United States from January to the end of May, 27,295 bison were slaughtered in US federally inspected plants. For the same time period in 2024, 34,300 bison were slaughtered in US federal plants. That's an 20.4% decrease year over year.

According to most current USDA data for January thru to the end of May 2025, Canada exported 3,216 slaughter males (35.7% less than 2024), 3,595 slaughter females (44.9% less than 2024), 3,968 feeder males (13.5% more than 2024) and 3,633 feeder females (27.8% higher than 2024). Comparative 2024 numbers that are used in the %age calculations - Canada exported 5,003 slaughter males, 6,530 slaughter females, 3,496 feeder males and 2,843 feeder females. In total, 14,566 animals were exported to the US in the first 5 months of 2025, compared to 22,525 for the same time period last year. This is a 35% decrease. Movement of live animals to the US continues to slow.

May 2025 Prices: Prices for prime finished bulls for the Canadian market have continued to be strong. Recent sales have shown highs of \$690/CWT HHW with heifers up to \$660/CWT. Canadian bison headed to the US reached highs of \$500 (USD) for bulls and \$475 (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

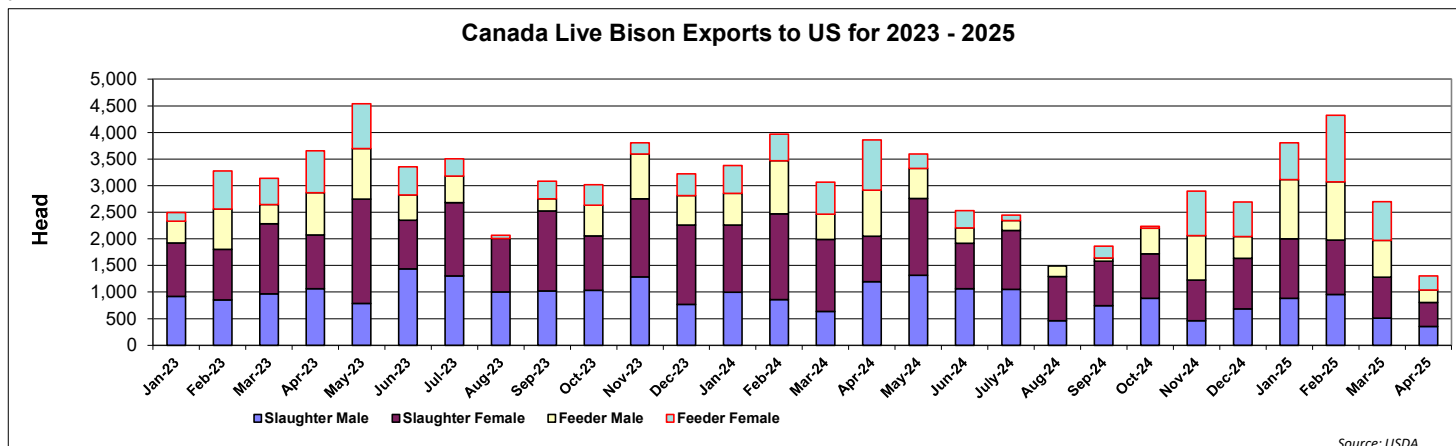
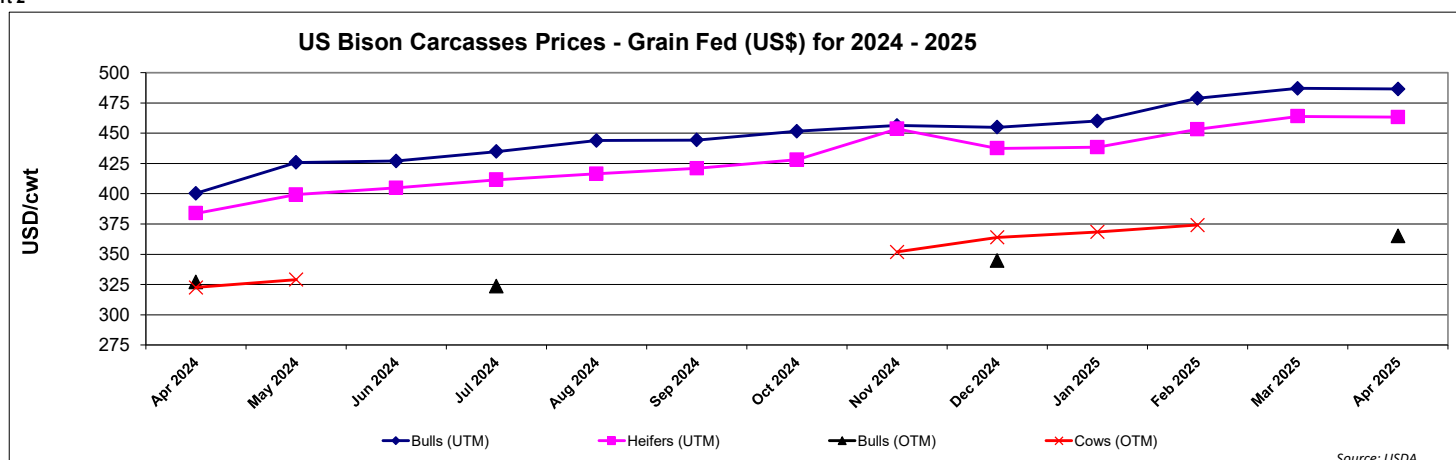


Chart 2



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