

# Chinese pig production, pork imports continue to grow

**Large-scale pig farms are rapidly increasing, while small farms are on the decline.**

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In 2012, [Chinese hog stock](#) reached 462.94 million, including 50.68 million sows. China hog fattening volume amounted to 696.28 million, ranking the first in the world, with almost half of the global hog fattening volume. In 2012, the rate of hog fattening volume was 150%. On average, the annual fattening volume of each sow is 13.7, according to [China's hog production and pork market from Research and Markets](#).

At present, rural scatter breeding and small hog farms are the major means of hog production in China. With low productivity, China is only a big hog production country, instead of a strong or developed hog production country. The general trend of China hog industry is towards large scale. Currently, there are more than 2,500 hog farms with the sow stock being 500 whose average annual hog fattening volume being over 10,000. They account for more than 10% of the total hog fattening volume in China.

With the rapid development of China economy and hog industry, the proportion of large-scale hog farms in China increases swiftly, while such percentage of rural scatter breeding declines rapidly. Meanwhile, industrialization process of hog industry speeds up with increasing numbers of hog production groups. This is the inevitable trend of China hog industry in the future.

As China is the world's largest pork consumer, the development of its pork industry attracts worldwide attentions. Generally, China pork output volume presented an increasing trend from 2001 to 2012, with a decline only in 2007 and 2011. In 2012, China pork output volume was 53.35 million tons, increasing by 5.6% YOY, accounting for 63.63% of the total meat output volume (83.84 million tons) in China.

In 2012, China imported 522,000 tons of pork, increasing by 11.7% YOY. The total import value was USD 980 million, with a growth rate of 15.7% YOY. The average price of pork was USD 1,878.4 per ton, increasing by 3.6% YOY. Specifically, China imported 269,000 tons of pork from the EU, with a growth rate of 64.9% YOY, accounting for 51.4% of the total pork import volume. Besides, China imported 187,000 tons of pork from the U.S., decreasing by 26.1% YOY, taking up 35.7% of the total pork import volume in 2012. China also imported 53,000 tons of pork from Canada, with a growth rate of 7.5% YOY.

With the increase in income, Chinese residents will continue to increase their demand on pork. Therefore, it can be predicted that China hog industry will have a promising prospect and the import volume of pork will increase as well.

*From Pig International*