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## **Report Name:** Exporter Guide

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### **Report Highlights:**

Despite its small population at 7.5 million, Hong Kong is the sixth-largest export market for U.S. consumer-oriented agricultural products. Hong Kong has always been an attractive market for innovative U.S. food and beverage products as well as a gateway to the region. Similar to other markets in the world, Hong Kong has been adversely affected by COVID-19. Specifically, the ongoing quarantine requirements imposed on inbound travelers continue to hinder tourism and in-person business activities. This has reduced domestic food demand and imports. The Hong Kong government has launched multiple stimulus measures to help local residents and businesses cope with the COVID-19 adversity and there are signs of recovery. As the pandemic situation improves and borders are to reopen, Hong Kong's economy is expected to further progress in 2022.

## Market Fact Sheet: Hong Kong \*

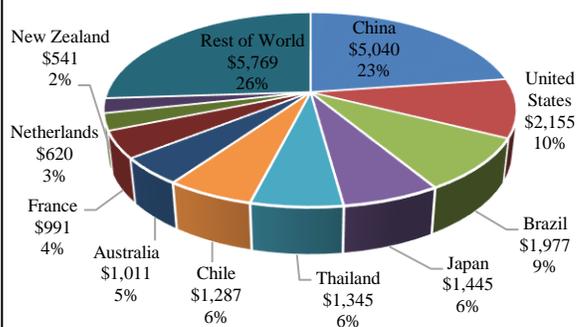
### Executive Summary

Hong Kong has a population of 7.5 million and its per capita GDP was \$46,701 in 2020, one of the highest in Asia. Hong Kong is a vibrant city and a major gateway to Asia. Consumers are sophisticated and enjoy cosmopolitan food and beverages. Due to limited arable land, around 95 percent of food in Hong Kong is imported. In 2020, Hong Kong's total imports of agricultural and related products slowed for a second-consecutive year to \$25.5 billion.

### Imports of Consumer-Oriented Ag. Products

In 2020, Hong Kong imports of Consumer-Oriented Agricultural Products slowed to \$22 billion, but still comprised 87 percent of overall agricultural imports. Hong Kong's most popular imported products were fresh fruit, seafood, beef, pork, dairy products, poultry meat, prepared food, wine, bakery products, and non-alcoholic beverages. China, the United States, and Brazil were the top three suppliers.

**Hong Kong Imports of Consumer Oriented Agricultural Products 2020 (Million USD)**



### Food Processing Industry

As land in Hong Kong is limited and extremely expensive, the local food processing sector is small. In 2020, Hong Kong global imports of intermediate products represented 8.2 percent of overall agricultural imports and valued at \$2.1 billion. Imports of bulk agricultural products comprised 1.6 percent and valued at \$403 million.

### Food Retail Industry

In 2020, Hong Kong's retail food sector sales held at \$12.7 billion. The Hong Kong food retail market is made up of supermarkets, convenience stores, and traditional markets. Supermarkets account for over 62 percent of retail food sales. There are 790 supermarkets, 1,300 convenience stores, and nearly 100 traditional markets in Hong Kong, making food shopping very convenient. In 2020, online food sales jumped 80 percent and reached \$436 million.

### Food Service Industry

The Hong Kong HRI food service market consists of hotels, restaurants, and institutions, with most food and beverage sales taking place at restaurants. In 2020, Hong Kong's restaurant receipts dropped 29 percent to \$10.2 billion. The number of restaurants dropped 5 percent compared to the previous year to 15,637. However, restaurant receipts have rebounded in 2021.

### Quick Facts CY 2020

#### Imports of U.S. Consumer-Oriented Ag. Products

\$2.15 billion (down 31 percent from CY2019)

#### Top 10 U.S. Consumer-Oriented Ag. Imports

Beef, fresh fruit, tree nuts, prepared food, poultry meat, seafood, pet food, processed vegetables, wine, and eggs.

#### Top Growing Consumer-Oriented Ag. Imports

Tea, fresh vegetables, fresh fruit, eggs, processed vegetables, prepared food, condiments and sauces, and beef.

#### Food Industry by Channels

Consumer-Oriented Ag. Products:

- Gross imports \$22 billion
- Re-exports \$6.96 billion
- Retained imports \$15.2 billion
- Retail food sales \$12.7 billion
- Restaurant receipts \$10.2 billion

#### GDP/Population

Population: 7.5 million

GDP per capita: \$46,701

### Strengths/Weaknesses/Opportunities/Challenges

<i>Strengths</i>	<i>Weaknesses</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Large and free market with affluent customers.</li> <li>- U.S. products are perceived as high-quality and safe.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cost of shipment from the U.S. is high.</li> <li>- Hong Kong importers' order size tends to be smaller than other export destinations.</li> </ul>
<i>Opportunities</i>	<i>Challenges</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hong Kong customers are open to new products.</li> <li>- Hong Kong is a major trading hub for Asia.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Keen competition from other food supplying countries.</li> <li>- A stronger U.S. dollar makes U.S. products less price competitive.</li> <li>- Inability to meet in-person with Hong Kong buyers</li> </ul>

## SECTION I. MARKET SUMMARY

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2020, Hong Kong's economy contracted 6.1 percent (real terms) from 2019. Ongoing and changing travel restrictions and quarantine requirements for inbound travelers have been the key drivers that decimated the tourism sector. While Hong Kong hosted 55.9 million travelers in 2019, only 3.6 million tourists visited in 2020.<sup>1</sup> During the first ten months of 2021, the number of visitors dropped to only slightly more than 72,000.<sup>2</sup> This has slowed economic activity but also food imports. As a result, in 2020, total exports of U.S. agricultural and related products to Hong Kong slowed for the second consecutive year to \$2.2 billion.<sup>3</sup> However, Hong Kong was the thirteenth-largest U.S. export market by value. Hong Kong was also the sixth largest export destination for U.S. consumer-oriented exports, despite exports slowing to their lowest level since 2009 at \$1.9 billion.<sup>4</sup> During the first ten months of 2021, these exports dropped 16 percent compared to the same period last year at \$1.28 billion.<sup>5</sup> Top U.S. agricultural exports to Hong Kong included: beef, tree nuts, fresh fruit, prepared food, seafood, poultry meat, pork, pet food, wine, and processed vegetables.<sup>6</sup>

Hong Kong still maintains one of the highest GDP per capita, standing at \$46,701 in 2020.<sup>7</sup> In addition to being a dynamic market, Hong Kong has traditionally served as a trading hub where buyers make purchasing decisions for a vast range of consumer-oriented products that are transshipped to China and other parts of Asia. Most of Macau's food imports are purchased, consolidated, and shipped via Hong Kong.

Due to land constraints, local agricultural production in Hong Kong is minimal. As a market which imports 95 percent of local food requirements, Hong Kong at large welcomes foods from around the world and its import regime is transparent. Food and beverage products are imported to Hong Kong without tax or duty with the exception of four commodities, namely liquor, tobacco, hydrocarbon oil, and methyl alcohol. For more information on Hong Kong food import regulations, please refer to [FAIRS Country Report](#).

**Table 1 – Major Advantages and Challenges in the Hong Kong Market**

<b>Advantages</b>	<b>Challenges</b>
Hong Kong is one of the top markets in the world for food and beverages, processed, fresh, and frozen gourmet products. U.S. exports of consumer-oriented agricultural products to Hong Kong were \$1.9 billion, making it the sixth-largest market for the United States in 2020.	Transportation time and costs, combined with seasonality determining product availability (e.g. fresh produce) associated with importing U.S. food and beverage products to Hong Kong can make them less competitive than products available from regional suppliers such as China, Australia, and New Zealand.
Hong Kong is a major trading hub where buyers make purchasing decisions for a vast range of consumer-oriented products that are transshipped to China and other parts of Asia.	The importance of Hong Kong as a transshipment point and buying center for regional markets is not widely known to U.S. exporters.

<sup>1</sup> Hong Kong Tourism Board

<sup>2</sup> Hong Kong Tourism Board

<sup>3</sup> USDA/FAS Bico Reports, U.S. Census Bureau Trade Data

<sup>4</sup> USDA/FAS Bico Reports, U.S. Census Bureau Trade Data

<sup>5</sup> USDA/FAS Bico Reports, U.S. Census Bureau Trade Data

<sup>6</sup> USDA/FAS Bico Reports, U.S. Census Bureau Trade Data

U.S. food products enjoy an excellent reputation among Hong Kong consumers, as they are renowned as high-quality and safe.	Hong Kong labeling requirements and residue standards can impact trade.
Hong Kong is a quality and trend-driven market, so price is not always the most important factor for food and beverage purchases.	Hong Kong has imposed entry restrictions under COVID-19 and that hindered tourism and in-person business activities.

## SECTION II. EXPORTER BUSINESS TIPS

### Importer Lists

ATO Hong Kong can provide a list of importers to U.S. exporters. Please contact us at [Atohongkong@usda.gov](mailto:Atohongkong@usda.gov) for further information.

### Language

The official written languages in Hong Kong are Chinese and English. The official spoken languages are Cantonese (the prominent Chinese dialect in Hong Kong and South China) and English. English is commonly used in business transactions and many citizens are trilingual.

### Travel to Hong Kong

Hong Kong is a Special Administrative Region of mainland China with a distinct customs and immigration border with four land border crossings to mainland China. U.S. passport holders do not need a visa to enter Hong Kong, but they do need a visa to enter mainland China. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Hong Kong maintains strict border and quarantine measures. As these requirements are constantly evolving, U.S. travelers are advised to check the U.S. Consulate General’s website for the [latest travel guidance](#).

### Legal System

Under the principle of “one country, two systems,” Hong Kong’s legal system, which is different from that of mainland China, is based on the British common law, supplemented by written laws and an independent judiciary.

### Payment

Hong Kong importers accept letters of credit, but after a trading relationship is established, may seek to obtain payment by open account to reduce transaction costs.

### General Consumer Tastes and Preferences

Within Hong Kong food and beverage imports, consumer interest in healthy lifestyle products continues to grow. Innovative products that offer sustainable production and nutritional value at a reasonable cost with convenient preparation are in demand. Busy schedules and dual income families are driving the search for ready-to-cook and frozen options for home preparation and premium, healthy options in food service outlets. Consumers are increasingly interested in the origin of their food and production background both at retail and restaurant levels. They consider these aspects when making purchasing decisions.

### **SECTION III. IMPORT FOOD STANDARDS & REGULATIONS and IMPORT PROCEDURES**

Being a Special Administrative Region of China, Hong Kong maintains food and agricultural import regulations autonomous to those in mainland China. In Hong Kong, food intended for sale must be fit for human consumption as defined under the legal framework for food safety control in Part V of the [Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance, Cap.132](#) and subsidiary legislation. Hong Kong draws reference from Codex and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) in the context of food safety standards and animal health standards in setting, or in lieu of, domestic regulations.

#### **Labelling**

The sale of prepackaged food in Hong Kong must comply with the labeling requirements for name, ingredients, date, storage and use instructions, manufacturer information, weight, and nutrition. The marking or labeling of prepackaged food can be in either English or Chinese, or in both languages. If both languages appear in the labeling or marking of prepackaged food, the name of the food, nutritional labeling, and the list of ingredients must appear in both languages. However, the Hong Kong government accepts labeling stickers. There are many cases, particularly for small sales items, that U.S. products are imported into Hong Kong with U.S. labels, and then importers apply label stickers on the packaging to comply with Hong Kong's food labeling requirements. At present, the Hong Kong government does not have any regulations regarding the labeling of genetically engineered (GE) food products. The government makes no distinction between conventional and GE foods in regulating food safety.

The Hong Kong government's position on GE food is to encourage the trade to practice voluntary labeling. The guidelines for voluntary labeling, established in 2006, do not recommend negative labeling such as GE free and free from GE ingredients. Additional declaration on the food label is recommended when significant modifications of the food, e.g., composition, nutrition value, level of anti-nutritional factors, natural toxicant, presence of allergen, intended use, introduction of an animal gene, etc., have taken place. For more details, please refer to GAIN Report: [Agricultural Biotechnology Annual](#).

Hong Kong does not have specific regulations for labelling organic products. The Hong Kong Organic Center allows products to carry their organic logos provided that they can fulfill the Center's certification requirements. Hong Kong allows USDA organic labels.

#### **Certification**

The importation of meats, eggs, milk, and frozen confections are required to provide health certificates. The Center for Food Safety of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) is responsible for issuing import licenses for these foods to Hong Kong importers. U.S. exporters need to provide health certificates to their importers so that they can obtain import licenses. In addition, the importation of seafood products that are eaten raw, such as oysters, require health certificates under administrative order. Other general food items can be imported to Hong Kong without certification.

#### **Import Duties and Permits**

Hong Kong is a free port, imposing duties on only four products- liquor, tobacco, hydrocarbon oils, and methyl alcohol-which are also taxed domestically at the same rate. Local importers must apply for a license from the Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department for the importation of dutiable commodities. In addition, a licensed importer must apply for a permit for each and every consignment. The current duties are as follows:

Cigarettes per 1000 sticks: US\$245 (HK\$1906)  
Cigars per kg: US\$316 (HK\$2455)  
Beer and liquor with less than 30 percent alcohol: 0%  
Liquor with more than 30 percent alcohol: 100%

Under the amended Dutiable Commodities Ordinance, Cap. 109, Hong Kong wine/liquor traders are not required to apply for any licenses or permits for the import or export, manufacture, storage, or movement of wine and liquor with an alcoholic strength of less than 30 percent by volume. No valuation of the alcoholic beverages concerned for duty purpose is required. However, the existing licensing/permit control on liquors with an alcoholic strength of more than 30 percent by volume measured at a temperature of 20 degree Celsius remains unchanged.

To facilitate the customs clearance for wine and alcoholic beverages, traders are encouraged to provide a clear description in the freight/shipping documents of the type of liquor and the alcoholic strength of the respective consignment. [GAIN Report HK1810](#) provides general information on Hong Kong’s import regulations for alcoholic drinks. For more information on Hong Kong food import regulations, please refer to [FAIRS Country Report](#).

#### SECTION IV. MARKET SECTOR STRUCTURE AND TRENDS

The retail and hotel, restaurant, and institutional (HRI) sectors present the best opportunity for U.S. exporters. The food processing sector in Hong Kong is relatively small and presents minimal opportunity for market development.

##### Food Retail Sector

The Hong Kong food retail market is made up of supermarkets, convenience stores, and traditional markets.

**Table 2 – Food and Beverage Retail Sales in Hong Kong (Billion USD)<sup>8</sup>**

Channel	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Share (2020)	Growth (20 vs 19)
Supermarket/Dept. Stores	6.80	6.85	7.12	7.18	7.89	62%	+10%
Other outlets	5.26	5.43	5.68	5.49	4.79	38%	-13%
Total	12.06	12.28	12.8	12.67	12.68	100%	+0.06%

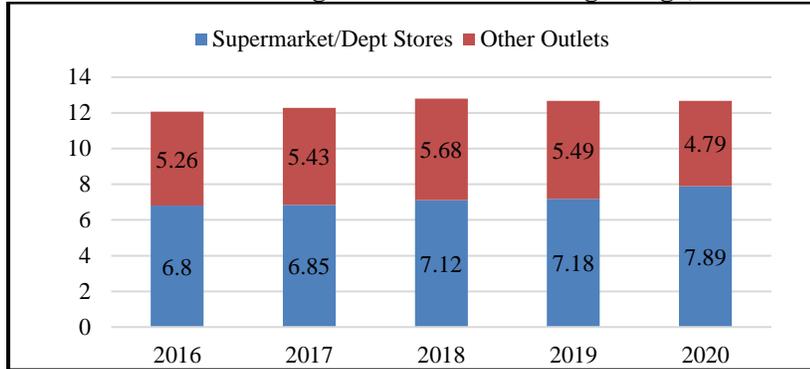
“Supermarket/Department Stores” include sales of supermarkets, convenience stores, and food and beverage sections at department stores. They are the modern grocery outlets that provide consumers with convenient and high-quality options. In addition to groceries, these stores offer a more comprehensive shopping experience with increased items of fresh food, bread and pastry, organic options, and hot takeout meals.

“Other outlets” refers to the traditional markets, also called wet markets, mom-and-pop stores, bakeries, fresh fruits stalls, etc. These outlets are usually smaller in scale and U.S. food exporters probably need to work with local importers/agents to place products in this sector of the market. Some Hong Kong consumers prefer these stores due to proximities, established relationships, and perception that meat, fish, and produce in traditional shops are fresher.

Although the number of supermarket outlets is expected to remain stable, the market share for supermarket sales is expected to continue growing in the future at the expense of traditional street markets. The supermarket’s share in terms of total retail sales rose from 44 percent of total sales in 1995 to 62 percent in 2020.

<sup>8</sup> Hong Kong Census and Statistics Department

**Chart 1 – Food and Beverage Retail Sales in Hong Kong (Billion USD)<sup>9</sup>**



Online shopping continues to grow especially under COVID-19. In 2020, food and drink e-commerce reached \$436 million, a significant increase of 80 percent over 2019, and it is estimated to reach \$554 million<sup>10</sup> by 2025.

For more information on the Hong Kong Food Retail Sector, please refer to [GAIN Report HK2021-0035](#).

## Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional (HRI) Sector

### Hotels

There are over 310 hotels providing over 87,000 rooms for visitors to Hong Kong.<sup>11</sup> While tourism dropped significantly over the last two years, hotels in Hong Kong have been reportedly able to stay at about 70 percent capacity with some offering quarantine-packages for incoming travelers or staycations to local customers unable to travel abroad.

### Restaurants

Hong Kong boasts over 15,000 eateries which range from local favorites to high-end fine dining outlets.<sup>12</sup> In 2020, the number of restaurants dropped 5 percent compared to 2019. The Michelin guide 2021 stars 66 Hong Kong restaurants, including seven three-starred establishments, outnumbering the five restaurants in New York City and in London that won the same three stars recognition.<sup>13</sup>

In 2020, the value of Hong Kong restaurant food and beverage purchases lowered 28 percent to \$3.31 billion. Generated estimated sales also dropped 29 percent to \$10.17 billion compared to 2019. In addition, the share of dining in sales dropped to 56 percent of total food service sales compared to 86 percent in 2019<sup>14</sup>. The sharp decrease was due to lower tourism and social distancing restrictions under COVID-19. However, restaurants receipts in 2021 have begun to recover with the ease of social distancing and other local restrictions.

**Table 3 – Hong Kong Restaurants Purchases and Receipts (Billion USD)<sup>15</sup>**

	2018	2019	2020	Growth (20 vs 19)
Restaurant Purchases	\$4.88	\$4.63	\$3.31	-28%
Restaurant Receipts	\$15.33	\$14.42	\$10.17	-29%

<sup>9</sup> Hong Kong Census and Statistics Department

<sup>10</sup> “Food and Drink E-Commerce in Hong Kong, China”, Euromonitor International

<sup>11</sup> Hong Kong Tourism Board

<sup>12</sup> “Consumer Foodservice in Hong Kong”, Euromonitor International

<sup>13</sup> Michelin Guide 2021

<sup>14</sup> “Consumer Foodservice in Hong Kong”, Euromonitor International

<sup>15</sup> Hong Kong Census and Statistics Department

## **Institutions**

Hong Kong's institutional foodservice sector consists of hospitals, residential care facilities, schools, prisons, and travel industry catering facilities. Many of these facilities, especially those operated by the government, purchase food supplies through tenders where price, quality, consistency, and stable supply matter. Experienced local importers are familiar with the process and requirements.

For more information on the Hong Kong Food Service Sector, please refer to [GAIN Report HK2021-0048](#).

## **Food Processing Sector**

The food processing industry in Hong Kong is small compared to the food retail and HRI sectors. According to the latest figure (2019), total output of the local food processing industry was \$741 million.<sup>16</sup> Major local production include instant noodles, pasta, biscuits, pastries, cakes, and drinks. Other related activities include the canning, preserving, and processing of seafood (fish, shrimps, prawns, and crustaceans), and the manufacture of dairy products (fresh milk, yoghurt, and ice-cream), edible oils, and seasonings.

Based on the trade agreement between Hong Kong and China (called the Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement, or CEPA in short), all foods and beverages made in Hong Kong, subject to the CEPA's rules of origin, can enjoy duty-free access to the Chinese mainland. Processed food and beverages products not made in Hong Kong remain subject to rates according to China's tariff schedule.

The CEPA zero tariff product list includes aquamarine products, food and beverages, (certain dairy products such as yoghurt and cheese, certain prepared meats, certain sugar confectioneries and cocoa preparations; certain preserved meats and seafood, bread, biscuits, and cakes; preserved vegetables and fruits, fruit juices; sauces, water, etc.) leather, and fur products.

Processed food and beverages items must comply with Hong Kong rules of origin to be imported into China tariff-free. The rule of origin of individual products is determined by the manufacturing or processing operation. For example, milk and cream products are considered as "made in Hong Kong" when the manufacturing processes of mixing, freezing sterilization, and cooling are conducted in Hong Kong. The origin criteria for edible tree nuts are that the baking, seasoning, and/coating must take place in Hong Kong. In the case of ginseng, the principal manufacturing processes of cutting and grinding must be conducted in Hong Kong. More information on CEPA can be found at: <http://www.tid.gov.hk/english/cepa/>.

Food ingredients are sourced both through direct import by food processors and through consolidators. Hong Kong traders and end-users tend to stay with suppliers with whom they have a relationship. While exporters would do well exploring all channels, patience and understanding are required to establish a relationship of trust before trading can begin.

## **Outlook for 2021/2022**

COVID-19 has adversely affected Hong Kong's economy which contracted 6.1 percent in 2020. One of key factors was the city's travel restrictions and quarantine requirements on inbound travelers that significantly hindered tourism and in-person economic activities. In 2020, as most Hong Kong citizens did not travel abroad, food retail sales were maintained at the same level at \$12.7 billion. However, the number of travelers dropped nearly 94 percent to 3.6 million, and food service sales dropped 29 percent to \$10 billion. The Hong Kong government has since implemented multiple measures to alleviate the impact of the pandemic and revive the

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<sup>16</sup> Hong Kong Trade Development Council - "Processed Food and Beverages Industry in Hong Kong"

economy, including the anti-epidemic fund at \$40 billion<sup>17</sup> and the consumption vouchers scheme at \$4.6 billion<sup>18</sup>, and there have been signs of recovery. For the first ten months of 2021, food retail sales were \$10 billion, representing a modest drop of 5.6 percent over the same period in 2020. On the other hand, restaurant receipts were \$8.7 billion for the first nine months of 2021, a rebound of 12.9 percent over the same period in 2020. Moreover, Hong Kong global imports of consumer-oriented agricultural products were \$19.8 billion, an increase of 7.7 percent over the same period in 2020.

According to local statistics, Hong Kong's economy expanded by 5.4 percent year-on-year in real terms in the third quarter of 2021, after an increase of 7.6 percent (year-on-year) in the preceding quarter. Considering the actual outturn in the first three quarters of the year, the Government forecasts Hong Kong's real GDP growth for 2021 is 6.4 percent.<sup>19</sup> Hong Kong's economy is expected to continue to grow in 2022 depending on improvements in the global COVID-19 situation, and the reopening of international borders.

In the past year, agriculture and food trade to Hong Kong has also been impacted by the ongoing global supply chain disruptions. A situation that will continue to impact shipping arrivals, and domestic food prices. For more information on the impact on local consumers and traders please see [GAIN report](#).

### **Trends in Promotional/Marketing Strategies and Tactics**

- Identify key players for the products - ATO Hong Kong can provide lists of importers, distributors, commodity cooperators, and regional business groups to U.S. exporters.
- Test marketing may be required prior to establishing a presence in the market.
- Communicate product benefits to end-users - although distributors maintain relationships with their customers as end users assert influence over the buying decisions, it is important to directly educate all stakeholders as to the features and benefits of your products.
- Stay flexible in joining trade shows digitally or engage virtually with Hong Kong customers. While Hong Kong has previously hosted dozens of in-person international food and beverage shows per year, strict quarantine requirements on inbound travelers have forced shows to change locations or formats. Be open to highlighting and demonstrating the versatility of U.S. food products in different formats/platforms until travel conditions normalize.
- Stage menu promotions with major restaurant chains to restate benefits.
- Once travel reopens, invite restaurant owners/chefs to seminars and/or to the United States - ATO Hong Kong/ cooperators organize seminars and trade missions to the United States to introduce U.S. products, meet U.S. exporters, and develop trade relationships important to long-term success.

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<sup>17</sup> Hong Kong SAR Government

<sup>18</sup> South China Morning Post

<sup>19</sup> "Economic and Trade Information on Hong Kong", Hong Kong Trade Development Council

## SECTION V. AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD IMPORTS

Due to land constraints, Hong Kong produces a minimal amount of its food requirements, depending on global sources to meet about 95 percent of its needs. Hong Kong imports of Consumer-Oriented Agricultural Products from all origins reached \$22 billion in 2020.

**Table 4 – Hong Kong Imports of Consumer-Oriented Ag. Products (2016-2020)<sup>20</sup>**

Partner	Calendar Year (Value: USD million)					Growth	Share
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	20 v 19	2020
China	4,851	5,089	5,161	4,969	5,040	1%	23%
United States	4,146	4,346	4,298	3,375	2,155	-36%	10%
Brazil	2,047	2,234	2,475	1,998	1,977	-1%	9%
Japan	1,227	1,196	1,373	1,337	1,445	8%	7%
Thailand	883	847	929	1,039	1,345	30%	6%
Chile	822	698	1,205	1,436	1,287	-10%	6%
Australia	1,329	1,321	1,220	1,140	1,011	-11%	5%
France	1,480	1,438	1,540	1,179	991	-16%	4%
Netherlands	1,222	1,082	999	854	620	-27%	3%
New Zealand	388	481	541	672	541	-20%	2%
Total of Top 10 Partners	18,395	18,733	19,740	18,001	16,411	-9%	74%
Total of Rest of the World	6,651	6,813	6,850	6,455	5,769	-11%	26%
World	25,046	25,546	26,590	24,456	22,180	-9%	100%

**Table 5 – Top 10 Hong Kong Imports of Consumer-Oriented Agricultural Products and Competition<sup>21</sup>**

Product Category			Major Supply Sources <sup>22</sup>
<b>Fresh Fruit</b>			1. Chile – 34%
Gross Imports	\$3.68 billion	1,804,167 MT	2. Thailand – 22%
Retained Imports	\$1.15 billion	618,089 MT	4. United States – 7%
<b>Fish Products</b>			1. China – 35%
Gross Imports	\$3 billion	331,297 MT	2. Japan – 16%
Retained Imports	\$2.61 billion	291,012 MT	6. United States – 3%
<b>Beef and Beef Products</b>			1. Brazil – 44%
Gross Imports	\$2.92 billion	719,694 MT	2. United States – 23%
Retained Imports	\$2.8 billion	688,306 MT	3. Australia – 5%
<b>Pork and Pork Products</b>			1. Brazil – 24%
Gross Imports	\$1.65 billion	651,816 MT	2. China – 14%
Retained Imports	\$1.48 billion	592,566 MT	6. United States – 7%

<sup>20</sup> Calculations based on Trade Data Monitor data

<sup>21</sup> Calculations based on Trade Data Monitor data

<sup>22</sup> Ranking and market share by gross import value in 2020

<b>Dairy Products</b>			1. Netherlands – 26%
Gross Imports	\$1.36 billion	261,998 MT	2. New Zealand – 22%
Retained Imports	\$700 million	205,349 MT	10. United States – 3%
<b>Poultry Meat and Products</b>			1. China – 44%
Gross Imports	\$1.16 billion	566,968 MT	2. Brazil – 21%
Retained Imports	\$1.01 billion	475,448 MT	3. United States – 9%
<b>Soup and Other Prepared Food</b>			1. United States – 18%
Gross Imports	\$1.1 billion	140,173 MT	2. China – 18%
Retained Imports	\$343 million	105,258 MT	3. Japan – 13%
<b>Wine and Related Products</b>			1. France – 60%
Gross Imports	\$1.06 billion	55 million liters	2. Australia – 10%
Retained Imports	\$923 million	47 million liters	5. United States – 5%
<b>Bakery Products</b>			1. China – 37%
Gross Imports	\$870 million	302,234 MT	2. Japan – 20%
Retained Imports	\$407 million	229,601 MT	9. United States – 3%
<b>Non-Alcoholic Beverages</b>			1. China – 76%
Gross Imports	\$866 million	317 million liters	2. Japan – 4%
Retained Imports	\$745 million	189 million liters	4. United States – 3%

#### SECTION IV. BEST PRODUCT PROSPECTS CATEGORIES

**Table 6 – Best Growths of Hong Kong’s Imports of Consumer-Oriented Agricultural Products<sup>23</sup>**

Category	(Value: USD million)		Average Annual Growth
	2016	2020	
Tea	119	242	19.39%
Dog & Cat Food	108	171	12.12%
Fresh Vegetables	459	712	11.60%
Fresh Fruit	2,595	3,680	9.13%
Eggs & Products	196	242	5.32%
Processed Vegetables	428	515	4.72%
Soup & Other Food Preparations	959	1,098	3.44%
Condiments & Sauces	280	319	3.34%
Beef & Beef Products	2,606	2,917	2.86%

<sup>23</sup> Calculations based on Trade Data Monitor data

## SECTION V. KEY CONTACTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

### Post Contact

Agricultural Trade Office, Consulate General of the United States, Hong Kong and Macau

18<sup>th</sup> Floor, St. John's Building

33 Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong

Tel: (852)-2841-2350

Fax: (852)-2845-0943

Email: [Atohongkong@usda.gov](mailto:Atohongkong@usda.gov)

Website: <http://www.usconsulate.org.hk>

<http://www.atohongkong.com.hk>

### Other Hong Kong Government / Semi-Government Contacts

Please refer to [GAIN Report HK2021-0031](#)

\* **Data and Information Sources:** U.S. Census Bureau Trade Data, Trade Data Monitor, Euromonitor International, Hong Kong Census and Statistics Department, and Hong Kong Trade Development Council. Currency in U.S. dollars unless otherwise stated.

### Attachments:

No Attachments