



Ministry of Agriculture,  
Food and Rural Affairs

## PRESS RELEASE

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# Exports of K-Food Plus in the First Half of 2025: USD 6.67 Billion, up by 7.1% Year over Year

**Sejong, 14 July 2025** — On 3 July, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA) announced that the cumulative value of exports of K-Food Plus for the first half of the year 2025 reached USD 6.67 billion (a provisional figure), up by 7.1% from the same period a year ago.

- K-Food Plus (K-Food+) refers to a combination of (a) agri-food products (K-Food) and (b) the products from the agro-industry (e.g. smart farms, agricultural equipment, pet food, veterinary medical products, etc.). Agri-food products mean non-processed agricultural produce and processed food products, excluding aquatic food products.
- By the definition of the MAFRA, the agro-industry is an industry with forward- and backward-linkages with agriculture, as well as forward-and backward-linked agri-food industries (e.g. smart farms, agricultural equipment, agricultural chemicals, animal feed including pet food, veterinary medicine, etc.). Agri-food products are excluded from the agro-industry.

<Exports of K-Food Plus>

- USD 6.2214 billion in Q2 of 2024 → USD 6.6658 billion in Q2 of 2025 (7.1% ↑)

Exports of agri-food products (K-Food) reached a record high of USD 5.16 billion, up by 8.4% from the same period a year ago. By export markets, exports of agri-food products to North America reached USD 1.0319 billion, up by 24.3% from the same period a year ago; exports to the European Union (EU) and the United Kingdom (UK) reached USD 421.8 million, up by 23.9%; exports to the states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) reached USD 182.6 million, up by 17.8%; and exports to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and Mongolia reached USD 243.1 million, up by 9%.

<Exports of Agri-food Products>

- USD 4.7652 billion in Q2 of 2024 → USD 5.1637 billion in Q2 of 2025 (8.4% ↑)

The first quarter of 2025 saw an increase of 9.8% in exports of agri-food products from the same period a year ago, and the second quarter saw an increase of 7.7%. The second quarter saw higher growth rates in exports to the markets of the U.S., China, and Japan than the first quarter.

<Growth rates in Exports to the U.S., China, and Japan>

- The U.S.  
USD 440 million in Q1 of 2025, up by 25.1% year over year → USD 493.7 million in Q2 of 2025, up by 28.6% year over year
- China  
USD 317.5 million in Q1 of 2025, up by 1% year over year → USD 424.5 million in Q2 of 2025, up by 9.4% year over year
- Japan  
USD 332.1 million in Q1 of 2025, up by 0.8% year over year → USD 365.6 million in Q2 of 2025, up by 6.9% year over year

Among processed food products having recorded USD 50 million or more in exports, significant growth rates in exports in the first half of 2025 from the same period a year ago were seen in ramyeon (USD 731.7 million in exports, up by 24%), ice cream (USD 65.5 million, up by 23.1%) and sauces (USD 228.4 million, up by 18.4%).

Exports of ramyeon were driven by a growing global popularity of spicy tastes, as well as by new products (e.g. spicy cream ramyeon) having been released into the market. The rise in the exports is also attributable to the establishment of a food supply and distribution system based on local Korean subsidiaries and local big-box stores in the U.S., China, etc. Another contributing factor in the export increase is the entry of ramyeon into new markets such as Europe, the ASEAN region, etc.

<Cumulative Value of Exports of Ramyeon in the First Half of 2025>

- Exports to China: USD 161.3 million, up by 41.7% from the same period a year ago
- Exports to the U.S.: USD 140.9 million, up by 40.8% from the same period a year ago
- Exports to the ASEAN region: USD 107.1 million, up by 12.2% from the same period a year ago
- Exports to the CIS: USD 39 million, up by 54.5% from the same period a year ago
- Exports to the GCC: USD 24.3 million, up by 39.5% from the same period a year ago

As consumers' awareness of "hansik" (Korean food) is growing globally and ramyeon with spicy taste is growing more popular around the world, exports of Korean sauces increased to the U.S., Japan, and China. Such Korean sauces include "gochujang" (red chili paste), "ssamjang" (a condiment made of fermented soybean paste), hot sauces, "bulgogi" sauces, etc.

<Cumulative Value of Exports of Sauces in the First Half of 2025>

- Exports to the U.S.: USD 50.8 million, up by 13.4% from the same period a year ago
- Exports to Japan: USD 39.7 million, up by 128.5% from the same period a year ago

- Exports to China: USD 30.6 million, up by 27% from the same period a year ago

The largest exports of ice cream were made to the U.S. where sales of ice cream increased in big-box stores. As for the markets such as Canada, vegan ice cream, as a replacement for regular ice cream, was exported, which drove up exports to overseas markets.

<Cumulative Value of Exports of Ice Cream in the First Half of 2025>

- Exports to the U.S.: USD 24.9 million, up by 22.8% from the same period a year ago
- Exports to China: USD 5.6 million, up by 22.8% from the same period a year ago
- Exports to Canada: USD 4.8 million, up by 84.9% from the same period a year ago

Among non-processed food products, exports of chicken meat products stood at USD 45.6 million, up by 7.9% from the same period a year ago, and exports of “yuja” (a Korean citron) was at USD 28.5 million, up by 5.5%.

Exports of non-processed chicken meat products to Vietnam reached USD 36.1 million, up by 7.6% from the same period a year ago. Exports of heat-treated chicken products to the U.S. reached USD 3.9 million, up by 15.1% from the same period a year ago. Exports of heat-treated chicken products to the EU and the UK reach USD 600,000, up by 1,019.4% from the same period a year ago. The export growth in heat-treated chicken meat products was led by a high popularity of “samgyetang” and Korean frozen chicken.

As more and more consumers in overseas markets are perceiving “yuja” as a healthy diet, a global demand for “yuja” is increasing. This is driving up exports of “yuja” to markets such as the U.S., Japan, and the EU.

<Cumulative Value of Exports of “Yuja” in the First Half of 2025>

- Exports to the U.S.: USD 10.3 million, up by 62.3% from the same period a year ago

- Exports to Japan: USD 1.7 million, up by 6.9% from the same period a year ago
- Exports to the EU: USD 1.5 million, up by 39.3% from the same period a year ago

Exports of products from the agro-industry reached USD 1.5 billion in the first half of 2025, up by 3.1% from the same period a year ago. Among the export items, veterinary pharmaceuticals, agricultural pesticides, seeds, and fertilizers showed the highest year-on-year increases in exports.

<Cumulative Value of Exports of Agro-industrial Products in the First Half of 2025>

- Exports of veterinary pharmaceuticals: USD 167.2 million, up by 51% from the same period a year ago
- Exports of agricultural pesticides: USD 490.2 million, up by 22.4% from the same period a year ago
- Exports of seeds: USD 27.3 million, up by 14.1% from the same period a year ago
- Exports of fertilizers: USD 222.1 million, up by 6.8% from the same period a year ago

Exports of veterinary pharmaceuticals recorded USD 167.2 million by the end of May, up by 51% from the same period a year ago. This export growth was led by an increase in the exports of lysine supplements, chemical substances, and medical devices. Exports of lysine supplements reached USD 82.2 million, up by 160% from the same period a year ago, which was fuelled by an increase in demand from Europe. Exports of chemical substances reached USD 27.4 million, up by 27.7% from the same period a year ago, which was driven by an increase in demand in Brazil and Southeast Asia. Exports of medical devices reached USD 26.4 million, up by 14.4% from the same period a year ago.

Agricultural pesticides recorded USD 490.2 million in exports in the first half of 2025, up by 22.4% from the same period a year ago. The export increases were especially strong in China, Vietnam, and Brazil. Exports of seeds reached USD 27.3 million, up by 14.1% from the same period a year ago. Exports of

fertilizers reached USD 222.1 million, up by 6.8% from the same period a year ago.

Minister SONG Miryung of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs said: “K-Food Plus exports are continuing to show an upward trend in the first half of 2025, despite a challenging global trade environment. This significant result has been earned through collaborative efforts of export companies and the government working together as a one team.”

Since the beginning of 2025, Minister Song has been working hard to increase K-Food Plus exports. In January of this year, Minister Song announced a K-Food Plus export target of USD 14 billion and held a meeting to share the 2025 Strategic Plan for the Expansion of K-Food Plus Exports with export companies and related organizations. In February, Minister Song unveiled detailed strategies for export expansion. In April, immediately after the U.S. announced the imposition of tariffs on imports, Minister Song convened an emergency meeting where she paid special attention to the difficulties faced by the export industry and discussed the government’s support measures.

Minister Song also worked hard in overseas markets to promote K-Food Plus products. In March, Minister Song directly promoted to Vietnamese consumers the first batch of Korean melons (“chamoe”) that were exported to Vietnam in 2025 after the Republic of Korea and Vietnam reached an agreement in quarantine negotiations on the exports of Korean melons in 2024.

In Singapore, a premium market within the Southeast Asian region, Minister Song promoted traditional Korean alcoholic beverages, which have high potential for growth in exports, to local influencers alongside Korean cuisine.

As part of the efforts to increase the exports of K-Food Plus to Europe, Minister Song had a meeting in May in France with local buyers importing Korean noodles, beverages, frozen poultry meat products, and traditional Korean alcoholic beverages and discussed the ways to expand exports.

Minister Song said: “By taking advantage of the solid export growth of K-Food Plus in the first half of the year, we will make the utmost effort to ensure that the exports of K-Food Plus will reach a target of USD 14 billion by the end of this year. To this end, we will provide a full support for Korean companies in diverse ways, such as development of products, online and offline promotion, consulting on export strategies, etc.”

**<Exports of K-Food Plus in the first half of 2025 as of the end of June  
(provisional figures)>**

(Unit: USD million, %)

| Categories                         | First half of 2024<br>(1 January 2024 to 30<br>June 2024) | First half of 2025<br>(1 January 2025 to 30<br>June 2025) | Year-over-<br>year rate of<br>change |
|------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| <b>K-Food<sup>+</sup>(A+B)</b>     | <b>6,221.4</b>  | <b>6,665.8</b>  | <b>7.1 ↑</b>                         |
| <b>Agri-food products (A)</b>      | <b>4,765.2</b>  | <b>5,163.7</b>  | <b>8.4 ↑</b>                         |
| Processed food products            | 4,034.4   | 4,450.0   | 10.3 ↑                               |
| • Ramyeon                          | 590.2   | 731.7   | 24.0 ↑                               |
| • Biscuits and confectionery       | 354.2   | 372.2   | 5.1 ↑                                |
| • Beverages                        | 325.8   | 343.0   | 5.3 ↑                                |
| • Processed rice-based<br>products | 136.5   | 139.0   | 1.8 ↑                                |
| Non-processed food products        | 730.8   | 713.8   | 2.3 ↓                                |

|   |                |                |             |
|---|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| • Ginseng products  | 153.0          | 131.3          | 14.2↓       |
| • Kimchi  | 83.8           | 83.2           | 0.7↓        |
| • Strawberries  | 52.2           | 52.4           | 0.4↑        |
| • Paprika   | 25.2           | 23.9           | 5.2↓        |
| • Grapes  | 10.7           | 14.2           | 33.6↑       |
| • Pears   | 5.3            | 5.1            | 3.7↓        |
| <b>Products from the agro-industry (B)</b>  | <b>1,456.2</b> | <b>1,502.0</b> | <b>3.1↑</b> |
| Agricultural inputs   | 1,333.8        | 1,400.2        | 5.0↑        |
| • Agricultural machines and equipment   | 701.9          | 661.0          | 5.8↓        |
| • Fertilizers   | 207.6          | 221.8          | 6.8↑        |
| • Agricultural pesticides   | 400.4          | 490.2          | 22.4↑       |
| • Seeds   | 23.9           | 27.3           | 14.1↑       |
| • Smart farms   | 67.2           | 44.0           | 34.5↓       |
| • Veterinary pharmaceuticals  | 110.8          | 167.2          | 51.0↑       |
| • Pet food  | 79.8           | 80.1           | 0.3↑        |
| • Facilities for overseas agricultural infrastructure                                 | -              | -              | -           |
| • Machinery, devices, facilities, etc. for food production, processing, storage, etc. | -              | -              | -           |