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Jeju capitalises on Singapore access to expand meat exports

19 November 2026 | News

Singapore accounted for 81 per cent of Jejuâ??s meat export value in the first nine months of 2026, with demand accelerating after market access was secured for Hanwoo beef and pork



Singapore has emerged as the principal destination for meat exports from South Korea's Jeju Island, accounting for 81 per cent of export value between January and September 2026, as the province expands its presence in high-value Asian markets.

Jeju exported 173 tonnes of livestock products worth $3.29 million during the nine-month period, a sharp increase from $450,000 in the corresponding period a year earlier, according to the provincial government. Singapore accounted for $2.67 million of the total, while Hong Kong and Macau together purchased products worth $450,000.

The growth follows Singapore's decision in November 2025 to open its market to Jeju Hanwoo beef and pork, providing the island's livestock industry with access to a market where regulatory compliance, product quality and price competitiveness are central to trade.

Jeju supplied 97.3 per cent of South Korea's pork exports and 33.8 per cent of its chilled beef exports during the period, underlining the island's contribution to the country's meat export trade. The provincial government attributed the increase in overseas sales to competitive pricing, the island's animal-health credentials and the availability of approved export infrastructure.

A significant factor supporting market access is Jeju's disease-free status. The World Organisation for Animal Health recognised the island as free from foot-and-mouth disease without vaccination in May 2025, strengthening its position in markets with stringent sanitary and phytosanitary requirements.

The island has also established the necessary export infrastructure for the Singapore trade. Two slaughterhouses and seven meat-processing facilities have been approved to supply the market, providing the regulatory and operational framework required to sustain shipments.

The concentration of export value in Singapore highlights the importance of securing and maintaining access to premium regional markets. For Jeju, the next challenge will be to build on this opening, broaden its customer base and convert the recent export gains into a more diversified and resilient international meat trade.