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Exports of K-Food Plus Reached USD 13.6 Billion in 2025, Up 5.1% Year-over-Year

Sejong, 20 January 2026 — On 12 January 2026, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA) announced that exports of K-Food Plus reached a record high of USD 13.62 billion (provisional data) in 2025, marking a 5.1% year-over-year increase. By category, exports of agri-food products amounted to USD 10.41 billion, while exports from the agro-industry totalled USD 3.22 billion. Both figures represent the highest levels recorded since official statistics were first compiled.

- 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 refer to non-processed agricultural produce and

processed food products, excluding aquatic food products.

1. Exports of Agri-food Products

Exports of agri-food products continued their upward trend for the tenth consecutive year since 2015, increasing by 4.3% year-over-year in 2025 to surpass a historic milestone of USD 10 billion for the first time. Notably, in 2025, ramyeon surpassed USD 1.5 billion in exports for the first time ever as a single item, and 11 additional products also recorded their highest export value.

<Agri-food products with record-high exports (12 items)>

- Ramyeon, prepared foods, sauces, processed coffee-based products, kimchi, ice cream, liqueurs, grapes, strawberries, bakery dough, cocoa powder, and pork.

1.1 By Product Item

In 2025, highest-ever exports were achieved in ramyeon, sauces, ice cream, and other processed food products, as well as grapes, strawberries, and other non-processed food products.

<Exports by product item (growth rates) in 2025>

- Ramyeon: USD 1,521.4 million (21.9% ↑)
- Prepared foods: USD 744.8 million (9.5% ↑)
- Sauces: USD 411.9 million (4.6% ↑)
- Kimchi: USD 164.4 million (0.5% ↑)
- Ice cream: USD 111.3 million (21.6% ↑)
- Grapes: USD 84.7 million (46.3% ↑)
- Strawberries: USD 72 million (4.0% ↑)

Exports of ramyeon reached a record high of USD 1.52 billion in 2025, up by 21.9% year-over-year. Expanded production capacity and the establishment of

stable supply chains in response to rising global demand were key contributing factors. Newly launched products—such as cheese-flavoured spicy ramyeon—were well received, while exports grew not only in major markets such as the People’s Republic China (PRC) and the United States of America (USA), but also in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Mongolia, and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

<Export growth rates of ramyeon on a year-over-year basis>

- Exports to the PRC: USD 385.4 million, up by 47.9% year-over-year
- Exports to the USA: USD 254.7 million, up by 18.2% year-over-year
- Exports to the ASEAN region: USD 223.2 million, up by 12.4% year-over-year
- Exports to the CIS and Mongolia: USD 82.4 million, up by 38.7% year-over-year
- Exports to Japan: USD 77.3 million, up by 23.6% year-over-year
- Exports to the GCC countries: USD 47.5 million, up by 22% year-over-year

Exports of sauces increased amid the global popularity of Korean spicy flavours. In the PRC, sales channels for spicy sauces widened from online platforms to major offline retail outlets, while in the USA, growing demand for spicy-and-sweet flavours boosted consumption of gochujang and other sauces (e.g. tteokbokki and barbecue sauces).

<Export growth rates of sauces on a year-over-year basis>

- Exports to the USA: USD 92.2 million, up by 5% year-over-year
- Exports to the PRC: USD 60.4 million, up by 13.2% year-over-year
- Exports to the CIS and Mongolia: USD 40.2 million, up by 2.6% year-over-year
- Exports to Japan: USD 38.3 million, up by 6.3% year-over-year

Exports of ice cream expanded significantly, particularly to the USA, Canada, and Japan, reaching USD 100 million for the first time. New products reflecting wellness trends—such as vegan, low-fat, and zero-sugar ice cream—contributed

to export growth.

<Export growth rates of ice cream on a year-over-year basis>

- Exports to the USA: USD 35.6 million, up by 20.5% year-over-year
- Exports to the CIS and Mongolia: USD 9.2 million, up by 32% year-over-year
- Exports to Canada: USD 9.1 million, up by 24.5% year-over-year
- Exports to Japan: USD 7.4 million, up by 309.5% year-over-year
- Exports to the PRC: USD 6.9 million, up by 10.3% year-over-year
- Exports to the GCC countries: USD 3.8 million, up by 32.9% year-over-year
- Exports to Europe: USD 2.8 million, up by 57% year-over-year

Exports of Korean grapes rose sharply to Chinese Taipei and North America, driven by their improved price competitiveness based on increased production in the Republic of Korea, as well as by strengthened safety management measures for grape exports to Chinese Taipei.

<Export growth rates of Korean grapes on a year-over-year basis>

- Exports to Chinese Taipei: USD 44 million, up by 133.5% year-over-year
- Exports to the USA: USD 11.4 million, up by 33.2% year-over-year
- Exports to Canada: USD 5 million, up by 13.2% year-over-year
- Exports to the Republic of Singapore: USD 4.1 million, up by 22.3% year-over-year
- Exports to the Kingdom of Thailand: USD 2.5 million, up by 18.8% year-over-year

Exports of new strawberry varieties such as “Honghee” and “Vitaberry,” as well as exports of the flagship strawberry variety “Geumsil,” expanded in ASEAN markets. Korean strawberries gained recognition as premium fruits with high sugar content and rich juice, particularly in the Kingdom of Thailand, the Republic of Singapore, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV).

<Export growth rates of Korean strawberries on a year-over-year basis>

- Exports to the Kingdom of Thailand: USD 19.7 million, up by 20.4% year-over-year

- Exports to the Republic of Singapore: USD 19.5 million, up by 7.2% year-over-year
- Exports to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam: USD 7.5 million, up by 6.9% year-over-year

1.2 By Market

In 2025, exports of agri-food products increased across most markets, including North America, Europe, the Middle East, the PRC, etc. Exports to the top two export destinations, the USA and the PRC, led an overall growth in exports, while strong growth was observed in promising markets such as Europe and the GCC countries.

<Export growth rates of agri-food products by markets on a year-over-year basis>

- Exports to North America: USD 2,015 million, up by 12.4% year-over-year
- Exports to the PRC, etc.: USD 2,379 million, up by 3.9% year-over-year
- Exports to Europe: USD 773.7 million, up by 13.6% year-over-year
- Exports to the GCC countries: USD 411.6 million, up by 22.6% year-over-year

Exports to the USA recorded USD 1.8 billion, up by 13.2% year-over-year, making it the Republic of Korea's largest export market for the second consecutive year. Export growth was particularly strong in ramyeon, sauces, and ice cream, as Korean companies expanded their presence in large retail chains and introduced a wide range of products tailored to local consumer preferences.

<The export growth rate of Korean agri-food products (K-Food) in total to the USA>

- USD 1,592.5 million in 2024 → USD 1803.5 million in 2025 (13.2% ↑)

<Export growth rates of major Korean agri-food products to the USA on a year-over-year basis>

- Ramyeon: USD 254.7 million, up by 18.2% year-over-year
- Sauces: USD 92.2 million, up by 5% year-over-year
- Ice cream: USD 35.6 million, up by 20.5% year-over-year

Ramyeon exports to the PRC increased significantly in 2025 amid the growing popularity of spicy ramyeon. Exports of sauces, including chicken and tteokbokki sauces, rose in tandem as well, resulting in exports totaling USD 1.59 billion in 2025, a 5.1% year-over-year increase.

<The export growth rate of Korean agri-food products (K-Food) in total to the PRC>

- USD 1,511.5 million in 2024 → USD 1,588.3 million in 2025 (5.1% ↑)

<Export growth rates of major Korean agri-food products to the PRC on a year-over-year basis>

- Ramyeon: USD 385.4 million, up by 47.9% year-over-year
- Beverages: USD 164.4 million, up by 4.1% year-over-year
- Sauces: USD 60.4 million, up by 13.2% year-over-year

Exports of processed rice-based food products (e.g. health functional foods, tteokbokki, etc.) and kimchi to Europe increased amid consumers' growing interest in wellness trends and Korean street foods. In addition, after the Republic of Korea concluded quarantine negotiations with the European Union (EU), exports of processed chicken food products began entering Europe in large amounts in various forms such as Korean "Dakgangjeong" (sweet-and-crispy fried chicken), chicken dumplings, and chicken sausages. This led to a 417.6% year-over-year increase in exports to Europe.

<The export growth rate of Korean agri-food products (K-Food) in total to Europe>

- USD 680.8 million in 2024 → USD 773.7 million in 2025 (13.6% ↑)

<Export growth rates of major Korean agri-food products to Europe on a year-over-year basis>

- Prepared foods: USD 49 million, up by 49% year-over-year
- Processed rice-based food products: USD 26.9 million, up by 14.5% year-over-year
- Kimchi: USD 23.4 million, up by 4.6% year-over-year
- Chicken food products: USD 2.5 million, up by 417.6% year-over-year

Exports to the GCC countries reached USD 411.6 million in 2025, up 22.6% year-over-year, demonstrating a strong growth potential of the market. As the region's growing consumer interest in and experience with K-food led to an expansion of the consumer base, spicy ramyeon, sauces, and ice cream gained popularity as appealing flavours suited to the local climate. This resulted in a significant rise in exports to the GCC countries.

<The export growth rate of Korean agri-food products (K-Food) in total to the GCC countries>

- USD 335.8 million in 2024 → USD 411.6 million in 2025 (22.6% ↑)

<Export growth rates of major Korean agri-food products to the GCC countries on a year-over-year basis>

- Ramyeon: USD 47.5 million, up by 22% year-over-year
- Sauces: USD 4.8 million, up by 31.7% year-over-year
- Ice cream: USD 3.8 million, up by 32.9% year-over-year

2. Exports of products from the agro-industry

Exports from the Korean agro-industry totaled USD 3.22 billion in 2025, up by 8.0% year-over-year, marking both the highest export value and growth rate since the MAFRA officially compiled and announced the statistics on the exports of agro-industrial products in 2022. Agro-industrial exports increased across major product items, including agricultural machinery, agricultural pesticides, fertilizers, seeds, and veterinary medical products.

<Yearly export growth rates of Korean agro-industrial products in total>

- USD 3.03 billion in 2022 → USD 2.97 billion in 2023 → USD 2.98 billion in 2024 → USD 3.22 billion in 2025

<Export growth rates of major Korean agro-industrial products on a year-over-year basis>

- Agricultural machinery: USD 1,350.2 million, up by 10.8% year-over-year
- Agricultural pesticides: USD 939.3 million, up by 14.6% year-over-year

- Fertilizers: USD 447.4 million, up by 8.2% year-over-year
- Seeds: USD 60.1 million, up by 5.9% year-over-year
- Veterinary medical products: USD 330 million, up by 9.8% year-over-year

Despite unfavorable trade conditions, exports of agricultural machinery recorded solid growth of 10.8% in 2025 year-over-year. This export record was supported by diversification of product lineups in the U.S. market and expansion of exports into Asia and Europe.

<Export growth rates of agricultural machinery on a year-over-year basis by country>

- Exports to the U.S.A.: USD 935 million, up by 12.5% year-over-year
- Exports to Japan: USD 53 million, up by 148.8% year-over-year
- Exports to the Netherlands: USD 48.7 million, up by 32% year-over-year

Exports of agricultural pesticides improved significantly, as demand for finished products continued to expand in Asian markets such as the PRC, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and the Republic of Indonesia. The significant improvement in the exports was also driven by a strengthened Korean export base—an increase in outsourcing to Korean manufacturers by multinational companies.

<Export growth rates of Korean agricultural pesticides on a year-over-year basis by country>

- Exports to the People's Republic of China: USD 140.8 million, up by 39% year-over-year
- Exports to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam: USD 139.8 million, up by 24.6% year-over-year
- Exports to the Republic of Indonesia: USD 111.4 million, up by 150% year-over-year

An increase in exports of Korean fertilizers was driven by rising consumption of Korean products in Southeast Asian countries, including the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The export increase was also driven by a rise in the international price of fertilizers caused by export control

policies of major fertilizer-exporting countries such as the Russian Federation and the PRC.

<Export growth rates of Korean fertilizers on a year-over-year basis by country>

- Exports to the Kingdom of Thailand.: USD 116.7 million, up by 9% year-over-year
- Exports to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam: USD 92.1 million, up by 11.2% year-over-year
- Exports to Japan: USD 46.3 million, up by 9% year-over-year

Exports of Korean seeds were led by expanded exports of seeds of Korean chili peppers and corn, whose superior quality is widely recognized.

<Export growth rates of Korean seeds on a year-over-year basis by country>

- Exports to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam: USD 4.2 million, up by 150.1% year-over-year
- Exports to the Arab Republic of Egypt: USD 2.3 million, up by 5.8% year-over-year
- Exports to the Kingdom of Thailand: USD 1.4 million, up by 29.7% year-over-year

Exports of veterinary medical products grew by 9.8% year on year.

<Export growth rates of Korean veterinary medical products on a year-over-year basis by country>

- Exports to the Netherlands: USD 29.3 million, up by 107.9% year-over-year
- Exports to the Kingdom of Spain: USD 23.9 million, up by 39.3% year-over-year
- Exports to the Italian Republic: USD 13.9 million, up by 114.1% year-over-year

Minister Song Miryung of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs said: “Despite challenging trade conditions, exports of K-Food and agro-industrial products (K-Food Plus) reached a record high in 2025. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs has set an export goal of USD 16 billion in K-Food Plus for 2026. The ministry will firmly support Korean companies so that their globally competitive products can expand further into markets worldwide.”