

# Mexican market opens its doors for imports of British pork

British farmers and food producers are set to benefit from access to a valuable new market, as Mexico has now officially opened its doors to British pork for the first time. British exporters can now tap into this brand-new market, which boasts high demand for high quality pork meat.

Global UK pork exports were worth over £421 million to our economy in 2020, reaching 75 export markets worldwide. According to the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board, access to the Mexican market alone is estimated to be worth £50 million to UK pork producers over the first five years of trade.

This is another success for UK food and drink exports, following successes in gaining access for UK beef to the USA, UK poultry, beef and lamb to Japan, and pork to Taiwan.

Defra Secretary of State George Eustice said:

It is great to see another market open its doors to high quality, high welfare UK produce.

Access to the Mexican market, with its substantial demand for high-quality pork, will be a welcome boost for our pig farmers and producers.

This is a significant development, which will reinforce our global reputation for quality food and drink.

As a world leader in animal welfare, UK pork is globally recognised for its provenance, quality and traceability. Through the GREAT Britain & Northern Ireland campaign, the UK government aims to raise the international profile and reputation of food and drink from across the UK and help more food and drink companies export their produce abroad.

Today's development follows over four years of negotiations and inspections. The Mexican National Department for Health, Safety and Agricultural and Food Quality (SENASICA) inspected numerous premises throughout the UK during a visit which occurred in February 2020, which led to a decision to approve four processing facilities and four associated cold stores in England and Wales.

UK Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr Richard Irvine, said:

The UK is proud of our high standards of food safety and the quality of food we are able to produce.

Gaining access for the export of British pork to Mexico represents yet another success for British Industry and continues to enhance our global reputation for excellence.

These inspections were led by Defra and the UK Export Certification Partnership (UKECP) and hosted by the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB), with support from UK national and devolved government departments and agencies, including DIT Mexico.

The UK and Mexico have committed to begin negotiating a new and ambitious free trade agreement this year, which will go much further than the existing deal. These negotiations will complement our accession to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific partnership (CPTPP), an increasingly influential trade network of 11 dynamic economies spanning from the Indo-Pacific region to the Americas.

International Trade Secretary Liz Truss said:

This is a huge win for our farmers and food producers and I look forward to seeing high-quality British pork being enjoyed in Mexico very soon.

British businesses can look forward to the benefits of a new and ambitious trade agreement with Mexico which we will be negotiating this year, and wins like these are an important step towards our accession to CPTPP that will see our global trade hit new heights.

AHDB International Market Development Director Dr Phil Hadley said:

Today's announcement is a fantastic boost for the UK's pork industry and offers another potential export market for our red meat during a challenging year.

Pork from the UK is trusted and favoured worldwide due to its exceptional quality, high welfare and food safety standards. This new approval will offer a wealth of opportunities for our exporters and is a testament to the hard work of industry and government to open new markets as we look to the future.

Pork will join a broad range of livestock genetics that the UK already successfully exports to Mexico. Access for bovine embryos was secured in 2020, joining bovine semen, a market worth over £130,000 annually over the last five years. Consequently, our high-quality cattle breeds are helping to develop Mexican herds. In addition, we have a well-established ovine genetics export market from the UK, with award-winning rams and ewes being bred in Mexico.

Jonathan Knott, Her Majesty's Trade Commissioner for Latin America and the

Caribbean, said:

I'm delighted that British pork can finally enter the Mexican market, after four years of intense negotiations with the Mexican authorities.

Once again Mexican consumers can enjoy these quality British products – and UK pork exporters have access to this important and growing market. Another success in our campaign to reduce barriers to trade between our countries.

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## [Foreign Secretary and Lord Ahmad visit Afghanistan's neighbours](#)

Press release

The Foreign Secretary flew to Doha on 1 September for talks with his Qatari counterparts as part of the UK government's work with partners on the situation in Afghanistan.



The Foreign Secretary will fly out to Doha this evening (1 September) for talks with his Qatari counterparts as part of the government's work with partners on the situation in Afghanistan.

The immediate priority is to progress the practical arrangements to enable those UK nationals and Afghans who have worked for us to travel to the UK. The Foreign Office has been working with the Home Office and Ministry of Defence on this issue and is deploying specially trained crisis teams to countries in the region to support this effort.

The visit will also be an opportunity to discuss with important regional partners the Government's four key priorities for Afghanistan:

- preventing Afghanistan becoming a haven for terrorists
- responding to the humanitarian plight
- safeguarding regional stability
- holding the Taliban to account on human rights

It comes as the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary continue to rally a broad coalition of countries around shared aims in response to the crisis, including testing the workability of an International Contact Group of which Qatar would be a key member.

The Foreign Secretary will meet with the Amir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, and the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani.

Before heading to the airport, the Foreign Secretary spoke again to the Indian Foreign Minister, Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, who is currently travelling in Europe. It was an opportunity for the Foreign Secretary to thank the Indian government, which held the UN Security Council Presidency in August, for its help in securing the adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution on Afghanistan, jointly tabled by the UK, and to discuss how the international community can continue to work together on our shared aims.

Meanwhile Lord Ahmad will travel to Tajikistan for talks on Friday on the same set of issues – securing safe passage for those fleeing Afghanistan and advancing the government’s international priorities.

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## [Joint statement by Government of India, UK government and the CFLI on mobilising climate finance in India](#)

News story

Statement from the UK and India about the launch of the Climate Finance Leadership Initiative (CFLI) India partnership.



Today, in the 11th Economic and Financial Dialogue, the UK and India welcome the launch of the Climate Finance Leadership Initiative (CFLI) India partnership. Through this partnership, the CFLI, a group of leading financial institutions responsible for \$6.2 trillion in assets, led by UN Special Envoy for Climate Ambition and Solutions Michael Bloomberg, will work with financial institutions, corporates, and existing sustainable finance initiatives, to accelerate efforts to mobilise private capital into India.

CFLI India will be co-chaired by Shemara Wikranamayake, CEO of Macquarie Group and Natarajan Chandrasekaran, Chairman of Tata Group. CFLI India will be supported by Bloomberg, the Global Infrastructure Facility, Her Majesty's Government, Government of India and City of London Corporation. Each party will contribute to this shared mission through their respective strengths and roles.

Focusing on private sector financing of sustainable infrastructure projects in specific low-carbon sectors to support India's ambition of meeting their nationally determined contribution (NDC), CFLI India will deliver impact through 2 complementary activities:

- directly mobilizing capital through existing or new equity financing vehicles, co-created with local stakeholders and tailored to India's market needs, over the life of the CFLI India, to catalyse sustained private investment at scale
- advancing public-private collaboration by partnering with the Government of India and the multilateral development finance institutions to address a targeted set of sector-specific policy opportunities to strengthen the enabling environment for private capital in India. Through this collaboration, CFLI India seeks to reinforce international investor confidence in India's low carbon transition, opening access to rapidly growing offshore pools of sustainable capital

Going forward, CFLI India will launch its ecosystem of country relevant technical assistance initiatives, sustainable infrastructure project preparation and pipeline development, and support financing vehicles and funds to facilitate accelerated private capital mobilization at scale for India's low-carbon, climate resilient development.

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# [New local COVID testing site opens in Bangor](#)

Press release

A new UK Government walk-through coronavirus testing facility opens for members of the public.



A new walk-through coronavirus testing facility has opened for those with symptoms to book appointments at Beach Street Car Park West (LL57 1AT) in Bangor, as part of the UK Government's UK-wide drive to continue to improve the accessibility of coronavirus testing for local communities.

The UK testing programme is delivered on a four nations basis, with the UK Government working with Welsh Government to increase access to testing.

Testing at this site is only available for those with coronavirus symptoms – a high temperature, a new continuous cough, or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste. Anyone with one or more of these symptoms can get a test at the site, or by booking a test at [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://nhs.uk/coronavirus) or calling 119. The UK Government is committed to making it even easier for everyone to get tested and reduce the time it takes to receive test results.

Testing at the new site started on Saturday, 28 August, with appointments made available each day.

Secretary of State for Wales, Simon Hart, said:

The opening of this new test centre in Bangor helps local people access these facilities without travelling long distances. It's vital that people get tested if they have symptoms and the UK Government is committed to making that as easy as possible.

There are UK Government testing facilities all across Wales, and the hard work they are doing, along with the NHS and their

partners, is playing a hugely important role in our fight against the virus.

The Covid-19 pandemic is not over and we are asking everyone to remain cautious and self-isolate if told so by NHS Wales Test Trace Protect. I urge anyone who is living in the Bangor area to use this new facility and get tested if they have any symptoms.

The new Bangor site is part of the largest network of diagnostic testing facilities created in British history, which has been massively expanded with the introduction of free, twice-weekly rapid tests for everyone in Wales. Rapid testing detects cases quickly, meaning positive cases can isolate immediately.

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## [Chief Inspector of Rail Accidents](#)



In April 2021, in RAIB's Annual Report, Simon French, the Chief Inspector of the Rail Accident Investigation Branch, announced his intention to retire after 39 years in the railway industry and 17 years at RAIB. Although Simon will continue in the role for the time being, the Department for Transport is now in the process of recruiting a successor.

Should you wish to be considered for this exciting and challenging role, you can [apply via the Civil Service Jobs web site](#).

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