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2025 National Trade Estimate Report on

FOREIGN TRADE BARRIERS

of the President of the United States on the Trade Agreements Program

UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

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Office of the United States Trade Representative
Ambassador Jamieson L. Greer

AUSTRALIA

TRADE AGREEMENTS

The United States–Australia Free Trade Agreement

The United States–Australia Free Trade Agreement (FTA) entered into force on January 1, 2005. Under this agreement, as of January 1, 2015, Australia provides duty-free access to all U.S. exports. The United States and Australia meet periodically to review the implementation and functioning of the FTA and to address outstanding issues.

SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY BARRIERS

Animal Health

Beef

Australia requires completion of a complex approval process before it will permit the importation of bovine products from a country that has reported any indigenous cases of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). In 2003, Australia closed its market to U.S. beef after the detection of BSE in the United States. In May 2018, Australia lifted its ban on heat-treated, shelf-stable beef products from the United States. However, Australia's market remains closed to fresh U.S. beef and beef products. The United States and Australia held a series of technical discussions to address outstanding differences, and the United States continues to seek full market access for fresh U.S. beef and beef products.

Pork

Pork and pork products are the third-leading U.S. agricultural export to Australia, valued at approximately $233.5 million in 2023. However, due to Australia's stated concerns about porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) and post-weaning multi-systemic wasting syndrome (PMWS), Australia does not permit imports of fresh/chilled pork and bone-in products from the United States. The United States has provided Australia with scientific evidence demonstrating the safety of U.S. pork products; however, the issue remains unresolved. Access to the Australian market for fresh/chilled/frozen pork, bone-in pork, and pork products remains a high priority for the United States.

Poultry

Australia prohibits imports of uncooked poultry meat from all countries except New Zealand. While cooked poultry meat products may be imported, current import requirements (as set out in an import risk analysis) mandate that imported poultry meat products be cooked to a minimum core temperature of 74 degrees Celsius for 165 minutes or the equivalent. This cooking temperature is not suitable for prepared deli meats, resulting in a significant barrier for cooked poultry products that would be suitable for sale in restaurants or delicatessens. Since 2012, the United States and Australia have exchanged technical information to attempt to resolve the issue. The United States has identified this issue as a high priority and will continue to work with Australia to gain meaningful commercial market access for cooked poultry meat.

INVESTMENT BARRIERS

In October 2019, a parliamentary legislative committee of the New South Wales (NSW) government recommended that the NSW government address the issue of compensation for certain investors, including U.S. shareholders, in a mining project whose operating license was canceled in 2014. When canceling the license, the NSW government also passed legislation precluding the payment of compensation relating to such cancellation. To date, the NSW government has not acted on the parliamentary committee's recommendation to provide shareholders, including U.S. investors, with recourse to seek compensation.