

Bean Imports 2015

Why does Australia import beans?

- Consumer demand for cheap frozen vegetables
- Cost of production outside Australia is low. Retailers provide cheap frozen vegetables to consumers to maintain market share and profit
- To provide the consumer with counter season supply
- Supply of fresh niche or specialty products not currently grown in Australia

SNAP SHOT

In 2015, import data for beans (*Vigna* spp., and *Phaseolus* spp) showed:

- Australia imported 923 tonnes of fresh beans¹
- Australia imported 7,876 tonnes of frozen beans¹
- Australia produced 34,045 of beans domestically²

Thus, frozen beans are the main category of imported bean product, typically as 500g - 1kg packets.

THE FACTS - DATA ON BEAN IMPORTS INTO AUSTRALIA

Price and quantity¹

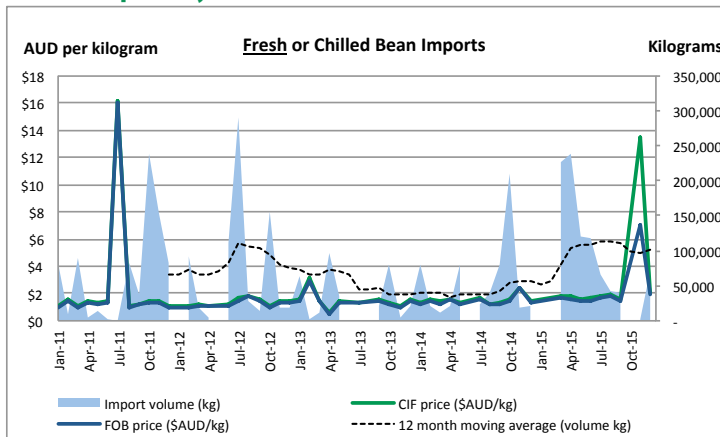


Figure 1: Price and volume history for fresh bean imports

Figure 1

- Volumes of fresh bean imports are relatively low per month
- Price of fresh bean imports is stable around \$1.50-\$2.00 per kg
- Occasional price spikes occur on very low volumes of product (e.g. 1 container load)
- Due to the broad category of 'fresh beans' it is difficult to determine exactly what type of beans this category represents

Figure 2

- Frozen bean import volumes are consistent, typically around 600 tonnes each month in 2015
- Price of frozen bean imports is stable around \$1.60 (\$CIF) per kilogram
- Frozen bean imports are declining in the longer term. The exact reason is unknown, however it could be due to consumers eating less frozen beans or supermarkets sourcing more local product

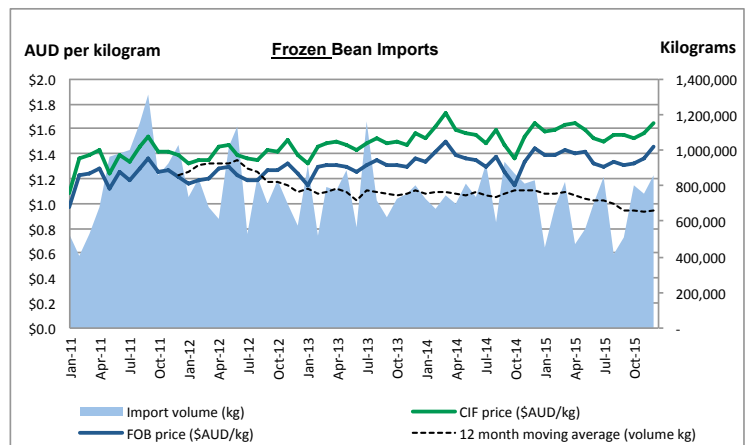


Figure 2: Price and volume history for frozen bean imports

KEY TERMS (Figures 1 and 2)

FOB: Freight on Board (e.g. price in exporting country)

CIF: Cost, Insurance and Freight (e.g. price landed in Australia)

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Where do bean imports come from?

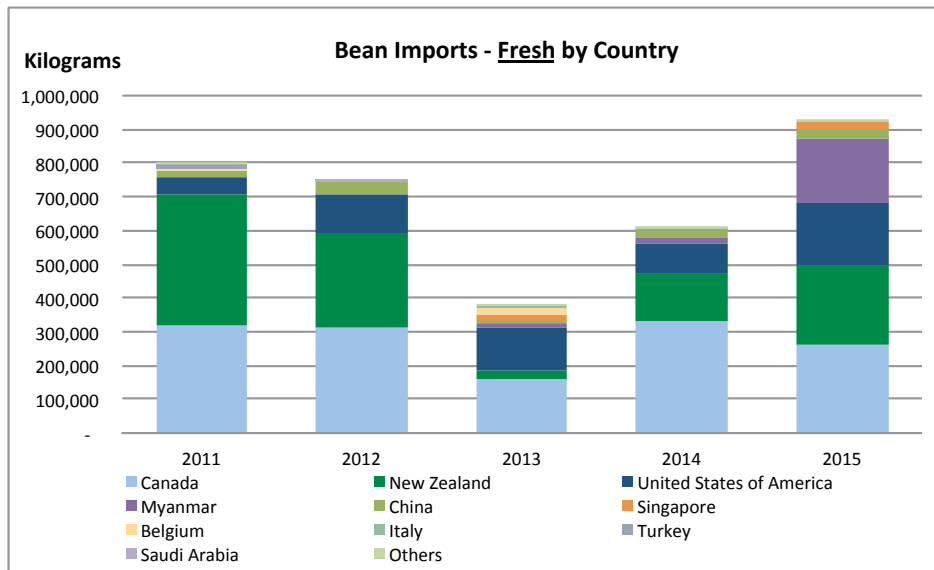


Figure 3

- The main exporting countries of fresh beans to Australia in 2015 were Canada, New Zealand, USA and Myanmar
- Myanmar and New Zealand have increased export volumes to Australia in the past three years

Figure 3: Exporting countries for fresh beans

Figure 4

- New Zealand has consistently been a large exporter of frozen beans to Australia
- Belgium and China also export meaningful volumes of frozen beans to Australia

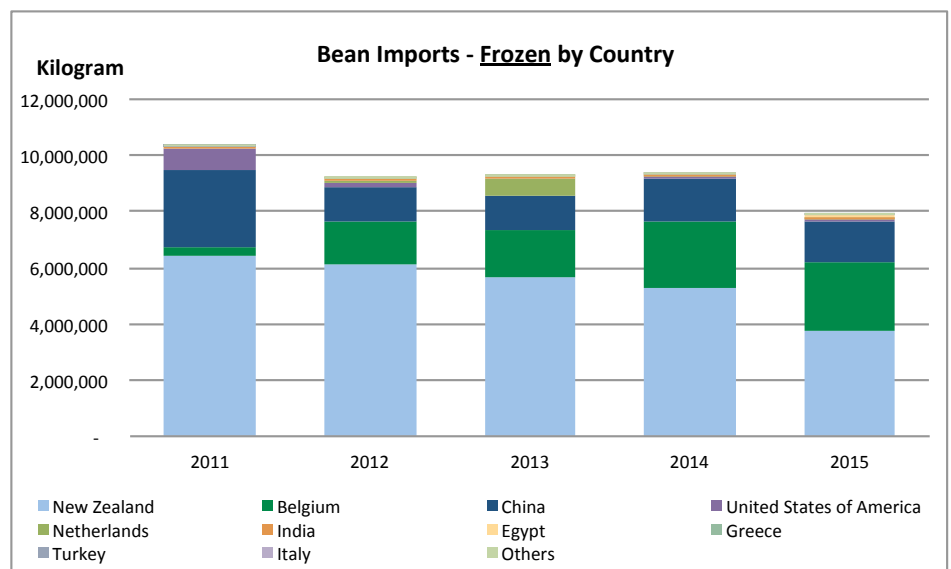


Figure 4: Exporting countries for frozen beans



Did you know...

- Beans (and products made from beans, such as tofu and tempeh) are the most concentrated source of plant protein in the world! Between 6% and 10% of the bean's cooked weight is protein³
- In March 2016, Colman Brunton reported that 13% of consumers surveyed believed fresh beans were regularly imported⁴

Source:

- 1 - Tradata International
- 2 - ABS 2014-15 Agricultural commodities data
- 3 - blog.workman.com – accessed 9/8/2016
- 4 - Colman Brunton (2016) Hort Innovation. Project Harvest. Millennials Online Community Full Report, Prepared for Horticulture Innovation Australia Ltd in March 2016