

Bean imports 2017

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.

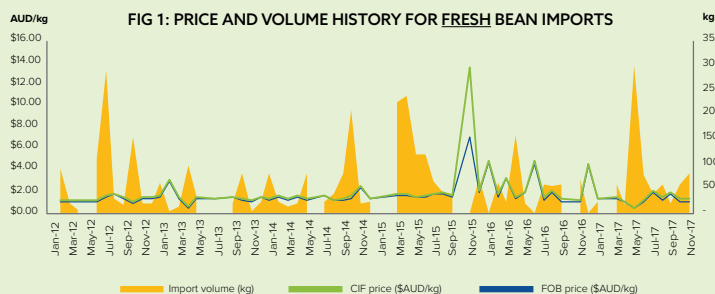
SNAP SHOT

In 2017, import data for beans (*Vigna* spp., and *Phaseolus* spp.) showed:

- Australia imported 732 tonnes of fresh beans¹
- Australia imported 6,864 tonnes of frozen beans¹
- Australia produced 29,039 tonnes of beans domestically in financial year 2016-17²
- Frozen beans accounted for about 90% of imported bean product, typically as 500g-1kg packets

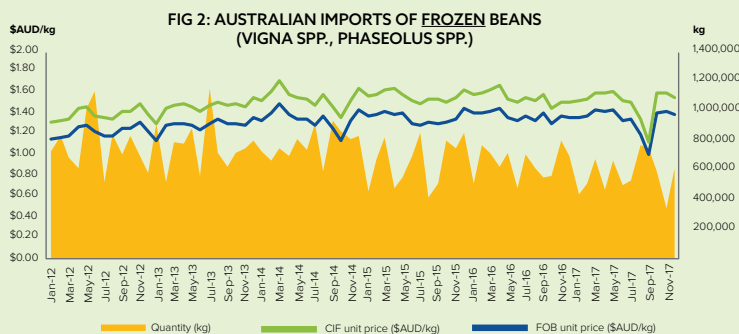
THE FACTS: BEAN IMPORTS INTO AUSTRALIA

PRICE AND QUANTITY¹



- Volumes of fresh bean imports are up compared to 2016
- Price of fresh bean imports is variable in both timing and volume
- In 2017 prices decreased and ranged between \$0.50 and \$2.00 per kg CIF
- Due to the broad category of 'fresh beans' it is difficult to determine exactly what type of beans this category represents

- Frozen bean import volumes are consistent, averaging 570 tonnes each month in 2017
- Price of frozen bean imports is stable around \$1.52 (\$CIF) per kilogram
- Since 2012, frozen bean imports have fallen by approximately 25% by weight. The exact reason is unknown, however it could be due to consumers eating less frozen beans or supermarkets sourcing more local product.



KEY TERMS

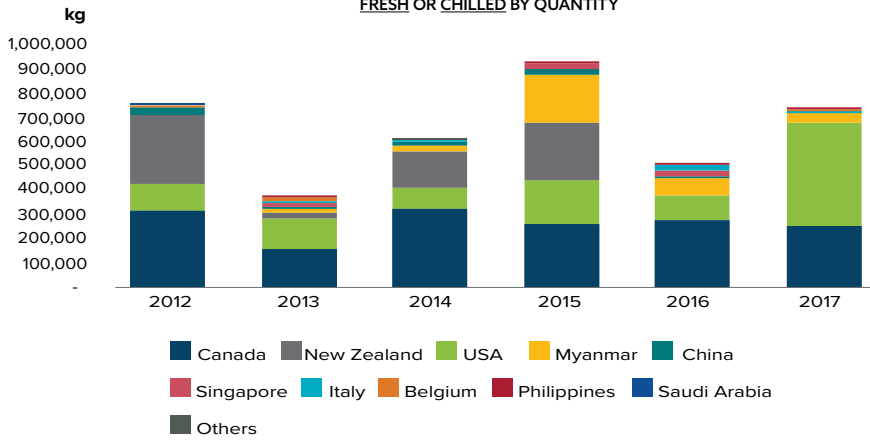
FOB: Freight on Board (e.g. price in exporting country)

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

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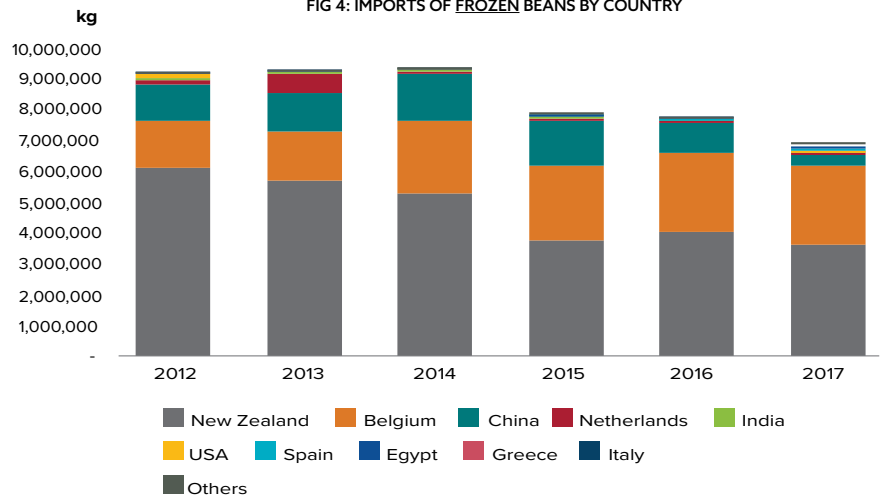
WHERE DO IMPORTS COME FROM?

FIG 3: IMPORTS OF BEANS (VIGNA SPP., PHASEOLUS SPP.) FRESH OR CHILLED BY QUANTITY



- The main supplier countries of fresh beans to Australia in 2017 were Canada, the USA and Myanmar
- There have been no imports of fresh beans from New Zealand since 2015

FIG 4: IMPORTS OF FROZEN BEANS BY COUNTRY



- Figure 4 shows import volumes by country for frozen beans over the last six years
- New Zealand has consistently been the largest exporter of frozen beans to Australia
- Belgium also exported meaningful volumes of frozen beans to Australia in 2017



Did you know?

- Knowing that beans are grown in Australia remains the most important information to consumers⁴
- The green bean originated in Central and South America, it was domesticated in ancient times and is currently the world's tenth most common food crop³
- Consumers typically purchase 650g of loose beans, paying \$3.50 for the purchase and perceiving that beans are good value for money⁴

Source:

1 - Tradedata International; 2 - Hort Innovation, 2016/17 Statistics Handbook; 3 - Schmutz et al (2014) A reference genome for common bean and genome-wide analysis of dual domestications, *Nature Genetics* 46, 707-713; 4 - Colmar Brunton (2016-2017), Wave 37, Project Harvest Monthly Tracker Reports.

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Hort Innovation Project *Understanding the nature, origins, volume and value of vegetable imports (VG12083)*. This document is a summary; for more detailed information on bean (and other vegetable) imports, please request the full annual report from Hort Innovation, or contact RMCG for further information.

RMCG

Hort Innovation
Strategic levy investment

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