

MARKET NEWS for pig meat



Market analysis

2 April 2024

Week 14

MARKET SITUATION

Europe: Legs and other cuts are being traded at unchanged prices.

UK: Sales are stable.

Markets outside Europe: the increasing demand for bellies continues.

China: Quiet trading continues. **Other Asian markets:** Good demand.

Slaughtering in Denmark

Weekly slaughtering figures for pigs and sows as reported to the Danish Classification Control Service. The figures exclude culled pigs.

	Week 10	Week 11	Week 12	Weeks 1-12 2024:23
Carcass weight >110 kg	13,504	12,133	11,704	+60.9%
Carcass weight <110 kg	291,528	291,613	296,289	-9.9%
Total	305,032	303,746	307,993	-7.7%



USA

Futures

Chicago (\$ per 100 lbs carcass weight)	Lean Hog			Pork Cutout		
	1/4	22/3	Change	1/4	22/3	Change
2024						
Apr	86.95	84.58	2.37	96.73	92.43	4.30
May	93.75	90.40	3.35	99.55	97.73	1.82
Jun	103.50	99.70	3.80	107.40	106.65	0.75
Jul	105.53	102.08	3.45	110.65	109.90	0.75
Aug	104.25	101.48	2.77	111.05	110.30	0.75
Oct	87.98	86.43	1.55	102.00	102.10	-0.10
Dec	78.75	77.75	1.00	92.95	92.00	0.95
2025						
Feb	81.30	80.75	0.55	95.78	94.83	0.95
Apr	84.55	84.15	0.40	101.63	100.68	0.95
May	88.95	88.55	0.40	108.23	107.28	0.95
Jun	94.20	93.63	0.57	110.00	109.88	0.12
Jul	94.35	93.78	0.57	111.75	111.63	0.12

Conversion factors:
1 lb = 0.4536 kg

1 \$ = DKK
6.8955



EU

African Swine Fever

According to the EU Commission's reporting system for the outbreak of disease, outbreaks of ASF have been reported for the following countries, plus Serbia, Ukraine, Moldova, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo and North Macedonia.

Countries	Period 17 March-22 March		Year to date 1 Jan - 22 March		2023		2022	
	Pigs	Wild boar	Pigs	Wild boar	Pigs	Wild boar	Pigs	Wild boar
Estonia				4	2	53		57
Latvia		14		198	8	730	6	913
Lithuania		9		140	3	439	16	302
Poland		72		492	30	2,744	14	2,152
Italy		46		436	17	1,047	4	277
Ukraine			4	6	37	9	7	2
Czech Republic		1		3		56		1
Romania	2	4	24	87	740	292	329	465
Hungary		10		132		407		550
Bulgaria	1		1	197	3	322	2	387
Slovakia		3		51		546	5	550
Serbia		6	22	57	991	213	107	146
Moldova			1	4	19	6	14	3
Montenegro				1				
Bosnia-Herzegovina			16	35	1,508	22		
Croatia		5		34	1,124	11		
North Macedonia		4	3	33	15	41	30	9
Kosovo					9	4		
Belgium								
Germany		4		48	1	899	3	1,628
Sweden						60		
Greece			2	9	6	2		
Albania				2				
Total	3	178	73	1,969	4,513	7,903	537	7,442



ITALY

African Swine Fever spreads to new province in Liguria

As can be seen from the table above, the Italian authorities continue to identify new cases of African Swine Fever among wild boar.

The majority of cases have been found in the north-west regions of Liguria and Piedmont. As regards Liguria, cases were found in a new province - La Spezia - at the end of March.



USA

Pig census 1 March 2024

The results of the American pig census of 1 March 2024 were published last week by the USDA.

Compared to the corresponding census one year ago, the results show a slight rise in the total pig population whereas the breeding herd fell by 2 per cent.

Expected farrowings for the current quarter are 0.9 per cent lower than the same quarter last year while expected farrowings for the coming quarter are 1.7 per cent lower than last year.

1000 head	2024 1 March	2023 1 March	% change
Breeding herd	6,016	6,146	-2.1
Piglets and finishers	68,556	67,990	0.8
Total	74,571	74,136	0.6
	2024	2023	
Expected farrowings:			
March-May	2,915	2,941	-0.9
June-Aug	2,987	3,040	-1.7

The results of the 1 December census indicate that US pig production in 2024 will be slightly up on last year.

It seems that the poor performance of US pig production in 2023 has only resulted in a very limited decline in the breeding population – a fall that is more than offset by an increase in productivity.



USA

Pig meat storage 12 per cent lower than one year ago

With the USDA as the source, the following table shows the latest calculations for US pig meat storage as at 29 February 2024 compared to the previous month and to one year ago.

Total pig meat storage was 12 per cent lower than one year ago and fell 1 per cent compared to the previous month.

Beef storage as at 29 February was 6 per cent lower than the previous month and 12 per cent lower than one year ago.

As regards poultry, storage fell by 1 per cent on the previous month and was 5 per cent lower than one year ago.

1,000 lbs	28 February 2023	31 January 2024	29 February 2024
Picnics	8,564	5,687	5,009
Legs	85,278	74,875	69,702
Bellies	71,011	62,425	63,824
Loins	42,770	42,570	41,057
Ribs	115,468	88,340	87,605
Trimnings	51,374	47,625	46,626
Butts	27,223	19,983	20,928
By-products	71,188	75,495	74,504
Other	48,730	46,305	47,244
Total pig meat	521,606	463,305	456,499
Beef	500,783	471,261	442,751
Poultry	1,185,774	1,133,440	1,121,025



USA

Animal welfare group challenge the use of ractopamine in U.S. production

Four American welfare groups have filed a lawsuit in the US Federal Court to challenge the use of ractopamine in US meat production.

The animal welfare groups claim that the use of ractopamine harms animals both physically and mentally. In addition, they claim that its use can have a detrimental effect on human health, the safety of workers and the environment. The parties are calling for a reassessment of the use of the feed additive.

CANADA

USDA: expects 2.5 per cent fall in slaughtering in 2024

The USDA has published its half-year report on Canada's pig meat market.

USDA expects to see a decline in Canadian pig production and slaughtering in 2024. From 2022 to 2023, slaughtering increased from 21.8 to 21.9 million head. For 2024, USDA expects a decline in slaughtering of 2.5 per cent to 21.4 million head.

The decline in slaughtering has the greatest impact in eastern Canada where slaughter capacity has recently been reduced.

Canadian pig meat exports in 2024 are expected to remain stable, ie. around 1.3 million tonnes.

GERMANY

AMI: German finisher producers in profit since spring 2023

Model calculations from AMI in Germany for German pig production show that pig producers have been in profit since the spring of 2023.

This follows an extended period – from 2020-2023 – of losses.

The model calculation for March shows a profit of EUR 11.70 per produced finisher. There is therefore a modest rise in profits compared to the previous months.

Although the cost of piglets is up compared to a few months ago, lower feed costs and higher finisher prices have compensated for this.

CHINA

Sow population declines further and at end February was 6.9 per cent down on one year ago

The sow population in China continues to fall. However, the population is higher than the authorities' target of 39.0 million head.

According to Reuters, which cites figures from China's Ministry of Agriculture, China's sow population stood at 40.42 million head at the end of February. This is a fall of 6.9 per cent compared to one year ago and a fall of 0.6 per cent compared to the previous month.

As at the end of January, the sow population stood at 40.67 million and had declined 1.8 per cent on the previous month.

JAPAN

Imports of pig meat

The tables below show the figures for Japan's total pig meat imports, including fresh/frozen pig meat, for the period January-February 2024 compared to the same period last year.

Total pig meat			
Tonnes	2024 Jan-Feb	2023 Jan-Feb	% change 2024:23

USA	49,051	44,995	9.0
Canada	40,692	36,410	11.8
Spain	20,154	28,406	-29.1
Mexico	18,514	19,149	-3.3
Denmark	9,154	11,505	-20.4
Brazil	8,177	5,271	55.1
Chile	7,423	5,285	40.5
France	2,942	3,323	-11.5
Holland	2,451	4,683	-47.7
China	2,258	1,962	15.1
Ireland	1,560	1,968	-20.7
Thailand	1,297	1,482	-12.5
Finland	223	238	-6.3
South Korea	79	92	-14.1
Taiwan	32	22	45.5
Portugal	31	109	-71.6
Australia	27	21	28.6
UK	24	71	-66.2
Austria	18	490	-96.3
Slovenia	5	0	
Singapore	2	1	100.0
Others	1	89	-98.9
Total	164,115	165,572	-0.9

0203			
Fresh/frozen pig meat			
Tonnes	2024	2023	% change
	Jan-Feb	Jan-Feb	2024:23
Canada	38,580	35,475	8.8
USA	34,176	36,270	-5.8
Spain	19,887	27,938	-28.8
Mexico	17,329	17,789	-2.6
Brazil	7,551	4,502	67.7
Denmark	6,939	9,964	-30.4
Chile	5,912	4,265	38.6
France	2,909	3,257	-10.7
Holland	2,432	4,148	-41.4
Ireland	648	1,727	-62.5
Finland	178	192	-7.3
Portugal	24	85	-71.8
UK	24	71	-66.2
Australia	23	16	43.8
Others		492	
Total	136,611	146,191	-6.6

N.B. Next week's Market News will be published on Thursday 11 April.