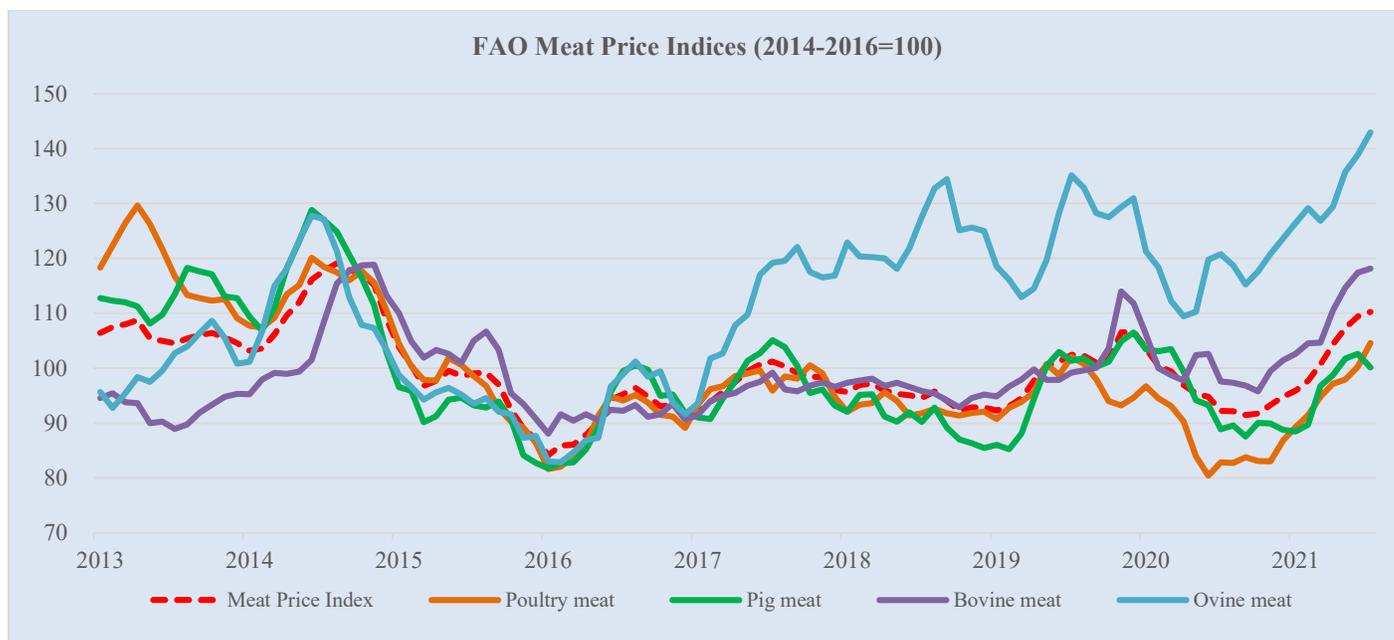


# MEAT MARKET REVIEW

## Price and policy update<sup>1</sup>

### International meat price review

The **FAO Meat Price Index** averaged 110.3 points in July, up marginally from June, putting the index 19.6 percent above the corresponding month last year. In July, quotations for poultry meat rose the most, underpinned by increased imports by East Asia amidst limited production expansions in some producer regions, while those of ovine meat increased on high import purchases and seasonally declining supplies from Oceania. Bovine meat prices also strengthened, reflecting the tightening of global markets due to lower supplies from major producing regions and continued high imports, especially by China. Conversely, pig meat prices fell, following a decline in imports by China, notwithstanding limited supplies from Germany due to the spread of African swine fever in some pig farms.



Since January 2021, international meat prices have increased by 14.3 points (14.9 percent), with poultry meat prices registering the sharpest increase (+17.1 percent), followed by bovine meat (+15.1 percent), pig meat (+13.2 percent) and ovine meat (+13.1 percent). The higher prices resulted from increased global demand amidst inadequate increases in global supplies from major exporting countries.

<sup>1</sup> Meat Market Review: Price and Policy Update is an information product prepared by the FAO Markets and Trade of the Economic and Social Development. It reviews international meat price developments, as reflected in the FAO Meat Price Index, and provides a review of policy developments between 1 June 2020 and 31 May 2021. The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not reflect FAO official positions.

The continued meat production deficit in East Asia, mainly China, but also Viet Nam and the Philippines, was primarily behind the rise in global meat imports in the first seven months of 2021. Despite faster recoveries in pig meat production in China and Viet Nam, imports continued to rise to meet the domestic supply-demand imbalance. Demand for replenishing the strategic pig meat stock in China, which was depleted in 2020 due to stock releases to keep a lid on domestic prices, also added to the import purchases. Meanwhile, in some countries in the Middle East and North Africa, demand for meat and meat products, reflecting higher demand from the hospitality industry as well as consumers, following relatively faster recovery from the COVID-19 epidemic and increased imports of halal-certified meat products after the completion of the verification and approval processes. The slowly recovering food services sales and associated intermediate demand in the Americas also contributed to a rise in global meat import demand, further supporting world meat prices.

On the supply side, meat exports from Brazil and the European Union continued to increase. In Brazil, a rise in national production and muted growth in internal demand allowed exports to expand faster. The depreciation of the Brazilian real also incentivised meatpackers to export certain meat products in high demand overseas while importing cattle from neighbouring countries to meet the demand for specific types of meat internally. Meat exports from the European Union also expanded, benefitting from increased production and market access gained by some member countries such as Spain in Asian pig meat markets, although Germany remained barred from exporting to some countries in Asia due to African swine fever (ASF) concerns. Meanwhile, in North America, an increase in internal demand affected export supplies, whereas, in Oceania, bovine and ovine meat exports remained limited due to lower cattle supplies for slaughter amid high herd-rebuilding demand. Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) outbreaks also restrained poultry meat exports from Africa and Europe.

## Policy developments affecting the meat sector

This review covers policy measures related to meat and meat products from 1 June 2020 to 31 May 2021<sup>2</sup>.

### Policy developments affecting meat production, marketing and consumption

#### COVID-19 related production and income support policies

Several governments implemented policy measures to support the meat sector, enabling them to cope with disruptions across the meat value chains caused by COVID-19-related social distancing requirements and lockdowns.

- **Canada**, in June 2020, the Government launched the 2020 Canada-Alberta Fed Cattle Feed Cost Offset Initiative to cover the increased costs of feeding market-ready cattle and hogs due to COVID-19-related processing delays while redirecting surplus pig meat products to help those in need. Canada, in September 2020, announced temporary flexibility, valid until 31 December 2020 for both foodservice packaged products and pre-packaged meat products, in enforcing some Canadian labelling and packaging regulations for pre-packaged meat products, in response to challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Label requirements associated with food safety are

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<sup>2</sup> The report also includes a few references to policies launched before 1 June 2020, especially when the policy in question was extended to subsequent periods and has significant implications for the sector.

mandatory, and businesses must continue to ensure that traceability documentation is maintained. In October 2020, Canada announced the Emergency On-Farm Support Fund, which provides a CAD 35 million investment (USD 26.5 million) to improve employees' safety and respond to the spread of COVID-19. In November 2020, Canada also allocated CAD 11.5 million to support provincial farmers and abattoirs to face challenges that emerged from COVID-19 market disruptions, especially slowdown in slaughtering and processing capacity and sudden fall in demand from the services sector. The fund supported farmers and producers to improve infrastructure, living quarters and workstations; and purchase personal protective equipment, sanitary stations, and other measures required to safeguard the health and safety of meat processing workers against COVID-19, covering activities carried out between 15 March 2020 and 26 February 2021. In April 2021, Canada approved a federal budget measure, allocating more than USD 5.2 billion to agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and financial support for the supply-managed sectors, including meat, to counter the economic impacts of COVID-19 and build back a better and more resilient economy.

- The **European Union**, in June 2020, adopted an exceptional support measure, which allowed Member States to pay up to EUR 7 000 (USD 7 881) to farmers and up to EUR 50 000 (USD 56 295) to small and medium enterprises active in processing, marketing or development of agricultural products, except fishery products. In July 2020, the European Union also approved a EUR 1.8 billion (USD 2.07 billion) comprehensive support package, combining a new multiannual financial framework 2021–2027 proposal, valued at EUR 1.07 trillion (USD 1.23 trillion) with a specific recovery effort titled the *Next Generation EU* valued at EUR 750 billion (USD 861 billion). The package aims to increase investments in green and digital transitions, thereby helping markets affected by the COVID-19 impacts faster. The proposal includes allocations for the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and Fisheries policy (Pillar I) and for rural development (Pillar II) for 2021–2027. The European Union, in January 2021, extended until 31 December 2021 the State Aid Temporary Framework (SATF) adopted in March 2020 to support the economy. The European Commission also decided to expand the scope of the SATF by increasing the ceilings for specific support measures and allowing the conversion of some repayable instruments into direct grants until the end of 2022. This way, European Union member states can use the flexibility of state aid rules to support their economies while limiting distortions to competition.
- **New Zealand** implemented several COVID-19 financial support schemes targeting the dairy sector, including maximum payment periods, contingent on COVID-19 alert levels and the specific eligibility criteria. Dairy enterprises received assistance under multiple channels: COVID-19 resurgence payments (August to September 2020), wage subsidy (March 2020 to March 2021), a loan scheme for sustaining small business cash flows (May 2020 to December 2023), business finance guarantee scheme and business debt hibernation (May 2020 to October 2021).
- The **United States of America (United States)** supported the meat sector through several programmes: a) Section 32 support, b) trade mitigation purchases, c) CARES act, d) Farmers to Families Food Box Program and e) Coronavirus Food Assistance Programme (CFAP). Section 32 is a mechanism introduced in 1935 with budgetary appropriation to purchase “surplus” commodities. In May 2020, the US federal government approved USD 470 million, including USD 110 million, for purchasing and distributing meat products among needy American families and food banks. It aimed at reducing inventory build-up due to decreased demand for meat purchased by

restaurants and schools while meeting demand from food banks and organisations supporting the needy communities. Although not implemented as a response to the COVID-19 impact, Trade Mitigation Purchases (TMP), launched in 2018, helped American farmers during the crisis as the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) purchased various commodities, including dairy, meat, fruits and vegetables, and distributed among states to distribute under various food assistance programmes. The CARES Act, passed in March 2020, also assisted American families, agricultural producers and small businesses to receive loan guarantees to deal with the COVID-19 impact. Under the programme, the United States allocated USD 16 billion in direct support to farmers and ranchers to cover actual losses from price declines and market disruptions. The United States also launched a programme to purchase fresh produce, including meat, from producers and distribute them to needy families. The Farmers to Families Food Box program is operationally equal to the TMP and has completed four rounds of assistance from 15 May 2020, worth USD 4 billion. The CFAP-2, launched in March 2021, included the meat sector and paid according to the number of cattle held by farmers on a date selected by the producer from 16 April 2020 through 31 August 2020. The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, also called the COVID-19 Stimulus Package, launched in March 2021, with a total budget of USD 1.9 trillion, including USD 10.4 billion allocated for agriculture, covering debt forgiveness, purchasing and distributing agricultural products, including meat.

### Other production and income support policies

Several governments implemented policy measures supporting farmers and processors to cope with droughts or loss of markets due to trade agreements.

- **Australia**, in June 2020, extended the *Drought Community Support Initiative* until the end of 2020, allocating AUD 148.5 million (approximately USD 102.5 million) to support drought-affected farming households. In July 2020, the Government extended the *Farm Household Allowance* programme to all families whose incomes fell below a threshold due to drought and other shocks. The package of assistance included: fortnightly income support up to a maximum of four years in every 10 years; ancillary allowances such as pharmaceutical allowance, telephone allowance, rent assistance and remote area allowance; a professional financial assessment of the farm business; funding to help develop skills, access training and pay for professional advice; and regular support of a case manager.
- **Canada** launched a series of policies to manage national meat production during the reference period. In November 2020, the Government made changes to the government compensation payment for agricultural producers, including dairy, poultry and egg farmers, for ceding concessions made under the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (implemented in 2017) and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (implemented in 2018). While the initial plan was to pay compensation over seven years, in November 2020, Canada introduced an accelerated payment schedule with a 3-year duration, totalling USD 360 million each year from 2020 to 2023. In December 2020, the Government established the Canadian Pork Promotion and Research Agency, under the Farm Products Agencies Act, to promote the production and marketing of hogs and pig meat products and research activities. In addition, in April 2021, the Government allocated USD 230 million under the federal budget, committing funds through 2029 to compensate processors of dairy and poultry for market access concessions under the same trade agreements. In

May 2021, Canada also launched the *Poultry and Egg on-Farm Investment Program* (PEFIP), and allocated CAD 691 million (USD 529 million) over 10 years to drive innovation and growth of the poultry and egg sector through on-farm investments. Each farm is entitled to an amount proportional to its quota holding as of 1 January 2021 under Canada's supply-managed production. Eligible projects include anything that helps a producer increase production efficiency, respond to consumer preferences and improve on-farm safety, biosecurity or environmental sustainability. The accepted areas include new barn construction and upgrades to equipment like feeding, watering, lighting, ventilation, heating, and comfort systems that lead to energy efficiency and reduce the environmental footprint of related operations. Canada also allocated USD 230 million, committing funds through 2029 for compensating for ceding market access commitments to poultry, eggs and dairy processors under the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement with the European Union and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

- **Colombia**, in June 2020, promoted a programme to support the transportation of perishable agricultural and livestock products for marketing in zones different from the area where livestock rearing and processing occurs.
- **China** (mainland), in April 2021, announced a regionalisation strategy, which involves splitting the country into five regions and giving greater responsibility to regions to prevent and control animal disease spreads, including ASF. With the plan's implementation, China suspended moving pigs between regions other than piglets and pigs for breeding purposes.
- **Cuba**, in April 2021, announced the cancellation of an old ban introduced in 1963 on cattle slaughter and sale of bovine meat and dairy products without state permission to boost national production.
- The **European Union**, in May 2020, announced the *Farm to Fork Strategy and the Biodiversity Strategy for 2030* as roadmaps for enhancing food and agricultural sustainability by 2030 under the Green Deal. The strategies aim to allow the Member States some flexibility in meeting area- and land-based conditions farmers must meet when receiving payments under the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The final objective is for the European Union to realise the established agricultural development targets, which include, among others, a 50 percent reduction in pesticide use, a 20 percent reduction in fertiliser use, a 50 percent reduction in nutrient leakage to groundwater; and allocate a minimum of 25 percent of agricultural land to organic farming and 10 percent as environmental areas, and an increase in nature conservation areas by 30 percent. The European Union, in December 2020, approved the allocation of EUR 182.9 million (USD 222.6 million) in 2021 to fund promotional activities for agrifood products, including meat and dairy, promoting organic products and realising sustainable agricultural development targets.
- **Viet Nam**, in July 2020, launched the National Plan on ASF Prevention and Control 2020-2025, aiming to prevent ASF outbreaks in more than 90 percent of communes and wards by 2022 and eliminate the possibility for ASF outbreaks nationwide by 2025.

### Consumer-oriented policies

- **India**, in July 2020, unveiled a new regulation where animal quarantine and certification services officials are required to occasionally inspect the sealed samples of goods arriving at customs for physical identification

purposes. Inspections aim to facilitate and promote an early clearance of imported livestock products, especially those under the 'no testing category', thus, eliminating the sample collection requirement.

- **Viet Nam**, in November 2020, promulgated the National Standard for Chilled Meat, Part 2 (beef and buffalo meat). It aimed to improve transparency in food safety and hygiene management, provide a legal framework for businesses producing and trading, and ensure consumers have access to safe beef and buffalo meat. In February 2021, Viet Nam promulgated the National Standard for Chilled Meat, Part 3 (poultry meat). Aims and implementation rules under part 2 are similar to that of part 2.

## Policy developments affecting international trade

### Tariff and tariff rate quotas

- **Japan**, in March 2021, announced that imports of US bovine meat surpassed the annual safeguard trigger volume established under the US-Japan Trade Agreement. As a result, tariffs on US bovine meat increased from 25.8 percent to 38.5 percent for 30 days beginning 18 March 2021. Meanwhile, the agreement entered its third year of implementation on 1 April 2021, reducing applicable tariffs further. The agreement expects to eliminate tariff rates for selected meat products on a staggered basis starting from 2021.
- The **Philippines**, in May 2021, increased the yearly tariff rate quota from 54 210 to 254 210 metric tonnes and lowered tariff rates on imported fresh, chilled and frozen pig meat.
- **Taiwan Province of China**, in November 2020, eliminated tariffs on pig meat, offal and hamburgers imported from Paraguay.
- **Viet Nam**, in June 2020, reduced Most Favoured Nation (MFN) tariffs from 25 to 22 percent for some products, including fresh or chilled pig meat, and made a temporary reduction for frozen pig meat from 15 to 10 percent. Tariff reductions are valid until 31 December 2020.
- The **United States**, in March 2021, suspended retaliatory duties for four months from 4 March 2021 on British pig meat. The United States initially imposed the duties over the aircraft subsidies dispute with the European Union but suspended aiming to resolve the dispute.

### Diseases-related protocol agreements and import restrictions

Many governments worldwide imposed import restrictions or bans to prevent the transboundary spread of animal diseases and the COVID-19 virus or entered into agreements with trading partners to protect export/import businesses from possible animal disease outbreaks.

#### African swine fever

'Regionalisation' or 'zoning' agreements gained popularity, allowing pig meat imports to continue from regions without ASF outbreaks even when some regions within the country have reported outbreaks.

- **Australia**, in September 2020, agreed with Singapore on a pre-emptive zoning arrangement, allowing the continuation of meat trade from non-affected Australian states or territories even if ASF is detected elsewhere in the country.
- **Canada**, in March 2021, signed a protocol with the United States to guide bilateral trade in the event of detecting ASF in its wild pigs, without cases in swine stocks. In the event of detecting the ASF virus in wild pigs, the two

countries agreed to immediately stop trading live swine, swine germplasm and untreated swine products while allowing trade to continue in products treated to make the ASF virus ineffective.

- **Japan**, in January 2021, reopened its market to Hungarian pig meat for the first time since April 2018, following the implementation of a new ASF regionalisation protocol.
- **Kazakhstan**, in February 2021, lifted a ban on pig meat imports from several Russian Federation regions, first imposed in December 2020 over ASF concerns.
- **Serbia**, in October 2020, allowed imports of pig meat from parts of Poland that remain free of ASF. Singapore and Vietnam also signed regionalisation agreements with Germany in March 2021, allowing pig meat imports from ASF-free regions in Germany.

Several countries imposed pig meat import restrictions due to ASF outbreaks or issued import licenses due to ASF-related output reductions during the reference period.

- **Brazil**, in July 2020, announced that Myanmar had approved pig meat imports, reflecting a reduction in pig meat output in Myanmar due to ASF outbreaks.
- **Germany** faced export restrictions following ASF detection among wild boars starting from September 2020 in ten countries (Argentina, Brazil, China (mainland), Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, the Philippines, Singapore, South Africa and Ukraine). Meanwhile, two countries lifted pig meat import bans during the reference period.
- The **Philippines**, in October 2020, lifted a ban on pig meat imports from Belgium after that country successfully regained its status as free of ASF.
- **Viet Nam**, in June 2020, authorised imports from five Brazilian meat plants to cover shortfalls in domestic production due to the spread of ASF among its pig population.

### **Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and foot-and-mouth disease (FMD)**

BSE and FMD-related import suspensions continued to affect trade in bovine meat during the reference period.

- **China** (mainland), in May 2020, temporarily suspended imports of bovine meat from Ireland, following the confirmation of a case of 'atypical' BSE in a 14-year-old cow. However, detection of an atypical case does not affect the country's risk status or the progress towards negligible risk status under the existing protocols.
- The **Philippines**, in October 2020, suspended imports from 11 buffalo meat suppliers from India (State of Uttar Pradesh) due to FMD-related concerns.
- **Uganda**, in April 2021, banned the sale and movement of livestock and their products in the Kiruhura district to stop FMD spread.

Several countries lifted BSE and FMD-related import restrictions.

- **Japan**, in August 2020, allowed importing meat derived from cattle of any age from France. Earlier, Japan allowed bovine meat imports derived only from animals under 30 months, which was a requirement introduced two decades ago due to concerns over BSE. Japan also authorised bovine meat imports under similar conditions from Canada, Ireland and the United States.
- **Singapore**, in October 2020, reopened its market to bovine meat from Germany, which the country had suspended in 2000 following the detection of BSE.

- The **United Arab Emirates**, in June 2020, lifted the nearly two-decades-long ban on importing live cattle from the United States after the detection of BSE in a cow in 2003 in Washington State.

### Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)

Several countries reported HPAI-related import restrictions during the reference period.

- **Azerbaijan**, in February 2021, suspended imports of all types of live birds and poultry products from some regions of the Czechia, Germany and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (United Kingdom).
- Belarus, in January 2021, restricted imports of live birds and poultry products from some regions of Sweden and Hungary.
- **China** (mainland), in September 2020, suspended poultry imports from Germany (four regions) and Japan (Nara prefecture). Taiwan Province of China, in October 2020, imposed a ban on poultry meat imports from the Netherlands. China, Hong Kong SAR, in December 2020, suspended poultry imports from Germany (some regions), the United Kingdom (two districts and Northern Ireland), and the Republic of Korea (five regions); in April 2021, from the Republic of Korea (one region) and Sweden (one county); and in May 2021 from the Netherlands and Poland.
- **Japan**, in August 2020, suspended imports of live poultry and poultry meat from Australia (one farm in the state of Victoria).
- **Mozambique**, in April 2021, banned importing live birds (domestic and wild), bird meat, feathers and eggs from South Africa. The ban covered all poultry products used in animal feed or for agricultural or industrial purposes.
- **Namibia**, in May 2021, banned imports of poultry and poultry products from South Africa.
- The **Philippines**, in August 2020, announced a ban on Australian poultry meat imports, and in March 2021, halted imports of Russian poultry meat.
- The **Philippines** suspended imports of poultry meat from the Czechia in mid-February 2021.
- The **Russian Federation**, in January 2021, imposed import restrictions and banned the transit of live poultry through its territory between January and March 2021 from several European countries.

Several countries lifted HPAI-related import restrictions, including under 'regionalisation' arrangements during the reference period.

- The **European Union**, in March 2021, resumed imports of Ukrainian poultry meat, accepting the measures taken to control the spread of HPAI in the areas affected in December 2020.
- **Ghana**, in April 2021, lifted a ban on imports of poultry meat from the Russian Federation, imposed earlier due to an HPAI outbreak.
- **Kuwait**, in January 2021, lifted the ban on Russian poultry meat imports imposed in September 2020 due to HPAI concerns.
- **Armenia, Belarus, China, Hong Kong SAR, Japan and Singapore** lifted their poultry import restrictions from Poland, as the country declared freedom from HPAI in August 2020<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> However, Poland reported 202 cases of HPAI outbreaks between 1 January and 19 April 2021, leading to export bans in several countries.

- The **Russian Federation**, in March 2021, lifted a ban on hatching eggs and day-old chicks from 21 companies in the Netherlands, accepting the measures to control HPAI spread.
- **South Africa**, in September 2020, lifted a five-month ban on US poultry meat, imposed due to an HPAI outbreak in South Carolina.

### COVID-19-related trade restrictions

Two countries imposed COVID-19-related meat import restrictions during the reference period.

- **China** (mainland), in October 2020, requested foreign meat suppliers, where COVID-19 was detected among plant workers, to suspend cold-chain food product exports, including meat. Under the rules, China requested the exporting countries to suspend exports for one week to China when the first two positive COVID-19 cases among plant workers were detected and to stop exports for one month following two more detections. Almost 50 establishments have temporarily halted shipments to China during the past few months under this rule, although exports from 18 of them have since resumed. Meat processing plants were from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Panama, Spain, the United Kingdom, the United States and Uruguay. Meanwhile, China (mainland), in July 2020, approved imports of bovine, pig and poultry meats from 15 US meat processing and cold storage facilities, earlier suspended due to COVID-19 concerns among plant workers.
- The **Philippines**, in August 2020, restricted meat imports from meat processing plants in Brazil, where COVID-19 was detected. However, the Philippines lifted the restrictions in September 2020 from meat plants that did not report COVID-19 cases.

### Safety standard-related meat import licenses and restrictions

Several countries issued import licenses based on agreed food safety standards or protocols, accepting specific processing methods or relaxing certain chemical compounds.

- **Brazil**, in June 2020, announced that South Africa approved more meat plants for supplying meat, bringing the list of establishments to over 700 with approvals in 24 countries, including in the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam during the previous months. Brazil also announced in August 2020 that Mexico authorised seven establishments to export fresh bovine meat for processing, but not for direct consumption, as the two countries have not yet agreed to a model veterinary certificate for that purpose.
- **Cambodia**, in February 2021, opened the market for importing fresh and processed pig meat from Brazil with the same standards as its internal market.
- **China** (mainland), in May 2021, approved imports of meat from 31 new US establishments. On 7 April, China had already permitted imports from 19 other US meat processing plants. More than 100 establishments from over 20 countries, including Australia, Argentina, the European Union and the United States, had to halt shipments to China under this rule, although some have since regained market access. **Taiwan Province of China**, in December 2020, approved imports of US pig meat containing ractopamine.
- **Egypt**, in July 2020, authorised imports of thermo-processed poultry meat from Brazil.
- **Japan**, in March 2021, allowed imports of minced meat and meat preparations from Ireland.

- **Malaysia**, in July 2020, allowed imports of bovine meat from Argentina under a new agreement on a model veterinary certificate.
- **Mexico**, in May 2020, obtained approval to export pig meat from five processing plants and five cold stores to Ireland.
- **Peru**, in November 2020, opened its market to Spanish pig meat products and offal.
- The **Philippines**, in December 2020, reopened its market to Brazilian poultry meat. The ban was imposed in August 2020 when authorities in the Chinese city of Shenzhen claimed to have found traces of COVID-19 on chicken wings imported from Brazil. In May 2020, the **Philippines** approved imports of Spanish bovine meat after finalising a model veterinary certificate.
- **Saudi Arabia**, in February 2021, extended shelf-life for US bovine meat products from 70 to 120 days, providing the flexibility to purchase larger quantities for Saudi importers.
- **Singapore**, in July 2020, approved pig meat imports from Ukraine under a license agreement.
- **Turkey**, in October 2020, announced that they received poultry meat market access to China from 15 October 2020, following bilateral negotiations over 10 years.
- The **United Arab Emirates**, in April 2021, authorised pig meat imports from Argentina for consumption by the large expatriate community.

Several countries banned or restricted meat imports during the reference period, citing several factors, including the need to protect domestic producers, violations of food safety standards and chemical traces and prohibited growth hormones found in imported meat consignments.

- **Algeria**, in January 2021, suspended red meat imports to rationalise imports and encourage domestic production.
- **Chile**, in May 2020, suspended poultry meat exports to the European Union until taking remedial measures, after European inspectors found some shortcomings in Chile's animal production control systems in March 2021.
- **China** (mainland), in August 2020, suspended bovine meat imports from Australia after finding traces of the banned antibiotic chloramphenicol in a shipment and requested the supplier to halt shipments temporarily.
- **Egypt**, in November 2020, banned buffalo meat imports from India temporarily due to concerns over pesticide traces found in Indian meat.
- The **Russian Federation**, in November 2020, extended the ban on imports of agricultural products, including meat, from countries that applied economic sanctions against the Russian Federation, adding the United Kingdom until the end of 2021.
- **Saudi Arabia**, in May 2021, banned poultry meat imports from 11 Brazilian meat plants without offering a reason for imposing the restriction.

### Meat export restrictions

- **Argentina**, in January 2021, established reference prices applicable to bovine meat cuts exported to several Asian destinations, including the Republic of Korea, China, the Philippines, Japan and Thailand. The General Customs Directorate established the policy, utilising the 'witness prices' of the Federal Administration of Public Revenues, aiming to detect under-invoicing in exports. In March 2021, the Government extended the reference prices for

specific pig meat cuts exported to the same Asian destinations. In March 2021, Argentina suspended 15 meat exporters for violating industry regulations related to competition law and tax evasion. In May 2021, Argentina imposed a 30-day ban on beef exports, aiming to lower domestic prices by temporarily increasing the domestic supply. The resolution exempted exports to overseas markets where Argentina has quotas. In June 2021, Argentina lifted the beef export ban but introduced a cap on monthly beef exports at half the average volume exported in 2020, valid until December 2021.

- **New Zealand**, in April 2021, halted exports of livestock by sea following a transition period of two years, citing animal welfare concerns, in a move that is likely to impact main trading partners, including Australia and China.
- **The Plurinational State of Bolivia**, in April 2021, suspended bovine meat exports temporarily to guarantee domestic supply and prevent prices from rising.

### Trade agreements

- The **Australia-Indonesia** Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement entered into force on 5 July 2020. Under the agreement, Indonesia has agreed to reduce its import tariff rate on frozen bovine and sheep meat from 5 to 2.5 percent and 575 000 cattle duty-free in year one.
- The **European Union**, in December 2020, concluded a Trade and Cooperation Agreement with the United Kingdom on its future trade relationship, also covering animal breeding and transport. The agreement aimed to ensure the movement of goods across borders without taxes and duties and recognise the organic certification of the United Kingdom for 12 months. However, new barriers to the movement of services and labour between the United Kingdom and the European Union imply higher trading costs and potentially lower trade volumes.
- **Ukraine**, in October 2020, signed a trade agreement with the United Kingdom, and it came into force in December 2020. The agreement reduces tariff quotas for several products, including meat.
- The **United Kingdom**, in October 2020, signed a trade agreement with Japan named UK–Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, under which Japan agreed to reduce MFN tariffs on bovine meat to nine percent and pig meat to zero percent.

## Statistical annex

FAO Meat Price Index <sup>(a)</sup>

## FAO indices (2014-2016=100)

PERIOD	Total Meat	Poultry meat	Pig meat	Bovine meat	Ovine meat
<b>Annual</b>					
(January/December)					
2010	91	100	102	74	98
2011	105	117	112	88	135
2012	105	115	111	93	111
2013	106	118	113	93	101
2014	112	114	117	107	114
2015	97	96	92	102	94
2016	91	90	92	91	92
2017	98	98	98	96	112
2018	95	93	91	96	124
2019	100	96	98	101	124
2020	96	87	94	100	117
<b>Monthly</b>					
2020 – July	92	83	89	98	121
2020 – August	92	83	90	97	119
2020 – September	91	84	88	97	115
2020 – October	92	83	90	96	118
2020 – November	93	83	90	99	121
2020 – December	95	87	89	101	124
2021 – January	96	89	88	103	126
2021 – February	98	91	90	105	129
2021 – March	101	95	97	105	127
2021 – April	104	97	99	111	129
2021 – May	107	98	102	115	136
2021 – June	109	100	103	117	139
2021 – July	110	105	100	118	143

**Notes:****(a) Composition of sub-indices:**

<b>Poultry Index</b>	United States of America: Chicken Cuts And Edible Offal (Fresh, Chilled Or Frozen), export unit value Brazil: Meat And Edible Offal Of Poultry (Fresh, Chilled Or Frozen), export unit value
<b>Pig Index</b>	United States of America: Meat of Swine (Fresh, Chilled Or Frozen), export unit value Brazil: Meat of Swine (Fresh, Chilled Or Frozen), export unit value Germany: Monthly market price for Grade E pig carcasses
<b>Bovine Index</b>	United States of America: Meat of bovine (Fresh, Chilled Or Frozen), export unit value Brazil : Meat of bovine (Fresh, Chilled Or Frozen), export unit value Australia: Cow 90CL export prices to the United States of America (FAS)
<b>Ovine Index</b>	New Zealand: Lamb 17.5kg NZ\$/kg Australia: Medium trade lamb 18-20kg A\$/kg

Prices for the two most recent months may be estimates and subject to revision.

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