

MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS

World meat production in 2021 is forecast to increase by 4.2 percent from 2020 and approach 353 million tonnes, principally based on expectations of a strong output rebound in Asia and notable expansions in all major producing regions, except Oceania. The bulk of the anticipated increase in Asia is foreseen in China, where meat output is likely to rise by 16 percent year-on-year to 90 million tonnes, exceeding the 2018 level, underpinned by increased pig stock liquidation, following price declines and recent African swine fever outbreaks in some provinces. Noticeable production expansions are also expected in India, Pakistan and Viet Nam on increased livestock numbers and demand. A moderate production expansion is anticipated in Latin America and the Caribbean, centred in Brazil and Mexico, induced by high import demand. In North America, moderate output growth is likely, on increased slaughter, triggered by lower producer margins and pasture deterioration in some regions. Europe is likely to register slight growth, constrained by the limited availability of cattle and avian influenza outbreaks, whereas the overall production outlook in Africa is favourable. By contrast, the increased demand for restocking and lower cattle inventory is expected to lead to an output contraction in Oceania.

World meat trade in 2021 is forecast to exceed 42 million tonnes (carcass weight equivalent), representing a 1.1 percent increase from 2020, but marking the slowest pace of annual growth in six years. This deceleration primarily results from an anticipated import contraction in China and some leading meat importing countries in Europe and the Middle East, reflecting increased national availabilities, incomplete food service recovery and logistical bottlenecks. However, several countries, especially the Philippines, Mexico, Chile and Viet Nam, are likely to purchase more meat to enhance local affordability and meet the rising food service needs. Meat export prospects are favourable for Brazil, the United States of America, India, Paraguay and Canada, whereas the European Union, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Australia and Argentina may see their shipments contract.

The FAO Meat Price Index rose for 10 consecutive months since October 2020, principally driven by solid global import demand often outstripping supplies from major exporting countries. However, a slowdown in imports by China has led to declines in global meat prices since August.

For additional analyses and updates, see:

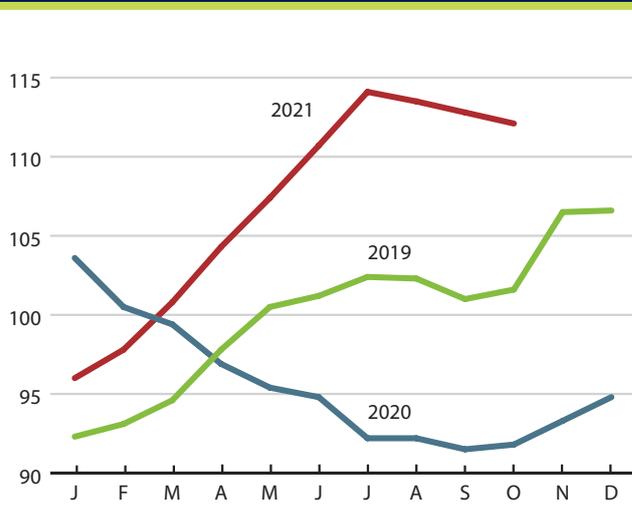
Meat Market Review
https://www.fao.org/markets-and-trade/publications/en/?news_files=113402

Meat Market Review: Emerging trends and outlook 2021 (forthcoming)

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FAO INTERNATIONAL MEAT PRICE INDEX (2014–2016 = 100)



WORLD MEAT MARKET AT A GLANCE

	2019	2020 <i>estim.</i>	2021 <i>f'cast</i>	Change: 2021 over 2020	
	<i>million tonnes (carcass weight equivalent)</i>			<i>%</i>	
WORLD BALANCE					
Production	337.7	338.6	345.6	352.7	4.2
Bovine meat	72.6	71.6	72.4	71.8	0.2
Poultry meat	131.9	133.9	135.2	135.4	1.1
Pig meat	110.1	109.7	114.4	122.0	11.2
Ovine meat	16.2	16.3	16.5	16.5	1.4
Trade¹	36.6	41.7	41.9	42.2	1.1
Bovine meat	11.3	11.8	12.0	12.2	3.8
Poultry meat	14.2	15.5	15.6	15.5	0.2
Pig meat	9.6	12.9	12.8	12.9	0.2
Ovine meat	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	-1.0
SUPPLY AND DEMAND INDICATORS					
Per caput food consumption:					
World (kg/year)	43.4	43.1	43.5	44.4	3.1
Trade - share of prod. (%)	10.8	12.3	12.1	12.0	-2.9
FAO MEAT PRICE INDEX (2014–2016=100)	2019	2020	2021 <i>Jan–Oct</i>	%Change Jan/Oct 2021 over Jan/Oct 2020	
	100	96	107	11.6	

¹ From 2020, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is treated as a separate country from the European Union when aggregating trade data.