

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: EU Pork Exports Reached Record Levels in 2020

Country: European Union

Post: The Hague

Report Category: Livestock and Products, Agricultural Situation, Agriculture in the Economy

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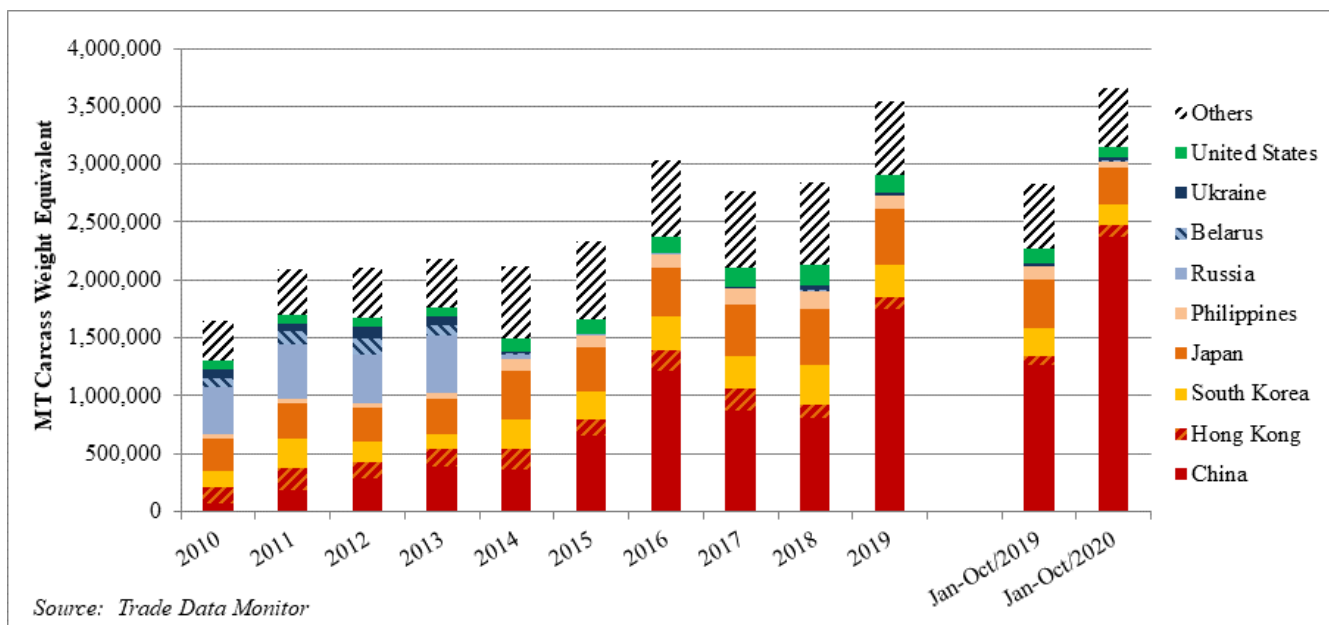
Report Highlights:

During the first ten months of 2020, the European Union (EU) exceeded the pork export volume for all of 2019 (setting a new record for exports). EU pork exports rose based on strong demand from China and sustained production despite the transport, slaughter, and export restrictions during the coronavirus crisis and the emergence of new African Swine Fever detections.

General Information

The volume of pork¹ exported by the European Union (EU) during the first ten months of 2020 exceeded the record volume of pork exported in all of 2019 (i.e., 3.55 MMT CWE²), see Chart 1 below. From January - October 2020, EU pork exports to China nearly doubled (reaching 2.37 MMT CWE). The main suppliers to the Chinese market were Spain, Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands. Since China has banned imports from Germany due the emergence of African Swine Fever (see FAS GAIN Report - [African Swine Fever- An Unwelcome Arrival in Germany](#)), Denmark has taken over as the second leading EU supplier, after Spain (see Chart 2 below).

Chart 1 – Annual EU Pork Exports Compared to January-October 2019/2020 Exports



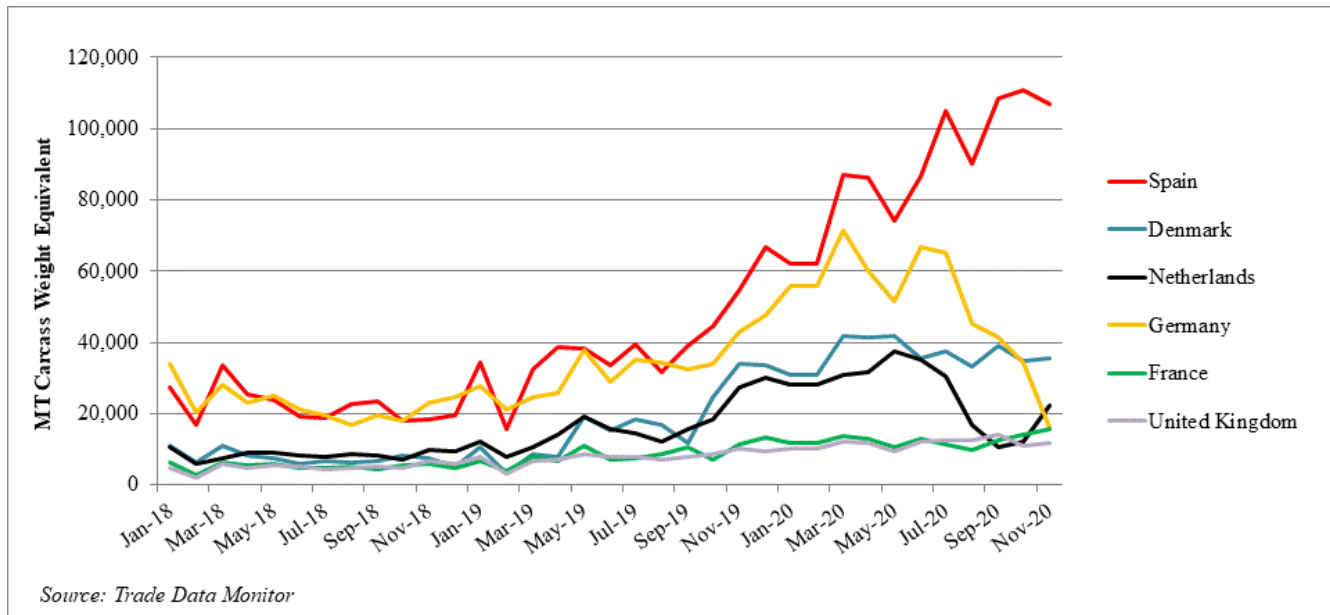
Besides the strong demand from China, another driver for EU exports during 2020 was the level of EU pork production. Despite the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis, which led to transport, slaughter, and export restrictions (for more information see the FAS GAIN - [EU Livestock and Products Annual 2020](#)), the EU has been able to sustain production levels. During the first ten months of 2020, EU slaughter only declined by 0.62 percent,³ supported by higher slaughter weights. During the first ten months of 2020, the average weight of hogs slaughtered in the EU increased by 1.04 percent. EU carcass weights have been trending upwards since 2011, but the current increase has also been a result of delayed slaughter (mainly in Denmark, the Netherlands and Germany) as a result of coronavirus logistics challenges (e.g., slaughterhouses temporarily closing due to infections among staff, etc.). However, a notable reduction of weight was realized in Italy (-5.3%) due to declining demand for charcuterie.

¹ HS codes under 0203, 0210, and 1602. For the conversion to CWE see the [EU Livestock and Products Annual](#).

² MMT CWE = million metric tons carcass weight equivalent.

³ This captures slaughter in slaughterhouses, but not backyard slaughter. Source Eurostat.

Chart 2 – Monthly Chinese Pork Imports from the EU (by Member State)



For the entirety of 2020, production is anticipated to have reached a volume of roughly 24.0 MMT CWE⁴, slighter lower than the record volume produced in 2018 (24.08 MMT CWE), but higher than the volume realized in 2019 (23.96 MMT CWE). This anticipated production volume is based on a slight decline in slaughter for November and December (a four percent reduction compared to the previous ten months) but sustained slaughter weights. Slaughter is believed to have fallen during the last two months of 2020, as fewer weaned piglets were fattened during the first lockdown period (in the spring of 2020).

Attachments:

No Attachments.

⁴ Production including backyard slaughter.