



U.S. Meat Bulletin

June 2, 2020 Volume XII | Issue 6.1

SUPPLY & DEMAND

Wholesale beef prices drifted lower again last week as cattle harvests continued to recover. Last week's holiday shortened slaughter totaled 524,000 head, down **5.6%** from the previous week and down **10.9%** from the same week last year. Slaughter activity has continued to recover after being down **35%** year-over-year 5 weeks ago (438,600 head), down **32%** 4 weeks ago (452,000 head), and down **25%** (499,000 head) 3 weeks ago. Harvest then rose the week before last to 555,000 head. As production has recovered, the average all-primal cutout value through yesterday had dropped by approximately **28%** since hitting its peak on May 12. All USDA CHOICE primal values moved lower for the 2nd straight week last week: round values were **-13%**, chuck **-10%**, flank **-9%**, short plate **-8%**, brisket **-7%**, loin **-4%**, and rib **-2%**. The relative price firmness of steak items reflects new orders from reopening restaurants, although analysts note that overall foodservice transactions are still running well below pre CoVID levels (see next column). On the production side, processing plant conditions continue to improve and analysts forecast that this week's harvest could reach 630k head, which would be the largest in 2 months. With average live slaughter weights across all categories of cattle at 1,370 lbs. (621 kgs.), 57 pounds heavier than year-ago weights, analysts see a quick rebound in beef output and a continued weakening in wholesale prices. As of last Friday though, the CHOICE cutout was still **67%** above year-ago levels. Despite smoother operations at processing plants, the large gap between average live fed cattle prices (approximately U.S. \$1.18/lb. yesterday) and June live cattle futures prices of U.S. \$0.98/lb. is evidence of the large numbers of cattle backed up in feedlots and pastures. As wholesale beef prices began to noticeably drift lower in mid-May, overseas buyers from **Japan, Korea, and Hong Kong** jumped back in the market. And new U.S. beef sales to **China** during the week ending May 21 were the highest recorded since the re-opening of the market.

U.S. wholesale ground beef prices surged to new records in April/May, while ground beef retail prices were the highest since 2015 in April

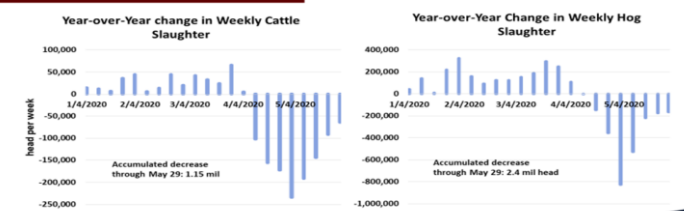


Source: BLS, USDA/AMS

Beef Choice Beef Cutout Value: 1/6/2020 - US\$341.15/cwt. (-14% from 22/5/2020)

The pork cutout values fell last week by **9%** from the previous week, and dropped by another sharp **8.1%** yesterday (Monday) to U.S. \$0.81/lb. following reports of **China** cancelling orders of U.S. agricultural imports, including pork. Weekly U.S. pork sales to China averaged approximately 23K tons during March & April, after which sales fell sharply, according to USDA weekly sales data. However, there has been no confirmation of cancellations, and some analysts believe China's slow purchases in May are due to an overhang of frozen imported protein inventories in Chinese warehouses (See TRADE next column), plus high U.S. prices. U.S. hog slaughter last week was 1.966 million head, while live harvest weights of 294 lbs. (133 kgs.) were up 6 lbs. from last year. As U.S. pork prices moderate, export interest is expected to rebound; during the week ending May 21, new sales jumped week-on-week to **Mexico and Canada**, the USA's #2 and #5 markets by volume.

Slaughter hit its low point compared to last year in late April



Source: USDA/NASS and USDA/AMS, last two data points are preliminary estimates

Hog Carcass Cutout Value: 1/6/2020 - US\$81.04/cwt. (-18% from 22/5/2020)

ACTIVITIES:

Restaurant & Ba Restaurant & Bar, Hong Kong: Sep 1-3, 2020
SIAL, Shanghai: September 28-30, 2020
Food Taipei, Taiwan: December 17-20, 2020

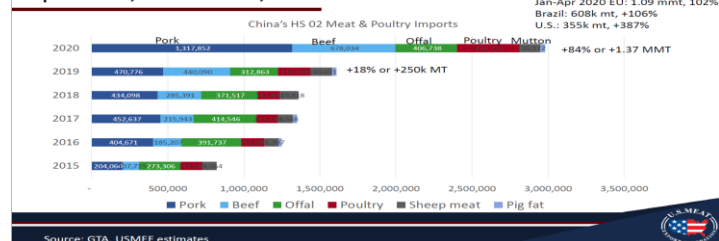
CORONAVIRUS AND THE U.S. RED MEAT SUPPLY CHAIN

Analysts have been focusing their attention over the last few weeks on the re-opening of restaurants nationwide and how that may affect meat purchasing & consumption patterns for the remainder of this year. Constrained restaurant traffic will continue through the rest of this year, according to market intelligence firm **Packaged Facts**, and CY 2020 sector revenues could decline **25%** from the U.S. \$863 billion level of 2019. According to **NPD**, U.S. restaurant sales likely bottomed out the last week of March when surveys showed nationwide transactions that week, across all types of establishments, were **-42%** year-on-year. Dine-in restaurants have been allowed to re-open in most states, but many have done so under social distancing restrictions which limits capacity to 50%-75% of maximum loads. NPD says that U.S. restaurant transactions during the week ending May 17 were **-21%** YOY, noting that during that week 93,000 more outlets had re-opened their doors to in premise dining. A sizeable percentage of restaurants however are adopting a wait-and-see attitude toward re-opening, citing the inability to generate profits under constrained capacity guidelines. On the consumer side, there is still consumer reticence to visit restaurants; according to a recent survey by **AlixPartners**, 1/5th of consumers state they are planning to dine out less even after all restrictions are eased. Some inner city restaurants took additional hits last week as protests across over 30 U.S. metropolitan areas resulted in business closings and property damage. In the meantime, retail meat and food sales remain strong however. Despite a wane in panic and stock-piling purchasing, retail grocery buying remains strong. Sales at U.S. food and beverage stores during April rose **12%** YOY after a **29.3%** YOY increase during March according to estimates by **210 Analytics**. Both volumes and values of purchases increased. Through May 24, which included Memorial Day weekend, year-to-date retail meat department revenues were up **24.7%** YOY, representing an U.S. \$5.8 billion increase in meat buying. Through May, U.S. consumers purchased an additional 544 thousand tons of meat & poultry items at retail compared to the pace of a year ago. According to **Nielson**, average all-beef U.S. retail prices for the week ending May 23 were **+21.7%** YOY. Additional sales of just one meat item - ground beef - accounted for U.S. \$1+ billion of the additional \$5.8 billion meat spend. Strong retail demand, rebounding restaurant (esp. QSR) sales, and the slowdown in beef production caused ground beef prices to spike last month, but prices are now falling. According to USDA data, after briefly surging above \$6.00 a pound in mid-May, average ground beef wholesale prices last week were \$4.23, still double the level of early March. During the peak buying period of mid-April, nearly 1 in 2 U.S. households purchased some ground beef, cementing this item as the #1 purchased meat product among U.S. consumers.

TRADE

China imported a record 518K tons of pork during April, although the country's total meat & poultry (M&P) imports for the month of 862K tons declined from the record 919K tons recorded in March. Through April, China had imported 1.37 million additional tons of M&P compared to the pace of a year ago (see GRAPH below), with the year-to-date level suggesting inbound shipments in 2020 will easily eclipse last year's trade. During 2019, M&P imports totaled 6.197 million tons (**+46%**, or +1.954 million tons, from 2018), a record volume, but still far shy of the officially reported 11.5 million ton YOY decline in 2019 pork production. China's **Academy of Agricultural Sciences** is estimating domestic pork production will decline by another 3.5 million tons this year (**-8%**), while USDA is forecasting a steeper **-20%**, or 8.5 million ton fall. The live average national hog price in China peaked at RMB 38.16/kg on February 19 of this year before drifting **-30%** lower to its early summer nadir of RMB 26.56/kg on May 16. Values have staged a slight rebound over the last 2 weeks with the national price reaching RMB 29.54/kg yesterday. Prices in early May came under pressure from the large stockpile of frozen M&P imports, plus continued releases of frozen pork reserves by the government aimed at moderating retail pork prices. So far this year, 380k tons of frozen pork have been released from China's state reserves.

China's Jan-April meat & poultry imports: \$10.37 billion, up 128%, 2.98 mmt, +84% ...while in lock down



Source: GTA, USMEF estimates



美国肉品新知

2020年6月2日第十二卷6.1期

供应与需求

随着牛只屠宰作业持续恢复，上周牛肉批发价格再次走低。上周假期导致牛只屠宰量减少 52.4 万头，与上上周相比减少 5.6%，与去年同期相比减少 10.9%。屠宰活动在屠宰量分别于 5 周前同比减少 35%(438,600 头)、4 周前减少 32% (452,000 头)及在 3 周前减少 25%(499,000 头)后逐渐恢复；并于上上周增长至 55.5 万头。随着产量逐渐恢复，所有牛肉大分切平均价格自 5 月 12 日达到高峰后，截至昨日已下跌约 28%。上周所有美国农业部特选级牛肉原始价格已连续第 2 周走低：后腿部-13%、肩胛部-10%、腹肋肉-9%、胸腹肉-8%、前胸肉-7%、腰脊部-4%和肋脊部-2%。牛排商品价格相对坚挺反映餐厅重新开放后有新的订单，尽管分析人士指出总体餐饮交易量仍远低于 CoVID 爆发前的水平(见右栏)。在生产方面，屠宰厂的情况持续改善，分析师预测本周屠宰量可能达到 63 万头，这将是 2 个月以来的最高屠宰纪录。所有类别的活牛的平均屠宰重量为 1,370 磅(621 公斤)，比去年同期重 57 磅；分析师认为牛肉产量快速反弹，批发价格将持续走弱。但截至上周五，特选级牛肉分切价格仍比去年同期高 67%。尽管屠宰厂运作较为流畅，活牛平均价格(昨天约为每磅 1.18 美元)与 6 月活牛期货价格(每磅 0.98 美元)之间仍存在较大价差，这证明繁育场和牧场中有大量牛只。由于牛肉批发价格在 5 月中旬开始明显走低，来自日本、韩国和香港的海外买家重新进入市场。截至 5 月 21 日当周，美国至中国的牛肉销量是自市场重新开放以来的最高纪录。

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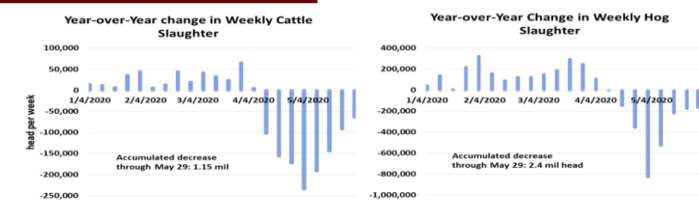


Source: BLS, USDA/AMS

美国农业部牛肉屠体价格指数(特选级)：2020年6月1日 - \$341.15 美元/百磅 (较 2020年5月22日减少 14%)

上周猪肉分切价格较一周前下跌 9%，并在有报导称中国取消包括猪肉在内的美国农产品进口订单后，于昨日(周一)再次下跌 8.1%至每磅 0.81 美元。根据美国农业部每周销售数据，3 月和 4 月美国往中国的猪肉平均周销量约为 2.3 万吨，此后便急速下降。尽管如此，取消的消息尚未确认；一些分析人士认为，中国 5 月的采购速度放缓是因为中国仓库中的进口冷冻蛋白库存过剩(见右栏贸易新闻)，以及美国猪肉高昂的价格。上周美国活猪屠宰量为 196.6 万头，而活猪屠宰重量为 294 磅(133 公斤)，与去年同期相比增加 6 磅。由于美国猪肉价格适中，出口兴趣有望反弹；截至 5 月 21 日当周，按销量排名，在墨西哥和加拿大的销量周环比猛增，这两国是美国排名第 2 和第 5 的市场。

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Source: USDA/NASS and USDA/AMS, last two data points are preliminary estimates

猪屠体分切价格：2020年6月1日 - \$81.04 美元/百磅 (较 2020年5月22日减少 18%)

美国肉类出口协会活动预告：

香港餐饮展：2020年9月1-3日

中国国际食品及饮料展 - 上海：2020年9月28-30日

台北国际食品展 - 台湾：2020年12月17-20日

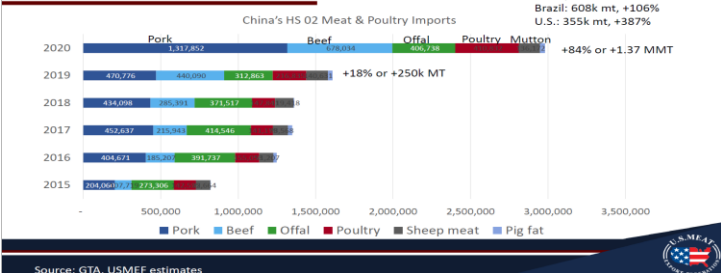
新型冠状病毒和美国红肉供应保证

在过去几周中，分析师持续关注全国餐厅重新营运的情况，以及这将如何影响今年余下时间里肉类和食品的采购和消费行为。根据市场情报公司 Packaged Facts，餐厅客流量管制将持续到今年余下时间，餐饮业 2020 年的营收与 2019 年时的 8,630 亿美元相比可能减少 25%。根据 NPD，3 月最后一周美国餐厅营收可能跌至最低点，当时调查显示当周全国所有类型场所的交易量与去年同期相比下跌 42%。大多数州的内用餐厅已允许重新开放，但许多餐厅仍在社会疏离的限制下运营，客纳人数限制为最大值的 50%至 75%。NPD 表示，截至 5 月 17 日当周美国餐厅交易量同比减少 21%，并指出该周有 9.3 万多间餐厅重新开放其用餐场所。然而，有相当大比例的餐厅对于重新开放持观望的态度，因为在客纳人数管制措施下难以产生利润。在消费者方面，仍然有许多消费者不愿去餐厅用餐。根据 AlixPartners 最近一项调查，有 5 分之 1 的消费者表示，即使所有限制放宽，他们也打算减少外出用餐。由于美国 30 多个大都市地区发生抗议活动导致商店关门和财产损失，上周一些城市内的餐厅遭受更多的打击。与此同时，肉类和食品的零售销售仍维持强劲。尽管恐慌和囤货的情况有所减少，超市零售表现仍保持强劲。根据 210 Analytics 估计，4 月美国食品和饮料商店的营收与去年同期相比增长 12%，而 3 月同比增长 29.3%。采购的数量和价值均增加。截至 5 月 24 日(包括阵亡将士纪念日周末)，零售肉品部收入同比上涨 24.7%，意味着肉类采购增加 58 亿美元。截至 5 月，美国消费者在零售通路购买的肉类和禽肉量去年同期多出 54.4 万吨。根据 Nielson，截至 5 月 23 日当周，美国所有牛肉的平均零售价格同比增长 21.7%。在增加的 58 亿美元肉类消费中，仅一肉类商品牛绞肉的额外销售就占了 10 亿美元。强劲的零售需求、餐厅(尤其是餐饮品牌国际公司，QSR)营收反弹以及牛肉产量减少导致上个月牛肉价格飙升，但价格现已回落。根据美国农业部的数据，牛绞肉价格在 5 月中旬短暂突破每磅 6 美元后，上周平均批发价格为 4.23 美元，这仍是 3 月初时价格的两倍。于 4 月中旬采购高峰期，有将近 2 分之 1 的美国家庭购买牛绞肉，使得该产品成为美国消费者购买的第一名肉类产品。

贸易新闻

尽管中国 4 月份肉类和禽肉(M&P)进口总量(86.2 万吨)与 3 月时的创纪录水平(91.9 万吨)相比有所减少，该国 4 月的猪肉进口量创新纪录达到 51.8 万吨。截至 4 月，与去年同期相比，中国 M&P 进口总量增加了 137 万吨(见下图)；年初至今的数据表明，该国 2020 年的贸易量将轻易地超越去年水平。2019 年中国 M&P 进口总量为 619.7 万吨(较 2018 年增长 46%，或增加 195.4 万吨)，创历史新高，但仍远低于官方报告 2019 年时猪肉产量同比减少 1150 万吨。中国农业科学院估计，今年国内猪肉产量将再下降 350 万吨(-8%)，而美国农业部预估其产量将下降 20%，即 850 万吨。中国全国活猪平均价格于今年 2 月 19 日时达到最高点为每公斤 38.16 人民币，并于 5 月 16 日时下跌 30%至夏初最低点为每公斤 26.56 人民币。价格在过去 2 周出现反弹，昨日全国活猪平均价格达到每公斤 29.54 人民币。5 月初的价格因大量的冷冻 M&P 进口库存和政府为放宽猪肉零售价格而持续释放冷冻猪肉储备而受压。今年迄今中国已释放 38 万吨冷冻猪肉储备。

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Source: GTA, USMEF estimates

