

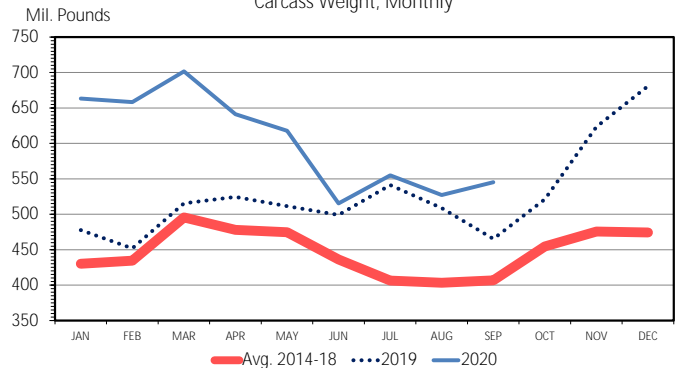
Trade statistics for the month of September were released Wednesday by USDA [Foreign Agricultural Service \(FAS\)](#) on a product weight basis. Yesterday, USDA [Economic Research Service \(ERS\)](#) released trade statistics on a carcass weight equivalent basis. This DLR will discuss the ERS trade statistics.

Beef imports for the third quarter this year were 1.03 billion pounds, up 33.3% from last year making it the second largest quarter behind the second quarter of 2005 (1.06 bil. lbs.). The growth in beef imports is due to large shipments in July (376.8 mil. lbs.) and August (350.8 mil. lbs.) which rank as the second and fifth highest months on record back to 1988. September beef imports were strong at 300.1 million pounds, up 26.0% from last year. A jump in third quarter beef imports was likely a response to record retail beef prices during May and June caused by the pandemic. More than three quarters (76.9%) of total beef imports during the third quarter were from four countries: Canada, Australia, Mexico, and New Zealand.

Beef exports totaled 238.9 million pounds in September, down 5.6% from 2019. Higher shipments to South Korea (up 4.9%), Canada (up 4.5%), Hong Kong (up 4.3%), Taiwan (up 13.5%), and China (up 228.4%) were more than offset by lower exports to Japan (down 0.6%), Mexico (down 38.4%), and Vietnam (down 47.0%). Exports to China have seen gains in recent months with September being the highest level on record at 12.6 million pounds. Chinese shipments accounted for 5.3% of total exports for September, 3.9% for the 2020 third quarter, and 2.3% through the first nine months of this year.

Total pork exports were 545.2 million pounds in September, a 17.2% increase from last year. Increased shipments occurred for most major destinations except for South Korea and Hong Kong which were both down 16.7% and 15.5%, respectively for the month. Third quarter pork exports rose 7.4% to 1.6 billion pounds with China being the top

US PORK EXPORTS Carcass Weight, Monthly



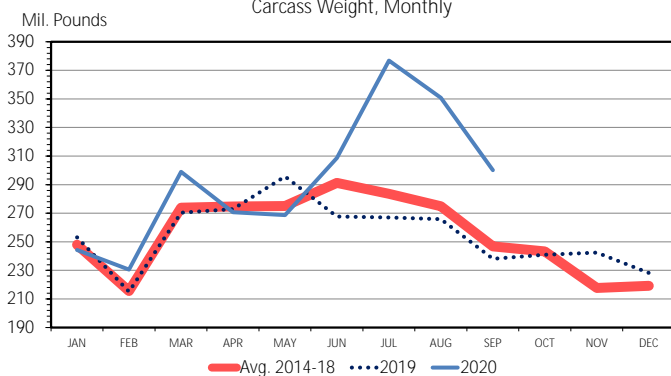
Data Source: USDA-ERS & USDA-FAS
Livestock Marketing Information Center

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destination (384.2 mil. lbs. up 43.3%) followed by Mexico (383.1 mil. lbs., down 7.5%), Japan (279.7 mil. lbs., up 2.6%), Canada (162.3 mil. lbs., up 16.3%), and South Korea (87.4 mil. lbs., down 22.2%). Both China and Mexico accounted for nearly half (47.2%) of total third quarter pork exports.

Broiler exports increased 9.3% to 618.1 million pounds in September with higher shipments to Mexico (up 17.3%), Canada (up 21.4%), and Angola (up 14.1%). Shipments to China (71.5 mil. lbs.) ranked second behind Mexico (133.3 mil. lbs.), which is a substantial increase considering no shipments occurred during September a year ago. Lamb imports increased 70.2% to 15.9 million pounds in September driven primarily by Australia where shipments nearly doubled (up 94.4%) to 12.9 million pounds.

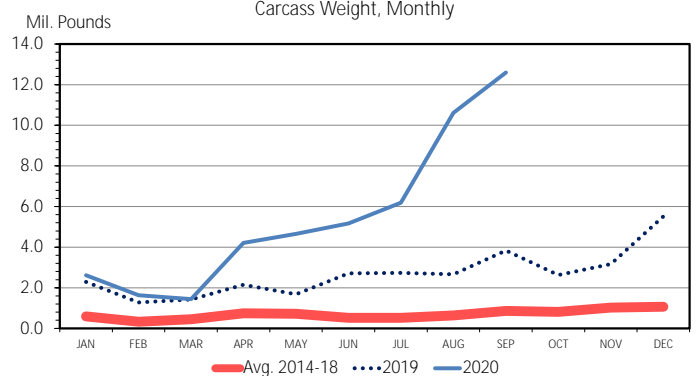
US BEEF AND VEAL IMPORTS Carcass Weight, Monthly



Data Source: USDA-ERS & USDA-FAS
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US BEEF EXPORTS TO CHINA (MAINLAND) Carcass Weight, Monthly



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