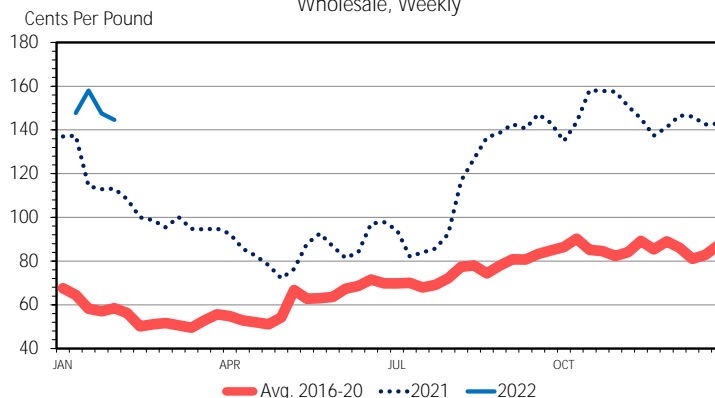


The wholesale ham price (trimmed selected, 23-27 pounds) saw several weeks above \$0.90 per pound during the summer months of 2021, well above average levels around \$0.60 per pound. Typically, ham prices see a rise during the holiday season but that increase failed to materialize in late-2021 with prices finishing the year in the low-\$0.50 per pound area. That weakness has continued into this year with the first three weeks in the upper \$0.40 per pound range while last week was \$0.53. These prices are well below last year and the five-year average which ranged from about \$0.55 to \$0.65 per pound.

The DLR has made mention of the growing issue surrounding available labor in the meat packing industry. The sluggish nature to ham prices (trimmed selected, 23-27 pounds) may be partly due to the lack of available labor to debone the product for retail sale. Comparing the wholesale bone-in ham price to the boneless inside ham price demonstrates the price premium for a boneless product. While bone-in product was losing value towards the end of 2021, boneless product (inside ham) averaged near \$2.00 per pound for the second half of 2021. The only time the inside ham price has been higher than \$2.00 per pound was during the pandemic and 2014. The strength for boneless inside ham prices has continued into the start of 2022. Both product prices used are reported in the USDA AMS report LM_PK610, National Weekly Pork FOB Plant - Negotiated Sales.

Taking the difference between the inside ham and 23-27 ham price is a way to determine the spread and relative price premium/discount between bone-in and boneless ham products. During the first half of 2021, the weekly ham price spread averaged

INSIDE HAM PRICES Wholesale, Weekly

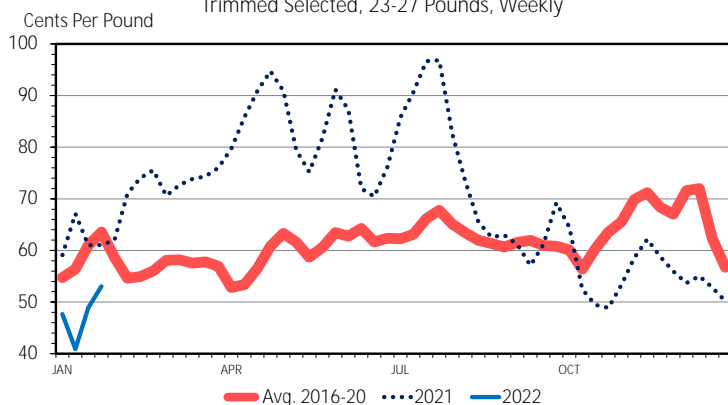


Data Source: USDA-AMS
Livestock Marketing Information Center

about \$0.95 per pound. The second half of 2021 saw the weekly ham price spread average over \$1.40 per pound. In the first four weeks of 2022 the ham price spread has averaged about \$1.50 per pound. The price premium for boneless product is likely a function of the limited labor force to debone product which is keeping product prices higher. Conversely, the large volume of bone-in product due to limited labor issues has likely been a factor in pressuring bone-in ham prices lower. The widening spread between bone-in and boneless products is also occurring in the beef and poultry sectors.

WHOLESALE HAM PRICES

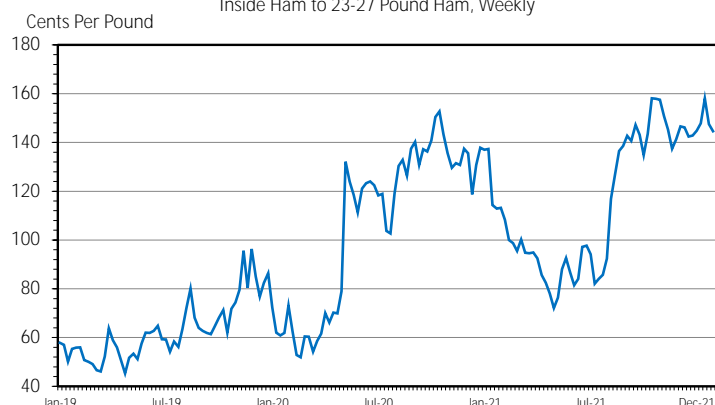
Trimmed Selected, 23-27 Pounds, Weekly



Data Source: USDA-AMS
Livestock Marketing Information Center

WHOLESALE BONELESS TO BONE-IN HAM PRICE SPREAD

Inside Ham to 23-27 Pound Ham, Weekly



Data Source: USDA-AMS
Livestock Marketing Information Center

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