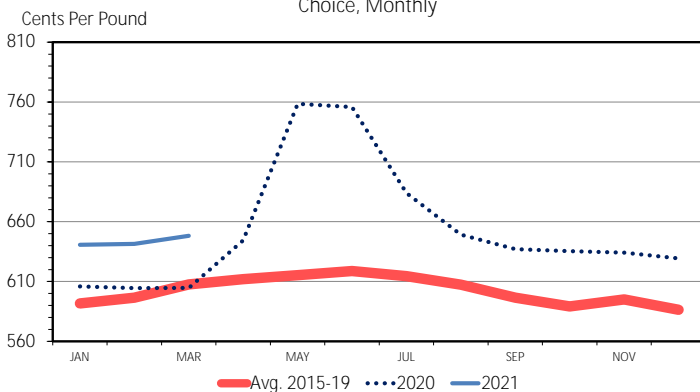


USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) released their monthly [Meat Price Spreads](#) data for March. The data consists of monthly price values at the farm, wholesale, and retail levels of the marketing chain. This DLR will focus on retail prices. Beef retail prices were \$648.20 cents per pound in March, 7.2% higher than last year. Ground chuck and ground beef held strong at \$437.70 and \$464.80 cents per pound, respectively, the fifth and tenth highest prices on record. Retail prices were also supported by steak round (\$641.20, up 5.3%), steak sirloin (\$913.40, up 10.5%), and all uncooked beef steaks (\$838.30, up 9.2%) each ranking within the top ten highest prices on record.

RETAIL BEEF PRICE
Choice, Monthly



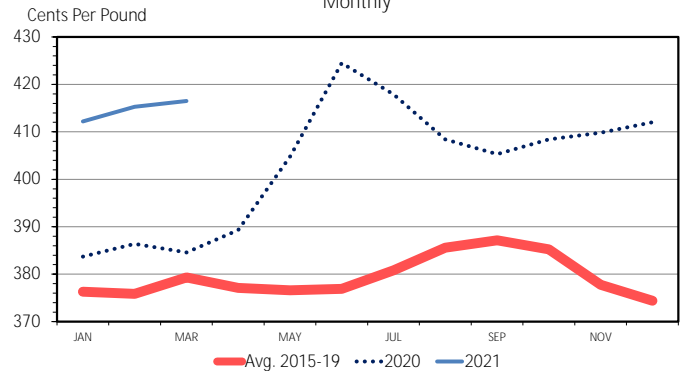
Data Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics & USDA-ERS
Livestock Marketing Information Center

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Retail pork prices continue to remain elevated with March rising 8.3% above last year to \$416.50 cents per pound. March ranks as the fifth highest retail pork price behind June 2020 (\$424.50), September 2014 (\$421.55), August 2014 (\$419.98), and July 2020 (\$417.90). Strong retail pork prices were led by both boneless ham and sliced ham which were \$479.00 and \$351.10 cents per pound, respectively, up 7.3% and 4.0% from a year ago. The March ham prices (boneless and sliced) rank as the second highest behind last months (February) record prices of \$492.10 and \$368.30. Sliced bacon also held strong ranking as the eleventh highest price at \$585.20 cents per pound (up 11.3%).

Retail chicken prices (broiler composite) rose 4.1% to \$200.65 cents per pound, which ranks as the eleventh highest on record. Whole chickens increased 10.2% from last year to \$154.30 cents

RETAIL PORK PRICE
Monthly



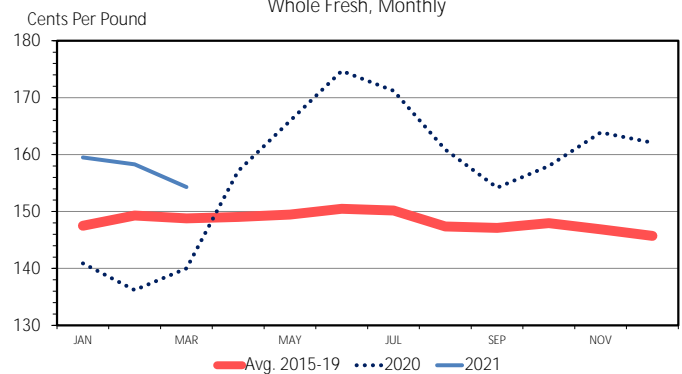
Data Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics & USDA-ERS
Livestock Marketing Information Center

M-P-05
04/13/21

per pound. Chicken breast (boneless) rose 11.3% to \$329.10 while legs were only 2.0% higher to \$156.90 cents per pound. The meat price spread data does not specifically report on wing prices, but we know from weekly data reported from USDA Agricultural Marketing Service that wings have been over \$280 cents per pound for several weeks and are likely a significant contributing factor to the elevated retail prices.

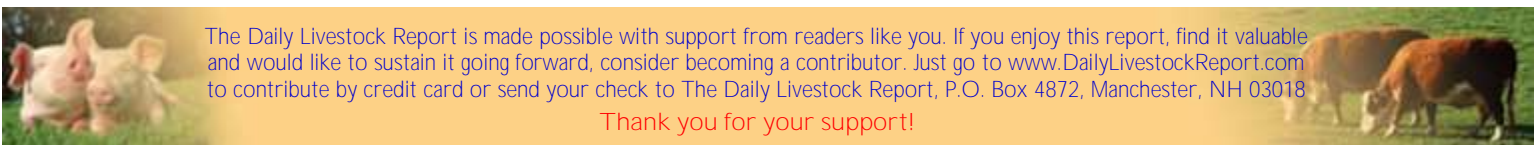
Retail prices for beef, pork, and chicken each posted year-over-year gains in March. Nicer weather on the horizon indicates grilling season is fast approaching and retail meat prices could stand to gain more momentum in the near term.

RETAIL CHICKEN PRICE
Whole Fresh, Monthly



Data Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics & USDA-ERS
Livestock Marketing Information Center

M-P-06
04/13/21



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