1 February 2016

**Beef production and milk collection up**

Agriculture – 4th quarter and year 2015

In Q4 2015 the total meat production amounted to 113 570 tonnes. It increased by 0.8% for beef, declined by 5.1% for pigmeat, and stayed unchanged for poultrymeat. Milk collection increased by 3.1% to 594 068 thous. litres.

During 2015 the production slightly rose for beef (to 68 286 tonnes; +4.2%) and poultrymeat (to 151 406 tonnes; +1.3%) and fell for pigmeat (to 227 739 tonnes; −3.5%). Milk collection increased to 2 434.7 mil. litres (+3.6%). Agricultural producer prices grew for cattle for slaughter by 2.7%, plummeted for pigs for slaughter (−12.0%) and for milk (−17.2%) and stayed unchanged for poultry for slaughter (−0.5%).

# Slaughtering and meat production

In Q4 2015 the number of slaughtered cattle accounted for 62 731 heads; it increased by 5.8%, y-o-y. An increase was recorded in all categories of cattle except for young cattle and calves. The total beef and veal production amounted to 18 631 tonnes (+8.0%).

The number of slaughtered pigs went down to 622 286 heads (−6.3%), y-o-y. Correspondingly, the pigmeat production decreased (56 814 tonnes; −5.1%) and the average weight of slaughtered pigs went up at the same time to 118.4 kg.

The poultrymeat production reached 38 063 tonnes and did not differ from that in Q4 2014 (0.0%).

# Agricultural producer prices of cattle, pigs and chicken for slaughter

In Q4 2015 agricultural producer prices of cattle for slaughter increased, y-o-y: by 2.0% for bulls, by 3.5% for cows, by 4.2% for heifers and by 21.1% for calves. The average price of bulls for slaughter was 46.89 CZK per kg of live weight or 85.34 CZK per kg of carcass weight.

Agricultural producer prices of pigs for slaughter dropped by 5.8%. Producers sold pigs for slaughter for average prices of 29.19 CZK per kg of live weight or of 37.50 CZK per kg of carcass weight.

Agricultural producer prices of chicken for slaughter almost did not change (+0.7%). Their average price was 23.98 CZK per kg of live weight.

# Milk collection and agricultural producer prices of milk

In Q4 2015 dairies collected 594 068 thousand litres of milk from domestic producers, i.e. by 3.1% more than in Q4 2014.

Agricultural producer prices of milk in Q4 2015 were lower, y-o-y, by 19.7%. Producers sold milk of Q quality class for the average price of 7.30 CZK per litre.

# The year 2015 – Meat production, agricultural producer prices, and external trade

In 2015 the meat production amounted to 447 651 tonnes (−0.8%). This amount included 68 286 tonnes of beef and veal (+4.2%), 227 739 tonnes of pigmeat (−3.5%), 151 406 tonnes of poultrymeat (+1.3%), 179 tonnes of sheepmeat (−5.0%), 3 tonnes of goatmeat (−4.9%), and 36 tonnes of horsemeat (−43.4%).

# Cattle and beef

In 2015 the beef and veal production reached 68 286 tonnes (+4.2%). Slaughterings grew up for heifers, cows and bulls. Slaughterings of young cattle and calves dropped because these animals were kept preferentially for further rearing or for exports.

Agricultural producer prices of cattle for slaughter went up in 2015 for all categories: bulls and cows (both +2.6%), heifers (+3.3%) and calves (+7.4%). The average price of bulls for slaughter was 47.06 CZK per kg of live weight or 85.65 CZK per kg of carcass weight (minimum 84.54 CZK per kg in January and maximum 86.77 CZK per kg in April).

According to provisional results, external trade[[1]](#footnote-1)) with live cattle in the period from December 2014 to November 2015 showed a positive balance 75 902 tonnes. In total 226.4 thous. heads (+15.0%) were exported; imports grew fivefold and reached 10.6 thous. heads. The structure of exports changed in favour of animals intended for further rearing (136.1 thous. heads, +26.1%) and for breeding (10.4 thous. heads, +29.5%) while number of exported animals for slaughter decreased by 1.2% (79.9 thous. heads; i.e. 50 905 tonnes of animals for slaughter in live weight). Imports rose distinctly due to animals for further fattening offered abroad, especially in France. Main trade partners for exports of live cattle were traditionally Austria (especially for animals for slaughter) and newly Turkey, where unusually high number of cattle for further fattening (28.0 thous. heads) was exported to.

As for external trade1) in beef, imports exceeded exports by 16 197 tonnes. Imports rose to 24 605 tonnes (+4.9%) and exports to 8 408 tonnes (+9.5%). Beef was imported mainly from Poland, then from the Netherlands, Germany and Austria. Exports went mostly to Slovakia but also to the Netherlands.

# Pigs and pigmeat

The pigmeat production in 2015 decreased to 227 739 tonnes (−3.5%) in connection to increased exports of pigs for slaughter.

Agricultural producer prices of pigs for slaughter declined by 12.0%. The producers sold pigs for slaughter for 29.02 CZK per kg of live weight or 37.30 CZK per kg of carcass weight on average. The minimum price was recorded in December (36.16 CZK per kg of carcass weight), the maximum one in October (38.48 CZK per kg).

The balance of external trade1) in live pigs in the period from December 2014 to November 2015 was positive (+19 038 tonnes). In total 15 918 tonnes (−22.2%) of live pigs were imported and 34 957 tonnes (+12.2%) were exported. Moderate decline of imports of piglets continued and reached 316.4 thous. heads (−2.6%). Their exports recorded an increase (54.0 thous. heads, +28.1%). The positive balance of trade with pigs for slaughter was improved (63.9 thous. heads imported, −36.0%; 280.5 thous. heads exported, +11.9%) Live pigs were imported from Germany, Denmark, Poland and the Netherlands and they were exported to Slovakia, Hungary and Germany.

The negative balance of external trade1) in pigmeat deepened to −223 580 tonnes; in total 257 706 tonnes (+6.7%) were imported and 34 127 tonnes (−21.1%) exported. Pigmeat came mainly from Germany, Spain and Poland; Slovakia dominated in exports.

# Poultry and poultrymeat

In 2015 the poultrymeat production rose to 151 406 tonnes (+1.3%).

Agricultural producer prices of chicken for slaughter were almost the same as in 2014 (−0.5%). The average price of chicken for slaughter in the first-quality class was 23.73 CZK per kg of live weight. The minimum price was reached in May (22.89 CZK per kg), the maximum one in February (24.61 CZK per kg).

External trade1)with live poultry in the period from December 2014 to November 2015 reached a positive balance of 40 138 tonnes, of which imports amounted to 4 934 tonnes (+16.2%) and exports to 45 072 tonnes (+2.0%). The declining trend in imports of day-old juveniles continued (12 610 thous. heads; −4.9%) as well as growing trend in their exports (106 992 thous. heads; +5.7%). Imports rose for chicken for slaughter (3 960 tonnes; +30.3%); exports increased for the same category (25 309 tonnes, +3.5%) but also for ducks (733 tonnes; +49.6%). Live poultry was imported mostly from Germany, Hungary and Slovakia; it was exported to Poland, Slovakia, Germany and Romania.

External trade1) in poultrymeat showed a negative balance which deepened to −83 926 tonnes. In total 113 231 tonnes (+15.9%) were imported and 29 305 tonnes (−4.8%) were exported. The largest amount of poultrymeat came from Poland but also from Brazil; exports went mainly to Slovakia.

# Milk and milk products

In 2015 the milk collection grew to 2 434 656 thous. litres (+3.6%).

The average price of milk of the Q quality class was 7.86 CZK per litre (−17.2%). It declined from the maximum value 8.95 CZK per litre in January to the minimum of 7.14 CZK per litre in September and then slightly rose to 7.44 CZK per litre in December.

In external trade1) in milk and milk products in the period from December 2014 to November 2015, exports distinctly surpassed imports and the year-on-year trade surplus increased to 775 360 tonnes. Imports stayed at almost the same level (275 647 tonnes; −0.7%) while exports went up to 1 051 007 tonnes (+8.9%). Imports went down for acidified milk products (−4.4%), they did not change for milk and cream (+0.1%), slightly rose for cheese and curd (+2.0%) and considerably grew for butter (+21.7%). Milk and cream contributed the most to increased exports (+83 476 tonnes; +10.9%), smaller contributions were due to exports of cheese and curd (+1 131 tonnes; +2.4%) and acidified milk products (+660 tonnes; +1.1%); exports of butter plummeted (−24.9%). The most important partners in trade in milk and milk products were Germany and Slovakia for both directions together with Poland for imports and Italy for exports.

*Notes:*

*Published data are final, except external trade data.*

Responsible head at the CZSO: *Jiří Hrbek, phone 27405 2331, e-mail:* *jiri.hrbek@czso.cz*

*Contact person: Jiří Hrbek, phone 27405 2331, e-mail:* *jiri.hrbek@czso.cz*

*Source: Livestock Slaughtering (Czech Statistical Office), Agricultural Producer Price Indices (Czech Statistical Office), External Trade Database (Czech Statistical Office), data on milk collection and poultry purchase (Ministry of Agriculture)*

*End of data collection: 8 January 2016*

*End of data processing: 27 January 2016*

*Following tables:* [*https://www.czso.cz/csu/czso/livestock-slaughtering-november-2015*](https://www.czso.cz/csu/czso/livestock-slaughtering-november-2015)

[*https://www.czso.cz/csu/czso/agricultural-producer-price-indices-december-2015*](https://www.czso.cz/csu/czso/agricultural-producer-price-indices-december-2015)

*Date of the next News Release publication: 2 May 2016*

*This press release was not edited for language.*

*Annexes:*

Table 1 Meat production and milk collection

Table 2 Trends in meat production and milk collection (2011–2015)

Graph 1 Beef – production and average agricultural producer prices

Graph 2 Pigmeat – production and average agricultural producer prices

Graph 3 Poultrymeat – production and average agricultural producer prices

Graph 4 Milk – collection and average agricultural producer prices

Graph 5 Trends in meat production (2007–2015)

Graph 6 Trends in average agricultural producer prices (2007–2015)

Graph 7 Trends in milk collection and average agricultural producer prices (2007–2015)

1. *)* *Intrastat does not include individual trading operations carried out by persons who are not registered for VAT as well as reporting units below the applicable thresholds of CZK 8 million a year for both flows are not under reporting duty for Intrastat.* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)