



ASF in Poland – potential market impact

The spread of ASF to Poland is potentially more significant than the discovery of cases in Lithuania last month. Poland is a much more important player in the EU pork market than Lithuania. Despite recent declines, Poland was the fourth largest EU producer of pig meat last year (producing 1.7 million tonnes, about 8% of EU production). It is also a major trader (imports and exports) of pork, processed pig meat and live pigs.

The location of the case is in the Podlaskie region, in the East of Poland, very close to the border with Belarus. Although the main concentration of pig production in Poland is further west, in 2013 there were over 340,000 pigs, including around 30,000 sows in the region. Therefore, even regional restrictions would have a significant impact on the Polish industry. However, far more significant would be any restrictions on Polish trade.

Poland is the seventh largest exporter of pork in the EU and the third largest importer. It is also the third largest exporter of sausages and the second largest exporter of other processed pig meat. It is the second largest EU importer of live pigs. Details of Polish trade are provided below. All of this means that any restrictions on exports (or imports) have the potential to cause major disruptions to the EU market (over and above those already caused by the Russia ban on EU imports).

The scale and impact of any disruption will depend on the nature of any trade restrictions. If all Polish exports are stopped, this might actually provide a boost to producers elsewhere in the EU, since it will remove significant quantities of pork from the EU market. This might help to offset the excess supply following the Russian ban, particularly if processors elsewhere require additional supplies to allow them to fill any gap in supplies of processed products.

Conversely, if the outbreak leads to other non-EU markets restricting imports of EU pork then it could accelerate the price falls already seen in response to the Russian ban. However, there has thus far been no sign that other countries are planning such a move.



Polish trade statistics

(all figures are for Jan-Nov 2013)

Fresh/frozen pork

Imports	Volume (tonnes)
Total	552,900
Germany	163,700
Denmark	121,000
Belgium	120,300
UK	26,000
Exports	
Total	398,500
EU Total	199,600
China	47,200
Italy	39,600
Belarus	36,000
Russia	32,800
UK	4,900

Bacon/Ham

Exports	Volume (tonnes)
Total	27,200
UK	25,100

Sausages

Imports	
Total	6,000
Germany	3,600
Exports	
Total	52,300

Source: Eurostat

EU Total	47,900
UK	13,400
Germany	5,400
Lithuania	5,200

Other processed

Imports	Volume (tonnes)
Total	3,900
Germany	3,400
Exports	
Total	61,300
EU Total	44,100
Sweden	12,800
USA	7,700
Ukraine	5,700
UK	3,800

Live Pigs

Imports (Weaners)	Number
Total	3,428,000
Denmark	2,337,000
Netherlands	500,000
Imports (Finished pigs)	
Total	1,176,000
Germany	815,000
Lithuania	236,000
Exports	
Total	98,000
Hungary	53,000