

2020 pig cost of production in selected countries



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Introduction

Welcome to the latest in a series of annual reports examining the relative costs of pig meat production up to farmgate level in selected countries. All these figures relate to 2020.

The emergence of the coronavirus pandemic dominated most aspects of our lives throughout 2020. However, for the pig industry, the market also continued to be affected by African Swine Fever (ASF) in China. ASF also spread into Germany in the latter part of the year, which led to a ban on its exports to most third countries.

EU pig prices fell significantly following the escalation of the coronavirus pandemic in the spring. There was a general downward trend throughout the rest of the year, as the industry contended with staffing difficulties in slaughter and butchery, and lost foodservice demand. Increasing volumes of pork continued to be directed from Europe to China, where strong demand for imported product remained. The minimal butchery required for this trade also helped mitigate challenges with staffing. Despite the difficulties, pig meat production was higher than the year before, with good profitability in 2019 having encouraged herd expansion. Overall, producer margins worsened as the year progressed, with falling prices also compounded by rising feed costs.

EU pig prices (excluding the UK) started 2020 at an average of €1.93/kg, nearly 60 euro cents higher than a year earlier. Prices were down to around €1.60/kg by the end of May, following a particularly sharp decline in the spring. Ultimately the downward trend continued, with prices finishing 2020 at an average of €1.28/kg. The Chinese market remained an important outlet for pork as domestic demand faced significant disruption. The EU shipped over 45% more pork and offal to China than in 2019, worth €7.2 billion (about 55% more than the year before).

The British pork industry initially fared better than its European counterparts. The UK's net importer status meant demand disruption could be managed by reduced import levels. In particular, foodservice demand switched into retail where British product is typically more favoured. Nonetheless, GB pig prices generally fell from the middle of the year onwards, dropping to 148p/kg by the end of the year. As in the EU, UK pork production also increased during the year and increasing volumes were exported to China.

To assist levy payers with comparing their physical performance with other British pig businesses, we have a **Costings and herd performance** section on the AHDB website. This is updated quarterly and is based on Agrosoft data. The section provides average, top third and top 10% performance for indoor and outdoor breeding herds, rearing and finishing herds.



Carol Davis Lead Analyst, Farm Economics

Methodology

This report examines the relative costs of production in selected countries. This is a joint project, involving the following organisations in 17 countries, known collectively as InterPIG:

- Great Britain Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB)
- Austria VLV Upper Austria and Chamber of Agriculture Lower Austria
- Flemish Government and Boerenbond Belgie
- Brazil Embrapa Swine and Poultry
 Brazil submits data for two regions: Mato Grosso (MT) and Santa Catarina (SC)
- Canada Canadian Pork Council
- Czech Republic Institute of Agricultural Economics and Information (UZEI)
- Denmark SEGES
- Finland Atria
- France Institute of Pork (IFIP)
- Germany Thuenen Institute of Farm Economics and Interessengemeinschaft der Schweinehalter (ISN)
- Hungary AKI Research Institute of Agricultural Economics
- Ireland Teagasc
- Italy Research Centre for Animal Production (CRPA)
- Netherlands Wageningen Economic Research
- Spain SIP Consultors
- Sweden Farm and Animal Health
- USA Iowa State University

Czech Republic is not included due to deadlines. InterPIG continues to work with other countries and organisations wishing to participate in international comparison. Where EU averages are in tables, they are the averages of the EU participating countries.

Cost and performance data relate to average performance data from national recording systems operating in the participating countries. Definitions have been standardised across countries. For example, the definition of a sow is from first insemination to slaughter, and the results are based on average present sows (average daily number of sows in the year).

The methodology is based on compound feed for sows, rearing and finishing, to ensure consistency of approach. However, this is in the knowledge that there are farmers in the different countries who grow their own crops and home-mix their pig feed. The proportion of farmers in each country who home-mix varies, depending on infrastructure, tradition, ingredient availability and prices.

There will inevitably still be some national differences in definition but, where this has occurred, the data is adjusted in the most appropriate way. The results are believed to provide an indication of the relative average costs of production within each country and to deliver an accurate comparison. In an attempt to continue to improve the accuracy of the data provided, the glossary of terms and formulae used in calculations is monitored and updated. In some instances, due to changes in data or participating countries, previous years' analyses may be updated. As a result, there may be some discrepancies between previous publications as definitions and formulae are realigned.

NOTE: In Great Britain, there is a difference between the methodology used for producing the national quarterly cost of production and the methodology used by InterPIG. In Great Britain, abattoir costs (transport to slaughter, meat hygiene, carcase classification and statutory levy) are included in the quarterly published cost of production figures. In InterPIG, these costs are excluded from the cost of production and are deducted from the price received at sale.

In this 2020 report, EU averages are the averages for the EU countries that record with InterPIG, and exclude GB. The EU reference price quoted excludes the UK.

Key points

- The cost of pig meat production for indoor pigs in Great Britain increased by 5% in 2020, to £1.49 per kg. The average cost of production in the EU was £1.43 per kg deadweight a less than 1% increase in sterling terms compared with 2019
- Most sampled EU countries experienced an increase in their costs of production (in sterling terms) compared with 2019, with only Denmark and Finland seeing a decrease
- The EU annual average reference price of £1.42 per kg was lower in 2020 than 2019, a decrease of 4%. Half the EU countries sampled had production costs lower than this
- The UK reference price of £1.61 per kg was 8% higher in 2020 compared with 2019, resulting in positive margins for the majority of 2020
- Overall average EU feed prices were similar in 2020 compared to 2019, but hid significant variations between countries. Great Britain saw an average increase of around 9% between 2019 and 2020
- In 2020 as a whole, EU feed costs per kg in sterling terms decreased by less than 1% compared with a year earlier
- The majority of InterPIG member countries experienced an increase in feed costs compared with 2019, with some notable exceptions including Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Hungary
- The overall average number of pigs weaned per sow per year in the EU InterPIG countries showed a 3.7% increase in 2020, up from 28.55 in 2019 to 29.6.
 Denmark again achieved over 33
- Pigs weaned per sow per year in Great Britain's indoor herds remained the same in 2020 at 27.4 – still below the EU InterPIG average. Great Britain's outdoor herds showed a small improvement achieving 24.4 in 2020 compared to 24.1 in 2019, an increase of 1%
- There is a difference of 8.5 pigs weaned per sow per year between the highest-performing (Denmark at 33.9) and lowest-performing (Italy at 25.4) EU countries
- The average number of pigs finished per sow in Great Britain's indoor herds was maintained in 2020 at 25.4, lower than the EU average of 27.9
- Great Britain's indoor herds continued to produce over 2 tonnes of carcase meat per sow in 2020. Excluding Italy, who produce heavy pigs for Parma ham, the highest producing EU country is Belgium who achieved 2.9 tonnes of carcase meat per sow – closely followed by the Netherlands, Hungary and Denmark



Cost of production

Aggregate results for 2020

The production costs of pig meat in 2020 for all of the countries covered in this report are shown below in Figure 1. This data includes all variable and overhead costs, other than transport of pigs to abattoirs and abattoir-related deductions, such as carcase classification and statutory levies paid at slaughter. Overhead costs include depreciation and interest costs for capital items such as buildings and equipment. Costs for regular and casual labour are included but directors' salaries or partners' drawings are not.

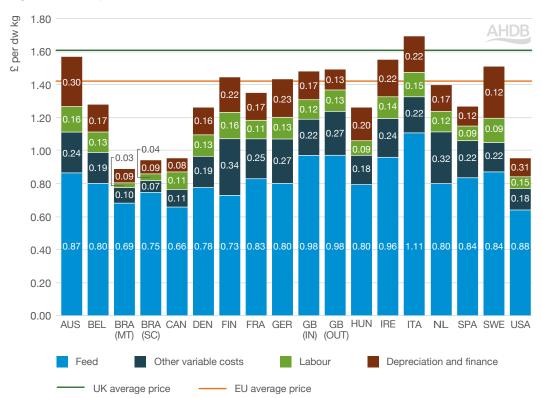


Figure 1. Cost of production in selected countries, 2020

The average cost of production in the EU in 2020 for the countries above was $\mathfrak{L}1.43$ per kg deadweight – a less than 1% increase on the previous year. Cost of production in Great Britain for pork from indoor sows was higher than the EU average at $\mathfrak{L}1.49$, which was a 5% increase on the previous year. In 2020, Italy continued to have the highest costs, at $\mathfrak{L}1.70$ per kg deadweight. The country with the lowest production costs in the EU was Denmark ($\mathfrak{L}1.26$).

The average UK reference price was 8% higher in 2020 compared with 2019, averaging $\mathfrak{L}1.61$ per kg, and 13% above the EU average (excluding UK) of $\mathfrak{L}1.42$ per kg. The EU reference price decreased by 4% compared with $\mathfrak{L}1.48$ in 2019. On average, margins as a whole were positive for the UK in 2020 but with continued mixed results during the year (see Net Margin section).

Across the EU countries sampled, there was a technical negative margin of less than 1p on every kg of pig meat produced, with half the countries having production costs lower than the EU average reference price and Austria, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Italy and Sweden having production costs higher than the reference price.

Reference prices

The UK reference price is gross, before abattoir deductions such as carcase classification. It includes premium pigs (e.g. outdoor bred) and point-of-sale price adjustments, such as those based on probe measurements.

The EU reference price (excluding UK) is usually after deductions of any abattoir-paid costs, which, in many countries, include transport to abattoir, carcase classification and insurance.

Neither price includes any bonus or price adjustment paid later than the point-of-sale transaction such as end-of-year cooperative bonuses.

Comparisons with previous years (sterling)

Costs of production in sterling terms in 2020, compared with results for the five previous years, are shown in Table 1. The average cost of production in sterling terms in the EU countries listed was 1p per kg more than 2019 levels for the same countries and stood at £1.43 per kg.

Most individual EU countries experienced an increase in production costs in sterling terms, with only Denmark and Finland seeing a decrease compared with the previous year.

Table 1. Average costs of production, 2015–2020 (£/kg cold deadweight)

				Year			
Country	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2019/20 % change
Austria	1.22	1.37	1.41	1.54	1.53	1.58	3
Belgium	1.09	1.17	1.25	1.30	1.21	1.28	6
Brazil (MT)	0.70	0.91	0.85	0.85	0.87	0.90	3
Brazil (SC)	0.87	1.16	1.12	0.99	0.95	0.95	-0
Canada	0.92	1.01	0.98	1.03	0.93	0.96	3
Denmark	1.10	1.17	1.20	1.25	1.27	1.26	-1
Finland	1.26	1.41	1.50	1.53	1.49	1.45	-3
France	1.11	1.21	1.30	1.33	1.35	1.36	0
Germany	1.15	1.25	1.36	1.44	1.40	1.44	3
GB (IN)	1.29	1.23	1.34	1.45	1.42	1.49	5
GB (OUT)	1.34	1.28	1.37	1.51	1.44	1.50	4
Hungary	1.35	1.36	1.37	1.44	1.47	1.27	-14
Ireland	1.28	1.34	1.47	1.51	1.52	1.56	3
Italy	1.34	1.51	1.66	1.70	1.66	1.70	3
Netherlands	1.18	1.30	1.37	1.38	1.40	1.41	1
Spain	1.06	1.13	1.20	1.25	1.25	1.27	2
Sweden	1.31	1.44	1.50	1.54	1.52	1.52	0
USA	0.80	0.86	0.86	0.89	0.95	0.96	1
EU (ex GB)	1.20	1.30	1.38	1.43	1.42	1.43	0

Comparisons with previous years (euro)

Costs of production in euro terms in 2020 are shown in Table 2. This reflects a similar picture to the comparisons in sterling terms, with some countries experiencing an increase and some a decrease in production costs when compared with 2019. Overall, in the EU countries, 2020 production costs in euro terms were slightly lower than 2019.

Table 2. Average costs of production, 2015–2020 (€/kg cold deadweight)

				Year			
Country	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2019/20 % change
Austria	1.68	1.67	1.61	1.74	1.74	1.78	2
Belgium	1.50	1.43	1.43	1.47	1.38	1.44	5
Brazil (MT)	0.96	1.11	0.97	0.96	0.99	1.01	1
Brazil (SC)	1.19	1.42	1.28	1.12	1.08	1.07	-2
Canada	1.27	1.24	1.11	1.16	1.06	1.08	2
Denmark	1.52	1.43	1.37	1.41	1.45	1.42	-2
Finland	1.74	1.72	1.71	1.73	1.70	1.63	-4
France	1.53	1.48	1.48	1.51	1.54	1.53	-1
Germany	1.58	1.53	1.56	1.63	1.60	1.62	2
GB (IN)	1.78	1.50	1.53	1.64	1.62	1.67	3
GB (OUT)	1.85	1.56	1.56	1.70	1.65	1.69	3
Hungary	1.86	1.66	1.56	1.63	1.68	1.43	-15
Ireland	1.76	1.64	1.68	1.71	1.71	1.75	2
Italy	1.85	1.84	1.89	1.93	1.89	1.92	2
Netherlands	1.62	1.58	1.57	1.56	1.59	1.58	-1
Spain	1.46	1.38	1.37	1.41	1.42	1.43	1
Sweden	1.84	1.76	1.72	1.74	1.73	1.71	-1
USA	1.10	1.05	0.98	1.01	1.08	1.08	-0
EU	1.66	1.59	1.58	1.62	1.62	1.60	-1



Financial performance summary

Table 3 contains financial performance data for 2020, while Table 6 presents comparisons with 2018 and 2019. All cost comparisons are on a compound-feed basis, but there will be a varying proportion of farmers in most countries opting to grow their own feed ingredients and home-mix.

Among the EU countries, there was a range of 44p per kg between the highest-cost and the lowest-cost producer, a similar range as observed in 2019. The recorded differences are due to a combination of physical performance and input costs (e.g. feed, depreciation).

Table 3. Summary of financial performance, 2020 (£/kg cold deadweight)

	AUS	BEL	BRA (MT)	BRA (SC)	CAN	DEN	FIN	FRA	GER	GB (IN)
Feed	0.87	0.80	0.69	0.75	0.66	0.78	0.73	0.83	0.80	0.98
Other variable costs	0.24	0.19	0.10	0.07	0.11	0.19	0.34	0.25	0.27	0.22
Total variable costs	1.12	0.99	0.78	0.82	0.77	0.97	1.08	1.08	1.07	1.19
Labour	0.16	0.13	0.03	0.04	0.11	0.13	0.16	0.11	0.13	0.12
Depreciation and finance	0.30	0.17	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.16	0.22	0.17	0.23	0.17
Total fixed costs	0.46	0.29	0.11	0.13	0.19	0.29	0.38	0.28	0.37	0.29
Total	1.58	1.28	0.90	0.95	0.96	1.26	1.45	1.36	1.44	1.49
	GB (OUT)	HUN	IRE	ITA	NL	SPA	SWE	USA	E AVEF	U RAGE
Feed		HUN 0.80	IRE 0.96	1.11	NL 0.80	SPA 0.84	SWE 0.88	USA 0.64	AVEF	
Feed Other variable costs	(OUT)								AVEF	RAGE 85
Other	(OUT) 0.98	0.80	0.96	1.11	0.80	0.84	0.88	0.64	AVEF	RAGE 85 24
Other variable costs Total	0.98 0.27	0.80	0.96	1.11	0.80	0.84	0.88	0.64	0.: 0.:	RAGE 85 24
Other variable costs Total variable costs	0.98 0.27 1.24	0.80 0.18 0.97	0.96 0.24 1.20	1.11 0.22 1.33	0.80 0.32 1.12	0.84 0.22 1.07	0.88 0.18 1.05	0.64 0.13 0.77	0.: 0.:	RAGE 85 24 09
Other variable costs Total variable costs Labour Depreciation	(OUT) 0.98 0.27 1.24 0.13	0.80 0.18 0.97 0.09	0.96 0.24 1.20 0.14	1.11 0.22 1.33 0.15	0.80 0.32 1.12 0.12	0.84 0.22 1.07 0.09	0.88 0.18 1.05 0.15	0.64 0.13 0.77 0.07	0.3 0.3 1.4	RAGE 85 24 09 113



Feed prices and costs

Market developments in 2020/21

2020 has been characterised by rising feed wheat prices and this has followed through into 2021. Harvest 2020 recorded the smallest UK wheat crop for 40 years, following a weather challenged season. With production pegged at 9.7 Mt there was a need to import wheat. This resulted in the domestic crop needing to price at import parity.

The domestic tightness was also being observed overseas, while demand continued to grow. Key exporters introduced export caps to shore up their domestic supplies, as the coronavirus pandemic raged throughout the world. Nearby UK feed wheat futures reached a peak in January 2021, at £213.80 per tonne, some £63.50 more than the same point a year earlier.

The 2021 UK harvest has recorded a rebound in production, to 14 Mt. However, given the very limited carry-over stock of the previous season, the picture still looks tight for the season ahead. As such, prices are likely to be supported for the coming months if demand remains similar.

In contrast, UK barley production for the 2020 harvest came in once again over 8 Mt. Given the tightness of the domestic wheat market, many feed compounders increased barley inclusions in their rations, due to the price discount and greater availability. Discounts to wheat have been strong all season, reaching £65 per tonne in July 2021 before the UK wheat harvest came on line. However, with the whole global grain complex increasing in price throughout the season, support has been provided for domestic barley prices with ex-farm feed barley prices recording a high of £193 per tonne at the beginning of June 2021.

For protein meal, soya markets have also been supported all season. Strong Chinese demand, as they rebuilt their domestic pig herd after ASF, has driven prices all season. Throughout 2020/21, weather concerns in key exporting regions resulted in price support, with markets jittery that enough crop would be produced to satisfy demand. Moving forward, key growing regions in South America are planting record areas of soya beans. This news, and slightly better production in the US than first expected, has helped soften prices towards the end of 2021. However, any weather threats to the South American crop, such as another La Nina event, could result in prices moving up once again.

Closer to home, the UK rapeseed area planted in 2020 was the smallest since 1986. This was following the weather challenged season, which had already led to a decrease in area and a sharp fall in production. While yields have recovered to more average levels for the 2021 harvest, production is below 1 Mt for the first time since 1989. Therefore, given the global support for the whole oilseed complex and the domestic tightness, we can expect to see rapeseed prices supported for the near future.



Table 4. Compound-feed prices per tonne (sterling), 2020

	AUS	BEL	BRA (MT)	BRA (SC)	CAN	DEN	FIN	FRA	GER	GB (IN)
Sow	235.65	244.55	177.38	190.60	169.92	202.86	207.82	232.20	216.53	247.64
Rearer	319.24	251.66	285.99	352.68	254.33	305.93	282.87	327.91	315.15	327.78
Finisher	216.09	232.10	182.36	215.15	162.34	204.83	174.38	209.12	205.95	257.27
Average farm feed price	232.80	235.46	193.56	224.99	173.01	218.04	193.83	226.36	220.03	268.08
	GB (OUT)	HUN	IRE	ITA	NL	SPA	SWE	USA	E AVEF	U RAGE
Sow		HUN 215.97	IRE 257.00	ITA 244.31	NL 240.46	SPA 215.44		USA 156.87	_	RAGE
Sow Rearer	(OUT)					215.44			AVEF	2.37
	(OUT) 243.85	215.97	257.00	244.31	240.46 328.31	215.44 372.64	215.64 299.59	156.87	AVEF	2.37 2.61

Table 5. Compound-feed prices per tonne (euro), 2020

	AUS	BEL	BRA (MT)	BRA (SC)	CAN	DEN	FIN	FRA	GER	GB (IN)
Sow	265.00	275.00	199.47	214.34	191.08	228.12	233.70	261.12	243.50	278.48
Rearer	359.00	283.00	321.61	396.60	286.00	344.03	318.10	368.75	354.40	368.60
Finisher	243.00	261.00	205.07	241.94	182.56	230.34	196.10	235.16	231.60	289.31
Average farm feed price	261.79	264.79	217.66	253.01	194.56	245.19	217.96	254.55	247.43	301.46
	GB (OUT)	HUN	IRE	ITA	NL	SPA	SWE	USA	E AVEF	U RAGE
Sow	(OUT)	HUN 242.87		1TA 274.74	NL 270.40	SPA 242.27	SWE 242.50	USA 176.40		RAGE
Sow Rearer	(OUT)								AVEF	8.64
	(OUT) 274.22	242.87	289.00	274.74	270.40	242.27	242.50	176.40	AVEF	3.64 3.31



Summary of financial performance

The impact on pig producers' feed costs in 2020

The overall average farm feed price for EU members of InterPIG in 2020 (in sterling terms) was very similar to 2019. However, this hid significant variations between countries. There was a range of feed prices across the EU countries, with a difference of £80 per tonne between the highest (Ireland) and lowest (Finland) average farm feed price in 2020. Great Britain saw an average increase of around 9% between 2019 and 2020, as a result of weather challenges resulting in tight supply.

20 % change 2019/2020 15 10 5 DEN SWE FIN HUN +0 +0 -0 BRA (SC) AUS FRA BRA SPA BEL USA CAN **GER** IRE NL (MT) -5 -10 -15

Figure 2. Changes in feed costs, 2020

The impact of feed prices on the feed cost per kg is also affected by physical performance. As shown in Figure 2, the mixture of physical performance and feed prices resulted in varying impacts on feed costs in the InterPIG countries. Brazil (MT) had an overall 16% increase in feed costs per kg, while Hungary saw a 13% decrease. Within the EU countries, overall 2020 feed costs decreased on average by less than 1% compared with 2019.

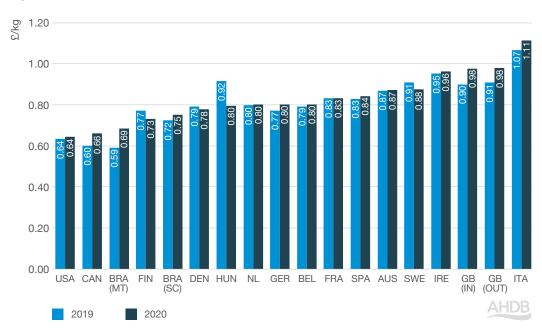


Figure 3. Feed costs, 2020

As shown in Figure 3, feed costs averaged 98p per kg of carcase produced for indoor herds in Great Britain, compared with the 90p recorded in 2019; an increase of 9%. For outdoor herds in Great Britain, feed costs also averaged 98p, compared with 91p in 2019; an increase of 8%. Across all the participating EU countries, the average feed cost was 86p per kg; an average decrease of 0.6%.

Table 6 summarises the cost of production by country for each of the past three years. Costs are expressed in sterling and, therefore, the actual costs in each country are affected by exchange rates.

Table 7 summarises the physical performance by country for each of the past three years. Great Britain indoor and outdoor performance are shown separately in both tables.

Table 6. Summary of financial performance, 2018–2020 (£/kg cold deadweight)

		AUS			BEL		E	BRA (MT	T)
	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
Feed	0.89	0.87	0.87	0.84	0.79	0.80	0.59	0.59	0.69
Other variable costs	0.22	0.23	0.24	0.18	0.19	0.19	0.11	0.12	0.10
Total variable costs	1.11	1.10	1.12	1.02	0.98	0.99	0.70	0.71	0.78
Labour	0.15	0.15	0.16	0.10	0.06	0.13	0.04	0.03	0.03
Depreciation and finance	0.27	0.28	0.30	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.11	0.12	0.09
Total fixed costs	0.43	0.43	0.46	0.28	0.23	0.29	0.15	0.16	0.11
Total	1.54	1.53	1.58	1.30	1.21	1.28	0.85	0.87	0.90
	E	BRA (SC	;)		CAN			DEN	
	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
Feed	0.75	0.72	0.75	0.69	0.60	0.66	0.75	0.79	0.78
Other variable costs	0.10	0.08	0.07	0.12	0.13	0.11	0.20	0.19	0.19
Total variable costs	0.85	0.80	0.82	0.81	0.73	0.77	0.95	0.98	0.97
Labour	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.13	0.11	0.11	0.13	0.13	0.13
Depreciation and finance	0.09	0.10	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.18	0.16	0.16
Total fixed costs	0.14	0.15	0.13	0.22	0.20	0.19	0.31	0.29	0.29
Total	0.99	0.95	0.95	1.03	0.93	0.96	1.25	1.27	1.26
		FIN			FRA			GER	
	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
Feed	0.81	0.77	0.73	0.80	0.83	0.83	0.80	0.77	0.80
Other variable costs	0.32	0.35	0.34	0.23	0.24	0.25	0.29	0.27	0.27
Total variable costs	1.12	1.12	1.08	1.03	1.07	1.08	1.09	1.04	1.07
Labour	0.15	0.15	0.16	0.12	0.12	0.11	0.13	0.14	0.13
Depreciation and finance	0.26	0.22	0.22	0.18	0.17	0.17	0.22	0.23	0.23
Total fixed costs	0.41	0.37	0.38	0.30	0.28	0.28	0.35	0.36	0.37
Total	1.53	1.49	1.45	1.33	1.35	1.36	1.44	1.40	1.44

Table 6. Summary of financial performance, 2018–2020 (£/kg cold deadweight), continued

		GB (IN)		(GB (OUT)		HUN	
	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
Feed	0.92	0.90	0.98	0.95	0.91	0.98	0.87	0.92	0.80
Other variable costs	0.23	0.22	0.22	0.29	0.27	0.27	0.25	0.23	0.18
Total variable costs	1.15	1.12	1.19	1.24	1.18	1.24	1.12	1.15	0.97
Labour	0.12	0.13	0.12	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.12	0.12	0.09
Depreciation and finance	0.18	0.18	0.17	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.20	0.20	0.20
Total fixed costs	0.30	0.30	0.29	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.32	0.32	0.30
Total	1.45	1.42	1.49	1.51	1.44	1.50	1.44	1.47	1.27
		IRE			ITA			NL	
	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
Feed	0.96	0.95	0.96	1.12	1.07	1.11	0.77	0.80	0.80
Other variable costs	0.22	0.23	0.24	0.21	0.22	0.22	0.32	0.31	0.32
Total variable costs	1.18	1.18	1.20	1.33	1.29	1.33	1.08	1.11	1.12
Labour	0.13	0.13	0.14	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.11	0.12	0.12
Depreciation and finance	0.20	0.20	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.18	0.16	0.17
Total fixed costs	0.33	0.34	0.36	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.29	0.29	0.29
Total	1.51	1.52	1.56	1.70	1.66	1.70	1.38	1.40	1.41
		SPA			SWE			USA	
	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
Feed	0.83	0.83	0.84	0.92	0.91	0.88	0.60	0.64	0.64
Other variable costs	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.17	0.16	0.18	0.12	0.12	0.13
Total variable costs	1.05	1.04	1.07	1.09	1.07	1.05	0.71	0.76	0.77
Labour	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.14	0.15	0.15	0.06	0.07	0.07
Depreciation and finance	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.31	0.29	0.31	0.12	0.07	0.12
Total fixed costs	0.20	0.20	0.21	0.45	0.44	0.46	0.18	0.14	0.19
Total	1.25	1.25	1.27	1.54	1.52	1.52	0.89	0.89	0.96
		J avera	_						
	2018	2019	2020						
Feed	0.86	0.86	0.85						
Other variable costs	0.24	0.24	0.24						
Total variable costs	1.10	1.09	1.09						
Labour	0.13	0.13	0.13						

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding

Depreciation and finance 0.21 0.20

Total fixed costs

Total

0.34

1.43

0.33

1.42

0.21

0.34

1.43

Net margins in Great Britain

The net margins shown in Figure 4 are based on the difference between the monthly price and the estimated total cost of producing pig meat (including depreciation costs) for an average producer. The results shown in the chart should only be considered as indicative of general trends because:

- Physical and financial performance levels can vary greatly between producers
- The assumptions used for feed costs using spot compound prices will not apply to all producers, due to the range of feed procurement strategies in the industry
- There are various rearing and finishing production systems for weaned piglets, including fully slatted, semi-slatted, straw barns and outdoor options

The monthly price used to calculate net margins for indoor-bred pigs is the SPP (Standard Pig Price) and the monthly price used to calculate net margins for outdoor-bred pigs is the APP (All Pig Price). Therefore, these differ from the overall UK Reference Price and explain why indoor-bred and outdoor-bred pigs can have a different experience to what may be concluded from overall figures.

Details of these prices can be found on the AHDB website.

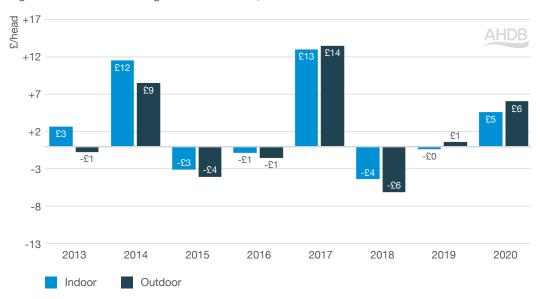


Figure 4. Estimated net margins in Great Britain, 2013-2020

The volatility of net margin returns for pig producers in Great Britain is clearly illustrated in the above chart. From 2013–2020 inclusive, indoor and outdoor pig producers achieved positive margins in only four out of the eight years.

During prolonged periods of negative margins, specialist pig producers with no other farm enterprises or farm diversification are particularly vulnerable and may leave the industry. Many producers make little or no investment during these periods and some depopulate for a period of time.

Annual averages can mask volatility within years.

In 2014, early higher pig prices were followed by declining prices, resulting in a negative margin in the last month of 2014 and a positive average margin overall.

With lower feed costs but continued declining prices, 2015 resulted in an average negative margin for both indoor and outdoor pig producers.

In 2016, low prices in the first seven months of the year resulted in negative margins estimated at up to £12 per pig for indoor and outdoor producers. During the rest of 2016, rising prices covered increasing feed costs, with the end of 2016 resulting in positive net margins estimated at around £14 per pig for indoor producers and £13 for outdoor producers. This resulted in an overall small negative margin for 2016.

In 2017, despite an increase in the cost of production, rising pig prices resulted in healthy margins throughout the year.

In 2018, the combination of increasing costs of production and lower pork prices resulted in significantly lower, but still positive, net margins for indoor producers in the first half of 2018. However, outdoor producers went into negative margins after the first quarter. The following negative margins estimated at up to £10 per pig for both indoor and outdoor producers resulted in negative margins on average for the year.

The start of 2019, with still relatively high feed prices and low pig prices, was challenging, resulting in estimated negative margins in the first quarter of up to £16 per pig for indoor and £13 per pig for outdoor pig producers. Falling feed prices, improved performance and rising pig prices turned this around, with the second half of 2019 returning positive margins of up to £12 per pig for both indoor and outdoor pig producers. For 2019 as a whole, estimates for indoor pig producers show them breaking even overall, just dipping into a small negative margin. Overall estimates for outdoor pig producers indicate they achieved a small positive margin of nearly £1 per pig.

At the start of 2020, both indoor and outdoor pig producers were achieving positive margins estimated at $\mathfrak{L}13$ per pig. Pig prices continued to increase until August and then prices declined month on month for the rest of 2020, hitting a low in December 2020. For indoor pig producers, standard pig prices fell by 8% from January to December 2020. For outdoor pig producers attracting a premium, prices fell by 6% over the same period.

Even though there was a continued improvement in physical performance within the industry during 2020, there were fluctuating feed prices and, together with the fall in pig prices, it is estimated that both indoor and outdoor pig producers started experiencing negative margins by the last quarter of 2020. The overall average for 2020 resulted in positive net margins for pig producers; estimated at £5 per pig for indoor pig producers and £6 per pig for outdoor pig producers.

The negative margins in the last quarter of 2020 continued into 2021 with increasing feed prices and lower pig prices in 2021 Q1 resulting in the worst negative margins for a decade, estimated at -£29 per pig.



Physical performance summary

Table 7. Summary of physical performance, 2018–2020

		AUS			BEL		E	BRA (M1)
	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
Pigs weaned/sow/year	24.79	25.27	25.74	29.63	29.98	31.75	28.71	28.34	28.85
Pigs reared/sow/year	24.19	24.51	24.97	28.30	29.02	30.51	27.85	27.49	27.99
Pigs sold/sow/year	23.72	24.04	24.53	27.31	28.06	29.84	27.15	26.80	27.29
Litters/sow/year	2.29	2.29	2.29	2.34	2.32	2.37	2.43	2.41	2.43
Rearing mortality (%)	2.4	3.0	3.0	4.5	3.2	3.9	3.0	3.0	3.0
Finishing mortality (%)	2.0	1.9	1.8	3.5	3.3	2.2	2.5	2.5	2.5
Finishing daily liveweight gain (g/day)	805	810	825	700	727	742	880	880	880
Finishing feed conversion ratio	2.87	2.88	2.85	2.78	2.74	2.71	2.50	2.50	2.50
Average liveweight at slaughter (kg)	121	122	122	116	117	118	110	110	110
Average carcase weight – cold (kg)	95.0	95.1	95.7	95.7	96.3	97.3	82.0	82.0	82.0
Carcase meat production/sow/year (kg)	2,252	2,286	2,347	2,615	2,703	2,905	2,226	2,197	2,237
	Е	BRA (SC	;)		CAN			DEN	
	2018	3RA (SC 2019	2020	2018	CAN 2019	2020	2018	DEN 2019	2020
Pigs weaned/sow/year				2018 25.34		2020 25.34	2018 33.57		2020 33.89
Pigs weaned/sow/year Pigs reared/sow/year	2018	2019	2020		2019			2019	
	2018 27.87	2019 28.09	2020 29.12	25.34	2019 25.34	25.34	33.57	2019 33.60	33.89
Pigs reared/sow/year	2018 27.87 27.27	2019 28.09 27.48	2020 29.12 28.25	25.34 24.83	2019 25.34 24.83	25.34 24.83	33.57 32.49	2019 33.60 32.39	33.89 32.67
Pigs reared/sow/year Pigs sold/sow/year	2018 27.87 27.27 26.66	2019 28.09 27.48 26.87	2020 29.12 28.25 27.68	25.34 24.83 23.96	2019 25.34 24.83 23.96	25.34 24.83 23.96	33.57 32.49 31.42	2019 33.60 32.39 31.29	33.89 32.67 31.56
Pigs reared/sow/year Pigs sold/sow/year Litters/sow/year	2018 27.87 27.27 26.66 2.33	2019 28.09 27.48 26.87 2.32	2020 29.12 28.25 27.68 2.34	25.34 24.83 23.96 2.30	2019 25.34 24.83 23.96 2.30	25.34 24.83 23.96 2.30	33.57 32.49 31.42 2.26	2019 33.60 32.39 31.29 2.26	33.89 32.67 31.56 2.25
Pigs reared/sow/year Pigs sold/sow/year Litters/sow/year Rearing mortality (%)	2018 27.87 27.27 26.66 2.33 2.2	2019 28.09 27.48 26.87 2.32 2.2	2020 29.12 28.25 27.68 2.34 3.0	25.34 24.83 23.96 2.30 2.0	2019 25.34 24.83 23.96 2.30 2.0	25.34 24.83 23.96 2.30 2.0	33.57 32.49 31.42 2.26 3.2	2019 33.60 32.39 31.29 2.26 3.6	33.89 32.67 31.56 2.25 3.6
Pigs reared/sow/year Pigs sold/sow/year Litters/sow/year Rearing mortality (%) Finishing mortality (%) Finishing daily	2018 27.87 27.27 26.66 2.33 2.2 2.3	2019 28.09 27.48 26.87 2.32 2.2 2.3	2020 29.12 28.25 27.68 2.34 3.0 2.0	25.34 24.83 23.96 2.30 2.0 3.5	2019 25.34 24.83 23.96 2.30 2.0 3.5	25.34 24.83 23.96 2.30 2.0 3.5	33.57 32.49 31.42 2.26 3.2 3.3	2019 33.60 32.39 31.29 2.26 3.6 3.4	33.89 32.67 31.56 2.25 3.6 3.4
Pigs reared/sow/year Pigs sold/sow/year Litters/sow/year Rearing mortality (%) Finishing mortality (%) Finishing daily liveweight gain (g/day) Finishing feed	2018 27.87 27.27 26.66 2.33 2.2 2.3 827	2019 28.09 27.48 26.87 2.32 2.2 2.3 827	2020 29.12 28.25 27.68 2.34 3.0 2.0 879	25.34 24.83 23.96 2.30 2.0 3.5 876	2019 25.34 24.83 23.96 2.30 2.0 3.5 876	25.34 24.83 23.96 2.30 2.0 3.5 876	33.57 32.49 31.42 2.26 3.2 3.3 975	2019 33.60 32.39 31.29 2.26 3.6 3.4 991	33.89 32.67 31.56 2.25 3.6 3.4 1030
Pigs reared/sow/year Pigs sold/sow/year Litters/sow/year Rearing mortality (%) Finishing mortality (%) Finishing daily liveweight gain (g/day) Finishing feed conversion ratio Average liveweight	2018 27.87 27.27 26.66 2.33 2.2 2.3 827 2.44	2019 28.09 27.48 26.87 2.32 2.2 2.3 827 2.44	2020 29.12 28.25 27.68 2.34 3.0 2.0 879 2.41	25.34 24.83 23.96 2.30 2.0 3.5 876 3.00	2019 25.34 24.83 23.96 2.30 2.0 3.5 876 3.00	25.34 24.83 23.96 2.30 2.0 3.5 876 3.00	33.57 32.49 31.42 2.26 3.2 3.3 975 2.63	2019 33.60 32.39 31.29 2.26 3.6 3.4 991 2.63	33.89 32.67 31.56 2.25 3.6 3.4 1030 2.60

Table 7. Summary of physical performance, 2018–2020, continued

		FIN			FRA			GER	
	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
Pigs weaned/sow/year	27.46	28.47	29.87	28.49	29.37	30.08	30.10	29.95	30.63
Pigs reared/sow/year	26.80	27.79	29.21	27.69	28.55	29.28	29.22	28.99	29.77
Pigs sold/sow/year	26.07	27.04	28.48	26.62	27.47	28.20	28.49	28.21	29.00
Litters/sow/year	2.23	2.25	2.27	2.34	2.35	2.37	2.32	2.30	2.30
Rearing mortality (%)	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.9	3.2	2.8
Finishing mortality (%)	2.7	2.7	2.5	3.9	3.8	3.7	2.5	2.7	2.6
Finishing daily liveweight gain (g/day)	980	972	1010	803	812	820	842	849	859
Finishing feed conversion ratio	2.70	2.70	2.69	2.75	2.75	2.73	2.79	2.78	2.77
Average liveweight at slaughter (kg)	122	123	121	120	121	122	122	122	123
Average carcase weight – cold (kg)	90.7	91.5	90.3	92.0	92.4	93.0	94.6	94.5	95.0
Carcase meat production/sow/year (kg)	2,365	2,473	2,571	2,448	2,538	2,621	2,695	2,665	2,754
		GB (IN)		G	B (OUT)		HUN	
	2018	GB (IN) 2019	2020	2018	3B (OUT 2019	2020	2018	HUN 2019	2020
Pigs weaned/sow/year	2018 27.35						2018 25.74		2020 31.93
Pigs weaned/sow/year Pigs reared/sow/year		2019	2020	2018	2019	2020		2019	
	27.35	2019 27.45	2020 27.43	2018 23.22	2019 24.12	2020 24.43	25.74	2019 27.77	31.93
Pigs reared/sow/year	27.35 26.24	201927.4526.37	202027.4326.35	2018 23.22 22.28	2019 24.12 23.17	2020 24.43 23.46	25.74 25.25	2019 27.77 27.24	31.93 31.32
Pigs reared/sow/year Pigs sold/sow/year	27.35 26.24 25.41	2019 27.45 26.37 25.54	2020 27.43 26.35 25.42	2018 23.22 22.28 21.57	2019 24.12 23.17 22.44	2020 24.43 23.46 22.64	25.74 25.25 24.32	2019 27.77 27.24 26.57	31.93 31.32 30.38
Pigs reared/sow/year Pigs sold/sow/year Litters/sow/year	27.35 26.24 25.41 2.28	2019 27.45 26.37 25.54 2.27	2020 27.43 26.35 25.42 2.25	2018 23.22 22.28 21.57 2.20	2019 24.12 23.17 22.44 2.25	2020 24.43 23.46 22.64 2.23	25.74 25.25 24.32 2.31	2019 27.77 27.24 26.57 2.36	31.93 31.32 30.38 2.39
Pigs reared/sow/year Pigs sold/sow/year Litters/sow/year Rearing mortality (%)	27.35 26.24 25.41 2.28 4.1	2019 27.45 26.37 25.54 2.27 3.9	2020 27.43 26.35 25.42 2.25 4.0	2018 23.22 22.28 21.57 2.20 4.1	2019 24.12 23.17 22.44 2.25 3.9	2020 24.43 23.46 22.64 2.23 4.0	25.74 25.25 24.32 2.31 1.9	2019 27.77 27.24 26.57 2.36 1.9	31.93 31.32 30.38 2.39 1.9
Pigs reared/sow/year Pigs sold/sow/year Litters/sow/year Rearing mortality (%) Finishing mortality (%) Finishing daily	27.35 26.24 25.41 2.28 4.1 3.2	2019 27.45 26.37 25.54 2.27 3.9 3.2	2020 27.43 26.35 25.42 2.25 4.0 3.5	2018 23.22 22.28 21.57 2.20 4.1 3.2	2019 24.12 23.17 22.44 2.25 3.9 3.2	2020 24.43 23.46 22.64 2.23 4.0 3.5	25.74 25.25 24.32 2.31 1.9 3.7	2019 27.77 27.24 26.57 2.36 1.9 2.5	31.93 31.32 30.38 2.39 1.9 3.0
Pigs reared/sow/year Pigs sold/sow/year Litters/sow/year Rearing mortality (%) Finishing mortality (%) Finishing daily liveweight gain (g/day) Finishing feed	27.35 26.24 25.41 2.28 4.1 3.2 866	2019 27.45 26.37 25.54 2.27 3.9 3.2 860	2020 27.43 26.35 25.42 2.25 4.0 3.5 856	2018 23.22 22.28 21.57 2.20 4.1 3.2 866	2019 24.12 23.17 22.44 2.25 3.9 3.2 860	2020 24.43 23.46 22.64 2.23 4.0 3.5 856	25.74 25.25 24.32 2.31 1.9 3.7 696	2019 27.77 27.24 26.57 2.36 1.9 2.5 700	31.93 31.32 30.38 2.39 1.9 3.0 699
Pigs reared/sow/year Pigs sold/sow/year Litters/sow/year Rearing mortality (%) Finishing mortality (%) Finishing daily liveweight gain (g/day) Finishing feed conversion ratio Average liveweight	27.35 26.24 25.41 2.28 4.1 3.2 866 2.79	2019 27.45 26.37 25.54 2.27 3.9 3.2 860 2.68	2020 27.43 26.35 25.42 2.25 4.0 3.5 856 2.67	2018 23.22 22.28 21.57 2.20 4.1 3.2 866 2.79	2019 24.12 23.17 22.44 2.25 3.9 3.2 860 2.68	2020 24.43 23.46 22.64 2.23 4.0 3.5 856 2.67	25.74 25.25 24.32 2.31 1.9 3.7 696	2019 27.77 27.24 26.57 2.36 1.9 2.5 700	31.93 31.32 30.38 2.39 1.9 3.0 699

Table 7. Summary of physical performance, 2018–2020, continued

		IRE			ITA			NL	
	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
Pigs weaned/sow/year	28.48	28.56	29.28	25.08	24.85	25.41	30.55	30.10	30.82
Pigs reared/sow/year	27.65	27.73	28.48	23.93	23.80	24.14	29.76	29.38	30.11
Pigs sold/sow/year	26.98	26.99	27.72	23.33	23.20	23.46	29.01	28.68	29.36
Litters/sow/year	2.34	2.28	2.31	2.24	2.22	2.23	2.35	2.33	2.34
Rearing mortality (%)	2.9	2.9	2.8	4.6	4.3	5.0	2.6	2.4	2.3
Finishing mortality (%)	2.4	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.8	2.5	2.4	2.5
Finishing daily liveweight gain (g/day)	885	904	921	690	694	706	829	847	866
Finishing feed conversion ratio	2.72	2.68	2.60	3.74	3.71	3.74	2.56	2.56	2.56
Average liveweight at slaughter (kg)	113	114	115	170	170	170	121	122	125
Average carcase weight – cold (kg)	84.5	85.9	88.2	136.6	136.6	137.0	94.4	95.4	97.4
Carcase meat production/sow/year (kg)	2,279	2,320	2,445	3,187	3,169	3,214	2,738	2,737	2,860
p. Jaaolion, John (Ng)									
p. 13dd dd. 17dd (Ng)		SPA			SWE			USA	
p. sadonom sown your (ng)	2018	SPA 2019	2020	2018	SWE 2019	2020	2018	USA 2019	2020
Pigs weaned/sow/year	2018 27.45		2020 28.12	2018 26.83		2020 27.82	2018 26.80		2020 27.29
		2019			2019			2019	
Pigs weaned/sow/year	27.45	2019 27.58	28.12	26.83	2019 27.16	27.82	26.80	2019 27.91	27.29
Pigs weaned/sow/year Pigs reared/sow/year	27.45 26.18	201927.5826.15	28.12 26.75	26.83 26.29	2019 27.16 26.62	27.82 27.26	26.80 25.70	2019 27.91 26.79	27.29 26.03
Pigs weaned/sow/year Pigs reared/sow/year Pigs sold/sow/year	27.45 26.18 25.19	2019 27.58 26.15 25.06	28.12 26.75 25.66	26.83 26.29 25.82	2019 27.16 26.62 26.17	27.82 27.26 26.80	26.80 25.70 24.54	2019 27.91 26.79 25.53	27.29 26.03 24.65
Pigs weaned/sow/year Pigs reared/sow/year Pigs sold/sow/year Litters/sow/year	27.45 26.18 25.19 2.31	2019 27.58 26.15 25.06 2.30	28.12 26.75 25.66 2.30	26.83 26.29 25.82 2.23	2019 27.16 26.62 26.17 2.23	27.82 27.26 26.80 2.24	26.80 25.70 24.54 2.44	2019 27.91 26.79 25.53 2.47	27.29 26.03 24.65 2.40
Pigs weaned/sow/year Pigs reared/sow/year Pigs sold/sow/year Litters/sow/year Rearing mortality (%)	27.45 26.18 25.19 2.31 4.6	2019 27.58 26.15 25.06 2.30 5.2	28.12 26.75 25.66 2.30 4.8	26.83 26.29 25.82 2.23 2.0	2019 27.16 26.62 26.17 2.23 2.0	27.82 27.26 26.80 2.24 2.0	26.80 25.70 24.54 2.44 4.1	2019 27.91 26.79 25.53 2.47 4.0	27.29 26.03 24.65 2.40 4.6
Pigs weaned/sow/year Pigs reared/sow/year Pigs sold/sow/year Litters/sow/year Rearing mortality (%) Finishing mortality (%)	27.45 26.18 25.19 2.31 4.6 3.8	2019 27.58 26.15 25.06 2.30 5.2 4.1	28.12 26.75 25.66 2.30 4.8 4.1	26.83 26.29 25.82 2.23 2.0 1.8	2019 27.16 26.62 26.17 2.23 2.0 1.7	27.82 27.26 26.80 2.24 2.0	26.80 25.70 24.54 2.44 4.1 4.5	2019 27.91 26.79 25.53 2.47 4.0 4.7	27.29 26.03 24.65 2.40 4.6 5.3
Pigs weaned/sow/year Pigs reared/sow/year Pigs sold/sow/year Litters/sow/year Rearing mortality (%) Finishing mortality (%) Finishing daily liveweight gain (g/day) Finishing feed	27.45 26.18 25.19 2.31 4.6 3.8 726	2019 27.58 26.15 25.06 2.30 5.2 4.1 742	28.12 26.75 25.66 2.30 4.8 4.1 754	26.83 26.29 25.82 2.23 2.0 1.8 946	2019 27.16 26.62 26.17 2.23 2.0 1.7	27.82 27.26 26.80 2.24 2.0 1.7	26.80 25.70 24.54 2.44 4.1 4.5 860	2019 27.91 26.79 25.53 2.47 4.0 4.7	27.29 26.03 24.65 2.40 4.6 5.3 853
Pigs weaned/sow/year Pigs reared/sow/year Pigs sold/sow/year Litters/sow/year Rearing mortality (%) Finishing mortality (%) Finishing daily liveweight gain (g/day) Finishing feed conversion ratio Average liveweight	27.45 26.18 25.19 2.31 4.6 3.8 726	2019 27.58 26.15 25.06 2.30 5.2 4.1 742 2.48	28.12 26.75 25.66 2.30 4.8 4.1 754 2.46	26.83 26.29 25.82 2.23 2.0 1.8 946 2.85	2019 27.16 26.62 26.17 2.23 2.0 1.7 948	27.82 27.26 26.80 2.24 2.0 1.7 973	26.80 25.70 24.54 2.44 4.1 4.5 860 2.68	2019 27.91 26.79 25.53 2.47 4.0 4.7 854 2.73	27.29 26.03 24.65 2.40 4.6 5.3 853 2.75

Table 7. Summary of physical performance, 2018–2020, continued

		EU average	
	2018	2019	2020
Pigs weaned/sow/year	27.61	28.55	29.61
Pigs reared/sow/year	26.73	27.68	28.71
Pigs sold/sow/year	25.95	26.90	27.92
Litters/sow/year	2.29	2.29	2.30
Rearing mortality (%)	3.2	3.1	3.1
Finishing mortality (%)	2.9	2.8	2.7
Finishing daily liveweight Gain (g/day)	825	833	850
Finishing feed conversion ratio	2.83	2.83	2.79
Average liveweight at slaughter (kg)	121	123	124
Average carcase weight – cold (kg)	93.3	95.2	96.28
Carcase meat production/sow/year (kg)	2,412	2,545	2,672

Pigs weaned per sow per year

The overall average number of pigs weaned per sow per year in the EU InterPIG countries showed a 3.7% increase in 2020, up from 28.5 in 2019 to 29.6 in 2020. As shown in Figure 5, performance continued to improve in many EU countries. In Great Britain, the outdoor herds showed an increase of 1% compared with 2019, but there was no improvement on average in the indoor herds.

Denmark and Hungary had the best results for pigs weaned, with Denmark yet again achieving an average of over 33 pigs weaned per sow per year. The non-EU countries, including Great Britain, continued to perform below the EU average.

There is a difference of 8.5 pigs weaned per sow per year between the poorest-performing EU InterPIG country (Italy at 25.4) and the best-performing country (Denmark at 33.9).

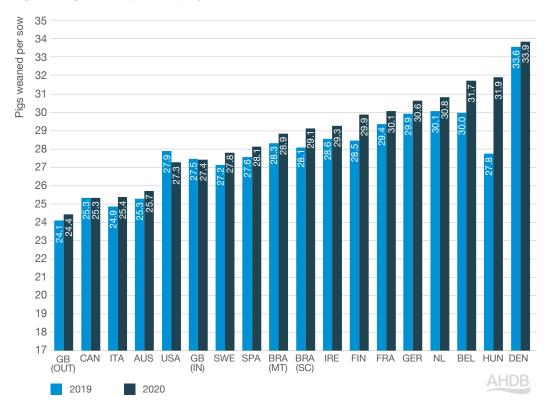
The number of pigs weaned per sow per year in Great Britain indoor herds has not changed at 27.4. Great Britain's outdoor herds achieved 24.4, compared to 24.1 in 2019.

While Great Britain has a significant proportion of sows kept outdoors, the lower number of pigs weaned per sow per year in all systems is still a major cause of the relatively high cost of production compared with EU countries. This needs to be addressed if Great Britain want to be competitive with the rest of Europe.

Pigs weaned per sow per year is a result of three different elements: pigs born alive per litter, litters per sow per year and pre-weaning mortality.

- Great Britain's indoor herds averaged 2.25 litters per sow per year, a slight decline compared to 2019. Outdoor herds averaged 2.23, compared with 2.25 in 2019.
 Many EU countries now achieve over 2.3, with non-EU countries USA and Brazil achieving 2.4
- Pre-weaning mortality (indoor sows 12.2%; outdoor sows 12.4%) was an increase compared to 2019, but lower than the EU average of 13.8%
- A significant impact on pigs weaned per sow per year in Great Britain is the number of pigs born alive per litter. The 2020 average for indoor sows, at 13.9, was a small increase on 13.6 in 2019. With 12.5, outdoor sows increased slightly from 12.2 in 2019. The 2020 average for participating EU countries was 14.9

Figure 5. Pigs weaned per sow per year, 2019-2020

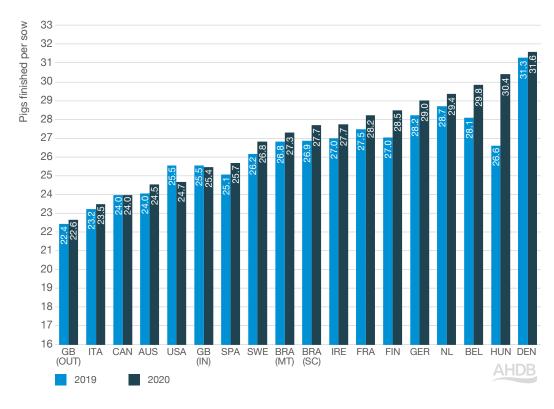


Pigs finished per sow per year

As shown in Figure 6, the average number of pigs finished per indoor sow in Great Britain was maintained, at 25.4 in 2020. For outdoor sows, pigs finished per sow per year increased in 2020 by 1% to 22.6, compared with 22.4 in 2019.

In 2020, the EU average for pigs finished per sow per year was 27.9, 4% higher than in 2019. Denmark still has the highest numbers, finishing more than 31 pigs per sow per year. Within the InterPIG group, Great Britain outdoor herds continue to have the lowest number of pigs finished per sow per year.

Figure 6. Pigs finished per sow per year, 2019-2020



Appendix 1

Table 8. InterPIG members' pig industry trends, 2020

	AUS	BEL	BRA	CAN	CZE	DEN	FIN	FRA	GER
Breeding sow numbers (000 head)	227	395	3,005	1,228	134	1,273	89	1,035	1,695
Annual pig slaughterings (000 head)	5,068	11,150	42,850	22,717	2,281	17,279	1,906	23,291	53,318
Pig meat production (000 tonnes)	503	1,099	4,125	2,130	211	1,595	175	2,201	5,112
Pig meat imports (000 tonnes cwe)*	0	0	2	242	0	0	0	0	0
Pig meat exports (000 tonnes cwe)*	0	0	861	1,284	0	0	0	0	0
Pig meat consumption (000 tonnes cwe)*	503	1,099	3,266	1,088	211	1,595	175	2,201	5,112
Pig meat consumption (kg per head)*	55.5	94.3	15.2	28.5	19.7	274.3	31.5	33.6	60.8
	HUN	IRE	ITA	NL	POL	SPA	SWE	UK	USA
Breeding sow numbers (000 head)	HUN 243	147	ITA 569	NL 923	POL 815	SPA 2,635	SWE 126	UK 406	USA 6,471
numbers								406	
numbers (000 head) Annual pig slaughterings	243	147	569	923	815	2,635	126	406	6,471
numbers (000 head) Annual pig slaughterings (000 head) Pig meat production	243	147 3,546	569	923	815	2,635 56,130	126	406 11,165	6,471 131,563
numbers (000 head) Annual pig slaughterings (000 head) Pig meat production (000 tonnes) Pig meat imports	243 4,701 448	147 3,546 320	569 10,608 1,271	923 16,666 1,662	815 20,869 1,974	2,635 56,130 5,003	126 2,623 247	406 11,165 984	6,471 131,563 12,845
numbers (000 head) Annual pig slaughterings (000 head) Pig meat production (000 tonnes) Pig meat imports (000 tonnes cwe)*	243 4,701 448	147 3,546 320	569 10,608 1,271	923 16,666 1,662	815 20,869 1,974	2,635 56,130 5,003	126 2,623 247	406 11,165 984	6,471 131,563 12,845 429

^{*}Estimated figures

cwe = carcase weight equivalent

Sources: AHDB, IHS Maritime & Trade - Global Trade Atlas®, USDA, Eurostat

Additional tables and figures

Labels on bar charts are rounded and may indicate the same results when the bars do not appear equal.

Table 9. Ranking of EU production costs, 2015–2020

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	% of EU average
Belgium	3	3	1	2	3	1	88.7
Spain	14	10	8	6	9	2	89.1
Denmark	1	1	2	1	2	3	89.3
France	2	2	3	3	1	4	90.1
Netherlands	4	4	4	4	4	5	95.3
Germany	6	8	9	5	5	6	98.6
GB (IN)	5	6	6	7	6	7	101.2
GB (OUT)	8	12	12	11	10	8	101.9
Hungary	10	5	5	8	7	9	104.3
Finland	13	7	7	9	8	10	105.3
Ireland	11	13	13	12	12	11	106.6
Austria	9	9	11	10	11	12	109.2
Sweden	7	11	10	13	13	13	110.7
Italy	12	14	14	14	14	14	119.5

Note: Rankings – 1 = lowest cost; 14 = highest cost



Figure 7. Exchange rate movements, 2014-2020

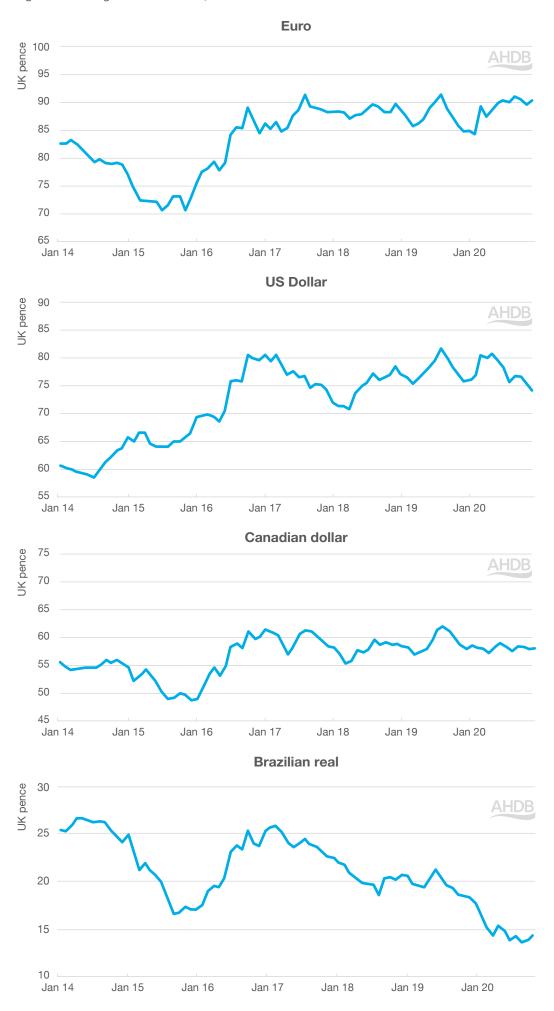


Table 10. Annual exchange rates

Year	1€=	€ to £	\$US to £	\$C to £	Real to £
2015	72.6p	1.38	1.53	1.95	5.01
2016	81.9p	1.22	1.35	1.79	4.66
2017	87.6p	1.14	1.29	1.67	4.11
2018	88.5p	1.13	1.33	1.73	4.86
2019	88.0p	1.14	1.27	1.69	5.00
2020	88.4p	1.13	1.28	1.72	6.41

Figure 8. Depreciation and finance costs, 2019–2020

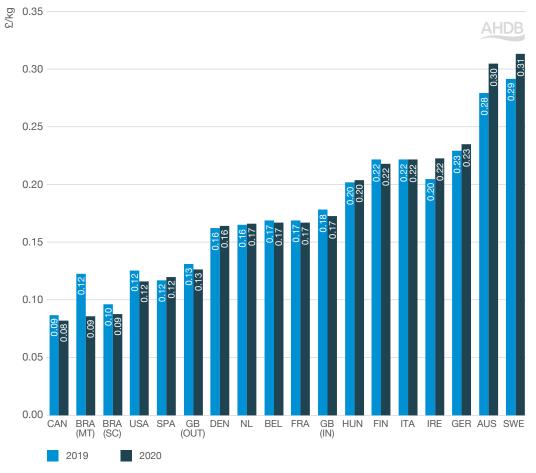
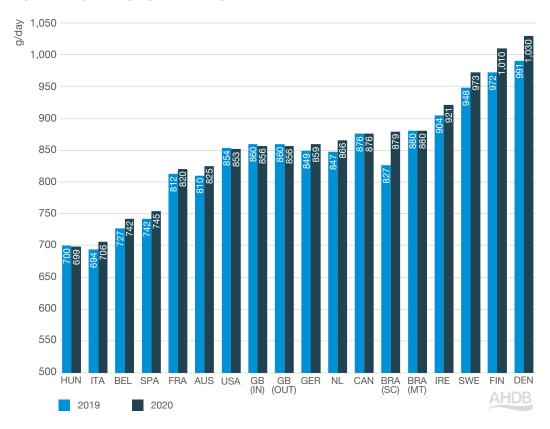




Figure 9. Daily liveweight gains (finishing herds), 2019-2020



The average Daily Liveweight Gain (DLG) and Feed Conversion Ratio (FCR) figures for indoor- and outdoor-bred piglets in Great Britain are the same because there is significant variation in the range of performance within various rearing and finishing systems (slatted, semi-slatted, straw barn, outdoor options). The available dataset has insufficient detail to split the data into multiple production systems and piglet backgrounds, so the average across the dataset has been used.

Figure 10. Feed conversion ratios (finishing herds), 2019-2020

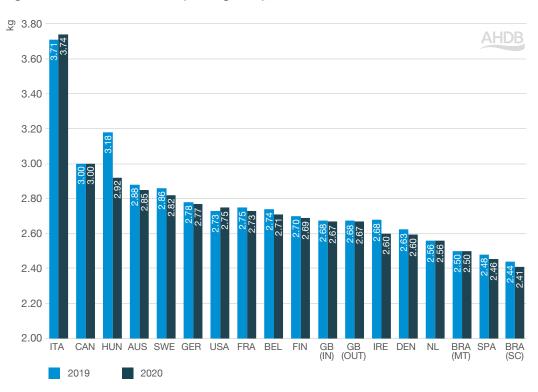
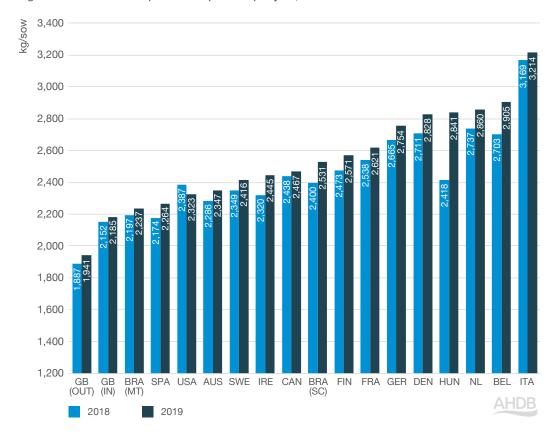


Figure 11. Carcase meat production per sow per year, 2019–2020



Standardising the physical results

Methodology

There is a wide variation in physical performance measures reported by InterPIG countries. Some of these variations could be due to differences between countries in the weight of animals produced. Other things being equal, an increase in slaughter weights and the length of time an animal is in the system will lead to a worsening in both the marginal daily liveweight gain (DLG) and the marginal feed conversion ratio (FCR).

Using methodology created by our French InterPIG partner ITP, the figures have been standardised on the basis of three weights:

- Transfer from breeding unit to rearing unit: 8 kg (GB (IN) = 7.4; GB (OUT) = 7.1 kg in 2020)
- Transfer from rearing unit to finishing unit: 30 kg (GB = 38.5 kg in 2020)
- Liveweight at slaughter: 120 kg (GB (IN) = 112.7; GB (OUT) = 112.4 kg in 2020)

This section examines the adjustments made to the finishing FCR and DLG figures in the European InterPIG countries, to exclude the differences caused by variations in national transfer and slaughter weights.



Figure 12. Standardised daily liveweight gains (finishing herds), 2020

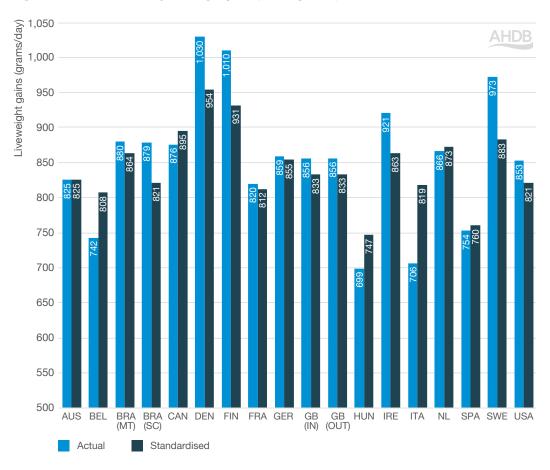


Figure 13. Standardised feed conversion ratios (finishing herds), 2020

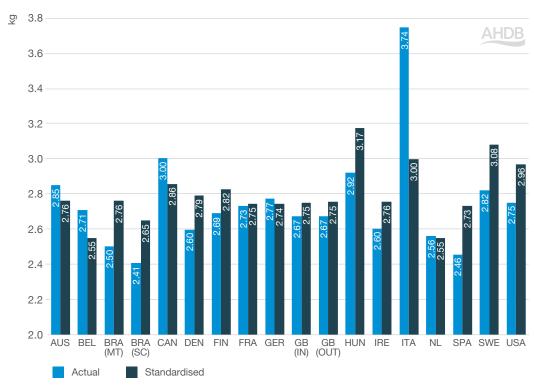


Table 11. GB and EU physical results, 2020

	GB indoor	GB outdoor	GB Overall 60% indoor: 40% outdoor	EU average (inc GB)	GB overall difference with EU average %
Pigs weaned/sow/year	27.4	24.4	26.2	29.6	-11
Pigs reared/sow/year	26.3	23.5	25.2	28.7	-12
Pigs sold/sow/year	25.4	22.6	24.3	27.9	-13
Pigs born alive/litter	13.9	12.5	13.3	14.9	-11
Pigs weaned/litter	12.2	10.9	11.7	12.8	-9
Litters/sow/year	2.25	2.23	2.2	2.30	-3
Sow mortality (%)	7.6	5.0	6.5	7.6	-14
Pre-weaning mortality (%)	12.2	12.4	12.3	13.8	-11
Rearing mortality (%)			4.0	3.1	+29
Finishing mortality (%)			3.5	2.7	+28
Transfer weight from breeding to rearing unit (kg)	7.4	7.1	7.3	7.1	+2
Lactation period (days)	26.6	26.4	26.6	27.5	-3
Transfer weight from rearing to finishing unit (kg)	38.5	38.5	38.5	29.0	+33
Rearing daily liveweight gain (g/day)	487	487	487	414	+18
Rearing feed conversion ratio	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8	-3
Finishing daily liveweight gain (g/day)	856	856	856	850	+1
Finishing feed conversion ratio	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.8	-4
Average number of days in rearing unit	64	65	64	52	+22
Average number of days in finishing unit	87	86	86	115	-25
Empty finishing unit days per cycle	7	7	7	9	-26
Pigs/pig place/year (finishing)	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.1	+27
Average live weight at slaughter (kg)	112.7	112.4	112.6	124.5	-10
Average carcase weight – cold (kg)	85.9	85.8	85.9	96.3	-11
Killing-out percentage (cold weight)			76.3%	77.3%	-1
Carcase meat production/ sow/year (kg)	2,185	1,941	2,087	2,672	-22
Sow feed/sow/year (kg)	1,448	1,463	1,454	1,343	+8
Weaner/rearer feed/reared pig (kg)	54	54	54	39	+38
Finishing pigs feed consumption/slaughter (kg)	200	200	200	272	-26

Appendix 2

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