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## **MEAT MARKET SECTOR IN ROMANIA, CURRENT SITUATION AND PERSPECTIVES**

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**Abstract:** *Breeding animals and selling meat are traditional activities in Romania, having a special importance for the economy and the consumption of the population. This present paper is a research on the meat market sector in Romania, in the last years. In Romania, this sector has certain deficiencies, both at the level of production and processing and marketing. Now, the meat processing industry is disadvantaged in the market economy by the outdated and non-performing technology, the low level of long-term investments, and the lack of a payment system depending on the quality of the carcasses. The paper presents meat production by category, as well as its import and export. According to the data provided by Eurostat, Romania has become the largest net importer of pork in Central Europe and the Balkans, pork being the most deficient food product in Romania*

### **• Introduction**

Since Romania's entry into the European market, the Romanian poultry sector has evolved enormously, both in terms of quality, food safety, and through the diversification of rearing systems – starting from rearing on the ground and reaching the ecological, free-range system. The sector is currently above the European Union average in terms of technology.

### **• Material and method**

The key research methods employed were analysis and synthesis, analogy, and graphics to resemble the results. The data provided by the World Bank and the European Commission were analyzed.

### **• Results and discussions**

Despite the fact that pork is the meat of choice for consumers, most countries in Central Europe and the Balkan region, including Romania, are not self-sufficient in terms of pork production. The main net importers of pork in this region are Romania, Poland, the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic and Bulgaria. Although African swine fever (ASF) remains a prevalent feature in the Central European pig sector, outbreaks have decreased and industries in some Member States have increased investment to increase supply and reduce the share of imports in consumption.

### **• Conclusions**

The current context is not an optimistic one, a reinvention being necessary at the European and, implicitly, national level. Starting from the price increases of feed, energy and gas, the imminence of a dry year 2022, the increasing restriction of the production and distribution of meat for national sale, due to the influx of meat from other Member States, the African swine fever with the decimation of herds and the closure of many farms, the worrying evolution of avian influence at European level, the lack of application of protection means for the single European food market, fierce competition with large European producers and from third countries, all represent elements of long-term risk.