

Horsemeat in France

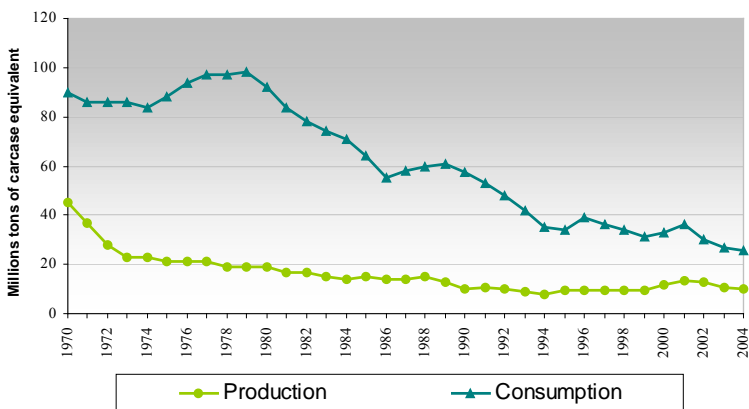
In France, horsemeat may be imported or produced from French horses or from imported live horses slaughtered in French slaughter-houses.

Production and consumption

In 2004, the French production of horse meat amounted to **9,8 thousand tons** of carcass equivalent. France produces mainly young colt's white meat.

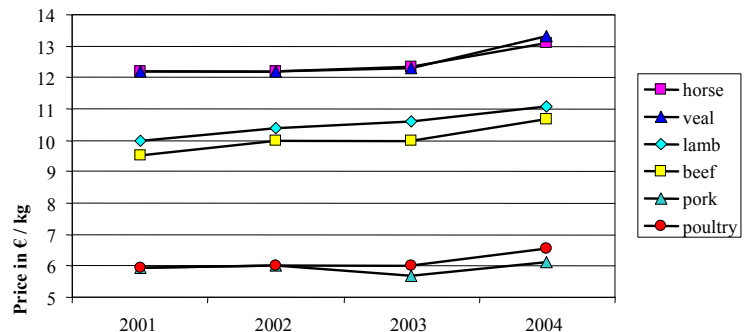
Moreover, concerning horse meat consumption, **25,6 thousand tons of carcass equivalent were eaten in France**. The meat concerned is that of **older horses** (red meat).

French production meets only 38,4 % of the demand. France therefore imports older horses and, conversely, exports colts for fattening.



Horsemeat consumption has been decreasing for 25 years in spite of a slight recovery at the time of the beef (1995 – 2001) or mutton (2001) crises. After a two-year growth in 2000 and 2001, horsemeat production and consumption have been going down since 2002.

Average purchase price of the meat bought by French households



In 2004, the average purchase price of the horse meat bought by French households was **13,10 €/ kg**, i.e. a **5,6%** increase according to 2003.

Horsemeat still remains one of the most expensive meat categories, alongside veal (**13,32 €/ kg**).

Slaughtering statistics

In 2004, **24,433 equidae** (7,032 tons of carcase equivalent) were slaughtered in France in one of the **156 approved slaughter-houses**.

The French region "Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur, the Vaucluse departement mainly, slaughtered 15% of the horses slaughtered for meat. Rhône Alpes and Languedoc Roussillon came 2nd and 3rd (13% and 12% respectively). However, this does not mean that these regions are fattening or breeding places, it may merely be due to the fact that approved slaughter-houses for horses are situated there.

Average production prices (live) again went down in 2004 to reach their 1999 level :

- ✓ 2,59 €/kg net for suckers (under one year-old colts) - « first-rate quality » (« extra » in French).
- ✓ 2,17 €/kg net for draught-breed foals (between 15 and 24 months-old colts) - « good quality ».
- ✓ 1,75 €/kg net for over five-year old draught-type horses - « first-rate quality ».
- ✓ 2,53 €/kg net for over five-year old warmblood-type horses - « first-rate quality ».



International trade

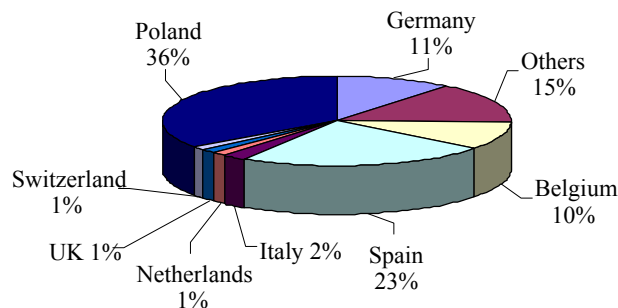
In 2004, horsemeat and live horse imports amounted to a total of 106,601 K€ and exports to 56,885 K€.

Logically, horsemeat imports follow the downward trend in consumption. Exports have been going up over the last 20 years.

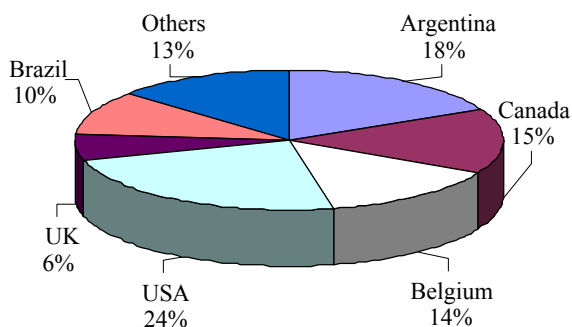
Horsemeat imported in France comes from different countries, mostly from the American continent.

The main destinations of French exported **horsemeat** are Belgium and Italy.

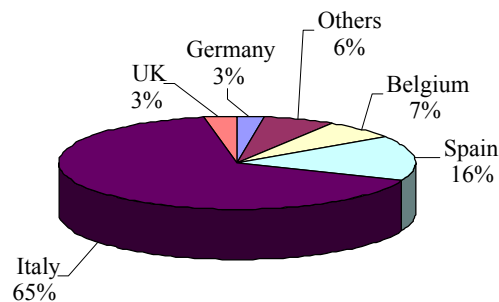
Live horse imports : 9 491 animals



Horse meat import : 26 893 tons



Live horse exports : 15 261 animals



There is also an international trade of live horses : imports come from Poland, Spain and Germany.

The main **export** destination is Italy where suckers are exported for fattening.