KSU, All-Fresh Beef Demand Index

Historical Summary (Jan. 1988 = 100) and January–June 2026 Comparison

https://agmanager.info/livestock-meat/meat-demand/monthly-domestic-meat-demand-indices-usdabls-data

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Data through June 2026 | September 15, 2026

What the index measures

It is how much beef was purchased relative to what that month's retail price would normally be expected to move in the domestic retail market.

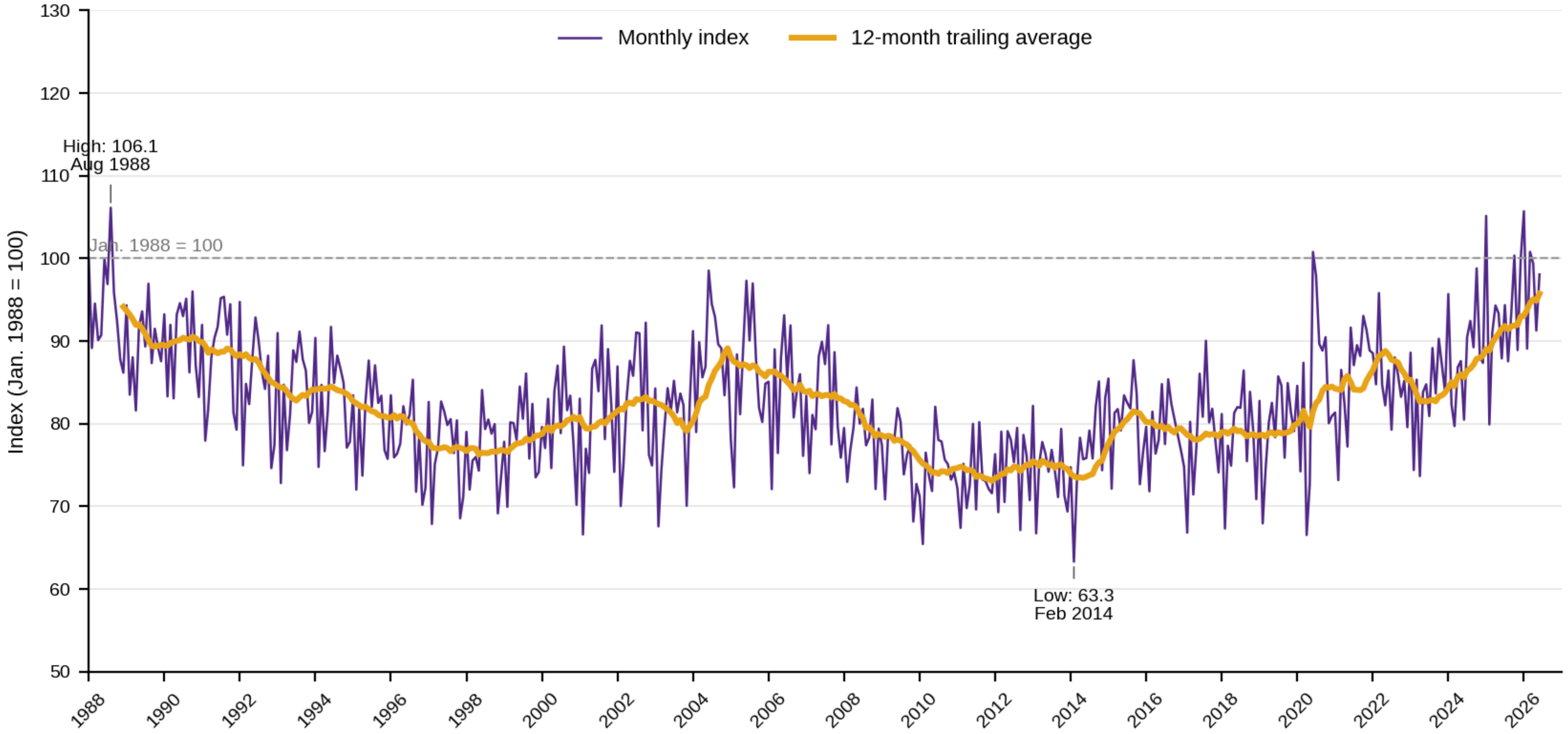
NOT "how much beef was sold" – that is a disappearance (or consumption proxy), volume metric

Index rises → consumers bought more than the market-clearing price would imply → demand shifted out (increased).

Index falls → demand shifted in (declined).

Source: Glynn Tonsor, Kansas State University, AgManager.info (USDA/BLS data). Data through June 2026.

Historical picture, January 1988 – June 2026



Source: Glynn Tonsor, Kansas State University, AgManager.info (USDA/BLS data). Rising index = consumption above what the observed retail price implied = demand growth.

A quarter century of erosion.

12-month average slid to a low of 73.1 (Dec 2011)

June 2026 is a record.

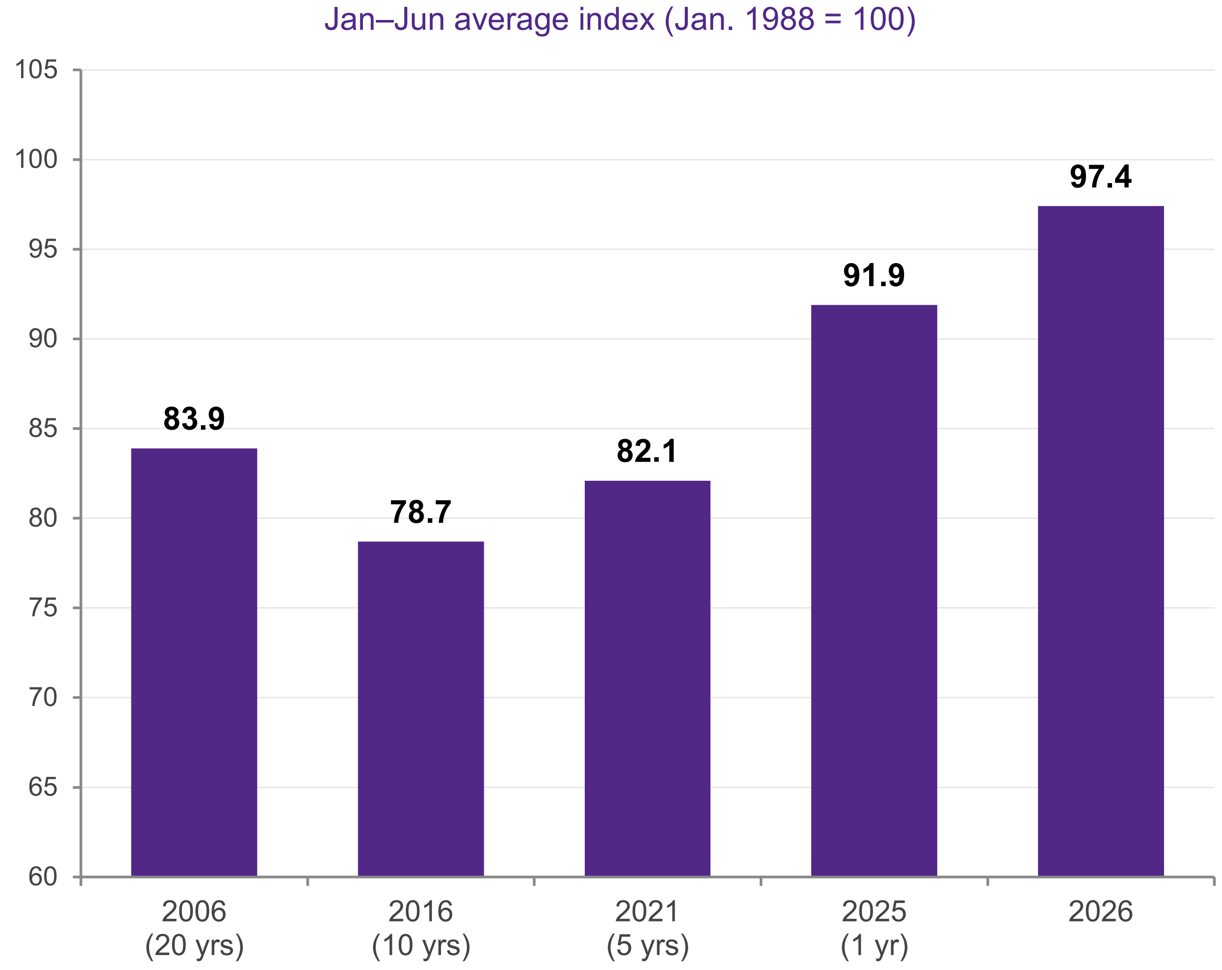
12-month average of 95.7 is the highest in the series' history.

Jan. 2026 (105.7) is the strongest month since Aug. 1988.

Source: Glynn Tonsor, Kansas State University, AgManager.info (USDA/BLS data). Data through June 2026.

January–June 2026 vs. 1, 5, 10 and 20 years earlier

Same six-month window each year removes seasonality. Values are the Jan–Jun average of the monthly index.



Comparison	Jan–Jun avg	2026 vs.	Rank (of 39)
2026	97.4	—	1st
2025 (1 yr earlier)	91.9	**+5.9%**	3rd
2021 (5 yrs earlier)	82.1	**+18.7%**	16th
2016 (10 yrs earlier)	78.7	**+23.8%**	26th
2006 (20 yrs earlier)	83.9	**+16.0%**	12th

First half of 2026 is the strongest in the 39-year series: U.S. consumer demand for beef is historically high!

Source: Glynn Tonsor, Kansas State University, AgManager.info (USDA/BLS data). Data through June 2026.

Key takeaways

+5.9%

vs. 2025

Building on what was the 3rd-strongest first half on record.

+18.7%

vs. 2021

Five years of growth

+23.8%

vs. 2016

Largest gap of the four; 2016 sat near the end of the post-2011 demand trough.

+16.0%

vs. 2006

Bottom line: consumers in the first half of 2026 bought more beef than expected given past price-quantity relationships – confirming demand growth

The index measures demand; it is not a consumption or price forecast.

Source: Glynn Tonsor, Kansas State University, AgManager.info (USDA/BLS data). Data through June 2026.