KSU, Retail Pork 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 pork was purchased relative to what that month's retail price would normally be expected to move in the domestic retail market.

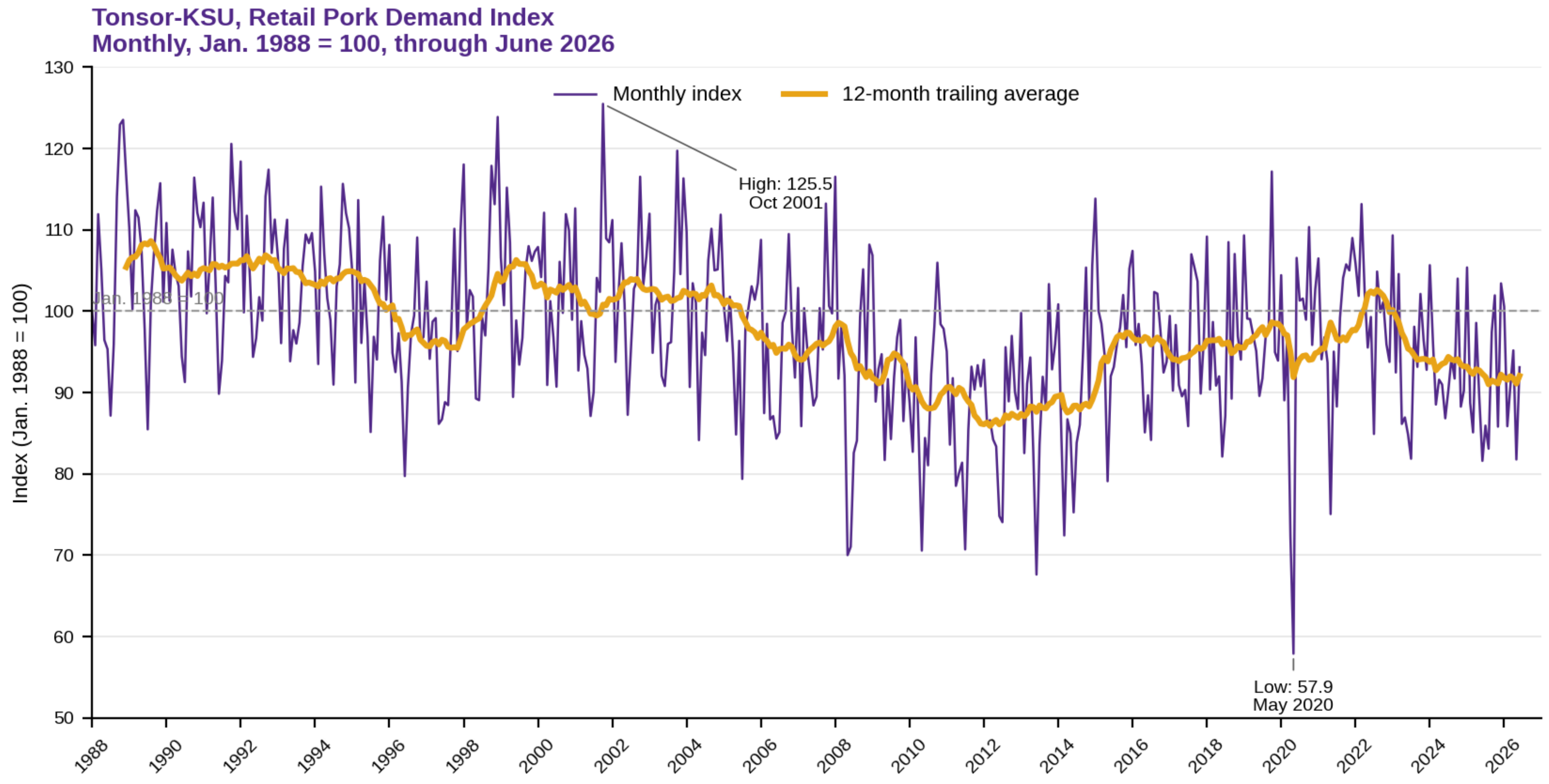
NOT "how much pork was sold" – that is a disappearance (or consumption proxy), volume metric

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.

Strongest in the late 1980s–1990s.

12-month average peaked at 108.6 (Aug 1989); series low of 85.9 (Mar 2012).

June 2026 is below the 1988 base.

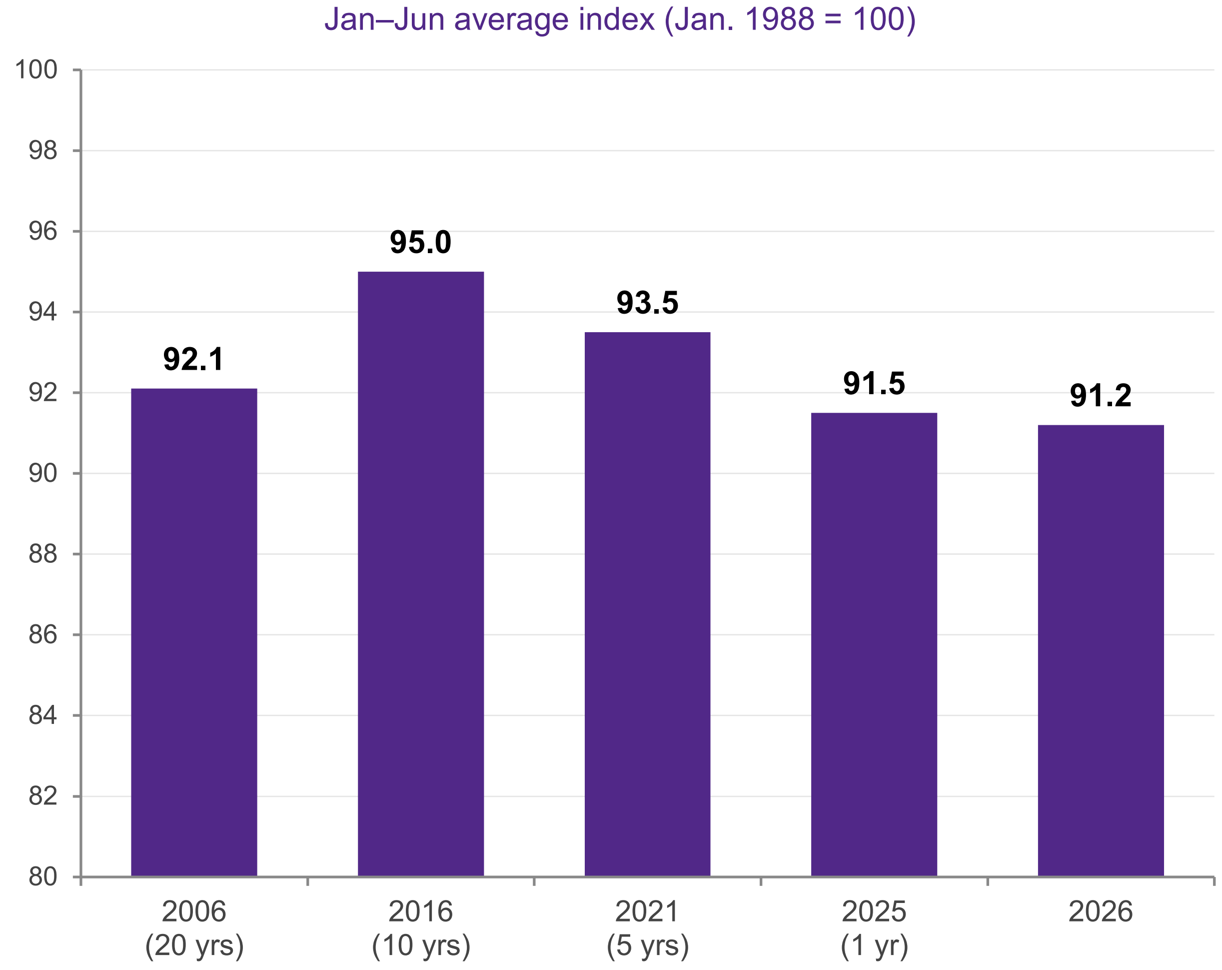
12-month average of 92.1 has eased each year since the end of 2022 (99.9).

The May 2020 low (57.9) is the COVID-19 disruption.

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	91.2	—	32nd
2025 (1 yr earlier)	91.5	**-0.3%**	31st
2021 (5 yrs earlier)	93.5	**-2.5%**	26th
2016 (10 yrs earlier)	95.0	**-4.0%**	20th
2006 (20 yrs earlier)	92.1	**-1.1%**	30th

First half of 2026 ranks 32nd of 39 in the series: U.S. consumer demand for pork is flat-to-soft, not growing.

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

Key takeaways

-0.3%

vs. 2025

2025 was itself a weak first half (31st of 39).

-2.5%

vs. 2021

Below a mid-table 2021 base

-4.0%

vs. 2016

Largest gap of the four; 2016 was part of the post-2014 recovery.

-1.1%

vs. 2006

Slightly below a 2006 that was already on the downslope.

Bottom line: consumers in the first half of 2026 bought about as much pork as past price-quantity relationships would predict – no demand growth, and modest erosion versus 5, 10, and 20 years ago

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.