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Sheep and Goats Exports from / Imports to Germany: A Descriptive Analysis

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Abstract: In 2002, Germany ranked 35th largest exporter of sheep and goats in the world (worth 2.2 million USD), while sheep and goats ranked 1163rd most exported product to Netherlands (1.34 million USD), France (174,000 USD), Belgium (166,000 USD), Kazakhstan (156,000 USD), and Bulgaria (137,000 USD), with Kazakhstan, Belgium, and Serbia were the fastest growing export markets for sheep and goats of Germany. In the same year, Germany ranked 14th largest importer of sheep and goats in the world (worth 33.2 million USD), while sheep and goats ranked 978th most imported product in Germany from Spain (13.2 million USD), Hungary (9.07 million USD), Netherlands (7.2 million USD), Romania (1.02 million USD), and France (925,000 USD), with Netherlands, Hungary, and France the fastest growing import markets in sheep and goats for Germany.

• Introduction

Germany's agriculture is a vital part of its economy and landscape (Agriculture in Germany – statistics & facts; Destatis; Germany – CAP Strategic Plan; Gross and net value added of agriculture in Germany from 2011 to 2023):

- Challenges: Farmers face challenges such as recent agricultural legislation, labor shortages, and the need for technological advancements to maintain productivity;
 - Diverse farming: Germany has over 276,000 farms, ranging from highly specialized farms to family farms in mountainous areas, with an average farm size around 61 ha;
 - Economic contribution: In 2023, the gross value added of agriculture in Germany amounted to around 31.02 billion euros, showing a slight increase from the previous year;
 - Main sectors: The most important sectors in terms of production value are milk, cereals, vegetables, and horticultural products;
 - Organic farming: There has been a significant increase in organic farming, with more farms and areas dedicated to organic practices.
- Germany's agricultural sector is market-oriented and export-driven, with a focus on sustainability and innovation
- As for livestock, Germany's livestock industry is a significant part of its agricultural sector, encompassing a variety of animals such as cattle, pigs, poultry, and sheep (PigProgress):
- Cattle: Germany has a substantial dairy industry, with dairy farms producing milk and dairy products; beef cattle are also raised;
 - Pigs: The pig industry is one of the largest in Germany, although it has faced challenges such as stricter animal welfare regulations and market pressures.
 - Poultry: Poultry farming, including chickens and turkeys, is another important sector, with a focus on both meat and egg production;
 - Sheep and goats: While smaller in scale compared to cattle and pigs, sheep and goat farming is still significant, particularly in certain regions of the country.

• Material and method

The material used in this paper consists in a corpus of articles and official documents on Germany's agriculture, livestock, and sheep and goat sector. The research method used is descriptive.

• Results and discussions

The export destinations of live sheep and goats from Germany in 2023 were (TrendEconomy):

- Netherlands, with a share of 82% (1.54 million US\$);
- France, with a share of 13.9% (260 thousand US\$);
- Switzerland, with a share of 1.43% (26 thousand US\$);
- Belgium, with a share of 1.41% (26 thousand US\$);
- Russia, with a share of 0.20% (3.63 thousand US\$);
- Iran, with a share of 0.10% (1.89 thousand US\$) (Figure 1).

The structure of the exports of live sheep and goats from Germany in 2023 was:

- Live sheep: 99% (1.85 million US\$);
- Live goats: 0.435% (8.12 thousand US\$).

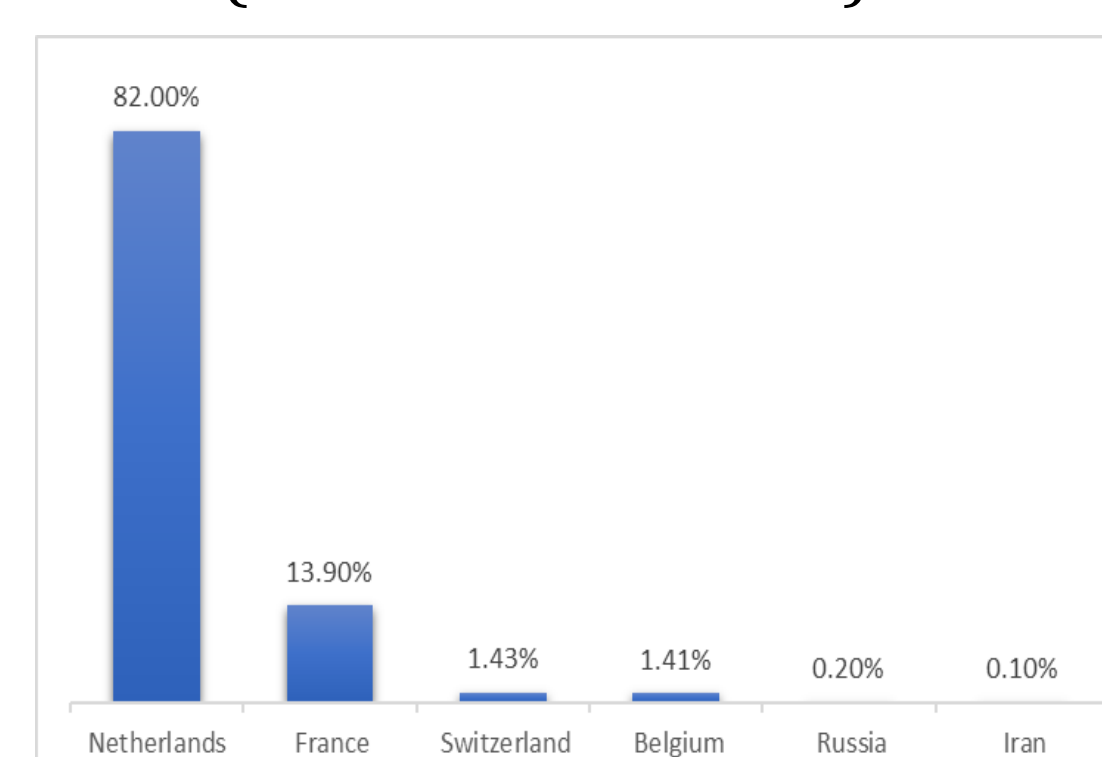


Figure 1. Export destinations of live sheep and goats from Germany in 2023

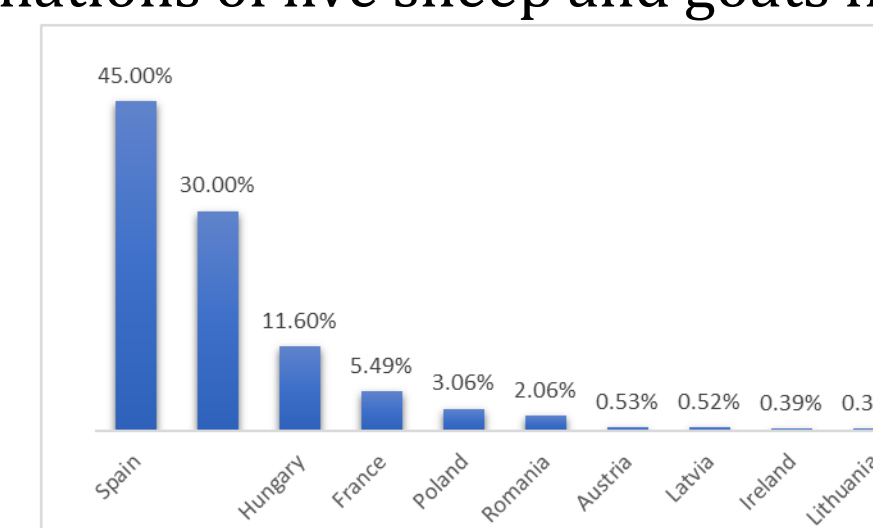


Figure 2. Import origins of live sheep and goats for Germany in 2023

• Conclusions

In 2024, until August, Germany had exported the following sheep and goat products (EU Export of Sheep and Goat Products to Third Countries): Live sheep (live lambs, live sheep) – 0 t; Fresh sheep meat (boneless cuts of sheep, lamb carcass, sheep chins and best ends) – 39 t; Frozen sheep meat (boneless cuts of lambs, boneless cuts of sheep, lamb carcass, sheep chins and best ends, sheep legs, sheep other) – 333 t; Offals of sheep and goat (salted, smoked, and dried offals of sheep and goat) – 21 t; Salted dried or smoked meat of sheep and goat – 0 t; Preparations of meat of sheep and goats – 54 t; Live goat – 0 t; Fresh goat meat – 0 t; Frozen goat meat – 0 t; PBB sheep and goat – 5 t; Total live sheep and goat – 5 t; Total sheep and goat meat – 448 t. This shows Germany is rather an exporter / importer of live sheep and sheep meat.