

Average beef prices up 1.38% in April

ABIEC data shows a decrease in volume and revenues with exports of the product in the same period; expectation is that positive results will return in May

São Paulo, May 12, 2017 - Beef exports were down 25.63% in April, when 93 thousand tons were shipped, according to data from the Brazilian Association of Meat Exporters (ABIEC). The negotiations generated revenues of US\$ 378 million, which represents a decrease of 24.60% compared to the one obtained in March. Average prices, however, increased by 1.38% in the same comparison.

Hong Kong, China and the European Union were the countries that most imported beef from Brazil in the period, with a decrease of volume and billing generated with the sales. Hong Kong, which imported the most, 27 thousand tons and US\$ 99 million of revenue generated, fell by 2% compared to the previous month.

On the other hand, Egypt stands out among the countries to which Brazil increased its exports in April, with 60% increase in sales and 54% in the volume exported. Palestine and Malaysia also had greater openness to Brazilian beef last month, both with a 7% increase in revenue generated by the negotiations.

Position	Country/region	Billing US\$ (April/2017)	Volume in tons (April/2017)
1	Hong Kong	98,596,300.84	26,653.32
2	China	52,255,428.69	11,971.49
3	European Union	37,606,194.09	5,978.65
4	Russia	34,396,203.41	10,284.57
5	USA	31,576,770.75	5,000.59
6	Egypt	23,222,032.68	6,817.37
7	Iran	17,970,118.18	4,653.15
8	Saudi Arabia	17,358,365.67	4,045.38
9	Chile	14,558,085.43	3,412.01
10	Singapore	5,731,565.85	1,389.35

"The result observed in April was expected, since the operation of the Federal Police, triggered on March 17, generated a series of uncertainties in the reopening periods in some markets. Faced with this, producers acted more cautiously, buying less cattle, suspending slaughtering and shipping smaller quantities of beef," explains Antônio Jorge Camardelli, president of ABIEC. Camardelli also points out that prices on import markets have increased by an average of 1.38%. "It was widely speculated that Brazilian beef would suffer a serious devaluation with the repercussion of the police operation in slaughterhouses, but we managed to keep prices going or even rising," says the ABIEC president.

According to Camardelli, the effects of the episode should be diluted and, in May, the

expectation is that the export performance will be similar to that of March, when a record result was recorded with a 22% increase in sales and a 20% increase in volume.

Categories - In April, fresh meat remained as the most exported category, followed by offals and industrialized. Its sales to other countries generated a turnover of US\$ 293 million, with shipments of more than 70 thousand tons, a 27% drop in sales and 29% in volume.

Position	Country/region	Billing US\$ (April/2017)	Volume in tons (April/2017)
1	Fresh meat	292,640,296.40	70,207.30
2	Offals	41,824,908.71	14,739.73
3	Industrialized	36,792,782.35	6,101.93
4	Tripe	5,179,889.92	1,706.12
5	Salted	1,914,018.56	371.59

About ABIEC - www.abiec.com.br

Created in 1979, the Brazilian Association of Meat Exporting Industries (ABIEC) brings together 29 companies in the sector in the country, responsible for 90% of beef traded to international markets. Its creation was a response to the need for a more active performance in the beef export segment in Brazil, by defending the interests of the sector, increasing efforts to reduce trade barriers and promote domestic products. Currently, Brazil produces around 9.1 million tons of beef, approximately 20% are traded to dozens of countries around the world, following the most stringent quality standards.

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