East Africa Pig Production and Pork Prices Market Report

Market overview for Kenya and the wider Eastern Africa pork sector, 2026

Executive Summary

East Africa's pork sector is expanding from a relatively small base, supported by urban demand, population growth, commercial processing, and regional trade. Eastern Africa pig meat production was reported at about 1.01 million tonnes in 2024, with Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Mozambique, Zambia, Madagascar, Zimbabwe, and Burundi among the notable regional producers. Kenya remains a smaller but increasingly formalising market, with reported 2024 pig meat production of about 34,493 tonnes and evidence of rising pig numbers and slaughter volumes.

Production Snapshot

Market	Latest production signal	Implication
Eastern Africa	About 1.01 million tonnes of pig meat production in 2024.	The region is a meaningful African pork producer, led by country-level markets with different levels of formalisation.
Uganda	About 205,724 tonnes of pig meat production in 2024.	Uganda is one of the region's largest pork markets, with strong domestic consumption and informal-to-formal value-chain potential.
Tanzania	About 58,775 tonnes of pig meat production in 2024.	Tanzania offers a mid-sized production base with scope for improved feed, breeding, and market linkages.
Kenya	About 34,493 tonnes of pig meat production in 2024.	Kenya is a smaller but commercially visible market, supported by urban retail, food service, and processing demand.

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Kenya

Kenya is a commercially important but moderate-scale pork market in East Africa. Production is smaller than Uganda's, but the country has stronger formal processing, urban retail demand, and export activity. Nairobi, Kiambu, Nakuru, and other peri-urban production zones benefit from proximity to butcheries, processors, hotels, and supermarkets. The main opportunity is not only increasing pig numbers but supplying consistent animals that meet buyer specifications on carcass weight, fat cover, health status, and delivery timing.

Uganda

Uganda is one of Eastern Africa's leading pork producers and consumers. The market has strong domestic demand, especially around Kampala and other urban centres, and pork is widely traded through informal outlets as well as more organised channels. Uganda's larger production base gives it scale advantages, but disease control, feed costs, and fragmented slaughter systems remain major constraints. The market is attractive for investments in feed efficiency, veterinary services, aggregation, cold chain, and branded pork distribution.

Tanzania

Tanzania has a mid-sized pork production base relative to Uganda and Kenya, with room for growth as urban demand expands. Production is influenced by regional differences in consumer preference, religion, income levels, and access to feed ingredients. The country's broader grain and oilseed base can support pig feed development, but commercial growth depends on improved genetics, reliable extension, disease surveillance, and market linkages between farmers and urban buyers.

Rwanda

Rwanda is a smaller pork market by volume, but it can be strategically important because of its organised food retail environment, urban demand, and role as a destination for regional pork trade. Opportunities are strongest in quality-controlled supply, packaged pork, and food-service channels. Constraints include limited land availability, feed cost pressure, and the need for strict biosecurity in intensive production systems.

Burundi

Burundi has a comparatively small pork sector, but pigs remain important for household income, savings, manure, and local meat supply. Growth potential is mainly in smallholder upgrading, improved piglet survival, basic veterinary support, and better access to formulated feed. Market development is likely to be gradual and locally focused unless stronger aggregation and cross-border trade channels emerge.

Mozambique

Mozambique is one of the notable Eastern Africa pig meat producers and has greater scale than Kenya in reported production terms. Demand is supported by urban markets, coastal cities, and regional trading links, while productivity varies widely between smallholder and more commercial systems. Growth opportunities include improved breeding, disease control, slaughter infrastructure, and branded distribution into higher-value urban channels.

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Country Ranking Table

Rank	Country	Production scale	Market opportunity	Risk level	Overall assessment
1	Uganda	High	High	Medium	Largest and most consumption-driven pork market in the region, with strong growth potential if disease control and feed efficiency improve.
2	Kenya	Medium	High	Medium	Smaller production base than Uganda, but stronger formal processing, retail demand, and premium urban market opportunities.
3	Tanzania	Medium	Medium to high	Medium	Good expansion potential supported by population size and feed-resource opportunities, though demand varies by region.
4	Mozambique	Medium to high	Medium	Medium to high	Important production base with opportunities in urban channels, but productivity and infrastructure gaps remain significant.
5	Rwanda	Low to medium	Medium	Medium	Smaller market, but attractive for quality-controlled supply, packaged pork, hospitality, and premium food-service demand.
6	Burundi	Low	Low to medium	Medium to high	Primarily smallholder-oriented, with gradual potential through better piglet survival, feeding, veterinary services, and aggregation.

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Data Visuals

2024 Pig Meat Production Comparison

Market	Production volume
Eastern Africa	1,010,000 tonnes
Uganda	205,724 tonnes
Tanzania	58,775 tonnes
Kenya	34,493 tonnes

Kenya Pork Price Range

Price point	KES/kg
Lower retail pork range	450
Upper retail pork range	1,000
Live pig reference range	240–294

Note: The visuals are indicative text-based charts designed for quick comparison. They should be treated as presentation aids rather than exact statistical charts.

Price Indicators

Kenya provides the clearest recent price signals in the region. Reported 2026 retail pork prices commonly range from about KES 450 to KES 1,000 per kilogram depending on cut, location, and sales channel, while direct farm or slaughterhouse purchases may be lower. Live pig prices in Kenya are reported around KES 240 to KES 294 per kilogram at retail-equivalent levels, with wholesale ranges lower. These price differences reflect processing, trimming, cold-chain costs, transport, buyer specifications, and urban retail margins.

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Market Drivers

- Urbanisation and rising demand for convenient animal protein are supporting pork consumption in cities and peri-urban areas.
- Growth in hotels, restaurants, butcheries, and processors is creating more structured demand for consistent carcass quality.
- Commercial breeding, better feed formulation, and farmer training can improve productivity where adoption is consistent.
- Regional trade opportunities exist, but they depend on disease control, inspection, cold-chain capacity, and reliable documentation.

Key Risks and Constraints

- Feed cost volatility remains the largest profitability risk for small and medium producers.
- African swine fever and other disease outbreaks can trigger movement controls, mortality losses, and buyer caution.
- Informal slaughter and fragmented distribution reduce price transparency and make quality assurance harder.
- Farmers may face strict buyer requirements on weight, sex, fat depth, delivery timing, and health documentation.

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Recommendations for Investors and Farmers

Recommendations for Investors

- Prioritise Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania for near-term investment because they combine stronger production bases, urban demand, and clearer routes to market.
- Invest in value-chain services rather than production alone, especially feed mills, breeding stock, veterinary support, slaughter infrastructure, cold chain, and aggregation centres.
- Use buyer-led models with processors, butcheries, supermarkets, hotels, and institutional buyers before expanding pig production capacity.
- Build biosecurity and disease surveillance into every investment plan, particularly where production is concentrated or cross-border trade is involved.
- Target premium segments in Kenya and Rwanda through branded pork, packaged cuts, traceability, hygiene assurance, and consistent carcass quality.
- Avoid scaling in niche or high-risk markets without signed offtake agreements, clear pricing terms, and validated consumer demand.

Recommendations for Farmers

- Start with the market first: identify the buyer, target weight, preferred breed or carcass type, delivery schedule, and payment terms before increasing herd size.
- Control feed costs by using balanced rations, local feed ingredients where safe and economical, and regular feed-conversion monitoring.
- Strengthen biosecurity through controlled farm access, clean water, quarantine for new animals, proper disposal of dead pigs, and rapid reporting of suspected disease.
- Improve productivity by selecting healthy breeding stock, keeping good records, reducing piglet mortality, and culling unproductive animals.
- Sell through organised groups or cooperatives where possible to improve bargaining power, transport efficiency, access to inputs, and buyer reliability.
- Separate breeding, growing, and finishing records so that farmers can calculate real profit per pig rather than only tracking selling price.

Outlook

The medium-term outlook is cautiously positive. Demand is likely to keep growing in urban and peri-urban markets, but profitable expansion will depend less on pig numbers alone and more on: -

- Efficient feed conversion
- Disease prevention
- Carcass quality

Secure buyer relationships. Producers entering or expanding in the sector should first confirm their target buyer, required pig specification, pricing basis, and delivery schedule before investing heavily in housing or breeding stock.