

## Commodity Profile: Mutton/Sheep

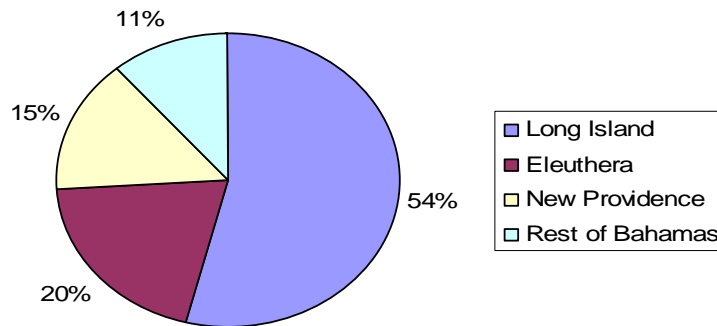
### Domestic Production

Mutton production takes place on various islands throughout The Bahamas. The major producing island is Long Island.

Long Island is one of the islands with a prominent history of sheep farming. The most important livestock raising areas on Long Island are the central and southern parts. The Government along with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) established a 100 acres (40.5 hectare) sheep production facility at Simms, Long Island.

In 1994, the number of sheep throughout The Bahamas totaled 6,292, a decrease of 43 percent when compared to 10,945 sheep raised in 1978. Long Island was the leading island representing 54 percent of the total number of sheep raised (Figure 1). Eleuthera was second followed by New Providence representing 20 percent and 15 percent respectively of total sheep raised.

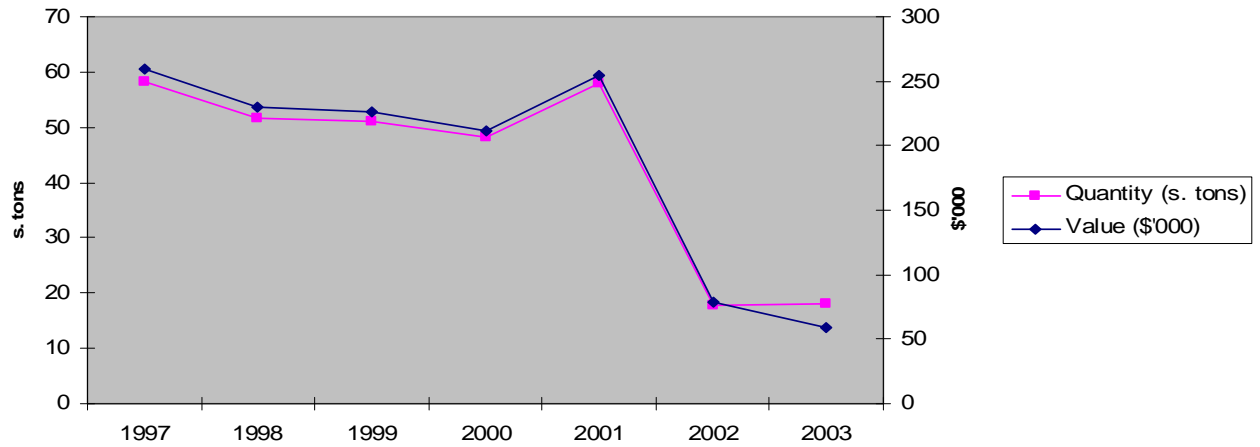
**Figure 1 Major sheep producers in Bahamas, 1994**



Source: 1994 Census of Agriculture

From 1997-2003, the quantity and value of mutton production in The Bahamas has been declining (Figure 2). In 2001, there was an increase of 57.95 s. tons valuing \$254.95 thousand in 2001.

**Figure 2 Quantity and value of mutton production for all Bahamas, 1997-2003**



Source: Department of Agriculture

### Domestic Exports

There are no domestic exports of mutton from The Bahamas.

### Domestic Imports

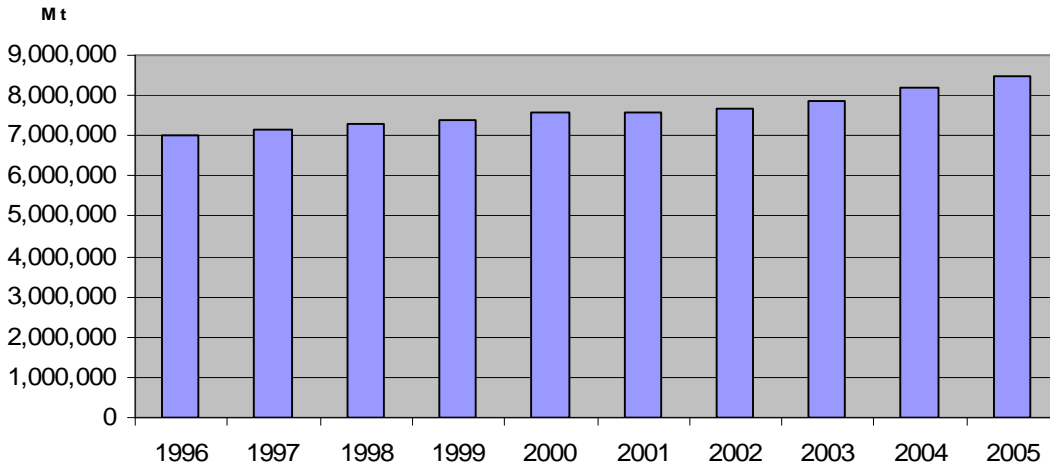
The Bahamas is a net importer of mutton. In 2004, the value of mutton imports was \$5.19 million. Over 90 percent of all imports came from the United States (U.S.).

### World Production

World production of mutton and lamb has been steadily increasing from 1996-2005 (Figure 3). In 2005, world production had reached 8.47 million metric tons.

In 2005, China was the leading producer of mutton and lamb with 2.42 million metric tons, which represents 29 percent of world production. Australia was second followed by New Zealand representing 7 percent and 6 percent respectively of world production.

**Figure 3 World mutton and lamb production (Mt), 1996-2005**

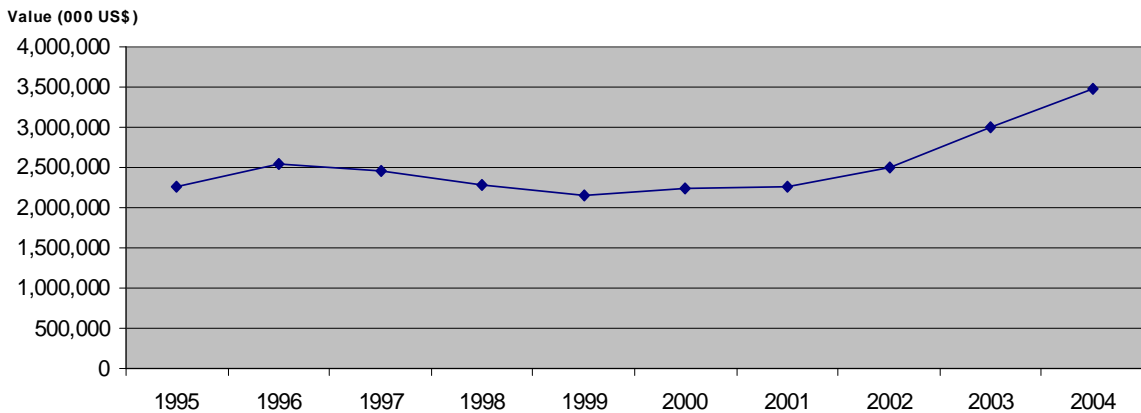


Source: FAOSTAT

**World Imports**

World imports of mutton and lamb have been on the decline from 1996 to 1999 and then have been steadily increasing from 2000 to 2004. The value of world imports for mutton and lamb reached \$3.47 billion in 2004 (Figure 4).

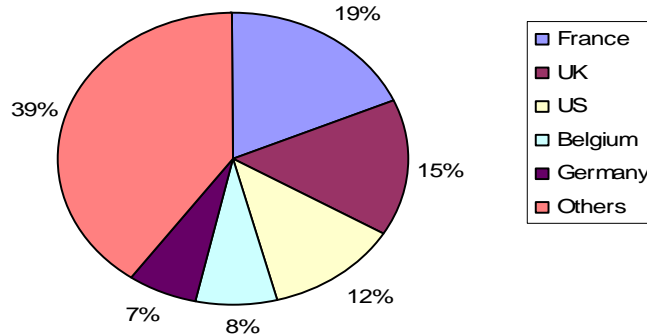
**Figure 4 World mutton and lamb imports, 1995-2004**



Source: FAOSTAT

In 2004, France was the leading importer of mutton and lamb with imports valuing at \$643.77 million, which represents 19 percent of world import value (Figure 5). The United Kingdom (U.K) was the second leading importer followed by the U.S. representing 15 percent and 12 percent respectively of world import value.

**Figure 5 Major mutton and lamb importers shares, 2004**

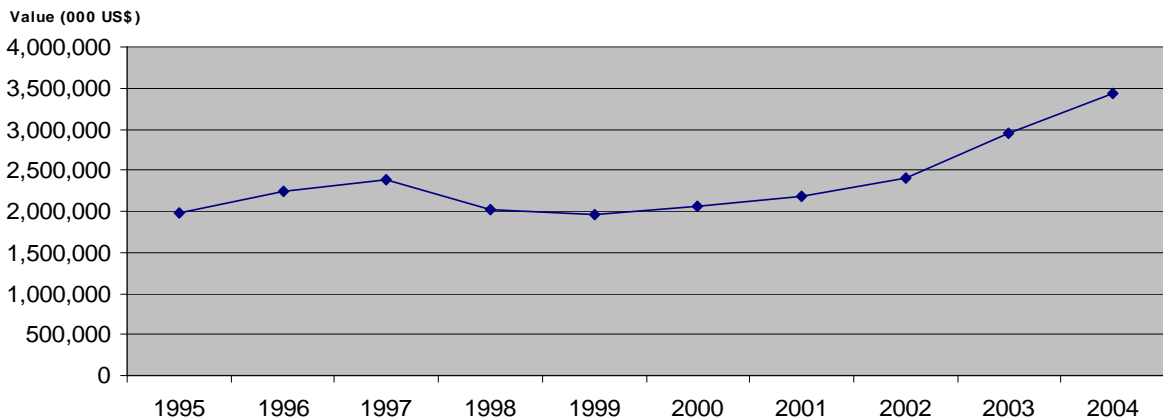


Source: FAOSTAT

### World Exports

World export value for mutton and lamb has been on the rise from 1995 to 1997 and then was on the decline until 1999 (Figure 6). From 2000 to 2004, world export value has been steadily increasing reaching \$3.43 billion in 2004.

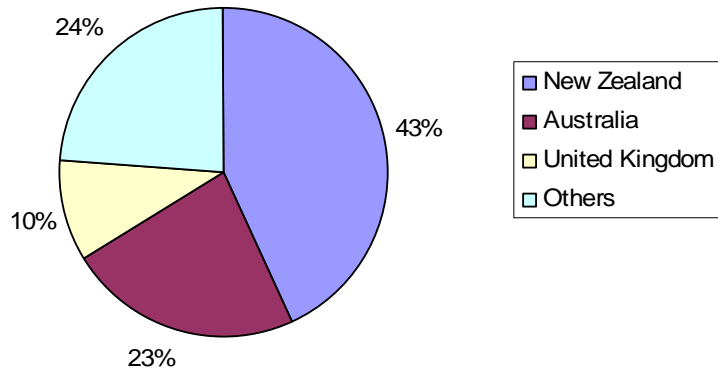
**Figure 6 World mutton and lamb exports, 1995-2004**



Source: FAOSTAT

In 2004, New Zealand was the leading exporter of mutton and lamb with exports valuing at \$1.49 billion and accounted for 43 percent of world exports (Figure 7). Australia was second followed by the U.K. comprising 23 percent and 10 percent respectively of world export value. These three countries represented more than three-quarters of world exports.

**Figure 7 Major mutton and lamb exporters shares, 2004**



Source: FAOSTAT  
Alarice Grant