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Overview

The month of October registered mixed results across all four sectors. Marketing activities within the cattle and goats sector slowed as the holiday season approaches whilst the sheep and pig sector recorded modest growths. Price developments during October 2023 portrayed mixed performances as the cattle and pig sector showed improved producer carcass prices whereas the sheep and goat producer prices reduced.

Cattle Sector

The cattle sector saw mixed developments with substantial declines recorded within the live export and B & C class abattoir segments of 35.9 percent and 57.6 percent, respectively. Slaughtering at A class abattoirs on the other hand, registered a growth of 29.9 percent during the period of October 2023.

Weaner prices have generally been under pressure since the beginning of the year and averaged N\$ 24.24/kg during October 2023 whereas the all grade beef carcass producer prices paid by A class abattoirs recorded marginal gains and averaged N\$ 61.31/kg from the N\$ 60.53/kg recorded during October 2022.

Price developments indicate that the Namibian production system is likely to remain weaner-dominant given a narrowing gap between weaner prices and prices paid for slaughter cattle at A- class abattoirs.

A total of 1 607 tons of beef was exported to various destinations during October 2023. This represents an increase of 179.2 percent compared to an amount of 576 tons exported during the corresponding period in 2022. The EU remained Namibia's main export destination during October 2023 accounting for 57 percent (915 tons) of all beef exports followed by South Africa, and the United Kingdom, at 20.7 percent (333 tons) and 12.0 percent (193 tons) and the remaining 10.3 percent (141 tons) was exported to Norway, China, Botswana and Angola.

Beef imports for the period October 2023 reduced to 74 tons from 274 tons recorded during the same period in 2022 which comprised of canned and processed beef and offal products.



Sheep Sector

Sheep sector rebounded during 2023 and performed well throughout the year. Year-on-year, the positive performance was primarily driven by live sheep exports which increased by 147.8 percent coupled with an increase of 349.6 percent recorded by export approved abattoirs. Meanwhile, slaughtering by B & C class abattoirs declined by 16.6 percent.

All grade sheep carcass prices dropped by 8.6 percent between October 2022 and October 2023 averaging N\$54.07/kg. Similarly, dorper lamb prices at livestock auctions also fell by 20.0 percent from N\$36.27/kg in 2022 to N\$29.00/kg in October 2023.

Sheep exports during October 2023 amounted to 36 tons whereas sheep meat imports totalled 29 tons, a growth of 30.2 percent compared to October 2022.

Goat Sector

October 2023 observed a drop of 17.0 percent in goat marketing. The decline is owed to a drop of 16.7 percent in the volume of goats exported. Likewise, B & C class abattoirs declined by 25.2 percent. Goat lamb prices dropped by N\$12.20/kg from N\$ 39.51/kg in October 2022 to N\$27.31/kg during October 2023.

Pork Sector

3 979 pigs were marketed at Meat Board-registered pig abattoirs during the period of October 2023. Of this total, 63.9 percent were slaughtered at the Mariental abattoir, 35.8 percent were slaughtered at the Tsumeb abattoir and the remaining 0.4 percent were slaughtered at other smaller Meat Board-registered abattoirs.

Domestic pork production catered for 36.3 percent of local fresh pork consumption requirements, necessitating the import of 716 tons of fresh and processed pork to cover the gap. Of the total volume of pork imports, 69.6 percent comprised of offal. Pork cuts made up 17.8 percent of the import basket followed by processed products and carcasses with 10.5 percent and 2.1 percent, respectively.

The Pork Ceiling Price has been fixed to N\$51.03/kg as a mitigation strategy to counter the negative effects of the dwindling RMAA pork price, the current benchmark price for Namibia's pork ceiling price calculation.