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Overview

All sectors in the meat industry recorded positive performances during the third quarter of 2023, posting favourable quarterly marketing figures in comparison to the third quarter of 2022.

Exports of beef products increased substantially during the third quarter of 2023 on account of a doubling of quarterly performance by export abattoirs in comparison to the year 2022. Sheep slaughtering activities at export approved abattoirs improved during the third quarter of 2023. Commodity producer prices posted a mixed performance with slaughter cattle and sheep prices trending upwards while pig producer prices remained fixed at N\$ 51.03/kg from month to month during 2023.

Cattle Sector

A total of 91 154 cattle were marketed during the third quarter of 2023, an increase of 52.03 percent from 59 957 cattle marketed during same quarter in 2022. The improved performance in the sector was driven by significant increase in number of cattle slaughtered by export approved abattoirs that more than doubled their slaughtering coupled with increased live exports. Butchers on the other hand reduced substantially during the third quarter of 2023.

Furthermore, The Rundu abattoir resumed slaughtering activities during August 2023. As a result, a total of 632 animals were slaughtered during August and September 2023.

Price developments pointed to a (regionally) competitive Namibian beef carcass price which has consistently outperformed its RSA counterpart. The Namibian B2 cattle slaughter producer price averaged N\$61.65/kg during the third quarter, registering a 3.44 percent increase compared to the same quarter in 2022. Year-to-date, the B2 average likewise increased by 2.85 percent from N\$60.57/kg in 2022 to N\$62.30/kg in 2023, moving the weaner/B2 ratio from 57.50 percent to a relatively lower rate of 41.97 percent during the period under review, helping reduce the live exports market share from 59.64 percent in 2022 to 56.71 percent in 2022.

On the meat trading front, beef exports during the third quarter totalled 6 343.28 tons, increasing significantly by 102.65 percent in comparison to the third quarter of 2022.

Namibia and Botswana share an annual 3 200 tons beef export quota to Norway under the generalised system of preferences (GSP) as well as the SACU/EFTA trade regimes. Year-to-date exports to Norway stood at 911.21 tons by the end of September 2023 based on Meat Board- cleared consignments.

Top destinations for Namibian beef during the quarter under review included the EU, taking up 52.51 percent of exports while 22.19 percent went to South Africa. The UK, China and Norway absorbed 9.48 percent, 9.28 percent and 4.98 of exports while the remaining 1.56 percent was exported to regional markets.



No exports were undertaken to the United States, Tanzania, DRC and Swaziland during the 2023 period.

Beef imports on the other hand during the third quarter dropped by 46.28 percent to place total beef imports for the entire year at 855.14 tons which is a 49.55 percent decline. Namibia's beef imports basket consisted of processed meat and offal products.

Sheep Sector

The third quarter registered a growth of 60.94 percent in the total number of sheep marketed. A total of 190 825 sheep were marketed during the third quarter of 2023 in comparison to 118 569 marketed during the third quarter of last year.

Slaughter activities in the export abattoir segment increased by 186.10 percent during the third quarter of 2023 although, registering a decline of 75.25 percent quarter-on-quarter. This is owed to a dip in slaughtering activities that performed poorly during August and September as no exports to Norway were undertaken during the last two months of the third quarter of 2023. As a result, sheep prices at export abattoirs have slightly dropped from the last trading prices observed during the same period in 2022.

A2 sheep price averaged N\$83.52/kg during the third quarter of 2023 in comparison to N\$83.66/kg observed in 2022. On the other hand, C2 sheep prices at export abattoirs declined drastically from N\$63.15/kg observed during 2022 to N\$44.88/kg in 2023.

Due to reduced slaughter activity at the Farmers Meat Market abattoir, sheep meat exports slowed by 35.17 percent, quarter-on-quarter. However, year-on-year, exports grew by 276.02 percent. Exports of sheep meat are likely to remain at lower levels during the fourth quarter of 2023 due to depressed international prices coupled with improved local prices linked to festive demand.

Goat Sector

The third quarter recorded an improved performance in goat marketing with a total of 46 807 goats marketed during the quarter bringing year-to-date marketing to a level of 104 824 goats which represents a 7.55 percent increase in marketing.

A decline in goats slaughtering both north and south of the veterinary cordon fence was observed while live exports to South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Zambia were observed.

Pork Sector

The number of pigs slaughtered at Meat Board- approved abattoirs dipped by 4.23 percent, during the period under review. A total of 11 020 pigs were slaughtered by Meat Board- registered pig abattoirs to produce a total of 1 060 tons. However, this production catered for 57.36 percent of local fresh pork consumption requirements necessitating the import of 786 tons of fresh and processed pork to cover the gap. Of the total volume of pork imports, 66.48 percent was composed of pork offal whereas pork cuts and cooked pork and uncooked processed pork made up 11.33 percent and 22.18 percent of the pork import basket, 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.