

Statistics Commentary

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Overview

The livestock and meat industry registered relatively good results during April 2024 with all sectors recording growths. Month-on-month, beef producer prices and weaner producer prices improved during April 2024 from the March 2024 levels whilst sheep carcass producer prices dropped.

Cattle Sector

The cattle sector recorded a growth in marketing activities supported by increased throughput at export- abattoirs as well as local B&C class abattoirs. Similarly, live export activities increased during April 2024. Year-on-year, a total of 32 795 heads of cattle were marketed during the month of April, an increase of 31.2 percent.

The growth is partly attributed to increased exports of weaners, predominantly to South African feedlots as drought takes its effect. This stream remains a significant marketing segment for Namibian weaner farmers due to poor financial viability of large-scale feedlots in Namibia that results in costly importation of animal feed from South Africa.

The weaner/ B2 ratio stands at 41.7 percent compared to 41.1 percent observed last year

during a similar period. The low ratio below the 64.0 percent benchmark represents relatively stable producer carcass prices paid by abattoirs. Year-on-year, live weaner prices weakened by N\$0.09/kg, averaging N\$ 24.83/kg in April 2024 relative to N\$24.92/kg recorded during April 2023. The B2 beef producer carcass price dropped to N\$ 59.48/kg in April 2024 from the level of N\$60.60/kg recorded in April 2023. Year-to-date the B2 carcass price averaged N\$ 60.52/kg by the end of April 2024.

Sheep Sector

During April 2024, 101 209 sheep were marketed through formal channels compared to 100 696 sheep marketed during the same month last year. Slaughtering at export-approved abattoirs increased by 5.1 percent to record a slaughter of 11 331 heads during April 2024. Year-to-date slaughtering by export-approved abattoirs stood at 32 765 heads by end of April. Throughput at B& C class abattoirs declined by 39.4 percent during April 2024 as only 5 368 animals were marketed relative to 8 861 animals marketed during April 2023.

Meanwhile, The A2 sheep average producer carcass price remained lower than its South African counterpart and averaged N\$69.41/kg

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during April 2024, N\$7.59/kg lower than the South African A2 producer price that averaged N\$77.00/kg in April 2024. Year-on-year, the live lamb dorper auction price declined during the month of April 2024. The price averaged N\$30.11/kg by the end of April 2024, a drop of 0.7 percent from the April 2023 level of N\$30.31/kg.

Goat Sector

Up to 8 690 goats were marketed during the month of April 2024 compared to 8 624 goats marketed during April 2023. Year-to-date, LLPBN-registered goat abattoirs reported a combined slaughter of 1 137 goats. A total of 8 684 goats were exported live to South Africa mainly to traditional Kwa-Zulu Natal market.

Goat lamb prices dropped by N\$1.35/kg from March 2024 to April 2024 to stand at N\$28.39/kg by the end of April 2024. Year-to-date average goat lamb price stood at N\$29.20/kg by the end of April 2024. Goat lamb average prices have remained below the N\$30.00/kg mark for the entire year thus far.

Pigs Sector

A total of 4 147 pigs were slaughtered at LLPBN-registered pig abattoirs during the period of April 2024. This represents a growth of 3.5 percent in comparison to 2023 levels. The pork ceiling price operating under the Pork Market Share Promotion Scheme (PMSPS) remains set at N\$51.03/kg.

Trade in Meat and Meat Products

Year-to-date beef exports stood at 4 735 663 kg by the end of April 2024 in comparison to 2 304

263 kg recorded during the same period in 2023. Beef imports remained below 2023 levels due to improved local availability of beef offal which are traditionally dominant in the import basket. Year-on-year, beef imports were 26.6 percent lower than what was imported during the same period in 2023 whereas, year-to-date imports also declined by 21.3 percent in comparison to the same period in 2023.

Mutton exports fell by 39.1 percent during April 2024 compared to April 2023. South Africa was the only export destination for Namibian lamb and mutton during April 2024.

Conclusion

April 2024 proved to be decent in terms of overall industry performance despite a couple of challenges faced by the industry such as declining livestock producer prices.

Domestic weaner prices recovered during April whilst, South African weaners on the other hand, fetched relatively higher prices during the same period. Sheep and goat marketing activities increased on account of improvements in live exports to South Africa while total slaughtering declined.