

Statistics Commentary

February 2024

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Overview

The lack of adequate rainfall in some parts of the country has caused concerns among farmers, which has subsequently resulted in farmers preparing for drought for the 2024 period. The uncertainty has resulted in high marketing numbers during February 2024.

The sector recorded significant increases across all marketing channels during the period under review. This growth trickled down to the meat sector, which saw an increase in production during February 2024 coupled with relatively low producer prices.

Cattle Sector

Year-to-date cattle marketing has increased by 49.0 percent with 27 983 cattle marketed during February 2024. Live cattle exports posted a substantial performance, recording 21 608 head exported due to relatively better weaner prices in South Africa. Year-on-year, sVCF weaner prices and nVCF Tollies Producer Prices declined and averaged N\$25.25/kg and N\$20.00/kg in February 2024, respectively. The beef All-grade average price remained relatively stable compared to its South African counterpart. However, year-on-year, the beef all grade average price declined by N\$3.51/kg from the February 2023 level and averaged N\$58.43/kg in February 2024.

Year-to-date beef imports dipped by 74.6 percent. On the other hand, beef exports grew by 78.6 percent on account of good slaughter activity by export-approved abattoirs. More than half of beef exports recorded in February 2024 went to the EU whereas; the remainder went to the UK, Norway, South Africa and Angola.

Remarkably, for the first time since July 2020, a beef consignment was exported to the USA during February 2024.

Sheep Sector

Marketing of sheep increased by 50.6 percent, year-to-date. The increase in sheep numbers has seen slaughter activity and live exports improve by 5.8 percent and 44.1 percent, respectively. The supply of sheep to the Northern Cape remained strong and increased by 46.0 percent during February 2024, due to relatively higher producer prices offered by South African abattoirs. Year-to-date export of lamb and mutton grew by 118.3 percent due to good slaughter activity. On the other hand, sheep All-grade average carcass dropped to N\$52.58/kg from N\$56.79/kg recorded in February 2023.

Goat Sector

February 2024 recorded an increase of 12.3 percent in the number of goats marketed. Year-to-date marketing is up by 15.2 percent due to decent demand for goats in the Kwa-Zulu Natal region of South Africa. Year-on-year, the Goat lamb price at auctions dropped and averaged N\$29.39/kg in February 2024. However, month-on-month, the goat lamb auction price improved from the January 2024 level of N\$29.28/kg, indicating a recovery of demand.

Pork Sector

Year-to-date total marketing of pigs is up by 9.1 percent, with a total of 8 153 pigs slaughtered. On the other hand, imports of pork weakened by 51.1 percent year-on-year. Local demand for pork products has generally been low due to uneconomical consumer prices.