

Statistics Commentary

January 2024

Fransina Angula

Statistician: Trade & Strategic Marketing

T: 061-275-872 | E: fransina@nammic.com.na



Overview

The first month of the year started on a good note with overall marketing activities recording an increase.

Cattle Sector

20 398 cattle were marketed during the first month of the year. This brings the growth of the cattle sector up by 17.1 percent from 17 419 heads marketed during January 2023. Of this total, 70.9 percent were exported live on hoof to neighboring member states, 24.9 percent were slaughtered at local A-class abattoirs and 4.2 percent were slaughtered at various Livestock and Livestock Products Board of Namibia (LLPBN)-approved B & C class abattoirs.

The growth in the sector activity is owed to increased exports of weaners to South Africa, predominantly as a result of an expected better grain harvest that will help feeding margins. Coupled to that is the improvement in producer prices at all export approved abattoirs with the s-VFC beef all grade average slowing to N\$59.41/kg from the N\$61.14/kg recorded in January 2023. Similarly, year-on-year, s-VCF weaner prices dropped by N\$ 10.55/kg and averaged N\$26.57/kg during the period under review. However, n-VCF have remarkably improved over the past couple of months with the producer price for tollies averaging N\$ 28.35/kg relative to the N\$20.58/kg recorded in January 2023.

Sheep Sector

The sector recorded a growth of 31.6 percent led by live exports and slaughtering at A-class abattoirs. Year-on-year, Live exports particularly to the South African market expanded by 64.1 percent growing from 16 085 heads in 2023 to 26 399 heads in 2024. In addition, slaughter activities at export-approved abattoirs grew by 98.5 percent in January 2024.

The Namibian A2 producer price on average traded at N\$71.86/kg during January 2024 while the Northern Cape A2 producer price averaged N\$80.80/Kg during January, N\$8.94/kg higher than the Namibian A2 producer price. Sheep producer carcass prices have been on a downward trajectory as Namibian abattoirs struggle to obtain better-paying carcass markets. This has resulted in limited slaughter activity, a situation that may be altered in 2024 if alternative markets in Asia can be realized.

Goat Sector

The sector recorded a growth of 18.8 percent during the period of January 2024. 6 596 goats were marketed during January 2024 relative to 5 554 goats marketed during same period in 2023. The growth is owed to an increase in live exports that grew by 26.5 percent. The performance of the sector was moderated by slaughtering activities at local abattoirs that dropped by 94.1 percent.

Pork Sector

4 306 pigs were marketed at LLPBN-approved abattoirs during the period under review, 13.6 percent higher than the 3 791 pigs marketed during January 2023. Of the total pigs marketed, the Mariental Abattoir slaughtered 64.5 percent, whereas Haloli abattoir slaughtered 33.0 percent. Other smaller abattoirs slaughtered the remaining 2.5 percent.

Meat and Meat Products

A total 640 651 kg of beef was exported during January 2024 of which 42.2 percent was exported to the European Union (EU). The remaining beef exports went to the UK, 22.8 percent followed by South Africa with 16.5 percent and the remaining 14.5 percent was split between Norway and China, respectively.

As a result of increased lamb and mutton production in January 2024, a total 48 172 kg of lamb and mutton was exported to various destinations, up from the 2023 volume of 13 952 kg. South Africa accounted for 89.7 percent of all lamb and mutton exports and 10.3 percent was exported Botswana.

431 250 kg of pork was imported during the period under review to cover local consumption shortfalls. Of the imported pork, 70.8 percent originated from Germany, followed by South Africa and Botswana with a market share of 16.1 percent and 11.6 percent, respectively. The remaining 1.5 percent originated from China and other European countries.

Conclusion

Generally, marketing is known to start slow during the first month of the year due to reduced activities; however, this was not the case during January 2024 as all sectors have recorded increased activities during the period under review. Increased activity mirrors drought expectations in the highly active central and southern regions.