

Statistics Commentary

July 2024

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Overview

Year-on-year, the livestock and meat industry registered mixed results during July 2024. The cattle, sheep and pig sectors recorded an increase in marketing activities whereas the goats sector recorded a drop in marketing activities. The n-VCF and s-VCF tolly and weaner producer prices weakened during July 2024 from the June 2024 levels.

Cattle Sector

Cattle marketing during July increased by 25.2 percent with 37 750 cattle marketed during the month. This brings the YTD total to 243 431 in 2024 relative to 171 838 cattle marketed during the same period in 2023. Live cattle exports improved by 23.4 percent, recording 19 218 heads exported mainly due to drought conditions.

Y-o-Y, sVCF Weaner producer price averaged N\$24.89/kg, 5.8 percent lower than the 2023 level of 26.42/kg whereas the nVCF tolly producer price averaged N\$20.20/kg, N\$2.16/kg lower than the July 2023 level of N\$22.36/kg.

The weaner/B2 ratio averaged 41.3 percent during the period under review. The low ratio below the 64.0 percent benchmark represents relatively stable producer carcass prices paid by abattoirs. Additionally, a healthy weaner/B2 ratio is crucial for reducing the market share of live weaner exports in relation to local slaughtering and is obtained by a continuous increase in producer carcass prices given a certain level of weaner prices.

On the meat trading front, beef exports totaled 3 435 856 kg, growing by 74.1 percent during July 2024. This brings YTD beef exports to various destinations to 14 403 947 kg, 70.8 percent higher than the 2023 level. During July 2024, the EU took up more than two thirds (67.5 percent) of total beef exports while South Africa took up 27.1 percent. The remaining 5.4 percent share went to Norway, UK, China and Ghana, respectively. On the other hand, YTD Beef imports are down by 39.3 percent pointing to improved availability of locally produced offal.

Sheep Sector

The sheep sector recorded improved marketing numbers during the period under review. 82 401 sheep were marketed during July 2024, 3.1 percent higher than the 79 957 sheep marketed during 2023. YTD marketing total

stood at 597 337 by the end of July 2024. Slaughtering activities at both export approved and local abattoirs dropped during July 2024, recording declines of 25.0 percent and 36.8 percent, respectively.

Lamb producer prices recovered during July 2024 and averaged N\$33.89/kg in comparison to N\$32.14/kg received by producers in the comparable period of 2023. The sheep All-grade carcass producer price averaged N\$50.06/kg during the period under review while the A2 average carcass producer price came in at N\$73.09/kg.

YTD export of lamb and mutton fell by 28.2 percent due to poor slaughter activity. Y-o-Y, Lamb and mutton exports declined by 53.2 percent during July 2024 compared to the same period last year.

The reduced throughput recorded at abattoirs resulted in a drop of lamb and mutton exports with only 81 599 kg being exported to South Africa. Despite the fact that Namibia, Botswana and Eswatini share a 400 tons Norwegian quota, there has been no exports made to Norway by Namibian abattoirs thus far. Mutton imports primarily in the form of sheep casings increased during July 2024.

Goat Sector

The period under review recorded a decline in goat marketing with 15 616 goats marketed during July 2024. YTD marketing totaled 77 007 goats by the end of July 2024, 1.0 percent decline. YTD Goat lamb prices averaged N\$29.85/kg by the end of July 2024.

Pork Sector

Pig slaughtering for the period under review totaled 4 100 pigs, 8.5 percent growth in comparison to a slaughter quantity of 3 779 pigs slaughtered during the same period in 2023.

Average slaughter mass of pigs during July 2024 stood at 91.15 kg while the pork-ceiling price remained fixed at N\$51.03/kg. The benchmark Red Meat Abattoir Association (RMAA) price in South Africa averaged N\$31.35/kg during July 2024.