

Statistics Commentary

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Overview

Year-on-year, the livestock and meat industry registered mixed results during May 2024. The cattle and sheep sectors recorded an increase in marketing activities whereas the goats and pigs sectors recorded declines. Month-on-month, both the n-VCF and s-VCF weaner producer prices weakened during May 2024 from the April 2024 levels. The all-grade sheep carcass producer prices on the other hand increased during May 2024.

Cattle Sector

The cattle sector observed a growth primarily driven by live exports and increased throughput at export-approved abattoirs. Year-on-year, 34 680 heads of cattle were marketed during May 2024 in marketing activities, an increase of 33.3 percent. The increase in throughput at export-approved abattoirs subsequently nearly doubled beef exports, growing by 90.2 percent during the period under review.

The weaner/ B2 ratio averaged 39.4 percent compared to 43.2 percent observed last year during the same 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\$2.90/kg, averaging N\$ 23.61/kg in May 2024 relative to N\$26.51/kg recorded during May 2023. The B2 beef producer carcass price dropped to N\$ 59.99/kg in May 2024 from the level of N\$61.33/kg recorded in May 2023. Year-to-date B2 carcass price averaged N\$ 60.41/kg by the end of May 2024.

Sheep Sector

Live exports, particularly to South Africa continue driving growth within the sheep sector. Up to 97 433 heads of sheep were exported during May 2024 relative to 88 907 heads exported during the same period in 2023. Abattoirs slaughtered a combined 8 816 animals, bringing total

marketing within the sector to 106 249 heads during May 2024.

Meanwhile, The A2 sheep average producer carcass price remained lower than its South African counterpart and averaged N\$72.10/kg during May 2024, N\$5.96/kg lower than the South African A2 producer price that averaged N\$78.06/kg in May 2024. Year-on-year, the live lamb dorper auction price declined during May 2024. The price averaged N\$30.71/kg by the end of May 2024, a drop of N\$0.46/kg from the April 2023 level of N\$31.17/kg.

Goat Sector

Year-on-year, the goat sector recorded a decline in the total number of goats marketed. Total marketing declined by 5.3 percent compared to the same period in 2023 while marketing activities within the live export segment dropped by 1.5 percent. Slaughtering by B& C class abattoirs remained low during the period under review. Goat lamb price averaged N\$28.71/kg during May 2024 relative to N\$30.92/kg recorded during the same period in 2023.

Pig Sector

Year-on-year, 4111 pigs were slaughtered at LLPBN-registered pig abattoirs while 70 pigs were exported to Angola during May 2024. This represents a decline of 1.2 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.

Conclusion

Notable improvements were observed in the cattle and sheep sectors during the period under review. Weaner prices at auctions faced downward pressure, registering lower levels compared to South African prices.