

# Statistics Commentary

## Quarter 3 2024

**Fransina Angula**

Statistician: Trade & Strategic Marketing

T: 061-275-872 | E: [fransina@nammic.com.na](mailto:fransina@nammic.com.na)



### Overview

After a robust expansion during the preceding quarters of 2024, the livestock and meat industry registered mixed results during third quarter of 2024. Marketing of cattle and pigs registered growths while the sheep and goats recorded a reduction in marketed numbers. Exports of beef products increased while lamb and mutton exports declined.

### Cattle Sector

Cattle marketing during the third quarter increased by a marginal 1.5 percent. 99 451 cattle were marked compared to 98 016 heads marketed during the corresponding quarter of 2023. The growth recorded is attributed to improved throughput at export approved abattoirs during the quarter under review that increased by 23.3 percent. Also worth noting is that the nVCF export-approved abattoirs performed relatively well during the third quarter, with the Rundu abattoir slaughtering 1 017 animals while Katima Mulilo abattoir slaughtered 957 animals. Regrettably, the demand for local weaners by South African feedlots and farmers declined during the quarter. This led to a subsequent decline in the number of animals exported on hoof, recording a total of 47 714 heads exported which is 7.7 percent lower than the 51 690 heads exported during the third quarter of 2023.

Y-o-y, livestock prices within the cattle sector faced downward pressure and recorded lower levels during

the quarter. s-VCF weaner price remained below N\$25.00/kg during the first two months of the quarter and averaged N\$24.64/kg by the end of the third quarter. This is 4.7 percent lower than the s-VCF weaner price recorded during the corresponding quarter of 2023. Weaner prices are however, expected to start improving as feedlots have commenced stocking for the festive season. Year-on-year, the B2 producer carcass price dropped by N\$1.11/kg and averaged N\$60.54/kg during the third quarter of 2024, relative to the N\$61.65/kg paid to producers during the same period in 2023.

Internationally, Namibian producer prices traded below the USA, EU, Argentina and Uruguay producer prices. Australian beef prices largely remained under pressure due to the oversupply of animals in the market following unfavorable climatic conditions resulting in increased supply of beef globally.

On the meat trading front, beef exports totaled 6 667 811 kg during the first two months of the third quarter, growing by 60.8 percent and brings YTD total beef exports to various destinations at 17 635 903 kg which is 66.2 percent higher than the 2023 level. YTD, The EU market absorbed 50.2 percent of total beef exports while South Africa, UK and Norway took up 22.7 percent, 16.4 percent and 8.3 percent, respectively as top destinations. On the other hand, YTD Beef imports primarily in the form of processed and offal products are down by 0.6 percent pointing to a

marginal reduction in availability of locally produced offal.

### **Sheep Sector**

The sector recorded a drop in overall marketing activities by 6.7 percent as a result of a decline across all three marketing segments.

Live exports of sheep for the first time this year fell by 4.1 percent with only 144 045 animals exported during 2024 compared to 150 175 animals exported during the corresponding quarter of 2023. Throughput at A-class as well as B & C class abattoirs activities declined by 16.8 percent and 15.1 percent respectively, going from a combined total of 43 491 heads in 2023 down to 36 623 heads in 2024.

The price difference between Namibian sheep export abattoirs and the Northern Cape abattoirs widened during the quarter under review. The Namibian A2 producer price on average traded at N\$76.28/kg during the third quarter of 2024 while the Northern Cape A2 producer price averaged N\$83.67/Kg during 2024, N\$6.87/kg higher than the Namibian A2 producer price. The Northern Cape abattoir prices serve as a benchmark for Namibian producers; given that majority of sheep exports are destined towards these facilities.

The drop in slaughtering activities across export approved abattoirs negatively impacted lamb and mutton production and exports during the third quarter of 2024. Subsequently, lamb and mutton exports declined by 25.5 percent. As a result, YTD lamb and mutton exports totaled 632 045, down from the 2023 volume of 844 725 kg. Of the lamb and mutton exports, 85.9 percent went to South Africa, 10.9 percent went to Botswana and the remaining 3.2 percent went to Zambia.

### **Goat Sector**

The sector witnessed a decline of 2.9 percent during the period under review. A total of 45 860 goats were marketed during 2024 compared to 47 225 goats marketed during same period in 2023. The contraction is owed to a fall in live exports and slaughtering at local abattoirs. Producer lamb auction price on the other hand averaged N\$ 34.19/kg up from N\$28.63/kg recorded during the third quarter of 2023.

### **Pork Sector**

12 434 pigs were marketed at LLPBN-approved abattoirs during the third quarter of 2024, which is 12.5 percent more than the 11 053 pigs marketed during the corresponding quarter of 2023. Domestic consumption (inclusive of processed pork) amounted to 2 899 249 kg by the end of the quarter. Domestic production made up 40.0 percent of pork consumption while imports made up the remaining 60.0 percent of domestic pork requirements.

Of the imported pork, 46.3 percent originated from Germany, followed by South Africa and Spain with a market share of 21.7 percent each, respectively. The remaining 10.4 percent originated from other EU member states and China. Although imports are dominant in the market, the Pork Market Share Promotion Scheme, administered by the LLPBN continues to assist local producers in maintaining significant market share. The pork ceiling within in the scheme remains fixed at N\$51.03/kg.

### **Conclusion**

Livestock marketing activities recorded mixed marketing trends during the third quarter of 2024 as a result of contractions amongst major marketing segments of the industry. Weaner prices at auctions faced downward pressure, registering lower levels compared to South African prices.