

# Statistics Commentary 2025



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## Overview

The livestock and livestock products industry recorded mixed marketing performance in 2025, with overall volumes generally lower than 2024 levels, reflecting persistent supply constraints and herd recovery dynamics, particularly in the cattle sector. Producer prices across most commodities remained higher than 2024 prices with slight fluctuations month-on-month, largely supported by seasonal market dynamics, rather than an easing of underlying supply constraints. While imports of pork and poultry products increased over the year, reinforcing their role in supplementing domestic supply. Overall, the year reflected a sector in cyclical transition, while highlighting the need for production recovery, diversification, and value chain strengthening going forward.

## Cattle Sector

Cattle supply remained the binding constraint throughout 2025, with slaughter and marketing activity shaped by biological recovery cycles rather than market demand. Total cattle marketed during 2025 amounted to 205,073 head, representing a 44.9% decline from the 371,982 head marketed in 2024.

Cattle slaughter volumes followed a similar trajectory. Total slaughter for 2025 closed at 145,849 head, down 24.9% from 194,315 head recorded in 2024. The sustained reduction in slaughter activity reflects ongoing herd rebuilding decisions following earlier drought conditions and constrained producer off-take.

Live cattle exports declined sharply in 2025, falling from 177,667 head in 2024 to 59,224 head, a 66.7% contraction. Other negative major events impacting cattle exports included a short lumpy skin disease prevalence period in major cattle producing regions as well as the enforcement of the “N” mark on Namibian cattle required by South Africa. South Africa continued to dominate as the main destination, taking 57,126 head (96.5%) of 2025 exports, while the remainder (3.5%) was distributed across DRC, Angola, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Tanzania & Zambia. The decline in live exports mirrors limited cattle availability rather than reduced cross-border demand.

Beef export performance in 2025 was similarly supply-

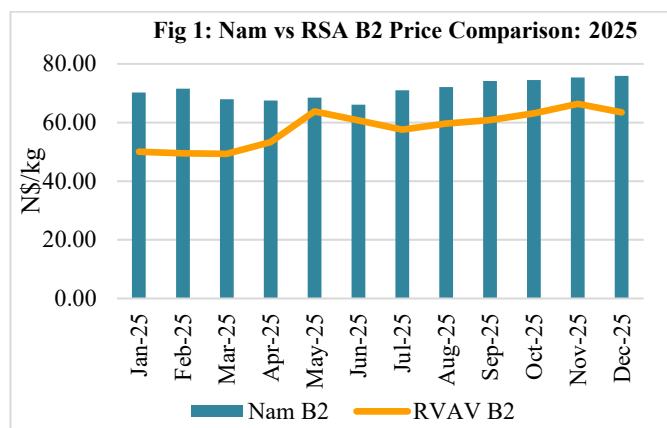
driven. Total beef exports closed at 13,381,293 kg by the end of December 2025, compared to 22,704,150 kg over the same period in 2024, a 41.1% decline, driven almost entirely by reduced slaughter supply rather than demand conditions.

In 2025, Namibia exported a total of 13,381,293 kg of beef, with exports overwhelmingly concentrated in European markets. Europe absorbed 12,572,272 kg, accounting for 94.0% of total beef exports. Within Europe, the EU market dominated, taking 10,804,057 kg (80.7%). African markets accounted for 546,514 kg, representing 4.1% of total exports. Within Africa, Lesotho was the main destination, taking up 354,161 kg (2.6%), followed by South Africa (154,103 kg; 1.2%), while exports to Angola (37,889 kg; 0.3%) and Botswana (361 kg; 0.1%) remained minimal. Exports to the rest of the world totaled 262,507 kg, accounting for 2.0% of total exports. China absorbed 238,497 kg (1.8%), while other Asian markets accounted for 24,011 kg (0.2%).

Hides and processed leather exports totaled 1,098,964 kg in 2025. Processed leather exports made up 51.7% while raw hides accounted for 48.3% of total hides and processed leather exports. South Africa remained the main market, absorbing 789,991 kg (71.9%), comprising processed leather (61.4%), and hides (38.6%). Zimbabwe received 130,319 kg (11.9%), comprising processed leather (63.5%) and hides (36.5%), highlighting its role as a secondary value-added market. The United Kingdom accounted for 79,441 kg (7.2%), made up exclusively of hides, while Italy imported 27,676 kg (2.5%) of hides. Asian markets, Vietnam taking 52,730 kg (4.8%) and China 18,807 kg (1.6%), both consisting entirely of hides. Export volumes are expected to remain constrained into early 2026, with any meaningful recovery dependent on improvements in cattle availability rather than shifts in external demand.

Producer prices remained high for 2025 compared to 2024 prices. The average B2 producer price averaged N\$71.24/kg, up by N\$10.11/kg (16.5%) in comparison to the 2024 average. For comparative perspective, Namibia's 2025 average B2 price traded notably above the RVAV B2 average of N\$58.16/kg, reflecting a premium of approximately N\$13.08/kg (around 22.5%) over the regional benchmark during the year. At auctions,

weaner producer prices averaged N\$ 31.47/kg, up by N\$5.98/kg (23.5%) y/y, reflecting sustained demand amid limited supply.



## Sheep Sector

Sheep marketing in 2025 remained below 2024 levels in cumulative terms, despite improved activity later in the year. Total sheep marketed amounted to 548,817 head, representing a 31.8% decline from 804,519 head marketed in 2024, reflecting continued supply constraints across much of the year.

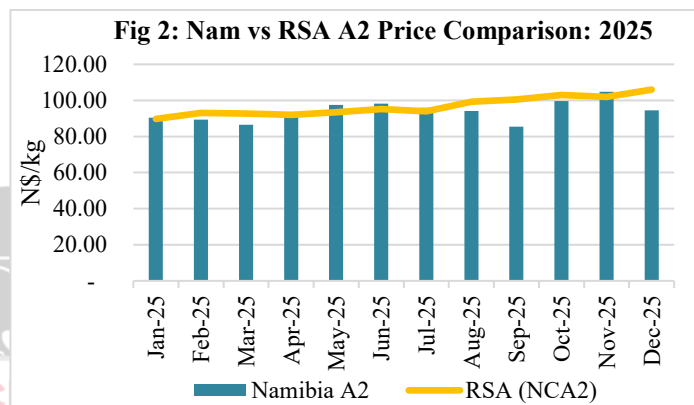
Of the total marketed volume, slaughtering accounted for 160,480 head (29.2%), while live exports dominated, absorbing 388,337 head (70.8%), underscoring the structural importance of cross-border trade in the sheep value chain. Live exports were concentrated in South Africa, which accounted for 384,665 head (99.1%) of total live exports, while marginal volumes were exported to Botswana (1,635 head), Zambia (726 head), Zimbabwe (384 head), Ghana (337 head), Angola (305 head), Tanzania (211 head), and Swaziland (74 head).

Total sheep meat exports for 2025 amounted to 598,973 kg, lower than the 734,819 kg exported over the same period in 2024, reflecting an 18.5% contraction. This decline was largely supply-driven, in line with reduced slaughter availability observed across much of the year. Norway was the leading destination, taking 245,884 kg, which accounted for 41.1% of total sheep meat exports. South Africa followed closely, taking 149,590 kg (25.0%), Botswana accounted for 116,428 kg (19.4%), while Lesotho imported 87,071 kg (14.5%), indicating the growing role of regional markets alongside Europe.

Skins exports totaled 103,889 kg in 2025. South Africa was the main market, absorbing 89,380 kg (86.0%) while Italy accounted for 14,509 (14.0%) of total skins exports during the year.

Producer prices averaged well above 2024 levels. The

average A2 producer price stood at N\$94.45/kg, which is N\$17.94/kg (23.4%) higher than the 2024 average of N\$76.52/kg. For comparative perspective, Namibia's 2025 A2 average price remained slightly below the South African NCA2 average of N\$96.75/kg, indicating that regional pricing dynamics remained closely aligned, with South Africa trading at a modest premium of approximately N\$2.30/kg (about 2.4%) over Namibia during the year. At auctions, lamb (Dorper) prices averaged N\$40.56/kg, up N\$8.06/kg (24.8%) compared to the 2024 level of N\$32.49/kg.



## Goat Sector

Total goat marketing closed at 133,303 heads in 2025, 6.2% lower than 142,103 recorded in 2024, despite increases recorded in m/m volumes. While cumulative volumes declined, the sector showed improved momentum in the second half of the year, driven almost entirely by live exports.

A total of 131,249 live goats was exported, with South Africa accounting for 127,138 head (96.9%), followed at a distance by Zimbabwe with 1,324 head (1.0%), Botswana 948 head (0.7%), Tanzania 751 head (0.6%), Ghana 350 head (0.3%), Angola 366 head (0.3%), Zambia 287 head (0.2%), and Malawi and Swaziland jointly accounting for 85 head (about 0.1%)

The average auction price for goat lambs averaged N\$44.97/kg in 2025 up by N\$13.32/kg, a growth of 42.1% in comparison to the 2024 average, while Kapater and ram prices also increased to N\$43.12/kg and N\$35.35/kg, respectively. The overall firming of prices reflects steady demand in the traditional Kwazulu Natal province of South Africa amid restricted market supply, a typical post-drought response as producers focus on herd rebuilding rather than sales.

Overall, goat marketing closed 2025 on a stronger note, supported almost entirely by live export demand, particularly from South Africa.

## Pork Sector

Total pigs marketed closed off at 52,834 head, a 4.2% increase from 50,719 head, marketed in 2024. This

moderate growth points to a relatively resilient pig sector, even as other livestock sectors experienced more pronounced volatility.

Moreover, pork imports in 2025 amounted to 6.86 million kg, broadly in line with the 6.99 million kg imported in 2024, indicating a 2.0% contraction. Spain dominated at 3.43 million kg (49.9%), followed by South Africa with 1.44 million kg (21.0%), China at 432,867 kg (6.3%), Germany at 372,727 kg (5.4%), Botswana at 274,995 kg (4.0%), the UK at 205,246 kg (3.0%), the Netherlands at 174,226 kg (2.5%), France at 149,662 kg (2.2%), while all other origins combined contributed less than 6%, showing a high reliance on European suppliers particularly Spain for unprocessed pork and South Africa for processed pork imports.

### Poultry and Poultry Products

A total of 19,467,326 chickens were slaughtered for domestic consumption in 2025. Chicken marketing showed steady cumulative growth. By end-June, marketing volumes had already reached 9.31 million birds, rising to 17.62 million birds by end-November, before closing the year at 19.47 million birds.

In terms of trade, imports of poultry products totaled 20.38 million kg. Imports were primarily sourced from Poland accounting for 9.16 million kg (45.0%), followed by Brazil at 5.43 million kg (26.6%), South Africa with 2.45 million kg (12.0%), the Netherlands at 1.86 million kg (9.1%), while Swaziland contributed 432,204 kg (2.1%), Argentina 365,548 kg (1.8%), Spain 363,200 kg (1.8%), Ireland 182,280 kg (0.9%), and all remaining origins combined including Uruguay, Ukraine, Thailand, Chile, Belgium, New Zealand and Switzerland accounted for less than 1% respectively, highlighting a strong concentration of poultry imports from Poland and Brazil, which together supplied over 70% of total volumes.

On the other hand, a total of 474,161 live chickens were imported in 2025, with day-old chicks from South Africa dominating at 394,621 heads (83.2%), followed by layer chickens from South Africa at 41,954 heads (8.8%), while day-old chick imports from the Netherlands accounted for 20,790 heads (4.4%). On the other hand, Zambia supplied 16,796-day-old chicks (3.5% of total imports). This implies that 92.1% of all live chicken imports were from South Africa for the year 2025.

### Dairy Sector

Total milk supply amounted to 31.43 million litres, of which local production accounted for 16.74 million litres, reflecting a milk sufficiency level of 53.3% in 2025, with production peaking in July and remaining above 1.3 million liters per month on average. While imports

accounted for 14.68 million litres (46.7%).

Producer prices averaged at N\$6.70 per litre in 2025.

Dairy products imports totaled 14,742,948 kg in 2025, reflecting sustained demand for value-added products such as cheese, yoghurt, butter, milk powders and other processed dairy items. Overall, South Africa remained a dominant supplier, accounting for 97.7% of imports, followed by Germany (1.3%), Denmark (0.5%), while all other countries combined contributed the remaining 0.5% of total milk & dairy products imports.

### Conclusion

Overall, livestock marketing and trade performance in 2025 reflected a sector operating under recovery and adjustment conditions, characterized by constrained livestock supply, with cattle marketing and slaughter remaining significantly below 2024 levels due to ongoing herd recovery. Producer prices across most commodities remained higher than 2024 prices with slight fluctuations m/m, largely supported by seasonal market dynamics. Export activity eased month-on-month in general, while imports remained supportive of the market.

Looking ahead, livestock marketing in 2026 is expected to remain supply-constrained in the short term, particularly in the cattle sector, as herd recovery and rebuilding dynamics continue to limit slaughter availability. Therefore, livestock marketing volumes are expected to remain gradual and biologically driven, particularly in the cattle sector, with meaningful volume improvements dependent on improved animal availability rather than shifts in market demand. The LLPBN continues to monitor developments of FMD outbreaks in neighboring South Africa and Botswana and is working with stakeholders to ensure a coordinated preventative measure as well as a robust risk management plan for the livestock sector.

Fig 3: Total Marketing by Sector 2025 vs 2024 (n)

