

Statistics Commentary

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Overview

Despite being only two months into the new year, the enduring effects of the drought remain evident. The livestock sector has been severely impacted, leaving it with limited market-ready animals to supply across various marketing channels. This has led to contractions across all sectors, with the exception of the pig sector which recorded growth during February 2025. Livestock prices on the other hand soared as limited supply of animals drove up shortages.

Cattle Sector

The drought of 2024 posed immense challenges for farmers, necessitating increased cattle marketing as a response to the harsh environmental conditions. Consequently, farmers experienced significant herd reductions, leaving them with minimal market ready livestock during the current year. YTD marketing during the first two months of 2025 totaled 25,386 animals, representing a sharp decrease of 58.4 percent compared to the 53,663 animals marketed in the same period of 2024. Y-o-Y, February 2025 saw 12 679 animals marketed, a substantial drop from the 30,497 animals marketed in February 2024.

Live exports, the largest segment, experienced a steep decline of 79.1 percent. Similarly, domestic abattoirs recorded a decrease, with throughput dropping by 30.4 percent. While slaughtering at domestic abattoirs has been affected by the overall industry contraction, the impact has been less severe than that on live exports. Export-approved abattoirs demonstrated resilience, achieving a growth of 4.3% during this time potentially driven by targeted procurement strategies.

YTD livestock and beef prices started higher than

the level recorded during the same period in 2024. s-VCF beef all-grade average stood at N\$67.28/kg, N\$8.86/kg higher than the level recorded during the same period in 2024 while the s-VCF B2 producer price, averaged N\$71.53/kg in 2025 compared to N\$61.59/kg recorded in 2024.

The outbreak of lumpy skin disease led to restrictions on animal movement within the s-VCF. These restrictions placed upward pressure on prices due to the reduced supply of animals at auctions. As a result, the s-VCF weaner price averaged N\$28.59/kg and N\$28.26/kg during the first two months of 2025, respectively, exceeding the levels recorded in the same period of 2024.

Y-o-y beef exports amounted to 491,171 kg in February 2025, a significant decrease compared to the 900,050 kg exported during the same period in 2024. These exports were directed to markets in the EU, Norway, China, South Africa, and Botswana.

During February 2025, 111 510 pieces of bovine wet blue and processed leather were exported to South Africa and Zimbabwe. This brings the YTD exports to 168 100 pieces.

Sheep Sector

The decline in sheep marketing during February 2025 was largely driven by a shortage of market-ready animals within the sector. Slaughter activities saw a significant reduction at both export-approved and local abattoirs that dropped by 74.8 percent and 9.4 percent, respectively while live exports decreased by 49.6 percent.

The Namibian A2 producer price averaged N\$89.36/kg during February 2025. N\$14.66/kg higher than the 2024 level of N\$74.70/kg. The s-

VCF auction lamb prices averaged N\$36.24/kg and N\$36.78/kg during the first two months of 2025.

Mutton exports during the period under review dropped due significant reductions in throughput at export approved abattoirs. As a result, only 38 472 kg of lamb and mutton was exported to South Africa and Botswana, lower than the 2024 exports of 73 673 kg.

Goat Sector

The sector recorded a decline of 13.8 percent during February 2025. A total of 6 778 goats were marketed during February 2025 relative to 7 861 goats marketed during 2024, bringing YTD marketing to 11 293 heads. The contraction is owed to a drop in the availability of marketable animals across all marketing channels during the period under review. Additionally, lamb auction price averaged N\$42.31/kg and N\$38.14/kg during the first two months of the year, respectively.

Pork Sector

YTD total marketing of pigs at LLPBN-approved abattoirs stood at 8 192 pigs relative to 8 154 pigs marketed during the same period in 2024. Y-o-Y, 3 965 pigs were marketed during February 2025, 3.1 percent higher than what was marketed during the same period in 2024.

Demand for pork imports increased significantly during the period under review. As such, pork imports totaled 716 671 kg in February 2025, 158.0 percent higher than what was imported during the same period in 2024. Of these imports, 39.4 percent originated from Spain, followed by China with 35.7 percent market share. The remaining share originated from South Africa, Germany and Botswana. 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.

Poultry and Poultry Products

A total of 1 597 256 chickens were slaughtered in February 2025 for domestic consumption while 7 356 661 table eggs were produced locally during

the same period February 2025. The sector imported 42 001 day old chicks and 12 999 layers for breeding purposes during February 2025.

In terms of trade, the sector recorded a growth of 353.1 percent on a month – on-month basis. A total of 1 809 136 kg of processed chicken products were exported to South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe and the DRC. Meanwhile, YTD imports totaled 3 844 537 kg by the end of February 2025. Of these imports, 43.0 percent originated from Poland, 26.6 came from Brazil, 24.7 percent came from South Africa and the remaining 5.7 percent jointly from Spain, Argentina and Swaziland.

Dairy Sector

The sector, which comprises of milk and dairy products, imported a total of 844 472 liters of milk and 1 374 146 kg of various dairy products. These imports were sourced from South Africa, the EU, UK and Seychelles.

Conclusion

The livestock and livestock products sector in general posted a negative performance in terms of output which saw producer prices rising. The current trend is mainly driven by a shortage of animals after drought while the advent of good rainfalls supports efforts to rebuild stocks.