

# Statistics Commentary Q1 2025

**Fransina Angula**

Statistician: Trade & Strategic Marketing

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



## Overview

The good rains received during the first quarter of 2025 have triggered herd rebuilding, resulting in low marketing figures. The sector now struggles with a limited supply of market-ready animals for various marketing channels. This has consequently led to contractions across all sectors, except for the pig sector, which demonstrated growth during the first quarter of 2025. Livestock prices on the other hand improved as limited supply of animals drove up shortages.

## Cattle Sector

Marketing during the first quarter of 2025 totalled 37 577 animals, representing a sharp decrease of 58.0 percent compared to the 89 507 animals marketed in the same period of 2024. 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.

Live exports, the largest segment, experienced a steep decline of 79.8 percent. Similarly, export approved abattoirs recorded a decrease, with throughput dropping by 24.2 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 declined by 22.0 percent during the quarter under review.

Live cattle and beef prices remained higher than the level recorded during the first quarter of 2024. s-VCF B2-grade averaged N\$69.89/kg during the quarter, N\$9.02/kg higher than the level recorded during the same period 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, s-VCF weaner prices averaged N\$29.13/kg, 17.7 percent higher than the N\$24.75/kg level recorded during the first quarter of 2024.

Y-o-y, beef exports totaled 1 425 615 kg during the period under review, a significant decrease compared to the 2 936 183 kg exported during the same period in 2024. These exports were mostly directed to the EU with a market share of 84.2 percent, Norway with 10.2 percent, UK with 3.4 percent, China with 1.7 percent and South Africa with 0.8 percent market share.

During the first quarter of 2025, 281 906 kg of hides and skins in the form of bovine wet blue and processed were exported to South Africa, Zimbabwe, the UK and China. Hides and Skins imports on the other hand totaled 165 976 kg during the quarter under review.

## Sheep Sector

The decline in sheep marketing during the first quarter of 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 and recorded contractions of 53.9 percent and 21.6 percent, respectively while live exports dropped by 44.2 percent.

The Namibian A2 lamb producer carcass price averaged N\$88.74/kg during the first quarter of 2025. N\$12.23/kg higher than the 2024 level of N\$76.52/kg. The s-VCF auction lamb price recorded a growth of 18.6 percent and averaged N\$36.38/kg during the quarter.

Mutton exports during the period under review dropped due significant reductions in throughput at export approved abattoirs and declined by 63.3 percent. As a result, only 82 707 kg of lamb and mutton was exported to South Africa and Botswana and Norway, lower than the 2024 exports of 225 411 kg.

### **Goat Sector**

The sector recorded a decline of 15.1 percent during the first quarter of 2025. A total of 20 758 goats were marketed during the period under review 2025 relative to 24 442 goats marketed during the same period in 2024. 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\$39.57/kg during the first quarter of 2025.

### **Pork Sector**

Marketing of pigs at LLPBN-approved abattoirs totalled 12 324 pigs relative to the 12 255 pigs marketed during the same period in 2024. Demand for pork imports increased significantly during the period under review. As such, pork imports totalled 1 957 886 kg during the first quarter of 2025, 74.1 percent higher than what was imported during the same period in 2024. Of these imports, 30.4 percent originated from Spain, followed by China and South Africa with 17.8 percent and 17.3 percent market share, respectively. The remaining share originated from Botswana, Netherlands, the UK, France and Portugal. 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**

YTD, a total of 4 418 322 chickens were slaughtered for domestic consumption while 23 634 209 table eggs were produced locally during the same period. The sector imported 135 597 day old chicks and 17 99 layers for breeding purposes. In terms of trade, A total of 3 048 643 kg of processed chicken products were exported to South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia and the DRC. Meanwhile, imports totalled 6 659

199 kg during the quarter under review. Of these imports, 64.2 percent originated from Poland, 18.8 came from Brazil, 12.4 percent came from South Africa and the remaining 4.7 percent jointly from Argentina, Spain, Ireland, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine and Swaziland.

### **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.