

Statistics Commentary

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OVERVIEW

The livestock and livestock industry registered relatively good results during April 2026, with all sectors recording growth across various marketing channels. April 2026 further highlighted Namibia's capacity to expand output and diversify trade channels, with cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, and poultry sectors showing firm growth and strong export demand. Poultry and egg production demonstrated resilience, while pork imports moderated.

CATTLE SECTOR

The cattle sector recorded substantial growth in total marketing activities, supported by increased throughput at export-approved abattoirs, which accounted for 50.6% of total marketing, live exports contributing 31.8%, and B&C class abattoirs with 17.6%. A total of 23 207 heads were marketed in April 2026, representing a 25.7% increase, year-on-year. Live exports surged by 93.0% to 8 521 head compared with 4 414 head in April 2025, while slaughtering at export-approved abattoirs rose by 47.6% to 12 325 head. In contrast, domestic abattoirs registered a sharp decline of 58.6% to 2 361 head.

Beef exports reached 1 203 903 kg in April 2026, representing a 17.8% increase from the 1 021 716 kg recorded in April 2025, reflected by expanded throughput at export-approved abattoirs, and diversification into value-added products. A total of 54 179 kg of hides and processed leather were exported during April 2026.

The weaner/B2 ratio stood at 41.0% in April 2026 compared with 43.3% recorded during the corresponding period last year. The declining low ratio, well below the 64.0% benchmark, reflects strong producer carcass prices paid by abattoirs, relative to weaner prices. Year-on-year, live weaner prices weakened by N\$0.64/kg, averaging N\$31.77/kg in April 2026 relative to N\$32.41/kg in April 2025. In contrast, the B2 beef producer carcass price strengthened to N\$75.87/kg in April 2026, up from N\$67.52/kg in April 2025. Year-to-date, the B2 carcass price averaged N\$72.76/kg by the end of April 2026.

SHEEP SECTOR

In April 2026, a total of 274 359 sheep were marketed through formal channels, reflecting a year-on-year increase of 39.6% compared with 196 496 head recorded in the corresponding period of 2025. By the end of April 2026, slaughtering at export-approved abattoirs totaled 28 641 head, reflecting a strong year-to-date increase of 49.9%. In contrast, month-on-month activity contracted by 31.4% during April, with throughput declining to 4 210 head. Year-to-date throughput at B&C class abattoirs declined by 31.7%, falling from 38 530 head in 2025 to 26 308 animals marketed during 2026.

Year-to-date lamb and mutton exports rose sharply by 48.3%, increasing from 137 637 kg in 2025 to 204 172 kg in 2026. South Africa remained the principal market, absorbing 46.4% of consignments (94 758 kg), while Norway accounted for 32.2% (65 841 kg). The United Kingdom and the Netherlands contributed 10.7% (21 845 kg) and 10.6% (21 728 kg) respectively. This is attributed to positive regional demand in South Africa and continuous premium market access in Europe, especially Norway, driven by consumer preference for high-quality cuts. A total of 27 750 kg of sheep skins were exported during April 2026.

During April 2026, the A2 sheep average producer carcass price outperformed its South African counterpart, averaging N\$90.55/kg. This was N\$1.88/kg higher than the South African A2 producer price of N\$88.67/kg. Year-on-year, the live lamb Dorper auction price registered a modest increase in 2026, averaging N\$37.15/kg by the end of April. This represents a 0.51% rise compared with the April 2025 level of N\$36.96/kg.

GOAT SECTOR

Year-to-date goat marketing increased by 7.6%, rising to 35 131 head compared with 32 642 head in 2025. In April 2026, 11 222 goats were marketed, slightly lower than the 11 813 head recorded in April 2025. LLPBN-registered goat abattoirs reported a combined year-to-date slaughter of 171 goats. Meanwhile, live exports remained the dominant channel, with 34 960 goats exported to South Africa, Angola, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Kenya.

The average goat lamb auction price stood at N\$40.13/kg in 2026, compared with N\$38.97/kg in 2025. In April 2026, goat kapater prices declined by 6.0% to N\$40.91/kg, while goat ram prices rose by 1.8% to N\$32.76/kg.

PORK SECTOR

Year-to-date pig marketing recorded a 10.8% increase, rising to 18 434 head compared with 16 639 head in the corresponding period of 2025. On a month-on-month basis, pig marketing volumes grew by 0.7%, advancing to 4 756 head in April 2026. The pork ceiling price operating under the Pork Market Share Promotion Scheme (PMSPS) has been set at N\$52.12/kg for the second quarter but may be subject to cost data updates moving further into the second quarter.

Year-to-date pork imports totaled 2 467 080 kg, reflecting a 9.5% decrease compared with 2 231 899 kg in 2025. Germany remained the dominant supplier, accounting for 27.9% of total imports, followed by Denmark (16.7%), Spain (16.6%), South Africa (13.1%), and the Netherlands (11.8%). The remaining 13.9% was sourced from Belgium, France, Botswana, Ireland, China, Brazil, and Portugal. In April 2026, pork product imports were dominated by offal (65.5%), with cuts at 22.2% and processed products at 12.2%. Overall imports reflect firmer domestic supply conditions, moderated demand for imported cuts, and competitive regional sourcing strategies.

POULTRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

Year-to-date chicken marketing reached 6 864 234 head in April 2026, reflecting a 12.3% increase compared with 6 111 027 head marketed during the corresponding 2025 period. Over the same period, egg marketing totaled 41 884 115 units, marking a robust 27.5% expansion. These gains highlight the strong performance of the poultry sector and resilient consumer demand.

Year-to-date poultry and poultry product imports declined by 11.4%, falling from 8 053 097 kg in 2025 to 7 131 488 kg. Poland and Brazil dominated Namibia's poultry import market, accounting for 33.4% and 23.7% of total volumes, respectively. South Africa contributed 16.2%, followed by Argentina (12.8%) and the Netherlands (8.3%). The remaining 5.7% was jointly supplied by Swaziland, Spain, Belgium, the USA, Ireland, and Thailand. Namibia relies on major global exporters, especially Poland and Brazil, yet sustains a diversified supplier base.

DAIRY SECTOR

Year-to-date domestic milk production totaled 4 738 052 litres by April 2026, registering a 3.3% decline from 4 897 636 litres in the corresponding period of 2025. On a month-on-month basis, domestic production decreased by 7.0% in April 2026, falling to 1 168 210 litres from 1 256 262 litres in March. The contraction highlights sector's sensitivity to production volatility.

Year-to-date milk imports increased by 46.8% in April 2026, rising to 5 622 439 litres from 3 829 317 litres in April 2025. Namibia's milk self-sufficiency ratio stood at approximately 45.7%, underscoring the sector's continued reliance on imports to meet domestic demand. Milk producer prices remained at an average of N\$6.70/litres.

Dairy product imports increased by 41.6% year-on-year, rising to 2 825 460 kg in April 2026 from 1 995 841 kg in April 2025. On a month-on-month basis, imports expanded by 20.7%, advancing from 2 341 402 kg in March 2026. South Africa emerged as Namibia's dominant supplier, accounting for 93.6% of total dairy product imports during April 2026. Denmark and Sweden followed with contributions of 3.4% and 2.1%, respectively, while the remaining import countries collectively made up just 1.0% of the total import share.

CONCLUSION

April 2026 reflected broad-based growth across the livestock sector, with cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs all showing firm expansion underpinned by strong export demand. Poultry reinforced its role as a resilient driver of domestic protein supply, while dairy underscored persistent challenges with declining local output and rising reliance on imports. During the review period, price developments highlighted competitive producer carcass prices across cattle and sheep, with modest gains observed in goat and lamb auctions.

The livestock industry is expected to maintain positive momentum through the remainder of 2026, supported by robust export demand, resilient poultry output, and continued diversification of trade channels. The trajectory emphasizes the need for sustained investment in production capacity and strategic market development to secure long-term stability.