

Statistics Commentary

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OVERVIEW

Namibia's livestock and livestock products sector showed broadly positive trends in February 2026. The cattle industry recorded modest growth, supported by higher slaughtering and increased live exports to South Africa, underpinned by firm carcass and competitive weaner prices. Sheep marketing surged on the back of strong live exports and higher throughput at export abattoirs, with mutton/lamb exports recording higher volumes to South Africa and Norway. Pig marketing rose slightly, while pork imports declined, led by reduced volumes from Spain and Germany. Poultry marketing expanded year-to-date, though imports surged with Poland and Brazil as key suppliers, and egg marketing posted robust growth despite monthly declines. The dairy sector contracted in domestic milk production but was offset by higher imports, primarily from South Africa.

CATTLE SECTOR

YTD cattle marketing reached 30 960 head, reflecting a 0.6% increase compared to the corresponding period in 2025. On a month-on-month basis, cattle marketing rose sharply by 59.6%, increasing from 11 925 head in January 2026 to 19 035 head in February 2026. Y-o-Y total cattle slaughtering rose by 11.7% to 12 988 head, underscoring improved herd availability and stronger producer confidence amid favorable market conditions.

Live exports increased by 34.1% Y-o-Y to 6 047 heads. South Africa remained the principal market, absorbing 100% of total live exports, reflecting robust demand from South African feedlots. During February 2026, Export abattoirs accounted for 55.4% of total market share, followed by live exports at 31.8% and domestic abattoirs at 12.8%.

The s-VCF beef all-grade average stood at N\$74.12/kg, N\$6.84/kg higher than the corresponding 2025 level. The B2 carcass price averaged N\$80.04/kg, while the weaner price averaged N\$31.59/kg during the review period. The price movements reflect firm carcass values and competitive weaner prices.

In February 2026, beef exports reached 1 143 911 kg, marking a sharp rise from the 491 171 kg recorded in February 2025. This year-on-year growth reflects a substantial expansion in trade volumes, with consignments directed to key destinations including the European Union, Norway, Greece, South Africa, and Lesotho.

During February 2026, 193 106 hides and processed leather were exported to South Africa and United Kingdom. YTD total exports reached 236 969, marking a 41.0% increase compared to the corresponding period in 2025.

SHEEP SECTOR

Y-o-Y, sheep marketing surged by 69.3% to 62 136 heads in February 2026, compared with the same month in 2025. On a month-on-month basis, sheep marketing rose by 20.2%, increasing from 51 706 head in January 2026. The month-on-month growth in February highlights increased throughput and improved supply conditions.

Live exports recorded a substantial year-on-year increase of 96.7% to 47 838 head in February 2026, with South Africa absorbing 100% of the exports. Y-o-Y slaughter activities at export abattoirs rose sharply by 61.0% to 7 946 head, while local abattoirs recorded a 14.9% decline to 6 352 head during the review period.

The average producer price stood at N\$64.09/kg in February 2026, up N\$2.56/kg from the 2025 average of N\$61.53/kg. The sheep sector is primarily export-oriented, with South Africa being the most dependable market and offering favorable price incentives.

Lamb and mutton export volumes from Namibia increased by 22.9% from February 2025 to February 2026, rising from 38 472 kg to 47 272 kg. In February 2026, 54.1% of exports went to South Africa (25 569 kg), while Norway accounted for 45.9% (21 703 kg) of total exports, indicating South Africa's significance for Namibia's sheep sector. Norway provides lucrative prices for Namibia's deboned lamb cuts.

On the other hand, 27 500 wet-salted sheep skins were exported to South Africa.

GOAT SECTOR

The sector recorded a year-on-year increase of 13.5% during the review period, with 7 741 goats marketed in February 2026 compared to 6 818 in the corresponding 2025 period, bringing year-to-date marketing to 14 495 head. The increase in goat marketing was driven entirely by live exports, with 7 720 goats exported to South Africa (100%), highlighting stronger regional demand for Namibian goats.

Live exports accounted for the majority of marketing, increasing by 14.3% Y-o-Y to 7 720 heads. South Africa remained the principal market, absorbing 100% of total live exports, reflecting an increased demand for Namibian goats in the South African market. The sector remains predominantly export-oriented, with live animal shipments continuing to drive overall market performance.

The goat lamb auction price averaged N\$39.58/kg in February 2026, N\$1.44/kg higher than the 2025 corresponding period. Goat Kapater and ram prices increased to N\$35.25/kg and N\$27.91/kg, reflecting a Y-o-Y decrease of N\$5.50/kg and N\$1.18/kg, respectively.

PORK SECTOR

YTD total marketing of pigs at LLPBN-approved abattoirs stood at 8 462 head, compared to 8 215 during the same period in 2025. On a year-on-year basis, 4 090 pigs were marketed in February 2026, representing a 2.8% increase relative to the corresponding 2025 period. The pork ceiling price operating under the Pork Market Share Promotion Scheme (PMSPS) remains set at N\$55.17/kg.

Pork imports totaled 566 139 kg in February 2026, representing a 21.0% decline compared to the same period in 2025. Of these imports, 29.2% originated from Spain, followed by Germany (20.3%), South Africa (14.6%), and Denmark (13.8%). The remaining 22.2% was sourced from Belgium, France, the Netherlands, China, Brazil, and Ireland. Spain and Germany lead Namibia's pork imports, with South Africa and Denmark holding notable shares alongside smaller global suppliers.

POULTRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

YTD chicken marketing totaled 3 272 776 heads, representing a 18.2% increase compared to the corresponding period in 2025, reflecting a growing

momentum in the sector's broiler production segment. On a month-on-month basis, chicken marketing declined by 7.0%, falling to 1 576 617 heads in February 2026.

YTD poultry meat imports rose by 8.2% in February 2026, increasing from 3 846 537 kg in February 2025 to 4 163 401 kg. On a month-on-month basis, imports surged by 67.2%, climbing to 2 471 258 kg, reflecting sustained demand for poultry products. Poland emerged as the leading supplier to Namibia, accounting for 41.7% of total year-to-date poultry meat imports. Brazil followed with 25.8%, while the Netherlands and Argentina contributed 14.2% and 8.3% respectively. South Africa supplied 5.5%, with Spain and Eswatini (Swaziland) representing 2.5% and 1.1% of imports. Other suppliers, including Belgium and Ireland, accounted for less than 1% of the total market share. The poultry industry faces potential threats from Avian Influenza outbreaks in South Africa, which pose significant risks to Namibia's sectoral production and trade.

YTD egg marketing totaled 19 187 307 eggs, representing a 35.8% increase compared to the corresponding period in 2025. On a month-on-month basis, however, eggs marketing declined by 8.2%, falling to 9 184 394 eggs in February 2026 from 10 002 913 eggs in January 2026. The egg segment continues to face challenges linked to the importation of day-old chicks and point-of-lay layers.

DAIRY SECTOR

YTD domestic milk production declined by 4.6% in February 2026, falling from 2 424 573 litres recorded in February 2025 to 2 313 580 litres. On a month-on-month basis, domestic milk production contracted by 18.9%, declining to 1 036 035 litres in February 2026 from 1 277 545 litres in January 2026. The domestic milk production segment continues to face challenges such as; low production base in the country and rising input costs.

YTD dairy product imports rose sharply by 59.2% in February 2026, increasing from 3 837 511 litres in February 2025 to 6 111 095 litres. This surge reflects Namibia's growing reliance on external dairy product supply, as domestic production continues to contract. On a month-on-month basis, imports decreased by 9.3%, falling from 3 203 905 kg in January 2026 to 2 907 190 kg in February 2026.

Y-o-Y milk imports increased by 75.9% in February 2026, rising from 941 449 litres in February 2025 to 1 656 238 litres. Namibia's milk self-sufficiency ratio stood at approximately 58.3% in February 2026. This indicates a stronger reliance on domestic supply compared to January's 49.3%, yet it still underscores

Namibia's considerable dependence on external supply. Milk producer prices remained at an average of N\$6.70/litres in February 2026.

South Africa emerged as Namibia's dominant supplier, accounting for 94.3% of total year-to-date dairy product imports. Sweden and Denmark followed with contributions of 3.4% and 1.9%, respectively, while the remaining import countries collectively made up just 0.4% of the market share.

CONCLUSION

The livestock and livestock products industry performance during the review period showcased resilience in beef and pork while highlighting growth in sheep, goat, poultry, and egg marketing. The sector's dependency on South Africa for small-stock trade and increased reliance on external poultry and dairy industries persist. Positive price developments and improved throughput indicate heightened producer confidence, however long-term sustainability hinges on market diversification and enhancing domestic production capacity.

