

Statistics Commentary

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OVERVIEW

The livestock and livestock products industry registered a year-to-date increase in total marketing across all sectors, with the exception of goats. Competitive price dynamics in the livestock sector reinforced producer confidence, with sustained momentum across cattle and sheep sectors. The dairy industry remained under pressure, with elevated input costs constraining local production capacity.

CATTLE SECTOR

The cattle sector recorded a robust 26.5% YTD growth in total marketing, reaching 102777 head. Export-approved abattoirs dominated throughput with 51.1% of total marketing, while live exports contributed 30.7% and B&C class abattoirs accounted for 18.2%. In May 2026, a total of 18 732 head were marketed, reflecting a modest 1.0% year-on-year increase compared with 18 541 head in May 2025.

Live exports rose by 34.8% to 5 280 head compared with 3918 head in May 2025. Slaughtering at export-approved abattoirs increased by 11.6% to 11 256 head, while domestic abattoirs recorded a decline of 51.6% with a throughput of 2196 head, highlighting the continued reliance on export channels, with domestic throughput remaining under pressure.

Beef exports totaled 1 803 327kg in May 2026, representing a 48.6% increase compared with the 1 213 481 kg recorded in May 2025, driven by the country's continued access to premium EU markets. In May 2026, Namibia exported 157 308 kg of hides and processed leather, marking a 72.5% increase compared to the 91 195 kg recorded in May 2025.

Year-on-year, weaner prices increased by N\$1.54/kg (5.1%), averaging N\$32.01/kg in May 2026 compared with N\$30.47/kg in May 2025. The B2 beef producer carcass price advanced to N\$76.89/kg in May 2026, up from N\$68.51/kg recorded in May 2025. On a year-to-date basis, the average beef producer carcass price stood at N\$72.34/kg by the end of May 2026.

SHEEP SECTOR

Sheep marketing rose by 27.2% in May 2026, increasing from 59 560 head in May 2025 to 75 780 head. Year-to-date marketing also strengthened, climbing 38.2% to 353 944 head compared with 256 056 head during the corresponding 2025 period.

Live sheep exports increased by 50.8% to 280 567 head, driven primarily by an expansion in the live export segment. South Africa absorbed 99.6% (279 392 head), while Angola, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Tanzania, and Kenya collectively accounted for the remaining 0.4% (1175 head). Export-approved and local abattoirs together slaughtered 73 377 head, reflecting an increase of 4.9%. Within this, throughput at export-approved abattoirs increased by 44.5% to 34 814 head, while domestic abattoirs recorded a 15.9% decrease to 38 563 head.

YTD lamb and mutton exports increased by 35.4%, rising from 185 545 kg in 2025 to 251 177 kg in 2026. South Africa remained the principal destination, absorbing 56.4% of total exports (141 763 kg), while Norway accounted for 26.2% (65 841 kg). The United Kingdom and the Netherlands collectively contributed 17.3%, with 21 845 kg and 21 728 kg respectively. Highlighting South Africa's dominance as a key market, complemented by steady exports to EU. In May 2026, a total of 29 000 kg of sheep skins were exported to South Africa.

In May 2026, the A2 sheep producer carcass price averaged N\$91.46/kg, down N\$5.98/kg from the May 2025 level of N\$97.44/kg. On a year-to-date basis, the average sheep producer carcass price stood at N\$63.07/kg by the end of May 2026. Year-on-year, the live lamb Dorper auction price strengthened by 4.8%, averaging N\$41.38/kg in May 2026, an increase of N\$1.91/kg compared with N\$39.47/kg in May 2025.

GOAT SECTOR

Year-to-date, the goat sector recorded a 0.8% decrease in total marketing, reaching 42 626 head compared with 42 983 head in the corresponding 2025 period. LLPBN-registered goat abattoirs reported a combined slaughter of 224 goats, reflecting a sharp 72.0% decline

from the 800 head processed during the same period in 2025. Live exports remained dominant, with 42 402 goats exported to South Africa, Angola, Botswana, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Kenya.

In 2026, the average goat lamb auction price stood at N\$40.13/kg, compared with N\$39.90/kg in 2025. In April 2026, goat kapater and ram prices declined by 0.9% and 0.6%, averaging N\$40.53/kg and N\$32.56/kg respectively.

PORK SECTOR

Pig marketing volumes increased year-on-year by 1.2% to 4 672 head in May 2026, compared with 4 615 head in May 2025. Year-to-date marketing also strengthened, rising by 8.8% to 23 119 head compared with 21 254 head during the corresponding 2025 period. 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 and is subject to adjustments during the quarter.

Pork imports totaled 2 951 259 kg, reflecting a YTD decrease of 4.5% compared with 3 088 865 kg imported during the corresponding 2025 period. Germany remained the dominant supplier, accounting for 28.3% of total imports, followed by Denmark (15.6%), the Netherlands (14.3%), South Africa (13.4%), and Spain (12.5%). The remaining 15.9% was sourced from Belgium, Ireland, France, Botswana, Brazil, China, the United Kingdom, and Portugal. In May 2026, pork product imports were dominated by offal (76.4%), with cuts at 12.8% and processed products at 10.8%. The decline in imports was partly attributed to improved local supply.

POULTRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

Chicken marketing registered a marginal decline of 0.02% in May 2026, easing from 1 595 263 head in May 2025 to 1 594 988 head. Despite this slight dip, year-to-date marketing increased by 9.8%, reaching 8 459 222 head by the end of May 2026. Over the same period, egg marketing totaled 51 215 150 units, marking a 19.5% increase. The YTD average egg price recorded at the end of May 2026 was N\$1.58/unit for small, N\$2.43/unit for medium, N\$2.22/unit for large, N\$2.75/unit for extra-large, and N\$3.22/unit for jumbo sizes.

Poultry and poultry product imports declined YTD by 17.0%, falling from 10 445 550 kg in 2025 to 8 667 293 kg. Brazil and Poland dominated Namibia's poultry import market, accounting for 28.7% and 27.8% of total volumes, respectively. South Africa contributed 18.5%, followed by Argentina (12.5%) and the Netherlands

(6.8%). The remaining 5.6% was jointly supplied by Swaziland, Spain, Belgium, Uruguay, the USA, Ireland, and Thailand. The decline was partly attributed to strengthened domestic production and competitive local supply.

DAIRY SECTOR

Year-to-date domestic milk production totaled 6 041 950 litres by May 2026, registering a 2.8% decline from 6 218 044 litres in the 2025 corresponding period. The decline was attributed to high input costs which continue to influence performance. On a month-on-month basis, however, domestic production increased by 11.6% in May 2026, rising to 1 303 898 litres from 1 168 210 litres in April, reflecting seasonal recovery.

Year-to-date milk imports increased by 43.9% in May 2026, rising to 7 174 176 litres from 4 984 324 litres recorded in the 2025 corresponding period. Namibia's milk self-sufficiency ratio stood at 45.7%, underscoring continued reliance on imports as high input costs continue to constrain domestic output. Milk producer prices remained at an average of N\$6.70/litres.

Dairy product imports increased by 25.7% YTD, rising to 13 920 029 kg in at the end of May 2026, from 11 076 592 kg in May 2025. On a year-on-year basis, imports decreased by 5.3%, to 2 642 072 kg in May 2026. South Africa emerged as Namibia's dominant supplier, accounting for 94.2% of total dairy product imports during May 2026. Denmark and Sweden followed with contributions of 2.9% and 1.7%, respectively, while the remaining import countries collectively made up just 1.2% of the total import share.

CONCLUSION

The performance of the livestock and livestock products industry in May 2026 was supported by diversification of trade channels, robust live exports, and competitive producer carcass prices across key sectors, while goats and dairy continued to highlight persistent structural challenges.

Overall, the industry is expected to sustain positive momentum through the remainder of 2026, driven by strong export markets, resilient poultry supply, and continued diversification of trade opportunities. However, targeted investment is crucial to strengthening long-term stability and reducing reliance on imports.