

# Statistics Commentary

## Q1 2026

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### OVERVIEW

During the first quarter of 2026, the livestock and livestock products industry experienced overall positive trends, with significant growth in marketing volumes of cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, and poultry sectors, while the dairy sector reflected weaker performance, recording a decrease in domestic milk production segment.

Cattle marketing rose by nearly 20% and beef exports tripled, despite a sharp downturn in domestic abattoir activity. Sheep marketing surged nearly 70% due to live exports and increased European demand, while goat marketing saw modest growth. Pig marketing increased slightly due to reduced imports, and poultry saw double-digit growth in chicken and egg sales, alongside lower imports.

### CATTLE SECTOR

Cattle marketing reached 52 975 head, reflecting a 19.7% increase in Q1 2026, compared 44 266 head marketed in the 2025 corresponding period. Month-on-month basis, volumes rose by 15.7%, climbing from 19 035 head in February to 22 015 head in March.

Live exports increased by 32.9% to 17 769 heads in the first quarter of 2026, underscoring strong regional demand and continued integration into external markets. Throughput at export abattoirs rose sharply by 56.2% to 29 189 head, compared to 18 689 head in the corresponding quarter of 2025, reflecting firm international appetite for Namibian beef. In contrast, domestic abattoirs registered a notable contraction, with slaughtering declining by 50.7% to 6 017 head during the quarter under review.

Beef exports expanded threefold to 3 572 076 kg, up from 1 425 615 kg recorded during the 2025 Q1, reflecting stronger demand in premium international markets, particularly Europe and key regional destinations.

During March 2026, 376 248 hides and processed leather products were exported to South Africa, Zimbabwe, Italy, Nigeria, and the United Kingdom, underscoring the sector's diversification into value-added products and highlighting resilience across trade channels.

The s-VCF beef all-grade price stood at N\$72.23/kg, N\$8.13/kg higher than March 2025. The B2 carcass price averaged N\$77.55/kg, while the weaner price averaged N\$31.16/kg during March 2026.

### SHEEP SECTOR

Sheep marketing recorded a substantial increase of 69.9% in Q1 2026, rising to 204 842 head compared with 120 540 head in the corresponding quarter of 2025. Month-on-month basis, volumes grew by 46.5%, up from 62 136 head in February 2026. This strong upward trajectory reflects the sector's recovery momentum, supported by firm export demand and producers leveraging quicker reproductive cycles to rebuild flocks.

Live exports rose sharply by 89.7% to 162 798 heads in the first quarter of 2026. South Africa absorbed the majority at 99.8%, while Angola and Zimbabwe collectively accounted for the remaining 0.2%. Throughput at export-approved abattoirs rose sharply by 88.5% to 24 431 head in Q1 2026, compared with 12 964 head in the corresponding quarter of 2025. In contrast, domestic abattoirs recorded a decline of 19.0%, with slaughtering falling to 17 613 head during the review period.

Lamb and mutton export volumes from Namibia increased by 58.9% in Q1 2026, rising from 91 777 kg to 145 801 kg compared with the corresponding quarter of 2025. During the review period, South Africa absorbed 55.1% of exports (80 365 kg), while Norway and the United Kingdom accounted for 29.9% (43 591 kg) and 15.0% (21 845 kg) respectively. Highlighting South Africa's continued role as the primary outlet, complemented by strong demand from European markets, particularly Norway and the UK. On the other hand, 27 500 wet-salted sheep skins were exported to South Africa.

## GOAT SECTOR

Goat marketing increased by 14.5% in Q1 2026, rising to 23 842 head compared with 20 829 head in the corresponding quarter of 2025. Live exports accounted for the bulk of activity, advancing by 14.8% to 23 746 head. South Africa remained the principal destination, absorbing 94.8%, while Zambia, Zimbabwe, Angola, and Botswana collectively represented 5.2% of total live exports. The sector remains predominantly export-oriented, with live exports continuing to anchor overall market performance.

During the first quarter of 2026, the goat lamb auction price averaged N\$39.83/kg, compared with N\$39.57/kg in the corresponding period of 2025. By contrast, goat Kapater and ram prices declined to N\$37.96/kg and N\$29.29/kg, reflecting decreases of 7.1% and 3.9% respectively during the review quarter.

## PORK SECTOR

Pig marketing recorded a 5.0% increase in Q1 2026, rising to 12 982 head compared with 12 365 head in the corresponding quarter of 2025. On a month-on-month basis, volumes grew by 10.5%, advancing from 4 520 head in February 2026. The pork ceiling price operating under the Pork Market Share Promotion Scheme (PMSPS) remains set at N\$55.17/kg.

During quarter 1 of 2026, pork imports totaled 1 642 067 kg, reflecting a decrease of 16.1% compared to the 2025 corresponding quarter. Germany remained the dominant supplier, accounting for 22.9% of the total, followed by Spain (22.5%), South Africa (13.5%), Denmark (11.2%), and Netherlands (11.1%). The remaining 18.8% was sourced from Belgium, Botswana, France, Ireland, China, Brazil, and Portugal. Highlighting continued dependence on European markets while also demonstrating a diversification across regional and global partners.

## POULTRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

Chicken marketing totaled 5 126 755 head in Q1 2026, reflecting an 16.0% increase compared with 4 418 322 heads marketed during the corresponding 2025 period. Over the same period, egg marketing reached 31 369 568 units, marking a robust 32.8% expansion, highlighting strong performance of Namibia's poultry industry.

Poultry and poultry product imports declined by 14.1% in Q1 2026, falling from 6 663 191 kg in the corresponding 2025 period to 5 725 953 kg. Poland and Brazil dominated Namibia's total poultry import market share, accounting for 37.9% and 26.2% of total volumes, respectively.

Argentina (10.9%) and the Netherlands (10.3%) followed, while South Africa, Swaziland, Spain, Belgium, USA, Ireland, and Thailand jointly contributed 14.8%.

## DAIRY SECTOR

During the first quarter of 2026, domestic milk production declined by 3.5%, falling to 3 569 842 litres from 3 700 093 litres in the corresponding 2025 period. On a month-on-month basis, domestic milk output rebounded by 21.3% in March 2026, rising to 1 256 262 litres from 1 036 035 litres in February, reflecting seasonal recovery and improved throughput.

Dairy product imports surged by 34.4% in first quarter of 2026, rising to 8 452 497 litres from 6 290 413 litres in the corresponding 2025 period. On a month-on-month basis, imports decreased by 19.5%, falling from 2 907 190 kg in February 2026 to 2 341 402 kg in March 2026, reflecting seasonal moderation.

Milk imports increased by 34.3% in Q1 2026, rising to 4 058 317 litres from 3 022 944 litres in the corresponding quarter of 2025. Namibia's milk self-sufficiency ratio stood at approximately 46.8% during the review quarter, underscoring continued reliance on imports. Milk producer prices remained at an average of N\$6.70/litres.

South Africa emerged as Namibia's dominant supplier, accounting for 93.2% of total dairy product imports during the 2026 first quarter. Sweden and Denmark followed with contributions of 2.9% and 2.7%, respectively, while the remaining import countries collectively made up just 1.1% of the total import share.

## CONCLUSION

The performance of the industry reflects positive growth in cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, and poultry sectors, alongside firm export demand. Poultry and poultry product imports, and egg production showed robust expansion, while pork product imports moderated. Prices declined quarter-on-quarter across key livestock categories, largely due to seasonal supply recovery and higher marketing volumes.

Overall, the quarter highlighted Namibia's capacity to expand output and diversify trade channels, but also reinforced the strategic need for sustained investment in domestic production capacity and market diversification to ensure long-term stability and reduce reliance on external markets.