Statistics Commentary

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LIVESTOCK AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS BOARD

OVERVIEW

The livestock industry recorded broad-based growth in the first half of 2026, with cattle and sheep marketing showing strong momentum supported by competitive pricing and expanded live exports. Beef exports rose sharply alongside a surge in hides and processed leather, underscoring value-addition gains. Pork marketing strengthened moderately, poultry output advanced with reduced imports, while goats and dairy highlighted weaker performance. Overall, the sector demonstrated resilience through diversified trade channels and competitive producer prices.

CATTLE SECTOR

Marketing during the first half of 2026 amounted to 126 672 heads, reflecting an increase of 23.9%, compared to 122 865 heads marketed during the 2025 corresponding period. On a year-on-year basis, 23 249 animals were marketed, reflecting a 10.8% increase compared to the 20 985 animals marketed in the corresponding period of 2025.

During the first half of 2026, live exports rose by 47.4%, reaching 39 083 head compared with 26 523 in the corresponding period of 2025. On a year-on-year basis, live exports advanced by 55.8% to 7 513 head, up from 4 821 in 2025. Export-approved abattoirs recorded a 12.5% increase in throughput, rising to 13 151 head in June 2026, reflecting producer confidence and competitive pricing. In contrast, B&C class abattoirs registered a sharp 42.3% decline during the period under review.

During the first half of 2026, beef exports reached 8 342 841 kg, reflecting a 52.7% increase compared with the 5 461 915 kg recorded in the corresponding period of 2025, supported by sustained access to premium EU markets and firm producer margins. Over the same period, exports of hides and processed leather totaled 924 769 kg, marking a 95.2% increase from the 473 849 kg recorded in 2025.

During the first half of 2026, weaner prices strengthened by N$2.27/kg (7.6%), averaging N$31.96/kg compared with N$29.70/kg in the corresponding period of 2025, supported by firm producer margins. The B2 beef producer carcass price advanced to N$78.32/kg in 2026, up from N$68.63/kg recorded in 2025. Additionally, the all-grade beef producer carcass price stood at N$72.87/kg during the 2026 review period, reflecting an 11.5% increase compared with N$65.34/kg in the corresponding period of 2025.

SHEEP SECTOR

During the first half of 2026, sheep marketing amounted to 447 299 head, reflecting a 39.8% increase compared with 320 015 head in the corresponding period of 2025. In June 2026, marketing rose year-on-year by 44.3% to 92 311 head, largely driven by heightened regional export demand and competitive market prices.

Slaughter activities at export approved abattoirs increased by 37.9%, rising to 42 421 heads during the first half of 2026 from 30 762 head in the 2025 corresponding period. In contrast, domestic abattoirs registered a year-on-year decline of 14.2%, with slaughter numbers falling to 6 980 head in June 2026. Live sheep exports increased by 58.1% year on year to 77 724 head in June 2026. South Africa absorbed 97.7% (75 901), underscoring its dominant role in Namibia's live export market, while Angola, Zimbabwe, and Tanzania collectively accounted for the remaining 2.3% (1 823 head).

During the first half of 2026, lamb and mutton exports rose by 60.5%, increasing from 215 610 kg in 2025 to 346 109 kg in 2026. South Africa remained the principal destination, absorbing 53.5% of total exports (185 185 kg), while Norway accounted for 25.4% (87 917 kg). The United Kingdom, Botswana, and the Netherlands collectively contributed 21.1%, with 21 845 kg, 7 438 kg, and 43 724 kg respectively, highlighting diversified regional and international demand. Over the same period, exports of sheep skins totaled 140 750 kg in the first half of 2026, compared with just 1 500 kg in the corresponding period of 2025.

During the first half of 2026, the all-grade sheep producer carcass price averaged N$63.74/kg, reflecting a 1.9% increase compared with N$62.54/kg in the corresponding period of 2025. Additionally, the live lamb Dorper auction price strengthened by 1.7%, averaging N$38.66/kg in 2026 compared with N$38.02/kg in the 2025 corresponding period.

GOAT SECTOR

During the first half of 2026, the goat sector recorded a 12.8% decrease in total marketing, reaching 47 286 head in 2026 compared with 54 251 head in the corresponding 2025 period. LLPBN-registered goat abattoirs reported a combined slaughter of 262 head, reflecting a sharp 76.5% decline from the 1 117 head processed during the same period in 2025. Live exports remained dominant, with 47 024 goats exported to South Africa, Angola, Botswana, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Kenya, underscoring the sector's continued reliance on regional markets.

During the first half of 2026, the average goat lamb auction price stood at N$40.09/kg, compared with N$39.84/kg in the corresponding period of 2025, reflecting a marginal increase of 0.6%. In addition, goat kapater and ram prices declined by 4.5% and 8.7%, averaging N$39.17/kg and N$30.72/kg respectively.

PORK SECTOR

Pig marketing volumes increased year-on-year by 7.7% to 4 821 head in June 2026, compared with 4 478 head in June 2025. Year-to-date marketing also strengthened, rising by 8.6% to 27 940 head compared with 25 732 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.

During the first half of 2026, pork imports totaled 3 815 615 kg, representing a 9.9% increase compared with 3 470 729 kg recorded in the corresponding period of 2025. Germany remained the principal supplier, accounting for 26.2% of total imports, followed by Denmark (19.5%), the Netherlands (13.0%), and South Africa (13.0%). The remaining 28.2% originated from Belgium, Poland, Ireland, Spain, France, Botswana, Brazil, China, the United Kingdom, and Portugal. In June 2026, imports were predominantly offal (79.6%), with processed products comprising 11.7% and cuts 8.7%. The increase reflects higher volumes sourced across a diversified base, reinforcing Namibia's reliance on multiple international sources.

POULTRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

During the first half of 2026, chicken marketing amounted to 10 319 098 head, reflecting a 10.9% increase compared with 9 307 872 head in the corresponding period of 2025. Over the same period, egg marketing totaled 62 299 067 units, marking a 19.0% increase from 52 363 225 units in 2025, underscoring continued growth in output. The average egg price recorded at the end of June 2026 was N$1.48/unit for small, N$2.43/unit for medium, N$2.22/unit for large, N$2.72/unit for extra-large, and N$3.18/unit for jumbo sizes.

Poultry and poultry product imports declined year-to-date by 11.7%, falling from 11,415,447 kg in 2025 to 10,080,288 kg. Brazil and Poland dominated Namibia's poultry import market, accounting for 30.3% and 28.3% of total volumes, respectively. South Africa contributed 19.4%, followed by Argentina with 11.0%. The remaining 11.0% was jointly supplied by the Netherlands, Swaziland, Spain, Belgium, Uruguay, the USA, Ireland, and Thailand. The decline reflects stronger domestic poultry output.

DAIRY SECTOR

During the first half of 2026, domestic milk production totaled 7 400 776 litres, registering a 2.8% decline compared with 7 615 101 litres in the corresponding 2025 period. The contraction reflects ongoing pressures in the dairy sector and constrained producer margins. On a year-on-year basis, however, domestic production increased by 4.2% in June 2026, rising to 1 358 826 litres from 1 303 898 litres in May 2026.

During the second quarter of 2026, milk imports increased by 36.4%, rising to 9 050 498 litres from 6 634 284 litres in the corresponding period of 2025. Namibia's milk self-sufficiency ratio stood at 45.0%, underscoring sustained import dependence amid elevated production costs. In June 2026, producer prices averaged N$6.69/litres.

During the first half of 2026, dairy product imports rose by 25.0% to 16 637 879 kg, compared with 13 310 221 kg in the corresponding period of 2025. On a year-on-year basis, imports increased by 21.6% to 2 717 850 kg in June 2026. South Africa remained the dominant supplier, accounting for 94.0% of total imports, followed by Denmark (2.5%) and Sweden (1.5%), while other countries collectively contributed just 1.9%.

CONCLUSION

During the first half of 2026, the performance of the livestock industry was underpinned by robust live exports, resilient poultry sector growth, and competitive producer prices across key sectors. The goat industry, however, reflected weaker performance with declining marketing volumes and softer auction prices. In contrast, the dairy sector faced reduced domestic output alongside elevated import dependence. Sustained diversification of trade opportunities and strategic policy alignment remain critical to maintaining momentum and ensuring long-term stability across Namibia's livestock value chain.