

Statistics Commentary

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OVERVIEW

The livestock industry recorded positive year-to-date growth, supported by strong producer prices. However, FMD-related movement restrictions disrupted September marketing activity, with notable declines in the extensive sector marketing and live exports. Among the intensive sectors, poultry continued to strengthen and reduce import dependence, while pig marketing recorded modest growth. In contrast, the goat and dairy sectors faced challenges, with modest prices and marketing, declining domestic milk production, and rising milk imports.

CATTLE SECTOR

Year-to-date cattle marketing totalled 217 007 head, representing a 30.9% increase from 165 755 head marketed during the corresponding 2025 period. However, on a month-on-month basis, marketing declined by 27.2% to 21 387 head in September 2026 from 29 389 head in August 2026, reflecting disruptions to livestock movements and marketing activities following the FMD outbreak and the associated disease control measures.

Live exports increased by 58.8% year-to-date to 75 578 head, compared with 47 594 head during the corresponding 2025 period. Export-approved abattoirs also recorded strong growth, with throughput increasing by 34.6% to 104 505 head by the end of September 2026. By contrast, B&C class abattoirs registered an 8.8% decline to 36 924 head over the same period.

Beef exports continued to perform strongly, increasing by 51.0% year-to-date to 14 348 192 kg, compared with 9 499 218 kg during the corresponding 2025 period. On a year-on-year basis, September 2026 exports rose by 47.5% to 1 624 743 kg from 1 101 893 kg in September 2025, reflecting stronger export demand and higher slaughter throughput. Hides and processed leather exports also recorded robust growth, increasing by 66.2% year-to-date to 1 264 234 kg from 760 454 kg in the corresponding 2025 period.

The average weaner prices strengthened by N\$1.75/kg (5.8%) to N\$31.92/kg, up from N\$30.17/kg in the corresponding 2025 period. The average B2 carcass price advanced to N\$78.31/kg in 2026, from N\$69.90/kg in 2025, while the all-grade carcass price rose 9.3% to N\$72.80/kg, from N\$66.58/kg.

SHEEP SECTOR

Year-to-date sheep marketing totalled 611 407 head, a 39.1% increase compared with 439 395 head in the corresponding 2025 period, with September 2026 marketing up 7.9% year-on-year to 33 565 head.

Export-approved abattoirs processed 48 557 head year-to-date, representing a 6.2% increase from the 45 706 head recorded during the corresponding 2025 period, supported by favourable carcass prices. In contrast, domestic abattoir throughput declined by 9.5% to 70,794 head by the end of September 2026. Additionally, year-to-date live sheep exports increased by 56.0% to 492 056 head, compared to 315 459 head during the corresponding period of 2025. However, month-on-month live exports declined by 39.4% to 28 311 head in September 2026 from 46 754 head in August 2026, partly reflecting marketing disruptions and movement restrictions associated with FMD control measures.

Year-to-date lamb and mutton exports increased by 25.5%, rising from 407 011 kg in 2025 to 510 618 kg in 2026. South Africa remained the leading export destination, accounting for 46.9% of total exports (239 317 kg), followed by Norway at 25.0% (127 810 kg) and Zambia at 10.3% (52 529 kg). The Netherlands, Botswana and the United Kingdom collectively absorbed the remaining 17.8%, with export volumes of 43 724 kg, 25 393 kg and 21 845 kg, respectively. Meanwhile, sheep skin exports recorded strong growth, increasing to 141 008 kg in 2026 from 64 380 kg during the corresponding period of 2025.

The average all-grade carcass price increased by 6.3% to N\$64.94/kg, compared with N\$61.10/kg during the corresponding period of 2025. Similarly, the live lamb Dorper auction price strengthened by 4.5%, averaging N\$40.24/kg compared to N\$38.52/kg in 2025.

GOAT SECTOR

Year-to-date goat marketing declined by 6.5% to 85 476 head in 2026, compared with 91 401 head during the corresponding period of 2025. Despite the overall decline, LLPBN-registered abattoirs increased slaughter throughput by 17.7%, processing 2 653 head compared to 2 254 head over the same period in 2025. Live exports remained the predominant marketing channel, accounting for 95.1% of total goats marketed, with 78 746 head exported to South African feedlots, while the remaining 4.9% was distributed across regional markets including Angola, Botswana, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Kenya.

Goat auction prices softened during the review period, with the average goat lamb auction price falling 5.3% year-on-year to N\$40.34/kg from N\$42.58/kg. Similarly, Kapater and ram prices declined by 4.9% and 7.0%, averaging N\$39.68/kg and N\$32.02/kg, respectively.

PORK SECTOR

Year-to-date pig marketing increased by 3.5%, reaching 40,544 head in 2026 compared to 39,179 head during the corresponding period of 2025. However, on a year-on-year basis, marketing declined by 34.1%, falling from 4,959 head to 3,270 head. Under the Pork Market Share Promotion Scheme (PMSPS), the pork ceiling price for the third quarter has been established at N\$47.61/kg, with adjustments to be made as necessary during the quarter.

Year-to-date pork imports totalled 5 860 947 kg, representing a 14.7% increase compared with 5 108 944 kg recorded during the corresponding period of 2025. The increase reflects heightened reliance on imports to meet domestic consumption requirements, with offal accounting for 75.4% of total year-to-date import volumes. South Africa remained the leading supplier, contributing 30.9% of imports, followed by Botswana (16.5%), Belgium (14.6%), and Spain (12.2%). The remaining 25.8% originated from a diversified supplier base, including Germany, the United Kingdom, France, Ireland, Denmark, Brazil, Australia, China, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, and Finland.

POULTRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

Year-to-date chicken marketing totalled 17 877 799 head, up 24.5% from 14 363 502 head recorded during the corresponding period of 2025, reflecting improved increased market throughput and production within the poultry sector. Domestic abattoir throughput rose to 2 179 148 head in September 2026, a 23.5% increase compared with 1 764 841 head slaughtered during September 2025.

Year-to-date egg marketing totalled 94 006 845 units, reflecting a 13.1% increase compared with 83 127 650 units recorded during the corresponding period of 2025. A total of 108 000 eggs were exported to Botswana during September 2026. At the end of September 2026, average egg prices stood at N\$1.53/unit for small, N\$2.49/unit for medium, N\$2.24/unit for large, N\$2.75/unit for extra-large, and N\$3.11/unit for jumbo eggs.

Poultry and poultry product imports declined by 5.4% year-to-date, decreasing from 15 967 950 kg in 2025 to 15 103 721 kg, reflecting improved domestic production and reduced reliance on imports. South Africa remained the primary supplier, accounting for 48.2% of total imports, followed by Poland (23.4%), Argentina (10.9%), and Brazil (9.2%). The remaining 8.3% was sourced from a various country, including the Netherlands, Eswatini, Spain, Belgium, Uruguay, the United States, Ireland, Türkiye, and Thailand.

DAIRY SECTOR

Year-to-date domestic milk production totalled 11 911 532 litres, reflecting a 3.3% decline compared with 12 319 909 litres recorded during the corresponding period of 2025. On a year-on-year basis, September 2026 milk output declined by 4.7% to 1 484 914 litres, down from 1 557 859 litres in September 2025, indicating continued pressure on domestic milk production.

Year-to-date milk imports increased by 50.2% to 15 095 303 litres, up from 10 052 521 litres recorded during the corresponding period of 2025. The increase was driven by lower domestic milk production, bringing the country's milk self-sufficiency ratio to 44.1%. The average producer price stood at N\$6.69/litres in September 2026.

Year-to-date dairy product imports increased 26.6% to 26 333 967 kg, compared with 20 800 526 kg in the corresponding 2025 period. On a year-on-year basis, September 2026 imports rose 52.4% to 3 495 959 kg, up from 2 293 411 kg in September 2025. South Africa remained the dominant supplier, accounting for 95.4% of total YTD imports, followed by Denmark (1.6%), the remaining 2.9% sourced from other countries.

CONCLUSION

The livestock and livestock products industry recorded a positive year-to-date performance across various marketing channels. However, the growth trajectory was interrupted by the sector's exposure to FMD at the end of the third quarter. Sector performance is expected to decline in the last quarter of the year and the performance of the sector going into next year will be determined by the effectiveness of disease containment measures as well as the uptake of alternative meat markets.