



LiveLink

Live export statistics

This edition of LiveLink includes the latest trends in Australian live export trade statistics and prices. Please note that all export data over the past nine months may later be revised.

Feeder and slaughter cattle exports in April were just 58,000 head, bringing the year-to-date total to 223,000 head, 41% below year-ago volumes. The story has been much the same since the start of the year, with exports being restricted by lower availability of Australia cattle, high cattle prices and a variety of in market challenges.

Year-to-April shipments to Indonesia were back 18%, at 159,000 head, influenced by a combination of supply limitations out of Australia and the presence of Indian buffalo meat (IBM). With Ramadan commencing at the end of May, shipments would have needed to clear customs in April to supply the religious consumption period – therefore the historical surge in exports looks unlikely. The domestic market also appears to have been impacted by the presence of IBM, with local slaughter numbers tracking lower. Political uncertainty across Indonesia is also contributing to a decline in consumer buying power.

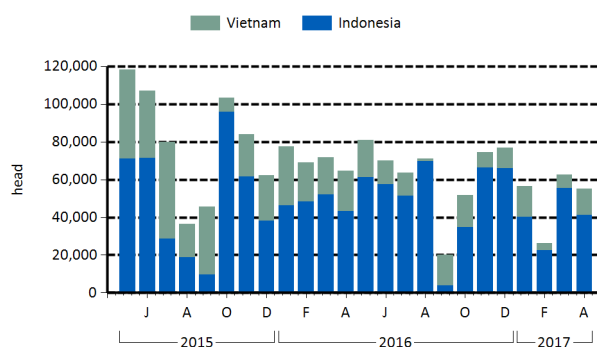
Current wet market prices for IBM in the Greater Jakarta area continue to vary and range from IDR 75,000-105,000/kg, while fresh beef trades at a premium from IDR 110,000-120,000/kg.

Exports of feeder and slaughter cattle to Vietnam totalled almost 14,000 head in April, an increase on the two months prior, albeit from a low base. Feeder and slaughter exports to Malaysia have halved over the past year, underpinned by unfavourable exchange rates and cheaper Thai cattle entering the country.

Live feeder cattle delivered to Darwin are currently \$3.30-3.40/kg lwt – about 10% lower since January and typical for this time of year, as mustering gets under way and numbers begin to flow through the system.

To subscribe to this report or if you have any queries, please email marketinfo@mla.com.au. Historical live export data can be downloaded from MLA's public database - <http://statistics.mla.com.au/>.

Figure 1 Feeder and slaughter cattle exports



Source: ABS, DAWR

Table 1 Feeder and slaughter cattle exports by destination

Unit: head	2017			12 months ending 2017 April	12 months ending 2016 April	% change	head change
	Apr	Mar	Feb				
Brunei	896			5,608	4,770	18%	838
Cambodia				2,800			2,800
China			1,200	1,358	330	312%	1,028
Egypt					18,500	-100%	-18,500
Indonesia	41,158	55,541	22,630	570,290	584,893	-2%	-14,603
Israel			11,000	52,406	86,606	-39%	-34,200
Japan	1,080	1,320		8,634	9,082	-5%	-448
Jordan					2,233	-100%	-2,233
Kuwait	100	50	50	449	250	80%	199
Malaysia	877	2,279		25,494	47,797	-47%	-22,303
Mexico					6,677	-100%	-6,677
Philippines	200			7,330	28,348	-74%	-21,018
Qatar		200		1,150	500	130%	650
Russian Federation					43,812	-100%	-43,812
Thailand				1,461	3,849	-62%	-2,388
Turkey				50,900	7,000	627%	43,900
UAE					605	-100%	-605
Vietnam	13,931	6,866	3,513	138,313	334,438	-59%	-196,125
Total volume	58,242	66,256	38,613	865,073	1,179,690	-27%	-314,617

Table 2 Feeder and slaughter cattle exports by port

Unit: head Year		Total	Darwin	Unknown*	Townsville	Fremantle	Broome	Port Adelaide	Wyndham	Other
2015	Nov	106,488	32,332		29,227	16,750	4,105		2,085	21,989
	Dec	68,387	39,850		10,294	11,482				6,761
2016	Jan	106,257	19,902		21,280	49,300				15,775
	Feb	81,156	20,033		35,114	13,131		6,397		6,481
	Mar	91,917	43,892		17,146	6,643			5,209	19,027
	Apr	98,095	14,656		33,340	8,878	24,494	5,020	3,741	7,966
	May	86,659	33,519		21,290	3,000	17,427		8,012	3,411
	Jun	99,096	45,283		12,014	12,728	17,599	6,631	2,733	2,108
	Jul	81,052	46,016		6,528	12,420	13,327		2,761	
	Aug	83,307	33,917		19,797	7,990	9,463		5,363	6,777
	Sep	29,931	9,743		12,983	5,016				2,189
	Oct	71,368	20,104		19,141	17,225	8,277			6,621
	Nov	89,499	36,350		3,646	36,117	2,830	3,500		7,056
	Dec	102,634	43,722		13,388	40,536		2,000		2,988
2017	Jan	59,655	12,332		31,995	8,822				6,506
	Feb	38,613	17,941			19,472				1,200
	Mar	66,256	30,168		34,518	250				1,320
	Apr **	58,242								

Data specifications

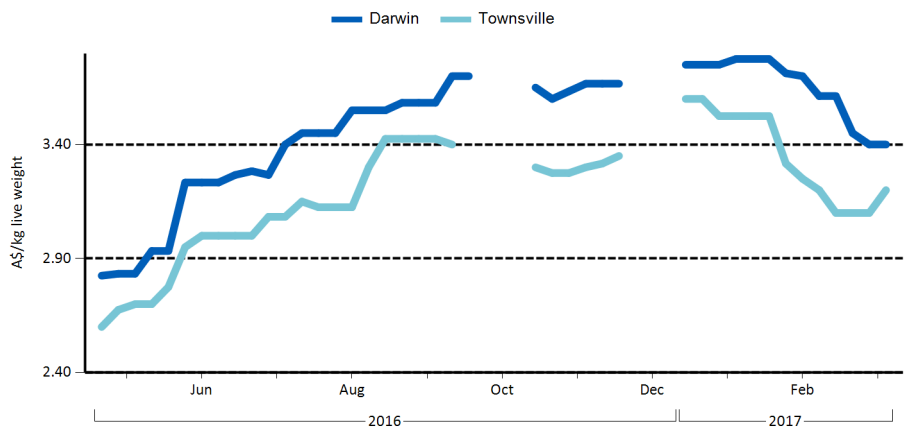
Due to the timing of live export trade data being released, both Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR) data is used in this report. The most recent month and, at times, second most recent month trade data comes from DAWR. This data is then updated when ABS data is released.

* In October 2015, the ABS did not disclose feeder and slaughter cattle trade data to Vietnam, China and Japan. For this month, individual country shipments have been estimated by MLA. In addition, trade data by individual port was also not disclosed in October 2015 – this data is aggregated under “Unknown” port.

** DAWR does not report on individual ports. Port data is updated when released by the ABS.

All pricing data is collected by Meat and Livestock Australia from a range of sources.

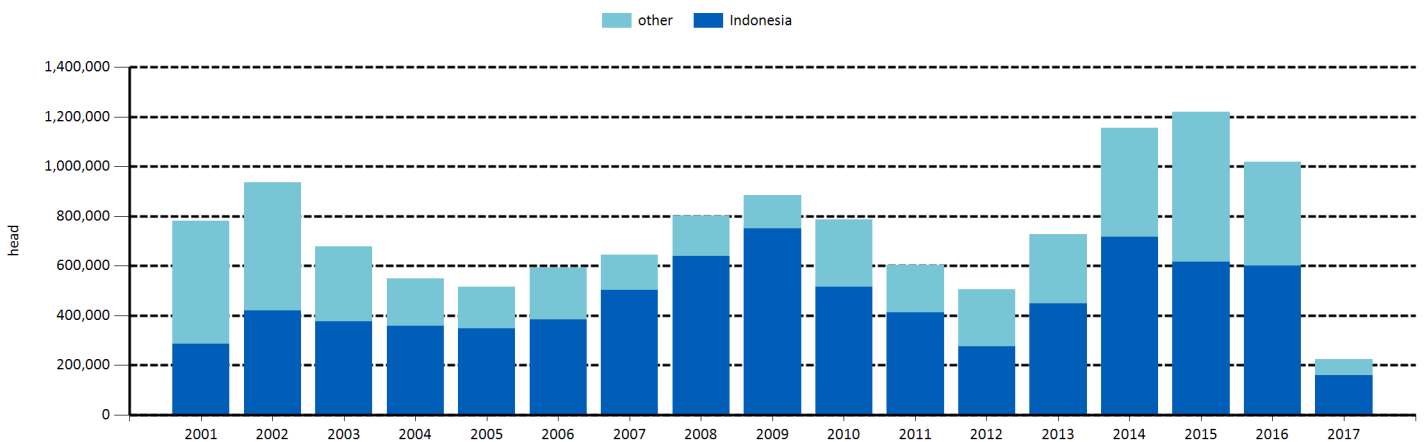
Figure 2 Live export feeder cattle prices



Source: MLA live exporter survey
Please note, prices include up to the end of the previous month and may not include the latest trends

For more detailed live export price information, in addition to other northern cattle markets, click here to access the latest edition of the [North of the Tropic Beef Report](#)

Figure 3 Feeder and slaughter cattle exports***



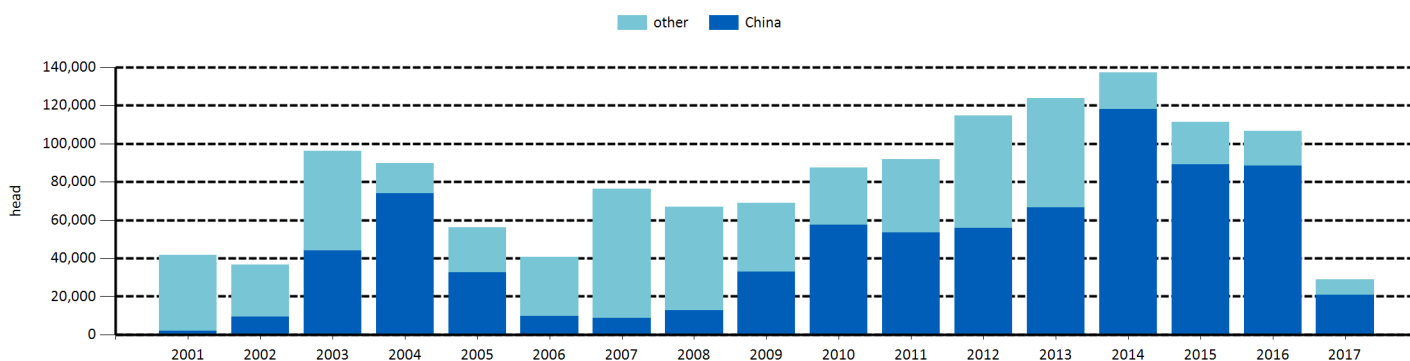
Source: ABS, DAWR ***the current year total is up to and including the most recently reported month

Table 3 Beef and dairy breeder cattle exports by destination

Unit: head Destination market	2017			12 months ending 2017 April	12 months ending 2016 April	% change	head change
	Apr	Mar	Feb				
Bangladesh				4	70	-94%	-66
China	3,079	8,501	3,274	81,808	106,021	-23%	-24,213
Indonesia	198			2,667	1,977	35%	690
Japan	638	1,301		2,242	2	112000%	2,240
Kuwait				255	3,204	-92%	-2,949
Laos					930	-100%	-930
Malaysia	192	56	75	1,283	2,413	-47%	-1,130
Pakistan		1,650	2,415	6,502	3,507	85%	2,995
Philippines				240			240
Qatar					360	-100%	-360
Russian Federation					1,152	-100%	-1,152
Sarawak	340			340			340
Sri Lanka					2,498	-100%	-2,498
Taiwan	169	220	215	1,753	628	179%	1,125
Thailand			4	237			237
Turkey				3,475			3,475
UAE	155		11	423	321	32%	102
Vietnam				2,454	2,617	-6%	-163
Total volume	4,771	10,427	5,994	102,412	125,700	-19%	-23,288

Table 4 Beef and dairy breeder cattle exports by port

Unit: head Year	Total	Portland	Geelong	Sydney	Melbourne	Port Adelaide	Fremantle	Darwin	Other
2016	May	12,272	7,917	3,828	90	435			2
	Jun	12,696	8,721		30	470	3,475		
	Jul	9,479	3,904	4,020	40	71		930	514
	Aug	8,486	8,267		219				
	Sep	10,461	9,924		48			489	
	Oct	4,422	4,000			222			200
	Nov	1,111			230	460			421
	Dec	15,735	9,887	2,000	202	789		2,651	206
2017	Jan	6,558	6,125		82	351			
	Feb	5,994	5,689		79	226			
	Mar	10,427	4,742	4,159	56	220	1,250		
	Apr **	4,771							

Figure 4 Beef and dairy breeder cattle exports***

Source: ABS, DAWR ***the current year total is up to and including the most recently reported month

Table 5 Sheep exports by destination

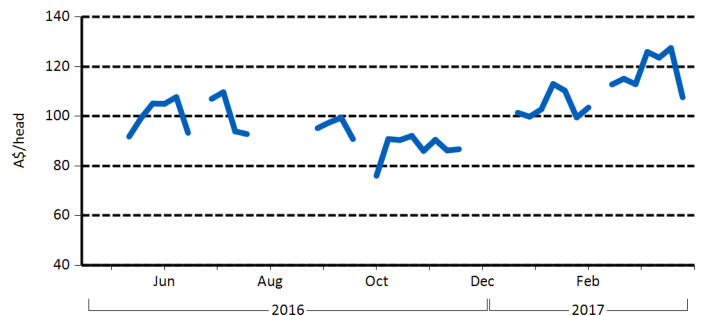
Unit: head Destination market	2017			12 months ending	12 months ending	% change	head change
	Apr	Mar	Feb	2017 April	2016 April		
Argentina		19	8	38	41	-7%	-3
Bahrain					205,000	-100%	-205,000
Bangladesh					50	-100%	-50
Brunei				300	831	-64%	-531
Chile		6		6	20	-70%	-14
China	1,380			6,436	13,390	-52%	-6,954
Egypt					9,500	-100%	-9,500
Fiji					77	-100%	-77
Indonesia				24			24
Israel			25,000	100,651	108,948	-8%	-8,297
Japan				81			81
Jordan			43,500	157,500	154,200	2%	3,300
Kazakhstan					7	-100%	-7
Kuwait	95,556	49,909	58,959	612,126	770,402	-21%	-158,276
Lebanon				12,000			12,000
Malaysia	3,498	3,489	2,664	58,398	57,647	1%	751
New Zealand				11	5	120%	6
Oman	29,484	5,000	12,935	117,659	90,304	30%	27,355
Philippines				116	243	-52%	-127
Qatar	50,000	60,000	45,000	565,000	465,148	21%	99,852
Singapore				2,100	1,980	6%	120
UAE	16,532	14,000	9,451	163,652	158,404	3%	5,248
UK	22			22			22
Uruguay			5	5	70	-93%	-65
Total volume	196,472	132,423	197,552	1,796,155	2,036,267	-12%	-240,112

Figure 5 Sheep exports by region - past 12 months



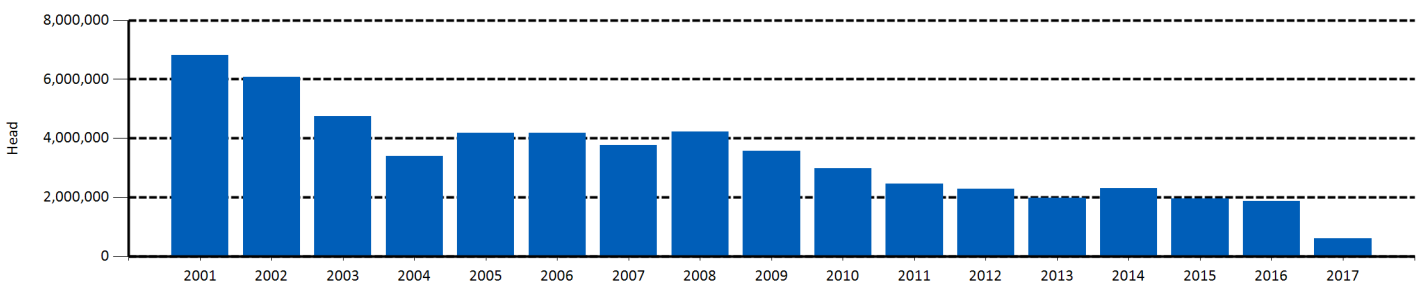
Source: ABS, DAWR

Figure 6 WA live export wether price



Source: MLA Muchea saleyard market report
Please note, prices include up to the end of the previous month and may not include the latest trends

Figure 7 Sheep exports***



Source: ABS, DAWR ***the current year total is up to and including the most recently reported month

April sheep exports increased on the previous month but are tracking lower year-to-date compared to 2016. With Ramadan approaching there were sizable shipments recorded across a number of Middle Eastern countries. Kuwait returned (overtaking Qatar) to be the largest export destination for Australian sheep over the past year, with April exports totalling 95,556 head – the largest shipment since March 2016. Exports to Qatar remained stable, with another 50,000 head sent during April, while shipments to Oman increased six-fold, to 29,000 head.

Figure 8 Sheep exports by state - past 12 months



Source: ABS, DAWR

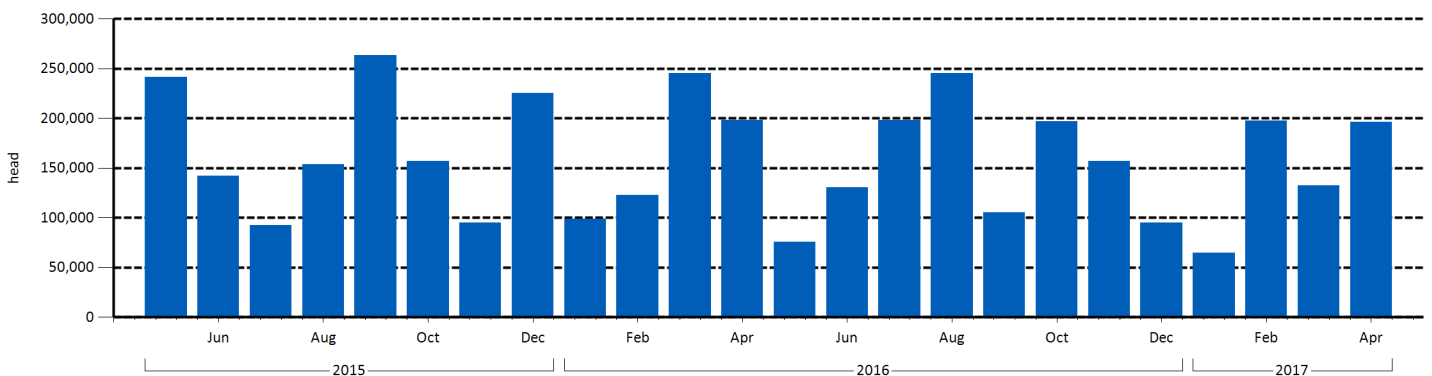
Want to subscribe to the monthly LiveLink report? Email marketinfo@mla.com.au to receive any of MLA's regular reports free of charge.

[Click here to find the full list of MLA market information publications.](#)

Table 6 Sheep exports by port

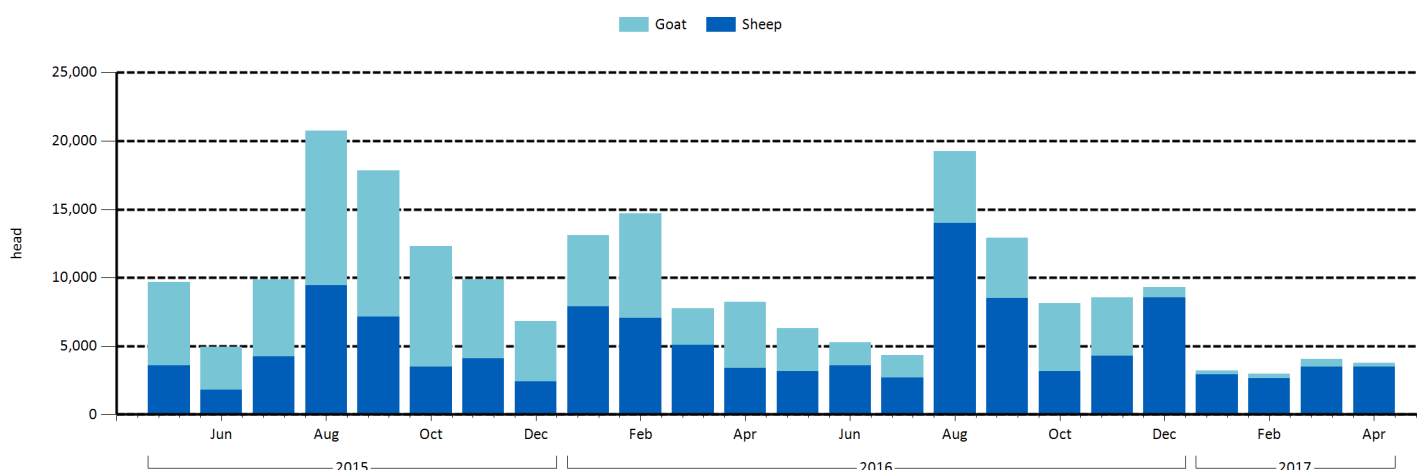
Unit: head Year		Total	Fremantle	Port Adelaide	Perth	Portland	Sydney	Melbourne	Adelaide	Other
2015	Nov	95,143	90,842		1,437		183	627	1,869	185
	Dec	225,657	179,628	42,790	734		1,668		837	
2016	Jan	98,815	89,262	5,000	2,036		24		2,493	
	Feb	123,087	79,887	38,484	2,237		171	32	1,628	648
	Mar	245,280	241,403		2,922		108	98	749	
	Apr	198,033	193,166		2,536		100	657	1,574	
	May	75,806	52,293	20,245	1,066		116	692	1,394	
	Jun	130,883	124,028	2,972	1,567			275	2,041	
	Jul	198,147	194,300		2,164		250	1,433		
	Aug	245,339	202,509	33,000	3,835			1,017	2,529	2,449
	Sep	105,417	96,894		6,867		350	132	1,174	
	Oct	197,093	193,949		2,297		54		793	
	Nov	157,204	151,438		2,077			2,168	1,521	
	Dec	95,208	89,639		2,561		67		2,941	
2017	Jan	64,611	61,595		2,245		24	83	664	
	Feb	197,552	161,735	33,110	2,602		13		62	30
	Mar	132,423	103,898	25,011	2,430		263		821	
	Apr **	196,472								

Figure 9 Sheep exports



Source: ABS, DAWR

Figure 10 Goat and sheep exports to Malaysia & Singapore



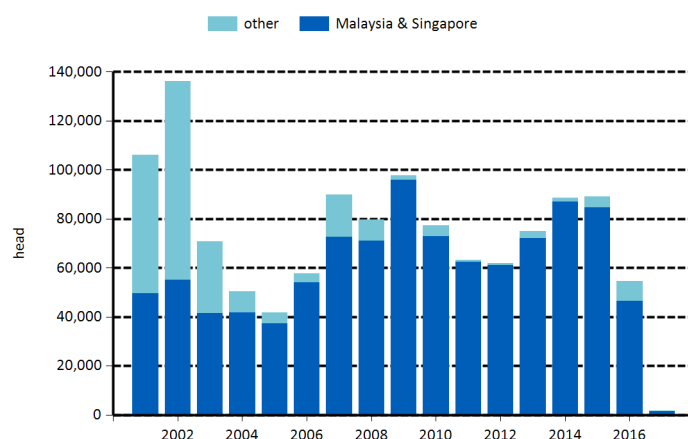
Source: ABS, DAWR

Table 7 Goat exports by destination

Unit: head Destination market	2017			12 months ending 2017 April	12 months ending 2016 April	% change	head change
	Apr	Mar	Feb				
Brunei				216	1,431	-85%	-1,215
Fiji				7	75	-100%	-75
Indonesia				7	211	-97%	-204
Malaysia	290	558	306	27,540	76,197	-64%	-48,657
Nepal	23			93	96	-3%	-3
New Zealand		8		15	1	1400%	14
Philippines			25	351	579	-39%	-228
UAE			128	3,236	4,847	-33%	-1,611
Vietnam				100	679	-85%	-579
Total volume	313	566	459	31,558	84,116	-62%	-52,558

Goat exports were extremely limited once again, at totalling 313 head – well below the 4,500 head monthly average last year. Limited availability, combined with record prices, has restricted goat exports to Malaysia with exports for the twelve months to April down 64% compared to the previous year. Importers have been replacing Australian goats with cheaper goats from Myanmar and Thailand.

Figure 11 Goat exports***



Source: ABS, DAWR
current year total is up to and including the most recently reported month

***the

© Meat & Livestock Australia Limited, 2016. ABN 39 081 678 364. MLA makes no representations as to the accuracy of any information or advice contained in this publication and excludes all liability, whether in contract, tort (including negligence or breach of statutory duty) or otherwise as a result of reliance by any person on such information or advice. All use of MLA publications, reports and information is subject to MLA's Market Report and Information Terms of Use. Please read our terms of use carefully and ensure you are familiar with its content – [click here for MLA's terms of use](#).