



# 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.

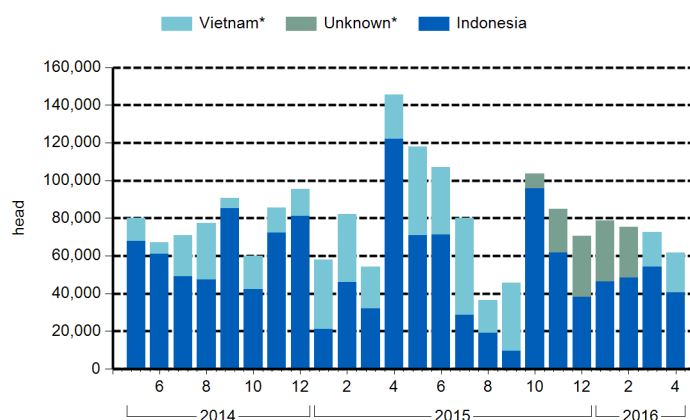
To subscribe to this report or if you have any queries, please email [marketinfo@mla.com.au](mailto:marketinfo@mla.com.au). Historical live export data can be downloaded from MLA's public database - <http://statistics.mla.com.au/>.

At the end of the first trimester (T1 - January to April), Australian live cattle exports (feeder, slaughter, breeder) were estimated at just over 411,500 head, down 6% from the corresponding period last year.

Over the T1 period, live cattle exports to **Indonesia** were just over 192,200 head, down 13% from the year prior. Looking forward, technical recommendations by the Indonesian Ministry of Agriculture have been put forward, requesting approval for an allocation in the T2 period (May-August) of 250,000 head (feeder cattle), with import permits officially issued by the Indonesian Ministry of Trade in early May. After the first four months of the year, exports to **Vietnam** (feeder, slaughter, breeder cattle) were estimated to have totalled more than 90,000 head.

As the Northern Australian wet season came to a close, increased cattle numbers resulted in lower average live export prices in the later stages of April and into May. In April, **Feeder steers** delivered to **Darwin** averaged 303c/kg lwt, while steers destined for the same markets delivered to **Townsville** averaged 283c/kg lwt.

Figure 1 Feeder and slaughter cattle exports



Source: ABS, DAWR

Table 1 Feeder and slaughter cattle exports by destination

Unit = head	2016			12 months ending			
	April	March	February	2016 April	2015 April	% change	head change
Brunei		900		4,770	5,049	-6%	-279
China	184			184			184
Egypt				18,500	27,900	-34%	-9,400
Indonesia	40,513	54,102	48,251	584,293	727,480	-20%	-143,187
Israel	10,215		10,100	83,494	61,220	36%	22,274
Japan*	1,080	390		4,762	9,428	-49%	-4,666
Jordan				2,233			2,233
Kuwait	50	100		250			250
Malaysia	1,686	1,928	1,019	47,704	48,595	-2%	-891
Mauritius					6,040	-100%	-6,040
Philippines	10,106			28,348	25,530	11%	2,818
Qatar	300			500	500	0%	
Russian Federation		16,812		43,812	39,408	11%	4,404
Thailand				3,849	5,356	-28%	-1,507
Turkey				7,000	2,400	192%	4,600
UAE		205		605	2,710	-78%	-2,105
Unknown*			27,135	122,986			122,986
Vietnam*	21,359	18,526		227,563	239,672	-5%	-12,109
<b>Total volume</b>	<b>85,493</b>	<b>92,963</b>	<b>86,505</b>	<b>1,180,853</b>	<b>1,201,288</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>-20,435</b>

**Table 2 Feeder and slaughter cattle exports by port**

Year		Total	Darwin	Unknown*	Townsville	Fremantle	Broome	Port Adelaide	Wyndham	Other
2014	November	103,423	67,882		10,866	11,417	1,610		3,206	8,442
	December	124,685	64,168		21,884	16,550			3,371	18,712
2015	January	81,544	20,704		27,169	8,263		19,405		6,003
	February	100,217	31,440		33,118	28,257				7,402
	March	69,021	44,303		17,885	4,190				2,643
	April	167,249	76,891		47,221	7,810	17,400	7,476	5,941	4,510
	May	136,220	47,455		39,055	4,950	22,178		18,810	3,772
	June	129,662	69,877		28,389	12,000	11,561		4,745	3,090
	July	115,019	41,110		30,605	7,500	24,198	6,110	3,069	2,427
	August	59,005	33,955			9,000	15,063			987
	September	64,582	26,386		19,073	12,033	3,107			3,983
	October	122,902		122,902						
	November	106,488		106,488						
	December	75,757		75,757						
2016	January	106,257		106,257						
	February	86,505		86,505						
	March	92,963	39,602		17,394	11,828			5,112	19,027
	April **	85,493								

**Data specifications**

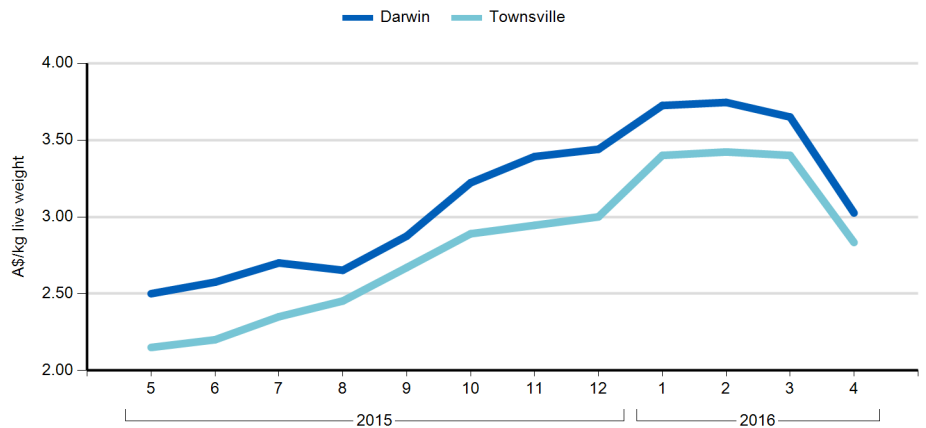
Due to the timing of live export trade data being released, both Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR) data is used in this report. The most recent month and, at times, second most recent month trade data comes from DAWR. This data is then updated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

\* During the period October 2015 to February 2016, the ABS did not disclose feeder and slaughter cattle trade data to Vietnam, China and Japan. However, the vast majority of these cattle were destined for Vietnam. In addition, trade data by individual port was also not disclosed over this period. The trade data by destination and by port over this period is aggregated into the "Unknown" category.

\*\* 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.

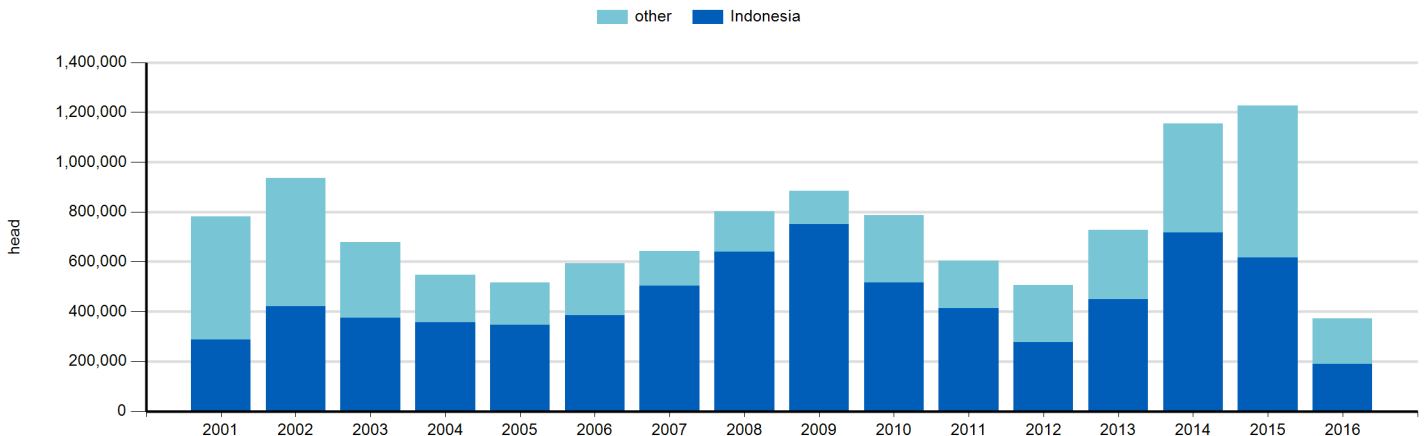
**Figure 2 Live export feeder cattle prices**



Source: MLA live exporter survey  
Please note, prices are monthly averages and may not reflect the latest market 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\*\*\***



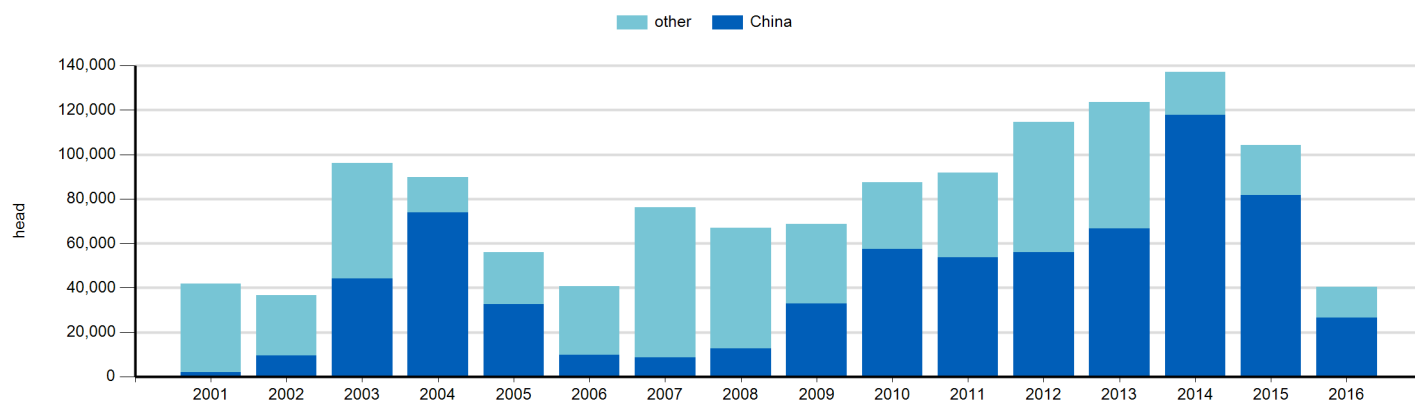
Source: ABS, DAWR \*\*\*the current year total is up to and including the most recently reported month

**Table 3 Beef and dairy breeder cattle exports by destination**

Unit = head				12 months ending	12 months ending		
Destination market	April	2016 March	February	2016 April	2015 April	% change	head change
Bangladesh				70	59	19%	11
China	12,367	10,927	3,290	97,624	91,990	6%	5,634
Indonesia	2,912			4,889	4,144	18%	745
Japan				2	22	-91%	-20
Kuwait			2,300	3,204	260	1132%	2,944
Laos				930			930
Malaysia	419	45	36	2,413	1,721	40%	692
Mexico	6,677			6,677			6,677
New Caledonia					5	-100%	-5
Pakistan		954		3,507	1,989	76%	1,518
Qatar				360			360
Russian Federation				1,152	2,279	-49%	-1,127
Samoa					46	-100%	-46
Singapore					30	-100%	-30
Sri Lanka				2,498			2,498
Taiwan		220		628	3	20833%	625
Thailand					351	-100%	-351
UAE	24		64	321	111	189%	210
Vietnam			5	2,617	4,495	-42%	-1,878
<b>Total volume</b>	<b>22,399</b>	<b>12,146</b>	<b>5,695</b>	<b>126,892</b>	<b>107,505</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>19,387</b>

**Table 4 Beef and dairy breeder cattle exports by port**

Year		Total	Portland	Geelong	Sydney	Melbourne	Port Adelaide	Fremantle	Darwin	Other
2015	May	9,509	8,807		32	670				
	June	1,809	1,181		428	200				
	July	8,226	7,792		400			34		
	August	25,965	16,988	5,777			3,200			
	September	11,354	10,954			400				
	October	5,345	3,685		338	962		360		
	November	13,221	11,777		379	879				186
	December	11,124	8,710		1,245	256	230	683		
2016	January	99			99					
	February	5,695	3,290		5	64	2,300			36
	March	12,146	10,309		45	220		1,572		
	April **	22,399								

**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**

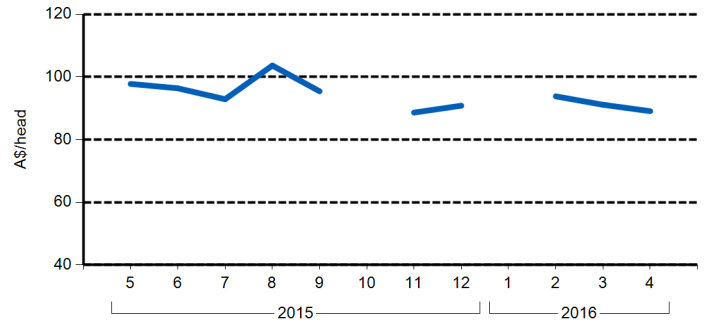
Unit = head	2016			12 months ending	12 months ending	% change	head change
	April	March	February	2016 April	2015 April		
Argentina		13		41	24	71%	17
Bahrain				205,000	359,865	-43%	-154,865
Bangladesh		50		50			50
Brunei				831			831
Chile				20			20
China	1,400			13,390	10,262	30%	3,128
Egypt				9,500	79,000	-88%	-69,500
Fiji	63			63			63
Israel	17,600		21,500	109,548	111,425	-2%	-1,877
Jordan	43,373		20,500	149,373	233,345	-36%	-83,972
Kazakhstan				7	12	-42%	-5
Kuwait	54,528	114,336	54,472	770,464	542,042	42%	228,422
Malaysia	3,446	5,064	7,038	57,703	42,993	34%	14,710
New Zealand				5	2	150%	3
Oman	11,000	6,000	68,200	156,004	58,646	166%	97,358
Philippines				243	41	493%	202
Qatar	58,000	70,000		465,148	450,264	3%	14,884
Samoa					14	-100%	-14
Singapore				1,980	2,200	-10%	-220
UAE	9,000	21,113	12,531	129,700	278,554	-53%	-148,854
Uruguay		10	46	80	5	1500%	75
<b>Total volume</b>	<b>198,410</b>	<b>216,586</b>	<b>184,287</b>	<b>2,069,150</b>	<b>2,168,694</b>	<b>-5%</b>	<b>-99,544</b>

**Figure 5 Sheep exports by region - past 12 months**



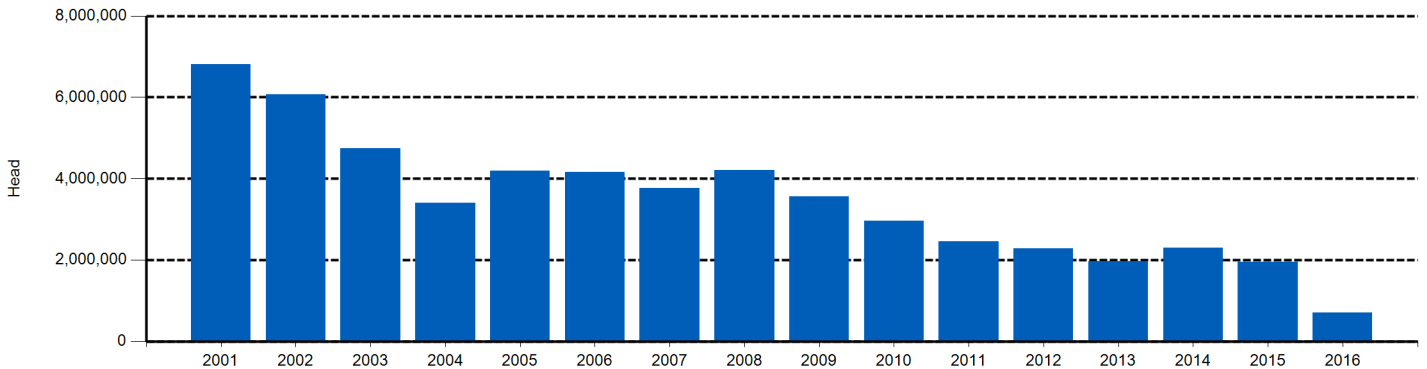
Source: ABS, DAWR

**Figure 6 WA live export wether price**



Source: MLA Muchea saleyard market report  
Please note, prices are monthly averages and may not reflect the latest market trends

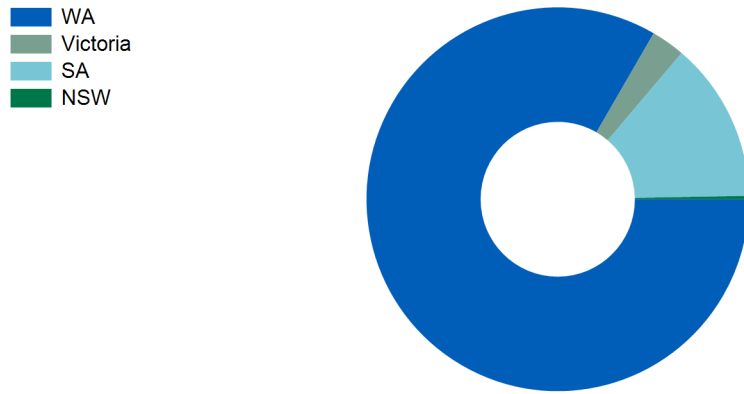
**Figure 7 Sheep exports\*\*\***



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

At the end of the first trimester (T1 – January to April), Australian sheep exports were up 36% from the same period the year prior, at just over 798,802 head. Kuwait continued to dominate volume, with just under 250,000 head imported so far this year – almost increasing threefold from the year prior. Most of the change is explained by **Kuwait** taking sheep that would have otherwise gone to Bahrain which imported 110,000 head in T1 in 2015 and zero in T1 2016. This significant change in volume demonstrates the depth in Kuwait's demand for Australian sheep meat.

Figure 8 Sheep exports by state - past 12 months



Additionally, for the January to April period exports to **Qatar** increased 98%, to 188,000 head, while shipments to the **UAE** declined significantly year-on-year, to just over 42,600 head. **Oman** was another exception at 85,200 head in T1 compared to 9,000 head for the same period last year. Additionally, exports to **Bahrain** have continued to suffer greatly from the removal of the import subsidy, with no recorded shipments since September last year.

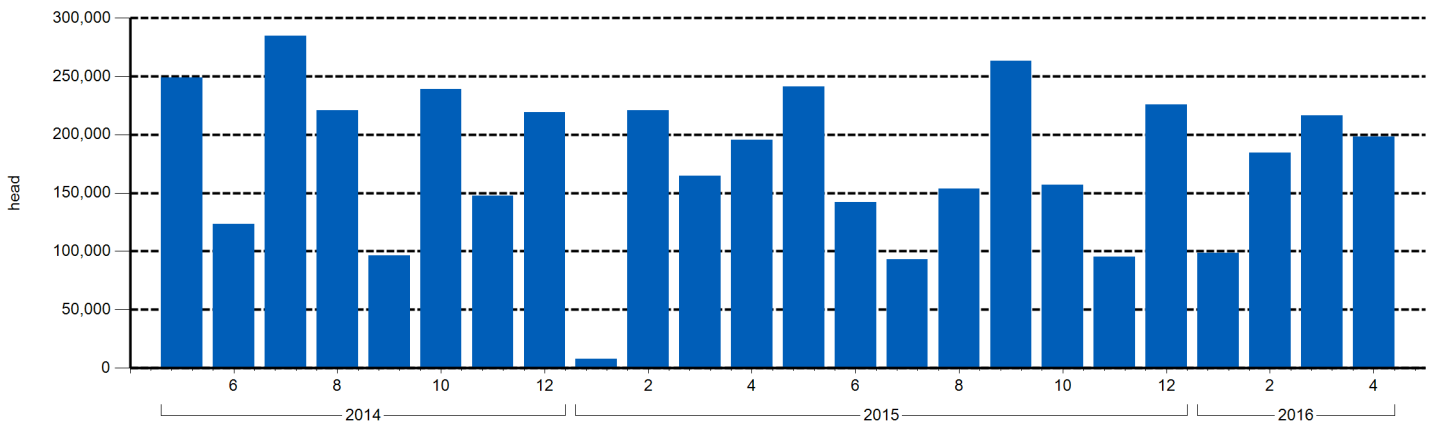
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Table 6 Sheep exports by port

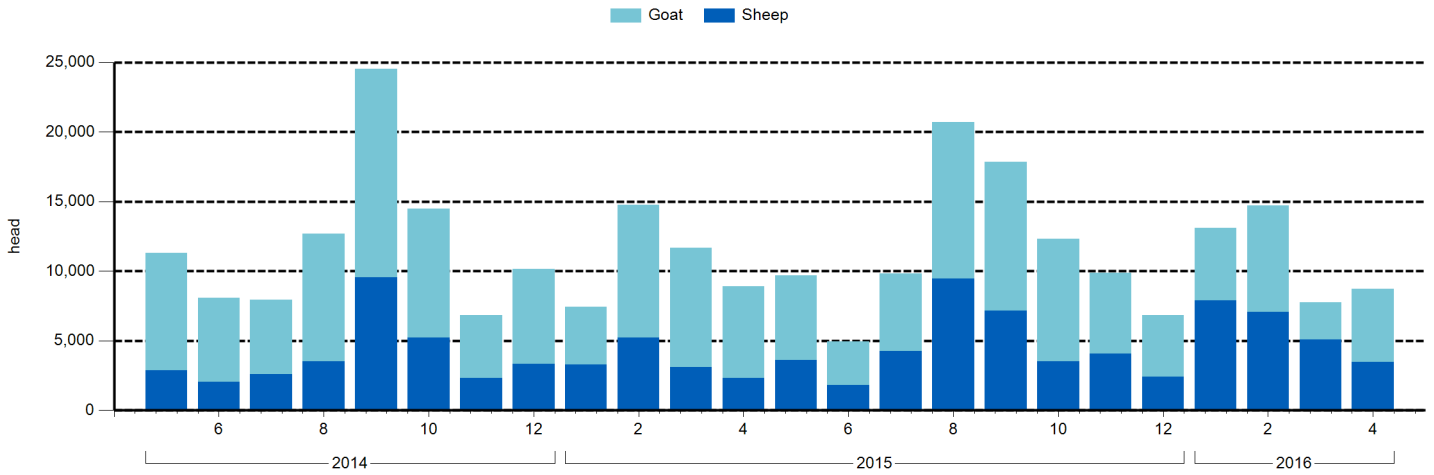
Year		Total	Fremantle	Port Adelaide	Perth	Portland	Sydney	Melbourne	Adelaide	Other
2014	November	147,518	145,867		500		553	2	596	
	December	219,354	215,950		1,035		1,693		676	
2015	January	7,851			1,296		1,300	4,575	680	
	February	220,831	218,497		880		801	14	639	
	March	164,438	161,357		1,412		338	120	1,211	
	April	195,589	131,648	61,600	500		658	24	1,159	
	May	241,376	198,470	38,000	936		296	1,300	2,374	
	June	142,121	91,592		2,087	41,946	245	5,408	843	
	July	92,816	84,690	3,900	1,020				3,206	
	August	153,713	149,709		1,515		1,293		1,196	
	September	263,258	207,156	45,000	6,182		606	2,955	1,359	
	October	156,968	153,425		1,095		711	30	1,707	
	November	95,143	90,842		1,437		183	627	1,869	185
	December	225,657	179,628	42,790	734		1,668		837	
2016	January	98,815	89,262	5,000	2,036		24		2,493	
	February	184,287	79,887	99,684	2,237		171	32	1,628	648
	March	216,586	212,699		2,922		118	98	749	
	April **	198,410								

Figure 9 Sheep exports



Source: ABS, DAWR

Figure 10 Goat and sheep exports to Malaysia & Singapore



Source: ABS, DAWR

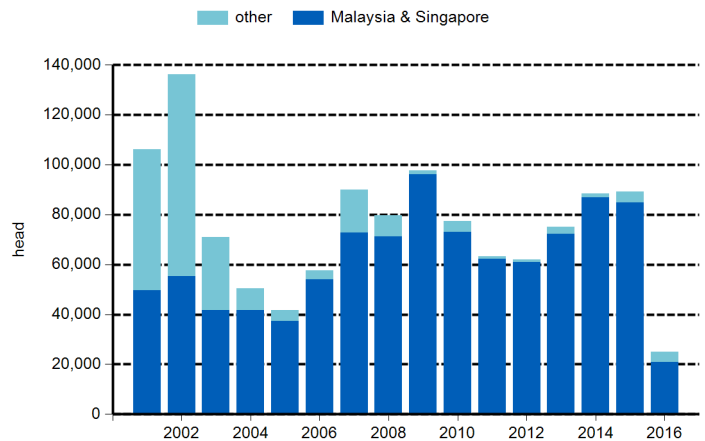
Table 7 Goat exports by destination

Unit = head	2016			12 months ending	12 months ending	% change	head change
	April	March	February	2016 April	2015 April		
Brunei				1,431	120	1093%	1,311
China					189	-100%	-189
Indonesia				211			211
Malaysia	5,280	2,686	7,662	76,644	93,219	-18%	-16,575
Nepal				96	79	22%	17
New Zealand				1	3	-67%	-2
Philippines	89			572	153	274%	419
Singapore					345	-100%	-345
Thailand					44	-100%	-44
UAE	85	2,047	1,160	4,747	1,665	185%	3,082
Vietnam	679			679	50	1258%	629
<b>Total volume</b>	<b>6,133</b>	<b>4,733</b>	<b>8,822</b>	<b>84,381</b>	<b>95,867</b>	<b>-12%</b>	<b>-11,486</b>

For the January to April period, goat exports declined 16% from the corresponding period the year prior at just over 25,000 head. Although declining (27%) year-on-year, live goat exports to **Malaysia** continued as the most prominent market destination after the first four months of the year, at just over 20,800 head.

Exports to the **UAE**, a new airfreight market, reached almost 3,300 head, of which over 2,000 were supplied in March alone.

Figure 11 Goat exports\*\*\*



Source: ABS, DAWR

\*\*\*the current year total is up to and including the most recently reported month

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