

## GOATMEAT INDUSTRY UPDATE REPORT

# Goat Industry Data Collation and Tracking Quarter 2 2024–25



### Summary

After reaching record-breaking processing levels in the first quarter of 2024–25, the number of goats processed in the second quarter of 2024–25 fell back below 900,000 head. Processors slaughtered 893,665 goats, supplied predominantly from New South Wales (NSW) and Queensland (DAFF, 2025a; ISC, 2025). This decrease in processing throughput was likely due to a slowdown during the Christmas period. Export markets continued to respond favourably to the increased availability and reduced prices of Australian goatmeat, with the exported volume and value of goatmeat during this quarter reaching a record high for any single quarter.

### Production and supply trends

Producers in NSW and Queensland supplied abattoirs with at least 525,796 goats and 246,771 goats, respectively ([Table 1](#)). Together, production from these states accounted for approximately 93% of the goats slaughtered nationwide. The percentage changes between quarters are challenging to interpret, as the total supply ([Table 1](#)) aligns more closely with the number of goats processed ([Table 2](#)) in this quarter than it had in previous quarters (ISC, 2025).

**Table 1:** Goats supplied for processing (quarter two 2024–25)

State	Head	% change (from quarter one 2024–25)	% change (from quarter two 2023–24)
NSW	525,796	29	48
QLD	246,771	-4	42
SA	35,987	77	11
TAS	–	–	
VIC	6,351	134	75
WA	17,514	442	96
<b>Total</b>	<b>832,419</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>45</b>

Note: Please refer to the *GDCT data guide* to understand the discrepancy between the number of goats supplied and the total processed (Table 3). Source: ISC, 2025

### Processing

In this quarter, total processing numbers declined by approximately 50,000 head compared with the all-time high processing throughput achieved in the first quarter of 2024–25. However, processing totals were at least 15% higher in all states than in the second quarter of 2023–24 (DAFFa, 2025).

Processors slaughtered fewer goats in NSW (-13%), Queensland (-11%) and South Australia (-14%) compared with the previous quarter ([Table 2](#)). In contrast, the number of goats processed in Victoria increased by 2%. The increase in the number of goats processed in Western Australia from quarter one to quarter two is attributed to expected seasonal variation due to the onset of warmer weather, which assists wild-harvest operations (DAFFa, 2025).

The overall reduction in processing is likely associated with a typical slowdown in supply chain processes and processing during the Christmas break. The monthly processing total from August to November 2024 exceeded 300,000 head, but Australian abattoirs slaughtered only 219,840 goats during December 2024 (DAFFa, 2025).

**Table 2:** Goats processed (quarter two 2024–25)

State	Head	% change (from quarter one 2024–25)	% change (from quarter two 2023–24)
NSW	230,035	-13	47
QLD	236,901	-11	31
SA	28,00	-14	45
TAS	15	–	–
VIC	385,759	2	44
WA	12,955	598	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>893,665</b>	<b>-5</b>	<b>40</b>

Data source: DAFF, 2025a

**Price**

The average over-the-hooks price reported by Meat and Livestock Australia was 293¢/kg cwt during the second quarter of 2024, a slight increase from the average of 274¢/kg cwt in the previous quarter (MLA, 2025). Similarly, the average export price rose from 684¢/kg in quarter one to 700¢/kg (S&P Global, 2025)..

**Export**

In the second quarter, Australia exported 15,257 tonnes of goatmeat to 22 international destinations (DAFF, 2025b), with the total value of these exports reaching \$110 million. Table 3 details the volume of goatmeat exported to Australia’s top ten trading partners. The exports were valued at \$110 million (S&P Global, 2025). All major export destinations saw an increase in the volume of goatmeat they imported compared to the same quarter in the previous year (DAFF, 2025b).

**Table 3:** Goatmeat exported (quarter one 2024–25)

Destination	Tonnes	% change (from quarter four 2023–24)	% change (from quarter one 2023–24)
United States	6,872	-13	80
South Korea	2,319	2	1
China	1,078	106	-19
Canada	709	-16	62
Trinidad and Tobago	579	27	2
Taiwan	523	-15	35
Japan	177	16	179
Indonesia	172	3	365
Fiji	166	143	123
Egypt	92	–	

Data source: DAFF, 2024b

The United States received 47% of the goatmeat exported from Australia, amounting to 7,204 tonnes during the quarter. This export volume was 5% higher than the previous quarter and 41% greater than the same period in 2023–24 (DAFF, 2025b).

China, South Korea, and Japan all imported more Australian goatmeat in quarter two of 2024–25 than in any previous quarter. Imports to China rose to 2,820 tonnes, slightly surpassing South Korea’s total, making China Australia’s second-largest export destination this quarter (DAFF, 2025b).

Although exports to Trinidad & Tobago and Fiji declined compared to the previous quarter, the volumes were still higher than those exported during the same period last year. Exports to these countries remain relatively elevated compared to historical levels (DAFF, 2025b).

In the second quarter of 2024–25, goatmeat exports to Egypt rose 9% from the previous quarter, when it re-entered the market as an export destination for the first time since 2013. This maintained Egypt's position in Australia's top ten export destinations (DAFF, 2025b).

Additionally, exporters airfreighted 3,559 live goats to Malaysia, Sabah and Indonesia (DAFF, 2025c).

## Forecasts

The actual number of goats processed in the first half of 2024–25 was 1.83 million (DAFF, 2025a). This total exceeds the Forecasting Committee's projected total of 1.65 million goats. The underestimate arose because the committee did not have access to the most accurate processing data. The Forecasting Committee had anticipated that the slaughter totals from late 2023–24 and early 2024–25 would remain consistent throughout the current financial year, which was the case in the first half of the year.

## References

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