

GOATMEAT INDUSTRY UPDATE REPORT

Goat Industry Data Collation and Tracking Quarter 1 2024–25



Summary

In this quarter, Australian abattoirs slaughtered 944,676 goats, achieving the highest number ever processed in a single quarter (DAFF, 2024a). Producers faced challenges such as managing on-farm numbers, long wait times when booking over-the-hooks consignments and depressed prices. Although exports were down slightly compared to the last quarter of 2023–24, they were still 41% higher than the same period of the previous year (DAFF, 2024b).

Production and supply trends

During the first quarter of 2024–25, the high supply levels achieved in the last quarter of 23–24 were maintained, meeting the Forecasting Committee's expectations. In this quarter, producers supplied 944,676 goats to Australian abattoirs. This number was slightly higher than the number processed in the fourth quarter of 2023–24, making it the largest number of goats ever slaughtered in a single quarter. Before the last quarter of 2023–24, the number of goats slaughtered in any quarter had never exceeded 800,000 (DAFF, 2024a).

Despite processors slaughtering record numbers of goats, producers still faced long wait times, typically from four to six weeks, when booking over-the-hooks consignments with processors.

Integrity System Company (ISC) data indicates where the goats supplied to processing were sourced. However, this information should be interpreted cautiously due to discrepancies between supply and processing totals (see *The GDCT Data Guide* for more detail). According to the ISC data ([Table 1](#)), the growth in supply from NSW and Queensland continues to drive the increase in the number of goats flowing to processors (ISC, 2024).

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

State	Head	% change (from quarter four 2023–24)	% change (from quarter one 2023–24)
NSW	408,634	21	38
QLD	257,800	5	18
SA	20,285	-16	-48
TAS	18	–	
VIC	2,710	5	167
WA	3,233	-28	117
Total	692,680	13	25

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, 2024

Processing

Processors in Queensland and New South Wales (NSW) played a significant role in maintaining high throughput levels during the first quarter of 2024–25, achieving record slaughter totals in both states. In Queensland, abattoirs slaughtered 266,812 goats, representing a 14% increase from the previous quarter and a 31% increase compared to the first quarter of 2023–24. For the first time, NSW abattoirs killed over 265,000 goats, which is a 6% increase from the previous quarter and a 19% increase compared to the same period in 2023–24 (DAFF, 2024a).

Although processing totals remain high in Victoria compared to 2023–24 and historical levels, the number of goats processed in quarter one fell back below 400,000 head, a 9% decrease compared to quarter four of 2023–24, when slaughter levels reached an all-time peak of 416,672 head (DAFF, 2024a).

Processing in South Australia and Western Australia has not expanded as much as other states and remains inconsistent. In South Australia, processors slaughtered 32,991 goats in the first quarter. Although this total was a 4% increase from the previous quarter, it was a 17% reduction compared to the same period in 2023–24 (DAFF, 2024a).

Table 2: Goats processed (quarter one 2024–25)

State	Head	% change (from quarter four 2023–24)	% change (from quarter one 2023–24)
NSW	264,241	6	19
QLD	266,812	14	31
SA	32,564	4	-17
TAS	7	–	–
VIC	379,196	-9	23
WA	1,856	-36	92
Total	944,676	1	22

Data source: DAFF, 2024a

Price

Although the market has been resilient enough to absorb the large increases in supply, it is important to recognise that increased supply and the current trade conditions have substantially reduced farm-gate and export prices. From 1 July to 30 September 2024, the average over-the-hooks price was 274¢/kg cwt, according to MLA's over-the-hooks reports (MLA, 2024). The average export price was 684¢/kg, which was 74¢/kg less than the price in the previous quarter (S&P Global, 2024).

Export

Australian exporters shipped 12,980 tonnes of goatmeat to overseas trade partners in quarter one 2023–24. Hence, total exports were down 267 tonnes compared to quarter four 2023–24 but up 41% compared to quarter one in 2023–24 (DAFF, 2024b). The goatmeat exported during quarter one was valued at \$86 million (S&P Global, 2024).

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

In recent quarters, exports of Australian goatmeat to the United States, South Korea, China, Canada, and Trinidad & Tobago have remained high, concurrent with Australia's increased production. Although some key markets imported less goatmeat compared with the fourth quarter of 2023–24, including the United States (-13%), Canada (-16%) and Taiwan (-15%), exports to all key markets except China were higher than in quarter one 2023–24 (DAFF, 2024b).

While exports to the United States dropped 13% compared to the record-breaking volume in the fourth quarter of 2023–24, the 6,872 tonnes of goatmeat exported in quarter one was the second-highest volume since quarter three of 2016-17. It was also an 80% increase compared to the same period in 2023–24 (DAFF, 2024b).

Australian goatmeat exports to South Korea in quarter one were the highest on record, even though there were only minor increases compared to the previous quarter and the same period last year (DAFF, 2024b).

During quarter one, exports to China exceeded 1,000 tonnes for the first time since quarter two in 2023–24. While the total volume imported was less than the quarterly totals when exports to China surged from quarter three of 2022–23 to quarter two of 2023–24, it is still a recovery compared with the second half of 2023–24 (DAFF, 2024b).

Egypt's entry into the market as one of the top ten export destinations in quarter one 2024–25 is notable. Australia has not exported goatmeat to Egypt since 2013–14 (DAFF, 2024b).

Exporters also airfreighted 2,872 live goats to Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia and the Philippines (DAFF, 2024c).

Forecasts

The committee forecasted that the industry would process 3.3 million goats in 2024–25. Hence, they expected a total of approximately 825,000 in the first quarter, however this was exceeded, with 944,676 goats slaughtered in the first quarter. However, the committee's forecast was based on the weekly slaughter total available in early September, which was assumed to be 60,000 to 70,000 goats/week, but the actual total was 72,000 (DAFF, 2024). Therefore, the overall number of goats processed in 2024–25 will likely exceed the forecasted 3.3 million.

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Acknowledgements

Goat Data Collation and Tracking Project team: S. Mcleod, N. Cummings, W. Smith, G. Turnbull, P. Worsley and P. Fleming.

The National Goatmeat Forecasting Committee: J. Blore, R. Gates, F. Howard, C. McPhee, P. Mannion and R. Newton.

The Goat Data Collation Tracking Project is co-funded by Meat & Livestock Australia and NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (NSW DPIRD).

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MLA acknowledges the matching funds provided by the Australian Government to support the research and development detailed in this publication.