

GOATMEAT INDUSTRY UPDATE REPORT

Goat Industry Data Collation and Tracking Quarter 3 2024–25



Summary

The Australian goatmeat industry reached a notable milestone as its quarterly slaughter total surpassed one million head for the first time in the sector's history. Both Victorian and New South Wales (NSW) abattoirs recorded their highest-ever quarterly processing volumes. NSW was the largest supplier, providing over 695,000 goats, which accounted for 66% of the goats processed nationally.

The average over-the-hook and export price fell by 14c and 17c, respectively. Australia shipped 15,019 tonnes of goatmeat, valued at \$101 million, to 29 international destinations. Exports to the United States and South Korea were lower than in the previous quarter, while exports to Canada and Jamaica increased sharply. Australia shipped 2,812 tonnes of goatmeat to China, a similar volume to that of the second quarter of 2024–25.

Supply and production

Australian producers supplied over one million goats to processors in the third quarter of 2024–25 (ISC, 2025). NSW producers supplied 66% of the goats processed during the third quarter. Meanwhile, Queensland and South Australian producers supplied 22% and 8%, respectively. Producers from Victoria, Western Australia (WA), and Tasmania together accounted for less than 4% of the national total ([Table 1](#)).

Rainfall across key production regions in early 2025 varied significantly, with widespread below-average conditions in January and February, followed by an extreme rainfall event in Queensland and mixed outcomes elsewhere in March. In January and February 2025, most of the main production regions recorded rainfall within the 1–3 decile range, indicating below-average to very much below-average rainfall conditions. The rainfall that generated the extremely impactful Queensland floods in March resulted in most production regions in this state recording quarterly decile 10 rainfall totals, placing them amongst the top 10% of rainfall recorded from January to March. Most eastern parts of western NSW received between 25–100 mm in March, leaving most of the east with average rainfall for the quarter. In contrast, the far west of NSW and South Australia (SA) recorded below-average to very much below-average totals for the third quarter.

While supply from Queensland decreased by 7% in the third quarter compared to the second quarter, this decline is not attributed to the impacts of the floods at the end of March. Both supply and processing totals in Queensland were higher in March compared to the totals in January and February. Although the severe flooding undoubtedly had a significant impact on the industry, its effects are likely to be more apparent in the fourth quarter's results, which will be available in August 2025.

The dry conditions, especially in far-western NSW and SA, coupled with the ongoing requirement to manage on-farm numbers and changes in enterprise structure, contributed to high turn-off rates. Western Australian producers supplied more than 25,000 goats to processors during the third quarter of 2024–25. Although supply from WA tends to spike in either quarter two or quarter three, this was the highest quarterly turn-off in recent years.

Although processors increased their throughput once again, producers continued to face long wait times when booking in goats for processing. However, some producers reported that these wait times improved somewhat during the quarter. Additionally, it is important to note that delivering one million goats into the supply chain required expansion of mustering and transport services that support the industry.

Over the last two quarters, there has been a notable improvement in the alignment of the supply data ([Table 1](#)) and processing data ([Table 2](#)), which has increased our confidence in interpreting the supply data. However, this improvement makes it difficult to interpret the percentage changes between these quarters and the same period in the previous quarter. Therefore, the percentage change from the third quarter of 2023–24 is not reported in [Table 1](#) (ISC, 2025).

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

State	Head	% change (from quarter two 2024–25)
NSW	696,232	32
QLD	229,664	-7
SA	84,695	135
TAS	2,880	–
VIC	11,727	23
WA	25,315	41
Total	1,050,513	

Source: ISC, 2025

Processing

The industry once again set a record for the highest number of goats processed in a single quarter. Australian abattoirs processed over one million goats in the third quarter, taking the total number of goats processed in the first three quarters of this year to 2.9 million goats. In the third quarter, processors handled 100,000 (11%) more goats than in the previous quarter.

Both Victorian and NSW abattoirs processed the highest number of goats ever recorded in a single quarter. Victorian abattoirs processed just over 450,000 goats, and NSW's slaughter total rose to 284,659.

All major states, except SA, increased goat processing in the third quarter, with a rise of at least 7% compared to the second quarter of 2024–25. The most significant increases occurred in WA (27%) and NSW (24%), while the gains in Victoria and Queensland were more modest, at 8% and 7%, respectively. In contrast, the number of goats processed in SA fell by 14% compared to the second quarter of 2024–25.

Comparing this quarter's results to the totals reported in the third quarter of 2023–24 further highlights the national expansion in processing. In quarter three 2024–25, processors slaughtered 270,000 (36%) more goats than in quarter three 2023–24, with throughput increasing substantially in all states ([Table 2](#)).

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

State	Head	% change (from quarter two 2024–25)	% change (from quarter three 2023–24)
NSW	284,659	24	30
QLD	254,492	7	25
SA	24,213	-14	35
TAS	5	–	–
VIC	451,655	8	44
WA	18,579	27	160
Total	1,033,603	11	36

Data source: DAFF, 2025a

Price

The average over-the-hooks price reported by Meat & Livestock Australia was 279 c/kg cwt during the third quarter of 2024–25, a slight decrease from the average of 293 c/kg cwt in the previous quarter (MLA, 2025). Similarly, the average export price fell slightly from 700 c/kg in quarter two to 683 c/kg (S&P Global, 2025).

Export

In the third quarter, Australia exported 15,019 tonnes of goatmeat to 29 international destinations (DAFF, 2025b), with the total value of these exports reaching \$101 million (S&P Global, 2025). **Table 3** details the volume of goatmeat exported to Australia's top ten trading partners, which all imported more than 100 tonnes in the third quarter.

There was a decrease in the volume of goatmeat exported to the United States (14%), South Korea (14%), and Taiwan (-21%) compared to quarter two of 2024–25. However, exports to all other major destinations either remained stable or increased, resulting in an overall decrease of less than 2% in total export volume compared to the previous quarter (DAFF, 2025b).

The United States imported 6,188 tonnes of goatmeat, accounting for 41% of Australia's total export volume. Although the export volume decreased from the previous quarter, it remained 12% higher than the same period in 2023–24 (DAFF, 2025b).

China imported 2,812 tonnes of Australian goatmeat in the third quarter, a similar total to the second quarter of 2023–24. This maintained China's position as the second largest importer of Australian goatmeat. Exports to South Korea totalled just over 2,000 tonnes, which was lower than the previous quarter. Meanwhile, exports to South Korea remain at historically high levels, 17% higher than in the third quarter of 2023–24.

Exports to Canada surged to 1,433 tonnes in the third quarter. This was by far the largest volume of goatmeat Australia has exported to Canada (DAFF, 2025b). Before this quarter, the largest amount of goatmeat sent to Canada in a single quarter was 844 tonnes in the fourth quarter of 2023–24.

Jamaica was another market where exports rose sharply, to 461 tonnes in the third quarter, making this the largest volume exported to this destination in a quarter since 2009–10. Jamaica re-entered the market in quarter two of 2022–23, after not purchasing Australian goat meat for over three years. From quarter two of 2022–23 to quarter two of 2024–25, Jamaica has consistently imported Australian goat meat in each quarter, with volumes ranging from 6 tonnes to 167 tonnes.

The other trade destinations with a notable increase in export volume from quarter two to quarter three in 2024–25 were Japan (34%), Jordan (191%) and Indonesia (123%). In the first three quarters of 2024–25, these destinations have shown strong growth, increasing the volume of Australian goatmeat imported by at least 50% compared to the entire 2023–24 financial year.

In addition to the top ten trade destinations listed in **Table 3**, another 10 countries that imported between 20 and 95 tonnes of Australian goatmeat in quarter three, including Egypt, Fiji, St Lucia, Puerto Rico, Cayman Islands, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom, Netherlands Antilles, Antigua & Barbuda and Malaysia (DAFF, 2025b).

Additionally, exporters airfreighted 2,102 live goats to Malaysia (2074 head) and the Philippines (28 head) (DAFF, 2025c).

Table 3: Goatmeat exported (quarter three 2024–25)

Destination	Tonnes	% change (from quarter two 2024–25)	% change (from quarter three 2023–24)
United States	6,188	-14	12
China	2,812	0	280
South Korea	2,013	-14	17
Canada	1,433	102	286
Taiwan	711	-21	29
Jamaica	462	264	177
Trinidad and Tobago	433	3	-22
Japan	289	34	45
Jordan	160	191	0
Indonesia	123	219	0

Data source: DAFF, 2024b

Forecasts

The actual number of goats processed in the first three quarters of 2024–25 was 2.9 million (DAFF, 2025a). It is expected that the final number of goats processing in 2024–25 will surpass the Forecasting Committee's estimate of 3.3 million. Based on the current processing totals, the actual total is likely to be between 3.7 million and 4 million goats.

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