



2024-25

# Goatmeat Industry Update



## Data used in this report

The Goat Data Collation and Tracking Project collates data from various sources. The information in this report should be interpreted with an understanding of the data sources and their limitations outlined in the *GDCT Data Guide*, available by scanning or clicking the QR code:



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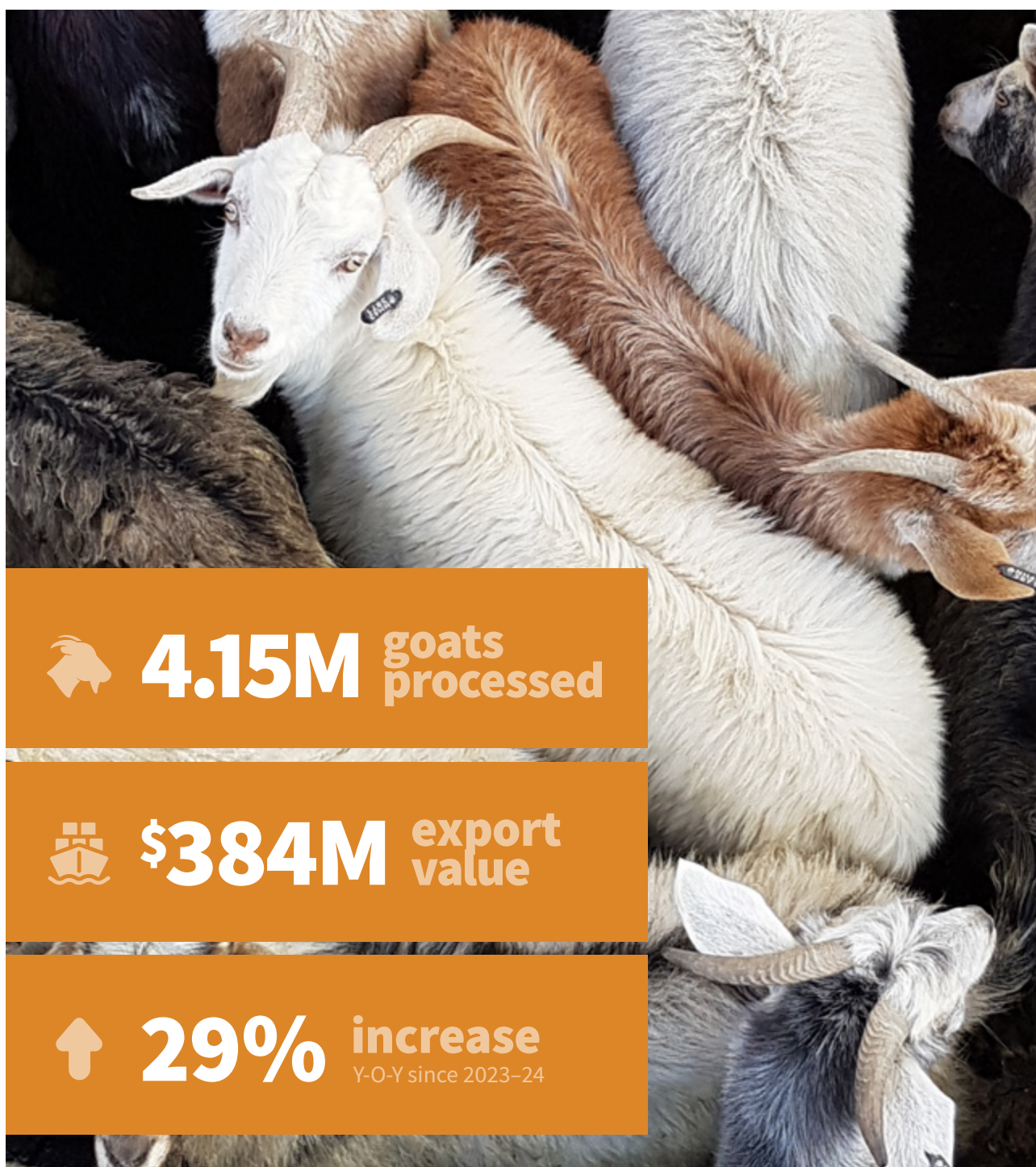
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# Summary

The Australian Goat industry produced and processed a record 4.15 million goats in 2024-25, continuing its strong growth trajectory since 2020-21. During the year, the processing sector expanded beyond the Forecasting Committee's expectations, with throughput increasing by 31% compared to 2023-24. The expansion was enabled by favourable supply conditions and driven by increased on-farm production and turnoff rates across all states that produce goats in Australia. Export markets rapidly absorbed the higher production levels, with both the volume and value of goatmeat exports reaching record highs in 2024-25. Exporters shipped 55,486 tonnes of goatmeat to 39 markets, generating \$384 million in export revenue. All but one of Australia's top 10 export markets imported more goatmeat in 2024-25 than in 2023-24, contributing to the increase in volume. However, despite this increase in volume, export and on-farm prices remained relatively low across 2024-25.



# Supply and production

Australian producers supplied 4.15 million goats for processing in 2024–25, representing a 31% increase from the previous year (DAFF, 2025). **Table 1** and **Figure 2** indicate the source of this supply. The ongoing need to manage on-farm numbers, coupled with dry conditions in far-western New South Wales (NSW) and South Australia (SA) and changes in enterprise structure contributed to the high turnoff rates.

While processing capacity expanded significantly during the year, producers continued to face long wait times, typically ranging from 6 to 8 weeks, when booking goats for processing. These extended wait times persisted until April 2025, when producers began to see a decrease in the lead time required to market goats. During 2024–25, most processors maintained a minimum carcase weight requirement of 10+ kg cwt, which made it challenging to manage herd numbers or transition away from goat production (Atkinson et al. 2024).

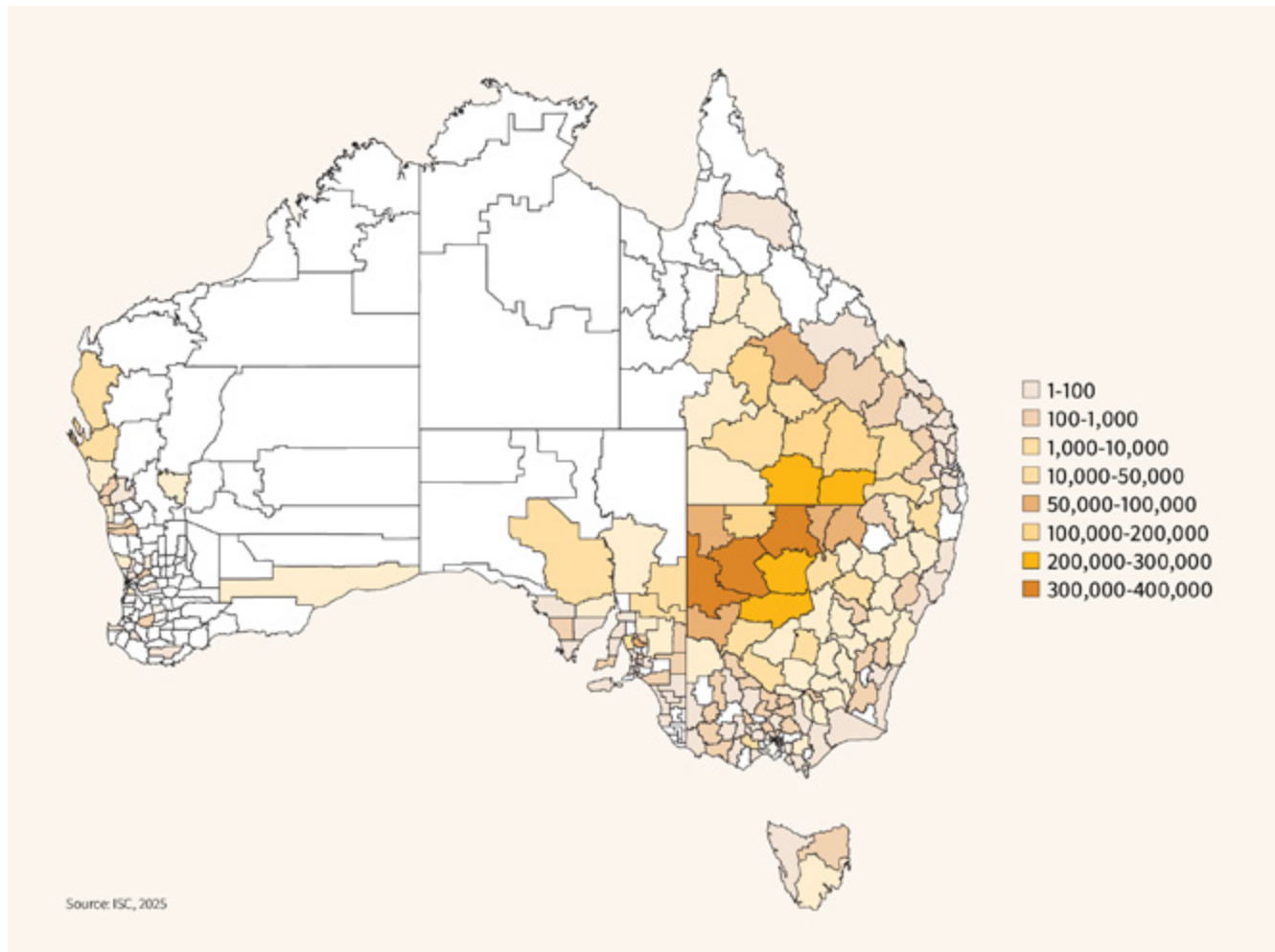
Delivering over 4 million goats into the supply chain required a significant expansion of mustering and transport services. The Forecasting Committee observed an increase in the number of new contract mustering teams in western NSW and noted it was sometimes challenging to access trucks and labour, especially ground staff, for mustering operations. Less experienced mustering teams and limited staff availability may have contributed to lower harvest efficiency, leading to a larger proportion of goats being missed during large-scale musters.

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

State	Head
NSW	2,159,602
QLD	1,083,368
SA	221,287
TAS	2,909
VIC	33,446
WA	55,604
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,556,216</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

**Figure 1:** Goats supplied for processing from NLIS regions (2024–25)

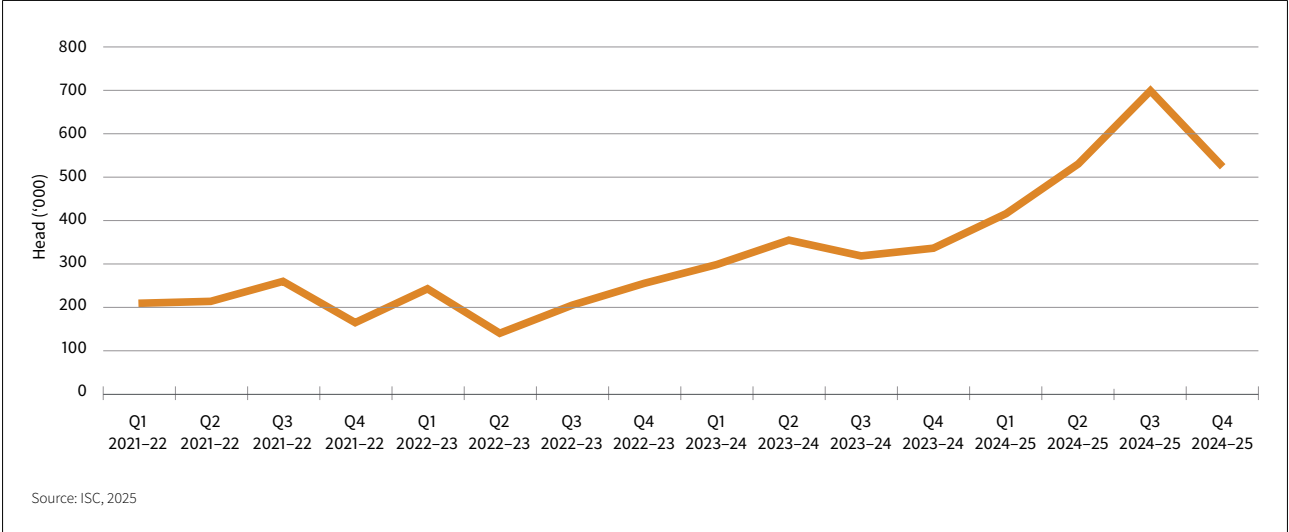




**New South Wales**

NSW producers supplied more than 2.15 million goats (Table 1; Figure 2), representing about 61% of the national supply. Approximately 90% of the goats supplied from NSW originated from Western NSW (Figure 1), which includes the NLIS regions of Broken Hill, Bourke, Wilcannia, Cobar, Hillston, Wanaaring, Balranald-Wentworth, Brewarrina, and Milparinka. Broken Hill, Bourke and Wilcannia were the top production regions, with turnoff from each region exceeding 300,000 goats in 2024–25 (ISC, 2025).

**Figure 2:** Goats supplied for processing from New South Wales by FY quarter (2021–22 to 2024–25)



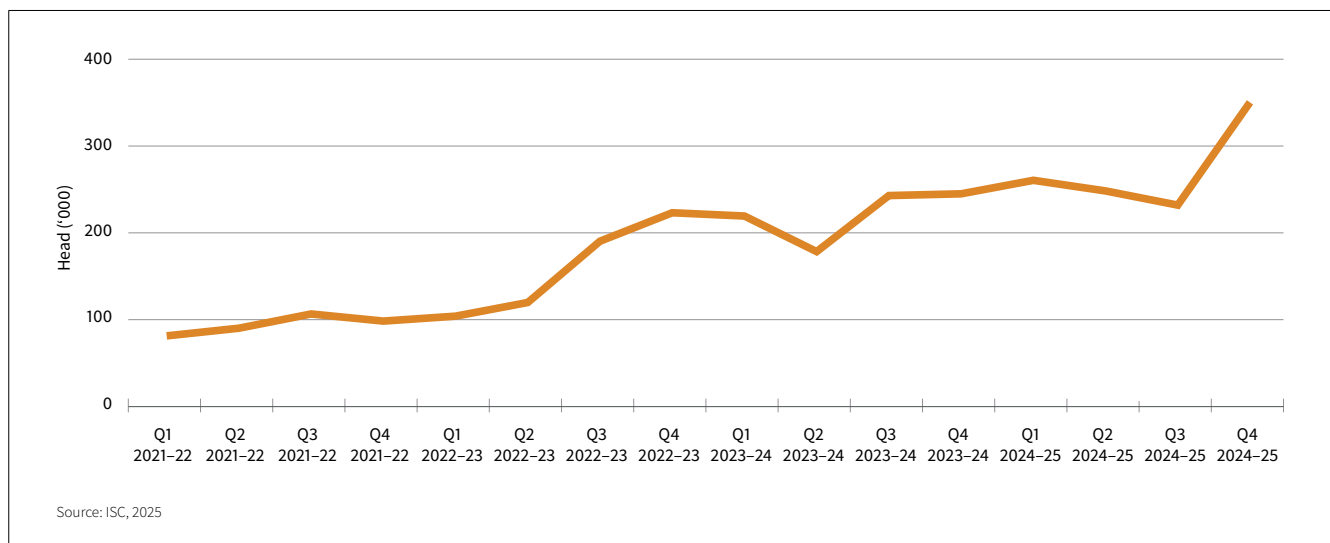
Seasonal conditions in western NSW were temporally and spatially variable during the year. From July to December, most production regions in western NSW received average rainfall (decile range 4-7), although areas in the centre of western NSW and Central West NSW received above-average rainfall (decile range 8-9). However, seasonal conditions deteriorated in the far west, with January to June 2025 rainfall totals below average or very much below average (decile range 1-3). In comparison, rainfall totals and seasonal conditions were generally better in the eastern part of western NSW over the same period, with average rainfall (deciles 4-7) in most areas (BOM, 2025).

Based on observations of herds in their regions, Forecasting Committee members provided mixed reports on kidding outcomes during the 2024–25 financial year. In areas with a reasonable season, such as the area north of Ivanhoe, a high kidding rate was observed. In areas further west, the seasonal conditions affected fertility and survival rates, with reports in the West Darling region of reasonable kidding rates but low survival rates as seasonal conditions declined. In the Bourke region, kid survival rates were impacted heavily by predation.

## Queensland

According to Integrity Systems Company (ISC) NLIS data, producers in Queensland supplied 1.08 million goats to processors in 2024–25, a 23% increase from 2023–24 (Table 1). Queensland goat production has shown consistent growth over the last four years (Figure 3). In fact, supply in each quarter of 2024–25 exceeded the total number of goats supplied during the entire 2020–21 financial year, which was 220,000 head (ISC, 2025).

**Figure 3:** Goats supplied for processing from Queensland by FY quarter (2021–22 to 2024–25)



The seasonal conditions for goat production in central and western Queensland were generally favourable. During the first half of the financial year, most production regions received average to above-average rainfall (deciles 4-9). However, conditions became drier during the summer, with many areas experiencing average to below average rainfall (BOM, 2025). These conditions dramatically turned around with a major widespread rainfall event at the end of March, which resulted in significant flooding in western Queensland.

This flooding event undoubtedly caused livestock and production losses, as well as short-term disruptions to the supply chain. However, this event did not have a significant impact on processing or supply totals during the third or fourth quarter (Figure 3). In the third quarter, Queensland producers supplied approximately 17,000 fewer goats compared to the second quarter. Supply peaked in the fourth quarter as producers turned off more than 348,000 goats, surpassing the state's previous highest quarterly total by more than 90,000 head (ISC 2025).

The Paroo region was Queensland's largest supply region, and the fifth largest production region nationally, followed closely by the Balonne region. Both the Paroo and Balonne regions turned off more than 230,000 goats in 2024–25. The Maranoa, Longreach and Murweh regions each supplied more than 100,000 head, rounding out the top five production regions in Queensland (ISC, 2025).

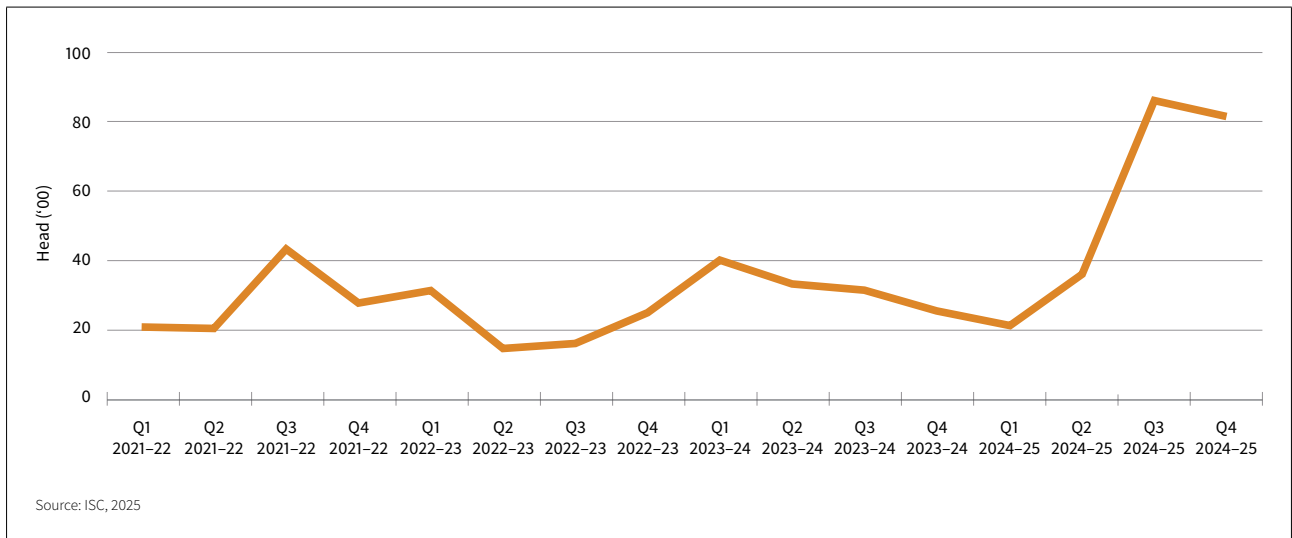
Despite goat enterprises facing lower returns in recent years, they are continuing to establish their place in Queensland production systems, being valued for their role in vegetation management and co-grazing with cattle.



### South Australia

South Australian producers supplied at least 221,287 goats into the processing supply chain in 2024–25. From 2019–20 to 2023–2024, the quarterly supply from SA has typically ranged from 20,000 to 40,000 head (Figure 4). In the first and second quarters of 2024–25, turnoff remained within this usual range. However, in the second half of the year, turnoff exceeded 80,000 head per quarter (ISC, 2025).

Figure 4: Goats supplied for processing from South Australia by FY quarter (2021–22 to 2024–25)

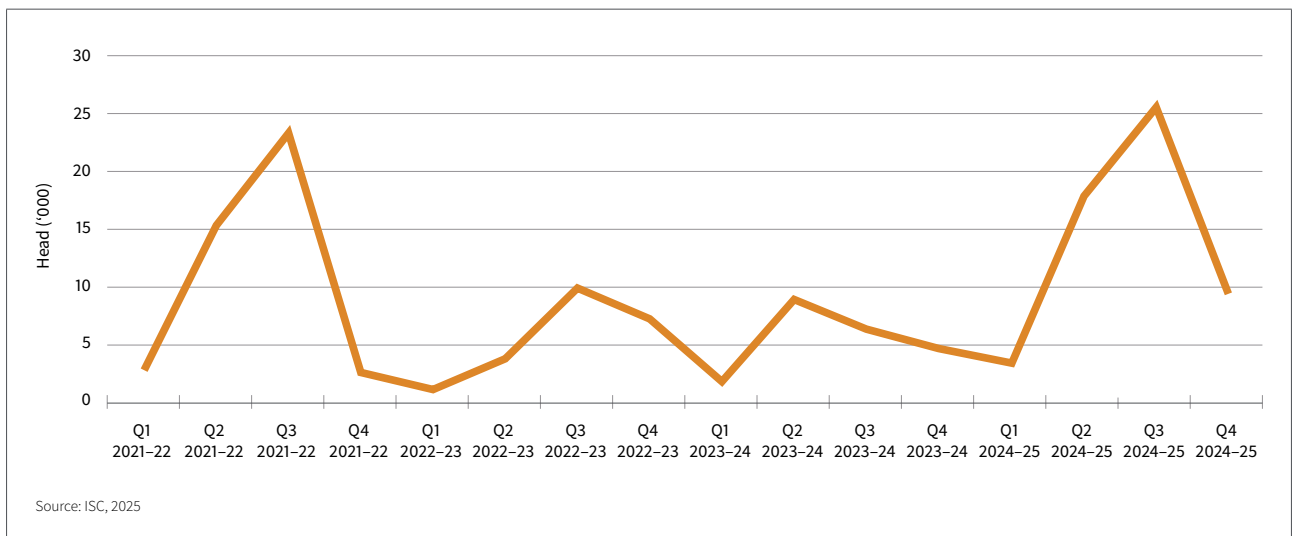


Rainfall in the north of the SA production region, where most goats are sourced, was average to above average (decile 4-9) during the first part of the financial year. In contrast, rainfall across all production areas was very much below average (decile 1) in the second half of the year (BOM, 2025). These dry conditions presumably prompted the turnoff of unmanaged goats in the pastoral zone to manage grazing pressure as pasture availability declined.

### Western Australia

There was a rise in goat turnoff from Western Australian properties in 2024–25 compared with the previous year, with more than 55,000 goats supplied. Supply peaked in the third quarter of 2024–25 (Figure 5), at just over 25,000 head (ISC, 2025).

Figure 5: Goats supplied for processing from Western Australia by FY quarter (2021–22 to 2024–25)



# Processing

The Australian processing sector continued its expansion in 2024-25 in response to the buoyant supply conditions, driven by increased production from Australian farms. Processors achieved record numbers, slaughtering 4.15 million goats (Table 2; Figure 6), which was a 31% increase in throughput compared to the previous year, 2023-24 (DAFF, 2025a).

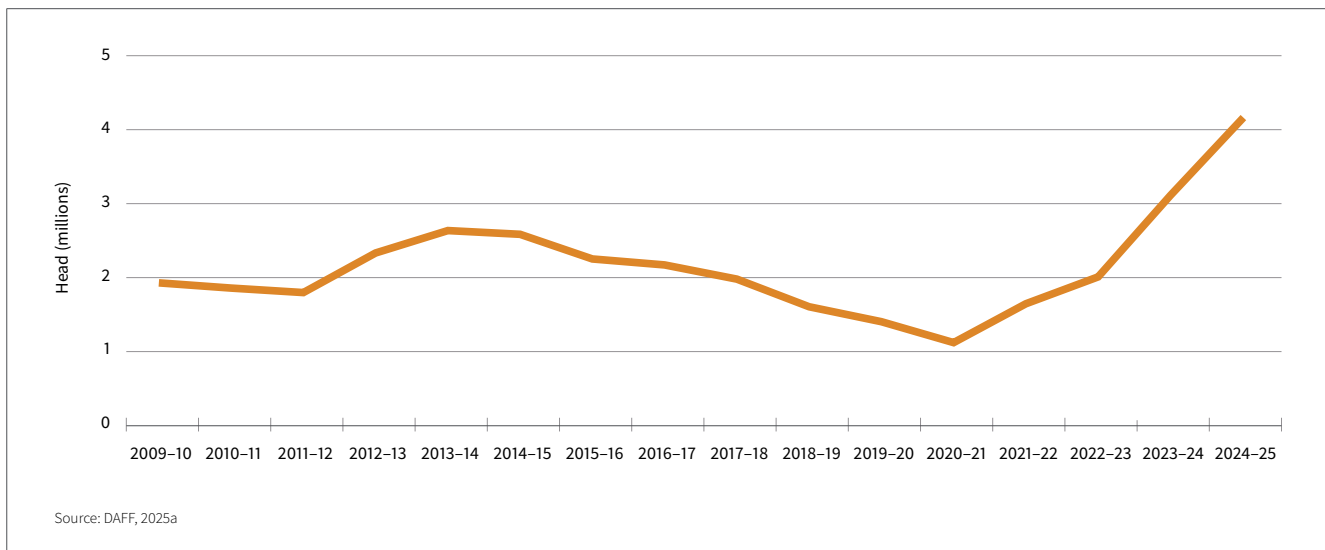
The sector's expansion in 2024-25 is remarkable, given that some believed that the slaughter total achieved in 2023-24 was nearing the sector's maximum capacity. Throughout the year, established goat processors committed to expanding throughput capacity. Their expansion was enabled by improved staff availability, additional shifts, and investment in technology to enhance efficiency. Some abattoirs also commenced or increased goat processing to maintain throughput due to mutton and lamb supply constraints.

**Table 2:** Goats processed (2024-25)

State	Head	% change (from 2023-24)
NSW	1,055,017	25
QLD	1,022,639	25
SA	155,694	45
TAS	29	-77
VIC	1,868,669	37
WA	43,425	95
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,145,473</b>	<b>31</b>

Source: DAFF, 2025a

**Figure 6:** Goats processed (2009-10 to 2024-25)

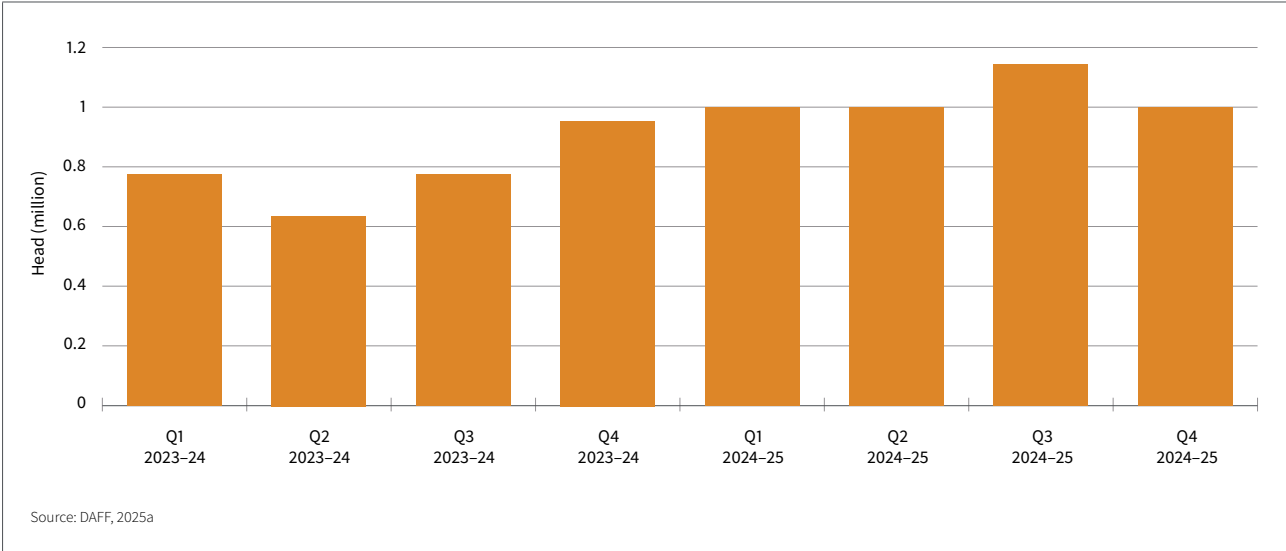


Processing capacity grew in all states, except Tasmania. In 2024-25, processors in Victoria, NSW and Queensland each processed more goats than in any other financial year. Processors slaughtered 1,868,669 head in Victoria, which was a 37% increase (504,326 more goats) compared to 2023-24. NSW and Queensland processors each killed over 1 million goats for the first time in 2024-25, and both states achieved a 25% increase in throughput compared to the previous year (DAFF, 2025a).

Processing in Victoria, NSW and Queensland has shown a consistent growth trend over the past four years. In contrast, processing in SA and WA increased by 45% and 95%, respectively, compared to the 2023-24 financial year. However, processing in these states has not followed the growth trajectory of the other leading processing states, with the data reflecting a more variable pattern that fluctuates upward or downward without a discernible trend (DAFF, 2025a).

The number of goats processed per quarter ranged from 998,000 in quarter one to 1.15 million in the third quarter, with just over 1 million head slaughtered in the other two quarters (Figure 7). To put that in context, before the fourth quarter of 2023–24, Australian processors had not processed more than 800,000 goats in a single quarter (DAFF, 2025a).

Figure 7: Goats processed by FY quarter (2023–24 to 2024–25)



# Price

Both export and over-the-hook prices for goats remained subdued in 2024–25. In 2024–25, the average over-the-hooks price was 285c/kg cwt, a slight increase from the 2023–24 average of 214c/kg cwt (MLA, 2025a). The average export price was 692¢/kg, which was 21¢/kg less than the price in the previous financial year (S&P Global, 2025).

At the time of writing (September 2025), there had been a substantial uplift in the over-the-hooks price of goatmeat. MLA's report showed that the average price from 1 July to 30 August was 455c/kg cwt, and by the end of September, a grid from at least one processor was offering 680c/kg cwt for goats dressing over 8.1 kg.

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

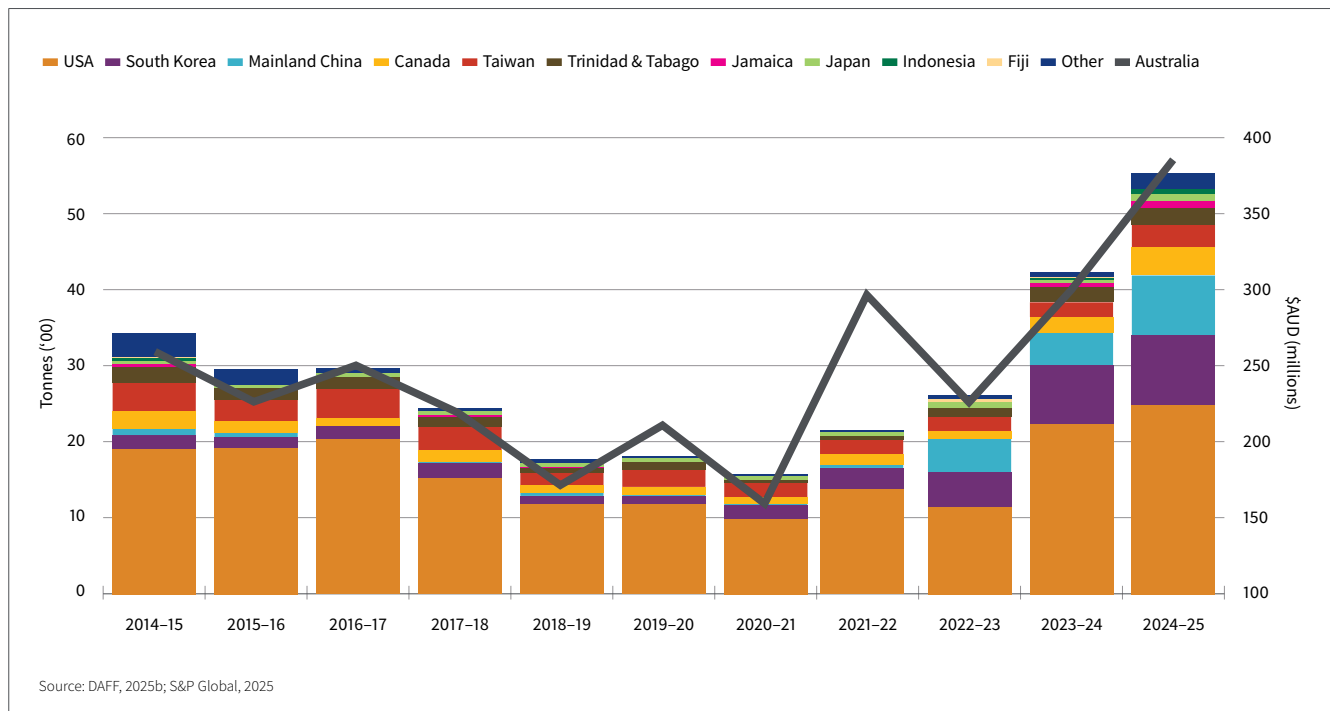
Market	Tonnes	% change (from 2023–24)
United States	24,832	11
Mainland China	7,868	82
South Korea	9,033	20
Canada	3,759	80
Taiwan	3,143	58
Trinidad and Tobago	2,085	5
Japan	1,010	123
Jamaica	953	101
Indonesia	380	51
Fiji	380	-12

Source: DAFF, 2025b

# Exports

In 2024–25, both the volume and value of Australian goatmeat exports reached record highs. Australia exported 55,486 tonnes of goatmeat to 39 markets worldwide (Table 3), a 31% increase in volume compared with 2023–24. The value of these exports reached \$384 million (Figure 8), 29% more than the previous year (DAFF, 2025b; S&P Global, 2025).

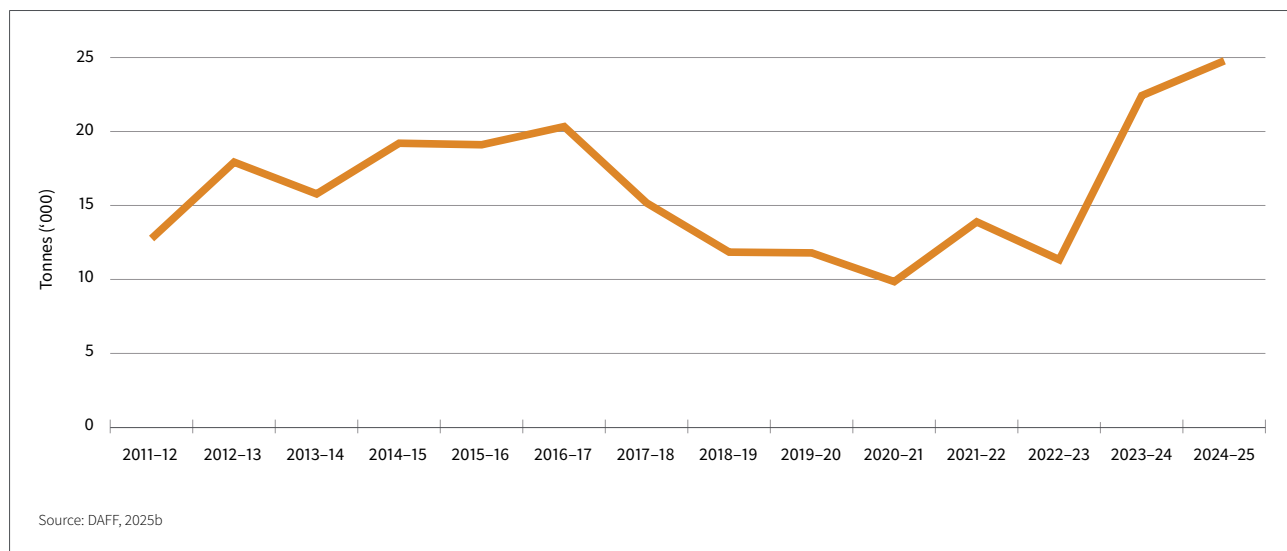
**Figure 8: Goatmeat exports (2014–15 to 2024–25)**



All of Australia’s top ten export markets, except Fiji, contributed to this increase in volume (Table 3), each importing more Australian goatmeat than in 2023-24. The exported volume peaked at an all-time high of 15,257 tonnes in the second quarter of 2024-25. In the third quarter, the volume exported remained above 15,000 tonnes. However, in the fourth quarter, exports decreased to 12,230 tonnes (DAFF, 2025b).

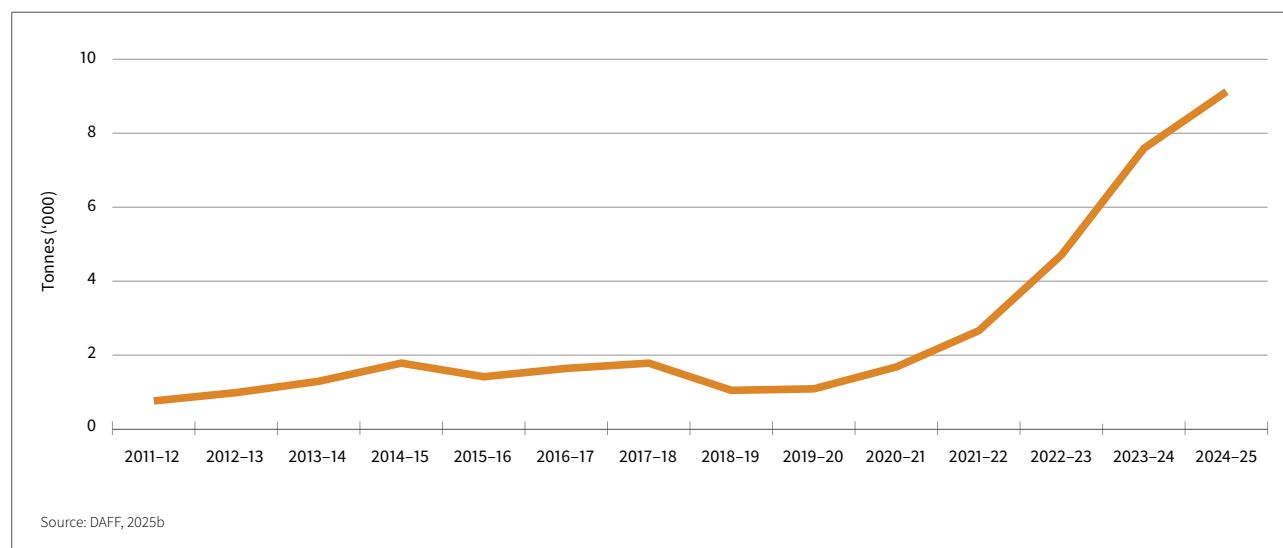
During the financial year, exporters shipped 24,832 tonnes of goatmeat to the United States, an increase of 2,400 tonnes, or 11%, compared with the previous year (Figure 9). In the first three quarters of 2024-25, the export volumes ranged from 6,100 to 7,200 tonnes, a decline from the record-breaking 7,935 tonnes in the fourth quarter of 2023-24. Exports fell to 4,567 tonnes in the fourth quarter of 2024-25. Although the US had lower proportional market growth than other markets, it remains the largest consumer of Australian goatmeat, accounting for 45% of exports in 2024-25 (DAFF, 2025b).

Figure 9: Goatmeat supplied to the United States by FY (2011-12 to 2024-25)



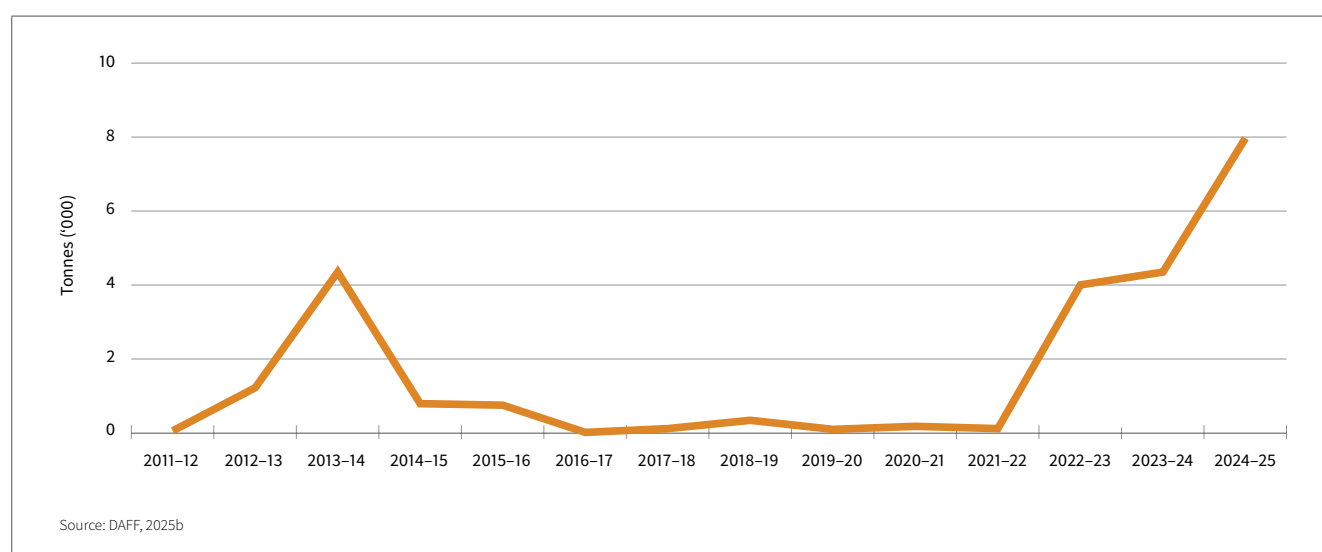
Exports to South Korea, Australia's second largest market in 2024-25, grew 20% to 9,033 tonnes. In 2018-19, exporters shipped just over 1,000 tonnes of goatmeat to South Korea (DAFF, 2025b). Since then, this market has shown consecutive annual growth over the past six years (Figure 10). The appreciation among South Korean consumers for goatmeat's health and medicinal properties has driven the increased demand (MLA, 2025b).

**Figure 10:** Goatmeat supplied to the South Korea by FY (2011-12 to 2024-25)



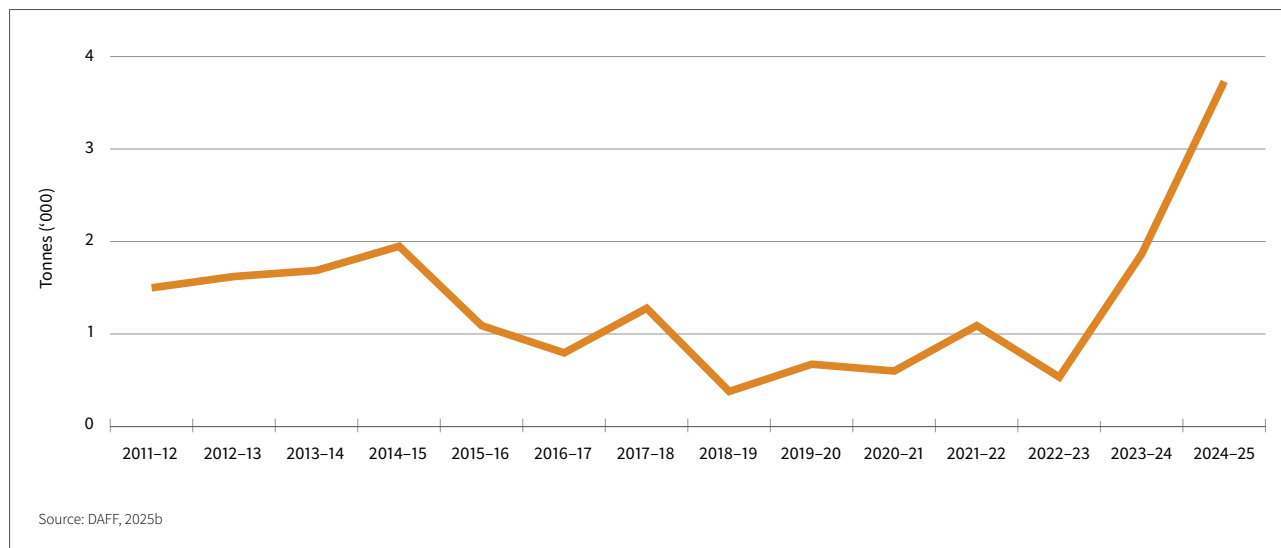
In 2024-25, exports to Mainland China and Canada grew by more than 80% compared to the previous year. Mainland China imported 4,335 tonnes of Australian goatmeat in 2023-24, and this total rose to 7,868 tonnes in 2024-25. Before 2024-25, the largest volume of goatmeat exported to Mainland China in a single financial year was 4,360 tonnes in 2013-14 (Figure 11). There is strong interest from Mainland China in Australian goatmeat, with importer feedback suggesting the product is viewed as a high-quality, natural, free-range protein. However, the market is price-sensitive, and a price increase may impact demand (Emiliano Diaz, personal communication, 16 Sept. 2025).

**Figure 11:** Goatmeat supplied to the Mainland China by FY (2011-12 to 2024-25)



Similarly, exports to Canada reached 3,759 tonnes in 2024–25 (Figure 12), far exceeding the previous record of 2,200 tonnes set in 2014–15 (DAFF, 2025b).

Figure 12: Goatmeat supplied to the Canada by FY (2011-12 to 2024-25)



Australian goatmeat exports to Taiwan also saw a resurgence, reaching their highest level since 2018–19, with an increase of 1,153 tonnes in 2024-25 compared to the previous year. Meanwhile, exports to Trinidad and Tobago rose by only 5% to 2,084 tonnes, compared to the previous year. However, exports to this important market remain high relative to historical levels (DAFF, 2025b).

Additionally, exports to Jamaica and Japan increased by more than 100% compared to 2023–24, reaching 1,010 tonnes and 953 tonnes, respectively. The volume of goatmeat exported to Jamaica was the highest seen since 2012–13. At the same time, exports to Japan reached an all-time high of 953 tonnes, surpassing the previous record of 604 tonnes shipped in 2022–23 (DAFF, 2025b).

Indonesia and Fiji both imported 380 tonnes of Australian goatmeat in 2024-25, ranking them among the top 10 export markets. Seven other trade markets also imported over 100 tonnes of goatmeat in 2024–25. These included Egypt (366 tonnes), Jordan (347 tonnes), Saudi Arabia (213 tonnes), Singapore (127 tonnes), the United Kingdom (115 tonnes), the Netherlands Antilles (113 tonnes), and the Cayman Islands (100 tonnes) (DAFF, 2025b).

Overall, the market has effectively absorbed the increased supply from Australia. Some markets have also shown some positive signs of market development, such as differentiated and value-added products.

To learn more about goatmeat export market, visit [mla.com.au/goat-snapshot-23](http://mla.com.au/goat-snapshot-23)

In 2024–25, a total of 17,852 live goats were also airfreighted to international destinations, which included Indonesia (652 goats), Malaysia (15,546 goats), the Philippines (204 goats), Sabah (1,107 goats), Singapore (148 goats) and Vietnam (195 goats) (DAFF, 2025c).



# Forecasts

## 2024–25

The National Goatmeat Forecasting Committee projected that the industry would process 3.3 million goats in 2024–25. Expected processing throughput had a greater influence on the forecast than the industry's capacity to supply goats. The Committee believed that slaughter totals achieved early in the 2024-25 financial year would be maintained, as processing capacity had already expanded substantially.

The Committee's forecast had an error of 20%, which is outside its objective of forecasting supply within  $\pm 10\%$  of the actual total. The primary reason for this underestimation was that processing capacity expanded well beyond the Committee's expectations in 2024–25. Additionally, the Committee based its estimate on preliminary slaughter totals available in September 2024, which indicated that processors were handling approximately 60,000 to 70,000 goats per week. The actual slaughter totals in the first quarter averaged over 76,000 goats per week.

## 2025–26

The Committee met in mid-September 2025 to forecast supply for the coming year. The Committee members discussed whether processing 1 million goats per quarter was sustainable and the potential impact of this throughput on future goat supply.

The National Goatmeat Forecasting Committee projects that the industry will process 4.16 million goats in 2025–26. Unlike last year, when processing throughput had a greater influence on the forecast, the Committee noted the number of goats processed in 2025–26 will once again depend primarily on the industry's ability to supply goats. The Committee agreed that processing capacity would be maintained during 2025–26, given strong export and domestic market demand, along with the expectation that sheep supply would not recover in this financial year.

Overall, the forecast is a mid-range projection based on differing opinions about how long the industry can maintain current supply levels before goat availability declines. Although the group expects a supply slowdown in 2026, opinions differed on when it would occur. Some Committee members anticipate supply reductions in early 2026, while others believe the slowdown will not happen until the 2026–27 financial year. If the predicted slowdown occurs early, the number of goats processed is expected to be lower than in 2024–25, with estimates around 3.9 to 4 million. If the slowdown occurs later in the year, the industry may achieve another record-breaking year, with estimates around 4.3 to 4.4 million goats.

When the Committee met in mid-September, a shift in the industry conditions was occurring. Processors were finding it more challenging to source sufficient goats to maintain the high throughput. This change was driven by processors sourcing goats to maintain throughput while sheep (lamb and mutton) availability is low, alongside the generally strong demand for goatmeat. There were also some shorter-term factors creating a seasonal slowdown in turnoff due to cooler weather and pastoralists avoiding mustering during kidding and lambing. The processors responded by lifting prices back above \$6 per kg cwt and reducing minimum carcase weight requirements.



The number of goats supplied in 2025–26 and the timing of the Committee's projected slowdown in supply will be influenced by how producers respond to these market changes and seasonal conditions. Producers will react differently to a price increase and a reduction in the carcase weight requirement, which could influence supply in either direction. The overall impact of producers' responses to changing market and seasonal conditions will ultimately determine the number of goats available for processing and the 2025–26 totals. The Committee considered the complex impact of these factors on supply.

Until recently, most processors maintained a minimum carcase weight of 10 kg. This resulted in some herds having a high proportion of underweight or unmarketable goats, with reports of harvested herds containing 50% unmarketable goats. Reducing the minimum carcase weight requirement from 10+ kg to 8+ kg or less increases the number of marketable goats, providing a short-term buffer against tightening supply conditions. However, when producers market goats at lower carcase weights, this leads to lower reproduction rates, resulting in a longer-term decline in available goat numbers.

During 2024-25, some producers reported a desire to reduce goat numbers or the portion of goats in their enterprise structure, but this was difficult with herds containing a proportion of unsaleable goats. These producers may take the opportunity to get out of goats while the minimum carcase weights are lower and prices are higher.

On the other hand, rising prices can also limit the number of goats offered into the market. Firstly, producers may delay marketing goats when prices are rising if their feed base is adequate, expecting a further price increase. Secondly, a price increase also improves producers' confidence to expand base herd numbers.

While the Committee thought that the rising price may prompt some herd expansion, the extent would be more subdued compared to the herd-building that occurred in 2021-22 in response to higher prices. Producer motivation to expand into managing more goats will be tempered by factors that include the recent period of lower prices, strong sheep prices, and a desire to operate an enterprise with Harvested Rangeland Goat status rather than a managed enterprise.

The very different seasonal conditions across the production regions leading into 2025–26 will influence producer decisions. Herd expansion will be most attractive to producers who reduced livestock numbers due to unfavourable seasonal conditions in 2024–25. Restocking with goats may be more viable than sourcing sheep under current market conditions. Producers in far-western NSW may already be retaining females, with one depot operator reporting that 80% to 90% of goats received in early 2025–26 were billies.

More generally, the Committee expects goat supply to tighten if goat production regions receive widespread rainfall in spring and summer. Under these conditions, producers would utilise available feed resources by value-adding lighter goats or retaining more does.

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