

## Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing Sector, Q4 2025

01 April 2026

### 1. Executive summary

The final quarter of 2025 across Namibia's primary sector was characterized by a contraction in fish landings and cattle marketed volumes and a significant expansion in domestic crop and poultry production. Specifically, fisheries landing volumes fell by 20.8%, while the cattle industry saw a marked downturn in marketed heads due to ongoing herd rebuilding. Conversely, the agronomy subsector recorded a significant surge, driven by an increase in wheat and white maize yields. This was complemented by robust growth in the poultry and egg segment signaling a gradual shift toward enhanced domestic self-sufficiency. High-value horticultural exports particularly grapes maintained a strong presence in European markets despite a marginal decline in overall export turnover.

The Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing sector contributed 7.6% to Namibia's GDP in Q4 2025, supported primarily by crop farming, which accounted for 3.5% of GDP, reflecting a strong rebound in agricultural activity. Livestock farming contributed 2.2%, indicating improving conditions and gradual recovery within the subsector. Fishing and on-board fish processing contributed 1.7%, while forestry remained stable at 0.3%. See figure 1

The Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing sector recorded an improvement in its overall trade balance during the fourth quarter of 2025, despite a marginal decline in export earnings. Total exports amounted to N\$2.11 billion, representing a slight decrease of 0.1% from N\$2.12 billion recorded in Q4 2024. In contrast, imports declined sharply by 31.6%, falling from N\$1.22 billion in Q4 2024 to N\$832.0 million in Q4 2025. As a result, the sector's trade surplus widened significantly to N\$1.28 billion, up from N\$895.0 million recorded in the corresponding quarter of 2024 (Figure 2). The improvement in the trade balance was largely driven by reduced cereal imports and sustained export earnings from fisheries and horticultural products. See figure 2.

### 2. Analysis

#### 2.1 Fisheries Products

Fishing activity declined further in Q4 2025, with quota species landings falling to 53,392 metric tonnes, down by 20.8% when compared to 67 382 metric tonnes recorded in Q4 2024 and below Q3 2025 levels. Horse mackerel (30,896 metric tonnes) and hake (18,436 metric tonnes) remained dominant species. Despite reduced volumes, fish export earnings rose to N\$2.9 billion in Q4 2025, up from N\$2.6 billion in Q4 2024, reflecting favourable international prices and product mix. Spain remained the primary export destination (32.3%), followed by Zambia (26.7%) and South Africa (9.2%). The main product that was exported to Spain was frozen fillets of Hake to Zambia and South Africa were 'Frozen Jack and Horse mackerel', respectively.

Fish imports increased to N\$136.9 million, up 36.3% when compared to N\$100.4 million recorded in the Q4 2024, mainly sourced from South Africa (50.1%), Spain( 21.7%), and the Falkland Islands (10.1%). The main products imported were Hake, Cuttle fish and Squid.

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## 2.2 Livestock Auctions

Livestock auction activity strengthened further in Q4 2025, with 114,989 animals auctioned, representing a 38.9% increase compared to 82,794 animals auctioned in Q4 2024. Cattle auctions totaled 59,498 heads, while goats and sheep rose sharply to 33,850 and 21,641 heads, respectively.

Average weighted prices increased across all categories:

- **Goats:** N\$44.50/kg (+24.4% y/y)
- **Sheep:** N\$42.46/kg (+31.0% y/y)
- **Cattle:** N\$37.54/kg (+22.0% y/y)

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## 2.3 Cattle Marketing

The Namibian cattle industry experienced a marked contraction in marketed volumes during Q4 2025, with total cattle marketed declining to 44,969 heads, when compared to 57,516 heads in Q4 2024. This downturn was largely driven by reduced slaughtering activity at both A-Class and B & C-Class abattoirs. B & C-Class facilities, including Meatco Windhoek, Beefcor, Reho, Rundu and Katima Mulilo, processed a combined 23,627 heads, down from 24,630 heads in Q4 2024. Similarly, throughput at A-Class abattoirs declined to 9,712 heads, when compared to 12,160 heads a year earlier, indicating subdued domestic processing activity across the value chain.

Live cattle exports also weakened significantly, falling to 11,630 heads in Q4 2025 from 20,726 heads in Q4 2024. South Africa remained the dominant export destination, although volumes dropped sharply year-on-year, while exports to Angola, Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Tanzania remained marginal. Overall, the decline in both domestic slaughtering and live exports reflects ongoing supply constraints linked to herd rebuilding, as well as softer regional demand conditions during the quarter under review.

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## 2.4 Sheep and Goat Marketing

The sheep industry recorded a moderate increase in marketed volumes during Q4 2025, with total sheep marketed rising to 111,629 heads, when compared to 104,551 heads in Q4 2024. This improvement was primarily driven by stronger slaughtering activity at A-Class abattoirs. A-Class facilities, led by Farmers Meat Market and Natural Namibian Meat Producers, processed a combined 18,483 heads, up from 12,207 heads in the corresponding quarter of 2024. In contrast, B & C-Class abattoirs recorded a decline, with throughput falling to 20,268 heads from 31,037 heads a year earlier, reflecting reduced activity among smaller processors.

Live sheep exports increased notably, reaching 72,878 heads in Q4 2025, when compared to 61,307 heads in Q4 2024. South Africa remained the dominant export destination, accounting for the bulk of shipments, while exports to Angola, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Tanzania remained relatively small. Overall, the increase in sheep marketing was underpinned by improved export demand, which offset weaker performance at B & C-Class abattoirs.

The Namibian goat industry also recorded growth in marketed volumes during Q4 2025, with total goats marketed increasing to 42,194 heads, when compared to 34,813 heads in Q4 2024. This expansion was largely export-driven. Processing at B & C-Class abattoirs remained limited, with total slaughtering declining slightly to 92 heads in Q4 2025 from 104 heads in the corresponding quarter of 2024, underscoring the continued marginal role of domestic goat slaughtering.

Live goat exports rose significantly to 42,102 heads, up from 34,709 heads in Q4 2024. South Africa remained the principal destination, accounting for the majority of exports, while shipments to Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Ghana, Eswatini, and Malawi remained comparatively small. The continued reliance on live exports highlights structural limitations in local goat processing capacity.

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## 2.5 Pig and Poultry Marketing

The Namibian pig industry recorded a slight increase in marketed volumes in the third quarter of 2025, with total pigs marketed rising to 13,302 heads, compared to 12,435 heads recorded in the corresponding quarter of 2024. This improvement was driven by higher processing at B & C-Class abattoirs, with Mariental, Tsumeb, and other facilities processing 8,337, 4,183, and 776 pigs, respectively. Live exports remained negligible, with only six pigs exported to Angola during the quarter, underscoring the sector's strong domestic orientation. The pig industry continues to benefit from controlled production systems that are less vulnerable to climatic shocks, providing stability within the broader livestock subsector.

The Namibian pig industry recorded a marginal decline in marketed volumes during Q4 2025, with total pigs marketed decreasing to 13,585 heads, when compared to 13,799 heads in Q4 2024. This outcome reflected slightly weaker slaughtering activity at B & C-Class abattoirs. Mariental, Tsumeb, and other facilities collectively processed 13,585 pigs in Q4 2025, when compared to 13,799 pigs in Q4 2024, indicating broadly stable but slightly softer domestic throughput. Live pig exports remained non-existent during the quarter, with no shipments recorded to Angola or Botswana.

The poultry sector recorded 5,103,824 chickens marketed, reflecting a solid growth in domestic production. Processing was dominated by Namib Poultry Industries, which processed 4,388,167 heads, while Kadila Poultry accounted for 715,657 heads. No production was reported under other facilities, and no live exports were recorded during the quarter under review.

The eggs industry also posted a robust performance in Q4 2025, with total eggs marketed amounting to 30,459,554 units, reflecting strong domestic supply. Production was concentrated among two main producers, with Waldschmidt Eggs accounting for 26,370,434 eggs, while Wentscher Eggs contributed 4,089,120 eggs.

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## 2.6 Agronomy Production

The total agronomy production in Q4 2025 stood at 22 643 tonnes when compared to 4 758 tonnes registered in Q4 2024. Wheat dominated output followed by white maize and pearl millet. Wheat production increased substantially to 21 058 tons from 1 819 tons recorded in Q4 2024, white maize output increased to 1 059 tons compared to 32 tons, while mahangu output decreased to 526 tons when compared to 2 907 tons a year earlier.

Export earnings from agronomy remained modest at N\$175.5 thousand, down sharply from N\$855.2 thousand recorded in Q4 2024 a decline of 79.5% indicating that production gains were largely absorbed domestically. Export earnings were mostly from maize, which accounted for 99.9% of the total export earnings. The export of cereal grains in Q4 2025 was mainly destined to South Africa and Angola accounting 76.5% and 23.4%, respectively.

The cereal import bill declined to N\$488.0 million, down 43.4% when compared to N\$863.0 million recorded in Q4 2024, reflecting improved local availability of maize and wheat. Maize was the highest grain imported with a value of N\$299.4 million, followed by Wheat (N\$177.5 million) and Rice (N\$6.1 million). Imports were mainly sourced from South Africa (63.1%), Russian Federation on (18.9%) and Poland (17.4%)

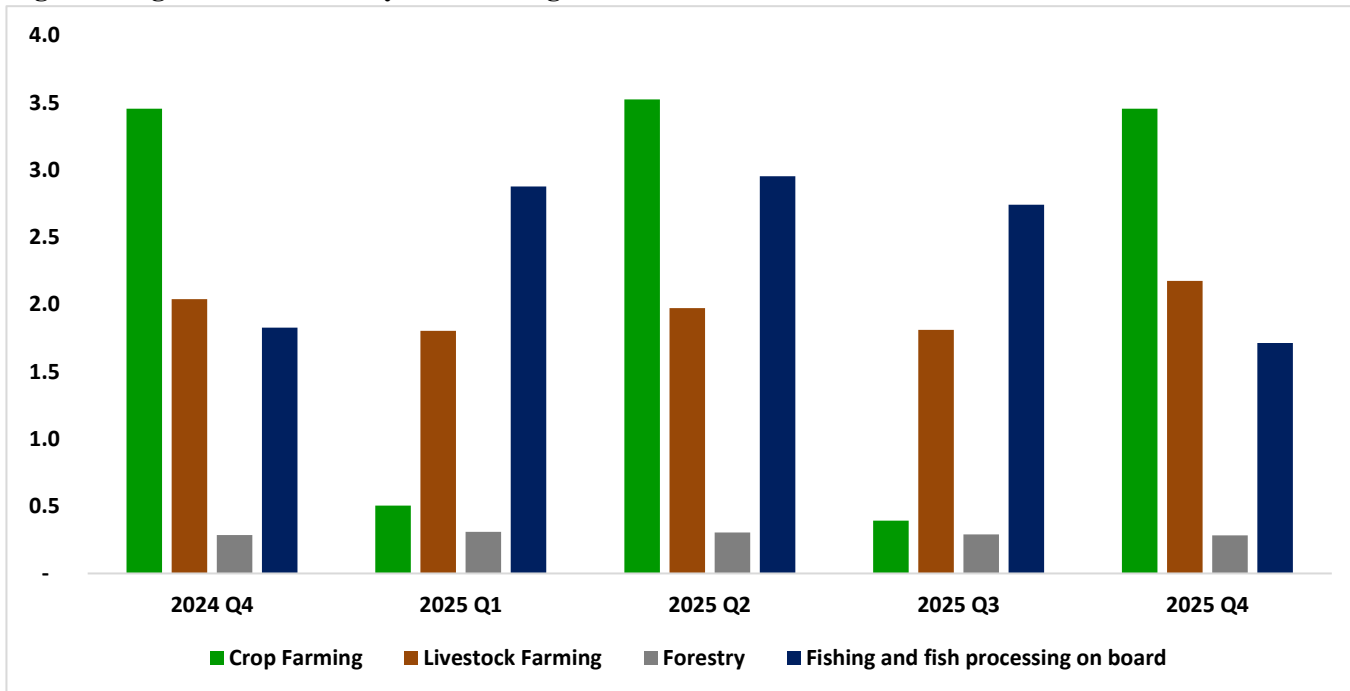
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## 2.7 Trade of Selected Horticultural Products

Namibia exported horticultural products valued at N\$1.3 billion when compared to N\$1.4 billion that was exported in Q4 2024, translating to a decline of 4.0%. Grapes were the top exported products amounting to N\$1.2 billion, followed by Dates (N\$22.1 million), while Onions stood in third place valued at N\$20.4 million. Netherlands was the main export destination for horticulture during the Q4 2025 accounting for (41.4%), followed by the United Kingdom (22.3%), and Germany (11.1%).

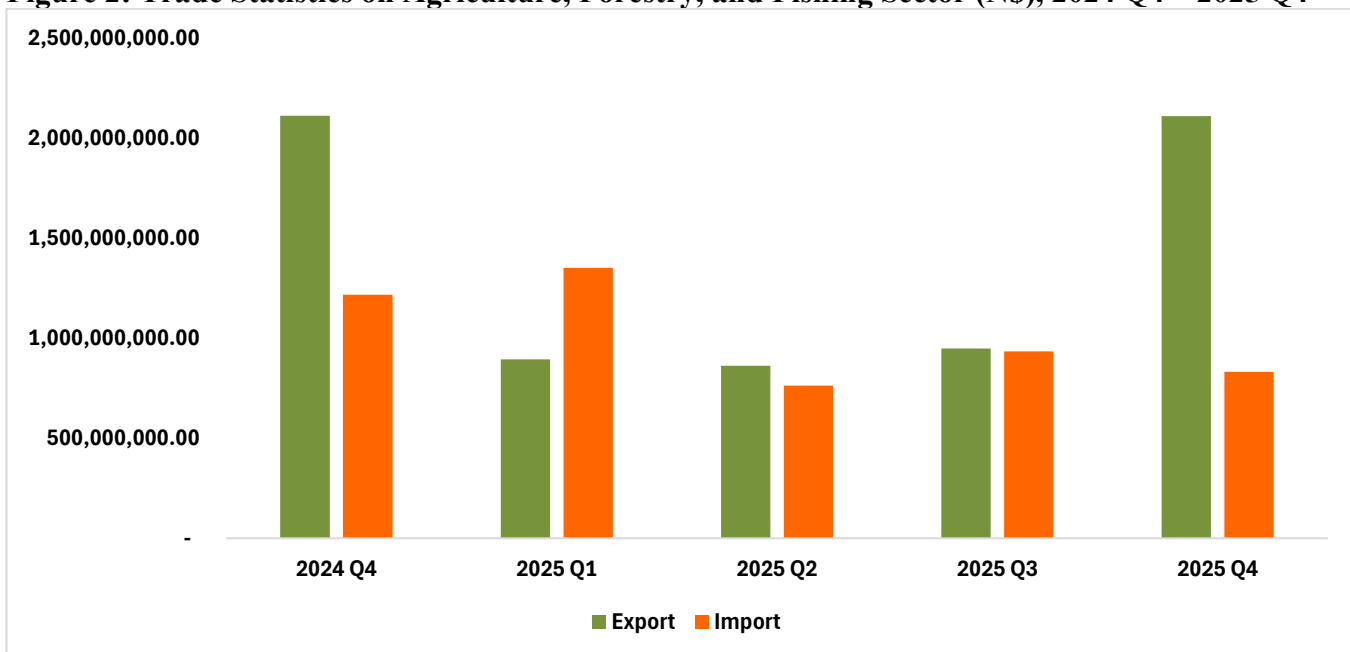
Horticultural imports stood at N\$327.1 million, broadly unchanged from N\$328.7 million Q4 2024. Potatoes were the highest imported products amounting to N\$53.3 million followed by Apples (N\$31.1 million) and Bananas (N\$15.2 million), with South Africa accounting for over 95% of sourcing. The subsector remains structurally import-dependent.

**Figure 1: Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing Sector % share to GDP, 2024 Q4 – 2025 Q4**



Source: NSA & HEI Research

**Figure 2: Trade Statistics on Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing Sector (N\$), 2024 Q4 – 2025 Q4**



Source: NSA & HEI Research

### 3. Outlook

Namibia's primary sector is poised for growth, characterized by a resilient shift toward greater domestic self-sufficiency. While export pillars such as fisheries landings and live cattle experienced contractions, the "green subsectors," notably agronomy and poultry, recorded significant growth. A key highlight of the quarter is the widening trade surplus, which reached N\$1.28 billion. This improvement was driven primarily by a 31.6% reduction in imports rather than export expansion, reflecting early signs of import substitution in staple food categories.

Improved crop production particularly in wheat and white maize, has strengthened domestic supply, supported by favourable rainfall distribution and input availability. This contributed to a meaningful reduction in the cereal import bill. However, continued reliance on imports for wheat, rice, and certain horticultural products underscores persistent structural vulnerabilities within Namibia's domestic food system. In the livestock sector, declining cattle marketed volumes reflect a classic herd-rebuilding strategy, where farmers retain stock to rebuild future herds. This signals tighter short-term supply, though volumes are expected to recover by late 2026 as improved rainfall is likely to enhance grazing availability and overall herd productivity. The sheep and goat marketing increased, driven almost entirely by live exports to South Africa, highlighting the sector's dependence on regional demand. The fisheries subsector experienced a decline in landings, particularly for quota species such as horse mackerel and hake. Despite lower volumes, export earnings rose to N\$2.9 billion, demonstrating that Namibia is capturing value through favourable international prices and premium product offerings, including frozen fillets destined for markets like Spain.

Looking ahead to 2026, fisheries are expected to remain the sector's primary source of foreign exchange, supported by favourable international prices even amid seasonal fluctuations in landing volumes. The forecast for normal to above-normal rainfall is expected to support crop yields, improve grazing conditions, and enhance overall agricultural productivity. However, risks remain, including climate variability, input cost pressures, and continued dependence on food imports.