GOATMEAT INDUSTRY UPDATE REPORT

Goat Industry Data Collation and Tracking

Quarter 3 2025–26

Summary

Australian producers supplied 1.07 million goats for processing in quarter three of 2025–26, marking the sixth consecutive quarter in which processing totals exceeded 1 million. The industry is on track for another record-breaking financial year in terms of production, processing and export volume and value. However, supply, processing and export totals were lower than the previous quarter's record-breaking levels, primarily due to lower turn-off from New South Wales (-33%), processing reductions in Victoria (-37%) and lower exports to the United States (-50%) and South Korea (-67%).

Supply and production

Producers supplied 1.07 million goats to Australian processors in the third quarter of 2025–26. This was 21% lower than the record 1.36 million supplied in the previous quarter (**Figure 1**), but the total remained within the 1–1.15 million range recorded in other quarters between 1 July 2024 and 30 December 2025 (DAFF, 2026a). While the industry is closely watching for any signal of the Forecasting Committee's predicted slowdown in supply, the reduction from quarter two to quarter three may reflect an exceptional spike in supply during quarter two rather than a downturn.

According to ISC data, a 33% reduction in supply from New South Wales (NSW) drove lower supply in quarter three compared with quarter two (**Table 1**). Supply from Western Australia was also down 20%. Meanwhile, production from the other production states remained strong, with increases in supply from Queensland (13%), South Australia (34%) and Victoria (12%) compared with quarter two of 2025–26 (ISC, 2026).

The decline in supply from NSW can at least partly be attributed to high rainfall across the far-west region in February and March 2026, with producers reporting delays in handling and trucking livestock due to flooding and road closures. Across most Australian production regions, January rainfall was below to well below average (deciles 1–3), except for an area in central west Queensland that recorded average rainfall. Quarterly rainfall outcomes improved considerably with widespread rainfall in February and March, with most regions receiving at least average rainfall for the quarter (deciles 4–10). Notably, pastoral South Australia (SA) and areas west of the Darling River in NSW received very much above average (decile 10) rainfall (BOM, 2026).

Until this rainfall in far north-west NSW, the region had experienced an extended dry period, during which producers reduced livestock numbers. Producers in the region with surplus feed and low livestock numbers may hold or increase goat numbers rather than restock with sheep and cattle, which would have longer-term impacts on supply compared to the short-term disruptions caused by weather and road conditions. However, the extent to which this is occurring is currently uncertain, with several factors influencing this response, including reduced confidence in goat production following recent price volatility, the availability and price of restocker sheep and cattle, and the seasonal conditions in other regions that influence demand for agistment.

A spike in supply from SA was noted in the last quarterly report and attributed to dry seasonal conditions in that production region at the end of 2025. This upward trend in supply continued into quarter three of 2025–26, with turn-off exceeding 107,000 head. This was 22,000 more goats than the state's previous highest supply total, recorded in quarter three of 2024–25 at 84,724 head. Most goats supplied in quarter three of 2025–26 were turned off in January (45,882) and February (54,027). In March, supply fell sharply as seasonal conditions changed, with only 7,526 goats supplied to processing (ISC, 2026).

Table 1: Goats supplied for processing (quarter three 2025–26)

State	Head	% change (from quarter two 2025–26)
NSW	587,399	-33
QLD	290,699	13
SA	107,435	34
WA	23,014	-20
VIC	13,612	12
Total	**1,022,159**	

Source: ISC, 2026
Note: Please refer to the GDCT data guide to understand the discrepancy between the number of goats supplied and the total processed (**Table 2**)

Processing

Australian abattoirs processed 1.07 million goats in quarter three of 2025–26 (**Table 2**), a 21% reduction from quarter two and a 7% reduction from quarter three of 2024–25 (DAFF, 2026). This reduction needs to be contextualised against the spike in throughput in quarter two of 2024–25, which occurred after a series of record-breaking quarterly totals (**Figure 1**).

Quarter three 2025–26 was the sixth consecutive quarter with throughput exceeding 1 million head. Industry observers are now considering the sustainability of processing more than 1 million goats per quarter and are closely monitoring supply trends.

Victorian processors slaughtered 437,410 goats in quarter three 2025–26, a 37% reduction compared with the previous quarter. While NSW, Queensland and SA also processed fewer goats in quarter three than in quarter two, the reduction in Victoria's throughput underpinned the change in national production from the previous quarter (DAFF, 2026a).

NSW abattoirs processed 292,035 goats in quarter three 2025–26, 2% fewer goats than the previous quarter. However, NSW processing totals remain at historically high levels, with this total being the third-highest on record (DAFF, 2026a).

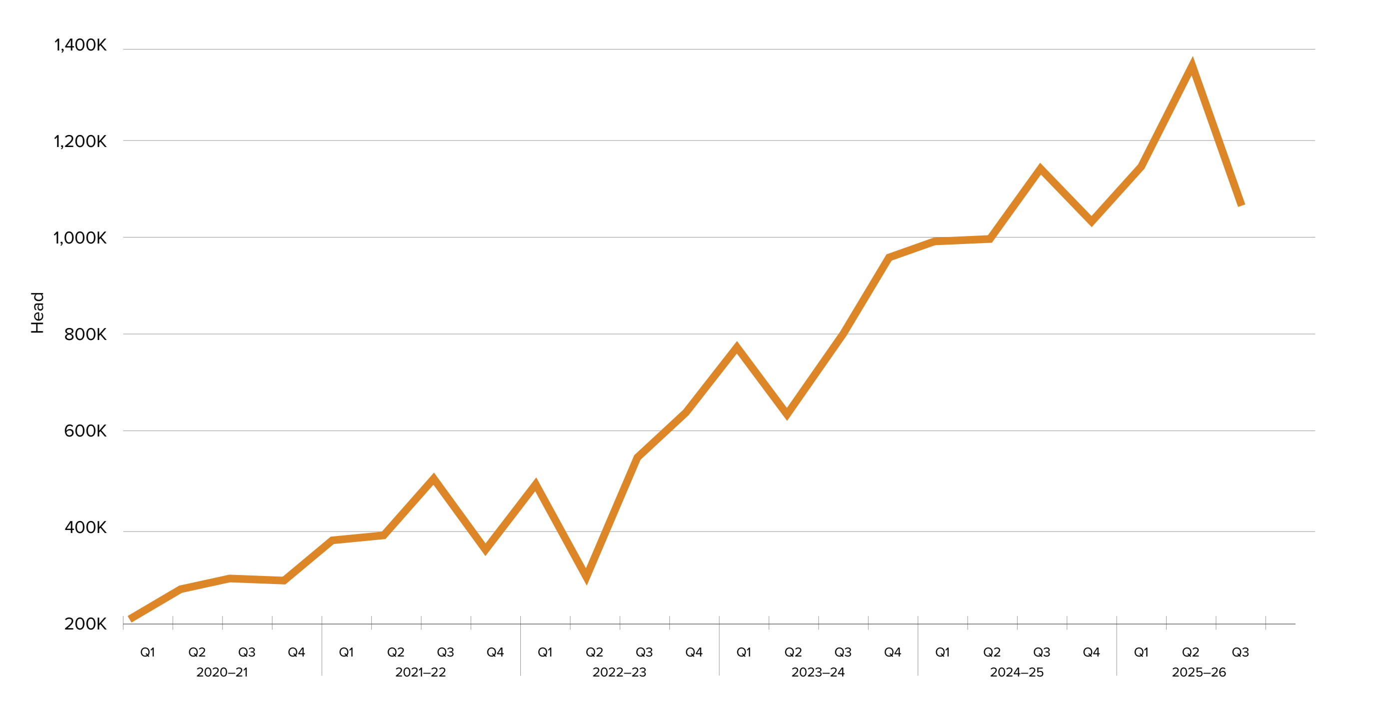
Processing totals in Queensland and SA fell 9% and 8%, respectively, compared to quarter two of 2025–26. Western Australian abattoirs processed 22,900 goats in quarter three, a 16% increase from quarter two and a 22% increase compared with quarter three of 2024–25 (DAFF, 2026a).

Table 2: Goats processed (quarter three 2025–26)

State	Head	% change (from quarter two 2025–26)	% change (from quarter three 2024–25)
NSW	292,035	-2	3
QLD	239,489	-9	-6
SA	79,269	-8	129
TAS	6	200	-14
VIC	437,410	-37	-21
WA	22,900	16	22
Total	**1,071,109**	**-21**	**-7**

Data source: DAFF, 2026a

Figure 1: Goats processed per quarter – Q1 2020–21 to Q3 2025–26(Source: DAFF, 2026b)



Price

Meat & Livestock Australia has not been able to report the average over-the-hook price since November 2025, when it was 557¢/kg cwt, due to a decrease in voluntary data reporting from the processing sector (MLA, 2026). Producer reports suggest that the price has remained reasonably stable since then, with grids offering around 555 to 600¢/kg cwt. In quarter two of 2025–26, the average export price was 844¢/kg, a small decrease from 881¢/kg in the previous quarter (S&P Global, 2026).

Export

Exporters shipped 12,739 tonnes of goatmeat to 33 destinations (DAFF, 2026b) valued at $107 million (S&P Global, 2026) in the third quarter of 2025–26 (**Table 3**). The total goatmeat export value for the first three quarters of 2025–26 was $383.8 million, exceeding the total export value for the entire 2024–25 financial year (S&P Global, 2026).

The volume exported in quarter three was 32% lower than in the previous quarter and 15% lower than in quarter three in 2024–25 (DAFF, 2026b). While this represents a substantial decline, export totals remain at historically high levels and need to be considered in the context of recent market growth, particularly the record-breaking export volume achieved in quarter two of 2024–25.

The reduction in export volume compared to quarter two of 2025–26 was driven by lower exports to key markets, including the United States (-50%), South Korea (-67%) and Taiwan (-43%). However, the decline in exports to these key trade destinations was partially offset by increases to other markets, including Canada (33%), the United Kingdom (115%), Jamaica (85%), and China (5%).

Australian exports to the United States totalled 5,288 tonnes in quarter three of 2025–26 (**Figure 2**). This reduction in export volume follows two consecutive record totals in quarter one (8,239 tonnes) and quarter two (10,654 tonnes), making it the lowest quarterly volume exported to the United States this financial year (DAFF, 2026b).

South Korean imports of goatmeat from Australia decreased sharply to 1,038 tonnes, a 67% decrease from the previous quarter (**Figure 3**). This was the lowest volume of Australian goatmeat imported by South Korea since quarter two of 2022–23 (DAFF, 2026b).

Canada and the United Kingdom recorded notable export growth in quarter three of 2024–25 (**Figure 4**). Exports to Canada grew to 2,434 tonnes, the highest quarterly volume ever shipped to this market, and a 33% increase from quarter two of 2024–25. Australian exporters also shipped a record 556 tonnes of goat meat to the United Kingdom, a notable increase from the smaller volumes exported to this market since quarter two of 2024–25. Prior to 2024–25, there had been no Australian exports to the United Kingdom for over a decade (DAFF, 2026b).

Additionally, during the third quarter of 2025–26, 6,753 goats were airfreighted live to international destinations (DAFF, 2026c), including Malaysia (6,641 head), the Philippines (49) and the United Arab Emirates (63 head).

Table 3: Goatmeat exported (quarter three 2025–26)

Destination	Tonnes	% change (from quarter one 2025–26)	% change (from quarter two 2024–25)
USA	5,288	-50	-15
Canada	2,434	33	70
South Korea	1,038	-67	-48
United Kingdom	556	115	2,316
Taiwan	554	-43	-22
Jamaica	542	85	17
China	478	5	-83
Japan	360	136	25
Dubai	321	0	0
Qatar	221	0	21,823

Data source: DAFF, 2026b

Figure 2: Goatmeat supplied to the United States by FY quarter (Source: DAFF, 2026b)

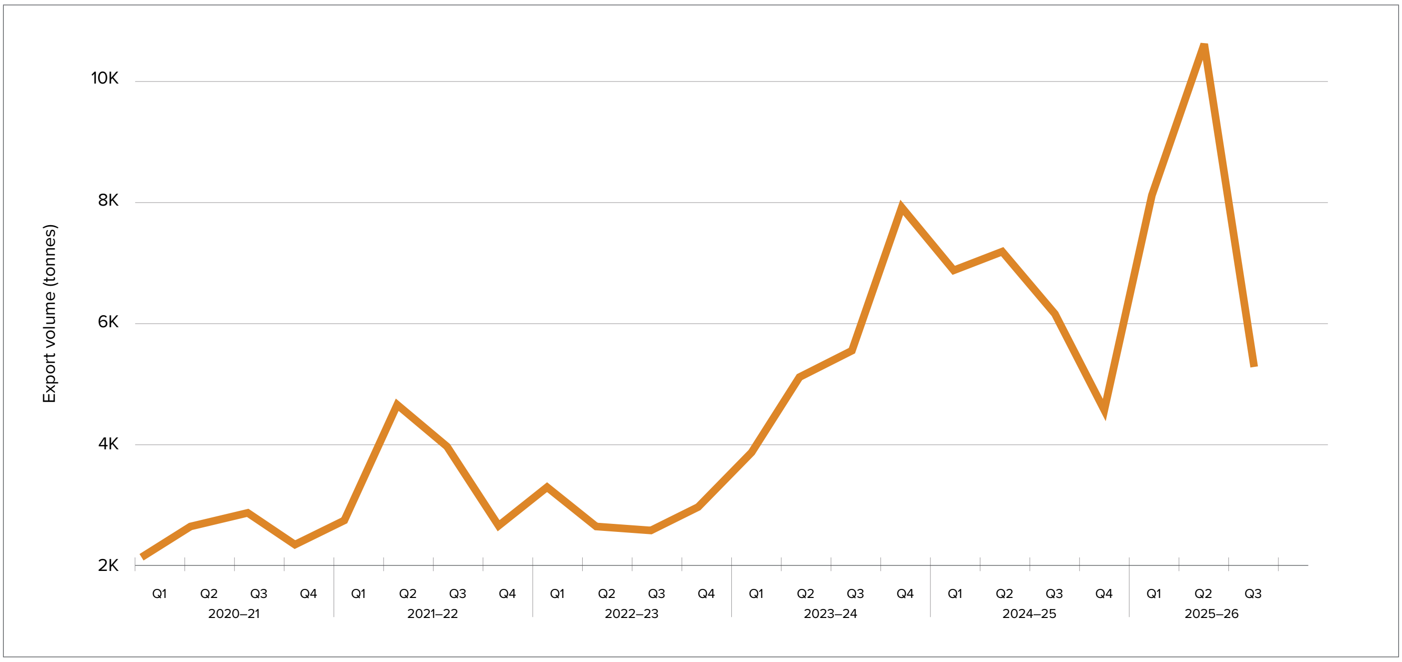


Figure 3: Goatmeat supplied to South Korea by FY quarter (Source: DAFF, 2026b)

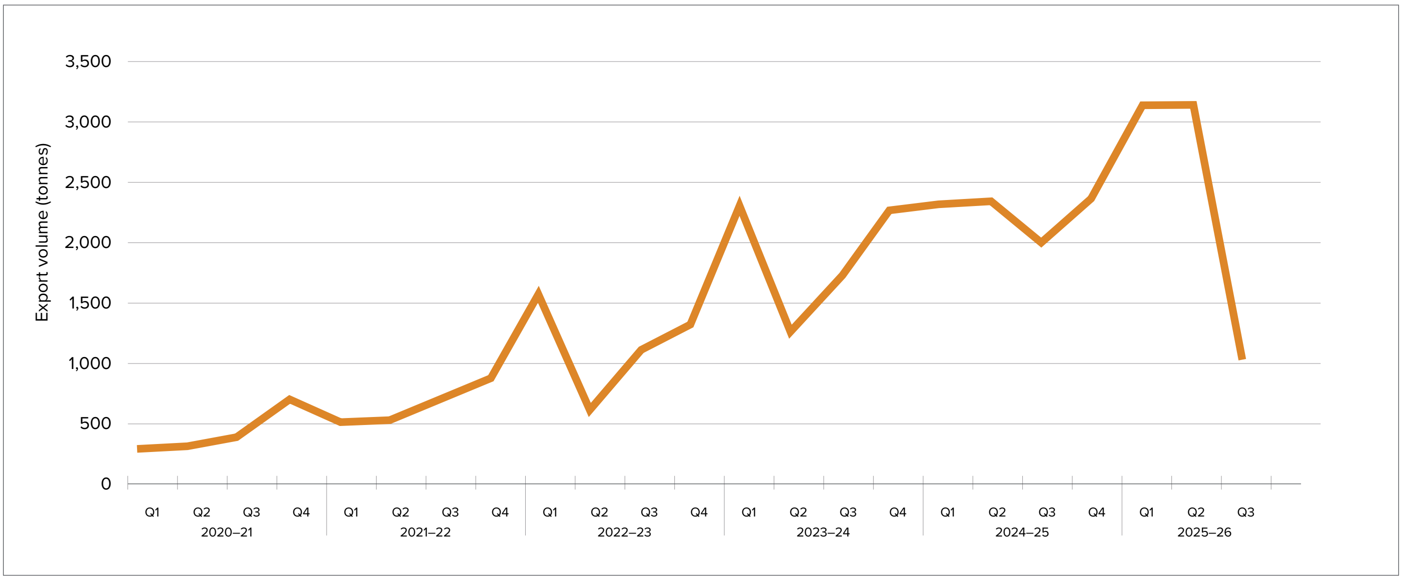
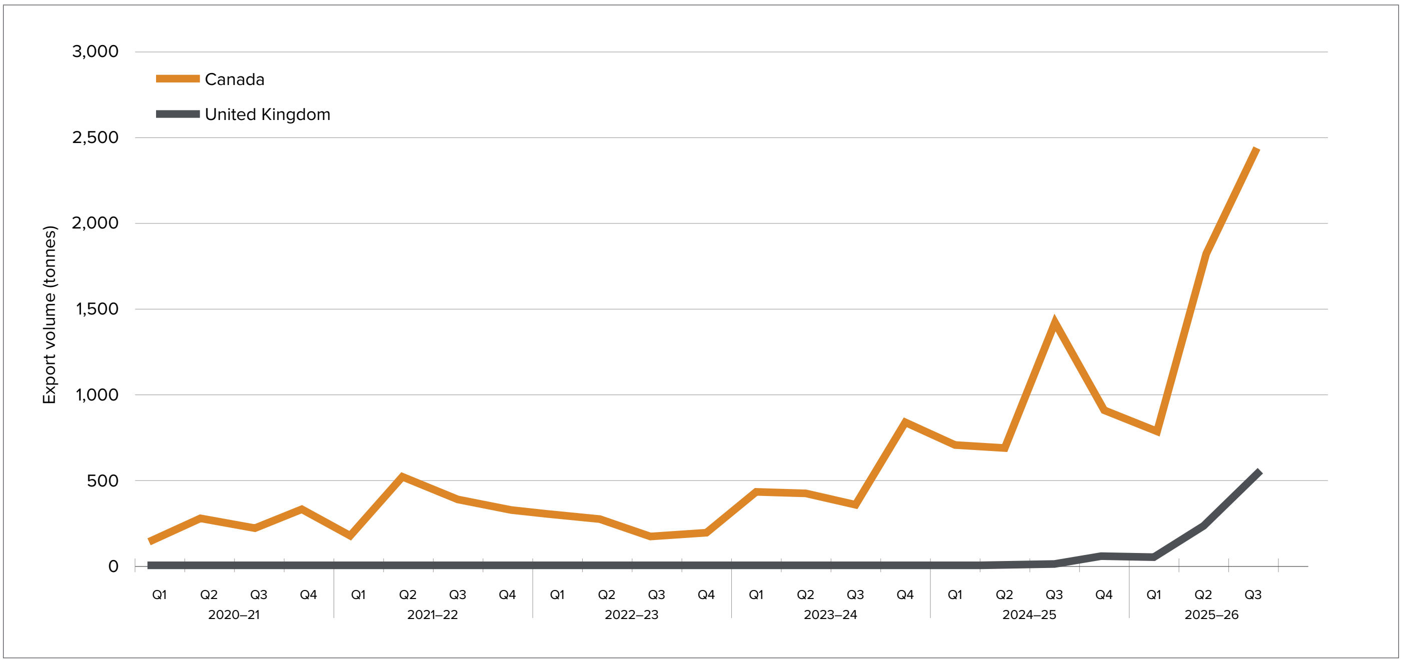


Figure 4: Goatmeat supplied to Canada and the United Kingdom by FY quarter (Source: DAFF, 2026b)



Forecasts

The National Goatmeat Forecasting Committee projected that the industry would process 4.16 million goats in 2025–26 (Atkinson, 2025). At the end of the third quarter 3,586,634 goats have been processed, or 86% of the projected total. Hence, the processing total for 2025–26 is likely to exceed the Forecasting Committee's estimate.

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