



SEPTEMBER

Newsletter

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About Us



AMIE represents a fast-moving and influential community shaping the future of South Africa's meat and poultry trade.

We protect the interests of our members through active industry engagement and strategic advocacy.

AMIE is recognised by government and industry partners as a trusted voice that drives reform, supports fair competition and strengthens food security.

Our Vision

AMIE is dedicated to surpassing members' expectations by providing strategic solutions and innovative thinking, leading to sustainable growth in the meat and poultry import and export sector.

Recognised locally and globally by numerous stakeholders, including:



**agriculture, land reform
& rural development**

Department:
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



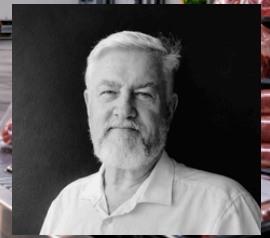
the dtic

Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



SOUTH AFRICA'S MEAT TRADE AT A CROSSROADS

Challenges, choices and opportunities



South Africa's meat trade is operating in an increasingly complex environment. Animal-disease outbreaks, changing sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) requirements, veterinary certification delays, port and border constraints and an uncertain global trading environment are all affecting the movement of meat into and out of the country.

These are significant issues for AMIE members. A delayed certificate can stop a consignment, changes to veterinary requirements can close markets, inefficient ports and borders add unnecessary costs, and when supply is disrupted for long enough, businesses and South African consumers ultimately pay the price.

The question is how we build a trading system that is better able to withstand these pressures.

Science must remain at the centre

Animal health and biosecurity are non-negotiable. South Africa must protect its livestock industry, just as our trading partners are entitled to expect that products exported from South Africa meet their animal-health requirements.

But strong biosecurity and efficient trade are not opposing objectives. SPS and veterinary requirements should be based on science, proportionate to the actual risk and implemented consistently. Strong surveillance, traceability and veterinary capacity can enable safe trade to continue while protecting animal health.

Recent disruptions to Argentine beef imports illustrate why this matters. As we all know, South Africa cannot produce enough oxtail to meet domestic demand and around 70% of imported oxtail has traditionally come from Argentina.

Following changes to veterinary certification requirements, that supply was significantly constrained. AMIE's market monitoring found oxtail that had retailed at around R79-R99/kg earlier this year selling at approximately R169-R199/kg by August.

The lesson is not that veterinary controls should be weakened. It is that technical decisions and administrative inefficiencies can have significant commercial and consumer consequences.

Government must be able to demonstrate that restrictions are scientifically justified, proportionate to the risk and administered efficiently.

This is why AMIE has asked the Department of Agriculture to provide the scientific basis for its decision in respect of Argentine oxtail certification. Where the science supports a restriction, industry will support it. Where it does not, we will challenge it.

Resilience requires more markets

South Africa needs to be far more ambitious and intentional about driving exports. Every additional market we open creates opportunities for producers, processors, traders and the wider agricultural value chain.

There is a much bigger economic imperative here too. On 20 August, President Ramaphosa launched Phase 3 of the Government Business Partnership for Growth and Jobs. Its first two phases focused on critical economic enablers including energy, transport and logistics, and interventions that contributed to South Africa's removal from the FATF grey list. Phase 3 puts economic growth and job creation firmly at the centre, adding four new sector workstreams: mining, infrastructure, tourism, and agriculture and agro-processing.

Expanding access to export markets is a key priority for agriculture and agro-processing. That is an objective AMIE strongly supports, but achieving it will require execution. South Africa has significant potential to grow its meat exports, but we will not realise it unless we open new markets, protect access to existing ones and ensure that our veterinary, certification, logistics and trade systems can support exporters efficiently.

If agricultural exports are to help drive growth and jobs, market access cannot remain an ambition on paper.

Resilience also requires diverse sources of imports. Where South Africa does not produce sufficient quantities of particular products or cuts, imports supplement local production and help maintain availability and affordability. We therefore need to continuously open new export destinations, retain the markets we already have and diversify import sources.



CEO's message continued

Make legitimate trade easier

Some of the biggest improvements available to us are not about trade policy at all. They are about making existing systems work better. Certification, permits, customs classifications, inspections and border procedures all influence how quickly and efficiently product moves.

For perishable products, delays carry a particularly high price. Maintaining cold chains, additional storage and demurrage all add costs that eventually have to be absorbed somewhere in the value chain.

Better coordination between Agriculture, SARS, the Border Management Authority, port authorities and industry could eliminate many unnecessary delays. We have good policies and capable institutions. Too often, the problem is execution and coordination.

Technology offers another opportunity. Digital veterinary certification, better information-sharing between government agencies and more reliable customs data would improve both efficiency and oversight.

SARS's Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) programme is particularly relevant. Businesses able to demonstrate high levels of customs compliance and supply-chain security can benefit from facilitated customs processes.

We should be looking at how trusted-trader approaches such as AEO can be expanded and used more effectively. Allowing consistently compliant businesses to move legitimate goods more efficiently enables authorities to focus scarce inspection and enforcement resources where the genuine risks lie.

Market access must create opportunity

As we work to improve South Africa's trading system, we also need to broaden participation in it. Transformation requires more than bringing emerging businesses into the value chain. They need skills, technical knowledge, market intelligence, networks and access to customers.

This is an area where established industry participants can make a practical contribution. AMIE's relationship with organisations such as AFASA provides an opportunity to explore how our members' knowledge of markets, standards, logistics and international trade can support emerging farmers and businesses to participate more successfully in domestic and export markets.

What this means for AMIE

For AMIE, the direction is clear. We will continue to advocate for greater market access, science-based regulation, more efficient trade systems and policies that recognise the complementary roles of domestic production, exports and imports.

We will work constructively with Government wherever possible, while continuing to speak up when systems, policies or decisions unnecessarily impede legitimate trade or increase costs for businesses and consumers.

Turning these priorities into sustained action requires the capacity to monitor developments, engage decision-makers and coordinate practical industry responses. One of the key mechanisms that enables AMIE to do this is the statutory levy. Levy funding strengthens our ability to protect and expand market access, advocate for science-based SPS and veterinary requirements, and drive more efficient certification, customs and border processes. It also supports the market intelligence, research and industry coordination needed to identify emerging risks and opportunities early.

Our continuation application will be submitted at the end of September. We thank all our members and levy payers for their continued support as we work together to build a more resilient, competitive and inclusive meat-trading environment.

Our effectiveness also depends on the active participation of our members. Many issues that eventually become industry-wide problems begin with a member encountering something unusual: a certification delay, a new requirement, an incorrect customs classification or difficulty moving product through a port or border.

Tell us when these things happen. The earlier we understand a problem, the greater our opportunity to engage the relevant authorities and find solutions before it becomes a larger trade disruption.

The challenges facing our industry are real, but so are the opportunities. AMIE's job is to ensure that our members have a strong voice in shaping what comes next—and that, wherever barriers to legitimate trade can be removed, we push hard to remove them.

STATUTORY LEVY CONTINUATION APPLICATION

THE ROAD TO 2027

Building collective capacity for a resilient,
competitive and inclusive industry



CURRENT LEVY

Valid until March 2027



TARGET SUBMISSION

End of September 2026

2027

WHERE WE ARE NOW

- Finalising the application
- Consolidating evidence
- Aligning outcomes and measures
- Engaging industry stakeholders

THE PROCESS AHEAD

- 1 Submission to NAMC
- 2 Compliance review
- 3 Public consultation
- 4 Recommendation and Ministerial consideration
- 5 Implementation from April 2027, if approved



WHY IT MATTERS

Shared challenges require
coordinated industry action.

GOVERNED • TRANSPARENT • INDEPENDENTLY AUDITED

WE VALUE YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

MEET A MEMBER

Introducing QK Group SA

Connecting our industry through the people and businesses behind it.



The purpose of this bi-monthly feature is to highlight the diverse businesses that make up our association and the value they bring to South Africa's meat trade and cold chain sector. The feature is designed to help members better understand each other's businesses, build connections, and identify opportunities for collaboration, while respecting commercial sensitivities.



Introducing QK Meats

QK Meats, part of QK Group South Africa, is a leading meat deboning and export business based in City Deep, Johannesburg. Since 2005, we've supplied quality beef and lamb products to local customers and export markets across Africa and the Middle East. QK Group South Africa also offers cold storage solutions to support a fully integrated supply chain for our customers.

WHAT BEING PART OF AMIE MEANS TO US

AMIE provides a valuable platform to connect with other manufacturers, share knowledge, and stay informed about industry developments. The opportunity to collaborate with fellow members helps strengthen both our business and the broader manufacturing sector.

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT

Our combination of large-scale processing capability, export expertise, and commitment to quality sets us apart. We focus on building long-term relationships with customers while continuously investing in our facilities, systems, and people to meet evolving market demands.

INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS WE ARE EXCITED ABOUT

We're excited about the continued growth of South African meat exports and the opportunities this creates for local facilities. Advances in traceability, food safety, and processing technology are also helping the industry become more efficient and globally competitive.

WHAT WE WANT YOU TO KNOW ABOUT US

QK Meats is a proudly South African business focused on quality, reliability, and growth. We are committed to delivering world-class products to local and international markets and look forward to building relationships with fellow AMIE members.

FAST FACTS:

Company:	QK Meats SA (PTY) LTD
Representative:	Karel Mestdagh (karel@qksa.com)
Location:	City Deep, Johannesburg, South Africa
Years in operation:	25+
Website:	www.qkgroup.co.za
Key Products and Services:	Beef and lamb deboning for local and export markets



EVENTS & ENGAGEMENT

PEOPLE
CONNECTIONS
OPPORTUNITIES
A STRONGER
TOMORROW



MEETING.
IDEAS.
A STRONGER
TOMORROW.



AMIE at SIAVS 2026

Connecting with the global animal protein industry

AMIE participated in SIAVS 2026 through the Opinion Leaders Project, engaging with international stakeholders and gaining valuable insight into Brazil's animal protein industry. The event also created opportunities to strengthen trade relationships, exchange knowledge and explore future market development.



PEOPLE
KNOWLEDGE
MARKETS
OPPORTUNITIES



19 STAKEHOLDERS
brought together



12 COUNTRIES
represented



TRADE CONNECTIONS
through the Buyer Project

Global engagement. Shared insight. Stronger trade relationships.

INDUSTRY MATTERS

Policy • Market access • Advocacy • Industry engagement

1. Border Management Authority (BMA) and Port Operations

AMIE continues to actively engage the Border Management Authority (BMA) on operations at the Durban Port of Entry, with particular focus on removal permits, laboratory result turnaround times, and overall port efficiency. These operational bottlenecks directly affect members' ability to clear consignments timeously, manage storage and demurrage costs, and maintain reliable supply chains.

AMIE remains committed to working collaboratively with the BMA, sharing industry insights and practical feedback to help identify inefficiencies and streamline processes. Through ongoing dialogue, AMIE aims to support the BMA in achieving faster, more predictable turnaround times, ultimately strengthening port efficiency for the benefit of both industry and members.

2. Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC)

AGOA Extension

The United States has extended the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) to 2028, providing welcome certainty for African trade and, importantly, for South Africa's poultry trading sector. The extension supports greater stability around the existing poultry rebate arrangements and provides industry with a clearer medium-term framework for planning and trade.

The extension also gives the industry an opportunity to continue engaging on market access, ensuring that South African exporters can make the most of preferential access to the US market while broader discussions on AGOA's future continue.

Outward Selling Mission to Kenya and Uganda (23 to 27 November 2026)

The dtic invites eligible South African companies to apply for participation in the Outward Selling Mission to Nairobi and Kampala, scheduled from 23 to 27 November 2026. The programme features business seminars, structured B2B matchmaking sessions and targeted site visits, with Agriculture and Agro-Processing among the targeted sectors. The closing date for applications is Wednesday, 23 September 2026. Members interested in participating should contact the AMIE office for the invitation and application forms.

3. Poultry Master Plan (PMP) – Phase II

After limited progress earlier in the year, the Poultry Master Plan has now formally entered Phase 2. The inaugural Phase 2 meeting was held on 13 August 2026, with work now allocated across dedicated task teams.

As part of this phase, AMIE has taken on a leading role across two key pillars. Under Pillar 2: Driving Exports, AMIE is helping to advance the industry's export growth agenda. AMIE also co-chairs Pillar 5: Fair Trade Measures, which aims to ensure an efficient trade environment that protects both producers and consumers.

AMIE members will be kept updated as things progress.

4. SARS Engagement and Compliance

SARS Poultry Forum

The latest SARS Poultry Forum was held on 11 August 2026, providing an update on ongoing investigations and compliance matters affecting the poultry trade.

A number of specialised audits have now been finalised. Some found no material undervaluation risk, while others identified minor offences, with the appropriate penalties applied. SARS also reported that discrepancies between country-of-origin information and export declarations were largely attributable to data-capturing errors rather than deliberate misdeclaration. The matter remains under review, with SARS emphasising the importance of accurate and consistent reporting.

Regarding Mechanically Deboned Meat (MDM) pricing, SARS's analysis found limited evidence of widespread undervaluation. The current approach is therefore focused on targeted verification of outlier transactions, rather than a sector-wide intervention. For Q1 of the 2026/27 financial year, SARS reported that a number of poultry-related post-clearance audit cases remain active, with some cases finalised and others still under investigation. Compliance across the audited cases was recorded at 50%. AMIE will continue to engage constructively with SARS through the Forum, supporting improved compliance and accurate trade data while ensuring that legitimate importers are able to operate within a fair and transparent trading environment.

AMIE SARS AEO and Trade Statistics Webinar
AMIE hosted its Building Trade Confidence webinar, which brought together 37 attendees to explore SARS AEO accreditation and the importance of clean customs data. We thank the SARS AEO and Trade Statistics teams for their presentations, as well as Dr Martin Cameron for providing an industry perspective on why accurate trade data matters. Our thanks also to all members who participated.

Members who were unable to attend are encouraged to contact the AMIE office regarding AEO accreditation. Given the compliance and post-clearance audit trends reported by SARS, accreditation and accurate declaration data are becoming a meaningful commercial advantage rather than an administrative formality.

5. Market Access Developments
Markets Reopened

AMIE continues to engage with government on market access, with encouraging progress in reopening markets following HPAI restrictions. Since the start of 2026, six markets – Spain, Argentina, Northern Ireland, Ireland, Belgium and Chile – have had South African poultry restrictions lifted following their declaration as HPAI-free through WOA. Reopening timelines have ranged from 19 to 134 days, highlighting the importance of timely communication and close-out processes between veterinary authorities.

A further five markets – Hungary, Denmark, France, the Netherlands and Poland – have declared themselves HPAI-free through WOA but are still awaiting formal reopening by Department of Agriculture. AMIE will continue to monitor these processes and engage where appropriate to support the timely restoration of market access.

There has also been positive progress in red meat export market access, with new access secured for Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt during 2026. Engagement is continuing with a number of other markets, including Qatar, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Kuwait, Oman, Tunisia and Mozambique, with progress varying across individual markets.

MARKET ACCESS STATUS

2026 developments at a glance

POULTRY IMPORT MARKETS 6 POULTRY MARKETS REOPENED Spain • Argentina • Northern Ireland • Ireland • Belgium • Chile Restrictions lifted following HPAI-free declarations POULTRY IMPORT MARKETS 5 AWAITING FORMAL REOPENING Hungary • Denmark • France • Netherlands • Poland HPAI-free through WOA; Department confirmation outstanding
RED-MEAT EXPORT MARKETS 3 NEW RED-MEAT EXPORT MARKETS Jordan • Lebanon • Egypt Access secured during 2026 RED-MEAT EXPORT MARKETS 8 ENGAGEMENT CONTINUING Qatar • UAE • Saudi Arabia • Seychelles • Kuwait • Oman • Tunisia • Mozambique Progress varies by market

AMIE remains committed to supporting the industry's efforts to open new markets, resolve outstanding sanitary and certification requirements, and expand opportunities for South African meat exports & Imports.

Poultry Export Committee
AMIE managed to secure a dedicated Poultry Export Committee to strengthen collaboration and support the expansion of South African poultry exports. The first meeting will take place on 21 September 2026 and will include AMIE, the Department of Agriculture (DoA); Veterinary Public Health (VPH) and the South African Poultry Association (SAPA). The Committee will focus on identifying export opportunities, addressing market-access and veterinary requirements, and working collectively to unlock new international markets for South African poultry.

6. AMIE International Engagements on Trade and Market Development
Argentina – Beef Tail Certification
AMIE has submitted a request to the Department of Agriculture for revised certification for beef tails from Argentina, supported by technical input from the Argentine side. The matter remains under consideration.

7. Competition Commission Poultry Market Inquiry
AMIE has submitted its response to the Final Terms of Reference for the Poultry Market Inquiry. This inquiry will be a significant forum for the issues AMIE has consistently raised on competitiveness, pricing, and barriers to trade in the poultry value chain. Members will be kept informed as this matter proceeds.

8. Livestock Industry Value Chain Round Table (LVCRT)
AMIE continues to participate in the Livestock Industry Value Chain Round Table (LVCRT), which provides an important platform for government and industry to engage on key issues affecting the livestock and meat value chain.

Discussions continue to focus on market access, animal health, trade policy, affordability, industry competitiveness, and regulatory challenges. AMIE is using the platform to ensure that the interests of meat importers, exporters, and the broader value chain are represented, while supporting practical solutions that strengthen the industry's sustainability and competitiveness.

INDUSTRY STATISTICS

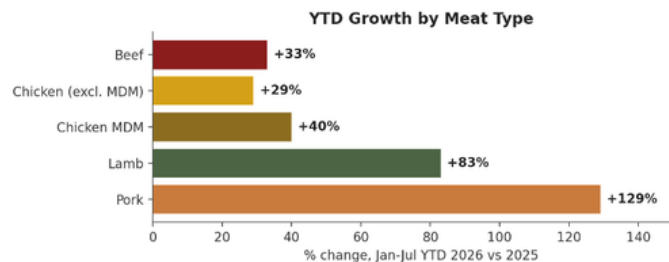
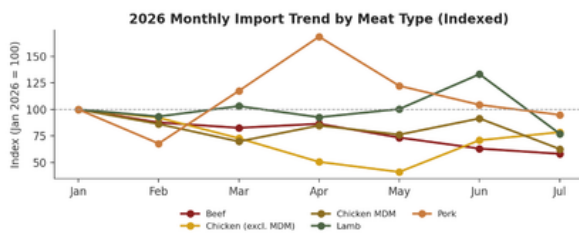
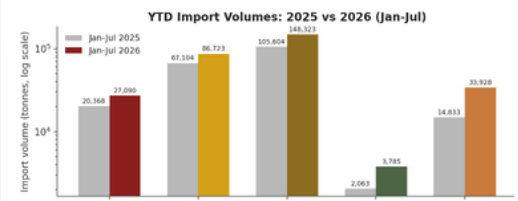
Meat imports • Exports • Volumes • Market trends

Import Summary: Reporting period: Year to Date, ending July 2026

[Full Report Available for Members](#)

Import volumes are up sharply across all proteins in the first seven months of 2026. Pork leads the pack with YTD volume more than doubling (+129%), followed by lamb (+83%), chicken MDM (+40%), chicken excluding MDM (+29%) and beef (+33%). Excluding MDM, chicken imports actually rose 11% into July even as MDM volumes fell 32% month-on-month. Lamb also pulled back sharply in July (down 42%). Brazil and Australia remain the dominant supply origins across the categories.

Meat	YTD Jul 2025	YTD Jul 2026	YTD % Chg.	Jul 2026	MoM % Jul	Top Origin
Beef	20,368	27,090	+33%	2,855	(8%)	Australia
Chicken (excl. MDM)	67,104	86,723	+29%	13,458	+11%	Brazil
Chicken MDM	105,604	148,323	+40%	16,274	(32%)	Brazil
Lamb	2,063	3,785	+83%	417	(42%)	Australia
Pork	14,833	33,928	+129%	4,153	(9%)	Brazil



Top Cuts & Countries of Origin

Leading tariff cuts and supply origins by category, Jan–Jul 2026 YTD

Top 3 Cuts by Category

Category	#1 Cut	#2 Cut	#3 Cut
Beef	Beef Offal — 20,650t (76%)	Beef Fats — 4,452t (16%)	Bone-In Cuts — 1,490t (5%)
Chicken (excl. MDM)	Chicken Offal — 49,206t (57%)	Bone-In Cuts — 29,875t (34%)	Carcasses — 5,184t (6%)
Chicken MDM	Single tariff line — 148,323t	—	—
Lamb	Lamb Offal — 2,982t (79%)	Bone-In Lamb — 557t (15%)	Carcasses — 213t (6%)
Pork	Pork Offal — 13,970t (41%)	Pork Ribs — 11,637t (34%)	Boneless Pork — 8,030t (24%)

Top 3 Countries of Destination by Category

Category	#1 Origin	#2 Origin	#3 Origin
Beef	Australia — 9,095t (34%)	New Zealand — 3,349t (12%)	Argentina — 2,656t (10%)
Chicken (excl. MDM)	Brazil — 67,389t (78%)	United States — 8,881t (10%)	Argentina — 5,955t (7%)
Chicken MDM	Brazil — 142,306t (96%)	Argentina — 3,837t (3%)	Thailand — 2,128t (1%)
Lamb	Australia — 1,915t (51%)	Brazil — 804t (21%)	New Zealand — 631t (17%)
Pork	Brazil — 8,779t (26%)	Netherlands — 6,446t (19%)	France — 4,554t (13%)

Offal dominates the cut mix for beef, lamb and the non-MDM chicken basket alike, while pork is more evenly split across offal, ribs and boneless cuts. Brazil supplies the vast majority of Chicken MDM (96%) and is also the leading origin for pork and non-MDM chicken, while Australia leads for beef and lamb.

INDUSTRY STATISTICS

Meat imports • Exports • Volumes • Market trends

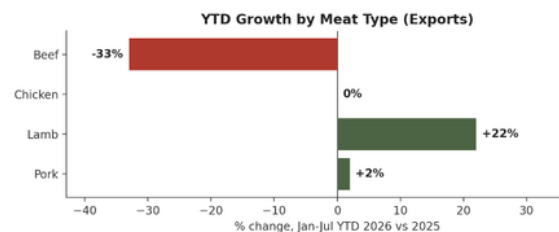
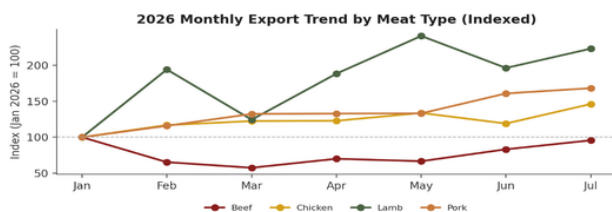
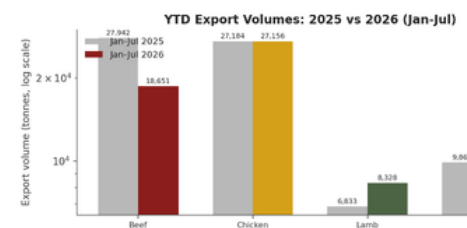
Export Summary:

[Full Report Available for Members](#)

Reporting period: Year to Date, ending July 2026

Export performance is far more mixed than on the import side. Beef exports are down sharply (-33% YTD), while chicken is roughly flat (0%), lamb is up strongly (+22%) and pork is broadly stable (+2%). Within chicken, Chicken MDM volumes are up 60% YTD while the rest of the chicken basket is down 11% — the two largely offset each other in the headline total, so it's worth watching that split even though the combined figure looks unremarkable. Unlike imports, every category rose month-on-month into July — beef +15%, chicken +23%, lamb +14% and pork +5%. Regional destinations (Mozambique, Lesotho, Namibia, Eswatini) dominate chicken, pork and beef volumes, while lamb and beef also lean on Gulf markets (UAE, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait).

Meat	YTD Jul 2025	YTD Jul 2026	YTD % Chg.	Jul 2026	MoM % Jul	Top Destination
Beef	27,942	18,651	(33%)	3,312	+15%	Mozambique
Chicken	27,184	27,156	(0%)	4,608	+23%	Lesotho
Lamb	6,833	8,328	+22%	1,466	+14%	United Arab Emirates
Pork	9,864	10,075	+2%	1,796	+5%	Mozambique



Top Cuts & Countries of Origin

Leading tariff cuts and supply origins by category, Jan–Jul 2026 YTD

Top 3 Cuts by Category

Category	#1 Cut	#2 Cut	#3 Cut
Beef	Boneless Cuts — 12,458t (67%)	Beef Fats — 3,010t (16%)	Bone-In Cuts — 1,489t (8%)
Chicken	Bone-In Cuts — 6,802t (25%)	Chicken MDM — 6,482t (24%)	Cuts & Offal Fresh/Chld — 4,066t (15%)
Lamb	Lamb Carcasses — 7,921t (95%)	Bone-In Lamb — 199t (2%)	Lamb Offal — 105t (1%)
Pork	Boneless Pork — 3,606t (36%)	Pork Offal — 3,436t (34%)	Bone-In Pork — 1,511t (15%)

Top 3 Countries of Destination by Category

Category	#1 Destination	#2 Destination	#3 Destination
Beef	Mozambique — 4,311t (23%)	Jordan — 3,303t (18%)	United Arab Emirates — 2,431t (13%)
Chicken	Lesotho — 11,365t (42%)	Mozambique — 3,052t (11%)	Namibia — 2,618t (10%)
Lamb	United Arab Emirates — 3,662t (44%)	Jordan — 2,460t (30%)	Saudi Arabia — 963t (12%)
Pork	Mozambique — 4,827t (48%)	Namibia — 2,636t (26%)	Lesotho — 599t (6%)

Boneless cuts dominate beef and pork exports, while lamb exports are almost entirely carcasses (95%). Chicken exports are led by bone-in cuts, followed closely by Chicken MDM and fresh/chilled cuts & offal. Regional markets are the clear anchor for exports: Mozambique, Lesotho and Namibia are the top destinations for pork and chicken, while beef and lamb lean more heavily on Middle Eastern demand, with Mozambique/Jordan topping beef and the UAE/Jordan topping lamb.



US MEAT EXPORT FEDERATION

Export statistics and global market insights

Through mid-August, U.S. beef production was running down 4.8% with slaughter down 7.3%, and USDA's latest forecast is for production to end the year down 4.0% at 11.32 million mt. Fed beef production (the vast majority of U.S. beef production) was down 4.9% through mid-August, as heavier carcass weights offset an 8.0% decrease in steer and heifer slaughter. Steer carcass weights averaged up 3.5% from last year's record, averaging 977 lbs. so far this year. Cattle are spending more days on feed due to slower turnover of cattle from feedlots and as price signals continue to reward adding more lbs. per animal. The share of fed beef production grading Prime has jumped in recent years and is 15.2% so far this year, up from last year's record of 11.5%. The share grading Choice is holding steady with last year at 72.8%, and the share grading Select dropped from 12.7% to 9.0%. The total volume of Prime beef production has surged up 26% from last year's record pace, following 16% production growth in 2024 and 9% last year. Year-to-date, the Choice cutout (a measure of wholesale prices) averaged up 9% at \$3.80/lb. with higher values for all Choice primals. The rib primal averaged up 1% and the loin up 5% while the other primals were sharply higher on demand for lean product for ground beef as well as roasts and value steak cuts as some more price sensitive consumers have shifted down within the category (although popular steak cut sales remained strong for holidays this spring and summer). U.S. consumer demand for beef remains astounding, so the U.S. is importing record volumes of lean beef to help balance domestic supplies. U.S. per capita availability of beef is expected to be down only 0.5% this year after reaching the highest level in over 15 years last year. Drought conditions remain challenging, but the July Cattle Inventory report showed that heifers held back to be beef cow replacements increased year-over-year for the first time since 2015. This is one positive signal as we look ahead to herd rebuilding potentially gaining momentum this fall.

From January – June 2026, U.S. beef variety meat exports to Africa totaled 6,289 mt, down 7% from last year, valued at \$12.4 million, up 31%.

Exports to South Africa totaled 1,521 mt, up from just 97 mt in 2025 but down 39% from 2024, valued at \$2.24 million, up significantly from 2025 but down 13% from 2024. mt, -44%), and Gabon (783 mt, -47%). The other top markets in the region were: Morocco (2,419 mt, +8% from last year), Cote d'Ivoire (1,566mt, -44%), and Gabon (783 mt, -47%).

From Jan – June 2026, U.S. frozen beef liver exports totaled 26,289 mt, down 6%, valued at \$53.8 million, up 13% as unit export values were up 20%. Exports were lower than last year to top market Egypt (14,918 mt, -16%) as well as to Canada (1,486 mt, -53%), but exports were higher to the other top destinations including Mexico (3,010 mt, +244%), Morocco (2,259, +27%), Peru (1,733 mt, +49%), Chile (1,195 mt, +21%), and Colombia (309 mt, +13%). Exports to South Africa were 226 mt, up from 0 mt last year but down from 453 mt in 2024. All 226 mt of beef liver shipments to South Africa reported so far this year were shipped in Jan, and this was the largest monthly shipment since Aug 2023.

U.S. beef kidney exports were down 22% from last year through June 2026 at 3,361 mt, valued at \$4.9 million, up 10% as unit export values increased 41%. South Africa is again the top market for U.S. beef kidney exports at 1,104 mt through June (valued at \$1.7 mil), up from just 96 mt last year but down from 1,596 mt in 2025. Exports were also higher to Egypt (265 mt, +40%) and Morocco (107 mt, +293%), while exports were lower to Cote d'Ivoire (911 mt, -45%), Gabon (701 mt, -53%), and Jamaica (269 mt, -37%). Exports to South Africa were nearly 290 mt in both Jan and Feb, and in March and April exports were 181 and 187 mt, respectively. Exports slowed to 138 mt in May and 24 mt in June.

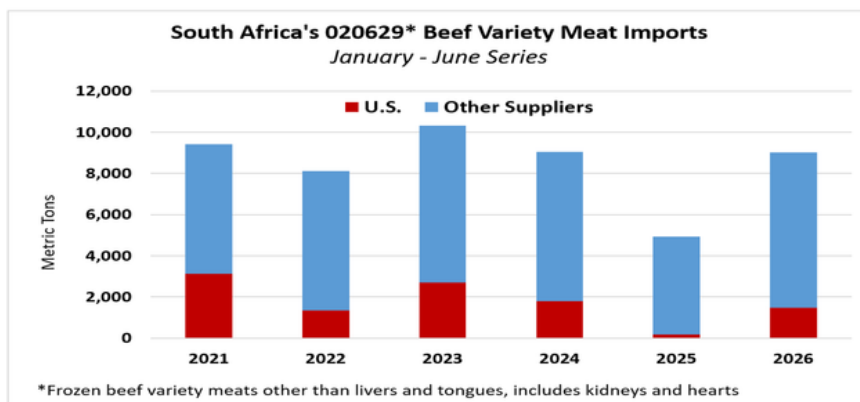
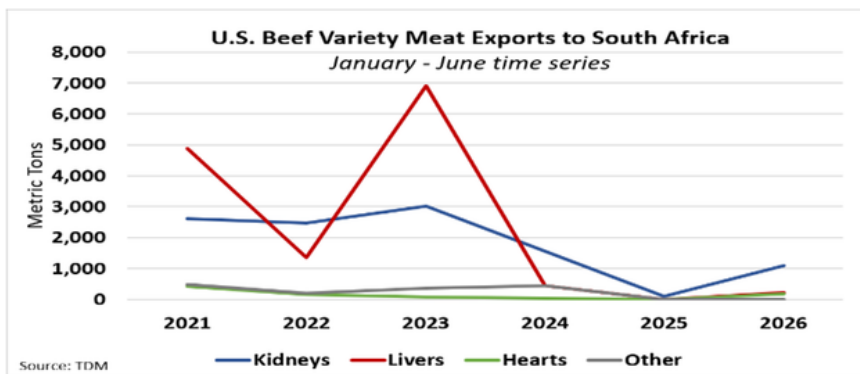
From Jan – June 2026, U.S. beef heart exports totaled 19,364 mt, up 22% from last year, while export value was \$33.6 million, up 13% as unit export values were down 7.5%. Exports to top market Mexico were 15,333 mt, up 44%. Other top markets included Egypt (1,047 mt, -16%), China (901 mt, -48%), Philippines (364 mt, +30%), Japan (226 mt, +5%), Vietnam (209 mt, +2%), and South Africa (190 mt, up from 0 mt last year and the highest since 2021).

USMEF continued



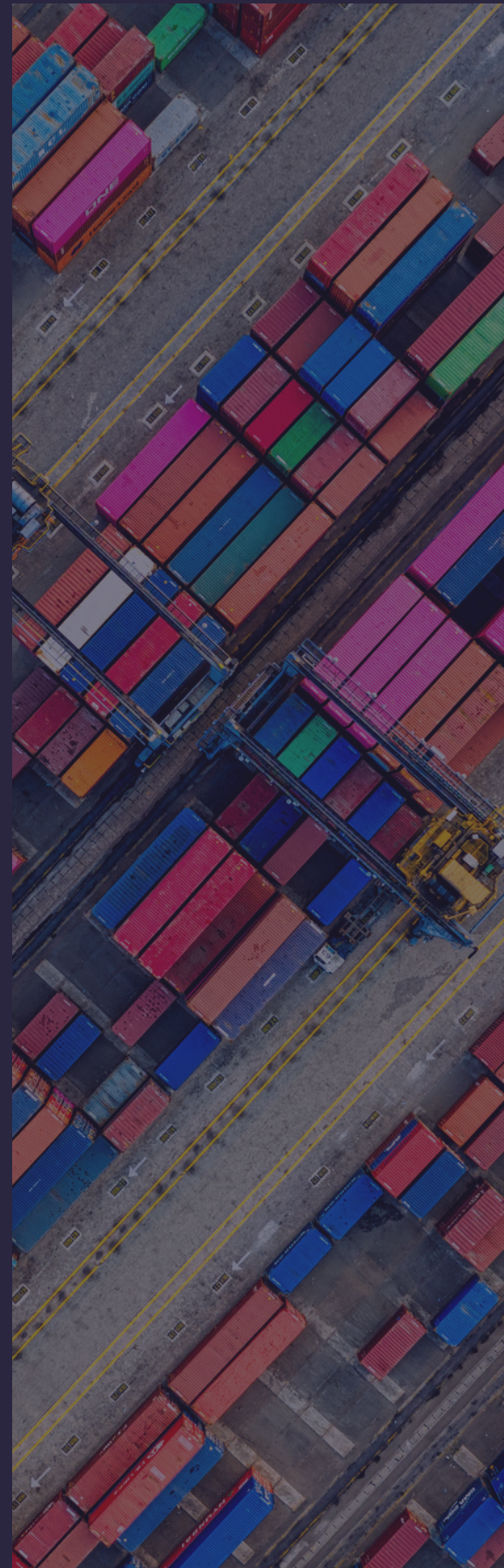
Exports to South Africa were 0 mt in Jan, 2 mt in Feb, and 52 mt in March. Exports reached 88 mt in April, which was the highest monthly total since 2021. Exports were 24 mt in both May and June.

Graphs below to support the statistics reports:



U.S. pork production is rebounding in 2026, and USDA's latest forecast is that production will total 12.64 million mt for the year, which would be up 1.1% from last year. USDA expects production to increase 0.9% in 2027 to 12.76 million mt, down just slightly from the 2020 record high. Year-to-date pork production is up 1.0% through mid-August, while slaughter is down 0.1% at 81.6 million head. Heavier carcass weights are supporting increased production, with weights up 1.0% at an average of 217.1 lbs. The pork cutout (a measure of wholesale prices) averaged down 5% from last year through mid-August, with the cutout below year-ago levels since May. The decrease has been driven entirely by lower values for the belly, ham, and picnic primals, while the rib and butt primal values were higher, and the loin primal value was steady. Through June, the U.S. exported 30.3% of pork and pork variety meat production and exports to Africa were 303 mt, down 19%, valued at \$1.1 million, up 67%. The top destinations in the region were South Africa, Gabon, Congo, and Equatorial Guinea.

Sources: TDM, USDA/AMS, USDA/NASS, USDA/WASDE, USDA/ERS, USDA/FAS





WEBINAR FEEDBACK

Building Trade Confidence

SARS AEO Accreditation and the Case for Clean Customs Data



AMIE recently hosted a members' webinar, Building Trade Confidence: SARS AEO Accreditation and the Case for Clean Customs Data, bringing together 37 participants from across the meat trade and clearing sectors. The session explored how the SARS Authorised Economic Operator programme can support compliant businesses through more efficient customs processes and stronger supply-chain security.

The SARS AEO and Trade Statistics teams provided practical guidance on accreditation and highlighted the importance of accurate customs data in supporting sound trade decisions. Dr Martin Cameron added an industry perspective, demonstrating how data quality affects market intelligence, policy engagement and the credibility of South Africa's official trade statistics.

AMIE thanks the SARS teams, Dr Cameron and all participating members for contributing to a valuable and informative discussion. Continued cooperation between government and industry is essential to building efficient, transparent and trusted trade systems.

[View the programme here](#)

[Access the presentation here](#)

37 PARTICIPANTS

AEO ACCREDITATION

CLEAN CUSTOMS DATA

INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE



WHY BECOME AN AMIE MEMBER?



A stronger voice



Timely industry intelligence



Valuable connections

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MIE's Role in Meat and Poultry Imports and Exports

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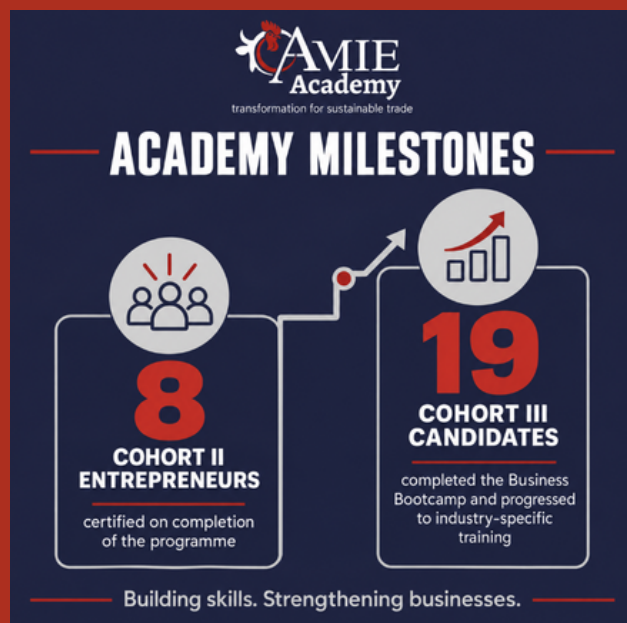


AMIE Academy marked a milestone on 27 August 2026, celebrating Cohort II's achievements and recognizing Cohort III's progress.

The Academy aims to equip entrepreneurs with knowledge, business skills, industry exposure, and connections to build sustainable enterprises in South Africa's meat and poultry value chain.

Eight **Cohort II** entrepreneurs received certificates after completing the programme, signifying an intensive development journey and a new phase focused on applying skills, expanding networks, and pursuing opportunities. Participants learned practical business skills, industry opportunities, challenges, and regulatory requirements.

Key lessons included the importance of collaboration, strategic partnerships to access markets and capabilities, and compliance with environmental and legal standards to reduce risks and attract investment. The experience emphasized ongoing learning, engagement, and action for sustainable growth.




CREATING MARKET CONNECTIONS

17 AMIE ACADEMY SMMEs
featured on Back-a-Business

NEXT STEP
An AGM networking opportunity connecting SMMEs with AMIE members

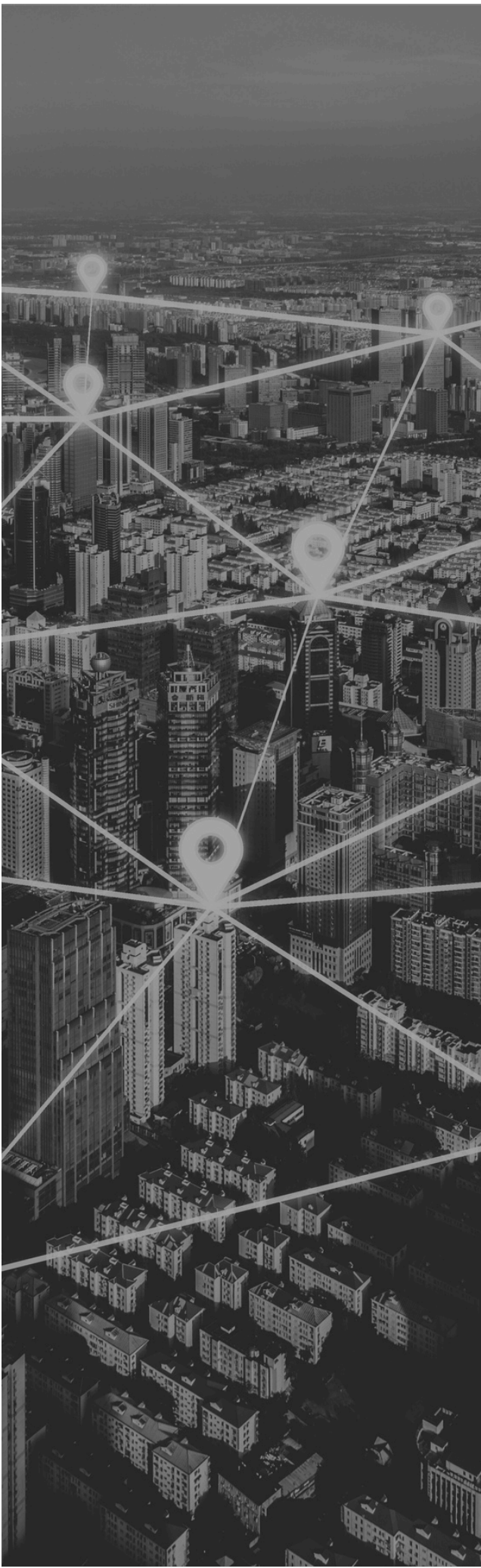
Visibility. Relationships. Opportunity.

Nineteen **Cohort III** candidates completed the Business Bootcamp, improving their business plans, testing viability, and building core capabilities. They now undertake industry-specific training on the meat value chain, including compliance, food safety, logistics, and market access, supported by business coaches.

Training and coaching are crucial, but visibility, investment, and market access are vital too. The Back-a-Business platform showcases 17 Academy SMMEs to potential investors and partners, providing support like funding, mentorship, and market access.

An upcoming networking event at the AGM will enable SMMEs to connect with AMIE members, share businesses, learn, and explore collaboration. This demonstrates that enterprise development involves more than training—it requires connecting entrepreneurs with knowledge, relationships, and opportunities for growth.



An aerial photograph of a city, likely Johannesburg, with a network of white lines and circular nodes overlaid on the image, symbolizing connectivity and a global network.

WHY BECOME A MEMBER?

AMIE represents a fast-moving and influential community shaping the future of South Africa's meat and poultry trade.

We protect the interests of our members through active industry engagement and strategic advocacy. AMIE is recognised by government and industry partners as a trusted voice that drives reform, supports fair competition, and strengthens food security.

Joining AMIE means becoming part of a dynamic network that is working to open markets, remove barriers, and create real commercial opportunities.

- Direct industry representation with government authorities
- Early visibility on market access developments
- Trade and SPS issue escalation support
- Industry intelligence and regulatory updates
- Participation in strategic industry working groups

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