The livestock marketed composite index stood at the 82.1 points in May 2014, down 47.9 percent when compared to the same period of 2013. On month on month, the index declined by 11.9 per cent.

Total number of livestock marketed during the month of May stood at 106,898, with the major year-on-year decline attributable to wide spread sell-offs of livestock in 2013, due to a drought, as well as livestock inventory rebuilding in 2014 after these sell-offs. Moreover, strict Veterinary requirement introduced by South Africa for the import of livestock have further dampened sales numbers in 2014.

The composite indices of cattle and small stock exported on hoof slowed to 2.2 and 17.7 points, respectively; witnessing declines of 98.6 and 88.2 per cent on a yearly basis, and decline of 96.3 and 92.3 per cent on a monthly basis.

The composite index of cattle marketed through export abattoirs and butchers stood at 149.0 points in May, the highest index level yet seen in 2014 and a 174.9 percent increase on a monthly basis. On a yearly basis, however, the cattle exported from the abattoirs declined by 19.0 per cent.

The index of pigs marketed stood at a level of 114.6 points in May, an annual decline of 4.4 percent, however an increase from the level of 100.1 points recorded in April 2014.

The composite livestock marketing index consists of four components: cattle and small stock sold to export abattoirs and butchers, cattle and Small Stock exported on-the-hoof and pigs.