

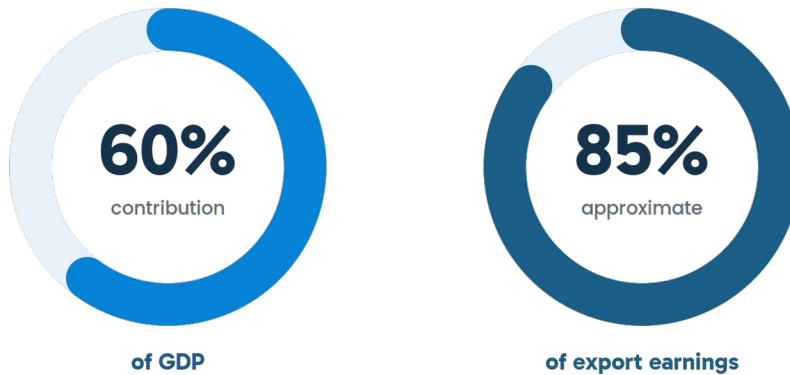
**SECTION 6**  
The economic backbone

# LIVESTOCK: THE ECONOMIC BACKBONE AND THE NEXT INDUSTRIAL OPPORTUNITY

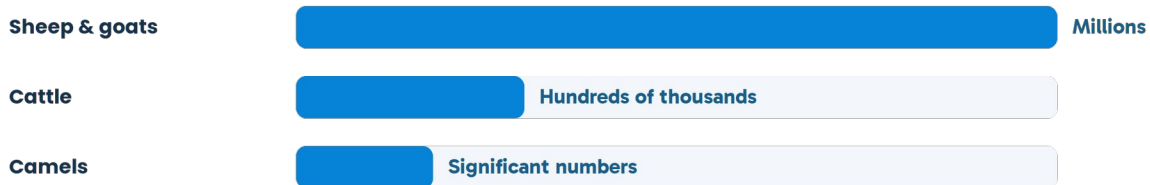
Livestock remains Somaliland's largest economic sector and one of its most significant sources of foreign exchange.

The sector contributes an estimated 60 percent of GDP and approximately 85 percent of export earnings. In 2024 alone, Somaliland exported millions of sheep and goats, hundreds of thousands of cattle, and significant numbers of camels to Gulf markets.

**Livestock's weight in the economy**



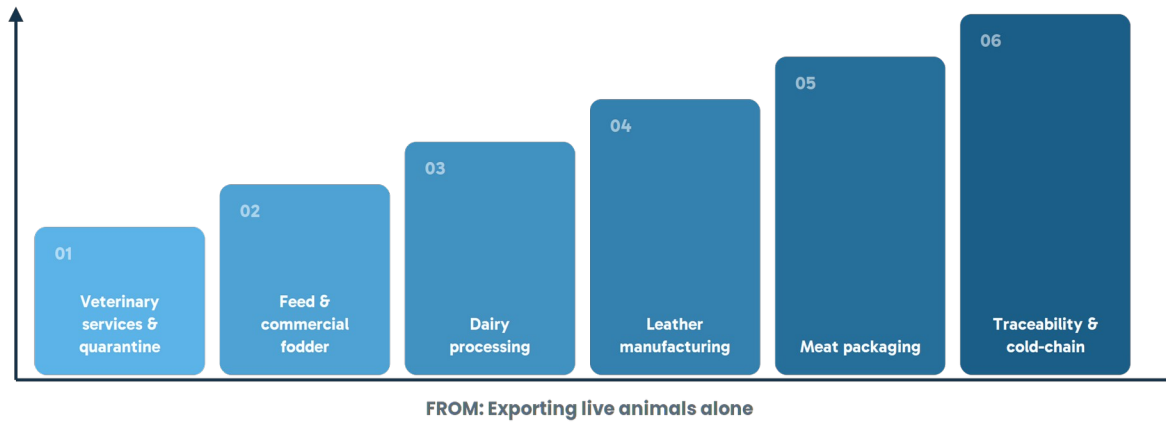
**2024 livestock exports to Gulf markets**



Yet Somaliland's greatest livestock opportunity lies not in exporting live animals alone. The future of the sector depends on value addition.

Investments in veterinary services, quarantine facilities, feed production, commercial fodder farms, dairy processing, leather manufacturing, meat packaging, livestock insurance, traceability systems, and cold-chain logistics offer substantial opportunities for growth.

### Moving up the value chain



By moving up the value chain, Somaliland can increase export revenues, create employment, strengthen food security, and reduce vulnerability to external market shocks.

### The pay-off from value addition

<p>✓ Increase export revenues</p>	<p>✓ Create employment</p>
<p>✓ Strengthen food security</p>	<p>✓ Reduce vulnerability to market shocks</p>