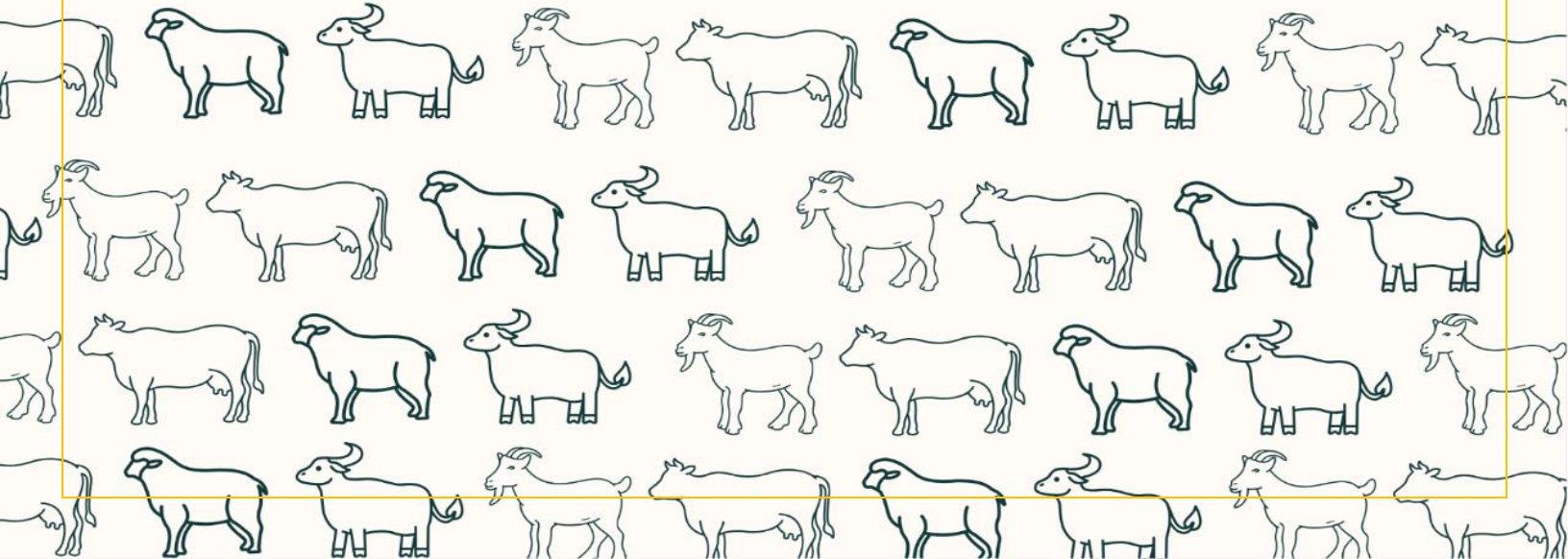




# GALLUP PAKISTAN ANALYSIS OF AGRICULTURAL CENSUS 2024

**Livestock distribution in Pakistan**



## PRESS RELEASE

Gallup Pakistan Analysis of Agricultural Census 2024

### **Punjab Leads in Cattle and Buffalo, Balochistan Dominates in Sheep – 91% of Rural Households Rear Livestock in 2024 Census**

*Islamabad, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025*

Gallup Pakistan, as part of its Big Data Analysis initiative, is examining the irrigation methods and cropping patterns revealed in the *7th Agricultural Census 2024*, the country's first **Integrated Digital Count** of agriculture, conducted by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

#### **What is the Big Data Analysis Series by Gallup?**

Gallup Pakistan's Big Data series was started by Bilal I Gilani, Executive Director of Gallup Pakistan. Bilal explains the rationale of the series: *"The usual complaint from academics and policy makers is that Pakistan does not have data availability. Our experience negates that. Pakistan has lots of data, but it is not available in a usable form and not widely accessible. At Gallup we plan to bridge this gap in terms of accessibility and use of data. The Gallup Big Data series has earlier worked with data sets such as [PSLM](#), [Labour Force Survey](#), and [Economic Survey reports](#) as well as [National Census Reports](#) and [Election Commission Data sets](#). The current series is using the [Global Burden of Disease dataset](#), which provides a variety of health-related statistics. We hope that these series are useful, and we welcome both feedback as well as possible collaborations as we create a public good in the form of useful data sets in Pakistan."*

#### **What data points this current edition covers:**

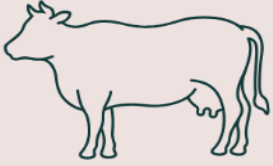
The census reveals that livestock rearing is an integral part of Pakistan's agriculture sector, with a vast majority of rural households owning some form of livestock. Distribution patterns show significant differences across provinces, reflecting variations in agro-ecological zones, resource availability, and farming practices.

# GALLUP PAKISTAN

ANALYSIS OF AGRICULTURAL CENSUS 2024

## National Livestock Totals (2024):

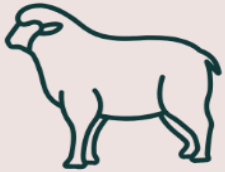
Cattle 52.8 million, Buffalo 43.6 million, Sheep 31.4 million, Goats 76.1 million, Camels 1.2 million.



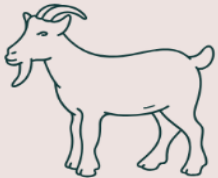
**Cattle**  
**52.8 million**



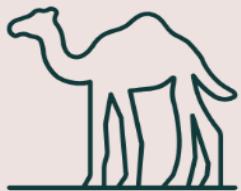
**Buffalo**  
**43.6 million**



**Sheep**  
**31.4 million**



**Goats**  
**76.1 million**



**Camel**  
**1.2 million**

**Punjab** leads in cattle (16.9m) and buffalo (14.2m),



**Balochistan** dominates sheep (12.3m) and camels (0.9m).



**KP** has, goats (7.4m), cattle (4.2m) and buffalo (2.9m) populations.



**Sindh** has 11.4m cattle, 11.8m buffalo, 18.3m goats, and 3.7m sheep.



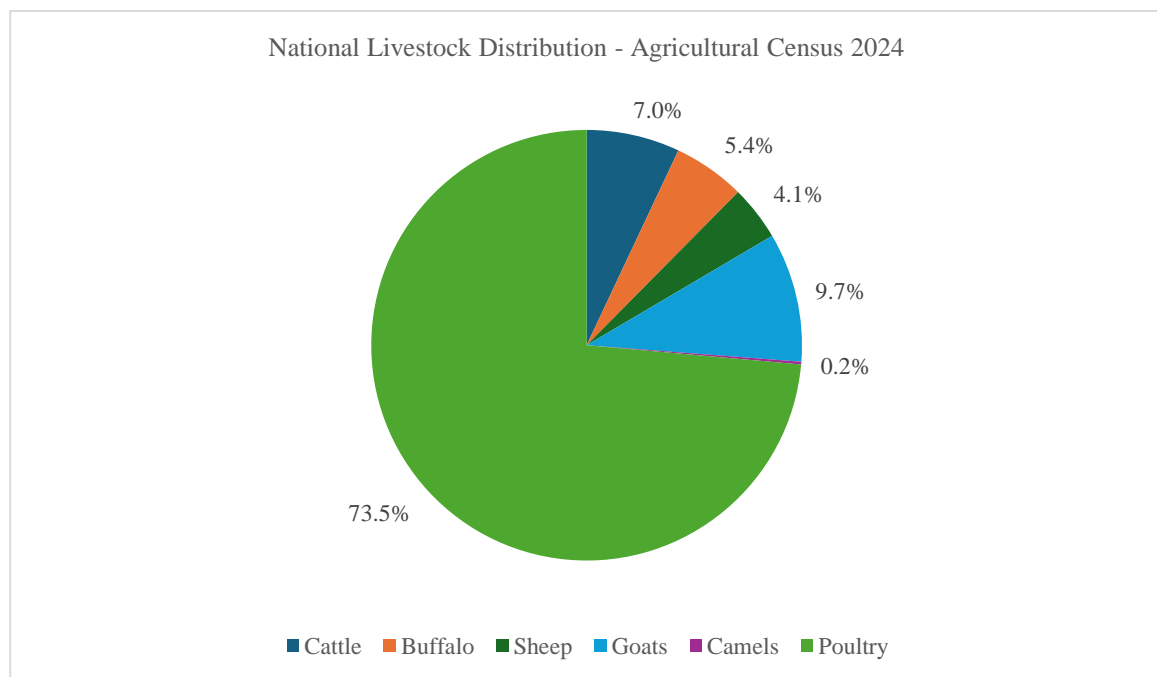
## **Key Findings:**

1. National Livestock Totals (2024): Cattle 52.8 million, Buffalo 43.6 million, Sheep 31.4 million, Goats 76.1 million, Camels 1.2 million (PBS Agricultural Census 2024).
2. Punjab leads in cattle (16.9m) and buffalo (14.2m), while Balochistan dominates sheep (12.3m) and camels (0.9m).
3. KP shows smallholder dominance in goats (7.4m), exceeding its cattle (4.2m) and buffalo (2.9m) populations.
4. Sindh maintains a balanced profile with 11.4m cattle, 11.8m buffalo, 18.3m goats, and 3.7m sheep.

## 1. National Livestock Profile

The Census confirms that Pakistan's livestock sector is broad-based, with goats and cattle leading in absolute numbers. Goats dominate small farm households due to their resilience, while cattle and buffaloes are concentrated among medium and large farms that drive the dairy and beef sectors.

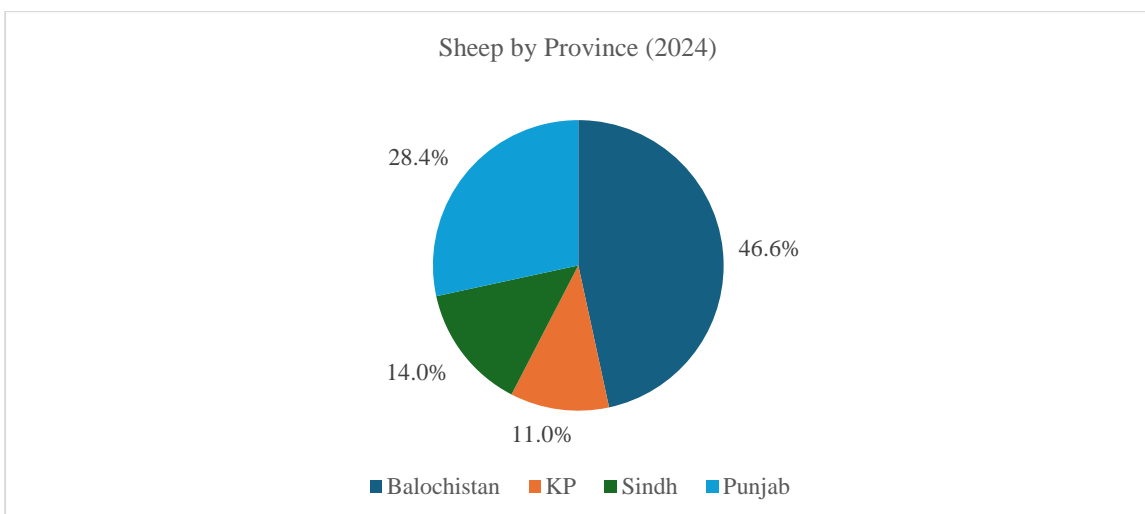
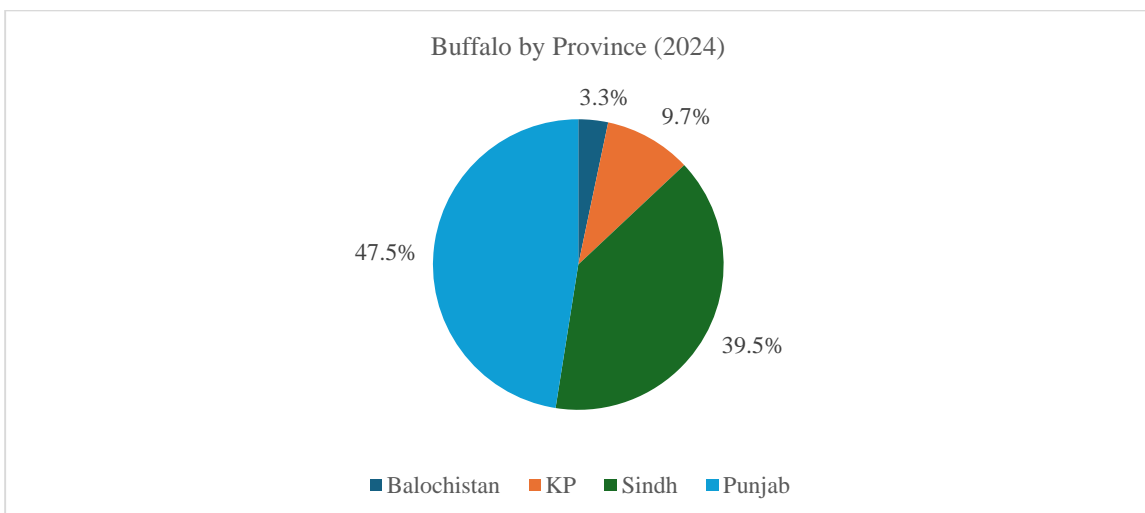
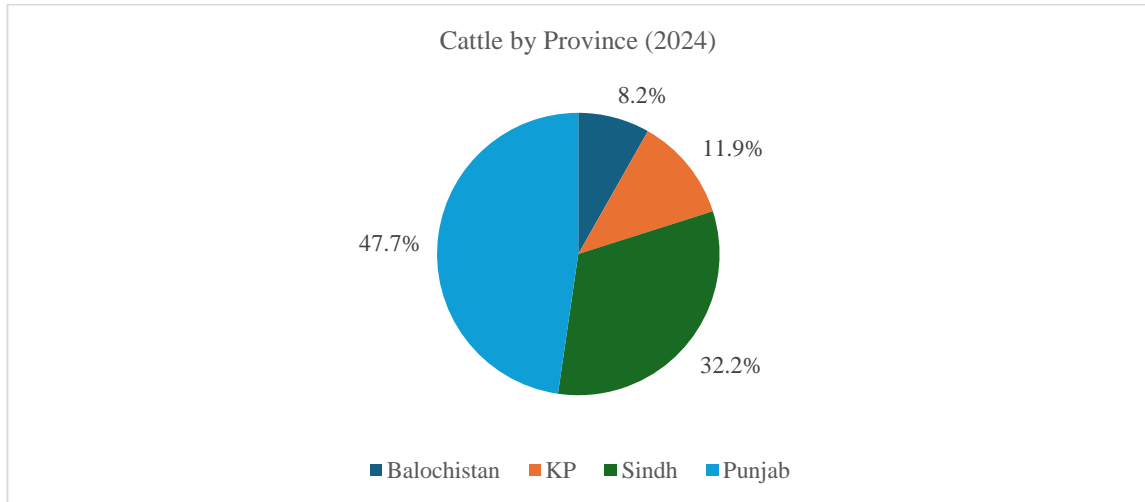
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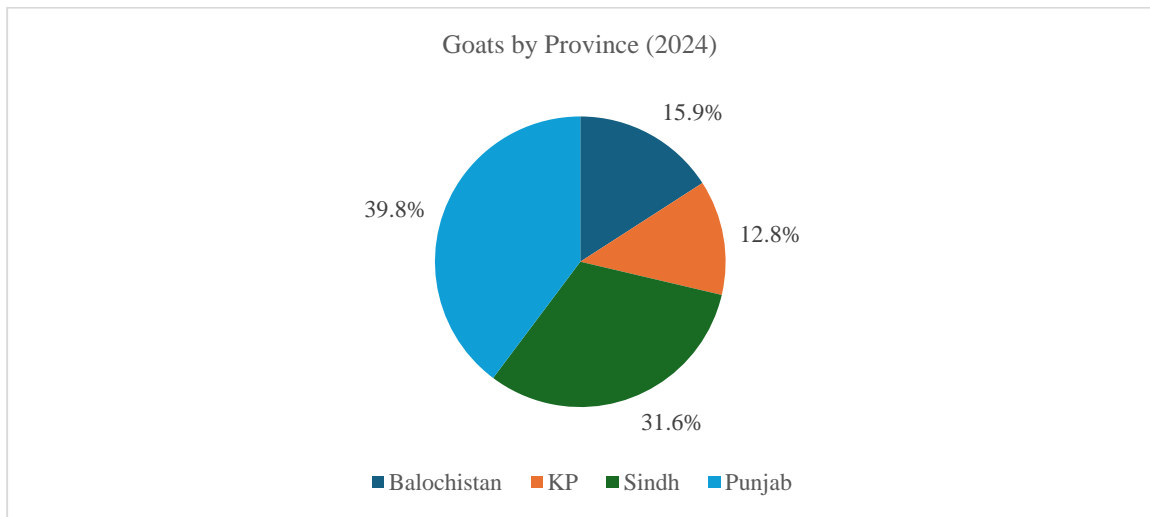


Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Agricultural Census 2024 – Main Findings Report

## 2. Trend Provincial Breakdown

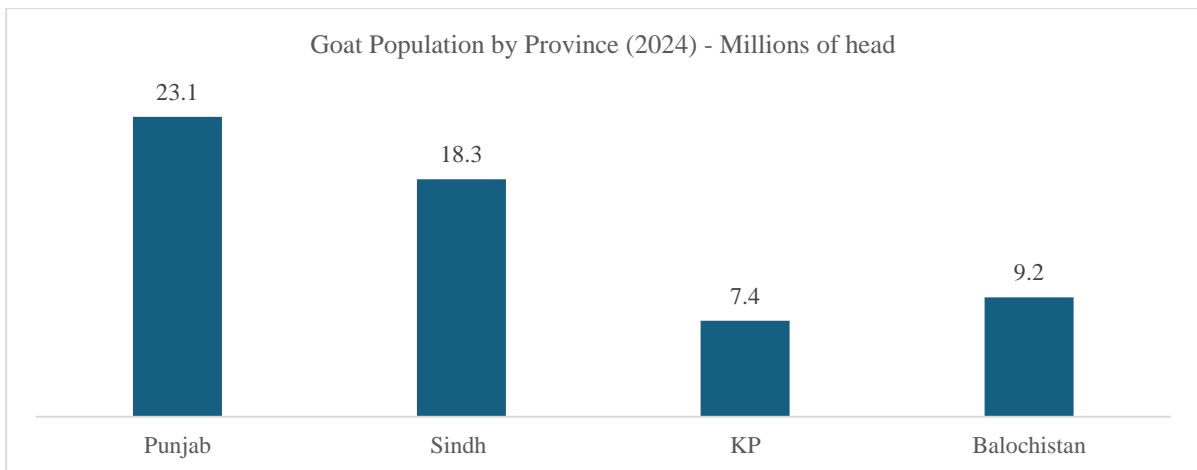
Punjab holds the largest share of cattle and buffaloes, making it the center of Pakistan's milk economy. Sindh contributes significantly to buffalo holdings and commercial dairy. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa reflects mixed small-scale holdings dominated by goats, while Balochistan stands apart with the highest concentration of sheep and camels, shaped by its rangeland-based production system.





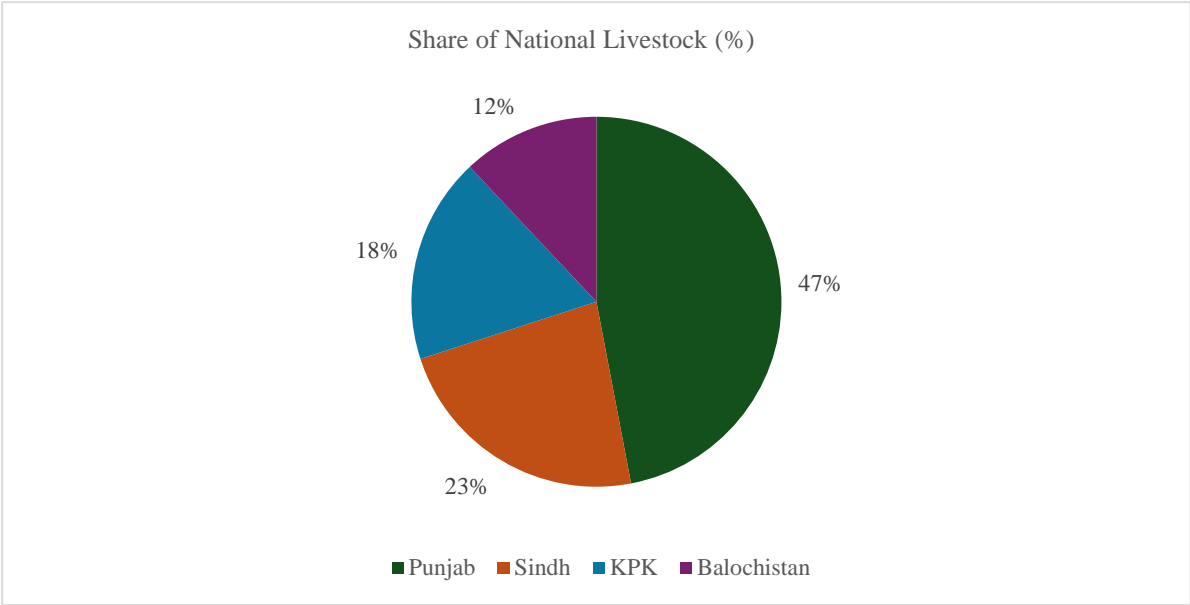
*Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Agricultural Census 2024 (Main Findings Report)*

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa’s livestock sector is characterized by small-scale, mixed household holdings, with goats playing a central role. The province maintains about 7.4 million goats, significantly higher than its cattle (4.2 million) and buffalo (2.9 million) populations. This reflects the adaptability of goats to hilly and resource-constrained environments, where they provide a vital source of milk, meat, and income security for smallholder families. Their prevalence underscores the importance of strengthening veterinary outreach and feed supplementation programs targeted specifically at goat-keeping households in KP.



*Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Agricultural Census 2024 (Main Findings Report)*

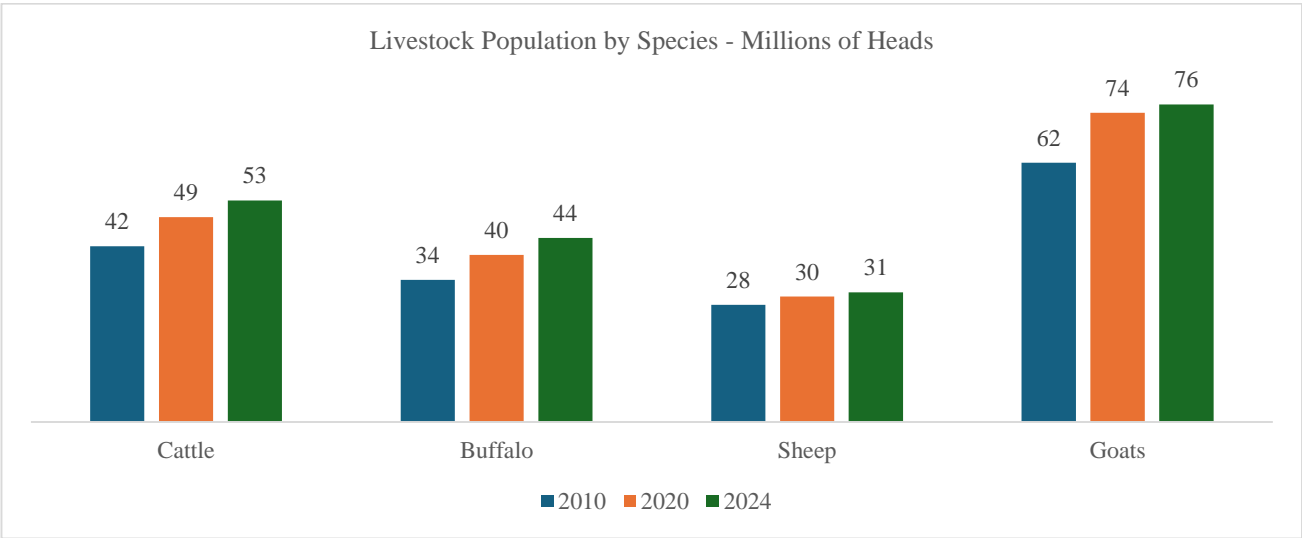
Balochistan stands apart from the rest of the country due to its rangeland-based livestock economy. The province dominates in sheep, with 12.3 million head—39% of Pakistan’s total, and is also home to nearly 0.9 million camels, the highest share nationally. These species thrive in Balochistan’s extensive arid and semi-arid grazing systems, which favor mobile and resilient animals. By contrast, cattle and buffalo are relatively limited. This distinct profile highlights the need for investment in rangeland management, drought resilience, and camel and sheep value chains to sustain livelihoods in the province.



Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Agricultural Census 2024 (Main Findings Report)

### 3. Trends Over Time

Comparison with the 2010 Census indicates sustained growth in livestock numbers, especially in goats and poultry, underscoring their importance in food security. Buffalo and cattle populations have also expanded steadily, reinforcing Pakistan’s dairy-first livestock economy. Sheep numbers have remained relatively stable, with growth mainly in Balochistan.



Source: PBS, Agricultural Census 2010, 2020, 2024.

#### 4. Per Capita Availability and Implications

While Pakistan's total livestock numbers have grown between 2010 and 2024, population growth has outpaced this increase, reducing per capita availability of key species:

- Goats: Rose from 62 million in 2010 to 76 million in 2024. However, per capita goats fell from 0.35 per person (2010) → 0.34 (2020) → 0.32 (2024).
- Cattle: Increased from 42 million (2010) to 53 million (2024). Yet per capita cattle only moved from 0.24 to 0.22 per person, reflecting slower growth relative to population.
- Buffalo: From 34 million (2010) to 44 million (2024), but per capita availability slipped from 0.19 to 0.18.
- Sheep: Grew slightly from 28 million (2010) to 31 million (2024), leading to a sharper drop from 0.16 to 0.13 per person.

**Implications:** This trend suggests that although livestock populations are increasing in absolute terms, per capita availability is stagnating or falling. If unchecked, this mismatch between supply and demand risks driving price hikes, food insecurity, and affordability challenges in meat and dairy products. Productivity improvements (better breeds, feed efficiency, disease control) are therefore critical to maintaining stable supply in line with population growth.

#### 5. Policy Implementations

- Punjab & Sindh: Prioritize dairy productivity with breed improvement, veterinary health programs, cold-chain expansion, and market-linked milk value chains to meet rising urban demand.
- Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Support smallholder goat keepers with veterinary outreach, winter feed supplementation, and women-focused goat/poultry microcredit programs.
- Balochistan: Focus on rangeland rehabilitation, drought resilience, camel health services, and water point investments to sustain sheep and camel populations.
- Cross-cutting: Enhance livestock vaccination coverage, disease surveillance, traceability, and microfinance insurance tailored to small ruminants and poultry across Pakistan.

## About the Agriculture Census

The Agriculture Census is Pakistan's most comprehensive and authoritative statistical exercise on farming, land use, and agricultural resources. Conducted by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), it provides policymakers, researchers, and the public with a detailed snapshot of the structure of agriculture across the country. The Census gathers information directly from farming households and institutions, covering critical aspects such as land ownership and tenancy, operational holdings, irrigation practices, cropping patterns, machinery use, livestock, and farm labor.

The 2024 Agriculture Census continues a series of national exercises carried out in earlier decades (including 1960, 1972, 1980, 1990, and 2010), which together create a unique long-term dataset for understanding the evolution of Pakistan's agriculture sector. The Census serves multiple purposes: it provides baseline data for agricultural planning and development; supports evidence-based policy interventions on food security, irrigation, and rural livelihoods; and enables monitoring of progress toward national and international commitments, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This latest round represents an important milestone, as it not only updates the figures after more than a decade but also incorporates methodological improvements. Advances in digital data collection, geographic information systems, and field validation have allowed for more reliable and timely results. The Census thus provides insights not only into how agriculture has changed since 2010 but also into the emerging challenges and opportunities facing farmers today — from climate adaptation to mechanization, diversification, and market access.

Ultimately, the Agriculture Census stands as the foundation for agricultural statistics in Pakistan. Its findings guide ministries and provincial departments in planning irrigation schemes, rural development projects, and farmer support programs. They also serve as a valuable reference for academics, investors, and development partners seeking to understand Pakistan's agrarian economy. By documenting both continuity and change in farm structures, irrigation methods, and cropping practices, the Census underscores the vital role of agriculture in the country's economy and society.



## **Wish to Contribute to Gallup Big Data Analysis?**

Gallup Pakistan is looking for collaboration with researchers to expand the Big Data Analysis project. If you have any ideas, please write to Bilal I Gilani, Project Director, Big Data Analysis at Gallup Pakistan.

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