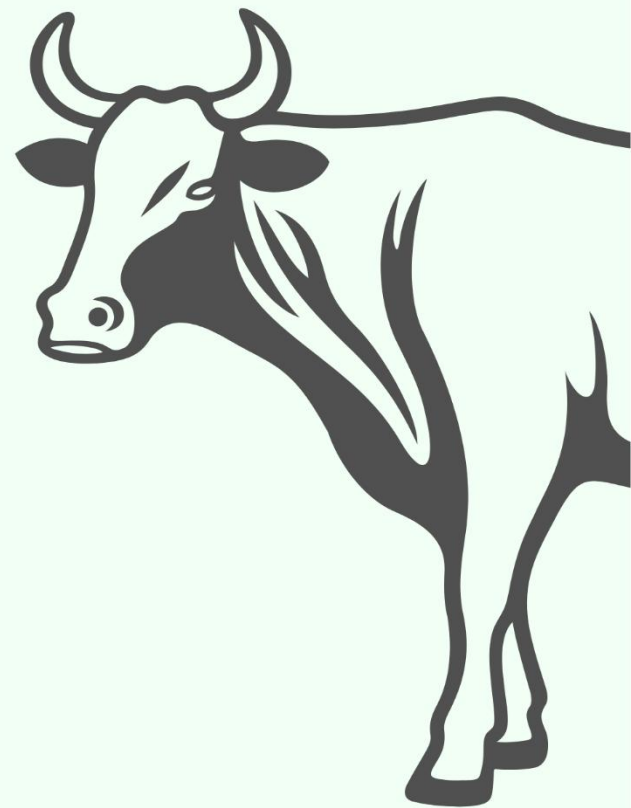




Gallup Pakistan Analysis of Punjab Development Statistics (50 Years) Fisheries and Livestock



PRESS RELEASE

Gallup Pakistan Analysis of Punjab Development Statistics (50 Years)

Fisheries & Livestock in Punjab: Five Decades of Growth, Commercialization, and Service Expansion

Islamabad, March 11th, 2026

Punjab's fisheries and livestock sectors have undergone substantial transformation over the past five decades, evolving from largely subsistence-oriented activities into increasingly commercialized components of the provincial economy. Drawing on official statistics spanning 1971–72 to 2020–21, this analysis traces long-term trends in fish production, livestock population dynamics, veterinary service coverage, and slaughterhouse activity. Together, these indicators shed light on how food supply systems, animal health infrastructure, and protein availability have expanded in response to population growth, rising incomes, and urban demand.

What is the Big Data Analysis Series by Gallup?

Gallup Pakistan's Big Data series was initiated by Bilal I. Gilani, Executive Director of Gallup Pakistan. As he explains: *"Pakistan does not suffer from a lack of data, but from limited accessibility and weak translation of numbers into understanding. Gallup Pakistan bridges this gap by analyzing large, often under-used datasets — from PSLM and Labour Force Surveys to Economic Surveys and National Census data — so these statistics can meaningfully inform policy and public discourse."*

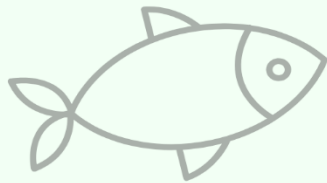
What data points this current edition covers:

This analysis is based on official administrative and census data compiled in *Punjab Development Statistics for 50 Years (1972–2021)* by the Bureau of Statistics, Government of Punjab. The fisheries component covers inland fish production in both quantity and value terms, while livestock data draw on periodic livestock censuses and administrative records relating to animal health services and slaughtering activity.

Fish production increased from **34** to **1,146** thousand metric tons over five decades. Poultry populations expanded to nearly **26 million**, becoming the fastest-growing livestock segment.

Fish Production

The value of fish production rose from Rs. **8.8** million to over Rs. **20** billion.



Expansion of Veterinary Services

Veterinary dispensaries increased more than five-fold, reaching over **1,600** units.



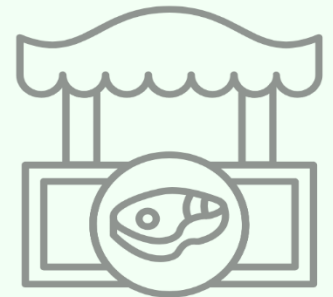
Animal Vaccination

Animal vaccinations peaked at over **157 million** doses before stabilizing.



Animals Slaughtered

Total animals slaughtered annually reached nearly **39 million** by 2020–21.



Key Findings:

1. Fish production increased from 34 to 1,146 thousand metric tons over five decades.
2. The value of fish production rose from Rs. 8.8 million to over Rs. 20 billion.
3. Poultry populations expanded to nearly 26 million, becoming the fastest-growing livestock segment.
4. Veterinary dispensaries increased more than five-fold, reaching over 1,600 units.
5. Animal vaccinations peaked at over 157 million doses before stabilizing.
6. Total animals slaughtered annually reached nearly 39 million by 2020–21.
7. Recognized slaughter houses now account for the majority of slaughtering activity.

Editor's Note

This edition of Gallup Pakistan's Big Data Analysis Series explores how Punjab's fisheries and livestock sectors have evolved over the past five decades. Using long-term administrative data, the analysis traces shifts in fish production, livestock populations, veterinary services, and slaughter activity to understand how these sectors have expanded and commercialized in response to rising population, changing diets, and growing market demand. By placing these trends in historical perspective, the release highlights the increasing role of fisheries and livestock in supporting food supply, rural incomes, and agricultural diversification in Punjab.

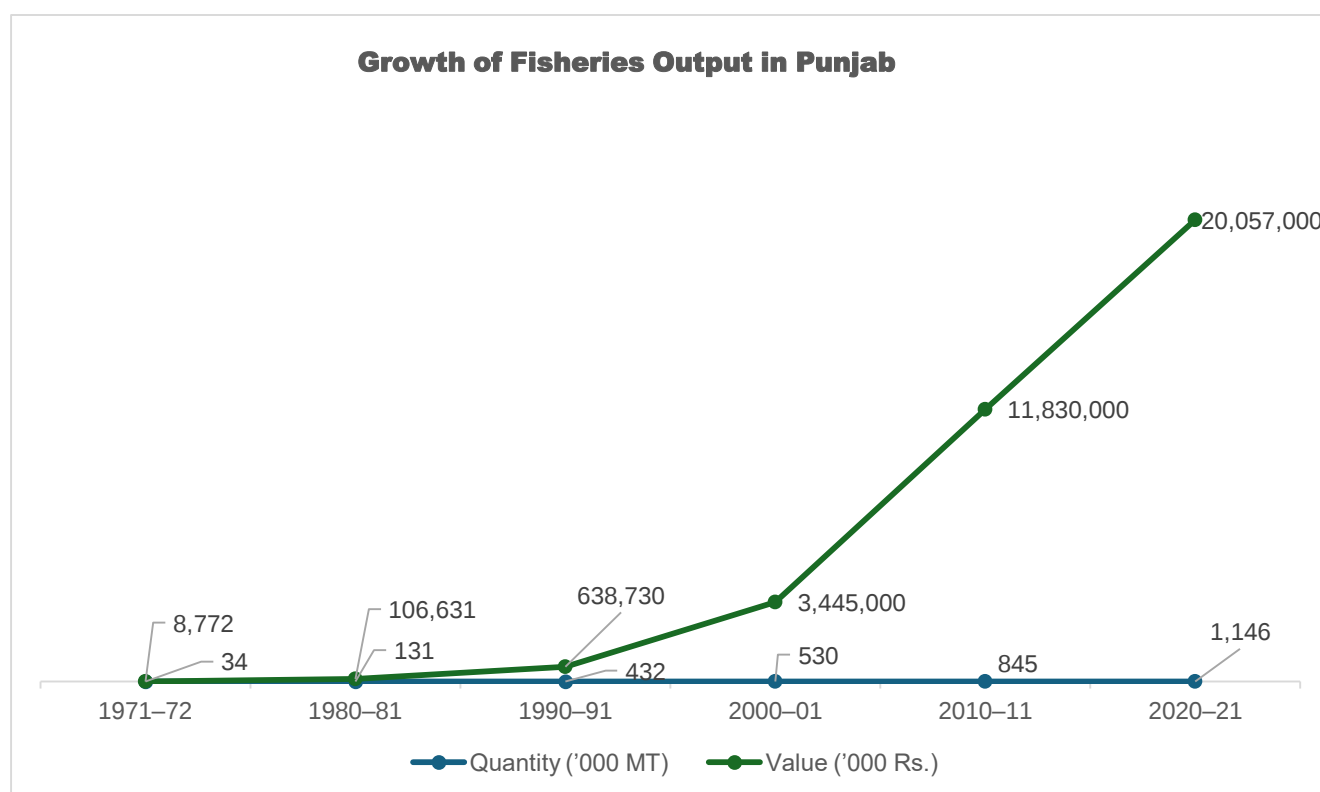
- **Aisha Aamir**

Assistant Manager Research, Gallup Pakistan

1. Fish Production Shows Sustained Expansion in Both Volume and Value

Fish production in Punjab has recorded a long-term and remarkably consistent expansion over the past five decades, reflecting structural improvements in aquaculture practices, pond management, and market integration. Total fish output rose from 34 thousand metric tons in 1971–72 to 1,146 thousand metric tons in 2020–21, representing more than a thirty-three-fold increase in physical production. Growth was particularly pronounced after the mid-1990s, when annual production crossed the 500 thousand metric ton mark and continued to climb steadily thereafter.

The value of fish production has grown even more sharply, underscoring the increasing commercialization of the sector. In 1971–72, the total value of fish output stood at Rs. 8.8 million, rising to Rs. 2,005.7 billion by 2020–21. This disproportionate increase in value relative to quantity points to higher unit prices, diversification into higher-value species, improved cold-chain logistics, and stronger demand from urban and export markets. The data suggest that fisheries have transitioned from a supplementary rural activity into a commercially significant agricultural sub-sector in Punjab.

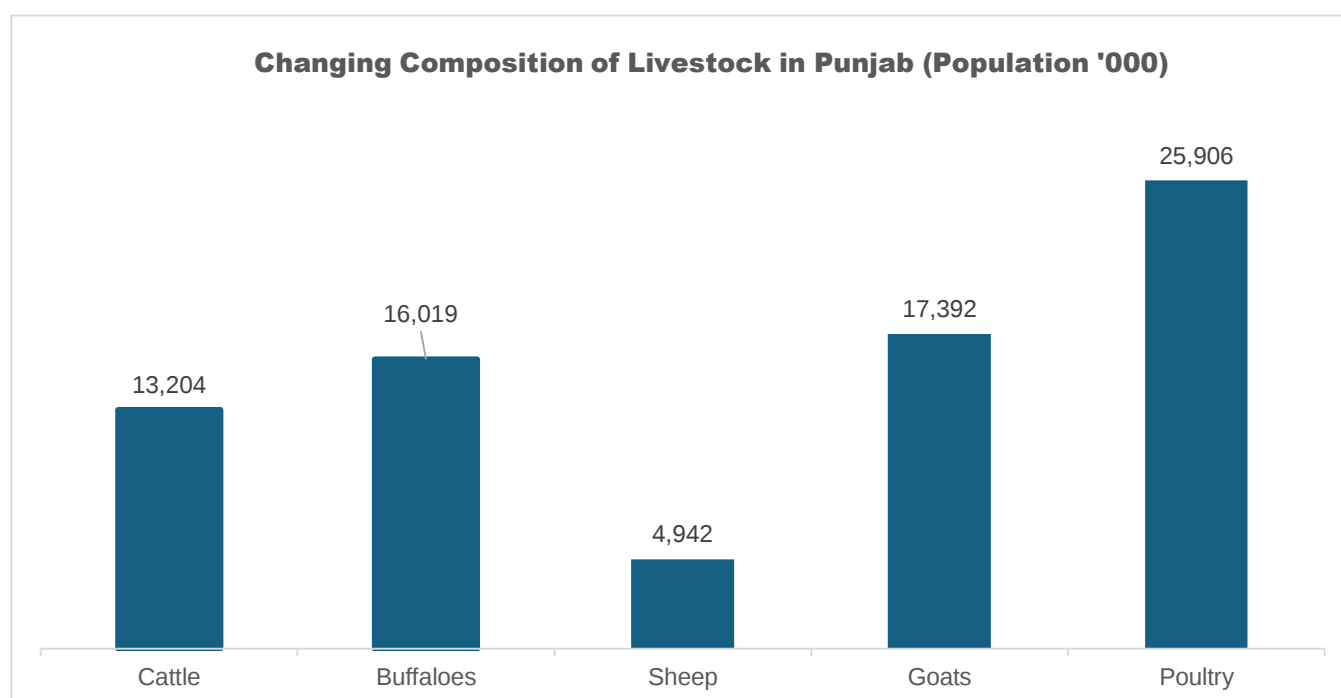


Source: Bureau of Statistics, Planning & Development Board, Government of the Punjab — Punjab Development Statistics for 50 Years (1972–2021).

2. Livestock Population Growth Driven by Poultry, Goats, and Buffaloes

Punjab's livestock sector has expanded substantially over successive censuses, though growth has been uneven across animal categories. Buffaloes and goats have emerged as the primary drivers of expansion. Buffalo numbers increased from 7.4 million in 1972–73 to 16.0 million by 2010, reinforcing their central role in milk production and rural household economies. Goat populations grew even faster, rising from 5.4 million to 17.4 million over the same period, reflecting adaptability to small landholdings and rising demand for meat.

Poultry stands out as the most rapidly expanding category, increasing from 8.6 million birds in 1972–73 to over 25.9 million birds by 2006, before data collection methodologies changed. This explosive growth mirrors the rise of commercial poultry farming, vertical integration, and improved feed and veterinary inputs. In contrast, cattle numbers fluctuated over time, declining during certain periods before rebounding to 13.2 million by 2010, suggesting shifts in breed composition and mechanization of farm operations. Overall, the livestock data reflect a gradual transformation toward species that offer quicker returns, higher productivity, and better alignment with market demand.

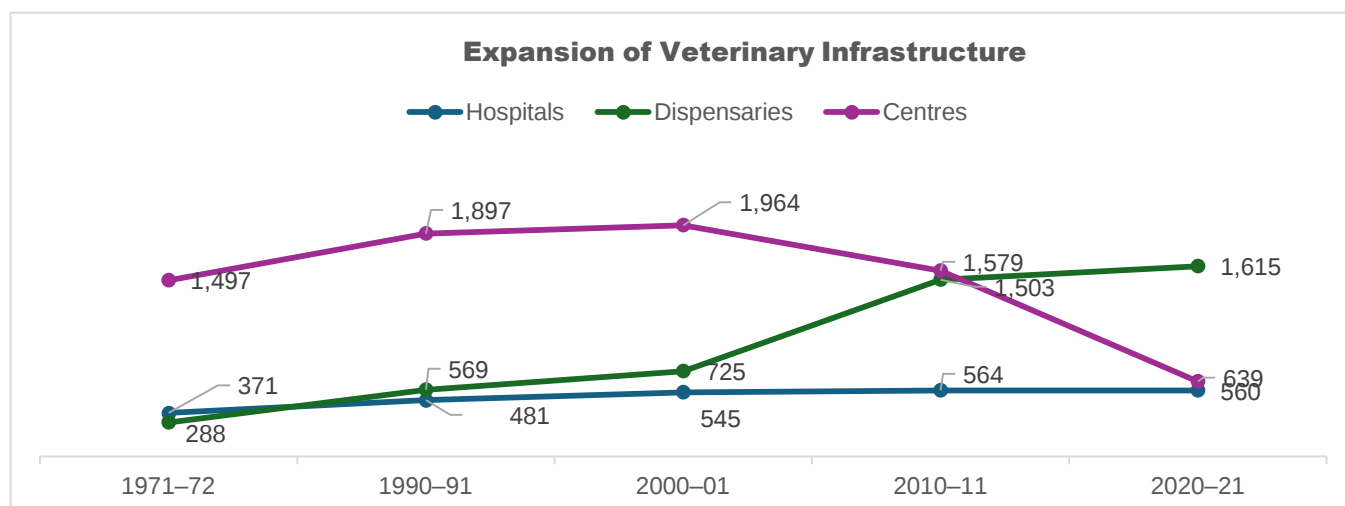


Source: Bureau of Statistics, Planning & Development Board, Government of the Punjab — Punjab Development Statistics for 50 Years (1972–2021).

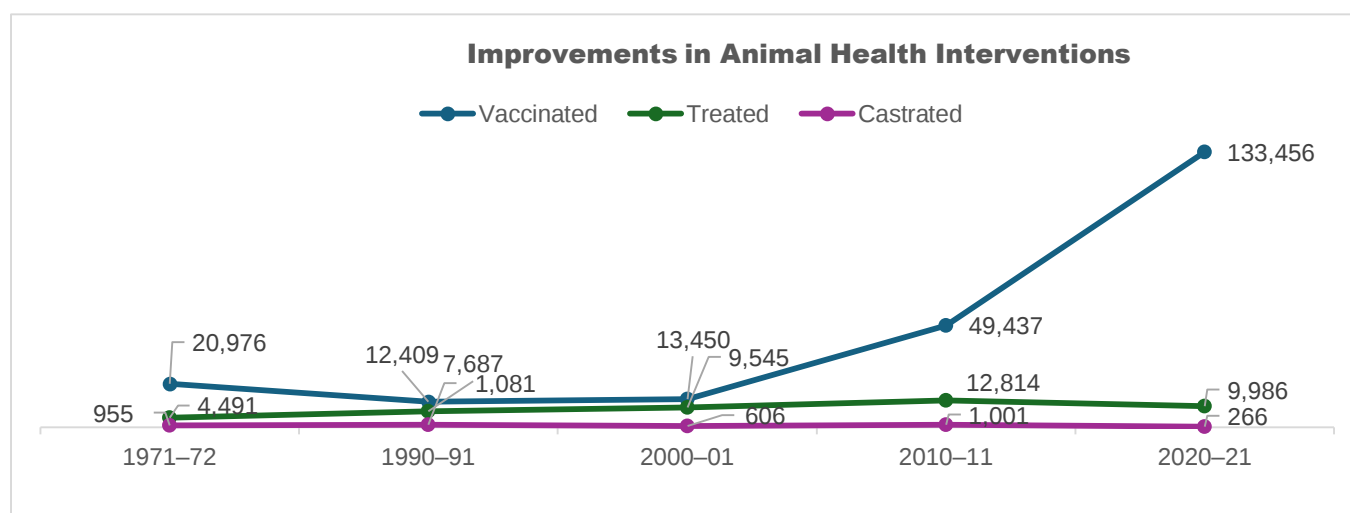
3. Expansion of Veterinary Services Strengthens Livestock Health Coverage

The expansion of livestock numbers has been accompanied by a steady build-up of veterinary infrastructure across Punjab. The number of veterinary hospitals increased from 371 in 1971–72 to 560 by 2020–21, while veterinary dispensaries rose from 288 to 1,615 during the same period. Veterinary centres also expanded, peaking above 1,600 facilities before declining somewhat in later years due to restructuring and consolidation of service delivery models.

This expansion in infrastructure has translated into broader animal health coverage. The number of animals vaccinated increased from 20.9 million in 1971–72 to 133.5 million by 2020–21, highlighting large-scale public sector intervention in disease prevention. Treated animals similarly rose from 4.5 million to nearly 10.0 million, indicating rising access to curative services. Castration figures, while lower, show consistent use as a herd-management tool. Together, these trends suggest sustained institutional investment in animal health, supporting productivity gains and disease control in an increasingly dense livestock population.



Source: Bureau of Statistics, Planning & Development Board, Government of the Punjab — Punjab Development Statistics for 50 Years (1972–2021).

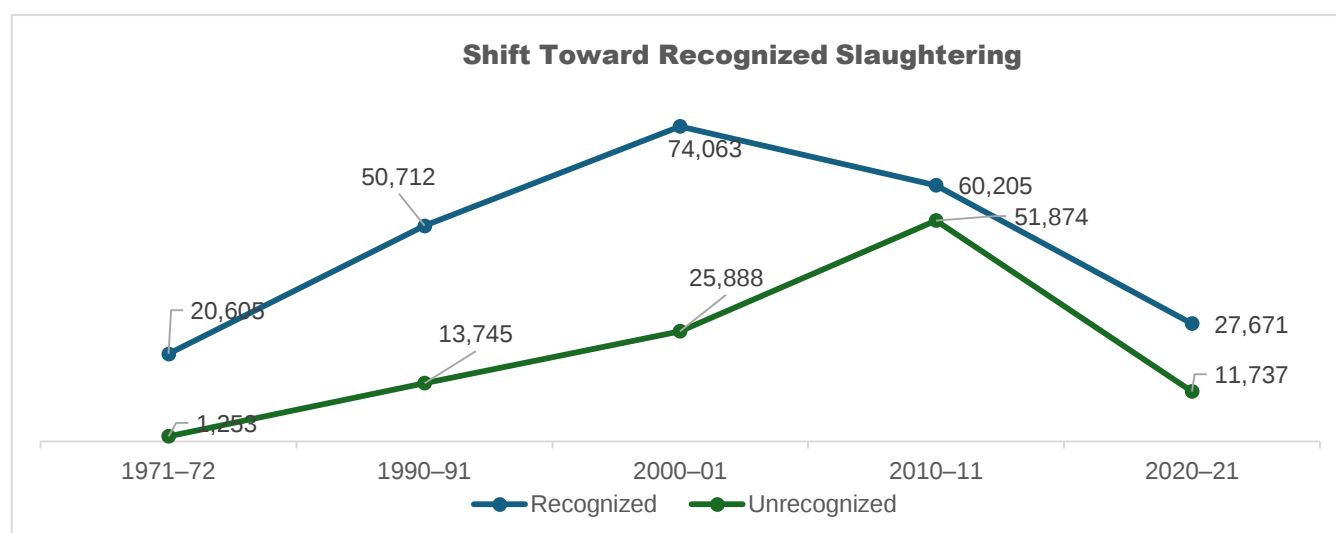


Source: Bureau of Statistics, Planning & Development Board, Government of the Punjab — Punjab Development Statistics for 50 Years (1972–2021).

4. Slaughter Activity Expands Alongside Gradual Shift Toward Recognized Facilities

Slaughter activity in Punjab has increased sharply over time, tracking population growth, urbanization, and rising per-capita consumption of animal protein. Total animals slaughtered rose from 21.9 million (hundred numbers) in 1971–72 to 39.4 million by 2020–21. While both recognized and un-recognized slaughter facilities expanded in absolute terms, recognized slaughterhouses consistently accounted for the majority of slaughtered animals.

By 2020–21, slaughter in recognized facilities reached 27.7 million, compared to 11.7 million in un-recognized facilities. This distribution suggests gradual formalization of meat processing, driven by regulatory oversight, urban demand for hygienic meat, and the expansion of municipal slaughterhouses. However, the continued scale of un-recognized slaughter indicates persistent informality, particularly in peri-urban and rural areas. Composition data further show that goats and sheep dominate slaughter counts, reflecting dietary preferences and the prominence of small ruminants in meat markets.



Source: Bureau of Statistics, Planning & Development Board, Government of the Punjab — Punjab Development Statistics for 50 Years (1972–2021).

5. Structural Transformation Signals Commercialization Across Fisheries and Livestock

Taken together, the fisheries and livestock data point to a long-term structural transformation within Punjab’s agricultural economy. Fisheries have evolved from low-volume subsistence activities into a high-value commercial sector, while livestock production has shifted toward species and systems that maximize turnover and market responsiveness. The simultaneous expansion of veterinary infrastructure and animal health coverage underscores the role of public investment in enabling this transition.

At the same time, persistent informality in slaughter practices and uneven growth across livestock categories highlight areas where regulatory capacity and productivity enhancements remain uneven. Overall, the evidence suggests that fisheries and livestock are no longer peripheral to Punjab’s agricultural landscape but are increasingly central to income diversification, food security, and rural-urban economic linkages.



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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