

DEADWEIGHT CATTLE TRADE

AVERAGE DEADWEIGHT CATTLE PRICES (P/KG)								
Week Ending 08/03/25	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB	
Steers	U3	626.3	571.1	673.5	663.7	662.9	666.8	668.1
	R3	622.1	566.9	671.7	660.8	660.2	660.4	662.6
	R4	621.3	569.8	673.1	664.5	661.5	658.3	666.6
	O3	612.5	562.3	652.2	642.1	642.2	639.6	642.3
	AVG	615.6	-	668.8	654.2	650.9	647.9	655.4
Heifers	U3	627.2	577.6	675.5	668.1	669.9	672.8	671.3
	R3	622.1	568.6	669.4	659.3	658.0	659.7	660.0
	R4	620.7	573.2	671.1	660.1	656.5	660.5	663.4
	O3	611.5	564.7	633.0	638.4	637.5	635.3	636.8
	AVG	615.0	-	666.9	651.3	647.1	644.5	652.1
Young Bulls	U3	613.5	568.4	667.4	649.2	642.9	667.0	654.9
	R3	607.3	560.0	659.5	639.4	645.5	658.1	646.6
	O3	596.5	546.9	626.6	618.2	622.4	616.0	621.4
	AVG	596.2	-	647.6	634.7	628.3	637.4	633.6
Cows	Prime Cattle Price Reported	6,676	-	6,213	7,330	8,051	5,561	27,155
	O3	501.8	498.1	518.4	512.6	511.5	513.2	512.9
	O4	499.5	498.0	518.4	518.1	509.1	510.1	512.6
	P2	460.8	474.3	479.9	471.9	462.3	466.5	466.5
	P3	477.3	488.5	495.3	487.8	482.2	487.8	485.3
	AVG	461.2	-	515.2	492.9	481.3	471.0	485.7

Prices listed are for deadweight price reported animals only. Prices are p/kg. Sterling to ROI prices are converted at 1 euro = 83.34p Stg. AVG is the average price of all grades in the category (not just those listed).

CATTLE EXPORTS FOR DIRECT SLAUGHTER		
	2024	2025 (08/03/25)
Exports to ROI Prime	158	15
Exports to ROI Cows	713	254
Exports to GB Prime	39	520
Exports to GB Cows	1	74

CATTLE IMPORTS FOR DIRECT SLAUGHTER		
	2024	2025 (08/03/25)
Imports from ROI Prime	17,033	2,289
Imports from ROI Cows	9,082	1,671

CATTLE SLAUGHTERINGS		
	2024	2025 (08/03/25)
Prime Cattle	385,013	72,803
Cows	118,734	23,509

Source: DAERA.

LMC 2025 Spring Conference

Thursday 3 April 9am to 1pm

An in-depth discussion on the outlook for NI agriculture in 2025. Register at www.ifj.ie/springconference2025

NI AVERAGE NON-PREMIUM CATTLE PRICES (P/KG)						
Week Ending 08/03/25	Steers	Change	Heifers	Change	Young Bulls	Change
U-3	624.6	⬆️ +8.2	626.0	⬆️ +9.0	614.1	⬆️ +18.0
R-3	617.1	⬆️ +5.0	618.0	⬆️ +6.7	605.6	⬆️ +8.1
O+3	610.0	⬆️ +0.3	609.5	⬆️ +1.0	602.5	⬆️ +16.4
P+3	571.5	⬆️ +8.4	560.5	⬆️ +0.7	565.8	⬆️ +5.9

Prices exclude animals paid at a premium p/kg as notified by price reporting plants. Blank cells indicate no animals within the grade were reported during the period or no price comparison can be made with the previous period.

NI AVERAGE COW PRICES (P/KG)							
Week Ending 08/03/25	<220kg	Change	220-250kg	Change	250-280kg	Change	>280kg
P1	370.4	⬆️ +4.2	393.5	⬆️ +4.5	412.6	⬆️ +12.8	430.6
P2	406.2	⬆️ +2.9	436.0	⬆️ +8.3	453.2	⬆️ +9.4	471.0
P3	444.1	⬆️ +37.3	466.9	⬆️ +36.0	470.9	⬆️ +9.4	479.1
O3	.		.		503.4	⬆️ +5.1	501.7
O4	.		.		458.0	⬆️ -6.0	500.3
R3	.		.		494.0	⬆️ -40.0	531.7

Blank cells indicate no animals within grade were reported during the period or no price comparison can be made with previous period.

Cattle throughput in local plants increased last week with 7,969 prime cattle and 2,429 cows slaughtered. Imports of prime cattle from ROI for direct slaughter increased by 63 head on the previous week to total 322 head. Direct slaughter cow imports also increased by 15 head, with 194 cows imported. A strengthening cattle trade in GB, saw 72 prime cattle and eight cows exported from NI for direct slaughter, bringing total cattle exports to GB during the year to date to 598 head.

The deadweight cattle trade continued to improve across NI, GB and ROI last week. The average price paid in NI for a U3 steer was 626.3p/kg and for a U3 heifer 627.2p/kg, up by 8.8p/kg and 9p/kg respectively from the previous week. The average price paid for steers overall strengthened 8.4p/kg to 615.6p/kg, while the average price paid for heifers increased by 9.2p/kg to 615p/kg. The U3 young bull price also reported a 9.3p/kg increase, while the overall young bull price strengthened 9.9p/kg to 604.2p/kg. The trade for cows in NI continued to strengthen for the fifth consecutive week with the average cow price up by 7.9p/kg to 493.3p/kg.

In GB last week all reported base grades strengthened week on week with U3 steers and heifers increasing by 13p/kg and 12.9p/kg to 668.1p/kg and 671.3p/kg respectively. In ROI the trade continued to strengthen for all types of cattle in both euro and sterling terms.

NI CATTLE MART LIVEWEIGHT PRICES (P/KG)						
Week Ending 08/03/25	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
	FROM	TO	AVG	FROM	TO	AVG
Finished Cattle						
Steers	350	392	368	275	349	310
Friesians	284	284	284	150	150	180
Heifers	330	378	350	270	329	290
Beef Cows	300	386	331	210	299	245
Dairy Cows	200	257	225	82	199	170
Store Cattle						
Steers up to 400kg	450	530	470	350	449	390
Steers 400kg - 500kg	370	470	400	270	369	310
Steers over 500kg	350	393	366	275	349	305
Heifers up to 450kg	400	527	440	300	399	340
Heifers over 450kg	320	423	360	220	319	260
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	500	800	575	400	495	450
Continental Heifers	470	770	515	350	465	400
Friesian Bulls	195	260	240	105	195	128
Holstein Bulls	190	250	200	-	-	-

DEADWEIGHT SHEEP TRADE

NI DEADWEIGHT SHEEP BASE QUOTES (P/KG)		
	12/03/2025	14/03/2025
R3 Hoggets (to 23kg)	690 - 695	675 - 685

Quotes from 3 major NI sheep plants.

NI AVERAGE SHEEP PRICES (P/KG)				
(P/KG)	01/03/2025	Change	08/03/2025	Change
D/W R3 Hoggets	686.6	⬆️ -9.1	668.9	⬆️ -17.7
D/W Hoggets	690.9	⬆️ -5.8	677.9	⬆️ -13.0
L/W Hoggets	633.9	⬆️ -7.0	627.9	⬆️ -6.0

Source: DAERA.

GB/ROI AVERAGE SHEEP PRICES (P/KG)				
		Change		Change
GB D/W Hoggets	738.0	⬆️ +8.5	738.9	⬆️ +0.9
ROI D/W Hoggets	729.6	⬆️ -5.7	731.8	⬆️ +2.2

Source: AHDB & DAEM.

Blank cells indicate no animals within the grade were reported during the period or no price comparison can be made with the previous period.

The sheep trade reported a decline in NI last week with the average deadweight hogget price declining 13p/kg to 677.9p/kg. The liveweight trade softened 6p/kg to 627.9p/kg. In ROI last week the deadweight sheep trade strengthened by the equivalent of 2.2p/kg to 731.8p/kg.

Last week in local plants, hogget throughput increased by 1,036 head from the previous week to total 7,623 head. During the corresponding week of 2024 8,238 hoggets were processed locally. Heavier carcass weights year on year have been a feature of the local hogget kill during 2025 to date, last week the average carcass weighed 23.6kg, an increase of 1.4kg from the corresponding week of 2024. Industry has reported a decline in demand for carcasses exceeding 25kg with some plants quoting deductions of up to 50p/kg for such sheep. Producers are encouraged to consider various outlets when marketing stock.

This week in local marts a weaker demand from agents of the export market was evident with the average price for slaughter ready lambs in Ballymena on Wednesday back 15p/kg week on week. Base quotes for R3 grading hoggets ended the week at 690-695p/kg with softer quotes received for early next week.

NI SHEEP MART LIVEWEIGHT PRICES (P/KG) HOGGETS			
08/03/2025 - 13/03/25	No	From	To
Saturday	Omagh	634	611 - 696
	Swatragh	700	646 - 690
Monday	Kilrea	1050	639 - 750
	Markethill	750	610 - 657
Tuesday	Rathfriland	250	600 - 650
Wednesday	Ballymena	1348	595 - 670 (AVE 615)
	Enniskillen	400	580 - 645
	Armoey	229	600 - 676

Average prices, where shown, are supplied by individual marts

HOGGET OUTPUT NI SHEEP SECTOR (HEAD)				
	2022	2023	2024	2025 (08/03/25)
ROI DS Exports	287,303	290,688	256,612	53,366
NI Slaughtering	448,166	476,091	431,461	65,097

Exports to approved ROI meat plants. Source: DAERA.

