

CATTLE TRADE

AVERAGE DEADWEIGHT CATTLE PRICES (P/KG)								
Week Ending 15/03/25	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB	
Steers	U3	637.5	587.6	684.8	674.9	673.9	676.8	678.5
	R3	632.3	584.4	684.6	672.9	668.5	670.1	673.2
	R4	628.4	588.7	680.9	674.5	664.6	671.0	675.0
	O3	624.8	580.1	659.3	653.9	646.5	650.0	650.7
	AVG	626.7	-	678.1	665.9	657.4	659.7	665.2
Heifers	U3	637.8	596.0	694.0	674.9	684.6	682.1	683.8
	R3	632.4	587.0	681.3	671.9	669.8	669.2	671.6
	R4	631.4	591.2	681.9	673.4	667.8	668.8	675.1
	O3	619.8	583.3	651.1	650.5	641.5	647.6	646.3
	AVG	625.0	-	679.2	663.3	655.2	653.6	662.6
Young Bulls	U3	618.6	583.0	666.4	671.7	670.2	680.2	669.8
	R3	618.7	575.4	655.9	660.2	659.4	662.1	659.6
	O3	606.2	562.1	636.4	639.6	631.5	646.4	635.6
	AVG	608.1	-	650.6	651.7	638.4	645.2	644.2
	Prime Cattle Price Reported	6,107	-	5,960	6,978	7,570	5,153	25,661
Cows	O3	505.9	519.3	522.9	520.5	522.2	522.3	521.6
	O4	508.7	518.8	529.8	526.0	517.0	522.3	522.2
	P2	467.7	494.7	489.5	470.8	473.9	481.5	476.6
	P3	487.1	506.0	507.5	496.8	492.8	500.5	496.7
	AVG	474.9	-	522.3	504.0	488.8	483.0	495.0

NI AVERAGE NON-PREMIUM CATTLE PRICES (P/KG)						
Week Ending 15/03/25	Steers	Change	Heifers	Change	Young Bulls	Change
U-3	635.9	▲ +11.3	636.2	▲ +10.2	618.1	▲ +4.0
R-3	627.6	▲ +10.5	627.2	▲ +9.2	615.6	▲ +10.0
O+3	620.8	▲ +10.9	620.7	▲ +11.3	611.6	▲ +9.1
P+3	581.7	▲ +10.3	577.2	▲ +16.8	574.0	▲ +8.2

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 DEADWEIGHT CATTLE BASE QUOTES (P/KG)		
	19/03/25	21/03/25
Steers & Heifers		
U-3	610 - 626	620 - 626
R-3	604 - 620	614 - 620
O+3	598 - 614	608 - 614
P+3	592 - 608	552 - 558
Cows		
O+3	480 - 510	480 - 510

Base quotes for in-spec U-3 steers and heifers, and O+3 cows received from 4 major NI plants are preliminary and subject to change. Producers are advised to check pricing policies before presenting animals for slaughter.

NI AVERAGE COW PRICES (P/KG)								
Week Ending 15/03/25	<220kg	Change	220-250kg	Change	250-280kg	Change	>280kg	Change
P1	391.4	▲ +21.0	406.2	▲ +12.7	422.2	▲ +9.5	441.8	▲ +11.2
P2	427.0	▲ +20.7	451.1	▲ +15.1	462.5	▲ +9.2	477.9	▲ +6.9
P3	407.4	▼ -36.7	447.5	▼ -19.4	481.0	▲ +10.1	489.5	▲ +10.5
O3	460.4		456.0		508.4	▲ +5.0	506.7	▲ +5.0
O4	440.0				506.3	▲ +48.3	509.1	▲ +8.9
R3							544.3	▲ +12.6

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

Source: LMC, DAFM, AHDB.

Prices listed are for deadweight price reported animals only.

Prices are p/kg. Sterling to ROI prices are converted at 1 euro = 84.05p Stg.

AVG is the average price of all grades in the category (not just those listed).

CATTLE EXPORTS FOR DIRECT SLAUGHTER		
	2024	2025 (15/03/25)
Exports to ROI Prime	158	16
Exports to ROI Cows	713	293
Exports to GB Prime	39	595
Exports to GB Cows	1	79

CATTLE IMPORTS FOR DIRECT SLAUGHTER		
	2024	2025 (15/03/25)
Imports from ROI Prime	17,033	2,485
Imports from ROI Cows	9,082	1,819

CATTLE SLAUGHTERINGS		
	2024	2025 (15/03/25)
Prime Cattle	385,013	80,673
Cows	118,734	25,605

CATTLE AVERAGE CARCASE WEIGHTS (KG)		
	2024	2025 (15/03/25)
Prime Cattle	339.5	338.0
Cows	295.9	300.1

Source: DAERA.

Prime cattle throughput in local plants remained steady last week with 7,870 head slaughtered. Cow throughput totalled 2,096 head, a 333 head decline week on week. Direct slaughter cattle imports from ROI declined by 172 head last week. Prime cattle imports totalled 196 head, a decline of 126 head from the previous week, while cow imports declined by 46 head to total 148 cows. Cattle exports increased last week with 39 cows and one steer exported to ROI plants for slaughter. In addition, 75 prime cattle, comprising 60 steers and 15 heifers travelled to GB for direct slaughter with five cows also exported.

The deadweight trade reported increases for all types of cattle last week across NI, GB and ROI. In NI the average R3 steer and heifer price increased by 10.2p/kg and 10.3p/kg to 632.3p/kg and 632.4p/kg respectively. The average price paid for steer and heifers overall increased to 626.7p/kg and 625p/kg, while the average price paid for young bulls was 608.1p/kg. The cow trade in NI also strengthened last week, up 13.7p/kg on average to 474.9p/kg.

In GB the average R3 steer and heifer price increased by 10.6p/kg and 11.6p/kg to 673.2p/kg and 671.6p/kg respectively. The ROI trade reported the greatest strengthening in sterling terms week on week with increases across the categories exceeding 15p/kg.

NI CATTLE MART LIVEWEIGHT PRICES (P/KG)						
Week Ending 15/03/25	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
	FROM	TO	AVG	FROM	TO	AVG
Finished Cattle						
Steers	375	407	390	300	374	325
Friesians	302	331	315	278	297	289
Heifers	350	400	364	290	349	300
Beef Cows	320	386	345	230	319	265
Dairy Cows	206	255	234	120	205	175
Store Cattle						
Steers up to 400kg	450	526	480	340	449	400
Steers 400kg - 500kg	380	491	420	280	379	325
Steers over 500kg	390	458	410	290	389	335
Heifers up to 450kg	400	500	440	300	399	340
Heifers over 450kg	340	439	380	240	339	280
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	500	900	600	385	495	450
Continental Heifers	495	790	540	375	490	425
Friesian Bulls	225	325	260	120	220	160
Holstein Bulls	200	300	230	5	195	135

SHEEP TRADE

NI DEADWEIGHT SHEEP BASE QUOTES (P/KG)		
	19/03/25	21/03/25
R3 Hoggets (to 23kg)	675 - 685	670 - 685

Quotes from 2 major NI sheep plants.

HOGGET/LAMB AVE CARCASE WEIGHT (KG)			
2022	2023	2024	2025
22	21	22	23

Source: DAERA.

HOGGET OUTPUT NI SHEEP SECTOR (HEAD)				
	2022	2023	2024	2025 (15/03/25)
ROI DS Exports	287,303	290,688	256,612	59,191
NI Slaughtering	448,166	476,091	431,461	71,063

Exports to approved ROI meat plants. Source: DAERA.

GB/ROI AVERAGE SHEEP PRICES				
GB D/W Hoggets	738.9	▲ +0.9	738.7	▼ -0.2
ROI D/W Hoggets	731.8	▲ +2.2	721.1	▼ -10.7

Source: AHDB & DAFM.

During the first eleven weeks of 2025, the average weight of hoggets slaughtered in local plants has been 1kg heavier year on year (23kg vs 22kg), while during the same period, hogget throughput at local plants declined 24 per cent. A decline in throughput has not been offset by heavier carcasses, and total meat yield from hoggets locally has declined by 21 per cent or by 431.7 tonnes.

Hogget exports to ROI plants last week totalled 5,825 head, bringing total exports during the year to date to 59,191 head, a decline of 26 per cent compared to the same period of 2024. The average deadweight hogget price in ROI reported a decline of 10.7p/kg in sterling terms to 721.1p/kg.

This week fewer factory ready hoggets passed through local marts, with a softer trade reported. Producers are reminded local plants are paying up to 23kg, and additional weight is not paid for, however incurs costs on farm and may incur penalties at slaughter.

Base quotes for R3 grading hoggets ended the week at 675-685p/kg with a similar trade expected early next week.

NI SHEEP MART LIVEWEIGHT PRICES (P/KG) HOGGETS				
15/03/2025 - 20/03/25	No	From	To	
Saturday	Omagh	231	564	651
	Swatragh	400	608	653
Monday	Kilrea	800	617	644
	Markethill	260	570	629
Tuesday	Saintfield	555	585	678
Wednesday	Rathfriland	370	576	605
	Ballymena	886	590	681 (AVE 618)
	Enniskillen	298	627	702
	Armoyle	226	600	690

Average prices, where shown, are supplied by individual marts

LMC and IFJ 2025 Spring Conference

Thursday 3 April 9am to 1pm

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



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