

CATTLE TRADE

AVERAGE DEADWEIGHT CATTLE PRICES (P/KG)								
Week Ending 22/03/25	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB	
Steers	U3	647.9	606.5	693.0	689.2	687.2	686.0	689.7
	R3	642.8	601.1	692.8	681.4	679.7	682.4	683.0
	R4	643.4	605.6	691.1	686.0	676.4	683.0	686.2
	O3	631.4	595.9	670.6	660.9	660.7	662.4	661.8
	AVG	635.7	-	688.9	675.7	671.3	672.1	676.8
Heifers	U3	647.1	610.0	698.0	692.0	690.9	691.7	693.0
	R3	641.9	603.9	691.1	683.2	679.6	682.6	682.5
	R4	641.7	607.1	691.3	684.5	673.4	681.5	683.9
	O3	631.0	600.1	655.4	657.6	652.1	654.1	654.0
Young Bulls	AVG	635.1	-	687.1	673.7	664.9	667.6	672.6
	U3	633.1	596.2	669.5	666.1	684.7	665.8	676.1
	R3	624.8	588.9	678.2	666.9	664.8	674.8	668.1
	O3	617.7	581.2	658.3	645.7	639.9	622.6	644.1
Cows	AVG	619.2	-	663.3	656.5	653.1	649.6	655.0
	Prime Cattle Price Reported	6,107	-	5,835	6,576	7,945	5,405	25,761

NI AVERAGE NON-PREMIUM CATTLE PRICES (P/KG)								
Week Ending 22/03/25	Steers	Change	Heifers	Change	Young Bulls	Change		
U-3	645.5	⬇️ +9.6	645.0	⬇️ +8.8	629.5	⬇️ +11.3		
R-3	636.9	⬇️ +9.3	637.4	⬇️ +10.3	626.0	⬇️ +10.4		
O+3	630.1	⬇️ +9.3	630.2	⬇️ +9.5	621.3	⬇️ +9.7		
P+3	591.8	⬇️ +10.1	582.2	⬇️ +5.0	578.2	⬇️ +4.2		

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 AVERAGE COW PRICES (P/KG)								
Week Ending 22/03/25	<220kg	Change	220-250kg	Change	250-280kg	Change	>280kg	Change
P1	402.3	⬇️ +10.9	409.8	⬇️ +3.6	430.2	⬇️ +8.0	444.5	⬇️ +2.7
P2	430.5	⬇️ +3.6	463.1	⬇️ +12.0	469.7	⬇️ +7.2	490.4	⬇️ +12.5
P3	447.0	⬇️ +39.6	476.9	⬇️ +29.4	494.3	⬇️ +13.3	500.2	⬇️ +10.6
O3	473.6	⬇️ +13.2	480.0	⬇️ +24.0	508.9	⬇️ +0.5	521.8	⬇️ +15.1
O4	-		504.2		536.3	⬇️ +30.0	519.5	⬇️ +10.4
R3							554.8	⬇️ +10.5

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

NI DEADWEIGHT CATTLE BASE QUOTES (P/KG)			
	26/03/25	28/03/25	
Steers & Heifers			
U-3	622 - 626	626 - 630	
R-3	616 - 620	620 - 624	
O+3	610 - 614	614 - 618	
P+3	554 - 558	558 - 562	
Cows			
O+3	498 - 515	515 - 520	

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.

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 = 83.95p Stg.
AVG is the average price of all grades in the category (not just those listed).

CATTLE EXPORTS FOR DIRECT SLAUGHTER		
	2024	2025 (22/03/25)
Exports to ROI Prime	158	18
Exports to ROI Cows	713	297
Exports to GB Prime	39	673
Exports to GB Cows	1	87

CATTLE IMPORTS FOR DIRECT SLAUGHTER		
	2024	2025 (22/03/25)
Imports from ROI Prime	17,033	2,749
Imports from ROI Cows	9,082	1,925

CATTLE SLAUGHTERINGS		
	2024	2025 (22/03/25)
Prime Cattle	385,013	87,596
Cows	118,734	27,723

CATTLE AVERAGE CARCASE WEIGHTS (KG)		
	2024	2025 (22/03/25)
Prime Cattle	339.5	337.9
Cows	295.9	300.3

Source: DAERA.

SHEEP TRADE

NI DEADWEIGHT SHEEP BASE QUOTES (P/KG)		
	26/03/25	28/03/25
R3 Hoggets (to 23kg)	680 - 685	690

Quotes from 3 major NI sheep plants.

HOGGET/LAMB AVE CARCASE WEIGHT (KG)				
2022	2023	2024	2025 (22/03/25)	
22	21	22	23	

Source: DAERA.

HOGGET OUTPUT NI SHEEP SECTOR (HEAD)				
	2022	2023	2024	2025 (22/03/25)
ROI DS Exports	287,303	290,688	256,612	64,527
NI Slaughtering	448,166	476,091	431,461	76,797

Exports to approved ROI meat plants. Source: DAERA.

GB/ROI AVERAGE SHEEP PRICES (P/KG)				
	15/03/2025	Change	22/03/2025	Change
GB D/W Hoggets	738.7	⬇️ -0.2	730.5	⬇️ -8.2
ROI D/W Hoggets	721.1	⬇️ -10.7	711.2	⬇️ -9.9

Source: AHDB & DAFM.

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The demand for sheep across local marts and plants this week strengthened with one plant restoring production to two days rather than one, following a period of subdued demand. In line with normal seasonal trends, the hogget/lamb trade would be expected to increase as production gets underway for Easter.
Base quotes began the week at 670-685p/kg and increased mid-week to 680-685p/kg. During the corresponding week of 2024 NI base quotes for hoggets were 680p/kg to 22.5kg and 690p/kg to 22kg. As noted in a recent edition of this publication heavy hoggets are dominating the market at present and some sheep processors quoted deductions of 50p/kg were to be applied to lambs exceeding 25kg. It has been confirmed to LMC deductions (if applied) are in the region of 10p/kg. Producers are encouraged to consider various outlets when selling stock.

In local marts this week smaller hogget entries were met with strong demand from buyers for local and ROI plants. In Ballymena on Wednesday a sale of 1,347 hoggets sold to an average price of 648p/kg with a range of 610-709p/kg. This was a notable 30p/kg increase from the previous week when 886 hoggets sold to an average of 618p/kg.
The ewe trade has also improved locally with demand from the export market seeing fat ewes selling to over £300 across the country this week.

NI CATTLE MART LIVEWEIGHT PRICES (P/KG)						
Week Ending 22/03/25	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
	FROM	TO	AVG	FROM	TO	AVG
Finished Cattle						
Steers	390	427	403	315	389	340
Friesians	290	316	304	222	274	248
Heifers	344	406	368	280	343	305
Beef Cows	325	378	346	235	324	270
Dairy Cows	210	246	230	125	209	170
Store Cattle						
Steers up to 400kg	460	543	480	350	459	400
Steers 400kg - 500kg	400	521	440	300	399	340
Steers over 500kg	375	449	410	280	374	325
Heifers up to 450kg	400	649	460	300	399	340
Heifers over 450kg	375	486	415	250	374	300
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	475	840	575	350	470	420
Continental Heifers	450	660	500	345	445	400
Friesian Bulls	220	320	255	100	215	150
Holstein Bulls	70	140	87.50	-	-	-

Average prices reported by Ballymena Livestock Mart.

NI SHEEP MART LIVEWEIGHT PRICES (P/KG) HOGGETS				
22/03/2025 - 26/03/25		No	From	To
Saturday	Omagh	271	596	744
	Swatragh	550	624	700
Monday	Kilrea	800	659	753
	Markethill	570	630	668
Tuesday	Saintfield	485	600	711
Wednesday	Rathfriland	300	630	767
	Ballymena	1347	610	709 (AVE 648)
	Enniskillen	502	620	714
	Armoyle	308	630	720

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