# WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE LIVESTOCK AND MEAT COMMISSION

## Livestock & Meat Commission Saturday 29 March 2025

### Issue No. 2864

28/03/25

626 - 630

620 - 624

614 - 618

558 - 562

## **CATTLE TRADE**

	AV	ERAGE D	EADWE	IGHT CA	TTLE PR	ICES (P/k	(G)	
Week Ending 22/03/25		Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
	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
Steers	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
	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
Heifers	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
	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
Young	R3	624.8	588.9	678.2	666.9	664.8	674.8	668.1
Bulls	O3	617.7	581.2	658.3	645.7	639.9	622.6	644.1
	AVG	619.2	-	663.3	656.5	653.1	649.6	655.0
	Cattle eported	6,107	-	5,835	6,576	7,945	5,405	25,761
	O3	520.6	532.1	535.0	528.9	528.8	529.4	529.6
	04	519.9	536.7	540.6	535.3	524.8	532.8	531.8
Cows	P2	480.7	508.3	489.6	482.6	478.1	493.9	484.6
	P3	498.6	523.3	509.6	498.8	498.5	510.4	503.0
	AVG	485.0	-	536.3	511.5	492.5	493.4	502.8

#### 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)			/03/25	28/03/25				
	R3 Hogg	ets (to 23kg)	68	0 - 685	690				
(	Quotes from 3 major NI sheep plants.								
	HOGGET/LAMB AVE CARCASE WEIGHT (KG)								
	2022	2023	20	24	2025				
1	22	21	2	22	23				
S	ource: DAERA.								
	HOGGET OL	ΤΡυτ Ν	I SHEEF	• SECTO	DR (HEAD				
		2022	2023	2024	2025 (22/03/25				
ſ	ROI DS Exports	287,303	290,688	256,612	64,527				

ROI DS Exports	287,303	290,688	256,612	64,527
NI Slaughterings	448, 166	476,091	431,461	76,797
Exports to approved F	ROI meat pla	nts. Source: I	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	<b>-</b> 9.9				
Source: AHDB & DAFM.								

## Information supplied by LMC / DAERA/ AHDB/ DAFM

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NI AVERA	GE NO	N-PREM	IUM CA	TTLE PR	RICES (I	P/KG)	NI DEAD (P/KG)
Week Ending 22/03/25	Steers	Change	Heifers	Change	Young Bulls	Change	Steers & Heifers U-3
U-3	645.5	+9.6	645.0	+8.8	629.5	+11.3	R-3
R-3	636.9	+9.3	637.4	+ 10.3	626.0	+10.4	O+3
							P+3
O+3	630.1	+9.3	630.2	+9.5	621.3	+9.7	Cows
P+3	591.8	+ 10.1	582.2	+5.0	578.2	+4.2	O+3
Dulana avalvala v	: entreale : -					d lass seatan	Dana avertas fas

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

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.

NI DEADWEIGHT CATTLE BASE QUOTES 26/03/25

622 - 626

616 - 620

610 - 614

554 - 558

NI AVERAGE COW PRICES (P/KG)						
Week Ending 22/03/25	<220kg	Change	220-250kg	Change	250-280kg Change	e >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	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	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.

A shorter working week across the majority of plants last week resulted in prime cattle throughput declining by 947 head with 6,923 head slaughtered. Direct slaughter imports from ROI represented four per cent of total prime throughput, with 197 steers and 67 heifers imported. The average carcase weight of prime cattle also declined 4kg week on week to 336.6kg. Cow throughput in local plants increased by 22 head to total 2,118 head last week. ROI cow imports totalled 105 head or 5 per cent of the weekly kill. The average carcase weight of cows was also back week on week by 2.2kg to 301.6kg.

The strengthening deadweight cattle trade continues to outpace uplift in base quotes received by LMC. Last week the average price paid for U3 and R3 steers locally strengthened 10.4p/kg and 10.6p/kg respectively. With an uplift of 15pkg in the average R4 steer price to 643.4p/kg. The trade for steers overall increased 9.1p/kg with heifers up 10.1p/kg on average. The average price paid for young bulls and cows also saw respective increases of 11.1p/kg and 10p/kg overall. Across the regions, the trade for O3 cows in NI saw the greatest increase week on week at 14.7p/kg, narrowing the differential with ROI and GB.

In ROI last week, the cattle trade continued to strengthen, with reported base grades surpassing 600p/kg in sterling terms for the first time according to LMC records. A similar situation continues in GB where the deadweight trade for prime cattle is exceeding 700p/kg for quality animals, with the average U3 heifer price at 693p/kg last week

NI CATTLE MART LIVEWEIGHT PRICES (P/KG)									
Week Ending	19	t QUALI	ГΥ	2nd QUALITY					
22/03/25	FROM	ТО	AVG	FROM	TO	AVG			
Finished Cattle	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	hy Ballyme	na Livesto	ck Mart						

Average prices reported by Ballymena Livestock Mart

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 SHEEP MART LIVEWEIGHT PRICES (P/KG) HOGGETS

22/03/202	5 -26/03/25	No	From	То	
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	
	Armoy	308	630	720	

rerage prices, where shown, are supplied by individual marts

### LMC and IFJ 2025 Spring Conference

Information

FQAS helpline: 028 9263 3024

Answerphone: 028 9263 3011

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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