

CATTLE TRADE

AVERAGE DEADWEIGHT CATTLE PRICES (P/KG)								
Week Ending 05/04/25	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB	
Steers	U3	673.1	652.5	709.1	699.6	697.5	696.3	701.9
	R3	666.8	647.2	712.0	698.5	690.4	693.9	696.6
	R4	664.6	651.0	706.5	697.9	690.7	697.1	700.2
	O3	657.4	642.3	691.5	680.4	672.9	677.3	677.9
	AVG	660.8	-	705.0	691.7	681.0	684.9	690.3
Heifers	U3	671.5	656.8	716.8	701.4	704.7	702.9	706.4
	R3	666.1	649.1	711.1	696.6	692.1	693.3	695.4
	R4	666.4	653.2	708.4	695.5	689.3	695.1	699.4
	O3	655.8	645.0	680.6	681.3	669.2	674.1	674.0
	AVG	660.0	-	706.6	687.4	678.1	680.6	687.5
Young Bulls	U3	656.6	645.9	701.0	687.4	688.2	702.5	691.8
	R3	651.4	640.8	700.7	680.3	675.9	677.6	679.6
	O3	638.8	624.2	680.4	653.0	663.2	665.1	663.8
	AVG	640.9	-	691.2	671.4	665.7	673.3	670.8
Cows	Prime Cattle Price Reported	6,001	-	5,913	6,573	8,091	5,444	26,021
	O3	555.5	573.8	536.9	533.7	537.8	540.2	536.7
	O4	551.0	576.5	546.6	539.0	536.1	537.9	538.6
	P2	511.5	545.0	500.6	492.0	488.5	496.2	492.0
	P3	527.9	564.2	520.4	511.3	509.4	518.5	513.2
	AVG	514.2	-	539.0	514.3	502.1	501.3	508.8

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 = 83.96p Stg.  
AVG is the average price of all grades in the category (not just those listed).

CATTLE EXPORTS FOR DIRECT SLAUGHTER			
	2024	YTD 06/04/24	YTD 05/04/25
Exports to ROI Prime	158	40	45
Exports to ROI Cows	713	154	343
Exports to GB Prime	39	0	673
Exports to GB Cows	1	0	82

CATTLE IMPORTS FOR DIRECT SLAUGHTER			
	2024	YTD 06/04/24	YTD 05/04/25
Imports from ROI Prime	17,033	2,384	3,200
Imports from ROI Cows	9,082	1,785	2,222

CATTLE SLAUGHTERING RINGS			
	2024	YTD 06/04/24	YTD 05/04/25
Prime Cattle	385,013	99,682	102,216
Cows	118,734	30,811	31,937

CATTLE AVERAGE CARCASE WEIGHTS (KG)			
	2024	YTD 06/04/24	YTD 05/04/25
Prime Cattle	339.5	342.6	337.8
Cows	295.9	298.5	299.3

2024 and 2025 year to date figures are based on the same number of weeks in each year.  
Source: DAERA.

SHEEP TRADE

NI DEADWEIGHT SHEEP BASE QUOTES		
(P/KG)	09/04/25	11/04/2025
R3 Hoggets (to 23kg)	705 - 710	705 - 710

Quotes from 3 major NI sheep plants.

HOGGET OUTPUT NI SHEEP SECTOR (HEAD)				
	2022	2023	2024	2025 (05/04/25)
ROI DS Exports	287,303	290,688	256,612	76,880
NI Slaughtering	448,166	476,091	431,461	88,785

Exports to approved ROI meat plants. Source: DAERA.

GB/ROI AVERAGE SHEEP PRICES				
(P/KG)	29/03/2025	Change	05/04/2025	Change
GB D/W Hoggets	727.7	↓ -2.8	724.3	↓ -3.4
ROI D/W Hoggets	730.8	↑ +19.6	752.4	↑ +21.6

Source: AHDB & DAFM.

NI AVERAGE NON-PREMIUM CATTLE PRICES (P/KG)						
Week Ending 05/04/25	Steers	Change	Heifers	Change	Young Bulls	Change
U-3	672.1	↑ +15.3	670.6	↑ +12.4	655.1	↑ +6.1
R-3	662.6	↑ +11.9	662.4	↑ +11.6	650.5	↑ +10.3
O+3	655.6	↑ +11.6	654.5	↑ +9.4	642.6	↑ +9.9
P+3	625.4	↑ +24.1	611.2	↑ +12.6	613.8	↓ -2.7

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 05/04/25	<220kg	Change	220-250kg	Change	250-280kg	Change	>280kg	Change
P1	423.0	📈 +14.5	441.0	📈 +17.6	456.9	📈 +14.9	487.4	📈 +31.5
P2	463.8	📈 +20.1	484.6	📈 +16.4	511.3	📈 +18.8	520.5	📈 +16.8
P3	487.4	📈 +75.7	507.5	📈 +10.7	530.3	📈 +34.9	528.9	📈 +13.0
O3			532.2	📈 +11.9	565.4	📈 +9.3	555.2	📈 +14.8
O4	492.3				544.0	📈 +35.4	551.9	📈 +9.8
R3							576.5	📈 +7.8

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

Total cattle throughput in local plants last week declined by 338 head or three per cent to 9,491 head. Prime cattle throughput totalled 7,136 head, a decline of 348 head or five per cent week on week. Cow throughput remained steady with 2,095 head slaughtered. Direct slaughter cattle imports from ROI totalled 239 head last week, comprising 148 steers and 91 heifers, with 144 cows also imported. Exports to ROI for direct slaughter totalled 27 steers and one cow. No cattle travelled to GB for slaughter last week.

The cattle trade continues to strengthen week on week across NI, GB and ROI with tight supplies in GB continuing to drive the trade. Last week the deadweight trade in NI for steers and heifers strengthened by 14.8p/kg and 13.2p/kg to 660.8p/kg and 660p/kg respectively. The average O3 cow price increased by 15.1p/kg to 555.5p/kg. Base quotes received for cattle this week indicate similar increases across the grades week on week. Quotes ended the week ranging from 642-660p/kg for in-spec U-3 steers and heifers, with just one plant quoting below 646p/kg. LMC is aware base quotes continue to lag behind the fast-paced trade, and producers are encouraged to price around the plants.

Last week fewer hoggets on offer across the country saw local plants throughput decline by 480 head or 8 per cent to 5,754 head. Exports to ROI plants for direct slaughter also declined week on week by 1,917 head or 27 per cent.

The sheep trade in ROI improved last week by the equivalent of 21.6p/kg to 752.4p/kg, while GB reported a 3.4p/kg decline to 724.3p/kg.

A steady trade was reported for sheep this week in local marts with larger numbers passing through sales rings. Mid-week one of the three major plants offered base quotes of 705p/kg with the others remaining steady at 710p/kg. Local processors in recent weeks reported a slacker demand for spring lambs from customers versus previous years. This week the demand for spring lambs improved with the spring sale in Ballymena on Wednesday attracting a large entry of 556 spring lambs which sold from 710-879p/kg with an average price of 755p/kg reported.

NI DEADWEIGHT CATTLE BASE QUOTES		
(P/KG)	09/04/2025	11/04/2025
Steers & Heifers		
U-3	642 - 660	650 - 660
R-3	636 - 654	644 - 654
O+3	630 - 648	638 - 648
P+3	574 - 592	582 - 592
Cows		
O+3	525 - 545	534 - 545

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

NI CATTLE MART LIVEWEIGHT PRICES (P/KG)						
Week Ending 05/04/25	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
	FROM	TO	AVG	FROM	TO	AVG
Finished Cattle						
Steers	390	446	410	315	389	345
Friesians	324	338	330	294	302	299
Heifers	375	452	395	300	374	330
Beef Cows	360	452	385	260	359	305
Dairy Cows	220	308	250	122	219	170
Store Cattle						
Steers up to 400kg	450	546	475	350	449	390
Steers 400kg - 500kg	425	530	470	320	424	365
Steers over 500kg	400	500	420	300	399	335
Heifers up to 450kg	400	511	425	300	399	350
Heifers over 450kg	360	463	400	260	359	310
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	450	800	550	340	445	390
Continental Heifers	420	720	485	320	415	365
Friesian Bulls	250	335	290	75	190	122
Holstein Bulls	105	150	135	20	90	62

Average prices supplied by Ballymena Livestock Mart.

NI SHEEP MART LIVEWEIGHT PRICES (P/KG) HOGGETS				
05/04/2025 - 10/04/25	No	From	To	
Saturday	Omagh	425	625	764
	Swatragh	600	680	744
Monday	Kilrea	1400	684	750
	Markethill	760	650	755
Tuesday	Saintfield	735	645	710
Wednesday	Ballymena	1386	630	734 (AVE 655)
	Enniskillen	502	643	722
	Armoy	232	630	751

Average prices, where shown, are supplied by individual marts

FQAS MART DATES

Omagh – Monday 14 April

LMC Farm Liaison Officer Terry White will assist FQAS members with scheme queries and offer advice.

FQAS Helpline: 028 9263 3024