

CATTLE TRADE

AVERAGE DEADWEIGHT CATTLE PRICES (P/KG)								
Week Ending 19/04/25	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB	
Steers	U3	692.3	667.9	722.1	713.6	710.0	710.9	714.8
	R3	687.6	663.3	723.1	711.2	704.0	703.4	709.0
	R4	686.8	667.6	718.6	711.9	704.0	701.7	712.2
	O3	675.7	657.8	707.5	689.4	676.7	680.8	683.6
	AVG	679.9	-	717.2	703.1	691.5	692.2	700.7
Heifers	U3	691.4	678.4	729.3	716.5	718.5	715.4	719.9
	R3	686.8	667.1	723.4	710.0	704.1	703.2	707.6
	R4	686.6	671.6	722.0	711.3	700.1	704.6	712.4
	O3	674.9	660.7	699.4	688.3	680.6	681.1	683.4
	AVG	680.0	-	718.7	702.3	690.2	688.1	699.6
Young Bulls	U3	676.5	665.0	716.8	698.8	708.8	705.8	708.9
	R3	673.0	648.9	716.8	688.2	696.6	696.5	697.9
	O3	661.7	635.6	692.4	662.4	672.5	677.1	675.7
	AVG	666.1	-	707.5	683.8	682.1	693.9	688.2
Prime Cattle Price Reported		6,873	-	5,716	5,873	7,433	4,951	23,973
Cows	O3	564.2	589.4	558.1	548.3	556.3	553.0	553.3
	O4	566.0	587.5	568.9	558.1	553.4	555.2	557.4
	P2	524.7	555.5	524.8	502.6	511.6	513.9	511.0
	P3	539.1	577.4	544.4	523.1	530.6	529.8	529.8
	AVG	528.3	-	553.3	528.0	522.7	522.1	527.4

NI AVERAGE NON-PREMIUM CATTLE PRICES (P/KG)						
Week Ending 19/04/25	Steers	Change	Heifers	Change	Young Bulls	Change
U-3	691.3	▲ +6.3	689.8	▲ +4.5	679.2	▲ +1.4
R-3	684.9	▲ +9.6	684.1	▲ +8.5	671.3	▲ +2.8
O+3	679.8	▲ +10.8	678.7	▲ +7.9	667.9	▲ +7.0
P+3	638.5	▲ +13.1	627.1	▲ +3.7	630.0	▼ -6.0

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)				
	23/04/2025	25/04/2025		
Steers & Heifers				
U-3	650 - 668	650 - 668		
R-3	644 - 662	644 - 662		
O+3	638 - 656	638 - 656		
P+3	582 - 600	582 - 600		
Cows				
O+3	530 - 544	530 - 544		

Base quotes for in-spec U-3 steers and heifers, and O+3 cows received from 4 major NI plants. Base quotes vary depending on age, weight and grade. Pricing policies vary between plants. Producers are advised to check pricing policies before presenting animals for slaughter.

NI AVERAGE COW PRICES (P/KG)								
Week Ending 19/04/25	<220kg	Change	220-250kg	Change	250-280kg	Change	>280kg	Change
P1	437.5	▲ +11.9	452.4	▲ +4.2	467.7	▲ +4.9	499.6	▲ +11.0
P2	470.4	▲ +15.8	503.2	▲ +10.6	515.3	▲ +0.8	533.1	▼ -0.3
P3	494.6	▲ +0.3	518.8	▲ +3.8	529.8	▼ -2.7	541.3	▼ -2.5
O3	540.0	-	531.2	▲ +11.8	575.7	▲ +22.8	564.0	▲ +6.4
O4			550.0		562.0	▲ +26.0	566.5	▲ +6.4
R3							588.7	▲ +8.1

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

Prices listed are for deadweight price reported animals only.  
Prices are p/kg. Sterling to ROI prices are converted at 1 euro = 85.86p Stg.  
AVG is the average price of all grades in the category (not just those listed).

CATTLE EXPORTS FOR DIRECT SLAUGHTER			
	2024	YTD 20/04/24	YTD 19/04/25
Exports to ROI Prime	158	44	50
Exports to ROI Cows	713	187	400
Exports to GB Prime	39	0	709
Exports to GB Cows	1	0	89

CATTLE IMPORTS FOR DIRECT SLAUGHTER			
	2024	YTD 20/04/24	YTD 19/04/25
Imports from ROI Prime	17,033	3,070	4,000
Imports from ROI Cows	9,082	1,987	2,552

CATTLE SLAUGHTERINGS			
	2024	YTD 20/04/24	YTD 19/04/25
Prime Cattle	385,013	116,012	118,385
Cows	118,734	35,448	36,149

CATTLE AVERAGE CARCASE WEIGHTS (KG)			
	2024	YTD 20/04/24	YTD 19/04/25
Prime Cattle	339.5	348.0	337.9
Cows	299.1	298.0	299.1

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

The latest weekly deadweight cattle price report saw the local trade continue to progress with the overall trade for steers and heifers strengthening 6p/kg and 7.1p/kg respectively. An R3 steer was paid 687.6p/kg on average last week with 686.8p/kg paid on average for an R3 heifer. The trade for young bulls and cows also increased by 6.7p/kg and 8.4p/kg on average.

In GB the trade continued to strengthen across all regions with the average R3 steer price reaching 709p/kg. The deadweight trade in ROI softened last week for all types of cattle. In sterling terms declines in reported prime cattle base grades ranged from 2.6p/kg for a U3 heifer to 14.4p/kg for R3 young bulls. This resulted in the differential between NI and ROI increasing last week to 24.3p/kg for an R3 steers. The GB – NI R3 steer differential also narrowed to 21.4/kg.

Prime cattle throughput in local plants last week totalled 8,226 head, the largest weekly kill during the year to date. ROI prime cattle imports for direct slaughter also reached the highest weekly level of 2025 to date with 415 head imported, comprising 324 steers and 91 heifers. The local cow kill did decline to 1,943 head, with 172 head imported to local plants from ROI.

NI CATTLE MART LIVELWEIGHT PRICES (P/KG)						
Week Ending 19/04/25	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
	FROM	TO	AVG	FROM	TO	AVG
Finished Cattle						
Steers	400	440	414	320	399	348
Friesians	300	330	314	270	290	279
Heifers	375	420	392	300	374	330
Beef Cows	354	450	383	260	353	305
Dairy Cows	250	300	268	140	249	175
Store Cattle						
Steers up to 400kg	430	532	460	340	429	380
Steers 400kg - 500kg	480	548	475	350	449	385
Steers over 500kg	385	467	415	285	384	330
Heifers up to 450kg	425	605	470	320	424	370
Heifers over 450kg	370	473	410	250	369	305
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	450	925	550	325	445	380
Continental Heifers	400	850	475	300	395	350
Friesian Bulls	250	320	285	140	245	165
Holstein Bulls	140	250	185	-	-	-

Prices supplied by Ballymena Mart.

SHEEP TRADE

NI DEADWEIGHT SHEEP BASE QUOTES (P/KG)		
	23/04/2025	25/04/2025
R3 Hoggets (to 23kg)	680	680 - 690

Quotes from 3 major NI sheep plants.

LAMB/HOGGET OUTPUT NI SHEEP SECTOR (HEAD)				
	2022	2023	2024	2025 (19/04/25)
ROI DS Exports	287,303	290,688	252,130	86,618
NI Slaughterings	448,166	476,091	425,783	102,424

Exports to approved ROI meat plants. Source: DAERA.

GB/ROI AVERAGE SHEEP PRICES (P/KG)				
	12/04/2025	Change	19/04/2025	Change
GB D/W Hoggets	710.4	▼ -13.9	702.9	▼ -7.5
ROI D/W Hoggets	773.8	▲ +21.4	776.6	▲ +2.9

Source: AHDB & DAFM.

Live exports of hoggets/lambs for direct slaughter in ROI last week totalled 3,468 head, a decline of 2,802 head from the previous week. This was the lowest weekly export consignment during the year to date. Reduced exports resulted in greater availability for local plants last week where 6,801 head were processed.


Last week in GB, the deadweight hogget price declined by 7.5p/kg week on week to 702.9p/kg. In ROI the trade for hoggets strengthened with the average price up by the equivalent of 2.9p/kg to 776.6p/kg.

This week local marts reported reduced numbers of hoggets on offer and a weaker demand from buyers for the export market resulting in a weaker trade. In Ballymena on Wednesday fat hoggets sold to an average of 630p/kg compared to the previous week when 834 hoggets sold to an average price of 638p/kg. Mid-week base quotes received from local plants for R3 hoggets were 680p/kg up to 23kg. Early next week a similar trade is expected.

NI SHEEP MART LIVELWEIGHT PRICES (P/KG)							
20/04/2025 - 24/04/25	HOGGETS			LAMBS			
	No	From	To	No	From	To	
Saturday	Swatragh	270	640	680	-	-	-
Monday	Kilrea	550	620	694	250	338	722
Tuesday	Saintfield	340	610	700	-	-	-
Wednesday	Ballymena	509	600	689 (630 Ave)	175	730	867 (770 Ave)
	Enniskillen	189	580	668	-	-	-
	Armoy	194	598	680	-	-	-

Average prices, where shown, are supplied by individual marts.

FQAS MART DATES MAY 2025



Saintfield – Wednesday 7th May  
Enniskillen – Thursday 8th May  
Kilrea – Wednesday 21st May

LMC Farm Liaison Officer Terry White will be present at the locations outlined to assist with scheme queries and offer advice. FQAS Helpline: 028 9263 3024.