

CATTLE TRADE

AVERAGE DEADWEIGHT CATTLE PRICES (P/KG)							
Week Ending 17/05/25	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	684.6	644.3	708.0	701.6	693.7	694.3
	R3	678.8	640.3	713.0	698.0	688.0	687.5
	R4	679.9	646.8	708.8	700.5	686.5	691.9
	O3	672.7	633.8	690.4	680.9	669.0	670.1
	AVG	673.9	-	705.2	691.9	678.5	679.2
Heifers	U3	682.4	653.6	716.9	700.6	704.2	694.6
	R3	677.0	641.3	709.6	698.4	688.3	687.3
	R4	675.3	646.3	705.3	701.7	688.2	688.9
	O3	666.3	637.7	672.4	682.5	668.2	673.0
Young Bulls	AVG	671.0	-	702.7	690.5	679.7	676.6
	U3	671.2	637.5	698.1	692.2	691.8	690.7
	R3	665.5	622.4	693.9	681.6	681.5	683.3
	O3	651.5	611.7	646.1	654.0	653.5	640.7
Cows	AVG	655.7	-	691.7	673.5	665.2	677.3
	Prime Cattle Price Reported	7,257	-	6,111	7,743	8,701	5,867
	O3	558.1	563.2	574.8	566.0	568.2	568.5
	O4	555.2	561.8	581.3	569.6	565.6	569.6
	P2	515.8	533.8	541.6	525.0	521.6	530.7
	P3	534.7	549.9	547.9	544.0	537.9	546.9
	AVG	522.0	-	573.4	546.2	535.0	531.4

Prices listed are for deadweight price reported animals only.  
Prices are p/kg. Sterling to ROI prices are converted at 1 euro = 84.20p Stg.  
AVG is the average price of all grades in the category (not just those listed).

CATTLE EXPORTS FOR DIRECT SLAUGHTER			
	2024	YTD 18/05/24	YTD 17/05/25
Exports to ROI Prime	158	52	59
Exports to ROI Cows	713	221	471
Exports to GB Prime	39	0	709
Exports to GB Cows	1	0	89

CATTLE IMPORTS FOR DIRECT SLAUGHTER			
	2024	YTD 18/05/24	YTD 17/05/25
Imports from ROI Prime	17,033	4,431	4,797
Imports from ROI Cows	9,082	2,541	2,787

CATTLE SLAUGHTERINGS			
	2024	YTD 18/05/24	YTD 17/05/25
Prime Cattle	385,013	146,638	149,142
Cows	118,734	43,374	43,626

CATTLE AVERAGE CARCASE WEIGHTS (KG)			
	2024	YTD 18/05/24	YTD 17/05/25
Prime Cattle	339.5	341.8	338.7
Cows	299.1	297.5	299.1

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

NI AVERAGE NON-PREMIUM CATTLE PRICES (P/KG)						
Week Ending 17/05/25	Steers	Change	Heifers	Change	Young Bulls	Change
U-3	684.0	▲ +0.2	680.8	▼ -1.4	669.4	▼ -3.1
R-3	673.7	▲ +0.3	672.4	▼ -2.0	663.6	▼ -3.2
O+3	665.5	▼ -4.1	666.3	▼ -0.5	657.7	▼ -1.0
P+3	629.9	▼ -12.2	621.3	▼ -5.2	607.5	▼ -15.6

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 17/05/25	<220kg	Change	220-250kg	Change	250-280kg	Change	>280kg
P1	440.5	▼ -5.4	457.1	▼ -4.3	477.0	▲ +1.3	494.1
P2	454.3	▼ -13.2	490.4	▼ -1.6	513.0	▼ -2.9	526.7
P3	498.0	▲ +23.1	504.6	▼ -0.1	522.8	▼ -5.4	537.5
O3					544.4	▼ -9.5	559.2
O4	442.0				542.5		557.1
R3					570.0		584.1

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

Steady supplies of local cattle continue to come forward for slaughter with 8,436 prime cattle and 1,920 cows processed in NI last week. Direct slaughter imports from ROI comprised 160 prime cattle and 45 cows, representing two per cent of the prime and cow kills last week.

The deadweight cattle trade in NI reported a softening across the board last week, however declines in base quotes have outpaced declines in prices paid. Steers were back by 1.8p/kg to 673.9p/kg on average, while heifers decreased by 3.6p/kg to 671p/kg. Young bulls saw the largest decrease across prime categories. The R3 young bull price was back 4p/kg from the previous week to 665.5p/kg, while the average young bull price decreased by 4.3p/kg to 655.7p/kg. The average price paid for cows in NI last week was back 4.6p/kg to 522p/kg.

In GB and ROI, downward movement in the deadweight cattle trade continues. The average R3 steer price in GB last week was 694.4p/kg, narrowing the differential with the corresponding price in NI to 15.6p/kg compared to 23.4p/kg the previous week. The GB cow trade remains steady with a 0.1p/kg decline reported on average. In ROI, the trade for prime cattle declined from the previous week in both euro and sterling terms, while the cow trade strengthened, a P2 cow up 6.3p/kg on average.

NI CATTLE MART LIVELWEIGHT PRICES (P/KG)						
Week Ending 17/05/25	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
	FROM	TO	AVG	FROM	TO	AVG
Finished Cattle						
Steers	388	421	400	300	387	340
Friesians	-	-	-	-	-	-
Heifers	378	424	394	300	377	330
Beef Cows	332	394	356	235	331	275
Dairy Cows	222	290	257	114	221	165
Store Cattle						
Steers up to 400kg	415	562	480	300	414	380
Steers 400kg - 500kg	380	488	415	310	379	330
Steers over 500kg	350	410	380	285	349	320
Heifers up to 450kg	420	500	460	310	419	360
Heifers over 450kg	340	434	390	250	339	300
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	400	770	525	300	395	350
Continental Heifers	385	740	450	300	380	340
Friesian Bulls	360	380	370	-	-	-
Holstein Bulls	280	280	280	-	-	-

Prices supplied by Ballymena Mart.

SHEEP TRADE

NI DEADWEIGHT SHEEP BASE QUOTES			
(P/KG)	21/05/2025	23/05/2025	
R3 Hoggets (22 & 23kg)	620 - 630	620 - 630	
R3 Lambs (to 21kg)	720 - 730	720 - 730	

Quotes from 2 major NI plants.

LAMB/HOGGET OUTPUT NI SHEEP SECTOR (HEAD)				
	2022	2023	2024	2025 (17/05/25)
ROI DS Exports	287,303	290,688	252,130	101,186
NI Slaughtering	448,166	476,091	425,783	124,595

Exports to approved ROI meat plants. Source: DAERA.

GB/ROI AVERAGE SHEEP PRICES				
(P/KG)	10/05/2025	Change	17/05/2025	Change
GB D/W Hoggets	673.9	▼ -12.3	665.4	▼ -8.5
ROI D/W Hogget/Lamb	734.1	▼ -3.6	723.1	▼ -11.0

Source: AHDB & DAFM.

A slacker demand from the export market for NI sheep last week saw direct slaughter exports to ROI plants decline to 1,199 head, the lowest weekly level reported since week ending 23 November 2024. Greater availability locally saw hogget/lamb throughput in local plants total 6,296 head, an increase of 700 head from the previous week. Producers are encouraged to market hoggets which are not intended for retention as soon as possible as the season comes to an end.

This week a further softening in the liveweight trade for hoggets/lambs was reported. Fat lambs in Ballymena on Wednesday sold to an average of 675p/kg, compared to the previous week when an average price of 700p/kg was reported. All major NI lamb processors are now quoting to 21kg, with quotes of 720-730p/kg received on Friday 23rd May. Producers are reminded additional weight beyond 21kg incurs cost however does not generate a return.

NI SHEEP MART LIVELWEIGHT PRICES (P/KG)						
17/05/2025 - 22/05/25	HOGGETS			LAMBS		
	No	From	To	No	From	To
Saturday	Omagh	40	634	683	96	503
Monday	Swatragh	-	-	-	700	672
	Kilrea	-	-	-	600	676
	Markethill	130	510	600	400	660
Tuesday	Saintfield	-	-	-	428	644
	Rathfriland	-	-	-	400	635
	Ballymena	-	-	-	1247	650
Wednesday	Enniskillen	-	-	-	180	625
	Armagh	-	-	-	232	665
	Armagh	-	-	-	232	665

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

LMC will issue updated quotes on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May following the bank holiday closure.

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