

CATTLE TRADE

AVERAGE DEADWEIGHT CATTLE PRICES (P/KG)							
Week Ending 24/05/25	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	677.7	643.5	696.8	689.8	682.4	685.3
	R3	673.8	638.6	693.9	690.5	679.1	679.8
	R4	670.2	644.1	697.7	691.2	677.8	682.1
	O3	664.2	635.6	679.0	675.6	658.4	663.1
	AVG	666.9	-	692.3	683.6	668.3	670.3
Heifers	U3	676.3	653.4	711.2	699.1	689.2	689.4
	R3	672.3	643.0	702.4	688.3	679.6	677.0
	R4	672.1	647.8	697.9	692.2	678.8	680.7
	O3	661.3	637.3	671.3	671.1	653.9	658.5
	AVG	666.0	-	695.2	683.6	668.7	662.2
Young Bulls	U3	665.6	638.0	690.9	677.3	682.4	679.2
	R3	661.8	627.8	686.7	666.9	674.1	675.0
	O3	646.0	613.4	650.2	627.0	646.5	652.7
	AVG	650.0	-	685.9	656.9	662.2	668.9
	Prime Cattle Price Reported	6,759	-	5,705	7,637	8,308	5,374
Cows	O3	556.0	566.4	572.9	568.1	564.3	565.8
	O4	553.2	566.9	574.4	569.6	566.3	566.0
	P2	515.9	538.7	533.1	522.6	520.2	528.0
	P3	533.7	556.0	544.4	541.2	539.9	543.6
	AVG	519.9	-	565.7	544.9	532.7	525.8

Prices listed are for deadweight price reported animals only.  
Prices are p/kg. Sterling to ROI prices are converted at 1 euro = 84.18p Stg.  
AVG is the average price of all grades in the category (not just those listed).

CATTLE EXPORTS FOR DIRECT SLAUGHTER			
	2024	YTD 25/05/24	YTD 24/05/25
Exports to ROI Prime	158	54	60
Exports to ROI Cows	713	224	536
Exports to GB Prime	39	0	709
Exports to GB Cows	1	0	89

CATTLE IMPORTS FOR DIRECT SLAUGHTER			
	2024	YTD 25/05/24	YTD 24/05/25
Imports from ROI Prime	17,033	4,773	5,028
Imports from ROI Cows	9,082	2,663	2,897

CATTLE SLAUGHTERINGS			
	2024	YTD 25/05/24	YTD 24/05/25
Prime Cattle	385,013	154,429	156,966
Cows	118,734	45,105	45,311

CATTLE AVERAGE CARCASE WEIGHTS (KG)			
	2024	YTD 25/05/24	YTD 24/05/25
Prime Cattle	339.5	341.8	338.8
Cows	299.1	297.7	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 24/05/25	Steers	Change	Heifers	Change	Young Bulls
U-3	675.0	↓ -9.0	674.9	↓ -5.9	666.3
R-3	667.2	↓ -6.5	668.2	↓ -4.2	658.9
O+3	661.9	↓ -3.6	661.8	↓ -4.5	650.8
P+3	627.1	↓ -2.8	616.9	↓ -4.4	599.2

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 24/05/25	<220kg	Change	220-250kg	Change	250-280kg	Change	>280kg
P1	440.0	↓ -0.5	461.0	↑ +3.9	470.9	↓ -6.1	491.7
P2	457.5	↑ +3.2	485.1	↓ -5.3	509.1	↓ -4.0	530.3
P3	476.3	↓ -21.7	507.1	↑ +2.5	521.3	↓ -1.4	537.2
O3	502.4		540.4		551.8	↑ +7.4	557.5
O4			542.4		610.0		552.6
R3							578.1

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

Industry has reported a weakening demand for beef in recent weeks and, combined with steady supplies of cattle for slaughter locally, the deadweight trade for all types of prime cattle continues to soften. The average price paid in NI for steers, heifers and young bulls declined 7p/kg, 5p/kg and 5.7p/kg respectively. The cow trade also softened by 2.1p/kg overall to 519.9p/kg. Last week 7,824 prime cattle and 1,685 cows were slaughtered locally with 158 prime cattle and 59 cows imported from ROI for direct slaughter.

In GB, all regions and types of cattle reported declines week on week. The average steer, heifer and young bull price decreased 9.6p/kg, 9.5p/kg and 9.2p/kg respectively with the Scottish R3 steer price falling by a significant 19.1p/kg week on week. This movement narrowed the NI – GB R3 steer and R3 heifer differential to 10.7p/kg and 11.3p/kg respectively last week.

In ROI, the deadweight cattle trade reported a mixed picture in both sterling and euro terms. Steers came under the greatest pressure with an R3 steer back by the equivalent of 1.7p/kg to 638.6p/kg on average. R3 heifers reported a 1.7p/kg increase to 643p/kg. The cow trade in ROI remains strong with an O3 cow at 566.4p/kg on average up 3.2p/kg from the previous week. This widened the differential for an O3 with NI to 10.4p/kg compared to 5.1p/kg the previous week.

NI DEADWEIGHT CATTLE BASE QUOTES (P/KG)		
	28/05/2025	30/05/2025
Steers & Heifers		
U-3	640 - 644	630 - 640
R-3	634 - 638	624 - 634
O+3	628 - 632	618 - 628
P+3	572 - 576	562 - 572
Cows		
O+3	530 - 544	520 - 544

Base quotes for in-spec U-3 steers and heifers, and O+3 cows received from 5 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 CATTLE MART LIVELWEIGHT PRICES (P/KG)						
Week Ending 24/05/25	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
	FROM	TO	AVG	FROM	TO	AVG
Finished Cattle						
Steers	385	414	397	290	384	335
Friesians	316	326	320	172	312	270
Heifers	356	424	387	285	355	320
Beef Cows	324	412	360	225	323	265
Dairy Cows	225	286	260	115	224	165
Store Cattle						
Steers up to 400kg	400	550	460	300	399	365
Steers 400kg - 500kg	370	442	403	300	369	320
Steers over 500kg	350	408	380	285	349	320
Heifers up to 450kg	420	513	465	300	419	355
Heifers over 450kg	340	440	390	240	339	300
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	400	760	515	300	395	340
Continental Heifers	375	730	440	285	370	330
Friesian Bulls	300	390	340	240	240	240
Holstein Bulls	250	320	277	70	240	200

Prices supplied by Ballymena Mart.

SHEEP TRADE

NI DEADWEIGHT SHEEP BASE QUOTES (P/KG)		
	28/05/2025	30/05/2025
R3 Hoggets (22 & 23kg)	580 - 600	580
R3 Lambs (to 21kg)	680 - 700	680 - 690

Quotes from 2 major NI plants.

LAMB/HOGGET OUTPUT NI SHEEP SECTOR (HEAD)			
	2023	2024	2025 (24/05/25)
ROI DS Exports	290,688	252,130	124,601
NI Slaughtering	476,091	425,783	152,210

Exports to approved ROI meat plants. Source: DAERA.

GB/ROI D/W AVERAGE SHEEP PRICES (P/KG)			
	17/05/2025	Change	24/05/2025
GB Lambs	-	-	753.0
ROI Hogget/Lamb	723.7	↓ -10.3	707.1

Source: AHDB & DAFM.

Hogget/lamb throughput in local plants last week totalled 5,751 head, back 545 head week on week. This was similar to the corresponding week of 2024 when 5,618 head were slaughtered. Hogget/lamb exports almost doubled on the previous week to total 2,395 head; however they remain behind 2024 year to date exports.

During the year to date, NI hogget/lamb slaughterings totalled 130,346 head, a 14 per cent decrease year on year, and the lowest level slaughtered in the comparable period over the last 5 years. Direct slaughter hogget/lamb exports to ROI during the year to date are at the lowest levels since 2021 stemming from a smaller hogget carryover.

Following a fortnight of slow demand for lambs locally, mid week a buyer for the GB market pushed on the live trade, with quality lambs reaching 786p/kg in Ballymena and selling to an average of 685p/kg. Meanwhile base quotes from the plants declined mid-week to range from 680-700p/kg up to 21kg. A softer trade is expected early next week.

NI SHEEP MART LIVELWEIGHT PRICES (P/KG)			
LAMBS			
24/05/2025 - 29/05/25	No	From	To
Saturday	Omagh	54	606
	Swatragh	700	621
Monday	Kilrea	900	640
	Markethill	580	610
Tuesday	Saintfield	448	645
	Rathfriland	300	632
Wednesday	Ballymena	1315	640
	Enniskillen	385	650
	Armoy	190	650

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