

CATTLE TRADE

AVERAGE DEADWEIGHT CATTLE PRICES (P/KG)							
Week Ending 31/05/25	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	669.7	642.2	685.5	678.0	671.0	672.0
	R3	664.6	635.8	689.9	680.0	665.8	667.1
	R4	665.9	642.1	685.1	682.5	661.4	668.5
	O3	655.4	632.8	669.2	665.3	643.6	653.2
	AVG	660.0	-	681.3	674.5	653.8	666.6
Heifers	U3	669.6	647.0	694.7	683.6	675.9	677.5
	R3	663.6	639.5	678.7	675.4	666.2	668.8
	R4	664.8	643.4	683.6	679.4	666.1	675.5
	O3	652.5	634.9	665.6	659.4	645.2	651.2
	AVG	659.2	-	681.1	669.5	654.6	663.1
Young Bulls	U3	663.1	637.0	673.5	667.5	664.3	665.8
	R3	652.4	627.0	670.7	657.1	657.3	661.8
	O3	637.2	609.5	641.4	625.9	630.3	632.5
	AVG	644.3	-	667.0	643.9	643.8	651.2
	Prime Cattle Price Reported	6,887	-	5,132	6,720	7,390	4,774
Cows	O3	551.3	564.5	568.7	556.2	559.8	557.3
	O4	554.8	565.3	566.3	557.8	558.2	559.3
	P2	509.5	534.9	536.0	518.1	514.2	515.2
	P3	533.5	554.5	549.5	534.3	536.3	536.3
	AVG	516.3	-	562.3	534.3	525.9	518.8

Prices listed are for deadweight price reported animals only.
Prices are p/kg. Sterling to ROI prices are converted at 1 euro = 83.92p Stg.
AVG is the average price of all grades in the category (not just those listed).

CATTLE EXPORTS FOR DIRECT SLAUGHTER			
	2024	YTD 01/06/24	YTD 31/05/25
Exports to ROI Prime	158	54	63
Exports to ROI Cows	713	224	568
Exports to GB Prime	39	0	709
Exports to GB Cows	1	0	89

CATTLE IMPORTS FOR DIRECT SLAUGHTER			
	2024	YTD 01/06/24	YTD 31/05/25
Imports from ROI Prime	17,033	4,773	5,212
Imports from ROI Cows	9,082	2,663	2,973

CATTLE SLAUGHTERINGS			
	2024	YTD 01/06/24	YTD 31/05/25
Prime Cattle	385,013	161,502	164,927
Cows	118,734	46,812	47,038

CATTLE AVERAGE CARCASE WEIGHTS (KG)			
	2024	YTD 01/06/24	YTD 31/05/25
Prime Cattle	339.5	341.8	339.0
Cows	295.9	297.7	299.2

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)	04/06/2025	06/06/2025
R3 Hoggets (23kg)	600	-
R3 Lambs (to 21kg)	710 - 720	680 - 710

Quotes from 3 major NI plants.

LAMB/HOGGET OUTPUT NI SHEEP SECTOR (HEAD)				
	2022	2023	2024	2025 (31/05/25)
ROI DS Exports	287,303	290,688	252,130	105,827
NI Slaughtering	448,166	476,091	425,783	138,396

Exports to ROI. Source: DAERA.

GB/ROI DW AVERAGE SHEEP PRICES				
(P/KG)	24/05/2025	Change	31/05/2025	Change
GB Lambs	753.0	▲ +87.6	716.8	▼ -36.2
ROI Hoggets/Lambs	707.1	▼ -16.6	688.8	▼ -18.3

Source: AHDB & DAFM.

NI AVERAGE NON-PREMIUM CATTLE PRICES (P/KG)						
Week Ending 31/05/25	Steers	Change	Heifers	Change	Young Bulls	Change
U-3	668.6	▼ -6.4	668.3	▼ -6.6	662.4	▼ -4.0
R-3	660.8	▼ -6.4	659.0	▼ -9.2	648.8	▼ -10.1
O+3	652.9	▼ -9.1	652.0	▼ -9.8	643.3	▼ -7.5
P+3	621.9	▼ -5.2	612.8	▼ -4.1	590.0	▼ -9.2

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 31/05/25	<220kg	Change	220-250kg	Change	250-280kg	Change	>280kg	Change
P1	436.0	▼ -3.9	453.9	▼ -7.0	470.7	▼ -0.1	484.0	▼ -7.7
P2	468.4	▲ +11.0	481.7	▼ -3.4	505.9	▼ -3.2	525.3	▼ -5.1
P3	462.0	▼ -14.3	514.2	▲ +7.0	530.9	▲ +9.5	535.3	▼ -1.8
O3	500.0	▼ -2.4	520.9	▼ -19.6	545.2	▼ -6.5	552.7	▼ -4.8
O4	515.7				547.5		555.6	▲ +3.0
R3					575.0		578.5	▲ +0.4

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

Prime cattle throughput in NI last week totalled 7,961 head, bringing the total kill during the year to date to 164,927 head. This was an increase of 2 per cent or 3,425 head compared to the corresponding period of 2024. Meanwhile, 1,727 cows were slaughtered locally last week, taking year to date throughput to 47,038 head, up 226 head or 0.5 per cent on the same period during 2024. During the first five months of 2025 imports from ROI represented the same proportion of the local kill as the 2024 period; 3 per cent of the local prime kill and 6 per cent of cows.

The deadweight cattle trade across NI, GB and ROI continued to soften last week for all types of cattle, with declines in the GB trade continuing to outpace those seen in NI, and so narrowing the price differential. The average steer price in NI declined 6.9p/kg to 660p/kg, with the R3 steer price back 9.2p/kg to 664.6p/kg. In GB the average steer price declined 11.7p/kg to 666.6p/kg, bringing the GB price for this week to 6.6p/kg above that for NI but 0.3p/kg below the average for NI last week. R3 steer prices declined across all GB regions with declines ranging from 4p/kg in Scotland to 13.3p/kg in Northern England. Prices in ROI last week softened in both euro and sterling terms with a weakening exchange rate impacting the rate of decline in the latter.

Base quotes from the local plants ended this week in the region of 710-720p/kg paying up to 21kg. Base quotes of 680-710p/kg have been received for early next week with only one plant quoting at the lower end of the range. Steady numbers of lambs are available for slaughter in line with normal seasonal trends, while local marts this week have reported steady demand for export.

Last week 2,246 lambs were exported to ROI plants for slaughter, taking output during the first five months of the year to 105,827 head. Compared to 128,242 head exported during the corresponding period of 2024 this is a decline of 17 per cent of 22,415 head. Last year the month of May saw a GB buyer begin to purchase lambs weekly in NI for a period. During the past four weeks 2,512 lambs travelled to GB for direct slaughter, an increase of 37 per cent from the 1,836 head exported during the same period last year.

In GB last week the average lamb price was back 36.2p/kg to 716.8p/kg. In ROI lambs declined the equivalent of 18.4p/kg on average.

NI CATTLE MART LIVEWEIGHT PRICES (P/KG)						
Week Ending 31/05/25	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
	FROM	TO	AVG	FROM	TO	AVG
Finished Cattle						
Steers	385	422	398	280	384	330
Friesians	300	302	301	264	286	275
Heifers	350	418	380	280	349	315
Beef Cows	326	410	364	230	325	270
Dairy Cows	220	272	250	134	219	160
Store Cattle						
Steers up to 400kg	420	572	470	320	419	370
Steers 400kg - 500kg	385	478	415	310	384	330
Steers over 500kg	360	449	390	295	359	325
Heifers up to 450kg	400	470	435	300	399	345
Heifers over 450kg	350	467	400	250	349	300
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	450	1265	545	345	445	370
Continental Heifers	400	940	465	300	395	350
Friesian Bulls	310	350	323	130	220	171
Holstein Bulls	230	240	235	150	150	150

Prices supplied by Ballymena Mart.

NI SHEEP MART LIVEWEIGHT PRICES (P/KG)				
LAMBS				
31/05/2025 - 05/06/25	No	From	To	
Saturday	Omagh	31	702	721
	Swatragh	500	740	788
Monday	Kilrea	850	700	767
	Markethill	660	680	736
Tuesday	Saintfield	955	690	745
	Rathfriland	660	690	761 (AVE 732)
Wednesday	Ballymena	1652	670	800 (AVE 690)
	Enniskillen	505	670	725
	Armagh	212	680	720

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