

CATTLE TRADE

AVERAGE DEADWEIGHT CATTLE PRICES (P/KG)								
Week Ending 14/02/26	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB	
Steers	U3	647.6	628.2	639.5	648.7	647.9	643.0	644.3
	R3	643.9	621.8	642.6	650.7	639.2	637.5	642.2
	R4	646.7	623.3	642.6	648.2	641.4	641.7	644.2
	O3	638.1	613.4	637.2	627.1	624.0	621.2	624.8
	AVG	642.1	-	640.9	642.4	632.5	629.3	636.4
Heifers	U3	650.9	636.8	649.3	648.1	651.7	643.5	648.9
	R3	645.3	628.0	644.5	642.3	639.4	636.0	639.9
	R4	646.3	631.3	649.3	647.2	640.8	640.4	645.5
	O3	634.3	622.4	622.7	625.1	619.0	618.1	619.9
	AVG	641.3	-	645.3	638.0	630.7	625.8	634.9
Young Bulls	U3	637.8	625.8	631.6	629.1	639.6	645.0	633.8
	R3	631.3	616.1	619.7	624.0	629.8	617.7	626.5
	O3	619.6	600.0	601.0	591.4	609.0	609.8	604.0
	AVG	623.3	-	616.1	609.1	614.9	611.1	613.3
	Prime Cattle Price Reported	6,084	-	5,936	6,803	8,518	5,024	26,281
Cows	O3	531.6	553.1	538.3	541.4	534.8	535.3	537.8
	O4	534.9	553.7	539.4	548.7	537.8	535.5	541.7
	P2	496.2	526.2	497.7	498.9	492.0	494.2	494.2
	P3	514.9	542.1	519.1	520.7	511.6	509.3	512.4
	AVG	498.0	-	531.7	527.6	504.7	498.7	512.3

Prices listed are for deadweight price reported animals only. Prices are p/kg. Sterling to ROI prices are converted at 1 euro = 87.04p Stg. AVG is the average price of all grades in the category (not just those listed).

Last week in NI the overall trade for steers was steady on the previous week (+0.2p/kg) while the average heifer price declined (-0.9p/kg). The average U3 steer price did decline by 1.6/kg to 647.6p/kg with the average R3 steer price back by 1.2p/kg to 643.9p/kg. The R3 heifer average was steady at 645.3p/kg (+0.1p/kg). The trade for cows locally increased 2.0p/kg overall last week to 498p/kg on average, while the average O3 cow price increased by 0.6p/kg week on week to 531.6p/kg.

Total prime cattle and cow slaughtering in local plants declined last week by 324 head and 238 head to 7,316 head and 1,997 head respectively, driven by fewer heifers (-526 head) and cows (-238 head) for slaughter. Steer throughput increased by 196 head week on week while young bull numbers were steady (+6 head). Last week's increased steer throughput was the result of direct slaughter imports from ROI which totalled 181 head. This was a decline of 58 head from the 239 steers imported the previous week. An additional 73 heifers, 160 cows and two bulls were also imported for slaughter last week, similar levels to the previous week.

Increased carcass weights across all but the heifer category (-8.1kg) did offset a decline in beef volumes handled last week, with the average steer, young bull and cow carcass weight increasing by 5.1kg, 6.9kg and 3.6kg to 374.8kg, 358.2kg and 296.0kg, respectively. During 2026 the average weekly weight of prime cattle slaughtered locally has been consistently higher versus the comparable weeks of 2025. By week ending 14 February 2026 the average year to date prime carcass weight was 350.6kg an increase of 12.5kg or 3.7 per cent compared to the same 7-week period of 2025. In contrast, the weekly average cow carcass weight during the 7-week period has been consistently lighter than the weekly average during the corresponding period of 2025, to an overall average of 296.1kg during the 7-week period (-4.7kg).

In ROI last week the deadweight cattle trade strengthened in sterling terms with a stronger euro rate impacting the differential with NI. In euro terms week on week movement in the trade was mixed across the categories and grades. The average U3 steer price was 717.4c/kg an increase of 4.9c/kg, with the average R3 steer price up 1.4c/kg to 710.1c/kg. Meanwhile, the average U3 heifer price declined by 0.2c/kg to 727.2c/kg with an R3 heifer up by 1.7c/kg to 717.2c/kg. The majority of cow grades recorded declines in euro terms however conversion to sterling shows increases outpaced those in NI to widen the O3 cow price differential by 1.9p/kg week on week to 21.4p/kg.

In GB a mixed trade was also reported across the categories last week. Steers were the only category to report a stronger trade week on week up by 0.9p/kg to 636.4p/kg on average, with the R3 steer price up by 1.1p/kg to 642.2p/kg. Heifers reported a 0.6p/kg decline overall to 634.9p/kg with R3 heifers back by a penny to 639.9p/kg. The trade for young bulls softened by 1.2p/kg to 613.3p/kg respectively with the R3 young bull price up 1.9p/kg to 626.5p/kg. The trade for cows declined by 1.8p/kg to 512.3p/kg overall, while the average O3 cow price increased 2.9p/kg to 537.8p/kg.

NI AVERAGE NON-PREMIUM CATTLE PRICES (P/KG)						
Week Ending 14/02/26	Steers	Change	Heifers	Change	Young Bulls	Change
U-3	645.7	↓ -1.6	649.1	↑ +0.2	634.8	↓ -2.1
R-3	639.4	↓ -1.6	640.4	↓ -0.2	629.1	↓ -3.1
O+3	634.6	↓ -1.1	634.6	↓ -0.7	625.1	↓ -4.9
P+3	600.8	↑ +5.4	598.9	↑ +13.6	589.1	-

Prices exclude animals paid a premium as notified by price reporting plants. Blank cells indicate no price in the grade or no price comparison can be made with the previous period.

NI AVERAGE COW PRICES (P/KG)				
Week Ending 14/02/26	<220kg	220-250kg	250-280kg	>280kg
P1	415.7	437.2	451.2	475.4
P2	458.4	474.6	487.6	507.9
P3	-	492.9	504.1	518.0
O3	-	-	526.5	531.8
O4	-	-	-	535.3
R3	-	-	-	560.2

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

NI CATTLE MART LIVELWEIGHT PRICES (P/KG)						
Week Ending 14/02/26	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
	FROM	TO	AVG	FROM	TO	AVG
Finished Cattle						
Steers	380	424	396	330	379	350
Friesians	316	342	328	280	314	299
Heifers	348	411	370	300	347	320
Beef Cows	332	435	358	240	330	285
Dairy Cows	230	278	250	134	229	185
Store Cattle						
Steers up to 400kg	500	561	530	400	499	435
Steers 400kg - 500kg	475	598	510	340	474	380
Steers over 500kg	410	477	434	330	409	360
Heifers up to 450kg	475	548	510	375	474	420
Heifers over 450kg	385	454	420	300	384	340
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	700	960	830	475	695	585
Continental Heifers	650	990	750	375	645	500
Friesian Bulls	320	500	420	55	290	230
Holstein Bulls	-	-	-	255	260	258

Prices supplied by Ballymena Livestock Market.

CATTLE EXPORTS FOR DIRECT SLAUGHTER			
	2025	YTD 15/02/25	YTD 14/02/26
Exports to ROI Prime	175	9	33
Exports to ROI Cows	2,120	138	83
Exports to GB Prime	709	311	0
Exports to GB Cows	89	44	0

CATTLE IMPORTS FOR DIRECT SLAUGHTER			
	2025	YTD 15/02/25	YTD 14/02/26
Imports from ROI Prime	10,066	1,390	1,207
Imports from ROI Cows	5,403	1,129	788

CATTLE SLAUGHTERINGS			
	2025	YTD 15/02/25	YTD 14/02/26
Prime Cattle	367,136	49,402	47,566
Cows	112,059	16,325	15,012

CATTLE AVERAGE CARCASS WEIGHTS (KG)			
	2025	YTD 15/02/25	YTD 14/02/26
Prime Cattle	342.5	338.1	350.6
Cows	295.8	300.8	296.1

2025 and 2026 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)		
	11/02/2026	18/02/2026
R3 Hoggets (to 22kg & 22.5kg)	650 - 655	650 - 655

Quotes from 2 of 3 major NI plants.

TOTAL SHEEP SLAUGHTERINGS & EXPORTS (HEAD)			
	2025	YTD 15/02/25	YTD 14/02/26
NI Slaughtering	375,178	43,871	48,776
ROI DS Exports	197,261	35,302	20,389
GB DS Exports	45,484	0	11,710

2025 and 2026 year to date figures are based on the same number of weeks in each year. Source: DAERA.

GB/ROI DW AVERAGE SHEEP PRICES (P/KG)				
	07/02/2026	Change	14/02/2026	Change
GB	703.9	↑ +25.2	713.0	↑ +9.1
ROI	641.9	↓ -2.3	645.7	↑ +3.8

Source: AHDB & DAFM.

Last week hogget throughput in local plants totalled 10,842 head, an increase of 2,394 head from the previous week and an increase of 4,586 head compared with the 6,256 head slaughtered during the corresponding week of 2025. The average hogget carcass weight was steady week on week at 22.9kg, which was also steady compared to the corresponding week of 2025. Producers are reminded the current weight limited paid across NI plants is ranging from 22-22.5kg, with one plant paying to a maximum of 22kg. Producers are encouraged to present hoggets for slaughter before they are overweight to maximise their returns.

Hogget exports to ROI for direct slaughter last week totalled 3,531 head, a weekly decline of 1,225 head, and a decline of 4,765 head compared to the 5,990 hoggets exported during the same week of 2025. A steady demand from the GB market for local lambs A large consignment of 2,441 head moved to GB plants for slaughter last week. This was the largest weekly export of sheep to GB for slaughter since week ending 16 August 2025, when 2,755 lambs were exported.

This week large entries of hoggets passed through local markets following smaller sales last week owing to challenging weather conditions. Two plants have increased the weight limit to 22.5kg, one of which has quoted 630p/kg for early next week, with 640p/kg quoted to 22kg.

NI SHEEP MART LIVELWEIGHT PRICES (P/KG)				
14/02/2026 - 18/02/2026		No	From	To
Saturday	Omagh	540	593	634
	Swatragh	800	600	645
Monday	Kilrea	1050	600	658
	Markethill	830	590	655
Tuesday	Saintfield	500	595	700
Wednesday	Enniskillen	482	620	650
	Armoy	370	550	630

Prices supplied by individual marts.

FQAS MART DATES MARCH 2026

Monday 2nd - Omagh
Friday 6th - Ballymena
Tuesday 10th - Markethill

LMC Farm Liaison Officer Terry White will be present at the mart. FQAS Helpline: 028 9263 3024.