

CATTLE TRADE

AVERAGE DEADWEIGHT CATTLE PRICES (P/KG)								
Week Ending	Northern	Rep of	Scotland	Northern	Midlands	Southern		
21/02/26	Ireland	Ireland		England	& Wales	England	GB	
Steers	U3	648.4	627.9	641.3	652.1	647.5	646.0	645.7
	R3	644.6	621.4	644.6	644.2	641.7	638.8	642.0
	R4	642.5	624.8	644.6	651.1	643.4	638.8	646.2
	O3	634.1	613.7	631.0	634.5	628.1	624.8	629.1
	AVG	639.8	-	641.4	640.8	634.7	629.9	636.9
Heifers	U3	648.0	638.6	646.5	653.8	651.0	645.1	649.2
	R3	644.0	627.4	644.2	643.4	641.8	639.9	641.9
	R4	643.0	631.9	648.5	648.6	642.7	641.1	646.2
	O3	634.4	622.5	623.2	632.8	625.1	627.2	627.1
	AVG	638.1	-	643.7	640.3	633.3	628.3	636.6
Young Bulls	U3	625.8	624.2	627.7	622.6	648.4	651.3	635.3
	R3	630.9	616.1	625.6	623.4	631.1	628.0	635.3
	O3	623.1	601.7	618.8	611.7	616.0	621.4	628.2
	AVG	623.2	-	623.4	619.6	616.4	621.0	618.9
	Prime Cattle Price Reported	5,856	-	5,894	6,456	8,278	4,912	25,540
Cows	O3	533.5	552.0	547.2	559.3	542.0	539.4	548.3
	O4	525.8	554.5	546.9	557.4	544.8	540.6	552.2
	P3	514.0	542.7	522.6	520.9	513.4	513.3	515.0
	AVG	492.9	-	532.7	526.7	502.4	493.1	510.0

Prices listed are for deadweight price reported animals only. Prices are p/kg. Sterling to ROI prices are converted at 1 euro = 87.23p Stg. AVG is the average price of all grades in the category (not just those listed).

CATTLE EXPORTS FOR DIRECT SLAUGHTER			
	2025	YTD 22/02/25	YTD 21/02/26
Exports to ROI Prime	175	11	50
Exports to ROI Cows	2,120	180	129
Exports to GB Prime	709	377	0
Exports to GB Cows	89	58	0

CATTLE IMPORTS FOR DIRECT SLAUGHTER			
	2025	YTD 22/02/25	YTD 21/02/26
Imports from ROI Prime	10,066	1,766	1,544
Imports from ROI Cows	5,403	1,349	942

CATTLE SLAUGHTERINGS			
	2025	YTD 22/02/25	YTD 21/02/26
Prime Cattle	367,136	57,086	54,748
Cows	112,059	18,627	16,863

CATTLE AVERAGE CARCASE WEIGHTS (KG)			
	2025	YTD 22/02/25	YTD 21/02/26
Prime Cattle	342.5	337.7	350.7
Cows	295.8	300.5	295.6

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)		
	18/02/2026	25/02/2026
R3 Hoggets (to 22.5kg)	650 - 655	660 - 670

Quotes from 2 of 3 major NI plants.

TOTAL SHEEP SLAUGHTERINGS & EXPORTS (HEAD)			
	2025	YTD 22/02/25	YTD 21/02/26
NI Slaughtering	375,178	50,887	70,039
ROI DS Exports	197,261	41,292	25,330
GB DS Exports	45,484	0	18,085

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)				
	14/02/2026	Change	21/02/2026	Change
GB	713.0	↑ +9.1	723.8	↑ +10.8
ROI	645.7	↑ +3.8	650.8	↑ +5.1

Source: AHDB & DAFM.

Information supplied by LMC/DAERA/AHDB/DAFM

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Last week cattle slaughtering in local plants totalled 9,190 head, a weekly decline of 369 head or 4 per cent. Both prime cattle and cow throughput levels declined last week. The local prime cattle kill reported a 134 head or 1.8 per cent decline from the previous week to total 7,182 head, comprised of 3,299 steers, 3,065 heifers, and 818 young bulls. Of these animals, 337 prime cattle (273 steers, 64 heifers) were imported from ROI, a total increase of 83 head from the week prior (254 head: 181 steers, 73 heifers) and accounted for 4.7 per cent of all prime cattle slaughtered locally. This was the highest weekly level of prime cattle imported to local plants during 2026 to date. Heavier prime cattle continue to be handled in local plants year on year. The average prime cattle carcass weighed 351.3kg last week, 15.9kg ahead of the same week of 2025 when the average prime carcass weighed 335.4kg. Cow throughput in local plants totalled 1,851 head last week, a weekly decline of 146 head or 7.3 per cent. Cow imports from ROI for direct slaughter totalled 154 head and represented 7.7 per cent of total cow slaughtering. This was a steady level compared to the previous week when 160 cows were imported from ROI for direct slaughter and accounted for 8.3 per cent of the local cow kill. Last week saw the largest weekly consignment of cattle exported from NI to ROI plants for slaughter during the year to date. In total 63 head were exported, consisting of 17 prime cattle and 46 cows. The average cow carcass weighed 291.7kg last week, the lightest weekly average during 2026 to date and 6.5kg lighter than the average cow weight during the same week of 2025.

Last week the average price paid for prime cattle in NI declined across all categories; steers -2.4p/kg, heifers -3.2p/kg, young bulls -0.1p/kg. The trade for cows also declined last week recording the largest week on week decline across all categories (-5.1p/kg). The trade for good quality steers and cows did differ from the general movement of the trade to report increased prices week on week. The average R3 steer price reported a 0.7p/kg increase to 644.6p/kg, with the average O3 cow price up 1.9p/kg to 533.5p/kg. The average R3 heifer price reported a decline of 1.3p/kg to 644p/kg, while the average R3 young bull price declined by 0.4p/kg to 630.9p/kg.

The deadweight trade for cattle in GB strengthened overall last week across the grades and regions. The average R3 steer price in GB reported a marginal 0.2p/kg decline from the previous week to 642p/kg, while the average price paid for an R3 heifer increased 3.9p/kg to 641.9p/kg. The cow trade declined across all GB regions but Scotland last week, with the average cow price back by 2.3p/kg to 510p/kg. The average O3 cow price did increase by 10.5p/kg to 548.3p/kg, with strong increases across all regions ranging from 4.1p/kg in Southern England to 8.9p/kg in Scotland. This increased the O3 cow price differential with NI by 8.6p/kg week on week to 14.8p/kg last week. In ROI last week the price paid for the majority of reported prime cattle grades and all reported cow grades softened in euro terms while a stronger sterling rate shows a stronger trade in sterling terms. The average O3 cow price in ROI was the equivalent of 552p/kg, a week on week decline of a penny, while the NI-ROI O3 cow price differential narrowed (-2.9p/kg) to 18.5p/kg.

Last week strong supplies of finished hoggets were presented for sale with hogget throughput in local plants totalled 10,421 head. Week on week this was a decline of 421 head or 4 per cent, and an increase of 3,405 head versus the comparable week of 2025 when 7,016 hoggets were slaughtered locally. The average hogget carcass weight increased week on week to 23.1kg (+0.2kg). During the corresponding week of 2025 the average hogget weight in NI plants was 23.4kg.

Direct slaughter hogget exports to ROI last week totalled 4,941 head, an increase of 1,410 head or 40 per cent from the previous week and the largest weekly hogget export total moved to ROI plants during 2026 to date. During the corresponding week of 2025 5,990 hoggets were exported to ROI plants. Meanwhile, exports of NI sheep to GB plants for slaughter also peaked last week during the year to date with 4,534 head exported, an increase of 2,693 head or 146.3 per cent from the previous week's levels. Despite plentiful supplies, the trade in GB plants increased by 10.8p/kg to 723.8p/kg on average last week. ROI also reported a stronger trade.

Base quotes received by LMC from two major local sheep plants ended the week at 660-670p/kg (to 22.5kg). With strong demand for sheep locally and from export markets producers are encouraged to consider various outlets when selling stock.

NI AVERAGE NON-PREMIUM CATTLE PRICES (P/KG)						
Week Ending	Steers	Change	Heifers	Change	Young Bulls	Change
21/02/26						
U-3	646.9	↑ +1.2	646.8	↓ -2.2	627.4	↓ -7.4
R-3	638.6	↓ -0.8	639.7	↓ -0.7	629.9	↑ +0.8
O+3	632.6	↓ -2.0	633.6	↓ -1.1	627.7	↑ +2.6
P+3	596.4	↓ -4.4	592.0	↓ -6.9	605.5	-

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	<220kg	220-250kg	250-280kg	>280kg
21/02/26				
P1	420.3	440.4	452.2	467.5
P2	445.7	467.8	486.3	505.5
P3	453.8	481.0	508.9	516.6
O3	-	545.0	549.4	532.7
O4	-	-	-	526.1
R3	-	-	-	552.0

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 LIVELINE PRICES (P/KG)						
Week Ending	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
	FROM	TO	AVG	FROM	TO	AVG
21/02/26						

Finished Cattle						
Steers	382	410	393	320	381	345
Friesians	314	320	317	-	-	-
Heifers	368	424	389	300	367	330
Beef Cows	318	408	350	230	317	275
Dairy Cows	242	298	256	140	241	190

Store Cattle						
Steers up to 400kg	520	617	550	420	519	455
Steers 400kg - 500kg	450	551	500	330	449	375
Steers over 500kg	400	463	430	320	399	355
Heifers up to 450kg	500	610	530	400	499	430
Heifers over 450kg	400	476	430	300	399	350

Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	725	1270	850	500	720	600
Continental Heifers	675	1000	780	400	670	525
Friesian Bulls	500	500	500	190	225	213
Holstein Bulls	255	370	280	185	185	185

Prices supplied by Ballymena Livestock Market.

NI SHEEP MART LIVELINE PRICES (P/KG)				
	21/02/2026 - 25/02/2026	No	From	To
Saturday	Omagh	462	586	645
	Swatragh	550	609	656
Monday	Kilrea	800	620	700
	Markethill	700	600	670
Tuesday	Saintfield	625	617	710
Wednesday	Enniskillen	589	590	642

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.

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