

CATTLE

AVERAGE DEADWEIGHT CATTLE PRICES (P/KG)							
Week Ending	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	630.9	597.2	632.9	645.2	639.6	638.1
	R3	628.3	584.5	640.0	643.8	635.2	637.0
	R4	632.3	589.7	637.3	643.5	636.4	638.9
	O3	618.9	576.3	627.7	631.5	622.4	618.4
	AVG	623.9	-	632.9	638.2	628.9	625.5
Heifers	U3	631.2	602.5	643.3	652.3	645.2	638.6
	R3	626.9	591.1	637.7	640.2	634.8	632.8
	R4	627.3	596.5	645.3	642.4	636.8	633.5
	O3	617.5	583.3	621.1	632.5	621.0	619.3
	AVG	624.5	-	638.7	636.9	627.9	619.9
Young Bulls	U3	622.8	590.0	630.9	627.2	641.7	634.4
	R3	612.9	575.7	622.0	624.7	626.1	619.4
	O3	604.0	557.2	609.3	604.2	611.6	602.7
	AVG	606.8	-	613.6	613.0	614.2	615.4
	Prime Cattle Price Reported	O3	6,240	-	5,877	6,769	8,918
O4		529.8	517.3	560.5	565.0	562.4	558.1
P3		511.8	508.7	522.7	534.7	528.1	531.0
AVG		497.4	-	540.6	537.7	519.7	512.4

Prices listed are for deadweight price reported animals only. Prices are p/kg. Sterling to ROI prices are converted at 1 euro = 87.01p Stg. AVG is the average price of all grades in the category (not just those listed).

CATTLE EXPORTS FOR DIRECT SLAUGHTER			
	2025	YTD 19/04/25	YTD 18/04/26
Exports to ROI Prime	175	50	155
Exports to ROI Cows	2,120	400	272
Exports to GB Prime	709	709	0
Exports to GB Cows	89	89	0

CATTLE IMPORTS FOR DIRECT SLAUGHTER			
	2025	YTD 19/04/25	YTD 18/04/26
Imports from ROI Prime	10,066	4,073	4,647
Imports from ROI Cows	5,403	2,603	1,804

CATTLE SLAUGHTERINGS			
	2025	YTD 19/04/25	YTD 18/04/26
Prime Cattle	367,136	118,385	110,680
Cows	112,059	36,149	31,567

CATTLE AVERAGE CARCASE WEIGHTS (KG)			
	2025	YTD 19/04/25	YTD 18/04/26
Prime Cattle	342.5	337.9	351.5
Cows	295.8	299.1	296.4

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

SHEEP

NI DEADWEIGHT SHEEP BASE QUOTES (P/KG)		
	15/04/2026	22/04/2026
R3 Lamb (21kg)	-	900
R3 Hoggets (22.5kg)	820	835

Quotes from 2 of 3 major NI plants.

TOTAL SHEEP SLAUGHTERINGS & EXPORTS (HEAD)			
	2025	YTD 19/04/25	YTD 18/04/26
NI Slaughtering	375,178	102,424	132,646
ROI DS Exports	197,261	86,618	57,340
GB DS Exports	45,484	85	34,327

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)				
	11/04/2026	Change	18/04/2026	Change
GB	846.7	↓ -18.8	843.0	↓ -3.7
ROI	780.0	↑ +17.2	798.0	↑ +18.0

Source: AHDB & DAFM.

Last week saw further pressure on UK beef prices, with reductions across the grades and categories. Consumer demand for beef has softened, as higher retail and food service prices impact purchase volumes. Consumers in GB spent 8.8 per cent more on beef in the 12 weeks to 22nd March compared with the same period last year according to figures from Worldpanel by Numerator UK, published by AHDB. However, average retail prices increased by 16.4 per cent during the same period and the volume of beef sold decreased by 6.5 per cent.

Data from HMRC and AHDB show that while total imports of beef to the UK have increased modestly by 4.9 per cent to 49,433 tonnes in the first two months of 2026 compared to 2025, the composition of these has changed. The proportion of non-EU imports within total imports has doubled from 12.6 per cent in 2025 to 28.8 per cent (14,232 tonnes). The nations in the southern hemisphere are making greater use of quotas agreed under post-Brexit trade deals, and beef imports in January and February from Australia and New Zealand of 3,068 tonnes and 5,034 tonnes were 2.5 times and a little over 7 times the level of the same period of 2025, respectively. In total, Australasian beef contributed to 16.4 per cent of beef imports to the UK in 2026. Brazilian beef imports have also increased by 62.3 per cent to 5,356 tonnes accounting for 8.8 per cent of total imports to the UK. These increases have seen imports of Irish beef falling by 13.4% in the first two months of this year to 28,305 tonnes, contributing to the larger price decreases seen in ROI in conjunction with concerns over EU beef imports following the EU-Mercosur trade agreement.

Last week, steers in NI weakened by an average of 2p/kg to 623.9 p/kg and heifers decreased by 4.7p/kg to 624.5p/kg. The movements were smaller in the lower grades with prices for O3 and O4 grade steers increasing due to fluctuations in the weekly bonus eligible animal slaughter. Young bulls were back by an average of 4.3p/kg with smaller moves for higher grade animals. Cull cows were weaker with larger decreases for heavier cows, however, R3 grade cows were up 1.5p/kg to 562.0p/kg.

Prices in GB saw larger falls than in NI with steers down by 3.9p/kg to 631.3p/kg and heifers back 4.4p/kg to 631.1p/kg. Scottish prices saw larger falls with steers and heifers both down 6.0p/kg on the week. Young bulls fell by 1.9p/kg and cull cows were weaker with larger falls in the lower grades.

In ROI, prices saw an uptick for R3 heifers of 2.0p/kg after a long decline. R3 steers were steady, down 0.1p/kg and cows were higher by over a penny across the grades. Although, the differentials to NI remain wide with R3 steers and heifers 43.7p/kg and 35.8p/kg lower, they are closer than 45.9p/kg and 41.3p/kg seen at the end of March.

Slaughter numbers increased by 2,037 on the week to 7,317 head of prime cattle and 2,078 cull cows after two weeks of smaller presentations due to the Easter holidays. Despite the recovery, 2026 slaughter numbers remain 8.0 per cent lower than the equivalent period of 2025 with 7,705 fewer prime cattle and 4,582 fewer cull cows presented for slaughter.

Last week local plants handled a combined total of 6,288 hoggets and lambs, 1,468 head or 18.9 per cent behind the 6-week average (7,756 head), as finished hogget numbers coming onto the market begin to decline.

Tightening hogget supplies were also reflected in live direct slaughter export numbers last week. Hogget/lamb exports to ROI plants totalled 3,175 head, with an additional 912 head exported to GB plants for direct slaughter. As lambs are weaned for slaughter, strong ewe numbers are being culled from local flocks in response to the historically high trade for cull sheep. Mid-week in Ballymena an entry of almost 700 cull ewes passed through the sales ring, with ewes selling to a top price of £334 in Arroy. The latest available data from DAERA on sheep exports to GB farms reports 16,207 sheep moved to GB holdings during March 2026, a large number of which can be assigned to cull animals moving to mainland marts. August 2024 was the last time a similar monthly level of NI sheep moved to GB holdings (16,514 head).

In response to reduced hogget availability locally, spring lambs are now in demand by local plants, with LMC receiving a base quote from two local plants mid-week of 900p/kg for R3 lambs to 21kg. Base quotes for hoggets have also increased and ended the week in the region of 835p/kg to 22.5kg (2 of 3 major NI sheep plants).

NI AVERAGE NON-PREMIUM CATTLE PRICES (P/KG)							
Week Ending	Steers	Change	Heifers	Change	Young Bulls	Change	
18/04/26	U-3	629.6	↓ -3.2	629.3	↓ -1.9	618.5	↓ -1.9
	R-3	622.6	↓ -1.8	624.1	↓ -0.7	612.1	↓ -3.2
	O+3	615.4	↓ -2.9	618.2	↔ +0.1	607.1	↓ -3.7
	P+3	584.3	↑ +0.7	576.3	-	580.5	-

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	
18/04/26	P1	423.0	436.6	445.4	463.7
	P2	445.4	474.9	482.8	503.5
	P3	447.7	492.8	502.0	515.0
	O3	-	-	516.5	531.3
	O4	447.7	-	-	535.9
	R3	-	-	-	562.0

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 LIVEWEIGHT PRICES (P/KG)						
Week Ending	18/04/26	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY	
		FROM	TO	AVG	FROM	TO

Finished Cattle						
Steers	367	418	380	305	366	325
Friesians	317	330	323	278	292	287
Heifers	355	410	374	300	354	325
Beef Cows	314	374	338	220	313	280
Dairy Cows	212	300	249	100	211	180
Store Cattle						
Steers up to 400kg	480	558	510	400	479	430
Steers 400kg - 500kg	420	491	450	320	419	370
Steers over 500kg	400	431	413	300	399	340
Heifers up to 450kg	480	558	500	380	479	415
Heifers over 450kg	400	489	440	300	399	350
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	700	840	760	450	695	525
Continental Heifers	650	850	700	400	645	500
Friesian Bulls	260	330	275	70	230	134
Holstein Bulls	-	-	-	-	-	-

Prices supplied by Ballymena Livestock Market.

NI SHEEP MART LIVEWEIGHT PRICES (P/KG)						
18/04/2026 - 22/04/2026		HOGGETS			LAMBS	
		No	From	To	No	From

Saturday	Omagh	299	681	773	16	799	838
	Swatragh	460	714	878	-	-	-
Monday	Kilrea	500	770	851	200	876	929
	Markethill	250	750	825	200	850	895
Tuesday	Saintfield	307	740	830	88	850	900
	Rathfriland	300	705	881	252	777	902
Wednesday	Ballymena	1008	700	835 (AVE 770)	390	850	1000 (AVE 908)
	Arroy	229	738	843	-	-	-

Prices supplied by individual marts.