

CATTLE

AVERAGE DEADWEIGHT CATTLE PRICES (P/KG)							
Week Ending	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
25/04/26							
Steers	U3	628.7	594.5	630.7	636.4	636.9	634.9
	R3	624.3	584.8	633.7	638.8	631.3	627.9
	R4	625.0	589.2	634.8	642.0	631.4	631.4
	O3	613.5	574.2	626.2	632.5	619.7	616.2
Heifers	U3	618.7	-	630.7	635.2	625.1	621.7
	R3	628.6	602.2	645.7	645.7	642.0	636.8
	R4	624.0	589.9	637.2	635.8	629.2	627.4
	O3	614.2	582.9	623.2	633.9	615.0	611.0
Young Bulls	U3	614.3	585.5	624.3	622.6	633.0	625.8
	R3	611.4	576.4	620.3	615.2	621.2	621.7
	O3	600.1	561.6	601.4	600.0	600.3	599.8
	AVG	604.3	-	608.9	603.3	609.9	609.7
Prime Cattle Price Reported	U3	576.0	-	577.8	6702	8716	5381
	O3	521.5	521.5	552.6	556.0	550.5	542.8
	O4	524.3	522.1	554.2	557.3	547.8	546.7
	P3	504.9	509.2	517.5	526.8	522.7	521.5
Cows	U3	492.1	-	537.7	526.9	518.3	503.8
	R3	611.4	576.4	620.3	615.2	621.2	621.7
	O3	600.1	561.6	601.4	600.0	600.3	599.8
	AVG	604.3	-	608.9	603.3	609.9	609.7

Prices listed are for deadweight price reported animals only. Prices are p/kg. Sterling to ROI prices are converted at 1 euro = 86.87p Stg. AVG is the average price of all grades in the category (not just those listed).

CATTLE EXPORTS FOR DIRECT SLAUGHTER			
	2025	YTD 26/04/25	YTD 25/04/26
Exports to ROI Prime	175	50	179
Exports to ROI Cows	2,120	402	308
Exports to GB Prime	709	709	0
Exports to GB Cows	89	89	0

CATTLE IMPORTS FOR DIRECT SLAUGHTER			
	2025	YTD 26/04/25	YTD 25/04/26
Imports from ROI Prime	10,066	4,372	4,803
Imports from ROI Cows	5,403	2,660	1,859

CATTLE SLAUGHTERINGS			
	2025	YTD 26/04/25	YTD 25/04/26
Prime Cattle	367,136	124,746	117,789
Cows	112,059	37,784	33,499

CATTLE AVERAGE CARCASE WEIGHTS (KG)			
	2025	YTD 26/04/25	YTD 25/04/26
Prime Cattle	342.5	338.1	351.5
Cows	295.8	299.3	296.7

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)		
	22/04/2026	29/04/2026
R3 Lamb (21kg)	900	860
R3 Hoggets (22.5kg)	835	800

Quotes from 2 of 3 major NI plants.

TOTAL SHEEP SLAUGHTERINGS & EXPORTS (HEAD)			
	2025	YTD 26/04/25	YTD 25/04/26
NI Slaughtering	375,178	106,639	138,619
ROI DS Exports	197,261	91,225	60,123
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)				
	18/04/2026	Change	25/04/2026	Change
GB Hogget	843.0	↓ -3.7	843.4	↑ +0.4
GB Lamb	-	-	919.1	-
ROI Combined	798.0	↑ +18.0	812.4	↑ +14.5

Source: AHDB & DAFM.

Last week saw local cattle prices soften for the ninth consecutive week, with decreases observed across all grades and categories. While non-premium average prices recorded smaller decreases than those including bonus-eligible animals, the trend remained downward.

NI steer prices decreased by an average of 5.2p/kg to 618.7p/kg last week and heifers were back 7.4p/kg to 617.1p/kg. For both categories, variations in the proportion of bonus-eligible animals contributed to the decreases with average O4 grade prices for steers and heifers back 19.2p/kg and 11.4p/kg respectively. Meanwhile, the non-premium O+3 base grade decreased by 0.9p/kg and 4.8p/kg for each category. Young bulls also recorded decreases across the grades by an average of 2.5p/kg to 604.3p/kg. The falls were more pronounced in the higher grades with U3, U4 and R4 down 8.5p/kg, 8.1p/kg and 7.4p/kg. Cull cows saw falls for heavy cows and higher grade animals with P grade cows steady across weights and O4 cows over 280kg were back 11.3p/kg.

Prices in GB came under pressure for a second week in a row with steers back by an average of 3.2p/kg to 622.2p/kg. Within the regions, Scotland saw the smallest movement with prices down 2.2p/kg. Heifer prices were 2.8p/kg lower at an average of 628.3p/kg. Again, Scotland saw the smallest decrease of 0.7p/kg after both steers and heifers were back 6.0p/kg in the previous week. Price differentials to GB continued to widen with NI steers an average of 9.4p/kg lower than in GB compared to 7.4p/kg in the previous week. The price gap for heifers widened by 4.6p/kg on the week to 11.2p/kg.

ROI saw a second week of relatively stable trade after sharp decreases recorded over Q1 2026. R3 steer prices increased by the equivalent of 0.3p/kg on the week and O3 steers decreased by 2.1p/kg. R3 heifers were down 1.2p/kg and O4 heifers were back 0.4p/kg. Young bull prices were higher in the lower grades with O3 up 4.4p/kg. Cows were higher across the reported grades with O4 up 5.0p/kg. Despite the more stable trade seen over the last two weeks, ROI R3 steers and heifers each remain 39.5p/kg and 34.1p/kg behind NI prices.

Local slaughter numbers were down 329 head last week to 9,269 and were made up of 7,109 prime cattle and 1,932 cull cows. The presentation of prime animals for slaughter was a larger entry than the 6,361 head in the equivalent week last year, however, Easter fell later last year. Comparable weeks in 2024, 2023 and 2022 saw entries of 7,967, 7,509 and 8,052 head. Overall, the number of prime cattle slaughtered are 6,957 head (5.6 per cent) lower so far this year compared to the equivalent period of 2025. Cull cow numbers are down 4,285, a larger proportionate fall of 11.3 per cent and total slaughter numbers are 6.9 per cent behind 2025.

Imports from ROI for direct slaughter decreased to 211 head and were made up of 156 prime cattle and 55 cows. This marked the second lowest weekly import total of 2026 to date, after the week ending 3rd January. Despite the low numbers last week, imports of prime cattle are 431 head higher than the same period of last year, however, cow imports are 801 head lower. Overall, imports from ROI for direct slaughter are 5.3 per cent lower than 2025 numbers.

Last week hogget and lamb throughput in local plants totalled 5,973 head, with ewe and ram throughput totalling 369 head. An additional 692 sheep were exported to plants in GB for direct slaughter where the average deadweight hogget price reported a 0.4p/kg increase week on week to 843.4p/kg, and the average deadweight lamb price was 919.1p/kg. Last week 2,783 hoggets and lambs moved to ROI plants for direct slaughter, a week on week decline of 392 head, and 801 head (22.3 per cent) behind the weekly year to date ROI export average (3,584 head), a trend in line with normal seasonal trends, as hogget numbers decline. In ROI last week the trade was stable for hoggets with a strong trade for lambs, a similar situation to that seen in NI. The strong lamb trade saw the average hogget/lamb deadweight price increase by the equivalent of 14.5p/kg last week.

Across NI this week, marts and the major plants reported a softer trade for hoggets and lambs. Base quotes received by LMC mid-week from two plants for R3 hoggets were 800p/kg to 22.5kg, and 850-860p/kg for R3 lambs to 21kg. In the marts, mid-week lambs sold to an average of 844p/kg, back from an average of 908p/kg the week prior. Ewes continue to meet a strong demand with large sales in marts across the country again this week. Texel sorts reached £318/head with the strong trade for cull stock expected to continue next week.

NI AVERAGE NON-PREMIUM CATTLE PRICES (P/KG)						
Week Ending	Steers	Change	Heifers	Change	Young Bulls	Change
25/04/26						
U-3	627.4	↓ -2.2	627.9	↓ -1.4	614.7	↓ -3.7
R-3	618.5	↓ -4.1	619.6	↓ -4.5	611.8	↓ -0.2
O+3	614.5	↓ -0.9	613.4	↓ -4.8	605.4	↓ -1.7
P+3	578.5	↓ -5.8	570.4	↓ -5.9	580.0	↓ -0.5

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
25/04/26				
P1	423.0	436.6	446.5	463.5
P2	445.4	474.9	483.4	496.6
P3	-	492.8	502.7	506.2
O3	-	-	-	522.5
O4	-	-	-	524.6
R3	-	-	-	548.1

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	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
	FROM	TO	AVG	FROM	TO	AVG
25/04/26						
Finished Cattle						
Steers	350	376	362	290	349	315
Friesians	292	314	298	182	290	252
Heifers	334	376	348	300	333	315
Beef Cows	282	340	301	200	281	250
Dairy Cows	200	286	222	100	198	155
Store Cattle						
Steers up to 400kg	485	579	530	400	484	445
Steers 400kg - 500kg	440	510	470	325	439	370
Steers over 500kg	375	415	400	300	374	350
Heifers up to 450kg	475	556	500	400	474	425
Heifers over 450kg	375	435	400	300	370	320
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	720	1000	820	490	715	575
Continental Heifers	650	930	730	400	645	515
Friesian Bulls	495	600	548	150	380	250
Holstein Bulls	375	500	440	120	350	220

Prices supplied by Ballymena Livestock Market.

NI SHEEP MART LIVEWEIGHT PRICES (P/KG)							
25/04/2026 - 29/04/2026		HOGGETS			LAMBS		
		No	From	To	No	From	To
Saturday	Omagh	193	699	791	39	829	872
	Swatragh	680	686	791	-	-	-
Monday	Kilrea	-	-	-	400	830	843
	Markethill	300	700	781	250	780	903
Tuesday	Saintfield	306	680	750	87	780	860
	Rathfriland	-	-	-	300	757	867
Wednesday	Ballymena	549	660	760 (AVE 700)	661	800	900 (AVE 844)
	Armoyle	214	690	740	-	-	-

Prices supplied by individual marts.

FQAS MART DATES MAY 2026

Monday 11th – Omagh
Tuesday 19th – Markethill
Thursday 28th – Ballymena

LMC Farm Liaison Officer Terry White will assist with scheme queries and offer advice.
 FQAS Helpline: 028 9263 3024.