



National Livestock Reporting Service

National Heavy Lamb Indicator

The National Heavy Lamb Indicator is a seven-day rolling average of heavy lambs from NLRS reported saleyards across Australia. It is expressed in cents per kilogram carcase (or dressed) weight (¢/kg cwt) and is rounded to two decimal points.

What is a seven-day rolling average?

At any point in time, a seven-day rolling average includes data from the past seven calendar days. In the case of the National Heavy Lamb, the dataset takes the average ¢/kg cwt of an animal matching the specifications of the Indicator per day for the past week, adds them up and divides the figure by seven. This figure is updated daily to create a rolling average value for this specification of animal.



National Heavy Lamb Indicator composition

The National Heavy Lamb Indicator includes lambs up to 12 months of age with a carcase weight from of 26kg+ (Table 1). The sales included in the National Heavy Lamb Indicator are outlined in Table 2.

Table 1: Lamb categories in the National Heavy Lamb Indicator

Classification	Fat score	Carcase weight (kg)	Sales prefix*
Young lamb	1,2,3,4	26.1–30, 30.1+	PR
Lamb	1,2,3,4	26.1–30, 30.1+	PR



Table 2: Prime sales in the National Heavy Lamb Indicator

Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	
Corowa	NSW	Deniliquin ⁺	NSW	Cowra	NSW	Wagga	NSW	Griffith	NSW
Dubbo	NSW	Forbes	NSW	Guyra ⁺	NSW	Swan Hill ⁺	Vic		
TRLX Tamworth	NSW	IRLX Inverell ⁺	NSW	SELX Yass	NSW				
Bendigo	VIC	Powranna	TAS	CTLX Carcoar	NSW				
		CVLX Ballarat	VIC	Cootamundra	NSW				
		SA LE	SA	Hamilton	VIC				
		Naracoorte	SA	Horsham	VIC				
		Muchea	WA	Katanning	WA				
				Warwick	QLD				



* PR - Processor purchased.

⁺ Fortnightly.

How is the National Heavy Lamb Indicator calculated?

The National Heavy Lamb Indicator is the average price of lambs meeting the Indicator specifications for the past seven calendar days. It is calculated as follows, using the average live weight price (\$/head), skin value (\$/head) and estimated carcass weight (cwt):

- 1 The cwt price for each pen is calculated.

$$\text{cwt price (¢/kg)} = (\text{live weight price} - \text{skin value}) \div \text{cwt (kg)}$$

- 2 The average price for each pen is weighted by the number of head in the pens. This is done by calculating the pen value.

$$\text{Pen value} = \text{cwt price} \times \text{head in pen}$$

- 3 The National Heavy Lamb Indicator value (¢/kg cwt) is obtained by dividing the sum of all pen values by the total number of lambs meeting the Indicator specifications and rounding to two decimal points.

$$\text{National Heavy Lamb Indicator} = \frac{\text{Sum of all pen values}}{\text{Total head in National Heavy Lamb Indicator}}$$

The purpose of the National Heavy Lamb Indicator



The National Heavy Lamb Indicator is designed to be applicable to lamb industry participants across the supply chain and describes what processors are paying for heavy lambs out of the saleyard. Price movements in the National Heavy Lamb Indicator follow the general trends of other MLA lamb indicators, such as the National Trade Lamb Indicator. That is to be expected, given many of the Australian and global factors that influence demand and supply have an impact across multiple lamb categories.

Expected performance

The throughput of heavy lambs through the saleyards is largely dependent on seasonal conditions and the time of year. Typically, however, the first of the seasonal young lambs emerge in the market in July with supplies easing come the first quarter of the new year.

You can access MLA's interactive National Heavy Lamb Indicator reports at:

<https://www.mla.com.au/prices-markets/sheep/new-heavy-lamb/>

Price movements



It is important to note that price movements in individual saleyards and livestock categories are likely to be much more volatile than the National Heavy Lamb Indicator, while still subject to the same underlying price trends.

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