



## National Livestock Reporting Service

# National Merino Lamb Indicator

The National Merino Lamb Indicator is a seven-day rolling average of Merino lambs from NLRS reported saleyards across Australia. It is expressed in cents per kilogram carcass (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 Merino Lamb Indicator, 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 Merino Lamb Indicator composition

The National Merino Lamb Indicator includes lambs up to 12 months of age with all fat scores and carcass weights from 0–30+kg (Table 1). The sales included in the National Merino Lamb Indicator are outlined in Table 2.

**Table 1: Lamb categories in the National Merino Lamb Indicator**

Classification	Fat score	Carcass weight (kg)	Sales prefix <sup>+</sup>
Young lamb	1,2,3,4	0–30+	MR
Lamb	1,2,3,4	0–30+	MR



**Table 2: Prime sales in the National Merino 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				



<sup>+</sup> MR – Merino.

\* Fortnightly.

## How is the National Merino Lamb Indicator calculated?

The National Merino 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 carcase 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 Merino 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.

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

## The purpose of the National Merino Lamb Indicator



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

You can access MLA's interactive National Merino Lamb Indicator reports at:  
<http://mla.com.au/prices-markets/sheep/new-merinolamb/>

### 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 Merino Lamb Indicator, while still subject to the same underlying price trends.

© Meat & Livestock Australia, 2023. ABN 39 081 678 364. MLA makes no representations as to the accuracy of any information or advice contained in MLA's National Merino Lamb and excludes all liability, whether in contract, tort (including negligence or breach of statutory duty) or otherwise as a result of reliance by any person on such information or advice. All use of MLA publications, reports and information is subject to MLA's Market Report and Information Terms of Use. Please read our terms of use carefully and ensure you are familiar with its content.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION VISIT US ONLINE AT:  
[www.mla.com.au](http://www.mla.com.au) or email us at: [insights@mla.com.au](mailto:insights@mla.com.au)