



National Livestock Reporting Service

National Mutton Indicator

The National Mutton Indicator is a seven-day rolling average of mutton sheep from NLRS reported saleyards across Australia. It is expressed in cents per kilogram carcasse (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 Mutton 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 Mutton Indicator composition

The National Mutton Indicator includes ewes and wethers with carcasse weights from 14–30kg+ (Table 1). The sales included in the National Mutton Indicator are outlined in Table 2.

Table 1: Lamb categories in the National Mutton Indicator

Classification	Fat score	Carcasse weight (kg)	Sales prefix ⁺
Ewe	1,2,3,4	14 – 30 30.1 +	MR, 1X, DP, PR, RS, RSM, LE
Wether	1,2,3,4	14 – 30 30.1 +	MR, 1X, DP, PR, RS, RSM, LE



Table 2: Prime sales in the National Mutton 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				



⁺ MR - Merino, 1X - First-cross, DP - Dorper, PR - Processor purchased, RS - Restocker purchased, RSM - Restocker Merino, LE - Live exporter.

* Fortnightly.

How is the National Mutton Indicator calculated?

The National Mutton Indicator is the average price of mutton sheep 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 Mutton Indicator value (¢/kg cwt) is obtained by dividing the sum of all pen values by the total number of sheep meeting the Indicator specifications and rounding to two decimal points.

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

The purpose of the National Mutton Indicator



The National Mutton Indicator is designed to be applicable to industry participants across the supply chain and describes what buyers are paying for mutton ewes and wethers out of the saleyard. Movements in the National Mutton Indicator follow the general trends of supply and export demand. This is to be expected given that almost all of Australia's mutton is exported.

Expected performance

The Australian mutton market performance is dependent on international demand for product and domestic supply.

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

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

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 Mutton Indicator, while still subject to the same underlying price trends.

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