



## 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 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 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 fat score 2, 3 or 4, and carcass weight from 22kg (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	Carcass weight (kg)	Sales prefix*
Young lamb	2,3,4	22kg+	PR 1X DR
Lamb	2,3,4	22kg+	PR 1X DR



**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
TRLX Tamworth NSW	Forbes NSW	Guyra+ NSW	Swan Hill+ VIC	
Dubbo NSW	IRLX Inverell+ NSW	SELX Yass NSW		
Bendigo VIC	Northern Tas TAS	CTLX Carcoar NSW		
	CVLX Ballarat VIC	Cootamundra NSW		
	SA LE SA	Hamilton VIC		
	Muchea WA	Horsham VIC		
	Naracoorte SA	Katanning WA		
		Warwick QLD		



\* PR - Processor purchased, 1X - First cross, DR - Dorper.

+ Fortnightly. Note – closed/no longer reported: Mount Gambier (May 2021), Shepparton (Feb 2017)

## 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 pen. 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.

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



## 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.

### Performance

Since 2017, the average breakdown for the total share of eligible light lambs has consisted of 90% processor, 3% Dorper and 7% first cross lambs. For the same period, the average weight of lambs has been 25.3kg, made up of lambs (67%) and young lambs (33%). Typically, young lambs are those under five months of age, often unweaned or sucker lambs, with no permanent teeth.

The throughput of trade 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 January.

You can access MLA's interactive National Heavy Lamb Indicator reports at [mla.com.au/prices-markets/market-reports-prices/pdf-market-reports/sheep/heavylamb/](https://mla.com.au/prices-markets/market-reports-prices/pdf-market-reports/sheep/heavylamb/)

### 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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