



## National Livestock Reporting Service

# National Light Lamb Indicator

The National Light Lamb Indicator is a seven-day rolling average of light 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 Light 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 Light Lamb Indicator composition

The National Light Lamb Indicator includes lambs up to 12 months of age with fat score 2, 3 or 4, and carcase weight from 12–18kg (Table 1). The sales included in the National Light Lamb Indicator are outlined in Table 2.

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

Classification	Fat score	Carcase weight (kg)	Sales prefix*
Young lamb	2,3,4	12–18kg	MR PR 1X DR
Lamb	2,3,4	12–18kg	MR PR 1X DR



**Table 2: Prime sales in the National Light Lamb Indicator**

Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	
Corowa	NSW	Deniliquin <sup>+</sup>	NSW	Cowra	NSW	Wagga	NSW	Griffith	NSW
TRLX Tamworth	NSW	Forbes	NSW	Guyra <sup>+</sup>	NSW	Swan Hill <sup>+</sup>	VIC		
Dubbo	NSW	IRLX Inverell <sup>+</sup>	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				



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

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

## How is the National Light Lamb Indicator calculated?

The National Light 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 pen. This is done by calculating the pen value.

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

- 3 The National Light 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.

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



## The purpose of the National Light Lamb Indicator

The National Light Lamb Indicator is designed to be applicable to lamb industry participants across the supply chain. Movements in the National Light Lamb Indicator follow the general trends of other MLA lamb indicators, such as the 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 56% processor, 26% Merino, 10% Dorper and 8% first cross lambs. For the same period, the average weight of lambs has been 16.2kg, made up of lambs (66%) and young lambs (34%). Typically, young lambs are those under five months of age, often unweaned or sucker lambs, with no permanent teeth.

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



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

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