



## National Livestock Reporting Service

# National Trade Lamb Indicator

The National Trade Lamb Indicator, or NTLI, is a seven-day rolling average of trade weight 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 NTLI, 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.



### NTLI composition

The NTLI includes lambs up to 12 months of age with a fat score 2, 3 and 4, and carcass weight from 18–22kg (Table 1). The sales included in the NTLI are outlined in Table 2.

**Table 1: Lamb categories in the NTLI**

Classification	Fat score	Carcass weight (kg)	Sales prefix*
Young lamb	2,3,4	18–22kg	PR 1X DR
Lamb	2,3,4	18–22kg	PR 1X DR



**Table 2: Prime sales in the NTLI**

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				



\* 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 NTLI calculated?

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

$$\text{NTLI} = \frac{\text{Sum of all pen values}}{\text{Total head in NTLI}}$$



## The purpose of the NTLI

The NTLI is designed to be applicable to lamb industry participants across the supply chain and describes what processors are paying for lambs out of the saleyard. Price movements in the NTLI follow the general trends of other MLA lamb indicators, such as the National Heavy 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 weight of trade lambs has typically ranged from 20–21kg, made up of lambs (55%) and young lambs (45%). 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 Trade Lamb Indicator reports at [mla.com.au/prices-markets/market-reports-prices/pdf-market-reports/sheep/tradelamb/](https://mla.com.au/prices-markets/market-reports-prices/pdf-market-reports/sheep/tradelamb/)



### 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 NTLI, while still subject to the same underlying price trends.

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