



National Livestock Reporting Service

National Vealer Steer Indicator

The National Vealer Steer Indicator is a seven-day rolling average of vealer steers from all NLRs reported saleyards across Australia. It is expressed in cents per kilogram live weight (¢/kg lwt) 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 Vealer Steer, the dataset takes the average ¢/kg lwt 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 Vealer Steer Indicator composition

The National Vealer Steer Indicator includes steers with muscle score C, fat score 2 and 3 and live weight from 280–330kg (Table 1). The sales included in the National Vealer Steer Indicator are outlined in Table 2.

Table 1: Cattle categories in the National Vealer Steer Indicator

Classification	Muscle and fat score	Live weight (kg)	Sales prefix ⁺
Vealer Steers	C 2,3	280.1–330	RS FD PR PC



Table 2: Prime sales in the National Vealer Steer Indicator

Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday	
Forbes	NSW	CTLX Carcoar	NSW	Casino	NSW	Armidale*	NSW
TRLX Tamworth	NSW	Gunnedah	NSW	Moss Vale	NSW	Dubbo	NSW
Wagga Wagga	NSW	IRLX Inverell	NSW	HRLX Singleton	NSW	SELX Yass	NSW
Toowoomba	QLD	Scone	NSW	Charters Towers	QLD	Blackhall	QLD
CVLX Ballarat*	VIC	Roma Store	QLD	CQLX Gracemere	QLD	Bairnsdale	VIC
Mortlake	VIC	Warwick	QLD	Dalby	QLD	Swan Hill*	VIC
Pakenham	VIC	Camperdown	VIC	Leongatha	VIC	Mount Barker	WA
Muchea	WA	Shepparton	VIC	NVLX Wodonga	VIC		
		Naracoorte	SA	Warrnambool	VIC		
		SA Livestock Exchange	SA	Mount Gambier	SA		
		Northern Tasmania	TAS				



+ RS - Restocker purchased, FD - Feeder purchased, PR - Processor purchased, PC - Pastoral cattle.

* Fortnightly. Note – irregular sales: Coonamble, GRLE Sale. Closed/no longer reported: Colac (2020), Finley (June 2019), Killafaddy, Longreach, Mareeba, Milcent, Moreton, Mt Compass, Murgon, Silverdale.

How is the National Vealer Steer Indicator calculated?

The National Vealer Steer Indicator is the average price of cattle meeting the specifications for the past seven calendar days. It is calculated as follows, using the average live weight price and number of head for individual pens:

- 1 The average price for each pen is weighted by the number of head in the pen. This is done by calculating the pen value.

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

- 2 The National Vealer Steer Indicator (¢/kg lwt) is obtained by dividing the sum of all pen values by the total number of cattle meeting the National Vealer Steer Indicator specifications and rounding to two decimal points.

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

The purpose of the National Vealer Steer Indicator



The National Vealer Steer Indicator is designed to be applicable to a wide range of beef industry participants across the supply chain. It describes what buyers are paying for young cattle out of the saleyard that have typically been weaned straight off cows. Cattle bought as vealers, depending on their condition, will either be purchased by restockers and return to the paddock or by feedlot or processor buyers for backgrounding or to be finished.

Performance

Since early 2020, improving seasonal conditions have seen strong restocker demand support prices across a range of cattle categories. Given that restockers purchase the majority of vealer steers, the drought and an extended period of national herd depletion have resulted in the National Vealer Steer Indicator trending upwards.

You can access MLA's interactive National Vealer Steer Indicator reports at mla.com.au/prices-markets/market-reports-prices/pdf-market-reports/cattle/vealersteer/

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

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