

## National Livestock Reporting Service (NLRS)

# National Sheep and Lamb Indicators



MLA Sheep and Lamb Indicators are seven-day rolling averages covering transactions across all NLRS reported saleyards and external online sales platforms. Prices are expressed in cents per kilogram carcass weight terms (¢/kg cwt) or dollars per head (\$/head) and are 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. The dataset takes the average ¢/kg lwt or 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.

**Table 1: National Cattle Indicators**

Indicator	Category	Carcass weight (kg)	Prefix	Fat score	Unit
Restocker Lamb	Young lamb, lamb	0-22	FD, RS, RM	All	¢/kg cwt
Light Lamb	Young lamb, lamb	12-20	PR, MR, 1X, DP	All	¢/kg cwt
Trade Lamb	Young lamb, lamb	20-26	PR	All	¢/kg cwt
Heavy Lamb	Young lamb, lamb	26-30+	PR	All	¢/kg cwt
Merino Lamb	Young lamb, lamb	All weights	MR	All	¢/kg cwt
Online Lamb	Suckers, lamb	0-24	NSM	All	\$/head
Mutton	Ewe, wether	14-30+	PR, FD, RS, RM, MR, 1X, DP, LE	All	¢/kg cwt
Online Sheep Indicator	Merino/crossbred ewes, Merino/crossbred wethers	All weights	nil	All	\$/head



## National Sheep and Lamb Indicators



- **The National Restocker Lamb Indicator** represents a lamb traded from producer to producer for either breeding and or trading/growing out purposes. Movements in the National Restocker Lamb Indicator follow the general trends of other MLA indicators, such as the National Light Lamb Indicator.
- **The National Light Lamb Indicator** represents a light domestic product or light export product often destined for the Middle East or the UK. Movements in the National Light Lamb Indicator follow the general trends of other MLA lamb indicators, such as the Trade Lamb Indicator.
- **The National Trade Lamb Indicator** represents the Australian domestic lamb product bought by a processor. Movements in the NTLI follow the general trends of other MLA indicators, such as the National Heavy Lamb Indicator.
- **The National Heavy Lamb Indicator** represents a heavy domestic product or heavy export product often destined for the US or China. Price movements in the National Heavy Lamb Indicator follow the general trends of other MLA lamb indicators, such as the National Trade Lamb Indicator.
- **The National Merino Lamb Indicator** represents what buyers are paying for Merino lambs out of the saleyard. Movements in the National Merino Lamb Indicator follow the general trends of other MLA indicators, such as the National Light Lamb Indicator.
- **The National Mutton Indicator** represents 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.
- **The Online Lamb Indicator** represents what sheep producers are selling to sheep industry participants in an online marketplace. These sheep are typically purchased by producers who breed, or trade sheep, and it is assumed the vast majority of lambs sold via online marketplaces return to the paddock to be restockers, for either breeding and or trading/growing out purposes.
- **The Online Sheep Indicator** represents what buyers are paying for ewes and wethers in the online market place. Covering predominantly a restocker market, this indicator will represent different breeds purchased for rebuilding of breeding stocks or wethers.

**Table 2: Sales prefix and fat score used on the indicators**

Sales prefix	Description	Fat score	GR* tissue depth (mm)	Assessment over the long ribs
MR	Merino	1	0–5	Individual ribs are easily felt. Cannot feel any tissue over the ribs
1X	First cross			
DP	Dorper	2	5–10	Individual ribs are easily felt, however some tissue is present
PR	Processor purchased			
RS	Restocker purchased (back to farm)	3	10–15	Individual ribs can still be felt. Can feel more tissue over the ribs
RM	Restocker Merino purchased	4	15–20	Can only just feel ribs. There is fluid movement of tissue
LE	Live export			
NSM	Not station mated (online)	5	20+	Ribs cannot be felt. Tissue movement is very fluid

\*Girth site (GR), 12<sup>th</sup> rib

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION VISIT US ONLINE AT:  
[mla.com.au](http://mla.com.au) or email us at: [insights@mla.com.au](mailto:insights@mla.com.au)

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