



National Livestock Reporting Service

Online Young Cattle Indicator

The Online Young Cattle Indicator (OYCI) is a seven-day rolling average of young cattle sold via Australia’s suite of online livestock market places. 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 OYCI, 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.

OYCI composition

The OYCI includes weaner heifers and steers and yearling heifers and steers with a live weight from 200 – 400 kilograms that are not station mated (Table 1).

Table 1: Cattle categories in the OYCI



Classification	Fat score	Live weight (kg)	Status
Weaner heifer	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	200 – 400	Non Station Mated (NSM)
Weaner steer	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	200 – 400	NSM
Yearling heifer	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	200 – 400	NSM
Yearling steer	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	200 – 400	NSM

Sales in the OYCI

Auctions date and time will vary week by week. Each online marketplace will have a different selling day/s for young cattle, influencing when the indicator will be updated.

For the latest info follow the link below:

<https://auctionsplus.com.au/auctions/cattle>



How is the OYCI calculated?

The OYCI 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 (lwt) 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 OYCI (¢/kg lwt) is obtained by dividing the sum of all pen values by the total number of cattle meeting the indicator specifications and rounding to two decimal points.

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



The purpose of the OYCI

The OYCI is designed to be applicable to a wide range of beef industry participants across the supply chain. It describes what cattle producers are selling to beef industry participants as an online marketplace. These cattle are typically purchased by producers who breed, or trade cattle and it is assumed the vast majority of young cattle sold via online market places return to the paddock as restocker cattle.

Expected performance

Typically, demand for weaner heifer/steer and yearling heifer/steer highly depend on the season factors. Within the domestic market, movements and demand will depend on the interested buyer and the current performance and cyclical nature of the cattle market at the time.

Keep up to date with all the OYCI and key insights by subscribing at the following link:

<https://www.mla.com.au/prices-markets/subscriptions>

Link to interactive OYCI report – <https://www.mla.com.au/prices-markets/cattle/online-cattle>

Price movements

It is important to note that price movements in individual online market places and livestock categories are likely to be much more volatile than the Online Young Cattle Indicator, while still subject to the same underlying price trends.



Contributors

The OYCI pricing and supply information is derived from a number of online livestock selling platforms. Currently, contributors to the online indicator make up over 90% market coverage of online cattle transactions. MLA are eager to grow contributions into the indicator and are open to working with all domestic online selling platforms.



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