

Weekly Cattle Comments - 28.01.22

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By [AuctionsPlus](#)

With a total of 18,191 head across the main AuctionsPlus commercial cattle sales this week, prices remained robust, albeit with some of the categories lacking the “rampant buyer enthusiasm” from the previous smaller weeks, which was reflected in lower clearance rates. This week’s offering was the highest since early November 2021, with an increasing number of vendors reportedly keen to get cattle to market, especially through the lighter steer lines, to cash-in on the excellent prices and set themselves up for the end of summer.

With January’s holiday disrupted markets now in the rearview mirror and the normal weekly rhythm set to return in February, the true level of the national cattle market will be established in the coming weeks. Recent movement of the benchmark Eastern Young Cattle Indicator, almost hitting 1,200c/kg earlier this week, only to fall 6% in the following two days, highlights how the holiday period can contribute to the volatility of the young cattle market.

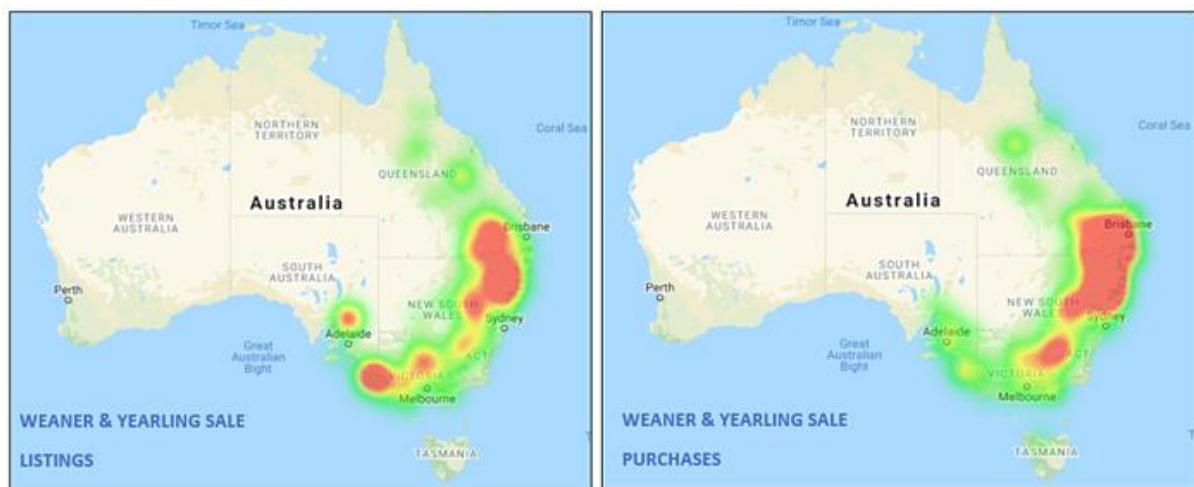
Table 1: [AuctionsPlus National Weekly Cattle Prices](#)

Table 2: [AuctionsPlus Queensland Weekly Cattle Prices](#)

Table 3: [AuctionsPlus Angus Weekly Cattle Prices](#)

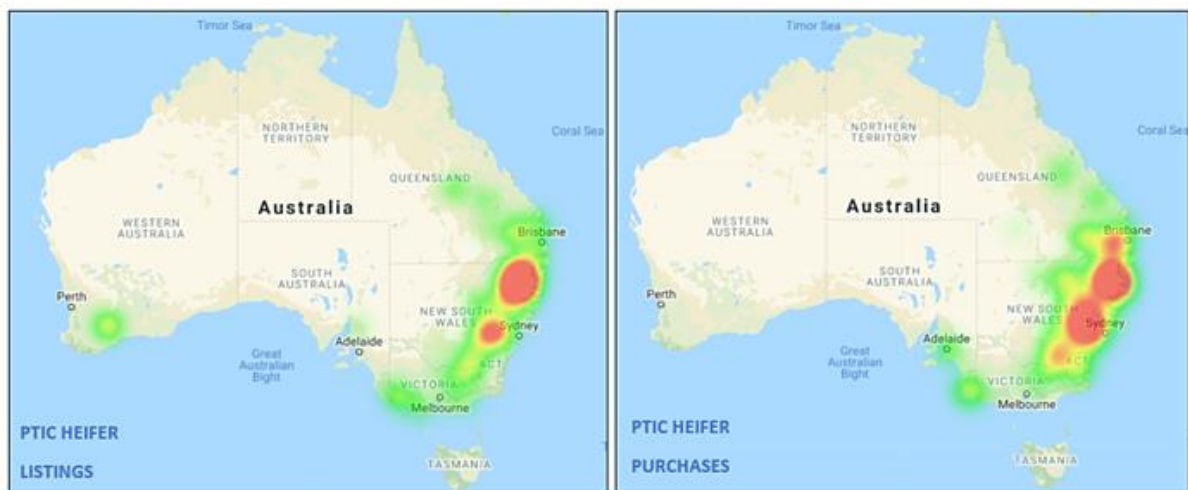
Corresponding with the return to normal market schedules in February, was another very promising three-month rainfall outlook from the Bureau of Meteorology. Given that the market has largely priced in a continuation of the excellent conditions across Eastern Australia heading towards Autumn, further “expected” falls in the coming months shouldn’t move the market too greatly. As with most markets, it will be the unexpected, or underwhelming, that will create any potentially big shifts in the coming months.

The main feature of this week's commercial sales was a lower clearance rate across the young cattle lines, while PTIC heifers continue to be the largest market segment. Even though the lightest steer categories had a larger influence of dairy cattle this week, the heavier lines were mixed. 330-400kg steers averaged \$32 higher on last week, averaging \$2,245/head, with a subdued 59% clearance rate for the 2,447 head offered. Feeder steers slipped back slightly on last week, down 3c, to average 538c/kg liveweight, or \$2,326/head.



Clearance rates were also lower through the young heifer lines, as buyers' recent willingness to purchase at any cost took a step back. Through the 1,620 head of 280-330kg heifers offered, the clearance rate slipped to only 68%, while the average price edged up \$29, to average \$2,016/head. Heavy heifers declined \$23 on last week, to \$2,309/head.

Through the proven breeding lines, PTIC heifers were again the largest market segment, with the 2,822 head selling to a 78% clearance rate. After some volatility through January, the average PTIC heifer price finished at January at \$3,087/head. From Rolleston, Queensland, a listing of 56 PTIC Brahman heifers aged 20-30 months, weighing 443.9kg liveweight, sold \$700 above their reserve, to return \$2,560/head. From the south, a line of 62 22-23-month-old Angus PTIC heifers weighing 397kg liveweight from Coleraine, Victoria, returned \$2,760/head. Joined to Malahide Angus bulls the heifers will head into South Australia.



NOTE: Prices as at 2pm, Friday 28th January 2022

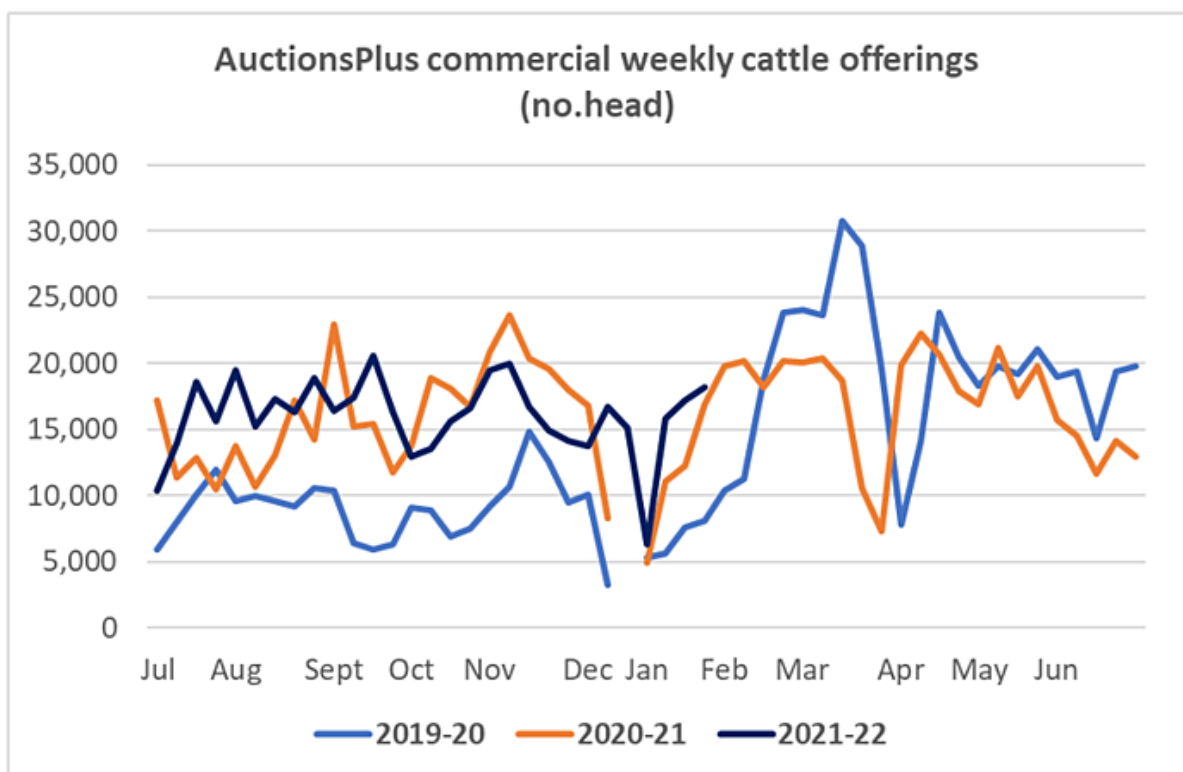


Table 1: AuctionsPlus National Cattle Prices

Classification	Offered	Low	High	Average	Change	Clearance	Low	High	Average	Change
		\$/head					actual ¢/kg lwt			
Steers										
less than 200kg	601	650	1,770	1,174	79	56%	449	1,138	729	32
200.1-280kg	1,469	1,100	2,310	1,836	74	77%	479	894	730	37
280.1-330kg	1,587	1,230	2,260	1,997	-9	67%	390	806	662	6
330.1-400kg	2,447	1,250	3,432	2,245	32	59%	356	1,011	627	25
400.1+kg	1,379	1,630	2,785	2,326	-102	70%	386	628	538	-3
Heifers										
less than 200kg	344	510	1,690	1,211	164	85%	426	1,078	767	49
200.1-280kg	1,111	1,330	2,070	1,745	-85	79%	537	883	698	-30
280.1-330kg	1,620	1,540	2,897	2,016	29	68%	519	954	657	2
330.1-400kg	1,253	1,660	2,540	2,179	24	70%	488	743	609	4
400.1+kg	763	1,930	2,950	2,309	-23	56%	390	680	541	12
Breeding Stock										
NSM Cows	84	1,960	2,260	2,110	107	100%	469	529	499	187
SM Heifers	208	1,770	2,380	2,100	-34	47%	473	671	586	3
PTIC Heifers	2,822	2,020	4,040	3,087	-53	78%	492	860	685	-12
PTIC Cows	960	1,830	4,240	2,923	-197	85%	388	729	515	-8
NSM Heifers & Calves	208	2,920	4,600	4,061	348	61%	-	-	-	-
NSM Cows & Calves	170	2,520	4,210	3,470	-86	46%	-	-	-	-
SM Heifers & Calves	140	4,210	4,540	4,370	431	86%	-	-	-	-
SM Cows & Calves	688	2,360	4,620	3,544	-187	86%	-	-	-	-
PTIC Heifers & Calves	12	4,350	4,350	4,350	-	100%	-	-	-	-
PTIC Cows & Calves	30	4,640	4,920	4,780	-	100%	-	-	-	-

Table 2: AuctionsPlus Queensland Cattle Prices

Classification	Offered	Low	High	Average	Change	Clearance	Low	High	Average	Change
		\$ /head					actual ¢/kg lwt			
Steers										
less than 200kg	42	1,600	1,600	1,600	-90	100%	816	816	816	-34
200.1-280kg	250	1,850	2,015	1,939	-105	73%	699	804	743	-75
280.1-330kg	409	1,885	2,200	2,030	37	89%	615	728	673	21
330.1-400kg	670	2,060	2,315	2,233	-27	85%	572	669	630	-2
400kg +	244	2,190	2,785	2,371	9	100%	538	619	561	2
Heifers										
less than 200kg	37	1,275	1,400	1,337	37	100%	741	790	766	105
200.1-280kg	394	1,330	1,860	1,638	-199	61%	537	883	669	-104
280.1-330kg	791	1,540	2,240	1,907	-29	59%	549	691	626	-7
330.1-400kg	271	2,055	2,390	2,169	-144	70%	543	685	619	-57
400kg +	307	2,150	2,150	2,150	-215	39%	521	521	521	0
Breeding Stock										
SM Heifers	167	2,250	2,380	2,303	550	51%	641	671	652	-106
PTIC Heifers	493	2,020	3,540	3,085	-108	87%	519	777	691	-74
PTIC Cows	118	2,530	3,310	2,900	800	100%	405	653	538	94
NSM Cows & Calves	59	3,600	3,600	3,600	-	90%	-	-	-	-
SM Cows & Calves	416	2,810	4,065	3,372	-178	90%	-	-	-	-

Table 3: AuctionsPlus Angus Cattle Prices

Classification	Offered	Low	High	Average	Change	Clearance	Low	High	Average	Change
		\$/head					actual ¢/kg lwt			
Steers										
less than 200kg	41	1,730	1,730	1,730	-	100%	1,138	1,138	1,138	-
200.1-280kg	216	1,910	2,310	2,080	-18	81%	744	879	816	26
280.1-330kg	550	1,860	2,260	2,162	-37	67%	632	806	716	12
330.1-400kg	757	2,170	2,550	2,285	-28	59%	575	674	634	12
400.1+kg	618	2,360	2,785	2,559	6	83%	520	628	596	-15
Heifers										
less than 200kg	43	1,640	1,640	1,640	-	100%	1,078	1,078	1,078	-
200.1-280kg	404	1,665	2,070	1,902	-118	89%	641	856	760	7
280.1-330kg	390	1,850	2,540	2,216	174	94%	593	857	718	38
330.1-400kg	556	1,810	2,540	2,278	-3	93%	519	743	643	18
400.1+kg	389	2,160	2,950	2,466	4	69%	529	680	581	-8
Breeding Stock										
NSM Cows	84	1,960	2,260	2,110	-	100%	469	529	499	-
SM Heifers	51	1,770	1,820	1,795	-805	24%	473	501	487	-90
PTIC Heifers	1,417	2,460	4,040	3,233	-66	89%	492	860	716	-10
PTIC Cows	481	2,420	4,240	3,324	-24	81%	405	729	536	-11
NSM Heifers & Calves	105	4,025	4,600	4,376	416	54%	-	-	-	-
NSM Cows & Calves	32	2,520	4,210	3,365	-	34%	-	-	-	-
SM Heifers & Calves	112	4,210	4,540	4,380	193	83%	-	-	-	-
SM Cows & Calves	91	3,675	4,620	4,115	-770	79%	-	-	-	-
PTIC Cows & Calves	11	4,640	4,640	4,640	-	100%	-	-	-	-