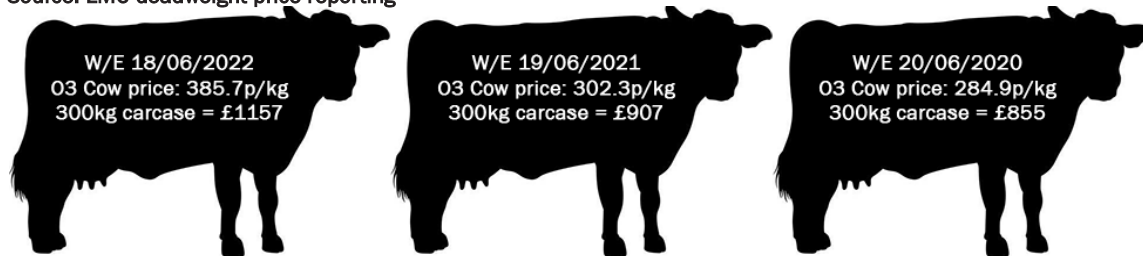


# NI DEADWEIGHT COW TRADE CONTINUES TO STRENGTHEN

The deadweight cow trade in Northern Ireland remains strong with prices continuing to increase from the beginning of 2022 and staying well ahead of previous years. Quotes from the Northern Ireland processing plants last week reached 280-376p/kg for O+3 grading cows with only one processor quoting at the lower end of the scale. Quotes for early next week continue to range from 280-376p/kg. Producers should use these quotes as a starting point for negotiation with higher prices available.

Figure 1 shows the O3 cow price in the correspondings weeks during 2022, 2021 and 2020. As indicated in the chart, the O3 cow prices last week in Northern Ireland are significantly ahead of previous years. Last week's O3 cow price of 385.7p/kg, continued the steady increase in prices from the start

Figure 1: O3 cow price in NI during the week ending 18 June 2022 and the relative weeks in 2021 and 2020. Source: LMC deadweight price reporting



of the year, up 1.8p/kg from the previous week when the O3 price was 383.9p/kg. Cow prices across the grades remain well ahead of 2021 levels when the O3 cow price was 302.3p/kg, last week's O3 cow price was 83.4p/kg ahead of this, which equates to an additional £250 for the producer on a 300kg carcass.

Meanwhile last week's O3 cow price was a notable 101p/kg ahead of the corresponding week during 2020, when the O3 cow price was 284.9p/kg. The differential in the two year period equates to an additional £302 for the producer on a 300kg carcass today.

### NI Throughput

In the period January to week ending 18 June 2022 a total of 51,000 cows were slaughtered in NI plants compared to the 42,410 head

slaughtered in the corresponding period in 2021. This represents a 20.3 per cent increase in cow throughput for the year to date.

### Average Carcass Weight

This increase in throughput has been offset to some degree by a drop in average carcass weights. The average carcass weight of cows slaughtered in local processing plants to date this year was 307.9kg, a 6.5kg decrease from the same period last year when the average carcass weight was 314.4kg, and a 5.3kg decrease from the relative period in 2020, when the average cow carcass weighed 313.2kg.

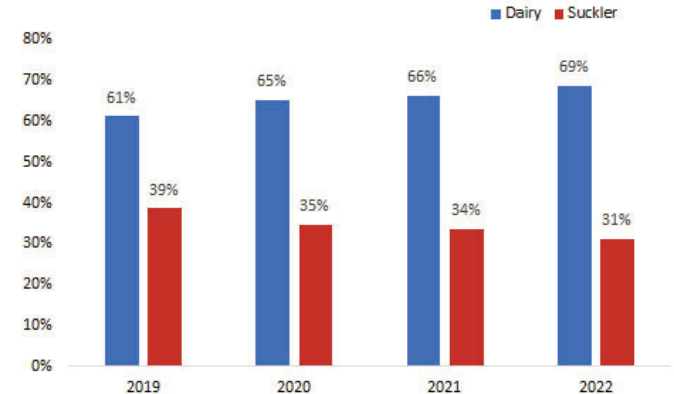
### Origin

It is also worth noting that there has been a change in the make up of the NI cow kill year on year. Available figures

to week ending June 18 report 31 per cent of the deadweight price reported cow kill were of suckler origin compared to 34 per cent during the same period of 2021. The proportion of suckler cows in the NI kill has been steadily declining since 2019, when suckler cows accounted for 39 per cent of the cow kill, and dairy origin cows accounted for 61 per cent. Figure 2 outlines the origin of cows slaughtered in NI during 2022 to week ending 18 June, and the corresponding periods during 2019 to 2021.

The increasing proportion of the cow

Figure 2: The percentage of cows slaughtered from the dairy and suckler herd up to w/e 18 June 2022, and the same periods 2021, 2020 & 2019. Source: LMC deadweight price reporting



kill sourced from the dairy herd may be one explanation for the decrease in the average cow carcass weight. As previously mentioned the average cow carcass weight for the period January-week ending 18 June 2022 was back 6.5kg on the same period in 2021.

The high prices paid for cows this year may also explain the increased numbers of cows killed, particularly with regard to dairy origin cows, with dairy producers choosing now to cull older cows from the herd and benefit from high culling prices.

# ROI R3 HEIFER PRICE IN SECOND PLACE ON EU & UK LEAGUE TABLE

Table 1: EU & UK R3 Heifer prices w/e 12 June 2022 (c/kg) Source: LMC, AHDB & EU Commission

Position in EU last month	Position in EU this month	Country	Price last month w/e 15.05.22	Price this month w/e 12.06.22	Change on month (cents)
18	1	Netherlands	397.0	535.0	+138.0
7	2	Ireland	505.3	534.3	+29.1
1	3	Luxembourg	548.7	532.6	-16.1
5	4	France	518.0	526.0	+8.0
4	5	Great Britain	520.1	520.8	+0.7
6	6	N. Ireland	509.3	519.1	+9.8
8	7	Sweden	503.1	512.1	+9.0
10	8	Denmark	478.5	503.7	+25.2
9	9	Poland	502.9	502.2	-0.7
14	10	Belgium	472.7	490.5	+17.8
2	11	Germany	541.0	483.3	-57.7
11	12	Portugal	477.1	482.3	+5.1
3	13	Italy	533.4	479.5	-53.9
12	14	Spain	477.1	475.0	-2.1
13	15	Austria	475.7	458.9	-16.8
17	16	Lithuania	406.7	441.3	+34.5
15	17	Slovenia	430.3	418.1	-12.2
16	18	Czech Republic	410.3	397.4	-12.9
19	19	Romania	370.2	381.3	+11.2
EU Average			508.8	501.9	-6.8
Euro (€1=)			85.3	85.4	+0.1

The EU & UK deadweight cattle league table is published each week by LMC and provides a comparison of farmgate R3 heifer prices across selected EU countries during any particular week and also records how this has changed from the previous month.

The EU average R3 heifer price was 501.9c/kg during the week ending 12/06/2022, back 6.8c/kg from the corresponding week a month prior ending 15/05/2022. The euro was equivalent of 85.4p in the week ending 12/06/2022.

## Northern Ireland

In the week ending 12/06/2022 NI was in sixth position in the EU league table with an R3 heifer price the equivalent of 519.1c/kg. This was an increase of 9.8c/kg from the 509.3c/kg paid during the week ending 15/05/2022. The differential between the R3 heifer price in NI and the EU average increased from 0.5c/kg in the week ending 15/05/2022 to 17.2c/kg in the week ending 12/06/2022.

## Great Britain

GB moved down one position to fifth place on the EU league table in the w/e 12/06/2022. The equivalent R3 heifer price was 520.8c/kg in GB, a 0.7c/kg increase from the w/e 15/05/2022. The differential between GB and the EU average increased from 11.3c/kg in the w/e 15/05/2022 to 18.9c/kg in the w/e 12/06/2022.

## Republic of Ireland

In ROI the R3 heifer price was 534.3c/kg in the w/e 12/06/2022, which is a 29.1c/kg increase from the w/e 15/05/2022. This placed ROI in second place on the EU league table, up five places from the w/e 15/05/2022. ROI was 32.4c/kg ahead of the EU average price and 15.2c/kg above the same price in NI in the w/e 12/06/2022.

## Other EU Countries

The most notable change in reported R3 heifer prices in the week ending 12/06/2022 was recorded in the Netherlands where the R3 heifer price increased by 138c/kg to 535c/kg. This moved it up seventeen positions in the league table into first place. Increases in reported prices were also reported in France (+8c/kg), Sweden (+9c/kg), Denmark (+25.2c/kg) and Belgium (+17.8c/kg).

Meanwhile in Luxembourg prices were back by 16.1c/kg to 532.6c/kg moving it down two places into third position in the league table. Notable declines in reported prices were also recorded in Germany (-57.7c/kg), Italy (-53.9c/kg) and Austria (-16.8p/kg).

\* The EU & UK Deadweight Cattle Prices League Table compiled weekly by LMC is hosted on the LMC website: [www.lmcni.com/market-information/market-reports/](http://www.lmcni.com/market-information/market-reports/)

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# WEEKLY BEEF & LAMB MARKETS



## CATTLE TRADE

### NI FACTORY BASE QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 20/06/22	Next Week 27/06/22
<b>Prime</b>		
U-3	422 - 432p	420 - 432p
R-3	416 - 426p	414 - 426p
O+3	410 - 420p	408 - 420p
P+3	354 - 364p	352 - 364p
	Including bonus where applicable	
<b>Cows</b>		
O+3	280 - 376p	280 - 376p

Cow quotes vary depending on weight and grade. Pricing policies vary from plant to plant. Producers are advised to check pricing policies before presenting cattle for slaughter.

### Deadweight Cattle Trade

U-3 grade prime cattle quotes remained steady at 422-432p/kg at the end of this week however paid prices indicate that higher prices are available than these quotes would suggest. Quotes next week are expected to be back in the region of 420-432p/kg. The trade for cows also remained steady this week with quotes for good quality O+3 grade cows ranging from 280-376p/kg.

Prime cattle slaughterings in local plants last week totalled 7,024 head which brings prime cattle throughput for the last six weeks to 45,109 head. This is an increase of 12 per cent or 4,838 head from the corresponding six week period in 2021 when prime cattle throughput totalled 40,271 head. Cow slaughterings in NI last week totalled 1,975 head which brings cow throughput for the last six weeks to 12,013 head, 14.9 per cent higher than the 10,454 cows killed in the same six week period in 2021.

Imports of cattle for direct slaughter from ROI last week increased to include 253 prime cattle and 129 cows. No cattle were imported from GB for direct slaughter last week. Meanwhile exports from NI to ROI for direct slaughter last week comprised of four prime cattle, 110 cows and five bulls. For the fourth consecutive week reports indicate that no cattle were exported from NI to GB for direct slaughter.

Last week price reported deadweight figures in NI continued to report increases in prices for all types of cattle. Last week the average steer price was up by 2.2p/kg from the previous week to 437.7p/kg with the R3 steer price up by just over 2p/kg to 447.5p/kg. In the same week last year the R3 steer price was 390.8p/kg. The average heifer price in NI last week was 438.1p/kg, up marginally from the previous week, while the R3 heifer price was 447.1p/kg, up by a penny from the previous week. In the same week in 2021 the R3 heifer price was 393.5p/kg. The average cow price in NI last week increased by 3.8p/kg to 359.5p/kg with O3 cow price increasing by 1.8p/kg to 385.7p/kg.

In GB last week the deadweight cattle trade also continued to strengthen across all of the regions for the majority of grades when compared to the previous week. The average steer price in GB last week increased by 1.3p/kg to 442.9p/kg from the previous week with the average R3 steer price up by 0.8p/kg to 447.9p/kg. In the corresponding week last year the R3 steer price in GB was 398.8p/kg. The average GB heifer price and R3 heifer price both increased by 2p/kg last week to 443.1p/kg and 449.5p/kg respectively. In the same week in 2021 the R3 heifer price reported in GB was 398p/kg.

Last week in ROI the deadweight cattle trade came under some pressure. The R3 steer price in ROI last week was back by just under a penny to the equivalent of 456.8p/kg from the previous week. The R3 heifer price increased by the equivalent of 1.6p/kg to 460.8p/kg. This places the R3 heifer price in ROI 4.3p/kg ahead of the same price in NI or the equivalent of £14 on a 320kg carcass. The O3 cow price in ROI reported a decrease of half a penny bringing it to 405.7p/kg last week.

### LAST WEEK'S DEADWEIGHT CATTLE PRICES (UK / ROI)

	W/E 18/06/22	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	453.6	464.8	451.9	453.3	452.9	454.0	452.9
	R3	447.5	456.8	449.5	450.5	446.6	445.4	447.9
	R4	445.4	457.9	452.9	449.7	447.8	452.8	451.0
	O3	433.9	449.2	435.6	439.1	429.1	425.4	431.6
	AVG	437.7	-	448.2	445.3	439.6	437.6	442.9
Heifers	U3	452.0	473.6	458.2	456.0	457.8	456.9	457.4
	R3	447.1	460.8	453.7	451.4	448.5	445.2	449.5
	R4	444.9	462.2	454.4	453.0	445.2	448.1	451.4
	O3	434.1	454.9	436.1	432.3	422.9	420.0	426.5
	AVG	438.1	-	450.8	447.6	438.0	432.9	443.1
Young Bulls	U3	445.6	458.7	449.0	450.1	453.1	452.0	450.6
	R3	440.1	449.2	442.3	443.0	444.8	440.3	443.1
	O3	419.9	430.5	413.2	414.9	409.7	422.6	412.6
	AVG	429.1	-	441.0	435.9	435.5	437.8	437.5
Prime Cattle Price Reported	5,658	-	6,453	6,820	6,815	4,878	24,966	
Cows	O3	385.7	405.7	389.7	386.3	380.7	383.7	384.7
	O4	386.5	406.1	393.8	388.8	382.8	383.8	387.3
	P2	340.0	380.6	344.8	340.7	341.2	343.2	342.3
	P3	362.8	397.7	361.2	360.8	363.1	357.0	359.7
	AVG	359.5	-	384.7	371.2	358.7	356.8	365.7

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=85.96p Stg  
(ii) Shading indicates a lower price than the previous week.  
(iii) AVG is the average of all grades in the category, not just those listed

### LATEST LIVEWEIGHT CATTLE MART PRICES NI

	W/E 18/06/22	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
		From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
<b>Finished Cattle (p/kg)</b>							
Steers		265	305	275	220	264	242
Friesians		203	229	210	162	202	168
Heifers		255	307	270	215	254	227
Beef Cows		230	266	240	190	229	208
Dairy Cows		150	186	168	100	149	126
<b>Store Cattle (p/kg)</b>							
Bullocks up to 400kg		260	338	290	215	259	230
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg		250	332	265	205	249	225
Bullocks over 500kg		240	291	260	200	239	220
Heifers up to 450kg		250	300	275	210	249	230
Heifers over 450kg		240	278	250	190	239	220
<b>Dropped Calves (£/head)</b>							
Continental Bulls		370	535	420	265	365	300
Continental Heifers		320	480	385	225	315	265
Friesian Bulls		150	200	175	75	145	110
Holstein Bulls		125	200	150	10	120	50

### REPORTED NI CATTLE PRICES - P/KG

W/E 18/06/22	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U3	452.2	452.2	445.6
R3	446.8	446.0	441.2
O+3	438.6	437.6	430.3

\*Prices exclude AA, HER and Organic cattle

### REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

W/E 18/06/22	Weight Bands			
	<220kg	220-250kg	250-280kg	>280kg
P1	276.0	288.5	301.7	311.5
P2	286.9	318.6	341.9	357.9
P3	287.0	340.1	358.6	366.8
O3	282.0	366.8	383.2	386.6
O4	282.0	-	375.9	387.2
R3	-	-	-	406.5

# SHEEP TRADE

## NI SHEEP BASE QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 20/06/22	Next Week 27/06/22
R3 Lambs up to 21kg	630-635p	600p

## REPORTED SHEEP PRICES

(P/KG)	W/E 04/06/22	W/E 11/06/22	W/E 18/06/22
NI L/W Lambs	614.8	620.5	626.5
NI D/W Lambs	629.1	639.4	649.3
GB D/W Lambs	684.7	692.9	662.6
ROI D/W	666.4	673.6	687.9

## Deadweight Sheep Trade

With increasing numbers of lambs coming available for slaughter in NI base quotes for R3 grade lambs came under pressure and ended this week in the region of 630p/kg up to 21kg. Quotes for early next week are expected to be in the region of 600p/kg paying up to 21kg. Exports of lambs to ROI for direct slaughter decreased last week with 3,165 lambs exported to southern processing plants compared to 4,081 lambs exported during the previous week. The average NI deadweight lamb price increased by almost 10p/kg to 649.3p/kg last week. In the same week in 2021 the NI deadweight lamb price was 567.1p/kg. In ROI last week the average deadweight lamb price was the equivalent of 687.9p/kg, up by just under 15p/kg from the previous week.

## Liveweight Sheep Trade

The trade across the marts this week was generally back with the number of lambs passing through the sale rings increasing. In Swatragh last Saturday 1,100 lambs sold from 580-655p/kg compared to 880 lambs the previous week selling from 560-710p/kg. In Kilrea on Monday 420 lambs sold from 595-620p/kg compared to 420 lambs last week selling from 624-651p/kg. In Saintfield this week 908 lambs sold from 575-630p/kg. compared to 740 lambs last week selling from 635-700p/kg. On Wednesday in Ballymena a good entry of 1,530 lambs sold from 520-586p/kg (avg 548p/kg) compared to 1,080 lambs last week selling from 610-676p/kg (avg 644p/kg). Top prices for cull ewes ranged from £175-288 across the marts.

## LATEST SHEEP MARTS (P/KG LW)

From: 18/06/22		Lambs			
To: 23/06/22		No	From	To	Avg
Saturday	Swatragh	1100	580	655	-
	Omagh	486	568	624	-
Monday	Kilrea	420	595	620	-
	Massereene	482	565	615	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	908	575	630	-
	Rathfriland	817	565	610	575
Wednesday	Ballymena	1530	520	586	548
	Enniskillen	502	550	595	-
	Armoyn	363	535	600	-
	Markethill	880	550	578	-

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