

## NI BEEF MARKET SNAPSHOT AUGUST 2022

The average prime cattle price in NI during August 2022 was 423.5p/kg, an increase of 32.5p/kg from August 2021 when the average prime cattle price was 391p/kg. This accounts for an 8.3 per cent increase year on year.

**Table 1** displays the R3 steer price in NI during August 2022 was 435.8p/kg, a 34.4p/kg increase from August 2021 when the R3 steer price was 401.4p/kg. In monetary terms this equates to a £120.40 increase on a 350kg carcass year on year. In ROI the R3 steer price increased by the equivalent of 48.4p/kg to 408.6p/kg during August 2022 which is an increase of £169.40 on a 350kg carcass. Meanwhile in GB the R3 steer price was up by 26.4p/kg to 442.5p/kg in August 2022 which accounts for a £92.40 increase in the value of a 350kg carcass year on year.

The differential in R3 steer prices between NI and GB narrowed from 14.7p/kg in August 2021 to 6.7p/kg in August 2022. Meanwhile the differential in R3 steer prices between ROI and NI narrowed from 41.2p/kg in August 2021 to 27.2p/kg in August 2022.

Prime cattle throughput in NI during August 2022 totalled 32,667 head, a 3.7 per cent decrease from year earlier levels. This decline corresponds with

the current slaughter forecast of LMC which anticipates a reduced availability of prime cattle for slaughter in NI during this quarter, and is reflected by the increased imports of prime cattle for direct slaughter seen during the month of August.

Cattle imports for direct slaughter in local plants totalled 2,318 head during August 2022, a decline of 375 head or 13.9 per cent decline from the 2,693 cattle imported for direct slaughter in NI during August 2021. Meanwhile, cattle exports from NI for direct slaughter in GB and ROI totalled 219 head during August 2022, back by 133 head or 37.8 per cent from the 352 head exported during August 2021.

Average carcass weights decreased for all classes of prime cattle slaughtered in NI during August 2022 from August 2021 levels. The average prime cattle carcass weight was back by 6.2kg to 341.2kg, equating to a decline of 1.8 per cent year on year. Meanwhile the cow carcass weight during August 2022 decreased by 7.8kg to 300.4kg, which was a 2.5 per cent decrease from year earlier levels.

The number of cattle for beef production on NI farms aged between 12 and 30 months decreased by 4,920 head or 1.1 per cent to a total 461,224 head in August 2022. The

number of beef sired cattle in this age group decreased by 4,646 head or 1.1 per cent to total 428,432 head while the number of dairy sired males in this age category declined by 274 head equating to a 0.8 per cent decline to total 32,792 head.

Beef sired calf registrations in NI totalled 27,382 head during August 2022, a 222 head or 0.8 per cent decline from the 27,604 calves registered in the region during August 2021. The decline in dairy male calf births on NI farms seen during the first six months of 2022 continued during the month of August. A significant 20.3 per cent decrease in dairy male calf births on local farms was recorded during August 2022 with 2,502 head registered.

This decline in dairy male calf registrations displays a productivity advancement by the NI dairy industry making use of beef sires on dairy dams. This allowing producers to avail of the benefits of hybrid vigour, providing improved growth rates and offering animals of improved conformation scores, and thus animals of a higher market value. Use of sexed semen by dairy producers to breed replacements for the milking herd is also a contributing factor to this reduction in dairy male calves on local farms, and this will reduce the

**Table 1: NI Beef Industry overview comparing August 2022 and August 2021. Source: LMC Deadweight Price Reporting, DAERA, AHDB, DAFM**

| Finished Cattle Prices (p/kg)                 | August 2021 | August 2022 | % Change |
|---|-------------|-------------|----------|
| Average Prime Cattle Price                    | 391.0       | 423.5       | +8.3%    |
| Average Cow Price                             | 287.7       | 337.0       | +17.1%   |
| Average R3 Steer Price (NI)                   | 401.4       | 435.8       | +8.6%    |
| Average R3 Steer Price (ROI)                  | 360.2       | 408.6       | +13.4%   |
| Average R3 Steer Price (GB)                   | 416.1       | 442.5       | +6.3%    |
| <b>NI Throughput</b>                          |             |             |          |
| Total Clean Slaughterings (Head)              | 33,920      | 32,667      | -3.7%    |
| Total Cow Slaughterings (Head)                | 10,974      | 10,797      | -1.6%    |
| Average Clean Carcass Weight (kg)             | 347.4       | 341.2       | -1.8%    |
| Average Cow Carcass Weight (kg)               | 308.2       | 300.4       | -2.5%    |
| <b>Trade (Head)</b>                           |             |             |          |
| Live Imports for Direct Slaughter             | 2,693       | 2,318       | -13.9%   |
| Live Exports for Direct Slaughter             | 352         | 219         | -37.8%   |
| <b>Availability (Head)</b>                    |             |             |          |
| No. Cattle on the Ground*                     | 466,144     | 461,224     | -1.1%    |
| Beef Sired                                    | 433,078     | 428,432     | -1.1%    |
| Dairy Sired (Male Only)                       | 33,066      | 32,792      | -0.8%    |
| <b>Calf Births Registrations (Head)</b>       |             |             |          |
| Calf Births                                   | 27,604      | 27,382      | -0.8%    |
| Beef Sired                                    | 24,465      | 24,880      | +1.7%    |
| Dairy Sired (Male Only)                       | 3,139       | 2,502       | -20.3%   |
| <b>Euro / Stg Exchange Rate (€ / £)</b>       |             |             |          |
|   | 85.3        | 84.5        | -0.9%    |
| * Aged between 12-30 mths (Beef + Dairy)      |             |             |          |
| <b>All NI Figures Unless Otherwise Stated</b> |             |             |          |

availability of clean cattle for slaughter on NI farms.

The euro rate declined in value against sterling during August 2022 worth €1

= 84.5p. This was a 0.9 per cent decrease compared to August 2021 when the exchange rate was €1 = 85.3p.

## NI COW TRADE SOFTENS BUT REMAINS WELL AHEAD OF LAST YEAR

There has been a firm demand for cows in Northern Ireland throughout 2022 to date, and this continued in recent weeks with 2,297 cows processed in NI last week. This brings throughput for the last six weeks to 13,094 head, very similar to the corresponding period last year when 13,071 cows were processed locally. This brings the throughput during the year to date to 76,603 head, 10,042 head or 15 per cent ahead of the corresponding period last year.

As with prime cattle, the deadweight cow trade came under some pressure in Northern Ireland during August 2022 and last week the downward movement in prices continued. The O3 cow price in NI was 359.4p/kg during the w/e 10 September 2022, back 1.7p/kg from the previous week.

**Figure 1** shows the O3 cow price in the corresponding weeks during 2022, 2021 and 2020. As indicated in the chart, the O3 cow price last week in Northern Ireland is significantly ahead of previous years, despite the cow trade coming under recent pressure. Cow prices across the grades remain well ahead of 2021 levels in w/e 11 September 2021 the O3 cow price was 315.1p/kg last week's O3 cow price was 44.3p/kg ahead of this, which equates to an additional £132.90 for the producer on a 300kg carcass.

Meanwhile last week's O3 cow price was a notable 84.9p/kg ahead of the corresponding week during 2020, when the O3 cow price was 274.5p/kg. The differential in the 2 year period equates to an additional £254.70 for the producer on a 300kg carcass today.

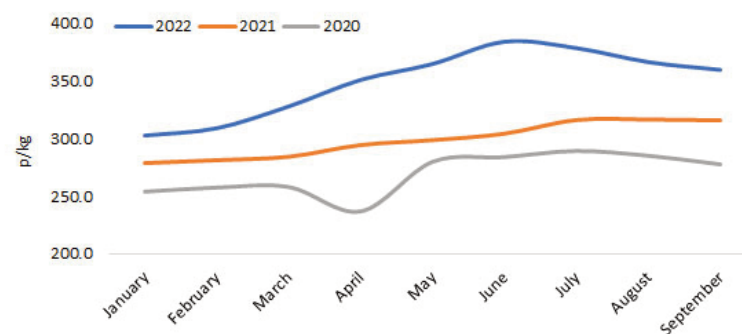
### Great Britain

The differential in deadweight cow trade between NI and GB widened last week. In Northern Ireland the average cow price was 15p/kg behind the average cow price seen in Great Britain where the average cow price last week increased to 345.9p/kg. The differential between the two regions was 17p/kg for an O3 grading cow which is the equivalent of £51 on a 300kg carcass. During the same week of 2021 the O3 cow price in GB was 313.7p/kg.

### Republic of Ireland

Strong demand for processing beef by Irish plants and some shifts in the sterling exchange rates have seen the Irish O3 cow price increase in recent weeks following pressures on prices experienced during mid-August. The cow trade in the Republic of Ireland is currently running ahead of Northern Ireland and the differential between the two regions widened last week. Last week's O3 cow price in ROI was the equivalent of 375.4p/kg, a marginal increase of 0.1p/kg from the

**Figure 1: The average monthly O3 cow price in NI during 2020-2022 to date (p/kg) Source: LMC Deadweight Price Reporting.**



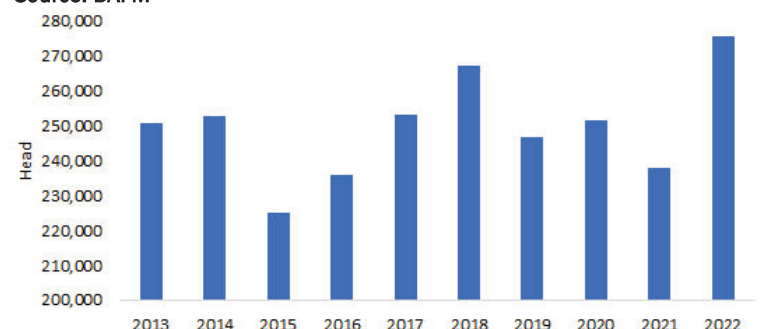
previous week. This takes the differential between ROI and NI to 16p/kg which equates to an additional £48 on a 300kg carcass. In the corresponding week last year the ROI O3 cow price was the equivalent of 303p/kg.

Improvements in the ROI cow trade however has not had the anticipated effect on the number of cows exported to NI from the ROI for direct slaughter locally, with import levels increasing during the w/e 10 September from the previous week to total 178 head.

During 2022 to date, a higher cow kill has been recorded in ROI year on year. In ROI to w/e 10 September 2022 a total of 275,691 head passed through Irish processing plants, an increase of

37,736 head or 15.9 per cent from year earlier levels. Cow throughput levels in ROI are also well ahead of previous years as shown in **Figure 2**. As is the case in NI this high cow throughput is very likely attributable to

**Figure 2: Cow throughput in ROI during 2013-2022 to date (w/e 10 September) Source: DAFM**



the high prices paid for cows, with producers choosing now to cull older animals from the herd and benefit from high culling prices.

As mentioned in the previous article, the average cow carcass weight recorded in NI during the month of August 2022 was 300.4kg. In addition to a year on year decline, this was a decline from the first half of the year when the the average cow carcass weight in NI was 308kg.

Despite the recent decline in cow carcass weights the levels of cow beef handled in local processing plants to w/e 10 September 2022 totalled 23,498 tonnes, remaining well ahead of 2021 levels which totalled 20,855 tonnes from the corresponding period to w/e 11 September 2021.

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# WEEKLY BEEF & LAMB MARKETS

## CATTLE TRADE

### NI FACTORY BASE QUOTES FOR CATTLE

| (P/KG DW)                        | This Week<br>12/09/22 | Next Week<br>19/09/22 |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Prime</b>                     |                       |                       |
| U-3                              | 414 - 426p            | 414 - 426p            |
| R-3                              | 408 - 420p            | 408 - 420p            |
| O+3                              | 402 - 414p            | 402 - 414p            |
| P+3                              | 346 - 358p            | 346 - 358p            |
| Including bonus where applicable |                       |                       |
| <b>Cows</b>                      |                       |                       |
| O+3                              | 330 - 350p            | 330 - 350p            |

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

Quotes for U-3 grade prime cattle remained steady at 414-426p/kg at the end of this week however paid prices indicate that higher prices are available than these quotes suggest. The trade for cows also remained steady this week with quotes for good quality O+3 grade cows ranging from 330-350p/kg with similar quotes expected for next week.

Prime cattle slaughterings in local plants last week totalled 7,309 head which brings prime cattle throughput for the last six weeks to 39,976 head. This is a decline of 511 head from the corresponding six week period in 2021 when prime cattle throughput totalled 40,487 head. Cow slaughterings in NI last week totalled 2,297 head which brings cow throughput for the last six weeks to 13,094 head, similar levels to that killed in the same period in 2021.

Imports of cattle for direct slaughter from ROI last week increased to include 583 prime cattle, 178 cows and one bull. No cattle were imported from GB for direct slaughter last week. Meanwhile exports from NI to ROI for direct slaughter last week comprised of two prime cattle and 61 cull cattle. For the ninth consecutive week reports indicate that no cattle were exported from NI to GB for direct slaughter.

Price reported deadweight figures in NI generally continued to report a weakening in trade last week. The average steer price in NI last week was up by 1.8p/kg to 424.3p/kg with the R3 steer price up by 0.2p/kg to 434.2p/kg. In the same week last year the R3 steer price was 399.3p/kg. The average heifer price in NI last week was 426.1p/kg, up marginally from the previous week, while the R3 heifer price was 434.8p/kg, back by 1.9p/kg from the previous week. In the same week in 2021 the R3 heifer price was 401p/kg. The average cow price in NI last week decreased by 0.8p/kg to 330.9p/kg with the O3 cow price decreasing by 1.7p/kg to 359.4p/kg.

In GB last week the deadweight cattle trade reported a mixed trade across all regions for all types of cattle. The average steer price in GB last week decreased by 0.3p/kg to 437p/kg with the average R3 steer price last week up by 0.2p/kg to 444.3p/kg. In the same period last year the R3 steer price in GB was 417.6p/kg. The average heifer price in GB last week was back by 0.3p/kg to 435.7p/kg with the R3 heifer price increasing by 2.3p/kg to 444.3p/kg. In the same week in 2021 the R3 heifer price in GB was 418.2p/kg. The O3 cow price in GB recorded an increase of half a penny last week to 376.4p/kg, 17p/kg ahead of the same price in NI.

Last week in ROI the deadweight cattle trade also reported a mixed picture. The R3 steer price in ROI last week was up by 0.4p/kg to 414.9p/kg from the previous week. The R3 heifer price increased by the equivalent of 0.7p/kg to 418p/kg. This places the R3 heifer price in ROI 16.8p/kg behind the same price in NI or the equivalent of £53.76 on a 320kg carcass. The O3 cow price in ROI reported a marginal increase of 0.1p/kg bringing it to 375.4p/kg last week.

### Deadweight Sheep Trade

Quotes for R3 grade lambs ended this week in the region of 495p/kg up to 21kg with quotes of 495-500p/kg expected for early next week. Lamb throughput in NI plants last week totalled 10,981 head which was an increase of 946 head from the previous week. Meanwhile, exports of lambs to ROI for direct slaughter decreased last week with 5,047 lambs exported to southern processing plants compared to 5,533 lambs exported during the previous week. The average NI deadweight lamb price was up by just over 4p/kg to 482.7p/kg last week. In the same week in 2021 the NI deadweight lamb price was 476.3p/kg. In ROI last week the average deadweight lamb price was the equivalent of 526.9p/kg, back by 2.9p/kg from the previous week, and 6.7p/kg ahead of the 520.2p/kg paid during the same week last year.

### Liveweight Sheep Trade

While many of the marts reported an increase in the number of lambs passing through the sale rings this week, store lambs are readily available while the numbers of fat lambs available are reported to be tightening. In Swatragh last Saturday 2,010 lambs sold from 414-518p/kg compared to 1,320 lambs sold from 410-528p/kg the previous week. In Kilrea on Monday 730 lambs sold from 442-487p/kg compared to 500 lambs selling from 432-460p/kg last week. This week in Saintfield 717 lambs sold from 450-500p/kg compared to 750 lambs last week selling from 440-490p/kg. On Wednesday in Enniskillen 1,400 lambs sold from 428-480p/kg compared to 702 lambs last week selling from 430-467p/kg. The trade for cull ewes remained firm this week ranging from £160-£172.

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

| W/E<br>10/09/22                | Northern<br>Ireland | Rep of<br>Ireland | Scotland | Northern<br>England | Midlands<br>& Wales | Southern<br>England | GB    |        |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------|--------|
| Steers                         | U3                  | 438.0             | 424.6    | 449.3               | 447.3               | 445.8               | 449.9 | 447.9  |
|                                | R3                  | 434.2             | 414.9    | 449.2               | 444.5               | 442.4               | 442.2 | 444.3  |
|                                | R4                  | 436.2             | 415.7    | 449.3               | 448.6               | 440.2               | 442.3 | 446.9  |
|                                | AVG                 | 424.3             | -        | 445.3               | 440.6               | 431.8               | 429.5 | 437.0  |
| Heifers                        | U3                  | 438.6             | 429.6    | 452.9               | 453.4               | 453.2               | 452.4 | 453.0  |
|                                | R3                  | 434.8             | 418.0    | 448.9               | 445.9               | 443.2               | 440.8 | 444.3  |
|                                | R4                  | 432.0             | 419.1    | 449.9               | 449.0               | 441.9               | 441.2 | 447.0  |
|                                | AVG                 | 423.9             | 408.2    | 426.1               | 423.8               | 418.8               | 417.0 | 420.2  |
| Young<br>Bulls                 | U3                  | 431.0             | 411.0    | 439.9               | 444.1               | 446.1               | 446.7 | 443.5  |
|                                | R3                  | 424.5             | 402.0    | 431.4               | 433.9               | 436.0               | 436.0 | 434.0  |
|                                | O3                  | 407.4             | 385.4    | 405.3               | 409.7               | 402.9               | 417.4 | 406.3  |
|                                | AVG                 | 416.1             | -        | 430.5               | 430.4               | 425.5               | 405.7 | 425.5  |
| Prime Cattle<br>Price Reported |                     | 5,710             | -        | 5,622               | 6,473               | 7,459               | 4,442 | 23,996 |
| Cows                           | O3                  | 359.4             | 375.4    | 377.2               | 376.0               | 378.1               | 372.2 | 376.4  |
|                                | O4                  | 360.9             | 377.1    | 381.7               | 378.5               | 377.0               | 368.5 | 376.6  |
|                                | P2                  | 321.9             | 337.3    | 332.6               | 325.6               | 337.3               | 336.9 | 335.3  |
|                                | P3                  | 342.9             | 363.8    | 347.0               | 351.0               | 358.3               | 352.0 | 354.6  |
| AVG                            |                     | 330.9             | -        | 371.5               | 351.7               | 340.7               | 336.3 | 345.9  |

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=86.43p 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 LIVELWEIGHT CATTLE MART PRICES NI

| W/E<br>10/09/22                | 1st QUALITY |     |     | 2nd QUALITY |     |     |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-----|-----|-------------|-----|-----|
|                                | From        | To  | Avg | From        | To  | Avg |
| <b>Finished Cattle (p/kg)</b>  |             |     |     |             |     |     |
| Steers                         | 256         | 286 | 270 | 215         | 255 | 235 |
| Friesians                      | 186         | 220 | 198 | 162         | 183 | 175 |
| Heifers                        | 244         | 278 | 255 | 205         | 243 | 222 |
| Beef Cows                      | 210         | 256 | 227 | 165         | 209 | 188 |
| Dairy Cows                     | 150         | 196 | 164 | 105         | 149 | 128 |
| <b>Store Cattle (p/kg)</b>     |             |     |     |             |     |     |
| Bullocks up to 400kg           | 260         | 321 | 280 | 215         | 259 | 235 |
| Bullocks 400kg - 500kg         | 241         | 317 | 260 | 185         | 240 | 215 |
| Bullocks over 500kg            | 230         | 281 | 245 | 174         | 229 | 200 |
| Heifers up to 450kg            | 230         | 263 | 240 | 180         | 229 | 200 |
| Heifers over 450kg             | 220         | 256 | 235 | 172         | 219 | 195 |
| <b>Dropped Calves (£/head)</b> |             |     |     |             |     |     |
| Continental Bulls              | 400         | 590 | 440 | 250         | 395 | 310 |
| Continental Heifers            | 380         | 540 | 420 | 250         | 375 | 295 |
| Friesian Bulls                 | 125         | 170 | 150 | 50          | 120 | 85  |
| Holstein Bulls                 | 80          | 160 | 120 | 4           | 75  | 40  |

### REPORTED NI CATTLE PRICES - P/KG

| W/E<br>10/09/22 | Steers | Heifers | Young<br>Bulls |
|-----------------|--------|---------|----------------|
| U3              | 437.1  | 438.6   | 431.6          |
| R3              | 431.3  | 433.6   | 424.9          |
| O+3             | 422.9  | 424.4   | 409.4          |

\*Prices exclude AA, HER and Organic cattle

### REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

| W/E<br>10/09/22 | Weight Bands |           |           |        |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|--------|
|                 | <220kg       | 220-250kg | 250-280kg | >280kg |
| P1              | 253.9        | 270.0     | 280.9     | 289.7  |
| P2              | 276.3        | 305.0     | 321.1     | 334.8  |
| P3              | 300.0        | 313.9     | 336.1     | 345.9  |
| O3              | 283.3        | 347.9     | 352.9     | 360.9  |
| O4              | -            | 338.0     | 353.8     | 361.4  |
| R3              | -            | -         | -         | 377.7  |

## SHEEP TRADE

### NI SHEEP BASE QUOTES

| (P/Kg DW)              | This Week<br>12/09/22 | Next Week<br>19/09/22 |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| R3 Lambs<br>up to 21kg | 495p                  | 495-500p              |

### REPORTED SHEEP PRICES

| (P/KG)       | W/E<br>27/08/22 | W/E<br>03/09/22 | W/E<br>10/09/22 |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| NI L/W Lambs | 441.2           | 423.3           | 445.4           |
| NI D/W Lambs | 492.8           | 478.6           | 482.7           |
| GB D/W Lambs | 536.2           | 534.3           | 527.7           |
| ROI D/W      | 533.6           | 529.8           | 526.9           |

### LATEST SHEEP MARTS (P/KG LW)

| From: 10/09/22 |             | Lambs |      |     |     |
|----------------|-------------|-------|------|-----|-----|
| To: 15/09/22   |             | No    | From | To  | Avg |
| Saturday       | Swatragh    | 2010  | 414  | 518 | -   |
|                | Omagh       | 1303  | 476  | 522 | -   |
| Monday         | Kilrea      | 730   | 442  | 487 | -   |
|                | Massereene  | 832   | 439  | 462 | -   |
| Tuesday        | Saintfield  | 717   | 450  | 500 | -   |
|                | Rathfriland | 928   | 442  | 544 | 452 |
| Wednesday      | Ballymena   | 2710  | 430  | 473 | 448 |
|                | Enniskillen | 1400  | 428  | 480 | -   |
|                | Armoy       | 491   | 430  | 475 | -   |
|                | Markethill  | 1690  | 430  | 480 | -   |

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