

NI R3 HEIFER PRICES THE SECOND HIGHEST IN THE EU

The European Union deadweight cattle prices league table provides a useful summary of the deadweight trade for prime cattle across the trading bloc by comparing farmgate R3 heifer prices in key beef producing regions.

Northern Ireland

The latest available prices for all European Union countries are for the week ending 02 August 2020. During this week Northern Ireland had the second highest R3 heifer price in the European Union at 412.2c/kg which was an increase of 9c/kg from the previous month when the R3 heifer price in Northern Ireland was the equivalent of 403.2c/kg.

The R3 heifer price in Northern Ireland during the week ending 02 August 2020 was 45.1c/kg ahead of the average European Union price which was 367.1c/kg. This differential has widened from the first week of July 2020 when the R3 heifer price in Northern Ireland was 40.5c/kg ahead of the European Union average.

During the week ending 02 August 2020 the R3 heifer price in Northern

Ireland was marginally ahead of the R3 heifer price in Great Britain which was placed third place in the league table with an equivalent price of 410.4c/kg.

Great Britain

The British price increased by the equivalent of 7.1c/kg from the first week of July 2020. The differential in R3 heifer price between Great Britain and the European Union average price widened from 40.6c/kg at the start of July to 43.3c/kg in the week ending 02 August 2020.

There has been an improvement in beef prices in many European countries as outlined in **Table 1** however the improvement in Great Britain and Northern Ireland has been particularly strong. This recovery in prices has been driven by lower levels of beef import, some recovery in foodservice demand and a surge in retail demand for beef products.

Ireland

During the week ending 02 August 2020 the R3 heifer price in Ireland was 378.6c/kg, an increase of 12.9c/kg from the first week of July 2020.

Despite this improvement however prices in Ireland remain significantly behind those recorded in Northern Ireland. This widening differential has contributed to an increase in the number of prime cattle being imported from Ireland for direct slaughter in Northern Ireland processing plants.

The Irish R3 heifer price was 33.6c/kg behind the same price in Northern Ireland during the week ending 02 August 2020 which is the equivalent of €111 on a 330kg carcass. During the same week the Irish R3 heifer price was 11.5c/kg higher than the average European Union price for R3 heifers.

Other regions

During the week ending 02 August 2020 R3 heifer prices in France held steady at 409c/kg however this moved it down three positions in the league table into fourth place. Meanwhile strong increases in prices have been reported reported in Portugal, Spain and Denmark during the week ending 02 August 2020 which have moved all of these countries up the league table as outlined in **Table 1**.

Table 1: EU Deadweight Cattle Prices - Heifers R3 Equivalent (€ Cents) week ending 02 August 2020. Source: EU Commission

Position last Mth	Position this Mth	Country	Price last Mth (w/e 05.07.20)	Price this Mth (w/e 02.08.20)	Change on Mth (cents)
6	1	Sweden	382.6	437.3	+54.8
3	2	Northern Ireland	403.2	412.2	+9.0
2	3	Great Britain	403.3	410.4	+7.1
1	4	France	409.0	409.0	+0.0
4	5	Luxembourg	390.8	394.9	+4.1
7	6	Ireland	365.7	378.6	+12.9
8	7	Portugal	349.9	364.4	+14.5
9	8	Spain	340.7	351.2	+10.5
12	9	Denmark	323.4	346.7	+23.3
5	10	Italy	385.7	344.4	-41.3
10	11	Austria	340.6	336.5	-4.1
11	12	Germany	326.1	329.5	+3.4
13	13	Netherlands	322.0	317.0	-5.0
14	14	Belgium	309.5	309.5	+0.0
17	15	Romania	260.1	308.9	+48.8
16	16	Poland	292.2	302.1	+9.8
15	17	Slovenia	303.0	298.1	-4.9
18	18	Czech Republic	249.9	253.0	+3.1
19	19	Lithuania	244.5	242.2	-2.3
		EU Average	362.7	367.1	+4.4
		Euro (€1=)	90.7	90.6	-0.1

BEEF SIRED CALF REGISTRATIONS

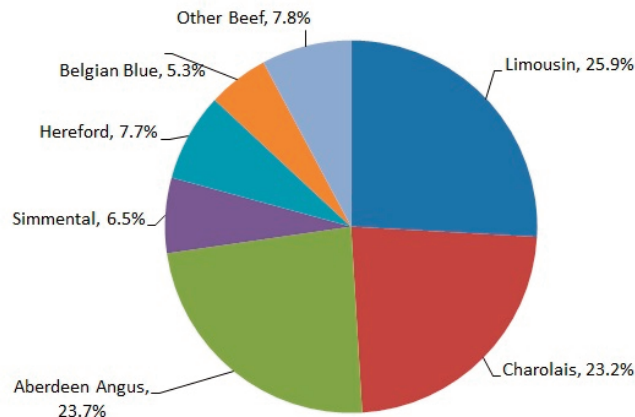
During July 2020 there were 29,127 beef sired calves registered in Northern Ireland which was marginally behind the 30,720 beef calves registered during July 2019.

Total beef sired calf registrations during 2020 to date have totalled 257,843 head which is a 3.1 per cent increase from the same period in 2019 when 250,016 beef sired calves were registered in Northern Ireland. This increase accounts for an additional 7,827 beef sired calves being registered in the region.

During 2020 to date the most popular beef sire continues to be Limousin and these accounted for 25.9 per cent of total beef sired calf registrations. This was back slightly from the first seven months of 2019 when 26.5 per cent of beef sired calves were Limousin.

The second most popular beef sired registered in Northern Ireland during 2020 to date was Aberdeen Angus which accounted for 23.7 per cent of total calf registrations. This is an increase from 22.5 per cent of total registrations during the same period last year. In the first seven months of 2020 61,018 Aberdeen Angus calves

Figure 1: Breakdown of beef sired calf registrations by breed during 2020 to date. Source: APHIS



were registered in Northern Ireland, an increase of 5,423 registrations from the same period in 2019.

The third most popular beef sire registered during 2020 to date was Charolais and these accounted for 23.2 per cent of all registrations. As with the Limousin however there has been a slight drop in the overall proportion of registrations from 23.5 per cent in the corresponding period in 2019.

There was also slight declines in the proportion of Hereford, Simmental and Belgian Blue calves registered in Northern Ireland during 2020 to date when compared to the same period last year. These breeds account for 19.5 per cent of total beef sired calf registrations during 2020 to date while Limousin, Charolais and Aberdeen Angus together account for 72.7 per cent of all registrations. The remaining 7.8 per cent of registrations are made up of all other beef breeds.

HIGHER CATTLE KILL IN ALL UK REGIONS

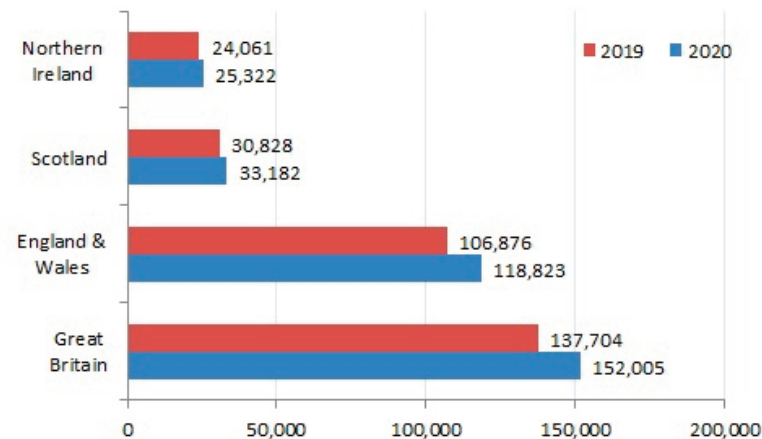
During July 2020 there were 177,326 prime cattle processed in the United Kingdom which was a ten per cent increase from July 2019 levels according to the latest available figures from DEFRA.

Throughput has increased across all of the regions however the strongest increases in prime cattle throughput have been recorded in England and Wales. During July 2020 118,823

prime cattle were processed in England and Wales which was an 11 per cent increase on July 2019 levels.

Meanwhile in Scotland prime cattle throughput during July 2020 totalled 33,182 head, an increase of 2,353 head or eight per cent from July 2019 levels. In Northern Ireland prime cattle throughput totalled 25,322 head during July 2020, an increase of five per cent from July 2019 levels.

Figure 2: Prime cattle throughput has increased in all parts of the United Kingdom during July 2020. Source: DEFRA



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WEEKLY BEEF & LAMB MARKETS



CATTLE TRADE

NI FACTORY BASE QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 10/08/20	Next Week 17/08/20
Prime		
U-3	360 - 366p	360 - 366p
R-3	354 - 360p	354 - 360p
O+3	348 - 354p	348 - 354p
P+3	298 - 308p	298 - 308p
	Including bonus where applicable	
Cows		
O+3 & better	270 - 280p	270 - 280p
Steakers	140 - 170p	140 - 170p
Blues	120 - 130p	120 - 130p

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

Base quotes from the NI processing plants this week for in spec U-3 prime cattle ranged from 360-366p/kg with the majority of plants quoting in the region of 362-364p/kg for steers and heifers. Similar quotes are expected for early next week. Quotes for O+3 grading cows ranged from 270-280p/kg across the plants this week with similar quotes expected for Monday.

Prime cattle throughput totalled 6,429 head in NI last week, up 312 head from the previous week. In the corresponding week last year 5,537 prime cattle were processed in local plants. Cow throughput remained strong in NI last week with 2,104 cows processed. This was similar to the previous week and up marginally from the 2,053 cows processed in the same week last year.

Cattle imports from ROI for direct slaughter in local plants last week included 448 prime cattle and 173 cows while a further two steers and 33 cows were imported from GB. Live cattle exports last week from NI to ROI for direct slaughter included two steers and 52 cows while no cattle were exported from NI to GB for direct slaughter.

The deadweight trade for prime cattle in NI reported a mixed trade last week. The average steer price last week was up 1.5p/kg to 366.3p/kg while the R3 steer price increased by a similar margin to 375.4p/kg. However the average heifer price was back by 1.3p/kg to 367.6p/kg with the R3 heifer price decreasing by a similar margin to 374.4p/kg. The average young bull price in NI last week was up by 0.6p/kg to 357.3p/kg while the R3 young bull price was back half a penny at 366.1p/kg. In NI last week the average cow price was back by 2.7p/kg to 267.2p/kg with the O3 cow price declining by 3.8p/kg to 288.7p/kg.

Last week in GB the deadweight cattle trade continued to strengthen. The GB average steer price last week increased by 2.8p/kg to 369.3p/kg with the R3 steer price increasing by 2.4p/kg to 376.9p/kg. The R3 steer price increased across all of the GB regions except the Midlands and Wales where a decrease of 1.5p/kg was reported. In GB last week the overall average heifer and R3 heifer price were both up by a similar margin to 369.9p/kg and 375.9p/kg respectively. The R3 heifer price reported an increase across all of the GB regions except the Midlands and Wales where a decrease of 1.3p/kg was reported. The cow trade also continued to improve in GB last week with the O3 cow price up by 2.7p/kg to 289.5p/kg.

In ROI last week a weakening in the euro against sterling has influenced the deadweight cattle prices in sterling terms with declines reported across the majority of grades. The R3 steer price decreased by 0.6p/kg to the equivalent of 340.6p/kg, 34.8p/kg behind the same price in NI. The R3 heifer price decreased by 1.3p/kg to 343.2p/kg which places it 31.2p/kg behind the equivalent price in NI. The O3 cow price in ROI last week reported a price of 269.1p/kg, back 2p/kg from the previous week and 19.6p/kg below the O3 cow price in NI.

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

	W/E 08/08/20	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	375.3	350.8	388.2	375.3	376.1	380.8	380.5
	R3	375.4	340.6	389.9	378.8	370.8	373.3	376.9
	R4	371.2	340.4	390.2	381.7	370.4	371.8	382.1
	O3	365.4	324.8	374.6	355.8	352.2	354.4	355.5
	AVG	366.3	-	386.8	369.7	360.8	362.8	369.3
Heifers	U3	378.2	353.6	396.2	381.5	383.7	381.1	386.5
	R3	374.4	343.2	386.9	377.2	372.8	372.4	375.9
	R4	370.6	342.0	388.2	376.9	371.7	372.0	379.4
	O3	366.0	328.8	364.3	362.4	353.5	355.4	357.3
	AVG	367.6	-	385.6	369.8	362.7	360.8	369.9
Young Bulls	U3	372.0	332.5	379.9	373.0	377.1	374.0	378.0
	R3	366.1	323.5	375.5	364.8	368.6	367.5	370.8
	O3	350.1	306.8	340.4	331.3	338.0	337.5	336.1
	AVG	357.3	-	372.4	352.6	361.5	361.2	363.8
Prime Cattle Price Reported	5,150	-	6,045	7,232	7,385	5,007	25,669	
Cows	O3	288.7	269.1	290.3	286.9	291.7	289.3	289.5
	O4	294.4	270.6	290.7	284.4	290.9	290.8	288.7
	P2	252.3	244.5	251.3	245.6	253.8	256.9	253.4
	P3	273.2	261.5	265.1	258.6	268.1	271.5	267.3
	AVG	267.2	-	284.6	267.5	262.4	264.4	266.8

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=90.20p 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

REPORTED NI CATTLE PRICES - P/KG

W/E 08/08/20	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U3	374.5	377.7	371.9
R3	372.1	371.9	365.9
O+3	364.7	365.2	349.8

*Prices exclude AA, HER and Organic cattle

REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

W/E 08/08/20	Weight Bands			
	<220kg	220-250kg	250-280kg	>280kg
P1	187.0	201.1	222.0	224.8
P2	204.8	224.7	252.4	262.3
P3	222.3	256.0	277.0	273.8
O3	-	240.1	285.6	289.4
O4	-	-	296.4	294.3
R3	-	-	-	308.0

LATEST LIVEWEIGHT CATTLE MART PRICES NI

W/E 08/08/20	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
	From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
Finished Cattle (p/kg)						
Steers	227	241	230	200	226	213
Friesians	159	165	162	149	158	152
Heifers	208	241	220	200	207	203
Beef Cows	175	200	187	130	174	150
Dairy Cows	117	135	126	100	116	108
Store Cattle (p/kg)						
Bullocks up to 400kg	230	265	245	200	229	215
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg	225	253	235	190	224	205
Bullocks over 500kg	215	247	228	180	214	200
Heifers up to 450kg	220	250	235	180	219	200
Heifers over 450kg	200	247	215	170	199	185
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	400	560	460	275	395	340
Continental Heifers	320	430	375	220	315	275
Friesian Bulls	135	240	200	20	90	60
Holstein Bulls	70	145	100	10	65	40

SHEEP TRADE

NI SHEEP BASE QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 10/08/20	Next Week 17/08/20
Lambs up to 21kg	435-440p	440-445p

REPORTED SHEEP PRICES

(P/KG)	W/E 25/07/20	W/E 01/08/20	W/E 08/08/20
NI L/W Lambs	419.0	415.7	404.0
NI D/W Lambs	461.1	452.1	441.1
GB D/W Lambs	478.1	480.1	469.0
ROI D/W	476.9	460.9	438.8

Deadweight Sheep Trade

Quotes from the major lamb processing plants in NI this week for R3 grading lambs ranged from 435-440p/kg with all plants paying up to 21kg. Quotes for early next week are expected to range from 440-445p/kg up to 21kg. The local processors continue to report strong supplies of lambs coming forward for slaughter with 11,361 lambs processed last week, back slightly from the previous week. Exports of sheep to ROI last week for direct slaughter totalled 6,529 head. This was back 24 per cent from the previous week and also back from the 8,546 sheep exported in the same week last year. The NI deadweight lamb price decreased by 11p/kg last week to 441.1p/kg. In the same week in 2019 the NI deadweight lamb price was 374.8p/kg. Last week the deadweight lamb price in ROI decreased by just over 22p/kg to the equivalent of 438.8p/kg.

Liveweight Sheep Trade

The number of lambs passing through the marts this week increased compared to last week with reports indicating an improvement in trade across many of the marts. In Kilrea on Monday 370 lambs sold from 400-440p/kg compared to last week when 450 lambs sold from 398-408p/kg. In Rathfriland this week 782 lambs sold from 415-481p/kg (avg 431p/kg) compared to 425 lambs last week selling from 410-460p/kg (avg 433p/kg). On Wednesday in Armoy 469 lambs sold from 405-468p/kg compared to 920 lambs last week selling from 400-444p/kg. Across the marts this week top reported prices for cull ewes ranged from £92 - £140.

LATEST SHEEP MARTS (P/KG LW)

From: 08/08/20		Lambs			
To: 13/08/20		No	From	To	Avg
Saturday	Omagh	921	419	453	-
	Swatragh	1100	380	430	-
Monday	Massereene	906	405	427	-
	Kilrea	370	400	440	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	505	400	440	-
	Rathfriland	782	415	481	431
Wednesday	Ballymena	2109	390	426	408
	Enniskillen	600	425	431	-
	Armoy	469	405	468	-
	Markethill	1040	410	445	-

Strict Covid - 19 restrictions are in place across all of the livestock marts

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