

NI AND GB R3 HEIFER PRICES REMAIN STRONG

The EU and UK prices league table, published weekly by LMC, provides a useful comparison of the deadweight cattle trade by ranking countries based on their average R3 heifer price that week and comparing it to the corresponding week in the previous month.

There have been increases in reported deadweight prices in a number of EU countries and UK regions in the week ending 12 February 2023 as outlined in **Table 1**. The average R3 heifer price in the EU during this week was 518.3c/kg which is a decrease of 3.7c/kg from the previous month.

Generally the prices paid for R3 heifer carcasses in NI have been higher than the prices paid in ROI but behind the prices paid in GB. **Figure 1** shows the average R3 heifer price from January 2022 to week ending 12 February 2023 in GB, NI, ROI and the EU average.

Figure 1: Weekly average R3 heifer prices in NI, ROI & GB during 2022 and to date 2023 (c/kg). Source: LMC, AHDB & EU Commission.

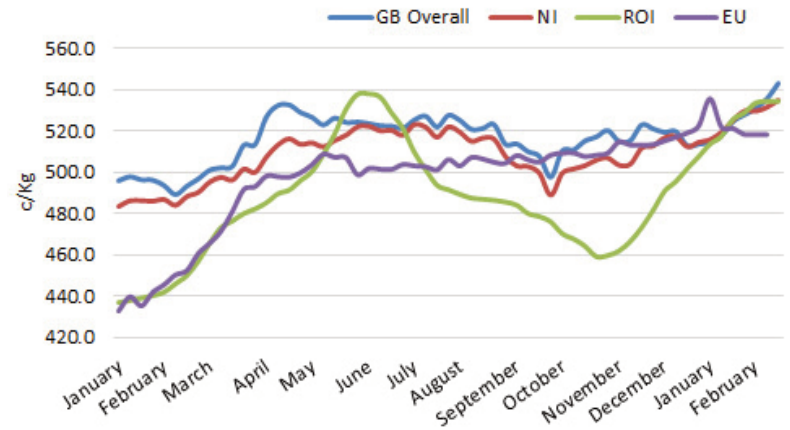


Table 1: EU and UK R3 Heifers prices w/e 15 January 2023 compared to w/e 12 February 2023 (c/kg). Source: LMC, AHDB & EU Commission.

Position last Month	Position this Month	Country	Price last Month (w/e 15.01.23)	Price this Month (w/e 12.02.23)	Change on Month (cents)
1	1	Italy	564.0	548.4	-15.6
2	2	Luxembourg	547.5	547.2	-0.3
3	3	France	545.0	544.0	-1.0
6	4	Great Britain	515.0	532.9	+17.9
7	5	Ireland	513.9	531.0	+17.1
5	6	Northern Ireland	516.3	528.4	+12.0
4	7	Spain	534.4	519.2	-15.2
10	8	Sweden	498.5	500.7	+2.2
8	9	Germany	507.9	500.1	-7.8
9	10	Portugal	501.4	498.4	-3.0
12	11	Austria	488.6	491.2	+2.7
11	12	Poland	498.0	490.3	-7.7
14	13	Belgium	479.0	475.0	-4.0
13	14	Denmark	487.9	448.2	-39.7
15	15	Slovenia	459.0	440.2	-18.8
18	16	Czech Republic	381.9	403.3	+21.4
19	17	Romania	371.6	390.8	+19.3
16	18	Lithuania	420.2	376.4	-43.8
17	19	Netherlands	383.0	343.0	-40.0
EU Average			522.0	518.3	-3.7
Euro (€1=)			88.5	88.9	+0.3

Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland the average R3 heifer price for the week ending 12 February 2023 was the equivalent of 528.4c/kg. This is up 12c/kg from the week ending 15 January 2023 however, NI moved down one position on the EU and UK league table to sixth place during this period. The increase in price in Northern Ireland widened the differential between the average R3 heifer price in the EU and NI to 10.1c/kg in the week ending 12 February 2023. This equates to an additional €32.32 on a 320kg heifer carcass in NI.

Republic of Ireland

A similar increase in the deadweight price was recorded in the Republic of Ireland during the week ending 12 February 2023. The R3 heifer price in this region was 531c/kg an increase of 17.1c/kg from the previous month. This resulted in ROI climbing two places to fifth position on the EU league table during this period. In the week ending 12 February 2023 R3 heifer price in ROI was slightly ahead of the equivalent price in NI by 2.6c/kg, which equates to a differential of €8.32 on a 320kg carcass.

Great Britain

The deadweight R3 heifer price in Great Britain increased by 17.9c/kg in the week ending 12 February 2023 when compared to the previous month. The R3 heifer price in this region was the equivalent of 532.9c/kg and placed GB in fourth position on the EU and UK league table.

The deadweight heifer price in GB has been running at very similar levels to NI since December 2022 however the differential between the two regions has widened in recent weeks as outlined in **Figure 1**. In the week ending 12 February 2023 the R3 heifer price in GB was 4.5c/kg above the same price in NI which equates to a differential of €14.40 on a 320kg carcass.

EU

The most notable increase in price in the EU and UK league table during the week ending 12 February 2023 was recorded in the Czech Republic where the average price increased by a notable 21.4c/kg from the previous month. Significant declines in the R3 heifer price were also recorded during this period. Lithuania and the Netherlands reported price decreases of 43.8c/kg and 40c/kg respectively.

The euro exchange rate in the eurozone increased by 0.3c/kg to 88.9c/kg in the week ending 12 February 2023 from 88.5c/kg in the week ending 15 January 2023.

The weekly EU and UK prices league table is hosted on the LMCNI website: <https://www.lmcni.com/publications-overview/>

CROSS BORDER HOGGET TRADE AHEAD OF PREVIOUS YEARS

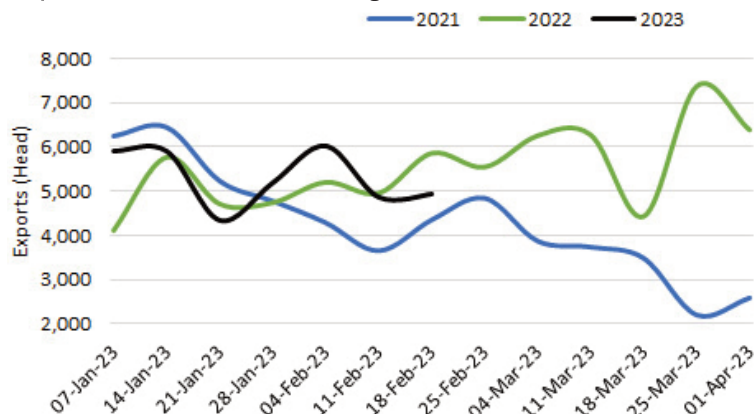
The number of hoggets and lambs exported from Northern Ireland to Republic of Ireland processing plants for direct slaughter can vary considerably from week to week as outlined in **Figure 2**. Hogget exports to the Republic of Ireland are currently

running ahead of previous years levels during 2023 to date.

Last week 4,940 hoggets made the journey from Northern Ireland to the Republic of Ireland for processing which was a marginal increase of 72

head from the previous week. This takes total hogget exports during 2023 to date to 37,202 head which is a five per cent increase from the corresponding period last year when 35,414 hoggets were exported for direct slaughter.

Figure 2: Weekly hogget exports from NI to ROI for direct slaughter during January to April 2021, 2022 and to date during 2023. Source: DAERA



Meanwhile, it is a 6.1 per cent or 2,144 head increase from 2021 when 35,058 hoggets were exported to the Republic of Ireland for direct slaughter.

Northern Ireland hogget exports for direct slaughter during the year to date have accounted for 11.5 per cent of the hogget throughput in the Republic of Ireland. This is a slight change from last year when NI hogget exports made up 11.1 per cent of throughput in ROI processing plants and 12.2 per cent during the corresponding period in 2021.

FQAS MART CLINICS MARCH 2023

LMC Farm Liaison Officer, Terry White, runs Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (FQAS) mart clinics at a range of Livestock Marts across Northern Ireland. Terry is present to assist members of FQAS with non-conformances, general scheme queries and any issues prior to or following an inspection.

Any farmers who wish to join the scheme can also do so through their local FQAS mart clinic. Terry will be available at the livestock marts listed in the table below.

For further information call (028) 9263 3024.



Mart	Day	Date
Saintfield	Wednesday (Day)	01/03/2023
Enniskillen	Thursday (Day)	02/03/2023
Kilrea	Wednesday (Day)	08/03/2023

FQAS Helpline

If you have had a recent inspection and need help and advice to rectify any non-conformances. Contact the FQAS helpline: 028 9263 3024

Answerphone Service

Factory base quotes & mart results Updated 5pm Daily Tel: 028 9263 3011

Text Service

Free weekly base quotes sent to your mobile phone Email: bulletin@lmcni.com Tel: 028 9263 3000

WEEKLY BEEF & LAMB MARKETS

CATTLE TRADE

NI FACTORY BASE QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 20/02/23	Next Week 27/02/23
Prime		
U-3	450 - 464p	450 - 464p
R-3	444 - 458p	444 - 458p
O+3	438 - 452p	438 - 452p
P+3	382 - 396p	382 - 396p
Including bonus where applicable		
Cows		
O+3	358 - 374p	358 - 374p

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 received from the major NI plants for in spec U-3 grade prime cattle continued to strengthen this week to 450-464p/kg. The cow trade remained steady across the plants this week at 358-374p/kg for good quality O+3 grade cows. Similar base quotes are expected for all types of cattle early next week.

Prime cattle throughput in local plants last week totalled 7,461 head, an increase of 122 head on the 7,339 prime cattle processed the previous week. In the same week last year prime cattle throughput totalled 7,599 head. In NI last week the number of cows processed was relatively steady from the previous week at 2,360 head. However, this is 108 head more than the same week last year when 2,252 cows were processed locally.

Imports for direct slaughter from ROI last week increased from the previous week to 220 prime cattle and 98 cows with no cattle imported from GB for direct slaughter. Exports from NI for direct slaughter in ROI plants last week consisted of three prime cattle, and 49 cows, with one heifer exported from NI for direct slaughter in GB.

Tight prime cattle supplies continue to influence the NI deadweight trade with increases reported across the majority of grades last week. In NI last week the highest recorded R3 steer price and R3 heifer price were reported at 473.4p/kg and 473.9p/kg respectively both up by a similar margin from the previous week. Meanwhile the average steer price in NI last week was 464.3p/kg, while the average NI heifer price was 465.2p/kg, both prices up 3p/kg from the previous week. The NI cow trade reported some pressure last week with the average NI cow price back 2.3p/kg from the previous week to 353.1p/kg however the O3 cow price increased by 1.8p/kg to 382.4p/kg.

The GB deadweight prime cattle trade was strong across the GB regions last week up across the majority of grades from the previous week. The average steer price was up 4.4p/kg to 474p/kg while the R3 steer price was up by 4.7p/kg to 481.4p/kg. The average heifer price in GB last week increased by 6.1p/kg to 473.7p/kg with the R3 heifer price up by 5.2p/kg to 481.5p/kg from the previous week. Last week the R3 heifer price increased across all of the GB regions with the strongest increase reported in Northern England up by 5.8p/kg to 482.9p/kg. The average cow price in GB was up by 4.3p/kg last week to 373p/kg with the O3 cow price increasing by 3.8p/kg from the previous week to 395.8p/kg.

In ROI last week the deadweight prime cattle trade generally held steady in euro terms however a weakening euro against sterling resulted in declines from the previous week. The R3 steer price in ROI was back marginally to the equivalent of 469.7p/kg, with the R3 heifer price back by 1.4p/kg to 473.2p/kg last week. Meanwhile the cow trade in ROI continues to remain well ahead of NI. Last week the O3 cow price decreased by 1.2p/kg from the previous week to 402p/kg, 19.6p/kg above the equivalent price in NI.

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

W/E 18/02/23	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB	
Steers	U3	477.9	476.3	481.1	487.5	489.6	487.2	485.8
	R3	473.4	469.7	478.4	483.6	482.0	480.8	481.4
	R4	474.1	472.7	482.4	486.7	479.4	479.5	483.1
	AVG	464.3	-	478.3	477.7	471.1	467.5	474.0
Heifers	U3	478.9	484.1	487.3	488.8	493.5	488.3	489.8
	R3	473.9	473.2	479.6	482.9	482.9	479.7	481.5
	R4	472.2	476.4	483.1	482.8	481.8	477.9	482.2
	AVG	465.2	-	480.9	475.5	472.0	463.4	473.7
Young Bulls	U3	466.2	464.3	464.6	467.8	490.3	-	474.9
	R3	460.3	455.7	466.9	469.3	469.8	471.1	469.3
	O3	447.5	445.4	448.6	442.5	439.5	414.0	441.6
	AVG	445.6	-	458.7	449.5	451.4	446.2	451.9
Prime Cattle Price Reported	6,112	-	6,415	6,830	7,102	4,990	25,337	
Cows	O3	382.4	402.0	400.2	396.8	395.4	392.7	395.8
	O4	387.5	402.2	402.3	399.7	396.3	393.9	397.5
	P2	347.0	371.4	355.8	353.4	354.2	353.6	354.0
	P3	364.2	388.3	369.1	373.4	371.6	370.8	371.4
AVG	353.1	-	393.4	380.4	369.1	362.2	373.0	

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=88.60p 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 18/02/23	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U3	477.4	478.6	466.7
R3	471.9	473.9	460.7
O+3	463.8	467.8	452.2

*Prices exclude AA, HER and Organic cattle

REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

W/E 18/02/23	Weight Bands			
	<220kg	220-250kg	250-280kg	>280kg
P1	269.5	288.3	303.3	303.4
P2	293.3	320.3	348.9	357.6
P3	311.3	344.6	361.5	367.0
O3	300.0	370.7	377.1	383.2
O4	355.0	-	378.6	388.0
R3	-	-	-	403.2

SHEEP TRADE

NI SHEEP BASE QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 20/02/23	Next Week 27/02/23
R3 Hoggets up to 22kg	525 - 530p	510 - 535p

REPORTED SHEEP PRICES

(P/KG)	W/E 04/02/23	W/E 11/02/23	W/E 18/02/23
NI L/W Hoggets	474.2	467.3	472.9
NI D/W Hoggets	524.3	513.2	521.8
GB D/W Hoggets	506.2	496.9	511.3
ROI D/W	543.5	536.7	536.2

Deadweight Sheep Trade

Quotes from the major processors for R3 grade hoggets ended this week ranging from 510-530p/kg up to 22kg. Quotes for early next week are expected to range from 510-535p/kg up to 22kg. Throughput in local plants totalled 9,425 head last week, up by 329 hoggets from the previous week. However this is notably up 2,194 head or 30 per cent when compared to the 7,231 hoggets processed in the same week last year. Hogget exports to ROI last week for direct slaughter totalled 4,940 head up slightly from the previous week. The average deadweight hogget price in NI last week increased by 8.6p/kg from the previous week to 521.8p/kg with the average deadweight hogget price in ROI last week back half a penny to the equivalent of 536.2p/kg.

Liveweight Sheep Trade

Smaller numbers of hoggets have passed through the sale rings this week with trade generally back from last week. In Kilrea this week 600 hoggets sold from 482-506p/kg compared to 550 hoggets last Monday selling from 487-553p/kg. In Markethill 380 hoggets sold from 480-496p/kg compared to 500 head last week selling from 470-498p/kg. This week in Rathfriland 330 hoggets sold from 464-490p/kg (avg 470p/kg) compared to 407 hoggets last week selling from 470-530p/kg (avg 491p/kg). On Wednesday in Ballymena 1,204 hoggets sold from 460-520p/kg compared to 1,904 hoggets last week selling from 475-541p/kg. In Armoy this week 314 hoggets sold from 480-550p/kg. Across the marts this week top reported prices for cull ewes ranged from £142-256.

LATEST LIVELWEIGHT CATTLE MART PRICES NI

W/E 18/02/23	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
	From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
Finished Cattle (p/kg)						
Steers	281	318	290	210	280	245
Friesians	214	224	219	190	213	203
Heifers	265	308	277	205	264	230
Beef Cows	240	285	254	180	239	210
Dairy Cows	150	188	168	89	149	120
Store Cattle (p/kg)						
Bullocks up to 400kg	300	403	320	240	299	260
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg	275	356	295	210	274	240
Bullocks over 500kg	250	298	272	200	249	225
Heifers up to 450kg	280	463	305	210	279	240
Heifers over 450kg	250	304	270	190	249	220
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	350	490	425	235	345	285
Continental Heifers	285	405	345	180	280	235
Friesian Bulls	125	190	140	40	120	80
Holstein Bulls	100	170	110	5	95	45

LATEST SHEEP MARTS (P/KG LW)

From: 18/02/23		Hoggets			
To: 23/02/23		No	From	To	Avg
Saturday	Swatragh	605	487	512	-
	Omagh	481	454	499	-
Monday	Kilrea	600	482	506	-
	Markethill	380	480	496	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	585	475	525	-
	Rathfriland	330	464	490	470
Wednesday	Ballymena	1204	460	520	485
	Enniskillen	422	440	502	-
	Armoy	314	480	550	-

Information supplied by LMC / DAERA/ AHDB/ DAFM

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