



BEEF MARKET SNAPSHOT OCTOBER 2020

The deadweight cattle trade in Northern Ireland held fairly steady during October 2020 when compared to previous months however it has been well ahead of October 2019 levels.

The average prime cattle price in Northern Ireland during October 2020 was 358.9p/kg, an increase of 43.6p/kg from October 2019 levels when the average prime cattle price was 315.3p/kg. This equates to a 13.8 per cent increase year on year.

The R3 steer price in Northern Ireland during October 2020 was 367.8p/kg, a 43.6p/kg increase from October 2019 when the R3 steer price was 324.2p/kg. On a 350kg carcass this is the equivalent of an additional £153 year on year.

In the Republic of Ireland the R3 steer price increased by just over 27p/kg to the equivalent of 329.5p/kg during October 2020 compared to October 2019 while in Great Britain the R3 steer price was up 44.8p/kg to 375.7p/kg.

The differential in R3 steer prices between Northern Ireland and Great Britain widened marginally from 6.7p/kg in October 2019 to 7.9p/kg in October 2020. The differential in R3 steer prices between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland also widened from 21.8p/kg in October 2019 to 38.3p/kg in October 2020.

Prime cattle throughput in local plants during October 2020 totalled 29,245 head, a 3.7 per cent decrease from year earlier levels. Meanwhile cow throughput during October 2020 was back by 6.1 per cent with a total of 10,139 cows processed.

Average carcass weights increased for both prime cattle and cows during October 2020 when compared to October 2019 levels. The average prime carcass weight was up by just over 5kg to 350.9kg while the average cow carcass weight was up by 6.5kg to 308.7kg.

Cattle imports for direct slaughter in

local plants totalled 1,518 head during October 2020, a 22.5 per cent decrease from the 1,959 cattle imported during October 2019. Meanwhile cattle exports from NI for direct slaughter have continued at low levels with 404 head exported during October 2020.

The number of cattle for beef production on local farms aged between 12 and 30 months increased by 2.6 per cent to total 424,744 head in October 2020. The number of beef sired cattle increased by almost two per cent to total 389,740 head while the number of dairy sired males in this age category increased by almost 10 per cent to total 35,004 head.

Calf registrations in Northern Ireland totalled 28,126 head during October 2020, a marginal decrease from the 28,390 calves registered in the region during October 2019. There was a 5.3 per cent increase in beef sired calf registrations in October 2020 while dairy sired male calf registrations reduced by 15.5 per cent from October 2019 levels.

Table 1: Northern Ireland Beef Market Snapshot October 2020 (weeks 28-31)

Finished Cattle Prices (p/kg)	October 2019	October 2020	% Change
Average Prime Cattle Price	315.3	358.9	+13.8%
Average Cow Price	223.7	248.1	+10.9%
Average R3 Steer Price (NI)	324.2	367.8	+13.4%
Average R3 Steer Price (ROI)	302.4	329.5	+9.0%
Average R3 Steer Price (GB)	330.9	375.7	+13.5%
NI Throughput			
Total Clean Processed (head)	30,355	29,245	-3.7%
Total Cow Processed (head)	10,801	10,139	-6.1%
Average Clean Carcase Weight (kg)	345.8	350.9	+1.5%
Average Cow Carcase Weight (kg)	302.2	308.7	+2.1%
Trade (Head)			
Live Imports for Direct Slaughter	1,959	1,518	-22.5%
Live Exports for Direct Slaughter	296	404	+36.5%
Availability (Head)			
No. Cattle on the Ground*	414,142	424,744	+2.6%
Beef Sired	382,291	389,740	+1.9%
Dairy Sired (Male Only)	31,851	35,004	+9.9%
Calf Births Registrations (Head)			
Calf Births	28,390	28,126	-0.9%
Beef Sired	19,943	20,992	+5.3%
Dairy Sired (Male Only)	8,447	7,134	-15.5%
Euro / Stg Exchange Rate (€ / £)	87.5	90.7	+3.7%
* Aged between 12-30 mths (Beef + Dairy Male Only)			
All NI Figures Unless Otherwise Stated			

INCREASE IN IRISH BORN CATTLE ON LOCAL FARMS

During October 2020 there were 996 weanling and store male cattle imported from Ireland for further production on local farms. This was an increase of 236 head from September 2020 levels and brings imports for the year to date to 6,949 head.

As outlined in **Figure 1** imports of male store cattle from Ireland have been particularly strong since May 2020 (green bar) with a total of 5,852 male store cattle imported during the six months ending 31 October 2020. This is a notable increase from the 1,510 head imported during the corresponding period in 2019 and the 1,737 cattle imported during the same period in 2018.

Similar increases in the number of

Image 1: There has been a strong increase in the number of beef sired cattle being imported from ROI for further production on local farms.



female cattle being imported from Ireland for further production have been recorded in recent months however the data available from APHIS does not allow us to differentiate between those intended for beef production and those entering the Northern Ireland dairy herd for milk production.

However using the latest APHIS data it is possible to differentiate between female cattle that have been imported from Ireland for beef or dairy production. For this reason **Table 2** includes all ROI imported beef sired cattle and dairy sired male cattle that were on local farms at the end of October 2018-2020. The increase in the level of cattle import in recent months has resulted in a surge in the

number of Irish born cattle on local farms as outlined in **Table 2**. Cattle for beef production aged from 12-18 months totalled 1,648 head at the end of October 2020, up almost 1,000 head from October 2019 levels.

Meanwhile cattle on local farms for beef production in the 18-24 month age category totalled 7,176 head at the end of October 2020, up by 4,342 head from year earlier levels. Imported cattle in the 24-30 month age bracket have also increased to total 3,297 head at the end of October 2020.

Overall there were 12,121 Irish born cattle on local farms intended for beef production at the end of October 2020 in the 12-30 month age bracket. This was more than double the 5,413 Irish cattle in this age bracket on local farms at the end of October 2019.

Beef produced from cattle imported from ROI for further production is eligible to carry the Northern Ireland Farm Quality Assured logo provided that they have completed the 90 day residency period required on an assured farm in Northern Ireland prior to slaughter.

However due to their 'mixed origin' or nomadic status, beef from these animals does not qualify to carry the Red Tractor logo which is a requirement of trade with the majority of major retail and foodservice customers in Great Britain. While there is still a market for

this mixed origin beef the range of market outlets are currently more limited and this will most likely be reflected in the prices available for the animals at point of slaughter.

With reports of buyers from Northern Ireland being very active in markets south of the border and strong increases in

Figure 1: Male cattle imports from ROI for further production aged >42 days from January 2018 to October 2020. Source: APHIS

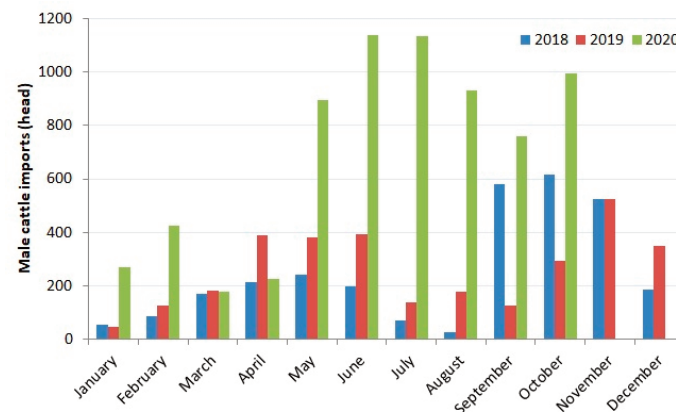


Table 2: Cattle imported from ROI for further production on local farms at the end of October 2018-20 (Beef sired males and females and dairy males >42 days) Source: APHIS

Age (Months)	October 2018	October 2019	October 2020
0-6	78	57	689
6-12	1451	3210	7756
12-18	689	693	1648
18-24	2250	2834	7176
24-30	1848	1886	3297
>30	29617	26688	27716

FQAS Helpline

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

Answerphone Service

Factory Quotes & Mart Results
Updated 5pm Daily
Tel: 028 9263 3011

Text Service

Free weekly price quotes sent to your mobile phone
Email - bulletin@lmconi.com
Tel: 028 9263 3000

WEEKLY BEEF & LAMB MARKETS



CATTLE TRADE

NI FACTORY BASE QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 09/11/20	Next Week 16/11/20
Prime		
U-3	360 - 366p	356 - 368p
R-3	354 - 350p	350 - 362p
O+3	348 - 354p	344 - 356p
P+3	294 - 304p	290 - 306p
	Including bonus where applicable	
Cows		
O+3 & better	250 - 260p	240 - 260p
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 major NI processing plants ended this week ranging from 356-366p/kg for in spec U-3 grade prime cattle. Quotes for Monday are expected to range from 356-368p/kg. With a range in the base quotes available producers are encouraged to shop around for the best possible deal and use these quotes as a starting point for negotiation. Quotes for O+3 grading cows this week ranged from 250-260p/kg across the plants with quotes for early next week expected to range from 240-260p/kg.

Prime cattle throughput last week totalled 7,456 head, a decrease of almost 100 head from the previous week although 573 head higher than the same week in 2019. Cow throughput in NI last week recorded the highest weekly throughput to date in 2020 with 2,964 cows processed in local plants. This is an increase of 300 cows from the previous week and 371 above the 2,593 cows processed in the corresponding week in 2019.

Imports of prime cattle for direct slaughter last week increased to 385 head, comprising of 384 head from ROI with a further one steer from GB. Cow imports for direct slaughter last week totalled 214 head, 161 of which were imported from ROI and a further 53 imported from GB. Exports from NI to ROI consisted of 61 cows and three prime cattle with no cattle making the journey from NI to GB last week.

The NI average steer price last week decreased by 0.8p/kg to 359.6p/kg with the R3 steer price decreasing slightly from the previous week to 369.3p/kg. Meanwhile the average heifer price increased by 0.4p/kg to 363.3p/kg with the R3 heifer price up just over a penny to 370.8p/kg. The average young bull price was back 1.6p/kg to 343.3p/kg while the R3 young bull price was up by 1.2p/kg to 358.2p/kg. As anticipated the cow trade in NI came under pressure last week with the average cow price back 1.5p/kg to 248.4p/kg and the O3 cow price decreasing by 4.2p/kg to 273.3p/kg from the previous week.

In GB last week the average steer price was up 1.8p/kg to 370.1p/kg while the R3 steer price increased by 0.6p/kg to 376.9p/kg. This widened the differential in R3 steer prices with NI to 7.6p/kg from the previous week. The average heifer price in GB last week increased by 1.8p/kg to 369.5p/kg while the R3 heifer price increased by 0.4p/kg to 376.6p/kg. This narrowed the differential last week between NI and GB to 5.8p/kg. Meanwhile the cow trade in GB came under pressure last week across all of the regions. The O3 cow price was back by 8.6p/kg from the previous week to 256.5p/kg. This puts it at 16.8p/kg below the O3 cow price in NI.

Deadweight prices for prime cattle in ROI held relatively steady in euro terms last week however a weakening in the euro against sterling has resulted in prices decreasing in sterling terms. The R3 steer price came back by just under 2p/kg to the equivalent of 326.3p/kg, 43p/kg below the same price in NI. Meanwhile the R3 heifer price decreased by 1.4p/kg to the equivalent of 331p/kg, 39.8p/kg below the R3 heifer price in NI. Prime cattle throughput totalled 28,985 head in ROI last week, an increase of just over 4,000 prime cattle from the previous week.

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

	W/E 07/11/20	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	370.8	335.6	388.6	377.0	377.7	378.9	381.6
	R3	369.3	326.3	387.4	376.6	374.2	371.4	376.9
	R4	367.0	325.5	389.6	382.9	371.2	369.6	382.5
	AVG	359.6	-	384.9	371.7	363.6	357.5	370.1
Heifers	U3	375.8	341.9	393.8	382.6	387.4	380.5	387.2
	R3	370.8	331.0	387.3	373.6	376.2	369.8	376.6
	R4	369.1	331.0	387.3	374.8	375.1	368.7	379.3
	AVG	363.3	-	384.9	367.8	364.3	356.6	369.5
Young Bulls	U3	359.2	322.4	379.4	370.4	370.9	379.8	376.0
	R3	358.2	312.9	374.5	372.5	367.4	370.6	370.8
	O3	343.0	298.4	333.5	352.3	339.6	345.2	342.8
	AVG	343.3	-	366.1	353.6	353.2	352.9	356.0
Prime Cattle Price Reported	6,058	-	6,964	6,794	7,953	4,773	26,484	
Cows	O3	273.3	249.8	261.4	260.7	255.5	249.3	256.5
	O4	275.0	250.5	264.2	262.6	254.4	248.1	257.1
	P2	238.9	219.2	215.9	213.8	216.8	209.8	214.3
	P3	255.7	240.1	230.8	228.2	229.5	223.9	228.0
	AVG	248.4	-	252.6	239.0	225.5	216.7	229.5

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=90.19p 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 07/11/20	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U3	369.3	375.5	358.9
R3	366.7	369.3	360.4
O+3	359.4	359.2	348.0

*Prices exclude AA, HER and Organic cattle

REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

W/E 07/11/20	Weight Bands			
	<220kg	220-250kg	250-280kg	>280kg
P1	163.1	178.6	187.4	205.7
P2	180.2	213.3	234.2	249.2
P3	192.4	230.0	251.5	258.3
O3	200.0	257.1	273.1	273.7
O4	-	231.4	263.8	276.3
R3	-	-	-	291.3

LATEST LIVEWEIGHT CATTLE MART PRICES NI

W/E 07/11/20	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
	From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
Finished Cattle (p/kg)						
Steers	225	242	231	200	224	212
Friesians	173	182	178	163	168	165
Heifers	217	235	223	197	215	205
Beef Cows	158	222	168	125	157	142
Dairy Cows	117	131	121	100	116	108
Store Cattle (p/kg)						
Bullocks up to 400kg	220	244	235	200	219	212
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg	220	231	225	195	219	208
Bullocks over 500kg	205	221	212	170	204	190
Heifers up to 450kg	210	225	215	180	209	200
Heifers over 450kg	210	223	215	180	209	195
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	350	455	415	245	345	300
Continental Heifers	340	445	375	235	335	285
Friesian Bulls	160	270	200	80	155	115
Holstein Bulls	100	160	125	15	95	55

SHEEP TRADE

NI SHEEP BASE QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 09/11/20	Next Week 16/11/20
Lambs	440 - 450p up to 21kg	440 - 450p up to 22kg

REPORTED SHEEP PRICES

(P/KG)	W/E 24/10/20	W/E 31/10/20	W/E 07/11/20
NI L/W Lambs	398.2	402.5	409.5
NI D/W Lambs	429.3	430.2	428.6
GB D/W Lambs	441.1	436.1	447.9
ROI D/W	445.1	443.2	447.8

Deadweight Sheep Trade

Quotes from the plants for R3 grading lambs ranged from 440-450p/kg up to 21kg towards the end of this week. From early next week the plants will be paying up to 22kg with quotes expected to range from 440-450p/kg for R3 grading lambs. There were 9,768 lambs processed in local plants last week, back 452 head from the previous week however this is an increase of 1,485 lambs when compared to the same week in 2019. Lamb exports to ROI last week for direct slaughter totalled 6,845 head, an increase of 1,373 lambs from the previous week. The deadweight lamb price in NI last week decreased by 1.6p/kg to 428.6p/kg. In the corresponding week last year the average deadweight lamb price in NI was 350.5p/kg. Meanwhile the ROI lamb price increased by 4.6p/kg last week to the equivalent of 447.8p/kg.

Liveweight Sheep Trade

The marts have reported steady numbers of lambs passing through the sale rings this week with a firmer trade reported for good quality lambs. In Massereene on Monday 562 lambs sold from 410-458p/kg compared to last week when 660 lambs sold from 395-415p/kg. In Saintfield this week 515 lambs sold from 409-490p/kg compared to last week when 555 lambs sold from 390-470p/kg. On Wednesday in Ballymena a large entry of 2,202 fat lambs sold from 400-452p/kg (avg 416p/kg) compared to 1,540 lambs last week selling from 350-462p/kg (avg 392p/kg). In Markethill this week 700 lambs sold from 420-462p/kg compared to 670 lambs last week selling from 400-436p/kg. Top reported prices for cull ewes generally ranged from £108-144 across the marts.

LATEST SHEEP MARTS (P/KG LW)

From: 07/11/20		Lambs			
To: 12/11/20		No	From	To	Avg
Saturday	Omagh	696	405	469	-
	Swatragh	824	397	445	-
Monday	Massereene	562	410	458	-
	Kilrea	380	400	433	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	515	409	490	-
	Rathfriland	435	390	475	417
Wednesday	Ballymena	2202	400	452	416
	Enniskillen	676	412	449	-
	Armoyn	412	410	450	-
	Markethill	700	420	462	-

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

Information supplied by LMC / DAERA/ AHDB/ DAFM

LMC does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of any third party information provided in or included with this publication.

LMC hereby disclaims any responsibility for error, omission or inaccuracy in the information, misinterpretation or any other loss, disappointment, negligence or damage caused by reliance on third party information.

Not for further publication or distribution without prior permission from LMC

Contact us

T: 028 9263 3000
E: bulletin@lmcni.com
W: www.lmcni.com

