

STRONG INCREASE IN THROUGHPUT IN LOCAL PLANTS DURING JULY 2020

During July 2020 cattle throughput in Northern Ireland processing plants totalled 40,166 head, a notable nine per cent increase from July 2019 figures as outlined in Table 1.

Overall prime cattle throughput in Northern Ireland totalled 28,941 head during July 2020, a six per cent increase from July 2019 levels. There have however been some notable changes in the type of prime cattle being presented for slaughter in local plants.

Steer throughput in local plants during July 2020 totalled 13,676 head, a 24 per cent increase from July 2019 levels. Heifer throughput also recorded an increase during July 2020, up by 13 per cent to 11,302 however young bull throughput declined by 37 per cent to total just 3,963 head during July 2020.

The increase in overall cattle throughput in Northern Ireland has also been driven by an increase in cow throughput. During July 2020 there were 10,280 cows processed in local plants, an increase of 1,838 head or 22 per cent from July 2019 levels.

Year to date

Total cattle throughput in Northern Ireland plants has totalled 260,065 head during the first seven months of 2020 which is almost identical to cattle throughput during the corresponding period in 2019.

There were 197,731 prime cattle processed in Northern Ireland during the first seven months of 2020 which was back two per cent or 4,147 head from the same period in 2019.

Meanwhile cow throughput increased by 4,581 head to total 56,149 head during the 2020 period which accounts for a nine per cent increase year on year. This increase has helped to offset the decline in prime cattle slaughterings in local plants.

Sheep Throughput

During July 2020 there were 54,350 sheep processed in Northern Ireland plants, a 12 per cent increase from year earlier levels.

This increase was driven by a 14 per cent increase in lamb throughput in local facilities which is the equivalent of

Table 1: NI cattle and sheep slaughterings during July 2020 and 2020 to date versus the corresponding periods in 2019

| | July | | | Year to Date | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|------------|---------------------------|----------------|------------|
| | (5 weeks ended 01/08/20) | | | (31 weeks ended 01/08/20) | | |
| | Jul-19 | Jul-20 | % Change | 2019 | 2020 | Change |
| CATTLE - FOODCHAIN | | | | | | |
| Steers | 11,069 | 13,676 | 24% | 91,442 | 95,677 | 5% |
| Heifers | 10,033 | 11,302 | 13% | 81,361 | 80,361 | -1% |
| Young Bulls | 6,248 | 3,963 | -37% | 29,075 | 21,693 | -25% |
| Total Prime Cattle | 27,350 | 28,941 | 6% | 201,878 | 197,731 | -2% |
| Calves | 461 | 406 | -12% | 3,319 | 3,296 | -1% |
| Cows | 8,442 | 10,280 | 22% | 51,568 | 56,149 | 9% |
| Mature Bulls | 520 | 539 | 4% | 3,087 | 2,889 | -6% |
| Total Cattle | 36,773 | 40,166 | 9% | 259,852 | 260,065 | 0% |
| SHEEP | | | | | | |
| Lambs & Hoggets | 45,800 | 52,428 | 14% | 198,659 | 226,758 | 14% |
| Ewes & Rams | 2,628 | 1,922 | -27% | 16,290 | 13,324 | -18% |
| | 48,428 | 54,350 | 12% | 214,949 | 240,082 | 12% |

an additional 6,628 lambs when compared to July 2019 throughput. A strong deadweight trade in recent weeks has encouraged sheep producers to present lambs for slaughter earlier than usual. This is being reflected by the higher weekly

lamb throughputs recorded during July 2020 and a reduction in the average carcass weights. Ewe and ram throughput in Northern Ireland during July 2020 totalled 1,922 head, back 27 per cent from the 2,628 cull stock processed during June 2019.

Year to date

During the first seven months of 2020 lamb/hogget throughput in Northern Ireland totalled 240,082 head, a 12 per cent increase from the 214,949 sheep processed during the same period in 2019.

COVID-19 FUNDING ALLOCATION



In recent months LMC has played an important role in helping secure funding support for the Northern Ireland beef and sheep meat sectors through the Agricultural Commodities (Coronavirus) (Income Support) Scheme (Northern Ireland) 2020. This scheme is currently being administered and delivered by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).

How is the £7m beef funding allocated?

Support due to the drop in beef price will be provided as two flat rate payments per head based on the number of eligible animals presented for slaughter and when those animals were marketed.

Payment 1: £40 per head is based on the number of eligible cattle presented by a farm business for direct slaughter in NI, GB or in ROI between 29 March and 16 May 2020

Payment 2: £33 per head is based on the number of eligible cattle presented by a farm business for direct slaughter in NI, GB or in ROI between 16 February and 30 June 2020.

Eligible cattle presented for slaughter between 29 March and 16 May 2020 will attract both payments i.e. £73/head.

Any farm business in Northern Ireland who had an eligible animal registered in their herd on APHIS for at least 30 days before it was slaughtered will get the funding. In cases where the animal was not on the final herd for the required 30 days the payment will be made to the previous owner, provided that the previous owner had the animal in question on their farm for the required 30 days.

Payments are being made on all cattle that meet these residency requirements. This includes prime cattle, cows from both the suckler and dairy herds and also NOMAD cattle provided that they have been registered in an NI herd for the

required 30 days prior to slaughter. Cattle imported for direct slaughter however will not qualify for the payment.

What support is available for sheep farmers?

Due to the drop in sheep price a payment of £6.88 per head will be made available on the number of eligible sheep presented by a farm business for direct slaughter in NI, GB or in ROI between 22 March and 18 April 2020 inclusive.

Payments will be made to any farm business in NI who had eligible sheep registered in their flock on APHIS, at least 30 days prior to slaughter. Payments are being made on all sheep slaughtered during the period outlined above including spring lambs, hoggets and cull ewes/rams provided they were recorded on APHIS.

Further information on this scheme and other Covid-19 funding is available on the DAERA website www.daera-ni.gov.uk

REDUCTION IN CALF EXPORTS TO SPAIN

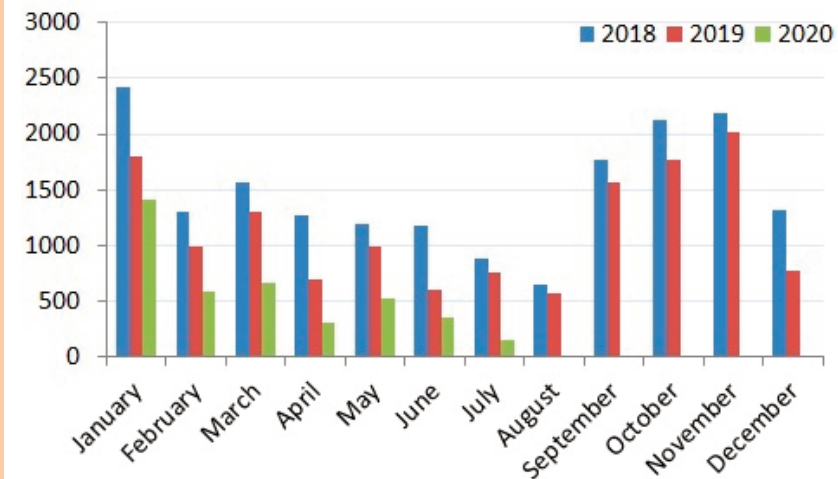
During the first seven months of 2020 calf exports out of Northern Ireland for further production have been trending well behind previous years as outlined in **Figure 1** below.

The notable decline in calf exports is primarily due to a reduction in live exports to Spain. During 2020 to date 3,981 male calves were exported from Northern

Ireland to Spain, well behind the 7,103 calves exported during the same period last year.

During 2020 to date 679 male calves have been exported from Northern Ireland to Great Britain for further production. This was similar to the same period in 2019 when 609 male calves were exported to Great Britain.

Figure 1: Male calf exports out of Northern Ireland broken down by month 2018-2019



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@lmcni.com
Tel: 028 9263 3000

CATTLE TRADE

NI FACTORY BASE QUOTES FOR CATTLE

| (P/KG DW) | This Week 03/08/20 | Next Week 10/08/20 |
|--------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 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 | 260 - 280p | 270 - 290p |
| 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.

REPORTED NI CATTLE PRICES - P/KG

| W/E 01/08/20 | Steers | Heifers | Young Bulls |
|-----------------|--------|---------|----------------|
| U3 | 375.5 | 377.9 | 368.9 |
| R3 | 371.1 | 372.4 | 367.4 |
| O+3 | 359.7 | 367.0 | 356.4 |

*Prices exclude AA, HER and Organic cattle

REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

| W/E 01/08/20 | Weight Bands | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|--------|
| | <220kg | 220-250kg | 250-280kg | >280kg |
| P1 | 186.4 | 196.4 | 205.2 | 219.0 |
| P2 | 199.9 | 233.7 | 242.3 | 264.7 |
| P3 | 222.9 | 247.9 | 263.2 | 274.0 |
| O3 | - | 255.0 | 286.4 | 293.1 |
| O4 | - | - | 287.9 | 293.3 |
| R3 | - | - | - | 309.3 |

Deadweight Cattle Trade

Base quotes in local plants this week ranged from 360-366p/kg for U-3 grading steers and heifers although reports have indicated that higher prices are available. Base quotes for O+3 grading cows were in the region of 270-290p/kg. Similar quotes for all types of cattle are expected for early next week.

Prime cattle throughput in NI last week totalled 6,117 head, up 356 head from the previous week. This brings prime cattle throughput in the region during July 2020 to 28,941 head, up six per cent from July 2019 levels. Cow throughput has also remained strong with 2,135 cows processed in local plants last week. This takes cow throughput in NI during July 2020 to 10,280 head, a notable 22 per cent increase from July 2019 levels. Overall cattle throughput in NI was nine per cent higher during July 2020 when compared to the same month last year with the volume of beef processed increasing by a similar margin to total 13,573 tonnes during July 2020.

Imports of cattle for direct slaughter from ROI last week included 378 prime cattle and 208 cows, which was similar to the previous week. Prime cattle imports for direct slaughter from ROI during July 2019 totalled 1,757 head and accounted for 6.1 per cent of prime cattle throughput in local plants. During July 2019 1,330 prime cattle were imported for direct slaughter from ROI and accounted for 4.9 per cent of prime cattle throughput in NI processing plants.

The deadweight cattle trade has continued to improve in NI with the R3 steer price up by 1.7p/kg to 374p/kg while the R3 heifer price increased by 2.6p/kg to 375.6p/kg. The young bull trade has also continued to improve with the R3 price up by 2p/kg to 366.6p/kg. Reported prices for O grading cows generally improved in NI last week however prices for P grading cows came under some pressure which contributed to the 1.9p/kg decline in the average cow price to 269.9p/kg.

There was a strong improvement in the deadweight cattle trade in GB last week with the average R3 steer price increasing by 6.7p/kg to 374.5p/kg. R3 steer prices increased in all of the GB regions last week with the strongest increase recorded in the Midlands and Wales where R3 steer prices were up 8.9p/kg to 372.3p/kg. The improvement in average R3 steer prices in GB last week has moved prices ahead of the NI trade however it is worth noting that the R3 steer price in NI last week was still the second highest reported price in the UK behind Scotland. The cow trade came under some pressure in Scotland and Northern England last week however strong increases in reported prices in the Midlands and Southern England resulted in the average cow price in GB increasing by 1.9p/kg from the previous week.

The R3 steer price in ROI was almost unchanged last week in sterling terms at 341.2p/kg which puts it 32.8p/kg behind the equivalent price in NI. Meanwhile the R3 heifer price was up marginally to 344.5p/kg which puts it 31.1p/kg behind the equivalent price in NI.

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

| | W/E 01/08/20 | Northern Ireland | Rep of Ireland | Scotland | Northern England | Midlands & Wales | Southern England | GB |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------|
| Steers | U3 | 375.8 | 351.7 | 386.3 | 370.5 | 373.0 | 377.3 | 378.0 |
| | R3 | 374.0 | 341.2 | 384.3 | 370.6 | 372.3 | 371.8 | 374.5 |
| | R4 | 374.0 | 342.7 | 386.8 | 377.2 | 368.6 | 372.6 | 379.6 |
| | O3 | 363.8 | 326.0 | 367.7 | 359.3 | 350.4 | 353.1 | 354.9 |
| | AVG | 364.8 | - | 382.3 | 365.8 | 359.4 | 359.1 | 366.5 |
| Heifers | U3 | 377.8 | 356.0 | 389.3 | 375.3 | 383.4 | 381.0 | 383.2 |
| | R3 | 375.6 | 344.5 | 382.8 | 368.4 | 374.1 | 371.0 | 374.0 |
| | R4 | 372.8 | 345.7 | 385.1 | 373.2 | 371.7 | 373.5 | 378.1 |
| | O3 | 368.2 | 331.9 | 363.3 | 361.6 | 355.1 | 349.7 | 355.7 |
| | AVG | 368.9 | - | 382.6 | 366.5 | 363.0 | 357.6 | 367.9 |
| Young Bulls | U3 | 369.5 | 339.7 | 378.5 | 367.1 | 374.9 | 366.4 | 374.7 |
| | R3 | 366.6 | 327.2 | 373.1 | 357.9 | 365.6 | 366.1 | 367.1 |
| | O3 | 350.0 | 310.5 | 334.4 | 325.8 | 339.4 | 323.9 | 333.0 |
| | AVG | 356.7 | - | 368.8 | 352.4 | 361.8 | 356.8 | 362.0 |
| Prime Cattle Price Reported | | 4,895 | - | 6,830 | 6,965 | 7,612 | 4,961 | 26,368 |
| Cows | O3 | 292.5 | 271.1 | 289.0 | 284.5 | 288.1 | 287.7 | 286.8 |
| | O4 | 293.1 | 271.1 | 290.7 | 285.2 | 291.7 | 282.1 | 288.0 |
| | P2 | 253.0 | 250.2 | 251.9 | 246.0 | 250.8 | 253.8 | 250.8 |
| | P3 | 270.9 | 263.7 | 262.9 | 259.5 | 266.8 | 263.8 | 264.3 |
| | AVG | 269.9 | - | 283.3 | 266.9 | 262.9 | 257.3 | 265.5 |

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=90.60p 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

LATEST LIVELWEIGHT CATTLE MART PRICES NI

| W/E 01/08/20 | 1st QUALITY | | | 2nd QUALITY | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-----|-----|-------------|-----|-----|
| | From | To | Avg | From | To | Avg |
| Finished Cattle (p/kg) | | | | | | |
| Steers | 226 | 243 | 229 | 200 | 225 | 212 |
| Friesians | 171 | 187 | 178 | 148 | 160 | 156 |
| Heifers | 214 | 243 | 222 | 200 | 213 | 206 |
| Beef Cows | 168 | 210 | 174 | 125 | 167 | 146 |
| Dairy Cows | 122 | 137 | 131 | 100 | 120 | 117 |
| Store Cattle (p/kg) | | | | | | |
| Bullocks up to 400kg | 240 | 283 | 260 | 200 | 235 | 218 |
| Bullocks 400kg - 500kg | 230 | 262 | 240 | 190 | 229 | 210 |
| Bullocks over 500kg | 206 | 229 | 218 | 180 | 205 | 195 |
| Heifers up to 450kg | 220 | 249 | 235 | 180 | 219 | 200 |
| Heifers over 450kg | 190 | 206 | 200 | 170 | 189 | 180 |
| Dropped Calves (£/head) | | | | | | |
| Continental Bulls | 410 | 600 | 470 | 300 | 400 | 350 |
| Continental Heifers | 350 | 440 | 390 | 245 | 345 | 290 |
| Friesian Bulls | 180 | 280 | 230 | 100 | 175 | 135 |
| Holstein Bulls | 100 | 185 | 140 | 40 | 95 | 65 |

SHEEP TRADE

NI SHEEP BASE QUOTES

| (P/Kg DW) | This Week 03/08/20 | Next Week 10/08/20 |
|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Lambs up to 21kg | 450-460p | 435-440p |

REPORTED SHEEP PRICES

| (P/KG) | W/E 18/07/20 | W/E 25/07/20 | W/E 01/08/20 |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| NI L/W Lambs | 430.7 | 419.0 | 415.7 |
| NI D/W Lambs | 466.6 | 461.1 | 452.1 |
| GB D/W Lambs | 479.9 | 478.1 | 480.1 |
| ROI D/W | 481.4 | 476.9 | 460.9 |

Deadweight Sheep Trade

The deadweight lamb trade has come under some pressure this week with quotes from the major plants back to 440-445p/kg for R3 grading lambs up to 21kg towards the end of the week. Base quotes for early next week are expected to be in the region of 435-440p/kg up to 21kg. Lamb throughput has remained strong with 11,497 lambs processed in local plants last week. In the same week last year 10,412 lambs were processed in local plants. While lamb throughput has increased the average carcase weights are running behind previous years. The average lamb carcase weight in NI last week was 20.8kg compared to 21.3kg in the corresponding week last year. The average lamb price in NI last week was 452.1p/kg, back 9p/kg from the previous week. In the corresponding week last year the average lamb price in NI was 370.9p/kg.

Liveweight Sheep Trade

The marts have reported good numbers of lambs passing through the sale rings this week. Some marts have reported lighter lambs being presented for sale and a slightly quieter trade for finished lambs in line with changes in the deadweight trade. In Omagh last Saturday a good entry of 1,025 lambs sold from 409-449p/kg compared to 981 lambs the previous Saturday 435-472p/kg. In Ballymena this week a large entry of 1,803 lambs sold from 380-455p/kg compared to 1,800 lambs last week selling from 400-433p/kg. In Markethill this week 920 lambs sold from 400-444p/kg compared to 1,050 lambs last week selling from 420-447p/kg.

LATEST SHEEP MARTS (P/KG LW)

| From: 01/08/20 | | Lambs | | | |
|----------------|-------------|-------|------|-----|-----|
| To: 07/08/20 | | No | From | To | Avg |
| Saturday | Omagh | 1025 | 409 | 449 | |
| Monday | Kilrea | 450 | 398 | 408 | |
| Tuesday | Saintfield | 376 | 395 | 425 | |
| | Rathfriland | 425 | 410 | 460 | 433 |
| Wednesday | Ballymena | 1803 | 380 | 455 | 403 |
| | Enniskillen | 442 | 395 | 425 | |
| | Armoy | 379 | 385 | 470 | - |
| | Markethill | 920 | 400 | 444 | - |

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

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