

NI R3 HEIFER PRICES FALL BELOW ROI IN EU LEAGUE TABLE

THE EU Deadweight Cattle Prices League Table provides a useful comparison of deadweight prices for R3 grading heifers across the EU. The table ranks countries in order of their equivalent R3 heifer price and compares this to the corresponding week in the previous month.

In the w/e 14 January 2018 the average R3 heifer price in the EU was 390.5c/kg. This was a slight increase from the w/e 17 December 2017 when the average R3 heifer price in the EU was 390.1p/kg.

Sweden continues to hold first position in the EU league table with an equivalent R3 heifer price of 448.8c/kg during w/e 14 January 2018. This was an increase of 4.6p/kg from the w/e 17 December 2017 when the R3 heifer price was the equivalent of 444.2p/kg. The differential in the Swedish R3 heifer price and the EU average widened from 54.1c/kg in the w/e 17 December 2017 to 58.3c/kg in the w/e 14 January 2018.

During the w/e 14 January 2018 GB

ranked third in the EU league table with an equivalent R3 heifer price of 415.8c/kg. This was back 5.7p/kg from the previous month when the R3 heifer price in the region was the equivalent of 421.5c/kg. Despite this decline however GB maintained third position in the league table. The differential between the R3 heifer price in GB and the EU average narrowed from 31.4c/kg in the w/e 17 December 2017 to 25.3c/kg in the w/e 14 January 2018.

The R3 heifer price in NI was the equivalent of 403c/kg during the w/e 14 January 2018, back 3.2c/kg from the w/e 17 December 2017 when the R3 heifer price was the equivalent of 406.3c/kg. This moved NI down from fourth position in the league table in December 2017 to fifth position in January 2018. The differential between the NI R3 heifer price and the EU average narrowed from 16.2c/kg in December 2017 to 12.5c/kg in January 2018.

Meanwhile in ROI the R3 heifer price during the w/e 14 January

2018 was 404.4c/kg. This was a 6.1c/kg increase from the w/e 17 December 2017 when the R3 heifer price in the region was 398.3c/kg. This increase moved it up from fifth position on the EU league table during the w/e 17 December 2017 to fourth position in the w/e 14 January 2018.

The R3 heifer price in ROI was 1.4c/kg higher than the equivalent price in NI during the w/e 14 January 2018 compared to 8c/kg below the NI price in the w/e 17 December 2017. The improvement in the R3 heifer price in ROI moved it from 8.2c/kg above the EU average in the w/e 17 December 2017 to 9.9c/kg above it in the w/e 14 January 2018.

While the trade in both NI and GB have come under some pressure in the early weeks of 2018 a slight weakening of sterling against euro has also impacted on their rankings in the EU league table. The euro was trading against sterling at €1 = 88.7p during the w/e 14 January 2018 compared to €1 = 88.1p in the w/e 17 December 2018.

EU Deadweight Cattle Prices - Heifers R3 Equivalent (€ Cents)					
Position last Mth	Position this Mth	Country	Price last Mth (w/e 17.12.17)	Price this Mth (w/e 14.01.18)	Change on Mth (cents)
1	1	Sweden	444.2	448.8	+4.6
2	2	Italy	436.9	444.5	+7.6
3	3	Great Britain	421.5	415.8	-5.7
5	4	Ireland	398.3	404.4	+6.1
4	5	Northern Ireland	406.3	403.0	-3.2
6	6	Spain	393.7	393.8	+0.1
7	7	France	387.0	386.0	-1.0
9	8	Germany	383.9	383.4	-0.6
8	9	Denmark	385.3	381.1	-4.2
10	10	Austria	369.2	373.0	+3.8
12	11	Slovenia	336.8	335.4	-1.4
13	12	Poland	331.5	332.9	+1.4
14	13	Belgium	321.5	312.5	-9.0
11	14	Lithuania	338.1	297.3	-40.9
15	15	Czech Republic	289.2	290.1	+0.9
EU Average			390.1	390.5	+0.3
Euro (€1=)			88.1	88.7	+0.6

FQAS MART CLINICS FEBRUARY 2018

LMC's 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 above. For further information call (028) 9263 3024.



LOCATION	DAY	DATE
Omagh	Monday	12/02/2018
Markethill	Tuesday	13/02/2018
Enniskillen	Thursday	15/02/2018
Kilrea	Wednesday	21/02/2018
Ballymena	Friday	23/02/2018
Saintfield	Wednesday	28/02/2018

NI RED MEAT SALES REMAIN STRONG IN FINAL QUARTER OF 2017

TOTAL meat sales in NI were valued at £79.7 million during the 12 weeks ending 31 December 2017 according to the latest available data from Kantar. This was a six per cent increase from the corresponding period in 2016 when total retail meat sales in the region were valued at £75.1 million.

Red meat sales in NI during the 12 week period ending 31 December 2017 were valued at £34 million, a four per cent increase from the corresponding period in 2016. Red meat sales accounted for 43 per cent of total meat sales in NI in terms of value during the 2017 period. This proportion was unchanged from year earlier levels.

Total beef sales in NI during the last twelve weeks of 2017 were valued at £28.5 million, a two per cent increase from the corresponding period in 2016 when beef sales were worth £27.9 million. Meanwhile lamb sales in the region

were valued at £5.5 million during the 12 weeks ending 31 December 2017, a notable 16.5 per cent increase from the same period in 2016 when lamb sales were valued at £4.7 million.

During the 12 weeks ending 31 December 2017 the volume of meat sales in NI totalled 13,361 tonnes. This was a one per cent increase from year earlier levels when the volume of meat sales totalled 13,218 tonnes.

The total volume of red meat sales in NI during the 2017 period totalled 4,450 tonnes, back almost one per cent from year earlier levels when beef sales totalled 4,485 tonnes. The volume of beef sales totalled 3,704 tonnes during the 2017 period, back two per cent from year earlier levels when 3,783 tonnes of beef were purchased by NI consumers. Lamb sales in NI during the 12 weeks ending 31 December 2017 totalled 746 tonnes, a 6.3 per cent increase

from the 701 tonnes sold during the corresponding period in 2016.

With the volume of beef sales remaining fairly stable in NI during the last 12 weeks of 2017 the increase in the total value of beef sales has been driven by an increase in the price per kg. During the 2017 period the average price per kg was £7.69, an increase of 31p/kg from the corresponding period in 2016 when the average retail price of beef in NI was £7.38/kg.

While the volume of lamb sold increased in the final quarter of 2017 an increase in the average retail price has also contributed to the strong increase in the total value of sales when compared to the same period in 2016. In the final quarter of 2016 the average retail price of lamb in NI was £6.75/kg and this increased to £7.39/kg in the final quarter of 2017. This is an increase of 64p/kg between the two periods.

WEEKLY BEEF & LAMB MARKETS



CATTLE TRADE

NI FACTORY BASE QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 22/01/18	Next Week 29/01/18
Prime		
U-3	350 - 356p	350 - 356p
R-3	344 - 350p	344 - 350p
O+3	338 - 344p	338 - 344p
P+3	290 - 306p	290 - 306p
	Including bonus where applicable	
Cows		
O+3 & better	260 - 280p	260 - 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

THE deadweight cattle trade in NI has continued to hold steady with Base quotes from the plants this week ranging from 350-356p/kg for in spec U-3 grade prime cattle. The majority of plants are quoting 352-354p/kg with similar quotes expected for early next week. Quotes for good quality O+3 grading cows range from 260-280p/kg with the majority of plants quoting in the region of 270p/kg. The plants have reported steady supplies of all types of cattle to meet demand for beef.

Prime cattle throughput in NI last week totalled 7,169 head, a slight increase from the previous week when prime cattle throughput totalled 7,117 head. In the same week in 2017 the prime cattle throughput in NI totalled 6,370 head, accounting for a 13 per cent increase year on year. Cow throughput in NI last week totalled 2,272, back slightly from the previous week. In the corresponding week in 2017 cow throughput in local plants totalled 1,193 head.

Imports of prime cattle from ROI for direct slaughter last week totalled 42 head with a further 13 prime cattle and 197 cows imported from GB. Meanwhile exports from NI to ROI for direct slaughter last week consisted of 49 prime cattle, 186 cows and 12 bulls. A further 89 prime cattle and 13 cows were exported from NI to GB for direct slaughter last week.

The deadweight prime cattle trade in NI came under slight pressure in NI last week with the majority of reported prices back in the region of a penny. The average steer price in NI last week was 351.2p/kg, back by 1.1p/kg from the previous week however the R3 steer price was up marginally to 361.8p/kg. The average heifer price in NI last week was back by almost a penny to 351.2p/kg while the R3 heifer price was back by a similar margin to 359.2p/kg. The deadweight cow trade improved in NI last week with the average cow price increasing by 6.7p/kg to 264.5p/kg. The O3 cow price increased by 3.5p/kg to 279.6p/kg.

The deadweight prime cattle trade in GB has continued to come under pressure with the average steer price back by 2.3p/kg to 358.8p/kg while the R3 steer price was back by a similar margin to 369.5p/kg. The average heifer price in GB last week was 361.1p/kg, back 2.7p/kg from the previous week. The R3 heifer price in GB last week was 369.5p/kg, back 1.7 p/kg from the previous week. The strongest decline in R3 heifer prices was recorded in Scotland where it was back by 3p/kg to 360p/kg while the R3 heifer price in Southern England increased marginally to 367p/kg.

In ROI last week the R3 steer price was the equivalent of 347.6p/kg. This was back 2.6p/kg from the previous week. The R3 heifer price in ROI last week was 360p/kg, back marginally from the previous week and remaining just above the R3 heifer price in NI. The cow trade in ROI came under some pressure last week although the trade remains strong in comparison with NI. The O3 cow price in ROI last week was the equivalent of 290.9p/kg, 11.3p/kg higher than the O3 cow price in NI last week.

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

W/E 20/01/2018	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	364.9	357.5	381.6	372.1	367.6	372.4
	R3	361.8	347.6	378.7	367.8	365.9	369.5
	R4	360.7	348.4	380.2	374.0	363.8	372.1
	AVG	351.2	-	376.2	357.5	349.3	358.8
Heifers	U3	364.0	373.4	387.2	377.2	376.4	379.2
	R3	359.2	360.0	376.9	365.9	367.4	369.5
	R4	355.6	360.5	378.7	371.8	367.7	371.1
	AVG	352.1	346.6	363.0	342.5	335.2	346.8
Young Bulls	U3	347.7	351.9	378.3	357.2	361.0	363.7
	R3	347.1	342.2	366.5	347.3	351.0	352.4
	O3	330.0	330.0	330.5	310.5	314.4	319.2
	AVG	333.7	-	344.8	326.4	322.8	328.8
Prime Cattle Price Reported	6569	-	7026	7093	7092	4438	25649
Cows	O3	279.6	290.9	269.1	260.7	271.5	266.0
	O4	283.0	291.8	272.9	264.0	271.6	267.7
	P2	235.1	261.9	219.5	212.8	223.4	219.4
	P3	255.5	280.2	234.0	237.2	240.6	238.4
AVG	264.5	-	263.5	241.5	240.1	229.7	240.9

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=88.61p 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 20/01/18	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U3	363.7	363.7	348.1
R3	358.2	357.0	346.6
O+3	349.1	349.6	332.0

*Prices exclude AA, HER and Organic cattle

REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

W/E 20/01/18	Wgt <220kg	Wgt 220- 250kg	Wgt 250- 280kg	Wgt >280kg
P1	181.3	192.9	203.1	206.3
P2	201.1	219.2	234.4	248.5
P3	212.5	237.7	254.1	259.4
O3	239.8	251.7	275.1	281.2
O4	-	254.0	291.3	282.9
R3	-	-	284.7	302.0

SHEEP TRADE

SHEEP BASE QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 22/01/18	Next Week 29/01/18
Hoggets >22kg	400-420p	405-410p

REPORTED SHEEP PRICES

(P/KG)	W/E 06/01/18	W/E 13/01/18	W/E 20/01/18
NI L/W Hoggets	357.3	365.8	365.8
NI D/W Hoggets	390.2	401.4	407.2
GB D/W Hoggets	410.4	410.8	413.0
ROI D/W	420.9	420.2	417.7

Deadweight Sheep Trade

QUOTES from the major processing plants in NI ranged from 400-420p/kg up to 22kg early this week and moved to 405-410p/kg up to 22kg as the week progressed. Similar quotes are expected for early next week. Poor weather conditions impacted throughput in local plants last week with a total of 7,119 head killed, a decline of 1,541 head from the previous week. In the corresponding week in 2017 hogget throughput totalled 6,996 head in local plants. Hogget exports to ROI last week for direct slaughter totalled 8,721 head, back 553 head from the previous week. The deadweight hogget price firmed in NI last week to 407.2p/kg while the average hogget price in ROI was the equivalent of 417.7p/kg.

This week's marts

THE marts have reported a similar liveweight trade to previous weeks with steady numbers passing through the sale rings. In Massereene on Monday 726 hoggets sold from 380-415p/kg compared to 826 hoggets last week selling from 375-410p/kg. In Kilrea this week 400 hoggets sold from 369-391p/kg compared to 450 hoggets last week selling from 363-391p/kg. In Rathfriland this week 683 hoggets sold to an average of 378p/kg. In Ballymena this week a larger entry of 1,756 hoggets sold from 360-413p/kg compared to 854 hoggets last week selling from 355-400p/kg. A firm trade for well fleshed ewes has been reported across the marts with top recorded prices generally ranging from £90-110. The top reported price was in £122 in Massereene on Monday.

LATEST LIVELWEIGHT CATTLE MART PRICES NI

W/E 20/01/18	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
	From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
Finished Cattle (p/kg)						
Steers	204	218	210	175	200	187
Friesians	-	-	-	-	-	-
Heifers	200	203	202	172	198	183
Beef Cows	155	216	170	125	154	140
Dairy Cows	110	135	118	65	109	88
Store Cattle (p/kg)						
Bullocks up to 400kg	210	233	225	170	209	190
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg	210	220	215	170	209	188
Bullocks over 500kg	195	217	205	165	194	180
Heifers up to 450kg	205	225	215	160	204	182
Heifers over 450kg	200	225	210	170	199	185
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	260	305	285	180	258	220
Continental Heifers	200	270	235	100	198	150
Friesian Bulls	115	200	140	60	112	85
Holstein Bulls	80	155	105	10	78	45

LATEST SHEEP MARTS

From: 19/01/18		Hoggets (P/KG LW)			
To: 25/01/18		No	From	To	Avg
Saturday	Omagh	399	368	402	384
	Swatragh	480	343	390	-
Monday	Massereene	726	380	415	-
	Kilrea	400	369	391	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	518	360	416	-
	Rathfriland	683	360	405	378
Wednesday	Ballymena	1756	360	413	370
	Enniskillen	522	352	390	-
	Markethill	1110	360	385	-
	Armoey	580	370	405	-

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