

# NI BEEF INDUSTRY KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS SEPTEMBER 2019

THE deadweight cattle trade in NI has come under pressure during September 2019 with prices for all types of prime cattle well below September 2018 levels. The major processors have reported steady demand for beef from major retail customers combined with strong supplies of all types of cattle for slaughter.

The average deadweight price for prime cattle in NI during September 2019 was 315.3p/kg, back 35.7p/kg from September 2018 when the average deadweight price was 351p/kg. The R3 steer price declined by 36.8p/kg over the same period, back from 360.6p/kg in September 2018 to 323.8p/kg in September 2019. In monetary terms this equates to a £129 decline in the value of a 350kg steer carcass.

A decline in the deadweight trade was also recorded in ROI during September 2019 with an average R3 steer price of 308.9p/kg. This was back 25.2p/kg from September 2018 levels when the R3 steer price in the region was 334.1p/kg. The differential in prices between ROI and NI has narrowed from 26.5p/kg in September 2018 to 14.9p/kg in September 2019.

The deadweight trade for prime cattle in GB has also come under pressure during September 2019. The R3 steer price in GB during September 2019 was 331.6p/kg, back 47.9p/kg from September 2018 levels. This accounts for a 12.6 per cent decline year on year. The differential in R3 steer prices between NI and GB narrowed from 18.9p/kg in September 2018 to 7.8p/kg in September 2019.

Prime cattle throughput totalled 29,658 head in NI during September 2019, a 13.5 per cent increase from September 2018 levels. The cow throughput also recorded a notable

increase to total 9,161 head during September 2019. This was a six per cent increase from the 8,652 cows killed in local plants during September 2018.

With the throughput of both prime cattle and cows increasing during September 2019 average carcass weights have also increased. The average carcass weight of prime cattle increased by 10.2kg from 337.3kg in September 2018 to 347.5kg in September 2019. Meanwhile the average cow carcass weight increased by 5.9kg from 298.5kg in September 2018 to 304.4kg in September 2019.

Imports of cattle for direct slaughter in local plants totalled 1,651 head during September 2019, back 202 head from the 1,853 cattle imported during September 2018. Meanwhile exports of cattle for direct slaughter to ROI and GB decreased by 201 head to 475 exported during September 2019.

APHIS figures have indicated that at the end of September 2019 there were 437,189 cattle on NI farms aged 12-30 months that are intended for beef production. This is back 3.7 per cent from September 2018 levels. The number of beef sired cattle in the 12-30 month age category has decreased by 3.5 per cent to total 405,914 head in September. Meanwhile the number of dairy sired male cattle has declined by 6.3 per cent to total 31,275 head in September 2019.

During September 2019 there were 19,603 beef sired calves registered in NI, a 15.9 per cent increase from the 16,917 beef sired calves registered during September 2018. Dairy male calf registrations totalled 7,312 head during September 2019, up 10.5 per cent from September 2018 levels.

NI Beef Industry Key Performance Indicators (September Snapshot)			
	September 2018	September 2019	% Change
<b>Finished Cattle Prices (p/kg)</b>			
Average Prime Cattle Price	351.0	315.3	-10.2%
Average Cow Price	254.5	227.1	-10.8%
Average R3 Steer Price (NI)	360.6	323.8	-10.2%
Average R3 Steer Price (ROI)	334.1	308.9	-7.5%
Average R3 Steer Price (GB)	379.5	331.6	-12.6%
<b>Slaughterings</b>			
Total Clean Slaughterings (Head)	26,141	29,658	13.5%
Total Cow Slaughterings (Head)	8,652	9,161	5.9%
Average Clean Carcass Weight (kg)	337.3	347.5	3.0%
Average Cow Carcass Weight (kg)	298.5	304.4	2.0%
<b>Trade (Head)</b>			
Live Imports for Direct Slaughter	1,853	1,651	-10.9%
Live Exports for Direct Slaughter	676	475	-29.7%
<b>Availability (Head)</b>			
No. Cattle on the Ground*	454,170	437,189	-3.7%
Beef Sired	420,792	405,914	-3.5%
Dairy Sired (Male Only)	33,378	31,275	-6.3%
<b>Calf Births Registrations (Head)</b>			
Calf Births	23,536	26,915	14.4%
Beef Sired	16,917	19,603	15.9%
Dairy Sired (Male Only)	6,619	7,312	10.5%
<b>Euro / Stg Exchange Rate (€ / £)</b>	89.3	89.1	-0.2%
* Aged between 12-30 mths (Beef + Dairy Male Only)			
<b>All NI Figures Unless Otherwise Stated</b>			

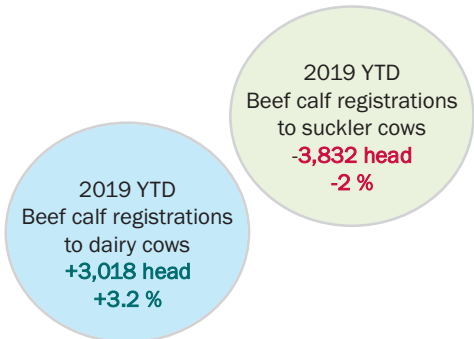
# BEEF CALF REGISTRATIONS UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2019

**D**URING September 2019 there were 19,603 beef sired calves registered in Northern Ireland which was a 16 per cent increase from September 2018 levels. This is the third consecutive month in which total beef sired calf registrations have recorded an improvement from the corresponding months in 2018 as outlined in Figure 1.

Beef sired calf registrations for 2019 to date have totalled 293,321 head which is just behind the 294,407 beef calves registered in the same period in 2018. The level of registrations however remains well behind the corresponding period in 2017 when 312,742 beef sired calves were registered in the region. This decline by 19,421 head accounts for a 6.2 per cent decline between 2017 and 2019.

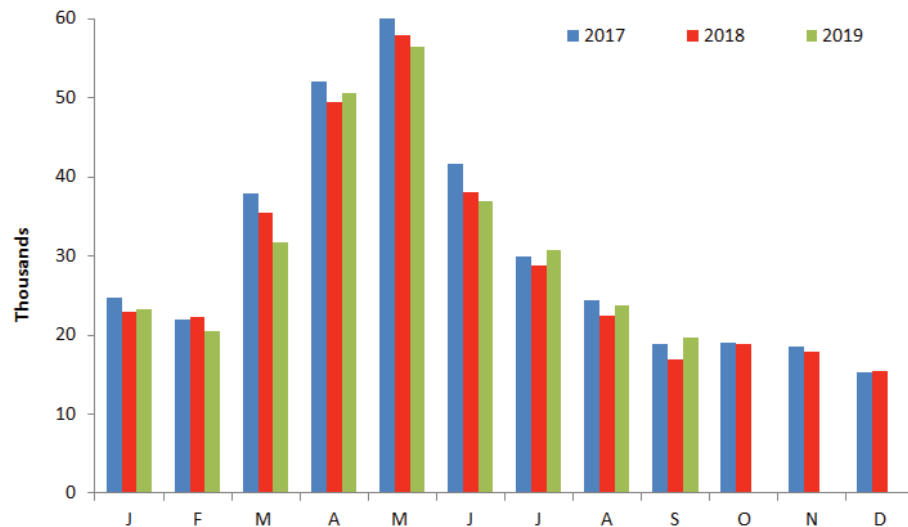
While total beef sired calf registrations during 2019 to date are similar to the same period in 2018 there have been some changes to the type of calves being registered. During 2019 to date calf registrations to suckler cows were back by 3,832 head from the same period in 2018. Meanwhile the number of beef sired calves registered to dairy cows has increased by 3,018 head over the same period.

The proportion of these beef cross calves in total registrations has been gradually increasing in recent years and accounted for 32.4 per cent of all beef sired calf registrations in Northern Ireland during 2019 to date. This is up from 31.3 per cent in the same period last year.



Overall there has been an increase in the total number of calves registered to dairy cows in Northern Ireland during 2019 to date (+2.6 per cent). While there were an additional 5,344 registrations received the proportion of dairy/beef sired calves registered to these cows has remained consistent at 55 per cent dairy sired and 45 per cent beef sired.

Figure 1: Monthly NI beef sired calf registrations 2017-2019



## Calf breeds

Aberdeen Angus remains the most popular beef sire used on dairy cows and accounted for 41 per cent of beef calf registrations to these cows during 2019 to date. A further 16 per cent of beef calves registered to dairy cows were Hereford during the

2019 period. Meanwhile Charolais and Limousin continue to dominate beef calf registrations to suckler cows and accounted for 32 per cent and 31 per cent of calf registrations respectively during 2019 to date.



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# WEEKLY BEEF & LAMB MARKETS



## CATTLE TRADE

### NI FACTORY BASE QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 07/10/19	Next Week 14/10/19
<b>Prime</b>		
U-3	312 - 320p	312 - 320p
R-3	306 - 314p	306 - 314p
O+3	300 - 308p	300 - 308p
P+3	252 - 262p	252 - 262p
Including bonus where applicable		
<b>Cows</b>		
O+3 & better	235 - 250p	235 - 250p
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 05/10/19	Steers	Heifers	Young Bulls
U3	321.0	326.7	312.5
R3	318.8	323.2	310.2
O+3	311.4	314.4	303.4

\*Prices exclude AA, HER and Organic cattle

### REPORTED COW PRICES NI - P/KG

W/E 05/10/19	Wgt <220kg	Wgt 220- 250kg	Wgt 250- 280kg	Wgt >280kg
P1	149.0	164.8	177.8	188.6
P2	176.4	196.5	212.0	224.6
P3	205.7	205.6	225.1	233.9
O3	-	228.2	243.0	252.2
O4	-	237.5	252.7	254.3
R3	-	-	-	271.0

### Deadweight Cattle Trade

THE NI deadweight cattle trade has continued to remain steady this week with base quotes for in spec U-3 grade prime cattle ranging from 312-320p/kg. With the range of quotes available producers are encouraged to shop around to get the best possible deal. Quotes for O+3 grading cows also continue to remain steady this week ranging from 235-250p/kg. Similar quotes are expected next week for all types of cattle.

The plants have reported strong supplies of all types of cattle to meet demand for beef. Prime cattle throughput last week totalled 7,508 head, a decrease of 469 head when compared to the previous week. Cow throughput in NI last week totalled 2,477 head, an increase of 97 cows from the previous week. In the corresponding week last year 7,017 prime cattle were killed in NI plants along with 2,284 cows.

Cattle imports from ROI for direct slaughter consisted of 263 prime cattle and 79 cows last week while imports from GB consisted of two steers and 66 cows. Meanwhile exports for direct slaughter from NI to ROI last week included six prime cattle and 117 cows with no cattle making the journey to GB for direct slaughter.

The average steer price in NI last week remained steady compared to the previous week at 315.3p/kg while the R3 steer price was up 1.5p/kg to 324.1p/kg. Meanwhile the average heifer price in NI last week was back 2.5p/kg to 317.8p/kg with the R3 heifer price was back by 1.4p/kg to 325p/kg. The average young bull price in NI last week was back by 1.5p/kg to 301.1p/kg while the R3 young bull price decreased by 3.2p/kg to 309.3p/kg. The average NI cow price decreased last week by just under a penny to 225.4p/kg with the O3 cow price back by a similar margin to 251.2p/kg.

The average steer price in GB last week was back by just over a penny to 323p/kg when compared to the previous week. The R3 steer price was back by a similar margin to 330.4p/kg. The R3 steer price reported declines in all regions with the strongest decline in the Midlands and Wales where the R3 steer price was back by 2.1p/kg. The average heifer price in GB last week was up by 0.7p/kg to 324.7p/kg while the R3 heifer price was back by 0.8p/kg to 330.1p/kg. R3 heifer prices were back in all regions except Southern England were an increase of 0.4p/kg was reported. The GB average cow price was back by 1.2p/kg 219.1p/kg with the O3 cow price back by just under a penny to 248.5p/kg.

The R3 steer price in ROI last week held steady at the equivalent of 310.1p/kg when compared to the previous week. The R3 heifer price in ROI increased marginally to the equivalent of 319.2p/kg. The ROI average O3 cow price last week came back by 2.1p/kg to 250.2p/kg, a penny below the same price in NI. Prime cattle throughput in ROI last week decreased by 2,214 head to a total 29,904 head with cow throughput increasing by 2,807 head to a total 7,212 cows.

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

W/E 05/10/19	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	322.0	318.4	341.7	332.3	330.9	333.9
	R3	324.1	310.1	341.8	331.6	324.5	330.4
	R4	324.1	308.4	344.4	339.6	324.9	335.7
	O3	316.9	291.6	321.4	310.9	304.3	309.9
	AVG	315.3	-	338.5	325.4	313.9	323.0
Heifers	U3	327.3	330.8	346.8	339.3	336.6	339.2
	R3	325.0	319.2	339.2	328.4	327.5	330.1
	R4	325.4	318.1	343.3	331.9	328.9	333.0
	O3	315.4	304.3	312.1	311.0	305.2	308.2
	AVG	317.8	-	340.0	323.8	319.0	324.7
Young Bulls	U3	313.5	301.4	324.4	319.0	322.3	321.2
	R3	309.3	293.0	319.0	313.0	315.8	314.8
	O3	297.4	277.1	292.3	286.7	281.1	285.2
	AVG	301.1	-	312.5	301.3	303.0	304.3
Prime Cattle Price Reported	6,464	-	7,315	7,252	7,550	5,084	27,201
Cows	O3	251.2	250.2	250.1	248.0	249.0	248.5
	O4	254.1	249.3	252.9	247.5	248.3	247.3
	P2	216.8	223.6	210.3	199.4	204.6	204.4
	P3	230.8	239.0	223.8	213.0	218.6	219.7
	AVG	225.4	-	242.5	218.3	217.3	219.1

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=88.87p 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 05/10/19	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
	From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
<b>Finished Cattle (p/kg)</b>						
Steers	194	200	196	170	192	182
Friesians	127	142	133	104	125	114
Heifers	196	207	199	174	194	184
Beef Cows	134	179	157	115	133	125
Dairy Cows	106	118	110	60	105	85
<b>Store Cattle (p/kg)</b>						
Bullocks up to 400kg	210	235	220	175	209	195
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg	205	225	215	175	204	193
Bullocks over 500kg	190	210	200	165	189	188
Heifers up to 450kg	200	221	208	160	199	180
Heifers over 450kg	185	200	192	160	184	172
<b>Dropped Calves (£/head)</b>						
Continental Bulls	285	350	320	190	280	235
Continental Heifers	250	310	280	150	245	195
Friesian Bulls	135	285	195	55	95	85
Holstein Bulls	-	-	-	-	-	-

# SHEEP TRADE

## SHEEP BASE QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 07/10/19	Next Week 14/10/19
Lambs up to 21kg	340-345p	340-345p

## REPORTED SHEEP PRICES

(P/KG)	W/E 21/09/19	W/E 28/09/19	W/E 05/10/19
NI L/W Lambs	312.4	307.7	302.6
NI D/W Lambs	350.9	346.2	341.6
GB D/W Lambs	374.2	372.3	371.2
ROI D/W	-	380.3	377.8

## Deadweight Sheep Trade

**Q**UOTES from the plants at the beginning of the week for R3 grading lambs ranged from 340-345p/kg with plants paying up to 21kg. Similar quotes are expected for early next week. Lamb throughput in local plants last week totalled 9,078 head up 515 lambs from the previous week. In the corresponding week in last year 8,765 lambs were killed locally. Lamb exports to ROI for direct slaughter last week totalled 7,912 head with 1,703 ewes and rams also exported. The average liveweight lamb price in NI marts last week was back 5.1p/kg to 302.6p/kg while the average deadweight price was back by 4.6p/kg to 341.6p/kg. In ROI last week the average lamb price was the equivalent of 377.8p/kg, back 2.5p/kg from the previous week.

## This week's marts

**T**HE marts have reported an improvement in trade this week compared to previous weeks with smaller numbers of lambs passing through some of the marts. In Swatragh last Saturday 954 lambs sold from 280-340p/kg compared to 1,100 lambs last week selling from 310-330p/kg. In Kilrea on Monday 250 lambs sold from 305-318p/kg compared to 550 lambs last week selling from 298-315p/kg. In Rathfriland on Tuesday 760 lambs sold from 283-357p/kg (Avg 317p/kg) compared to 560 lambs last week selling from 283-365p/kg (Avg 307p/kg). In Markethill this week a similar trade from last week with 750 lambs selling from 300-319p/kg. Top reported prices for cull ewes generally ranged £88-106 across the marts this week.

## LATEST SHEEP MARTS (P/KG LW)

From: 04/10/19		Lambs			
To: 10/10/19		No	From	To	Avg
Friday	Newtownstewart	284	275	324	-
Saturday	Swatragh	954	280	340	-
	Omagh	1298	343	425	-
Monday	Massereene	942	300	324	-
	Kilrea	250	305	318	-
Tuesday	Saintfield	602	300	353	-
	Rathfriland	760	283	357	317
Wednesday	Ballymena	1850	279	339	295
	Enniskillen	389	307	335	-
	Armoy	264	290	322	-
	Markethill	750	300	319	-

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