

NI BEEF INDUSTRY SNAPSHOT MARCH 2015

THE beef industry snap shot provides a useful summary of the NI beef market and allows us to compare current market conditions with the same month the previous year.

During March 2015 the average R3 steer price in NI was 353.3p/kg compared to 339.8p/kg during March 2014. This is a four per cent increase year on year. Meanwhile the average R3 steer price in GB during March 2015 was 360.4p/kg putting the differential between NI and GB at 7.1p/kg for March 2015. In March 2014 the differential in R3 steer prices was 27.7p/kg.

R3 steer prices in ROI during March 2015 averaged 293p/kg compared to 315.3p/kg during the corresponding period in 2014. This 24.5p/kg decline in the R3 steer price year on year represents a 7.1 per cent drop in sterling terms. This can be partly attributed to the 13 per cent drop in the value of euro against sterling year on year. This has widened the differential in R3 steer prices between NI and ROI from 24.5p/kg in March 2014 to 60.3p/kg in March 2015.

Prime cattle slaughterings in NI during March 2015 totalled 27,305 head, an 11 per cent increase on year earlier levels. An increase in beef production from prime cattle in NI during March 2015 was also driven by a 7.8kg increase in average carcase weights year on year to 337.5kg.

Meanwhile cow slaughterings during March 2015 totalled 5,795 head, a two per cent reduction on the 5,922 killed in March 2014 with the average carcase weight down slightly to 305.4kg in March 2015.

Imports of cattle for direct slaughter during March 2015 totalled 2,238 head and accounted for 6.6 per cent of the total NI cattle kill in March 2015. In March 2014 the 1,928 cattle imported for direct slaughter accounted for 5.9 per cent of the total cattle kill.

Exports out of NI for direct slaughter during March 2015 were 19.6 per cent lower than year earlier levels with 1,122 cattle exported. Cattle exports to ROI during March 2015 totalled 1,012 head, the majority of which were cows. In March 2014

exports from NI to ROI totalled 496 head. Meanwhile exports of cattle from NI to GB for direct slaughter declined from 899 head in March 2014 to 110 head in March 2015. This reflects the narrowing of the GB/NI price differential.

The latest APHIS figures have indicated a tightening in cattle numbers on the ground with the number of beef sired cattle aged 12-30 months down 4 per cent on year earlier levels during March 2015 with the number of dairy sired male cattle back 6 per cent year on year.

On a more promising note calf registrations have shown a notable improvement in recent months with beef sired calf registrations totalling 30,437 head in March 2015, a 26.4 per cent increase on the previous March when 24,080 beef sired calves were registered. The number of dairy sired male calves has also increased with 8,776 registered in March 2015 compared to 7,355 in March 2014.

From Week 49 to Week 52			
NI Beef Industry Key Performance Indicators (March Snapshot)			
	Mar-14	Mar-15	% Change
Finished Cattle Prices (p/kg)			
Average Prime Cattle Price	327.4	343.5	4.9%
Average Cow Price	221.9	225.2	1.5%
Average R3 Steer Price (NI)	339.8	353.3	4.0%
Average R3 Steer Price (ROI)	315.3	293.0	-7.1%
Average R3 Steer Price (GB)	367.5	360.4	-1.9%
Slaughterings			
Total Prime Slaughterings (Head)	24,571	27,305	11.1%
Total Cow Slaughterings (Head)	5,922	5,795	-2.1%
Average Prime Carcase Weight (kg)	329.7	337.5	2.4%
Average Cow Carcase Weight (kg)	306.8	305.4	-0.5%
Trade (Head)			
Live Imports for Direct Slaughter	1,928	2,238	16.1%
Live Exports for Direct Slaughter	1,395	1,122	-19.6%
Availability (Head)			
No. Cattle on the Ground*	413,454	396,310	-4.1%
Beef Sired	367,704	353,317	-3.9%
Dairy Sired (Male Only)	45,750	42,993	-6.0%
Calf Births Registrations (Head)			
Calf Births	31,435	39,213	24.7%
Beef Sired	24,080	30,437	26.4%
Dairy Sired (Male Only)	7,355	8,776	19.3%
Euro / Stg Exchange Rate (€ / £)			
	83.2	72.4	-13.0%

* Aged between 12-30 mths (Beef + Dairy Male Only)

All NI Figures Unless Otherwise Stated

WEEKLY BEEF & LAMB MARKETS

NI FACTORY QUOTES FOR CATTLE

(P/KG DW)	This Week 08/04/15
Prime	
U-3	330 - 334p
R-3	324 - 328p
O+3	318 - 322p
	Including bonus where applicable
Cows	
O+3 & better	230 - 250p
Steakers	140 - 170p
Blues	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.

LATEST LIVELWEIGHT CATTLE MART PRICES NI

W/E 04/04/15	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
	From	To	Avg	From	To	Avg
Finished Cattle (p/kg)						
Steers	195	207	199	174	194	186
Friesians	152	166	160	120	148	139
Heifers	188	195	193	169	185	178
Beef Cows	131	208	160	110	130	120
Dairy Cows	110	130	120	68	108	88
Store Cattle (p/kg)						
Bullocks up to 400kg	210	250	230	154	174	164
Bullocks 400kg - 500kg	214	239	223	160	212	185
Bullocks over 500kg	203	237	212	170	202	186
Heifers up to 450kg	190	208	200	165	189	188
Heifers over 450kg	191	206	198	160	190	175
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	300	420	356	200	298	250
Continental Heifers	240	300	280	100	238	175
Friesian Bulls	100	205	145	40	98	70
Holstein Bulls	70	170	120	2	68	35

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

W/E 28/03/2015	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	350.4	307.5	367.9	363.3	365.0	364.8
	R3	347.7	298.9	362.2	355.3	352.3	351.4
	R4	346.1	298.9	363.4	367.3	353.5	348.7
	O3	330.4	284.4	348.3	334.6	326.5	327.6
	AVG	338.9	-	361.2	357.2	343.9	339.7
Heifers	U3	353.3	318.4	372.9	368.6	368.3	369.0
	R3	346.3	307.1	363.8	353.6	357.0	354.2
	R4	343.9	306.5	363.2	356.9	355.1	351.8
	O3	332.1	291.3	343.5	332.3	325.5	334.0
	AVG	339.7	-	362.8	353.4	348.1	341.3
Young Bulls	U3	340.1	299.0	360.7	337.4	352.0	353.8
	R3	330.1	292.9	346.3	329.6	333.7	344.6
	O3	312.4	279.6	316.0	300.6	310.5	308.6
	AVG	313.5	-	324.0	312.5	320.4	326.9
	Prime Cattle Price Reported	5848	-	6087	5463	5128	3651
Cows	O3	246.5	250.7	270.1	252.4	245.0	247.5
	O4	243.2	251.3	272.5	255.9	248.2	250.4
	P2	196.0	216.6	194.4	211.1	187.9	194.3
	P3	222.0	243.6	216.6	229.9	209.3	219.6
	AVG	220.7	-	258.2	233.8	211.7	212.3

Notes: (i) Prices are p/kg Sterling-ROI prices converted at 1 euro=73.39p 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

HOGGET/SPRING LAMB QUOTES

(P/Kg DW)	This Week 08/04/15
Hoggets	400-410>22kg
Spring Lambs	460>21kg

LATEST SHEEP MARTS

From: 04/04/15		Hoggets (P/KG LW)			
To: 08/04/15		No	From	To	Avg
Tuesday	Saintfield	270	325	416	-
	Rathfriland	702	300	367	339



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