

### CATTLE

#### AVERAGE DEADWEIGHT CATTLE PRICES (P/KG)

Week Ending 23/05/26	Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England & Wales	Midlands	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	596.1	576.6	591.0	610.4	606.7	601.2
	R3	592.7	568.7	598.8	608.6	604.6	602.6
	R4	595.1	574.5	599.7	608.4	601.9	595.9
	O3	585.8	559.9	589.1	599.7	596.2	583.2
	AVG	589.6	-	594.2	603.1	596.3	587.3
Heifers	U3	595.2	584.2	605.5	608.7	611.0	599.0
	R3	590.7	574.5	600.6	607.4	602.3	589.0
	R4	590.9	579.6	612.3	609.5	604.9	595.2
	O3	585.4	566.3	589.6	600.3	593.9	579.4
	AVG	589.4	-	605.4	602.9	597.0	581.7
Young Bulls	U3	585.7	571.7	581.0	588.0	597.3	594.4
	R3	577.8	557.1	577.6	581.4	589.3	588.7
	O3	568.1	550.3	563.5	560.5	571.6	578.7
	AVG	571.6	-	573.9	572.0	582.2	581.0
	Prime Cattle Price Reported		6,402	-	5,981	7,009	8,867
O3		495.0	506.3	514.8	521.4	513.5	517.0
O4		502.3	508.8	514.4	528.0	521.8	517.7
P3		477.8	496.6	476.2	502.8	509.2	500.4
AVG		466.4	-	494.8	496.2	480.7	466.4

After three weeks of larger price decreases, NI cattle prices continued to weaken last week at a softer pace, while GB and ROI recorded larger declines. Within NI, price movements varied between premium and non-premium categories, with greater declines in non-premium prices. NI slaughter throughput rose last week, with the highest prime slaughter of 2026 to date, supported by higher imports from ROI for direct slaughter.

NI steers decreased by an average of 2.3p/kg last week to 589.6p/kg, however, there was variation across grades and between premium and non-premium prices. U3 steers were back by 5.0p/kg and R3 steers were back 6.0p/kg when counting all throughput. Excluding animals eligible for a bonus, non-premium U3 and R3 prices were back 5.4p/kg and 8.4p/kg respectively. The O4 non-premium price fell 12.3p/kg to 573.4p/kg, however, the average price for O4 steers rose 18.7p/kg to 606.1p/kg reflecting the absence of Wagyu steers from the previous week's slaughter. Heifer prices fell by an average of 3.3p/kg to 589.4p/kg. The low Wagyu slaughter in the previous week had a similar impact on the lower grade heifer prices, albeit to a lesser extent. Non-premium O4 heifers were down 14.9p/kg to 574.2p/kg while the total average O4 price rose 5.1p/kg to 593.9p/kg. Young bulls were back 5.5p/kg to an average of 571.6p/kg and cull cows were little changed on the week, back 2.4p/kg on average.

In GB, prices decreased by larger amounts than in NI. Steers were back by an average of 8.4p/kg to 596.0p/kg. Heifer prices were back 6.6p/kg to an average of 597.1p/kg. NI-GB price differentials narrowed last week to 6.4p/kg for steers and 6.6p/kg for heifers compared to 12.5p/kg and 11.0p/kg the previous week. Young bulls were down by an average of 9.6p/kg and cull cows were back by 6.7p/kg.

After smaller movements over recent weeks, ROI cattle prices fell by more than prices in NI and GB last week. Higher grade animals saw the largest decreases with U3 steers, heifers and young bulls fell by the equivalent of 9.6p/kg, 12.7p/kg and 14.5p/kg respectively. R3 steer prices decreased by 8.6p/kg to an average price of 568.7p/kg and R3 heifers were down 8.5p/kg to 574.5p/kg. NI-ROI R3 price differentials widened last week to 24.0p/kg and 16.2p/kg for steers and heifers compared to 21.4p/kg and 15.5p/kg after 3 weeks of a narrowing gap. Unlike steers and heifers, R3 young bulls were also back 14.8p/kg. Cull cows were lower across all grades with O3 cows down 10.6p/kg.

Last week saw 9,917 head of cattle slaughtered in NI, up from 9,713 in the previous week. The slaughter comprised of 7,925 prime cattle and 1,747 cull cows. Last week marked the first week since 7th February when the 2026 weekly throughput was higher than the 2025 equivalent. Despite the uptick last week, total cattle slaughter numbers for the year to date remain 24,032 head, or 11.6 per cent, lower than the equivalent period of 2025.

There were 398 prime cattle and 30 cull cows imported from ROI for slaughter last week compared to a total of 288 head in the previous week. So far, 2026 has seen prime cattle imports rise 10.6 per cent compared to the 2025 equivalent while cow imports are down 27.1 per cent. There were no prime cattle and 3 cull cows exported to ROI for slaughter last week.

#### NI AVERAGE NON-PREMIUM CATTLE PRICES (P/KG)

Week Ending 23/05/26	Steers	Change	Heifers	Change	Young Bulls	Change
U-3	594.9	↓ -3.3	595.6	↓ -7.2	586.2	↓ -2.4
R-3	586.9	↓ -8.5	586.2	↓ -8.5	579.0	↓ -1.7
O+3	581.4	↓ -9.5	581.3	↓ -9.9	572.8	↓ -3.6
P+3	545.7	↓ -10.2	535.1	↓ -9.8	-	-

Prices exclude animals paid a premium as notified by price reporting plants. Blank cells indicate no price in the grade or no price comparison can be made with the previous period.

#### NI AVERAGE COW PRICES (P/KG)

Week Ending 23/05/26	<220kg	220-250kg	250-280kg	>280kg
P1	392.8	409.6	420.3	443.5
P2	415.3	444.2	463.5	474.9
P3	-	451.2	471.7	487.4
O3	-	-	486.7	497.9
O4	-	-	483.3	503.3
R3	-	-	-	524.3

Blank cells indicate no animals within grade were reported during the period or no price comparison can be made with previous period.

#### NI CATTLE MART LIVEWEIGHT PRICES (P/KG)

Week Ending 23/05/26	1st QUALITY			2nd QUALITY		
	FROM	TO	AVG	FROM	TO	AVG
<b>Finished Cattle</b>						
Steers	348	371	359	285	347	315
Friesians	264	270	268	250	262	258
Heifers	322	368	336	275	321	305
Beef Cows	300	382	335	215	299	265
Dairy Cows	218	260	234	120	217	170
<b>Store Cattle</b>						
Steers up to 400kg	475	533	500	385	474	425
Steers 400kg - 500kg	415	512	455	310	414	355
Steers over 500kg	350	440	370	290	349	320
Heifers up to 450kg	420	522	460	325	418	385
Heifers over 450kg	320	416	370	260	319	300
<b>Dropped Calves (£/head)</b>						
Continental Bulls	750	990	830	500	745	600
Continental Heifers	680	930	785	435	675	545
Friesian Bulls	310	600	455	85	210	147
Holstein Bulls	310	510	441	200	300	250

Prices supplied by Ballymena Livestock Market.

Prices listed are for deadweight price reported animals only. Prices are p/kg. Sterling to ROI prices are converted at 1 euro = 86.62p Stg. AVG is the average price of all grades in the category (not just those listed).

#### CATTLE IMPORTS FOR DIRECT SLAUGHTER

	2025	YTD 24/05/25	YTD 23/05/26
Imports from ROI Prime	10,066	5,028	5,784
Imports from ROI Cows	5,403	2,898	2,098

#### CATTLE SLAUGHTERINGS

	2025	YTD 24/05/25	YTD 23/05/26
Prime Cattle	367,136	156,966	148,055
Cows	112,059	45,311	40,425

2025 and 2026 year to date figures are based on the same number of weeks in each year. Source: DAERA.

## BEEF CONFERENCE

Wednesday 10th June

CAFRE Greenmount Campus

LMC Chief Executive Colin Smith will speak at the event, covering:

- Beef market insight
- Market trends, locally and globally
- Market drivers
- Factors impacting local producers
- Opportunities for NI beef sector

For further information and registration visit [ufuni.org/event/beef-conference](https://ufuni.org/event/beef-conference)

### SHEEP

#### NI DEADWEIGHT SHEEP BASE QUOTES (P/KG)

	20/05/2026	27/05/2026
R3 Lamb (21kg)	910 - 920	850
R3 Hoggets (22.5kg)	820	-

Quotes from 2 of 3 major NI plants.

#### TOTAL SHEEP SLAUGHTERINGS & EXPORTS (HEAD)

	2025	YTD 17/05/25	YTD 23/05/26
NI Slaughtering	375,178	130,346	165,630
ROI DS Exports	197,261	103,581	65,043
GB DS Exports	45,484	1,764	45,009

2025 and 2026 year to date figures are based on the same number of weeks in each year. Source: DAERA.

#### GB/ROI DW AVERAGE SHEEP PRICES (P/KG)

	16/05/2026	Change	23/05/2026	Change
GB Lamb	937.1	↑ +16.8	944.1	↑ +7.0
ROI Lamb	797.0	↑ +2.4	808.5	↑ +11.5

Source: AHDB & DAFM.

Last week NI slaughter plants handled the largest sheep kill for 8 weeks with 8,614 hoggets and lambs processed. Exports to ROI and GB for slaughter also increased last week. A large weekly consignment of 4,733 sheep travelled to GB, up by 58 per cent from the previous week's level (2,732 head). An additional 1,953 lambs/hoggets moved to Irish plants, up 78 per cent from the previous week's total when 422 head were exported. The average deadweight lamb price in GB last week was up 7p/kg week on week to 944.1p/kg, with hoggets making 891.7p/kg on average. The Irish deadweight lamb trade also increased to an average equivalent of 808.5p/kg last week.

This week the local trade for all types of sheep softened across the country from Monday evening, as fewer buyers, for both local and the export market were present due to fieldwork, the late May bank holiday and as production for Eid ul Adha ended. Despite lambs coming back £20 a head, the market is still strong overall with first quality cull ewes selling upwards of £250 and 21kg lambs selling to over £165 this week. Base quotes received by LMC on Wednesday for R3 lambs (21kg & 21.5kg), were in the region of 850p/kg, with no hogget quotes available as demand for these animals comes to an end. Producers with hoggets remaining on farm should seek to market as soon as possible with price declines occurring in line with normal seasonal trends.

#### NI SHEEP MART LIVEWEIGHT PRICES (P/KG)

23/05/2026 - 27/05/2026		LAMBS		
	No	From	To	
Saturday	Swatragh	980	650	763
Monday	Kilrea	850	885	942
	Markethill	750	790	846
Tuesday	Saintfield	571	787	870
	Rathfriland	500	800	840
Wednesday	Enniskillen	298	740	842

Prices supplied by individual marts.

**FQAS MANT DATES JUNE 2026**

**Wednesday 10th - Saintfield**  
**Thursday 11th - Enniskillen**  
**Wednesday 17th - Kilrea**

LMC Farm Liaison Officer Terry White will assist with scheme queries and offer advice.  
FQAS Helpline: 028 9263 3024.

Information supplied by DAERA/AHDB/DAFM

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