LMC
Livestock & Meat Commission
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CATTLE

AVERAGE DEADWEIGHT CATTLE PRICES (P/KG)

Week Ending 24/10/26		Northern Ireland	Rep of Ireland	Scotland	Northern England	Midlands & Wales	Southern England	GB
Steers	U3	632.6	574.4	654.8	652.9	658.3	659.2	656.3
	R3	629.8	567.0	657.6	655.2	655.0	655.9	655.7
	R4	629.6	567.6	657.4	659.3	653.6	657.9	657.2
	O3	621.3	556.7	650.3	650.3	650.1	648.4	649.7
	AVG	624.1	-	652.7	651.8	648.2	649.1	650.3
Heifers	U3	635.0	578.6	662.3	658.7	662.1	662.5	661.3
	R3	630.8	570.7	658.8	656.8	654.7	654.8	655.7
	R4	630.3	573.3	654.4	660.2	656.2	655.8	657.0
	O3	621.2	565.6	645.2	647.0	649.3	649.2	648.5
	AVG	625.7	-	651.8	650.1	647.6	644.0	648.4
Young Bulls	U3	624.7	568.2	651.2	634.9	652.6	660.8	651.1
	R3	621.9	561.2	644.0	640.5	644.5	652.3	644.2
	O3	603.6	547.7	628.2	617.3	630.5	636.1	626.7
	AVG	611.3	-	630.7	622.9	637.2	640.4	633.5
Prime Cattle Price Reported		6,542	-	5,584	6,379	9,025	5,307	26,295
Cows	O3	513.7	508.2	523.1	524.6	515.0	526.2	521.9
	O4	518.0	509.2	525.8	527.1	513.3	518.8	522.0
	P3	493.7	496.8	491.3	488.2	485.7	494.7	489.3
	AVG	474.3	-	504.9	492.7	470.7	472.1	479.1

Prices listed are for deadweight price reported animals only.
Prices are p/kg. Sterling to ROI prices are converted at 1 euro = 83.91 Stg.
AVG is the average price of all grades in the category (not just those listed).

CATTLE EXPORTS FOR DIRECT SLAUGHTER

	2025	YTD 25/10/25	YTD 24/10/26
Exports to ROI Prime	175	124	546
Exports to ROI Cows	2,120	1,736	845

CATTLE IMPORTS FOR DIRECT SLAUGHTER

	2025	YTD 25/10/25	YTD 24/10/26
Imports from ROI Prime	10,066	8,666	10,294
Imports from ROI Cows	5,403	4,653	4,265

CATTLE SLAUGHTERINGS

	2025	YTD 25/10/25	YTD 24/10/26
Prime Cattle	367,136	304,431	289,249
Cows	112,059	89,091	82,790

CATTLE AVERAGE CARCASE WEIGHTS (KG)

	2025	YTD 25/10/25	YTD 24/10/26
Prime Cattle	342.5	341.4	352.3
Cows	295.8	296.6	294.5

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

Deadweight cattle prices increased for the ninth consecutive week, although the pace of growth has slowed as cattle are seasonally brought forward towards the end of the grazing season. R3 steer prices in NI increased by 0.7p/kg to 629.8p/kg last week, with throughput up by 352 to 10,610 head, the highest weekly total of the year.

NI steer prices increased by an average of 2.3p/kg to 624.1p/kg and heifers were up 0.9p/kg to 625.7p/kg. Non-premium base grades, R-3 steers and heifers increased 0.8p/kg and 0.1p/kg to 626.2p/kg and 626.6p/kg. Young bulls were 1.6p/kg lower on the week at 611.3p/kg. U3 and O3 animals were down 2.4p/kg and 4.9p/kg, however, R3 young bulls were up 3.0p/kg to 603.6p/kg. Cull cow prices decreased for carcase weights below 250kg while prices for heavier cows improved with O3 cows over 280kg up 5.2p/kg to 516.8p/kg.

Slaughter numbers were higher than the equivalent week of 2025 as cattle were brought forward due to deteriorating ground conditions following increased rainfall. There were 10,610 cattle slaughtered in NI with 7,924 prime cattle and 2,392 cows. The prime slaughter was higher than the equivalent week in both 2024 and 2025. The larger presentation in recent weeks is beginning to close the year to date gap with 2025 in prime slaughter numbers currently 5.3% lower than in 2025. Total throughput has also narrowed the gap compared to earlier in the year and is now 5.7% lower than the 2025 equivalent despite cow numbers remaining 7.6% behind 2025.

In GB, prices strengthened again last week after stability across most grades in the previous week. The price of steers increased by an average of 3.9p/kg to 650.3p/kg with U3 steers averaging 659.2p/kg in Southern England. The NI-GB R3 steer differential has continued to widen with prices in GB increasing at a faster rate than in NI. The differential grew by 2.9p/kg to 25.9p/kg last week marking the widest margin since April 2025. Heifers were also up 3.9p/kg to an average of 648.4p/kg. U3 heifer prices in Scotland increased by 3.6p/kg, crossing 660p/kg, to 662.3p/kg. The average price for young bulls was steady on the week at 633.5p/kg, reflecting an increased proportion of lower grades in the slaughter. Cull cow prices were mixed across GB with O4 cows up 6.1p/kg to 525.8p/kg in Scotland while the same grade fell 10.0p/kg to 518.8p/kg in Southern England.

Prices in ROI continued to decline last week, in contrast to NI and GB. In sterling terms, R3 steers and heifers were 5.6p/kg lower at 567.0p/kg and 570.7p/kg respectively. R3 young bulls decreased by 6.6p/kg to 561.2p/kg. With prices moving in opposite directions, the NI-ROI R3 steer differential has increased to 62.8p/kg last week from 56.6p/kg in the previous week. The differential has grown from 26.5p/kg at the beginning of July and is now at the widest since February 2025. In ROI, cull cow prices also decreased with O-grade prices now below those recorded across the UK, although the average price for P3 cull cows last week was above the average published price in the UK.

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

Week Ending 24/10/26	Steers	Change	Heifers	Change	Young Bulls	Change
U-3	632.5	+1.5	633.9	+1.7	622.4	-3.0
R-3	626.2	+0.8	626.6	+0.1	617.8	+2.7
O+3	620.4	+3.8	621.4	+2.1	608.3	-5.3
P+3	587.6	+3.3	581.8	+1.3	-	-

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 24/10/26	<220kg	220-250kg	250-280kg	>280kg
P1	398.6	418.8	434.4	450.3
P2	413.7	456.5	474.0	489.7
P3	421.0	466.6	490.1	498.6
O3	-	-	510.4	516.8
O4	433.0	-	-	-
R3	-	-	-	-

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 24/10/26	1st QUALITY FROM	TO	AVG	2nd QUALITY FROM	TO	AVG
Finished Cattle						
Steers	360	378	370	320	359	340
Friesians	290	304	300	270	289	280
Heifers	350	382	365	310	349	338
Beef Cows	330	392	358	280	329	300
Dairy Cows	220	262	240	180	219	195
Store Cattle						
Steers up to 400kg	480	651	530	380	470	400
Steers 400kg - 500kg	420	470	450	350	410	380
Steers over 500kg	400	454	425	340	399	360
Heifers up to 450kg	480	680	500	400	470	430
Heifers over 450kg	370	423	402	300	360	335
Dropped Calves (£/head)						
Continental Bulls	710	1,140	870	350	700	540
Continental Heifers	650	1,055	810	300	640	500
Friesian Bulls	300	620	430	150	290	220
Holstein Bulls	200	500	360	70	190	170

Prices supplied by Ballymena Livestock Market.

SHEEP

NI DEADWEIGHT SHEEP BASE QUOTES

(P/KG)	21/10/2026	28/10/2026
R3 Lamb (22kg)	685	685

Quotes from 1 of 3 major NI plants.

TOTAL SHEEP SLAUGHTERINGS & EXPORTS (HEAD)

	2025	YTD 25/10/25	YTD 24/10/26
NI Slaughterings	375,178	301,024	343,254
ROI DS Exports	209,871	179,065	120,836
GB DS Exports	45,484	34,962	99,718

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)	17/10/2026	Change	24/10/2026	Change
GB Lamb	719.4	-4.3	719.9	+0.5
ROI Lamb	665.1	-4.9	659.4	-5.7

Source: AHDB & DAFM.

This week a steady trade for lambs was reported across NI marts and plants, with a base quote of 685p/kg (to 22kg) received by LMC on Wednesday. The trade for ewes improved as the week progressed with one mart reporting paid prices in excess of £300 for quality texel types.

Local plants slaughtered 9,556 lambs and 453 ewes/rams combined last week. The average lamb carcass weight has been consistent for a fortnight at 22.2kg, with well fed lambs being presented for slaughter. In terms of exports, last week recorded the smallest weekly consignment of sheep exported to GB for slaughter to date. In total 415 sheep travelled to GB plants, approximately half the previous week's level (812 head). In GB, the lamb kill decreased by 1,720 head (0.8%) last week as a consequence of weather conditions. Travel disruptions will also in part, explain the reduced export levels to GB. The average deadweight lamb price in GB last week strengthened by 0.5p/kg, indicating an improved trade in NI will follow over the coming weeks.

Sheep exports to ROI increased week on week to total 2,965 head, comprised of 2,769 lambs and 196 ewes and rams. The deadweight lamb trade in ROI decreased last week by the equivalent of -5.7/kg to 659.4p/kg on average.

NI SHEEP MART LIVEWEIGHT PRICES (P/KG)

24/10/2026 - 28/10/2026		LAMBS No	From	To
Saturday	Omagh	827	647	729
	Swatragh	1000	710	812
Monday	Kilrea	1000	610	703
	Markethill	1290	630	708
Tuesday	Saintfield	550	600	716
	Rathfriland	1062	634	758
Wednesday	Ballymena	1806	580	641 (AVE 600)
	Enniskillen	1100	580	670
	Armoy	555	580	700

Prices supplied by individual marts.

FQAS MART DATES NOVEMBER 2026

Monday 2nd – Omagh
Wednesday 4th – Camlough
Friday 6th – Ballymena

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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