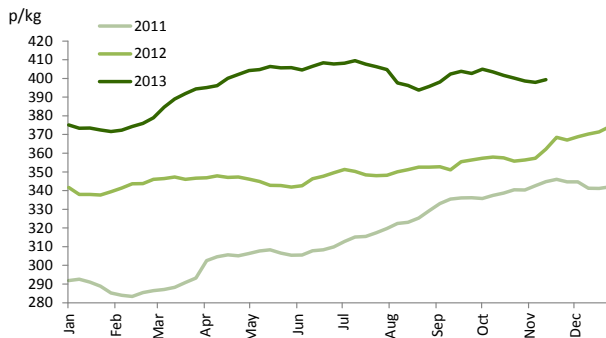


Deadweight cattle prices edge up in some areas

The easing of [deadweight prime cattle prices](#) in recent weeks has appeared to have stopped. The all prime cattle average levelled on the week at 386.2p/kg. Reports suggest that, stimulated by the colder weather, the first hint of better demand could be filtering into the trade. However, caution amongst processors remains and is largely dependent on prospects for the upcoming Christmas period. The eagerly anticipated uplift in demand does have potential to exert some upwards pressure on price. However, with supplies on offer this week reported to be more than adequate, the market is still very finely balanced.

GB R4L deadweight steer price

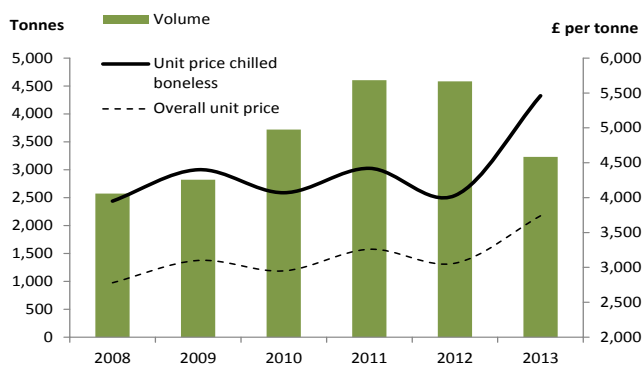


Source: AHDB/EBLEX

Share of boneless chilled product increases

The latest trade data from HMRC is now available on the [EBLEX website](#). Exports in September were back almost a third on the year. Within the product mix, and continuing the trend for most of this year, higher valued boneless cuts accounted for over half of all fresh/chilled shipments, notably more than two years ago.

Volume / Value of UK boneless chilled beef exports Sep 2008 - 2013



Source: HMRC/GTIS

Despite lower shipments to some destinations, in the year to date these exports to the Netherlands are up by 36% and to France by 11% - close to volumes recorded in the record year of 2011. With the unit value of fresh/chilled boneless shipments averaging £5,500 per tonne in

Cattle market at a glance

GB Liveweight prices week ending 20/11/13		
	Price p/kg lw	p/kg change on wk
Steers	200.0	+0.2
Heifers	211.5	+1.0
Young bulls	183.7	-2.0
Cows	102.3	+1.4

GB Deadweight prices week ending 16/11/13			
		Price p/kg dw	p/kg change on wk
Steers :	R4L	399.3	+1.4
	All	391.3	+1.9
Heifers :	R4L	394.4	+0.6
	All	388.3	-1.2
Young bulls :	R3	370.7	+2.5
	All	354.1	-5.6
Cows :	-O4L	230.8	-6.4
	All	209.5	-4.2

GB Estimated slaughtering		
	16/11/13	9/11/13
Steers	14,700	47,700
Heifers	13,000	12,700
Young bulls	4,300	3,800
All prime	31,900	31,200
Cows	11,500	11,400

Source: AHDB/EBLEX/LAA/IAAS

September, compared to the overall value of exports at £3,740 per tonne, it is clear how important growth in the higher value segment is in delivering returns to the UK industry.

[Beef and veal imports](#) in September were higher than year earlier levels largely on the back of increased shipments from Ireland. However, following a resumption of trade in April, shipments from Botswana have been increasing and in September amounted to 4% of the UK's import requirement. A more detailed review of this trade development and the year to date position is available on the [EBLEX website](#).

Food and Farming Minister to speak at AHDB Outlook 2014

Food and Farming Minister George Eustice will address the AHDB Outlook 2014 conference in February. The programme will explore factors that will affect businesses, including supply chain matters, international trade developments and how the UK industry can respond to emerging opportunities and threats. The beef and sheep breakout session will cover the outlook for the sector, including the latest AHDB/EBLEX supply forecasts. You can find further details of the conference [here](#).

Sheep Weekly

22 November 2013, Issue 47

Lamb trade flat

With little sign of a seasonal uplift, [the lamb trade](#) was broadly flat in week ended 20 November. Although the SQQ levelled on the week at 172.0p/kg, there were some movements across the week as trade remained variable. On Monday 18 November the trade was a penny higher on the week at 173.4p/kg, despite more lambs coming forward. However, by Wednesday, again with increased supplies, trade was back 3p on the week to 168.2p/kg.

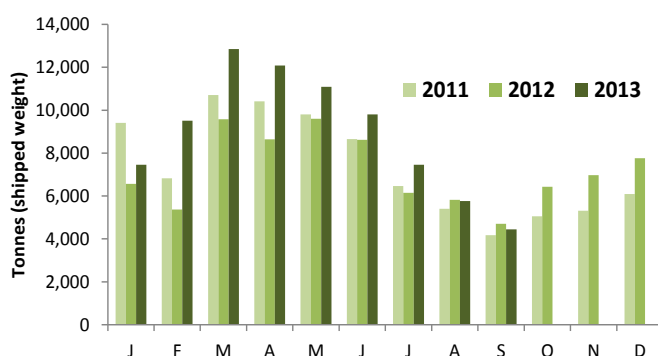
Following a period of increased numbers, throughputs of cull ewes at GB auction marts in week ended 20 November eased. Despite this, prices also remain subdued, with the average price back a near £1 per head to £44.80.

[Deadweight prices](#) in week ended 16 November levelled in line with the liveweight trade, the overall average GB SQQ of 399.2p/kg was down a penny on the week.

Imports slow down further

Latest import figures from HMRC are now available on the [EBLEX website](#). In September, imports continued to track below year earlier levels, with volumes down 5% on the year at 4,400 tonnes. This comes largely on the back of a 6% decline in shipments from New Zealand, where supplies have now tightened and China continues to take much increased volumes. In contrast, imports from Australia continued to be higher on the year, with volumes up 31%.

UK imports of fresh and frozen sheep meat



Source: GTIS/HMRC

With supplies tightening, the average unit value of UK sheep meat imports has started to strengthen. In September it was up 8% on the year at £3,700 per tonne. However, this is still much cheaper than the

Sheep market at a glance

GB Liveweight prices week ending 20/11/13		
	Price p/kg	p/kg change on wk
Lambs SQQ - NSL	172.0	+0.4
	£ per head	£ change on week
Cull ewes	44.8	-0.6
Store lambs - NSL	53.7	-0.5

Deadweight prices week ending 16/11/13		
	Price p/kg	p/kg change on wk
GB lambs SQQ - NSL	399.2	-1.5
European prices week ending 17/11/13 (converted from €)		
United Kingdom	375.3	-1.5
Republic of Ireland	339.1	-4.0
France	549.3	+4.6
EU-25	422.8	-1.4

Estimated slaughterings (lambs)		
	16/11/13	9/11/13
Great Britain	262,700	251,800
Northern Ireland	11,840	11,850
Republic of Ireland	49,400	50,700

Source: AHDB/EBLEX/LAA/IAAS, EU Commission, Bord Bia, DARD

average unit value recorded in September 2011, when it was £4,600 per tonne. A summary of UK sheep meat imports in the first nine months of the year can be found on the [EBLEX website](#).

Export volumes still strong in September

UK sheep meat exports in September continued to perform well above year earlier levels with volumes up 16% at 9,400 tonnes. Although increased volumes were shipped to most markets, this uplift was largely driven by movements in the two largest markets of France and Hong Kong.

Of the other destinations for UK sheep meat, there were notable increases in shipments to Germany, Spain, Ghana and Norway, amongst others. For the month, average unit values were down nearly 5%, likely reflecting the fact that farmgate prices were somewhat lower during the month. The other factor is likely to be the increased importance of some lower value markets such as Hong Kong and Ghana. However there were some encouraging signs, in particular a 26% rise in the average value of shipments to Hong Kong. This indicates that some higher value cuts are starting to be shipped to this market.

A summary of UK sheep meat exports in the first nine months of the year can be found on the [EBLEX website](#).