

# Cattle Weekly

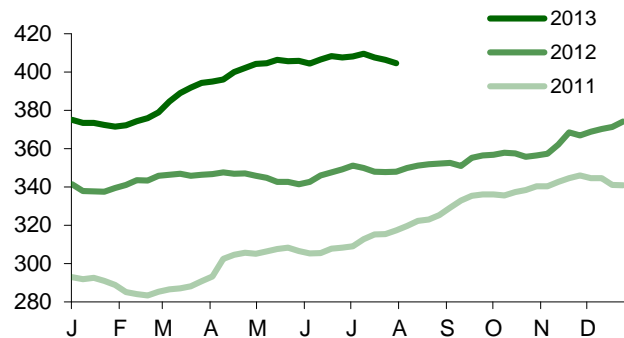
9 August 2013, Issue 32

## Cattle prices finely balanced again

With fine weather resulting in slower retail demand, trade in week ended 3 August again reacted. At 390.6p/kg the [GB all prime cattle indicator](#) was back 4p on the week. AHDB/EBLEX estimates indicate that slaughterings were lower on the week as better grazing conditions and other on farm activities curtailed supplies coming forward. Despite this, reports suggest that, reflecting the weaker market, prices for native-bred cattle fitting specific supermarket schemes were also subject to some downward pressure. However, prices continue to trade well ahead of year earlier levels as the fundamental tight supply is maintained, amid robust demand for assured product.

### GB R4L deadweight steer price

p per kg dw



Source: AHDB/EBLEX

The cheaper Polish beef available on the EU market has continued to impact on the domestic and export cow trade. In week ended 3 August, cull cow prices on both a live and deadweight basis dropped significantly. To some extent this demonstrates the commodity nature of the cow beef trade where price is the main driver to demand.

Latest prices at [GB auction markets](#) are more positive. In week ended 7 August, tighter prime cattle supplies have supported an uplift in prices. The all cattle average was up over 3p on the week at 202.9p/kg. Although cow prices at auction appear to be subdued, trade on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week has been marginally ahead compared to the week earlier.

## Irish cattle slaughterings up in the first half of the year

The December 2012 Irish cattle census delivered evidence of growing confidence in the Irish cattle sector. Overall cattle numbers were up 5% on the year. As expected, this has resulted in more beef coming onto the market in the first six months of the year. According to the Irish Central Statistics Office, at 758,300 cattle slaughterings were up nearly 10% or 69,000 head, on the year.

## Cattle market at a glance

### GB Liveweight prices week ending 07/08/13

	Price p/kg lw	p/kg change on wk
Steers	204.1	+1.8
Heifers	213.0	+2.4
Young bulls	189.9	+4.8
Cows	118.7	-2.4

### GB Deadweight prices week ending 03/08/13

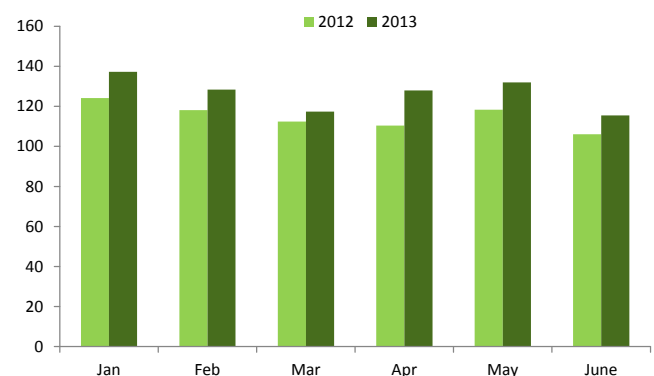
	Price p/kg dw	p/kg change on wk
Steers :		
R4L	404.7	-1.6
All	395.5	-3.3
Heifers :		
R4L	396.7	-2.7
All	393.4	-3.5
Young bulls :		
R3	374.1	-5.1
All	371.8	-2.6
Cows :		
-O4L	276.7	-10.2
All	257.2	-11.8

### GB Estimated slaughterings

	03/08/13	27/07/13
Steers	12,100	13,300
Heifers	10,400	10,600
Young bulls	5,600	5,500
<b>All prime</b>	<b>28,100</b>	<b>29,400</b>
Cows	8,900	8,700

Source: AHDB/EBLEX/LAA/IAAS

## Irish cattle slaughterings, Jan- Jun



Source : CSO, Ireland

Despite increased throughputs and a subsequent 5% increase in beef production, Irish cattle prices have continued to perform strongly with trade being underpinned by tight supplies across Europe, particularly in the UK. In the wake of the horse meat issue and reflective of the change in the market to some extent, demand for Irish quality assured beef in the UK has been robust. However, with UK supplies forecast to recover marginally in the second half of this year, there is the potential for demand for Irish product to dampen. Further analysis is available on the [EBLEX website](#).

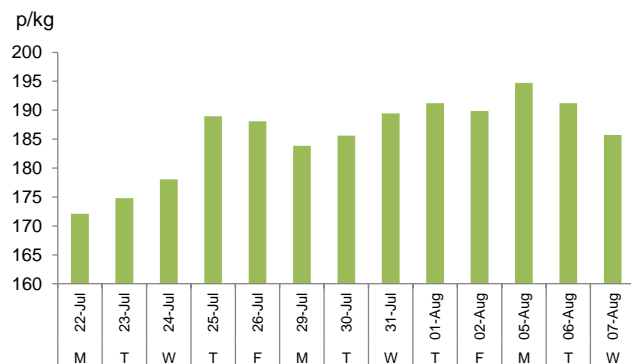
# Sheep Weekly

9 August 2013, Issue 32

## Lamb trade continues to correct

In week ended 7 August, as the trade continued to correct itself, [liveweight lamb prices](#) maintained their recovery of the previous week. With the daily GB SQQs trading between 190p/kg and 195p/kg, the average GB SQQ for the week was 190.7p/kg, a rise of 4p on the week and up around 15p/kg in the past fortnight. A function of the better prices has again been increased numbers of lambs coming forward, possibly fulfilling an upturn in demand with the easing off in temperature. Throughputs at GB auction marts were up over 20 per cent on the week before, and were broadly similar to where they were before the sharp fall in trade. However, with harvest underway in many parts of the country, some farmers may be busy with other activities and selecting sheep could take a back seat in the short term. This has the potential to impact on the supply/demand balance.

## Daily liveweight SQQ at GB auction marts



Source: AHDB/EBLEX/LAA/IAAS

In week ended 3 August, with Ramadan drawing to a close, the [deadweight lamb trade](#) showed upward movement, following the liveweight trade at the time. At 412.7p/kg, the SQQ was over 3p higher on the week.

## Irish lamb kill slows in Q2 of 2013

According to Bord Bia (the Irish Food Board), Irish sheep slaughterings were well ahead of year earlier levels in the first quarter of 2013 due to a large carry-over of lambs following last year's adverse weather. With an earlier Easter pushing increased lamb slaughterings, the largest uplift in throughputs came in March with the monthly kill up 41% on the year. From this point onwards numbers look to have slowed considerably. Nevertheless, for the year to June total sheep throughputs were still up 13% on the year at 1.23 million head. At 24,400 tonnes Irish mutton and

## Sheep market at a glance

GB Liveweight prices week ending 07/08/13		
	Price p/kg	p/kg change on wk
Lambs SQQ - NSL	190.7	+3.9
	£ per head	£ change on week
Cull ewes	52.9	-2.3
Store lambs - NSL	53.7	-0.2

Deadweight prices week ending 03/08/13		
	Price p/kg	p/kg change on wk
GB lambs SQQ - NSL	412.7	+3.1

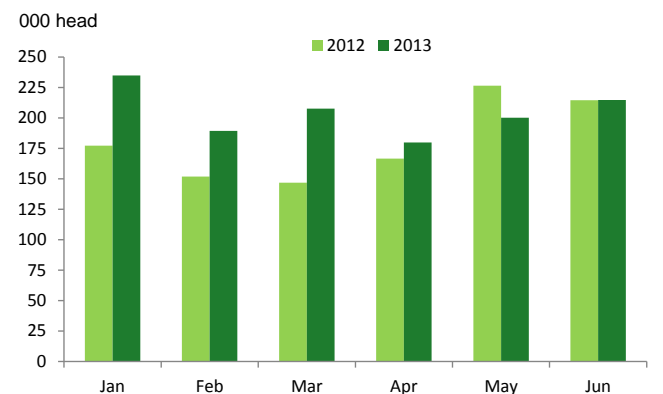
European prices week ending 04/08/13 (converted from €)		
United Kingdom	409.8	+3.5
Republic of Ireland	371.8	-7.3
France	560.8	+6.3
EU-25	441.0	+1.6

Estimated slaughterings (lambs)		
	03/08/13	27/07/13
Great Britain	258,100	209,300
Northern Ireland	7,900	9,700
Republic of Ireland	47,800	46,700

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

lamb production in the first half of the year was 14% higher year on year.

## Irish sheep slaughter, Jan- Jun



Source: CSO Ireland

This slowing in Q2 is the result of the number of lambs being slaughtered falling, in particular during May and June. However, adult sheep numbers continued to be well ahead of year earlier levels. High slaughter levels recorded earlier in the year have reduced old season numbers and the new season has been slow to start due to weather disruptions earlier in the year. Further analysis on the first half year position is available on the [EBLEX website](#).