

Monthly Cattle Feeding Returns in Iowa

Table 1. Ten-year summary of estimated returns to finishing steer calves in Iowa (\$ per head), by sale month

Month	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Average 2014-23
January	\$191.11	\$193.55	-\$490.83	\$12.49	\$13.66	\$15.84	\$7.05	-\$106.82	\$37.93	-\$44.37	-\$17.04
February	218.45	32.45	-477.96	37.19	76.51	45.63	23.98	-74.87	60.67	19.06	-3.89
March	264.07	17.61	-300.16	213.15	43.16	51.28	-64.14	-71.16	-12.30	43.04	18.45
April	256.27	-62.65	-365.42	210.93	45.42	72.96	-223.84	-53.04	-5.92	166.43	4.11
May	179.37	-99.76	-259.37	399.05	-4.25	-43.77	-58.36	-106.31	-19.07	162.18	14.97
June	202.95	-242.80	-182.16	364.96	-111.47	-111.78	-153.08	-76.73	10.99	326.54	2.74
July	316.17	-282.24	-153.75	231.00	-113.15	-41.31	-176.91	-40.35	-11.40	297.77	2.58
August	276.60	-308.09	-70.97	61.16	-166.60	-101.15	-103.73	-88.71	-67.30	300.79	-26.80
September	234.10	-460.68	-285.76	-31.79	-182.72	-238.27	-172.06	-96.49	-124.40	250.36	-110.77
October	315.32	-426.62	-348.53	34.58	-214.24	-181.37	-159.56	-118.89	-148.71	201.73	-104.63
November	338.76	-524.92	-293.67	101.65	-167.23	-128.62	-119.39	-19.06	-85.19	71.54	-82.61
December	<u>248.26</u>	<u>-547.59</u>	<u>-123.18</u>	<u>20.11</u>	<u>-66.20</u>	<u>-81.53</u>	<u>-101.41</u>	<u>43.13</u>	<u>-12.41</u>	<u>-139.43</u>	<u>-76.03</u>
Average	\$253.45	-\$225.98	-\$279.31	\$137.87	-\$70.59	-\$61.84	-\$108.45	-\$67.44	-\$31.43	\$137.97	-\$31.58

During the 2014-2023 period, the range in profits was from -\$547.59 to \$399.05.

During this period, 41.7% of the months were profitable and 58.3% of the months were unprofitable.

Month sold	Months of		Range	Months
	Profit	Loss		
January	70%	30%	Profit over \$250	10.0%
February	80%	20%	Profit \$200 to \$250	6.7%
March	60%	40%	Profit \$150 to \$200	4.2%
April	50%	50%	Profit \$100 to \$150	0.8%
May	30%	70%	Profit \$50 to \$100	5.0%
June	40%	60%	Profit \$0 to \$50	15.0%
July	30%	70%	Loss \$0 to -\$50	10.0%
August	30%	70%	Loss -\$50 to -\$100	12.5%
September	20%	80%	Loss -\$100 to -\$150	12.5%
October	30%	70%	Loss -\$150 to -\$200	8.3%
November	30%	70%	Loss -\$200 to -\$250	3.3%
December	30%	70%	Loss over -\$250	11.7%

The assumptions used in computing the returns are outlined in the [Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Estimated Livestock Returns](https://estimatedreturns.econ.iastate.edu/), <https://estimatedreturns.econ.iastate.edu/>.

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Table 2. Ten-year summary of estimated returns to finishing yearling steers in Iowa (\$ per head), by sale month

Month	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Average 2014-23
January	\$174.52	\$34.79	-\$365.56	\$37.54	\$61.61	-\$2.59	\$101.61	-\$120.53	-\$8.60	-\$37.68	-\$12.49
February	144.93	-88.20	-294.75	128.73	97.80	9.56	8.13	-100.76	52.35	19.97	-2.22
March	172.78	-151.31	-103.90	303.39	35.81	41.65	-86.22	-111.09	26.65	107.16	23.49
April	200.13	-108.39	-56.41	364.99	-39.98	111.64	-244.44	30.44	39.92	274.84	57.27
May	168.41	-152.40	106.86	410.07	-52.80	15.51	-67.26	-49.99	-3.00	271.42	64.68
June	169.61	-156.80	24.06	275.20	-103.06	-46.82	-188.63	11.93	-3.32	366.06	34.82
July	256.54	-98.64	-51.02	192.70	-97.33	-36.66	-188.34	-18.24	-46.61	313.97	22.64
August	237.81	-160.21	-111.92	66.49	-98.45	-78.18	-67.18	-16.95	8.40	248.06	2.79
September	210.04	-395.05	-180.90	-45.03	-96.95	-234.47	19.69	-60.45	-17.28	126.75	-67.37
October	261.46	-477.69	-219.40	-78.04	-33.06	-122.25	-38.58	-41.60	29.59	133.73	-58.58
November	240.48	-504.32	-144.86	20.48	-57.43	-6.65	-31.02	43.33	54.72	-55.59	-44.09
December	33.46	-536.79	-1.49	2.60	-61.92	38.14	-52.23	74.68	-34.32	-338.05	-87.59
Average	\$189.18	-\$232.92	-\$116.61	\$139.93	-\$37.15	-\$25.93	-\$69.54	-\$29.94	\$8.21	\$119.22	-\$5.55

	Months of			Range	Months
	Month sold	Profit	Loss		
During the 2014-2023 period, the range in profits was from -\$536.79 to \$410.07. During this period, 45.8% of the months were profitable and 54.2% of the months were unprofitable.	January	50%	50%	Profit over \$250	8.3%
	February	70%	30%	Profit \$200 to \$250	4.2%
	March	60%	40%	Profit \$150 to \$200	4.2%
	April	60%	40%	Profit \$100 to \$150	6.7%
	May	50%	50%	Profit \$50 to \$100	5.0%
	June	50%	50%	Profit \$0 to \$50	17.5%
	July	30%	70%	Loss \$0 to -\$50	17.5%
	August	40%	60%	Loss -\$50 to -\$100	15.0%
	September	30%	70%	Loss -\$100 to -\$150	7.5%
	October	30%	70%	Loss -\$150 to -\$200	5.8%
	November	40%	60%	Loss -\$200 to -\$250	2.5%
	December	40%	60%	Loss over -\$250	5.8%

The assumptions used in computing the returns are outlined in the [Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Estimated Livestock Returns](https://estimatedreturns.econ.iastate.edu/), <https://estimatedreturns.econ.iastate.edu/>.

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