



11 June 2020

Agricultural Price Index – April 2020

The Agricultural Price Index (API) is an index of the price of agricultural outputs and inputs for the UK used to track change over time. More details on the index, including how it is produced, are in the Background section at the end of this document.

Key points at April 2020

Outputs

- The index for total outputs is 2.0 points higher compared to April 2019. This is driven by increases overall for both crop products, and animals and animal products. There is, however, a mixed picture within these product groups, with lower prices for cereals and animal products, and higher prices for fresh fruit and animals (specifically pigs and poultry). The decrease for animal products is driven by a decrease for milk, partially offset by an increase for eggs.
- The price index for total outputs decreased by 0.4 points from March 2020. Overall, this was driven by a decrease of 3.1 points for animals and 3.3 for animal products, partially offset by an increase of 6.1 points for crop products. The largest monthly price index change was for fresh fruit (up 77.8 points).

Inputs

- The index for total inputs is 2.7 points lower compared to April 2019. This is driven by significant decreases in the price for energy and lubricants, and fertilisers and soil improvers, and is only partially offset by price increases in plant protection products and vehicle maintenance.
- Total input prices are again little changed from the previous month (down 0.5 points), with only energy and lubricants showing much change from March 2020 (down 8.3 points).

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What you need to know about this release

Contact details

Responsible statistician: Simon Maxwell, Rm 202 Foss House, Kings Pool, 1-2 Peasholme Green, York, YO1 7PX Tel: 02080264098

Email: prices@defra.gov.uk

National Statistics Status

National Statistics status means that our statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value, and it is our responsibility to maintain compliance with these standards.

These statistics last underwent a full assessment [Assessment Report 271 Statistics on Agriculture] against the Code of Practice for Statistics in 2014.

Since the latest review by the Office for Statistics Regulation, we have continued to comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics. We have also made improvements to enhance the quality of this publication as part of our regular 5-year rebasing, which has included updating the range of prices collected based on availability and quality, and improving weighting methodology in line with Eurostat guidance.

For general enquiries about National Statistics, contact the National Statistics Public Enquiry Service:

Tel: 0845 601 3034

Email: info@statistics.gov.uk.

You can find more information about National Statistics at statistics.gov.uk.

Section 1 – Summary charts for prices indices

Figure 1.1: Monthly indices for total Outputs and total Inputs to April 2020 (2015 = 100)

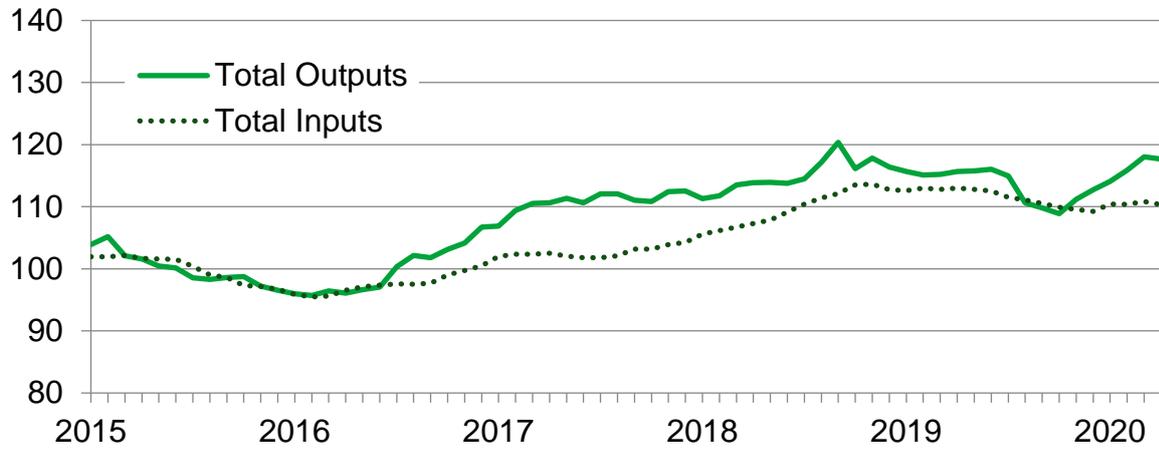


Figure 1.2: Annual average indices for total Inputs and total Outputs to April 2020 (2015 = 100)

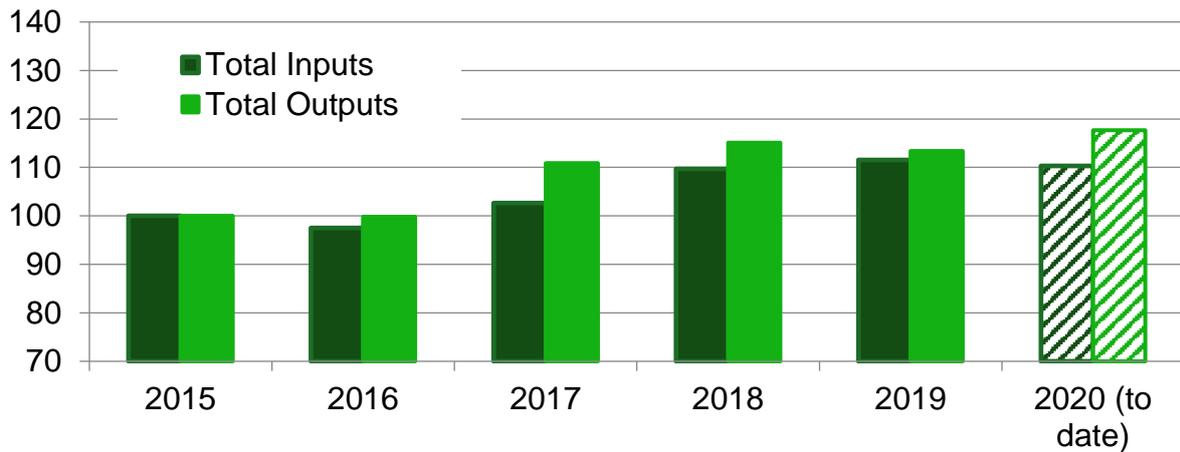
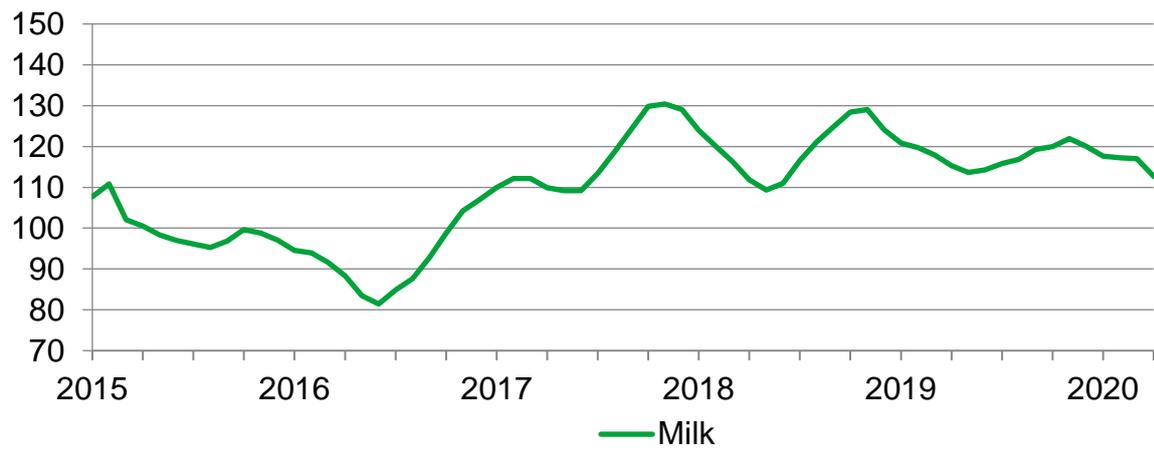


Figure 1.3: Milk price index to April 2020 (2015 = 100)



For more detail visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/milk-prices-and-composition>

Section 2 – Details of individual outputs and inputs

Figure 2.1: Monthly and annual index changes for selected outputs for April 2020 (2015 = 100)

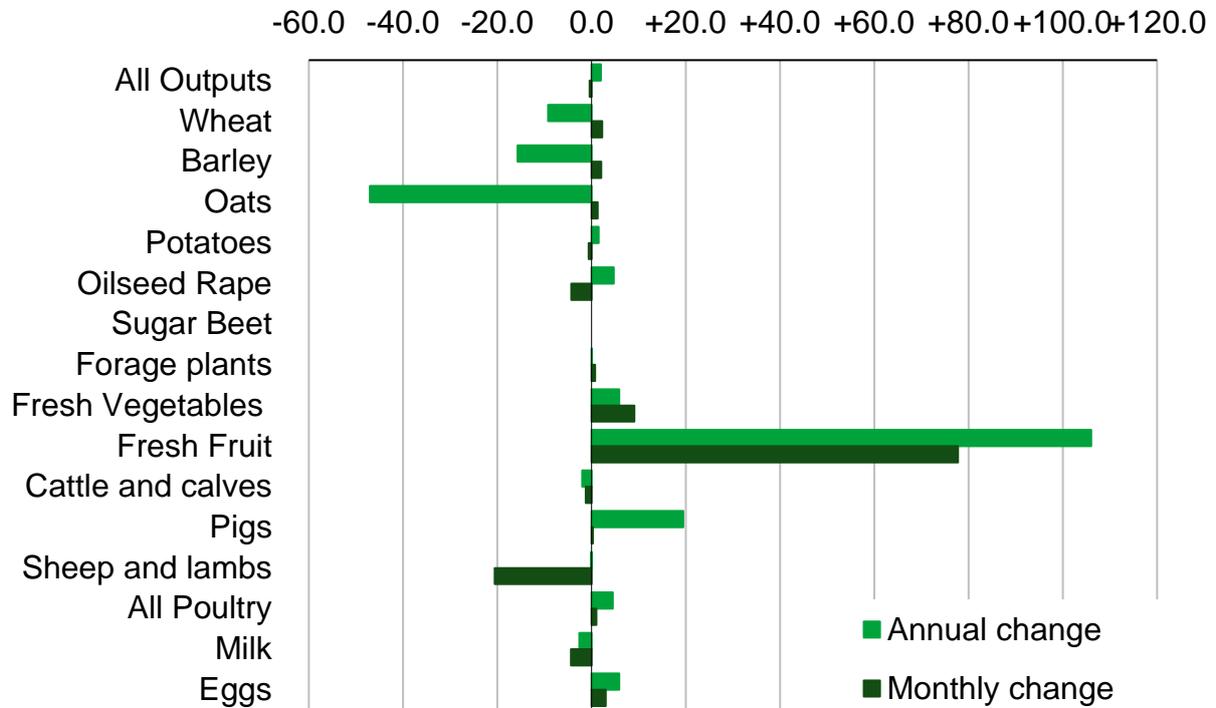
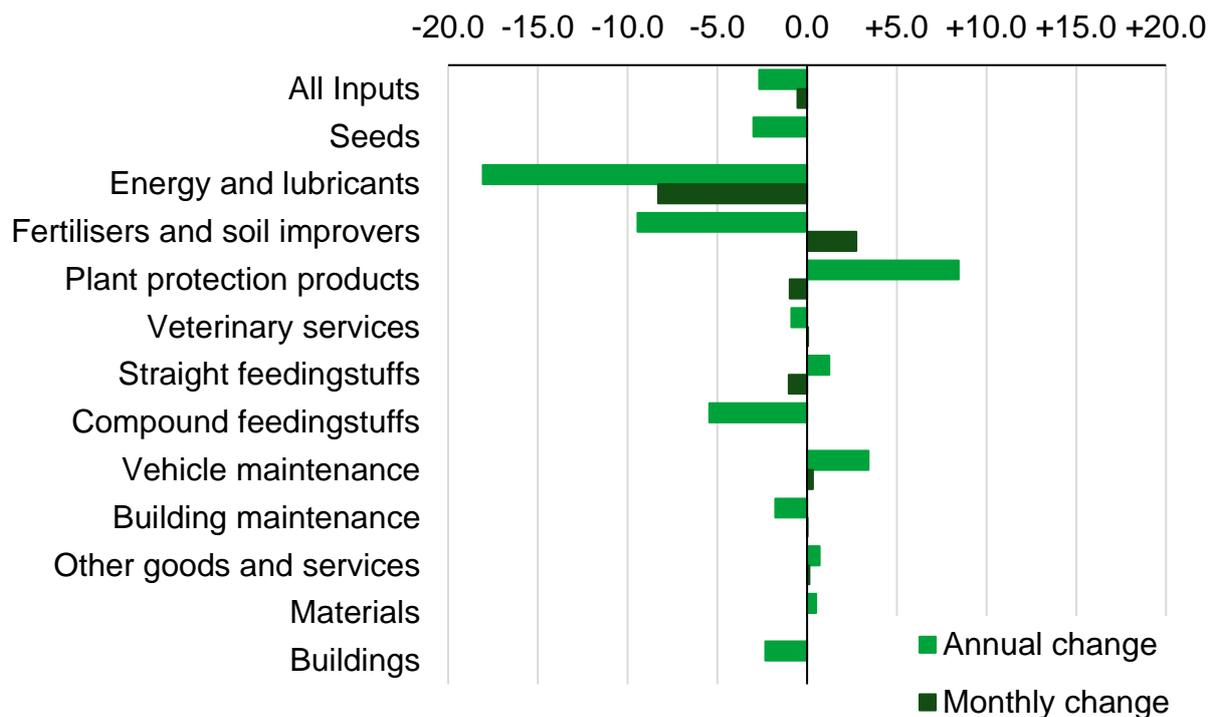


Figure 2.2: Monthly and annual index changes for selected inputs for April 2020 (2015 = 100)



Section 3 – Summary tables for price indices

**Table 1 Yearly Index of Prices of Agricultural Outputs and Inputs UK
(2015 = 100)**

	Apr-19	Apr-20	April 2019 to April 2020
Total Outputs	115.7	117.7	+2.0
Crop products	130.4	132.8	+2.4
Cereals	140.1	128.6	-11.4
Wheat	140.7	131.5	-9.2
Barley	132.9	117.2	-15.7
Oats	164.7	117.7	-47.0
Potatoes	143.2	144.6	+1.5
Industrial Crops	118.3	120.5	+2.1
Oilseed Rape	121.6	126.3	+4.7
Sugar Beet (1)	100.4	100.4	0.0
Forage plants	146.1	146.2	+0.1
Fresh Vegetables	130.1	136.0	+5.9
Fresh Fruit	167.0	273.0	+106.0
Animals and animal products	108.4	110.2	+1.8
Animals	107.1	110.6	+3.5
Cattle and calves	102.0	100.0	-2.0
Pigs	106.6	126.1	+19.5
Sheep and lambs	121.3	121.2	-0.1
All Poultry	106.4	110.9	+4.5
Animal products	110.7	109.4	-1.3
Milk	115.3	112.7	-2.6
Eggs	81.9	87.7	+5.8
Total Inputs	113.0	110.3	-2.7
All goods and services currently consumed	114.0	110.8	-3.2
Seeds	107.1	104.2	-3.0
Energy and lubricants	125.2	107.2	-18.1
Fertilisers and soil improvers	104.8	95.4	-9.4
Plant protection products	119.6	128.0	+8.4
Veterinary services	115.2	114.4	-0.9
Animal feedingstuffs	117.0	113.7	-3.4
Straight feedingstuffs	125.2	126.4	+1.2
Compound feedingstuffs	113.3	107.9	-5.4
Vehicle maintenance	108.5	111.9	+3.4
Building maintenance	112.9	111.1	-1.8

Other goods and services	109.7	110.4	+0.7
Goods and services contributing to investment (2)	108.5	108.1	-0.4
Materials	107.2	107.7	+0.5
Buildings	111.4	109.0	-2.3

(1) Sugar beet prices are provided annually and with a delay of upwards of a year.
Lack of change in this index monthly or yearly is not necessarily representative of the price changes within this market.

(2) Provisional.

**Table 2 Monthly Index of Prices of Agricultural Outputs and Inputs
UK (2015 = 100)**

	Mar-20	Apr-20	March 2020 to April 2020
Total Outputs	118.0	117.7	-0.4
Crop products	126.7	132.8	+6.1
Cereals	126.4	128.6	+2.2
Wheat	129.2	131.5	+2.3
Barley	115.2	117.2	+2.1
Oats	116.4	117.7	+1.3
Potatoes	145.3	144.6	-0.6
Industrial Crops	122.8	120.5	-2.3
Oilseed Rape	130.6	126.3	-4.3
Sugar Beet (1)	100.4	100.4	0.0
Forage plants	145.4	146.2	+0.7
Fresh Vegetables	126.9	136.0	+9.1
Fresh Fruit	195.3	273.0	+77.8
Animals and animal products	113.3	110.2	-3.1
Animals	113.7	110.6	-3.1
Cattle and calves	101.3	100.0	-1.3
Pigs	125.8	126.1	+0.2
Sheep and lambs	141.7	121.2	-20.5
All Poultry	109.9	110.9	+1.0
Animal products	112.7	109.4	-3.3
Milk	117.0	112.7	-4.3
Eggs	84.7	87.7	+3.0
Total Inputs	110.8	110.3	-0.5
All goods and services currently consumed	111.4	110.8	-0.6
Seeds	104.2	104.2	0.0
Energy and lubricants	115.5	107.2	-8.3
Fertilisers and soil improvers	92.6	95.4	+2.7
Plant protection products	129.0	128.0	-1.0
Veterinary services	114.3	114.4	+0.1
Animal feedingstuffs	114.0	113.7	-0.3
Straight feedingstuffs	127.5	126.4	-1.0
Compound feedingstuffs	107.9	107.9	0.0
Vehicle maintenance	111.6	111.9	+0.3
Building maintenance	111.1	111.1	+0.0
Other goods and services	110.3	110.4	+0.1

Goods and services contributing to investment (2)	108.1	108.1	0.0
Materials	107.7	107.7	0.0
Buildings	109.0	109.0	0.0

(1) Sugar beet prices are provided annually and with a delay of upwards of a year.

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Section 4 – About these statistics

Background

The output series reflects the price farmers receive for their products, also referred to as farm gate price. Information is collected for all major crops (for example wheat and potatoes) and on livestock and livestock products (for example sheep, milk and eggs).

The input series reflects the price farmers pay for goods and services. The series is in two groups: goods and services currently consumed; and goods and services contributing to investment. Goods and services currently consumed refer to items that are used up in the production process, for example fertiliser or seed. Goods and services contributing to investment relate to items that are required but not consumed in the production process, such as tractors or buildings.

Data uses

Farmers use the agricultural price index to help set prices for their output and monitor the price paid for inputs. Analysts in Government, industry and academia use the data to assess the impact that price changes have on industry and consumers.

The Office of National Statistics (ONS) uses API data in the production of the Producer Price Index (PPI), which is one of the key measures of inflation.

Methodology

Defra collect prices from a wide variety sources to produce the monthly API. This includes data from our own surveys, information from the Agricultural, Horticultural Development Board (AHDB), and the ONS. For some items we only receive quarterly or annual data, for example, electricity prices. When no new data are available estimates are made based on previous values until new data becomes available.

The methodology used is described in the Handbook for EU Agricultural Prices and is standard across the EU.

Weights

Each price point is assigned a weight which reflects its contribution to the overall index. The weights for each item represent their annual monetary value from the Agricultural Accounts. For example, if the annual value of animal feed purchased is three times more than fertilisers then the annual weight for animal feed will also be three times more than for fertiliser. Where monthly data is available, monthly and quarterly weights for outputs reflect the pattern of sales volumes across the year. For example, if the volume of sales for apples in October is double that in June, then the October weight for apples is double the weight for June. Monthly and quarterly weights for input items do not vary within the year. The weights are recalculated

every five years to reflect more recent data. The April 2018 index was the first to be produced using weights based on 2015, replacing weights based on 2010.