



Fruit and vegetable wholesale prices - April

The fruit and vegetable wholesale price records the average price at wholesale markets in England. Prices are collected for a selection of the most common home-grown fruit, vegetables and flowers.

Key points

Fruit

Most top fruit have fallen in price. This is because supply has outstripped demand as increased supplies of imported apples and pears are available on the markets. The quality of home produced products has remained good.

Strawberry prices have fallen significantly as demand moved away from the poorer home grown produce to imported produce of a higher quality.

Vegetables

Demand this month has moved towards salad crops away from vegetables such as cauliflowers and leeks. The supplies of home grown salad crops have come on the market this month and supplies have steadily increased over the month to meet demand.

Brussels sprout season is nearly over and prices have dropped in line with this.

Cauliflower prices have fallen as an abundance of produce is available on the market including cheaper imported produce.

Leek prices have fallen due to increased supplies and a limited demand due to the warmer weather. Prices have fallen 56% this month.

Flowers

The warmer weather has seen demand rise from gardeners for bedding and potted plants this month while the trade for cut flowers has fallen. The exception is tulip's whose price rose by 92 % this month as supplies fell at the end of their season.

Data uses

The wholesale fruit and vegetable price data is collected to provide data for the Agricultural Price Index, produced by Defra. Data is provided to the Office for National Statistics who use it in the production of the Producer Price Index. Data are provided to Eurostat for their Prix Agricole production, which provides absolute prices for products.

The data are also reproduced in the trade journals.

Change to items collected

From the start of March there was a change to the variety of apples collected. Prices for Red Pippin were replaced with Braeburn prices. This change is due to the increased supply of Braeburn apples and the limited supply of Red Pippin.

Methodology

Trained Horticultural Market Inspectors collect fruit and vegetable data from five wholesale markets across England on a weekly basis. Prices are collected from, Birmingham, Bristol, Liverpool and New Spitafields with flower prices also collected from New Covent Garden. Prices are collected on home-grown produce only for the most common fruit, vegetables and flowers. Up to five most usual prices are collected from each market along with the percentage sold at this price. Additionally information on the supply of produce at each market is recorded.

Defra identify the average price for each product based on the recorded prices and the volume of product sold at that price. The monthly data is a weighted average of the average weekly price.

Monthly data is based on all the weekly data collected that month, based on the date published in the weekly dataset. As some data are collected on the previous day to the published date it is possible that some price data will be recorded against the following month

There are periodic reviews of the produce that is collected, so the items will change over time, and also the markets where the data are collected.

Table 1 National average monthly wholesale prices of homegrown produce *continued*

		Quality	Units	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Per cent change month	12 month
VEGETABLES											
Brussels Sprouts	All Varieties	-	£/kg	0.61	0.61	0.55	0.51	0.51	0.25	-51.5%	
Bulb Onions	Yellow	-	£/kg	0.32	0.30	0.35	0.30	0.29	0.35	21.4%	23.9%
	Red	-	£/kg	0.47	0.44	0.47	0.45	0.44	0.42	-4.5%	-8.1%
Cabbage	Red	-	£/kg	0.33	0.30	0.31	0.31	0.33	0.34	3.3%	-15.3%
	Savoy	-	£/head	0.33	0.34	0.32	0.34	0.34	0.35	2.1%	-27.1%
	Spring Greens - Loose	-	£/kg								
	Spring Greens - Prepacked	-	£/kg	0.58	0.64	0.74	0.77	0.95	0.83	-12.6%	-55.9%
	Summer & Autumn-Pointed	-	£/kg	0.39	0.43				0.53		
	Summer & Autumn Round	-	£/head	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.31	0.32	0.29	-8.0%	-34.1%
	White	-	£/kg	0.27	0.25	0.24	0.25	0.26	0.25	-2.7%	-24.0%
	Winter Other	-	£/head	0.32	0.32	0.35	0.34	0.35	0.31	-10.3%	-25.5%
Calabrese	All Varieties	-	£/kg	1.00	2.06	2.40					
Capsicums	Green	Ave	£/kg	0.49	0.53			1.00			
	Red	Ave	£/kg	0.46	0.50						
Carrots	Topped-Washed	-	£/kg	0.31	0.30	0.27	0.28	0.28	0.27	-4.3%	-35.5%
Cauliflowers	Kent	-	£/head	0.53	0.83	0.52	0.64	0.53	0.46	-13.6%	-38.9%
	All Other	-	£/head	0.53	0.80	0.54	0.60	0.51	0.42	-17.5%	-8.7%
Celery	All Washed	-	£/kg	0.58	0.57						
Courgettes	All Varieties	-	£/kg								
Cucumbers	All Varieties	-	£/kg	0.57			0.99	0.66	0.64	-3.7%	-3.9%
Beans	Dwarf, French or Kidney	-	£/kg	1.45							
Leeks	Trimmed	-	£/kg	0.82	0.86	0.82	0.77	0.77	0.34	-55.7%	-79.1%
Lettuce	Butterhead – Indoor	Ave	£/head	0.30	0.31	0.34	0.34	0.31	0.30	-2.7%	-9.0%
	Cos	Ave	£/head	0.47					0.67		
	Crisp-Iceberg Type	Ave	£/head	0.29							
	Little Gem	Ave	£/twin	0.54	0.57	0.65	0.61	0.55	0.55	-1.8%	4.1%
Mushrooms	Button – Indoor	-	£/kg	1.73	1.76	1.80					
	Cup – Indoor	-	£/kg	1.79	1.85		1.90	1.84	1.87	1.4%	-1.2%
	Flat – Indoor	-	£/kg		1.73						
Parsnips	All Varieties	-	£/kg	0.91	0.93	0.88	0.87	0.82	0.80	-3.1%	-18.5%
Rhubarb	Forced	-	£/kg			3.25	2.58	2.44	2.84	16.6%	-33.2%
	Outdoor	-	£/kg	1.05				1.29	1.04	-19.2%	-52.2%
Runner Beans	Runner-Climbing	-	£/kg	1.10							
Salad Onions	Salad	-	£/bunch	0.20					0.29		

Table 1 National average monthly wholesale prices of homegrown produce *continued*

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VEGETABLES											
Shelling Peas	All Varieties	-	£/kg								
Spinach	Leaf - Loose/bunches	-	£/kg	0.65	0.70	1.20		1.13	0.96	-14.5%	
Swede	All Varieties	-	£/kg	0.36	0.35	0.33	0.32	0.31	0.29	-7.2%	-40.6%
Sweetcorn	All Varieties	-	£/cob								
Tomatoes	Round	Ave	£/kg	0.69	0.91			1.12	1.20	7.3%	-5.4%
	Vine	Ave	£/kg	0.92	0.91				2.11		26.5%
	Cherry	Ave	£/kg	1.95	1.65				2.00		
	Plum	Ave	£/kg	1.00	0.91						
Turnip	All Varieties	-	£/kg	0.77	0.73	0.83	0.89	0.88	0.86	-2.1%	10.7%
Watercress	All Varieties	-	£/bunch	0.53	0.54	0.51	0.52	0.52	0.54	3.3%	-0.1%
CUT FLOWERS											
Alstromeria	Indoor	-	£/bunch ⁽¹⁾	1.09	1.12	1.05	1.00	1.12	0.98	-12.1%	-12.8%
Chrysanthemums	Indoor-bloom	-	£/bloom	0.37	0.83						
	Indoor-spray	-	£/spray	0.18	0.76	0.47			1.10		856.5%
Gladioli	All Varieties	-	£/bunch ⁽¹⁾	0.45							
Irises	Indoor	-	£/bunch ⁽¹⁾	0.55				0.78	0.61	-22.3%	-4.6%
Narcissus-inc.Daffodils	Indoor	-	£/bunch ⁽²⁾	0.49	0.60	0.56	0.51	0.44	0.39	-11.7%	-27.2%
Oriental Lilies	Homegrown	-	£/stem	0.63	0.65				0.65		9.5%
Pinks	All Varieties	-	£/bunch ⁽³⁾								
Tulips	Indoor	-	£/bunch ⁽⁴⁾			0.50	0.44	0.36	0.70	92.4%	-18.9%
POT PLANTS											
Begonia-Elatior	13cm	-	£ each	1.25	1.22	1.22	1.19	1.28	1.25	-2.4%	12.7%
Cyclamen	13cm	-	£ each	1.25	1.51	1.46	1.50				
Poinsettia	13cm	-	£ each	4.00	2.22						
Chrysanthemum	13cm	-	£ each	1.25	1.30	1.25	1.27	1.33	1.25	-6.0%	3.6%

Note

- (1) a bunch equals 5 stems
- (2) a bunch equals 10 blooms
- (3) a bunch equals 10 stems
- (4) a bunch equals 5 blooms

Link to full dataset: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wholesale-fruit-and-vegetable-prices>