



Fruit and vegetable wholesale prices – April 2016

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.

Unless otherwise stated, changes are based on a comparison with the previous month (March).

Key points

General

Trade was steady across the month for fruit and vegetables but slower on the flower markets.

Many varieties were out of season and others coming into season so there was mixed availability. Some prices were also affected by foreign imports.

Fruit

Slow trade and the lack of demand for fruit on the markets in April led to few major fluctuations in price. Pressure from foreign supplies also affected prices.

The price for Other late season apples rose 16% to £0.61/kg as supplies dwindled. The price at the same time last year was £0.63/kg.

Strawberries fell 28% to £1.96/kg as demand dipped. The price at the same time last year was £1.60/kg when supplies were better.

Vegetables

The Asparagus price fell 43% to £8.91/kg as increased supplies and greater domestic competition pushed the price down.

The price for Bulb onions rose as supplies fell. The Yellow bulb onion price was 24% higher than the same time last year when supplies were more plentiful.

The Red cabbage price rose by 15% to £0.60/kg.

The price at the same time last year was £0.33/kg when supplies were much more plentiful.

The Kent cauliflower prices fell by 18% to £0.78/kg. The All Other cauliflower price also fell. Increased supplies of both varieties drove the price down. Prices were much lower at the same time last year when supplies were much higher.

The Forced rhubarb price rose 32% to £4.10/kg. This was due to only high quality produce being available. The price at the same time last year was £3.84/kg as supplies were greater.

The Outdoor rhubarb price fell sharply as supplies increased and demand reduced.

The prices for both Round and Vine tomatoes fell sharply to a more usual level after last month's anomalous high prices. Round tomatoes fell to £1.02/kg, 8.4% lower than the same time last year. Vine tomatoes fell to £1.04/kg, a 3.9% rise compared to the same time last year. Plentiful supplies of continental imports and increased domestic competition pushed the prices down.

Turnip prices rose 30% to £1/kg as supplies fell.

Flowers

The Tulip price rose 8% to £0.92 per 5 bloom. Better quality produce towards the end of the month pushed the price up. The price at the same time last year was £0.88 per 5 bloom when supplies were better.

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.

Methodology

Trained Horticultural Market Inspectors collect fruit and vegetable data from four wholesale markets across England on a weekly basis. Prices are collected from Birmingham, Bristol, Liverpool and New Spitalfields.

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 are collected, so the items as well as the markets may change over time.

Table 1 National average monthly wholesale prices of homegrown produce

| | | Quality | Units | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | Per cent change month | 12 month |
|-------------------------|------------------------|---------|-------|------|------|------|-------|-------|------|--------------------------|----------|
| FRUIT | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Blackberries | All Varieties | - | £/kg | | | | | | | | |
| Blackcurrants | All Varieties | - | £/kg | | | | | | | | |
| Cherries | Sweet Black | - | £/kg | | | | | | | | |
| | Sweet White | - | £/kg | | | | | | | | |
| Cooking Apples | Bramley's Seedling | Ave | £/kg | 0.57 | 0.56 | 0.59 | 0.64 | 0.65 | 0.70 | 7.2% | 15.9% |
| Damsons | All Varieties | - | £/kg | | | | | | | | |
| Dessert Apples | Cox's Orange-group | Ave | £/kg | 0.58 | 0.58 | 0.61 | 0.63 | 0.67 | 0.70 | 4.4% | -30.4% |
| | Discovery | Ave | £/kg | | | | | | | | |
| | Egremont Russet | Ave | £/kg | 0.57 | 0.58 | 0.64 | 0.72 | 0.77 | 0.69 | -10.4% | |
| | Spartan | Ave | £/kg | 0.54 | 0.54 | 0.64 | | | | | |
| | Worcester Pearmain | Ave | £/kg | 0.47 | 0.46 | | | 0.00 | 0.00 | | |
| | Braeburn | Ave | £/kg | 0.58 | 0.55 | 0.58 | 0.60 | 0.61 | 0.59 | -2.7% | 0.9% |
| | Gala | Ave | £/kg | 0.58 | 0.61 | 0.67 | 0.68 | 0.68 | 0.66 | -2.5% | -2.3% |
| | Other Early Season | - | £/kg | | | | | | | | |
| | Other Mid Season | - | £/kg | 0.52 | 0.55 | | | | | | |
| | Other Late Season | - | £/kg | 0.72 | 0.82 | 0.59 | 0.52 | 0.53 | 0.61 | 16.3% | -2.3% |
| | Jonogold – group | Ave | £/kg | 0.58 | 0.66 | | | | | | |
| Gooseberries | All Varieties | - | £/kg | | | | | | | | |
| Pears | Conference | Ave | £/kg | 0.53 | 0.48 | 0.50 | 0.52 | 0.54 | 0.55 | 2.3% | 21.8% |
| | Doyenne Du Comice | Ave | £/kg | 0.59 | 0.61 | 0.66 | 0.71 | 0.78 | | | |
| | William's Bon Chretien | Ave | £/kg | 0.50 | | | | | | | |
| | Other | Ave | £/kg | 0.40 | 0.44 | 0.83 | 0.62 | 0.56 | | | |
| Plums and Gages | Czar | - | £/kg | | | | | | | | |
| | Majorie's Seedling | - | £/kg | | | | | | | | |
| | Victoria | - | £/kg | | | | | | | | |
| | Other Varieties | - | £/kg | | | | | | | | |
| Raspberries | All Varieties | - | £/kg | 7.07 | | | | | | | |
| Redcurrants | All Varieties | - | £/kg | | | | | | | | |
| Strawberries | All Varieties | Ave | £/kg | 3.64 | | | | 2.72 | 1.96 | -28.0% | 22.8% |
| VEGETABLES | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Asparagus | All Varieties | - | £/kg | | | | 14.03 | 15.50 | 8.91 | -42.5% | -4.9% |
| Beetroot | Topped | - | £/kg | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.17 | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.16 | -0.6% | 1.5% |
| Broad Beans | Broad | - | £/kg | 1.06 | | | | | | | |
| Brussels Sprouts | All Varieties | - | £/kg | 0.29 | 0.27 | 0.28 | 0.26 | 0.28 | | | |

Table 1 National average monthly wholesale prices of homegrown produce continued

| | | Quality | Units | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | Per cent change month | Per cent change 12 month |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|---------|------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| VEGETABLES | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Spinach | Leaf - Loose/bunches | - | £/kg | 0.63 | 0.63 | | | | 1.03 | | 7.9% |
| Swede | All Varieties | - | £/kg | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.30 | 0.31 | 1.5% | 9.9% |
| Sweetcorn | All Varieties | - | £/cob | 0.21 | | | | | | | |
| Tomatoes | Round | Ave | £/kg | 0.84 | | | | 2.33 | 1.02 | -56.3% | -8.4% |
| | Vine | Ave | £/kg | 0.94 | | | | 4.00 | 1.04 | -73.9% | 3.9% |
| | Cherry | Ave | £/kg | 2.37 | | | | | 2.14 | | -26.4% |
| | Plum | Ave | £/kg | | | | | | | | |
| Turnip | All Varieties | - | £/kg | 0.86 | 0.92 | 0.93 | 0.96 | 0.77 | 1.00 | 29.6% | 4.4% |
| Watercress | All Varieties | - | £/bunch | 0.50 | 0.49 | 0.51 | 0.52 | 0.53 | 0.51 | -5.0% | -7.6% |
| CUT FLOWERS | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Alstromeria | Indoor | - | £/bunch ⁽¹⁾ | 1.15 | 1.17 | 1.17 | 1.24 | 1.24 | 1.35 | 9.5% | 19.2% |
| Chrysanthemums | Indoor-bloom | - | £/bloom | 0.38 | 0.89 | | | | | | |
| | Indoor-spray | - | £/spray | 0.18 | 0.16 | | | | | | |
| Gladioli | All Varieties | - | £/bunch ⁽¹⁾ | 0.50 | | | | | | | |
| Irises | Indoor | - | £/bunch ⁽¹⁾ | | | | | | 0.70 | | -12.8% |
| Narcissus-inc.Daffodils | Indoor | - | £/bunch ⁽²⁾ | 0.61 | 0.45 | 0.56 | 0.44 | 0.44 | | | |
| Oriental Lilies | Homegrown | - | £/stem | 0.68 | 0.70 | 0.76 | | 0.69 | 0.75 | 9.6% | -4.0% |
| Pinks | All Varieties | - | £/bunch ⁽³⁾ | | | | | | | | |
| Tulips | Indoor | - | £/bunch ⁽⁴⁾ | | 0.98 | 0.79 | 0.80 | 0.85 | 0.92 | 8.2% | 4.6% |
| POT PLANTS | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Begonia-Elatior | 13cm | - | £ each | 1.13 | | 0.70 | 1.18 | | | | |
| Cyclamen | 13cm | - | £ each | 1.26 | 1.33 | 1.37 | 0.90 | | | | |
| Poinsettia | 13cm | - | £ each | 2.01 | 1.99 | | | | | | |
| Chrysanthemum | 13cm | - | £ each | 1.08 | 1.14 | | 1.25 | | | | |

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>