



09 May 2016

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	month	nt change
FRUIT		Quality	Ullits	NOV	Dec	Jaii	ren	IVIAI	Apı	monui	12 11101111
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		-				5.570	,
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

	Overlier Heries No. Box Lov. Ed. 35 A							Per cent change			
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VEGETABLES	V. II		0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.07	00.00/	0.4.00/
Bulb Onions	Yellow	-	£/kg	0.29	0.28	0.32	0.29	0.31	0.37	20.9%	24.0%
	Red	-	£/kg	0.45	0.44	0.42	0.42	0.41	0.46	12.2%	12.9%
Cabbage	Red	-	£/kg	0.35	0.33	0.35	0.40	0.52	0.60	15.1%	78.1%
	Savoy	-	£/head	0.39	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.38	0.38	-0.7%	-8.6%
	Spring Greens - Loose	-	£/kg						0.90		
	Spring Greens - Prepacked	-	£/kg	0.60	0.65	0.72	0.88	1.28	1.16	-9.1%	55.8%
	Summer & Autumn-Pointed	-	£/kg	0.47	0.52				0.55		19.4%
	Summer & Autumn Round	-	£/head	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	-0.7%	-14.9%
	White	-	£/kg	0.32	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.32	0.34	6.5%	19.3%
	Winter Other	-	£/head	0.38	0.36	0.37	0.39	0.38	0.40	5.6%	10.5%
Calabrese	All Varieties	-	£/kg	0.44	0.44						
Capsicums	Green	Ave	£/kg	0.55							
	Red	Ave	£/kg	0.43							
Carrots	Topped-Washed	-	£/kg	0.34	0.34	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.39	5.8%	21.8%
Cauliflowers	Kent	-	£/head	0.39	0.36	0.61	0.62	0.96	0.78	-18.1%	81.9%
	All Other	-	£/head	0.38	0.40	0.56	0.50	0.93	0.78	-16.1%	85.7%
Celery	All Washed	-	£/kg	0.51	0.49						
Courgettes	All Varieties	_	£/kg								
Cucumbers	All Varieties	_	£/kg	0.62			0.76	0.74	0.68	-8.2%	-2.5%
Beans	Dwarf, French or Kidney	_	£/kg								
Leeks	Trimmed	_	£/kg	0.39	0.38	0.39	0.39	0.41	0.44	7.4%	17.5%
Lettuce	Butterhead – Indoor	Ave	£/head	0.30	0.32	0.35	0.36	0.34	0.35	1.9%	11.6%
	Cos	Ave	£/head	0.47							
	Crisp-Iceberg Type	Ave	£/head	0.35							
	Little Gem	Ave	£/twin	0.48	0.62	0.59	0.55	0.52	0.57	9.9%	-8.6%
Mushrooms	Button – Indoor	_	£/kg								
	Cup – Indoor	_	£/kg								
	Flat – Indoor	_	£/kg								
Parsnips	All Varieties	_	£/kg	0.93	0.89	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.92	7.2%	17.3%
Rhubarb	Forced	_	£/kg	0.00	0.00	3.25	2.62	3.12	4.10	31.5%	6.8%
	Outdoor	_	£/kg			0.20	2.02	4.02	1.72	-57.3%	-7.9%
Runner Beans	Runner-Climbing	<u>-</u>	£/kg	1.19				7.02	1.12	07.070	1.570
Salad Onions	Salad	<u>-</u>	£/bunch	0.23					0.30		24.5%
Shelling Peas	All Varieties	-	£/kg	0.23					0.50		∠¬.J/0
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Table 1 National average monthly wholsale prices of homegrown produce continued

										Per cent change		
		Quality	Units	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	month	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:												

Per cent change

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

⁽¹⁾ a bunch equals 5 stems

⁽²⁾ a bunch equals 10 blooms

⁽³⁾ a bunch equals 10 stems

⁽⁴⁾ a bunch equals 5 blooms