



## **Fruit and vegetable wholesale prices – March 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 (February).

### ***Key points***

#### *General*

Trade was steady across the month for fruit and vegetables and also on the flower markets which received the usual boost in the run up to Mothering Sunday.

Many varieties are out of season so there was limited availability and some prices were also affected by continental imports.

#### *Fruit*

Slow trade and the lack of demand for fruit on the markets in March led to few major fluctuations in price.

The price for Egremont apples rose 6.9% to £0.77/kg as supplies dwindled and good quality fruit was available. This was a 4% increase on last year's price.

Comice pears were £0.78/kg as good quality fruit was available. This was a 41% increase on the price at the same time last year when supplies were better. Other pears decreased by 10% to £0.56/kg as supplies were steady and demand fell. This was 16% lower than the price a year ago when there was less availability and demand was low.

#### *Vegetables*

The Red cabbage price rose by 29% to £0.52/kg which was 71% higher than the same time last year when supplies were much more plentiful. Spring Greens (prepacked) rose by 46% to £1.28/kg due to shrunk supplies and strong demand.

Kent cauliflower prices rose sharply by 54% to £0.96/kg. The All Other cauliflower price also rose sharply. Very short supplies of both varieties combined with competition from French imports drove the price up. Prices were much lower at the same time last year when supplies were much higher.

The Forced rhubarb price rose 19% to £3.12/kg. This was due to a drop in supplies. A year ago the price was 14% higher as supplies were lower.

## *Flowers*

The Narcissus price remained low at £0.44/bunch. The price was 19% higher at the same time last year when supplies were at a more normal level.

## **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	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Per cent change	
										month	12 month
<b>FRUIT</b>											
<b>Blackberries</b>	All Varieties	-	£/kg	6.50							
<b>Blackcurrants</b>	All Varieties	-	£/kg	4.61							
<b>Cherries</b>	Sweet Black	-	£/kg								
	Sweet White	-	£/kg								
<b>Cooking Apples</b>	Bramley's Seedling	Ave	£/kg	0.59	0.57	0.56	0.59	0.64	0.65	1.4%	8.8%
<b>Damsons</b>	All Varieties	-	£/kg								
<b>Dessert Apples</b>	Cox's Orange-group	Ave	£/kg	0.68	0.58	0.58	0.61	0.63	0.67	5.3%	-25.5%
	Discovery	Ave	£/kg								
	Egremont Russet	Ave	£/kg	0.66	0.57	0.58	0.64	0.72	0.77	6.9%	4.0%
	Spartan	Ave	£/kg	0.58	0.54	0.54	0.64				
	Worcester Pearmain	Ave	£/kg	0.52	0.47	0.46			0.00		
	Braeburn	Ave	£/kg	0.66	0.58	0.55	0.58	0.60	0.61	1.4%	3.9%
	Gala	Ave	£/kg	0.66	0.58	0.61	0.67	0.68	0.68	0.5%	5.7%
	Other Early Season	-	£/kg	0.54							
	Other Mid Season	-	£/kg	0.59	0.52	0.55					
	Other Late Season	-	£/kg		0.72	0.82	0.59	0.52	0.53	2.0%	-8.0%
	Jonogold – group	Ave	£/kg	0.60	0.58	0.66					
<b>Gooseberries</b>	All Varieties	-	£/kg								
<b>Pears</b>	Conference	Ave	£/kg	0.56	0.53	0.48	0.50	0.52	0.54	4.3%	21.1%
	Doyenne Du Comice	Ave	£/kg	0.66	0.59	0.61	0.66	0.71	0.78	10.1%	41.3%
	William's Bon Chretien	Ave	£/kg	0.51	0.50						
	Other	Ave	£/kg	0.38	0.40	0.44	0.83	0.62	0.56	-10.4%	-16.0%
<b>Plums and Gages</b>	Czar	-	£/kg								
	Majorie's Seedling	-	£/kg	0.91							
	Victoria	-	£/kg								
	Other Varieties	-	£/kg	1.87							
<b>Raspberries</b>	All Varieties	-	£/kg	8.57	7.07						
<b>Redcurrants</b>	All Varieties	-	£/kg								
<b>Strawberries</b>	All Varieties	Ave	£/kg	2.43	3.64				2.72		22.1%
<b>VEGETABLES</b>											
<b>Asparagus</b>	All Varieties	-	£/kg					14.03	15.50	10.5%	28.7%
<b>Beetroot</b>	Topped	-	£/kg	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.16	-1.4%	5.3%
<b>Broad Beans</b>	Broad	-	£/kg	1.13	1.06						
<b>Brussels Sprouts</b>	All Varieties	-	£/kg	0.31	0.29	0.27	0.28	0.26	0.28	5.5%	4.7%

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<b>VEGETABLES</b>											
<b>Bulb Onions</b>	Yellow	-	£/kg	0.31	0.29	0.28	0.32	0.29	0.31	5.0%	14.5%
	Red	-	£/kg	0.47	0.45	0.44	0.42	0.42	0.41	-3.5%	4.3%
<b>Cabbage</b>	Red	-	£/kg	0.35	0.35	0.33	0.35	0.40	0.52	28.9%	70.9%
	Savoy	-	£/head	0.38	0.39	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.38	2.5%	-0.8%
	Spring Greens - Loose	-	£/kg								
	Spring Greens - Prepacked	-	£/kg	0.60	0.60	0.65	0.72	0.88	1.28	45.6%	58.2%
	Summer & Autumn-Pointed	-	£/kg	0.46	0.47	0.52					
	Summer & Autumn Round	-	£/head	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	2.2%	-6.3%
	White	-	£/kg	0.34	0.32	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.32	5.4%	15.4%
	Winter Other	-	£/head	0.39	0.38	0.36	0.37	0.39	0.38	-1.6%	10.4%
<b>Calabrese</b>	All Varieties	-	£/kg	0.52	0.44	0.44					
<b>Capsicums</b>	Green	Ave	£/kg		0.55						
	Red	Ave	£/kg		0.43						
<b>Carrots</b>	Topped-Washed	-	£/kg	0.36	0.34	0.34	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.1%	37.3%
<b>Cauliflowers</b>	Kent	-	£/head	0.69	0.39	0.36	0.61	0.62	0.96	53.9%	86.0%
	All Other	-	£/head	0.71	0.38	0.40	0.56	0.50	0.93	85.7%	102.6%
<b>Celery</b>	All Washed	-	£/kg	0.53	0.51	0.49					
<b>Courgettes</b>	All Varieties	-	£/kg	0.40							
<b>Cucumbers</b>	All Varieties	-	£/kg	0.74	0.62			0.76	0.74	-2.5%	-2.1%
<b>Beans</b>	Dwarf, French or Kidney	-	£/kg	1.47							
<b>Leeks</b>	Trimmed	-	£/kg	0.40	0.39	0.38	0.39	0.39	0.41	3.6%	9.1%
<b>Lettuce</b>	Butterhead – Indoor	Ave	£/head	0.30	0.30	0.32	0.35	0.36	0.34	-4.0%	6.0%
	Cos	Ave	£/head	0.47	0.47						
	Crisp-Iceberg Type	Ave	£/head	0.41	0.35						
	Little Gem	Ave	£/twin	0.47	0.48	0.62	0.59	0.55	0.52	-5.4%	-14.8%
<b>Mushrooms</b>	Button – Indoor	-	£/kg								
	Cup – Indoor	-	£/kg								
	Flat – Indoor	-	£/kg								
<b>Parsnips</b>	All Varieties	-	£/kg	1.04	0.93	0.89	0.86	0.86	0.86	-0.1%	11.2%
<b>Rhubarb</b>	Forced	-	£/kg				3.25	2.62	3.12	19.0%	-13.9%
	Outdoor	-	£/kg	1.15					4.02		50.1%
<b>Runner Beans</b>	Runner-Climbing	-	£/kg	1.38	1.19						
<b>Salad Onions</b>	Salad	-	£/bunch	0.23	0.23						
<b>Shelling Peas</b>	All Varieties	-	£/kg	0.74							

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<b>VEGETABLES</b>											
<b>Spinach</b>	Leaf - Loose/bunches	-	£/kg	0.65	0.63	0.63					
<b>Swede</b>	All Varieties	-	£/kg	0.32	0.30	0.30	0.31	0.31	0.30	-1.1%	8.2%
<b>Sweetcorn</b>	All Varieties	-	£/cob	0.21	0.21						
<b>Tomatoes</b>	Round	Ave	£/kg	1.07	0.84						
	Vine	Ave	£/kg	1.51	0.94						
	Cherry	Ave	£/kg	2.81	2.37						
	Plum	Ave	£/kg								
<b>Turnip</b>	All Varieties	-	£/kg	0.90	0.86	0.92	0.93	0.96	0.77	-19.6%	10.7%
<b>Watercress</b>	All Varieties	-	£/bunch	0.51	0.50	0.49	0.51	0.52	0.53	2.3%	-1.7%
<b>CUT FLOWERS</b>											
<b>Alstromeria</b>	Indoor	-	£/bunch <sup>(1)</sup>	1.19	1.15	1.17	1.17	1.24	1.24	-0.6%	-4.5%
<b>Chrysanthemums</b>	Indoor-bloom	-	£/bloom	0.35	0.38	0.89					
	Indoor-spray	-	£/spray	0.15	0.18	0.16					
<b>Gladioli</b>	All Varieties	-	£/bunch <sup>(1)</sup>	0.56	0.50						
<b>Irises</b>	Indoor	-	£/bunch <sup>(1)</sup>								
<b>Narcissus-inc.Daffodils</b>	Indoor	-	£/bunch <sup>(2)</sup>	0.64	0.61	0.45	0.56	0.44	0.44	-0.5%	-19.4%
<b>Oriental Lilies</b>	Homegrown	-	£/stem	0.71	0.68	0.70	0.76		0.69		
<b>Pinks</b>	All Varieties	-	£/bunch <sup>(3)</sup>	0.34							
<b>Tulips</b>	Indoor	-	£/bunch <sup>(4)</sup>			0.98	0.79	0.80	0.85	5.7%	0.0%
<b>POT PLANTS</b>											
<b>Begonia-Elatior</b>	13cm	-	£ each	1.08	1.13		0.70	1.18			
<b>Cyclamen</b>	13cm	-	£ each	1.23	1.26	1.33	1.37	0.90			
<b>Poinsettia</b>	13cm	-	£ each		2.01	1.99					
<b>Chrysanthemum</b>	13cm	-	£ each	1.06	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>