



Fruit and vegetable wholesale prices – September 2015

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

General

Trade continued to be slow particularly at the start of the month as the summer holiday period continued. Poor weather and fluctuating demand also contributed to sluggish trade.

Trading on the flower markets remained slow after the summer holidays. Prices fluctuated due to varying quality and supply levels.

Fruit

Between August and September, the price of home grown black cherries fell by 38% to £2.10/kg due to a reduction in demand and the poor quality of the fruit.

The price for home grown Victoria plums fell by 24% to £1.17/kg as supplies increased and the fruit available was of low quality.

Low demand combined with good availability and demand for other varieties led to a fall in the average monthly price for Discovery apples and William's Bon Chretien pears. Discovery fell to £0.53 p/kg, down 25% and William's Bon Chretien fell to £0.54 p/kg, down 17%.

Vegetables

Broad bean prices picked up as supplies continued to shrink. The price rising by 23% in September compared to August to £1.08/kg. The runner bean price fell by 27% to £1.23/kg as supplies increased across the month.

Between August and September there was a considerable fall in price for both Brussels Sprouts and calabrese due to high supplies of both.

Green capsicums doubled in price to £1.20/kg but only one market reported a price and only for one week in the month. Also this price was for top class produce which was all that was available. This meant the price was artificially high when compared to a year ago when supplies were better.

The Iceberg lettuce price has risen to £0.42/kg, a rise of 29% since last month as supplies have dwindled and the poor quality of Cos lettuce has increased demand for Iceberg.

Round and vine tomatoes both had large price increases. A fall in domestic and continental supplies and the availability of good produce saw round tomatoes rise 45% to £1.02/kg and vine tomatoes rise 56% to £1.54/kg.

Flowers

The price for Chrysanthemum spray fell by 37% to £0.27/spray. The August price was unusually high and although supplies fell in September, prices were reduced to a more normal level in line with the price in September a year ago.

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 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 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	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Per cent change month	12 month	
FRUIT												
Blackberries	All Varieties	-	£/kg			4.05	5.76	4.87	4.85	-0.3%	-3.2%	
Blackcurrants	All Varieties	-	£/kg				5.41	5.23	4.41	-15.8%		
Cherries	Sweet Black	-	£/kg			2.47	2.95	3.39	2.10	-38.1%		
	Sweet White	-	£/kg				2.31					
Cooking Apples	Bramley's Seedling	Ave	£/kg	0.60	0.61	0.62	0.59	0.68	0.64	-5.9%	13.7%	
Damsons	All Varieties	-	£/kg					1.49	1.29	-13.3%	-3.9%	
Dessert Apples	Cox's Orange-group	Ave	£/kg	1.00					0.90		20.9%	
	Discovery	Ave	£/kg					0.71	0.53	-24.5%	9.1%	
	Egremont Russet	Ave	£/kg						0.90		18.4%	
	Spartan	Ave	£/kg									
	Worcester Pearmain	Ave	£/kg						0.61		-7.1%	
	Braeburn	Ave	£/kg	0.59	0.62							
	Gala	Ave	£/kg	0.68	0.66				0.73		4.9%	
	Other Early Season	-	£/kg					0.75	0.63	-16.2%	5.8%	
	Other Mid Season	-	£/kg									
	Other Late Season	-	£/kg	0.63	0.64							
	Jonogold – group	Ave	£/kg	0.71	0.68							
	Gooseberries	All Varieties	-	£/kg			3.06	2.71	3.39			
	Pears	Conference	Ave	£/kg	0.45	0.52	0.59	0.50	0.80	0.67	-16.5%	17.8%
Doyenne Du Comice		Ave	£/kg	0.50	0.61				0.75		17.1%	
William's Bon Chretien		Ave	£/kg					0.66	0.54	-17.4%		
Other		Ave	£/kg	0.61					0.63			
Plums and Gages	Czar	-	£/kg					1.15				
	Majorie's Seedling	-	£/kg						1.05		1.5%	
	Victoria	-	£/kg					1.54	1.17	-23.8%	-19.9%	
	Other Varieties	-	£/kg				1.04	1.03	1.07	4.3%	7.1%	
Raspberries	All Varieties	-	£/kg		7.74	6.86	6.61	7.60	7.83	3.0%	31.2%	
Redcurrants	All Varieties	-	£/kg				5.60	5.65	6.80	20.3%		
Strawberries	All Varieties	Ave	£/kg	1.60	2.43	1.85	1.78	2.15	2.28	6.1%	-3.1%	
VEGETABLES												
Asparagus	All Varieties	-	£/kg	9.37	5.79	5.00	7.36					
Beetroot	Topped	-	£/kg	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.2%	3.1%	
Broad Beans	Broad	-	£/kg		2.26	1.42	1.05	0.88	1.08	23.4%	0.9%	
Brussels Sprouts	All Varieties	-	£/kg	0.25				0.47	0.36	-24.3%	-8.8%	

Table 1 National average monthly wholesale prices of homegrown produce continued

		Quality	Units	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Per cent change	
										month	12 month
VEGETABLES											
Bulb Onions	Yellow	-	£/kg	0.30	0.32	0.37	0.32	0.33	0.34	3.3%	31.2%
	Red	-	£/kg	0.41	0.43	0.47	0.45	0.47	0.47	0.2%	7.3%
Cabbage	Red	-	£/kg	0.33	0.38	0.43	0.45	0.41	0.37	-8.9%	16.3%
	Savoy	-	£/head	0.41	0.41	0.51	0.44	0.41	0.40	-2.5%	2.9%
	Spring Greens - Loose	-	£/kg								
	Spring Greens - Prepacked	-	£/kg	0.75	0.72	0.66	0.64	0.69	0.69	0.6%	17.5%
	Summer & Autumn-Pointed	-	£/kg	0.46	0.50	0.51	0.49	0.46	0.44	-3.9%	-3.8%
	Summer & Autumn Round	-	£/head	0.42	0.48	0.45	0.40	0.37	0.36	-3.8%	5.0%
	White	-	£/kg	0.29	0.36	0.48	0.56	0.48	0.40	-16.4%	41.2%
	Winter Other	-	£/head	0.36	0.35						
	Calabrese	All Varieties	-	£/kg		0.70	0.77	0.54	0.59	0.45	-24.0%
Capsicums	Green	Ave	£/kg	0.69	0.75	0.72	0.64	0.60	1.20	100.0%	106.5%
	Red	Ave	£/kg	1.49	0.85	0.83	0.65	0.63	0.60	-5.1%	-13.9%
Carrots	Topped-Washed	-	£/kg	0.32	0.43	0.47	0.46	0.44	0.40	-9.6%	39.0%
Cauliflowers	Kent	-	£/head	0.43	0.45	0.55	0.55	0.66	0.57	-13.9%	-5.2%
	All Other	-	£/head	0.42	0.43	0.56	0.51	0.59	0.46	-22.7%	-26.8%
Celery	All Washed	-	£/kg			0.71	0.68	0.62	0.56	-9.7%	3.8%
Courgettes	All Varieties	-	£/kg			0.48	0.38	0.38	0.42	12.9%	-19.0%
Cucumbers	All Varieties	-	£/kg	0.70	0.65	0.61	0.78	1.06	0.91	-14.1%	34.7%
Beans	Dwarf, French or Kidney	-	£/kg				2.21	1.84	1.54	-16.4%	10.3%
Leeks	Trimmed	-	£/kg	0.37	0.37	0.41	0.45	0.43	0.41	-5.0%	12.3%
Lettuce	Butterhead – Indoor	Ave	£/head	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.31	0.31	0.31	1.1%	-3.0%
	Cos	Ave	£/head		0.52	0.52	0.49	0.46	0.47	1.1%	-5.4%
	Crisp-Iceberg Type	Ave	£/head		0.36	0.35	0.29	0.32	0.42	29.4%	-0.7%
	Little Gem	Ave	£/twin	0.63	0.56	0.49	0.49	0.47	0.49	3.8%	-5.1%
Mushrooms	Button – Indoor	-	£/kg								
	Cup – Indoor	-	£/kg			1.19					
	Flat – Indoor	-	£/kg								
Parsnips	All Varieties	-	£/kg	0.78	0.76	0.82	0.95	1.15	1.10	-3.9%	26.9%
Rhubarb	Forced	-	£/kg	3.84	5.65						
	Outdoor	-	£/kg	1.86	1.30	1.21	1.11	1.24	1.21	-2.8%	4.5%
Runner Beans	Runner-Climbing	-	£/kg			4.24	2.00	1.70	1.23	-27.4%	-10.8%
Salad Onions	Salad	-	£/bunch	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.23	-0.2%	-7.7%
Shelling Peas	All Varieties	-	£/kg			0.85	0.65	0.67	0.71	5.3%	4.8%

Table 1 National average monthly wholesale prices of homegrown produce continued

		Quality	Units	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Per cent change month	12 month
VEGETABLES											
Spinach	Leaf - Loose/bunches	-	£/kg	0.95	0.81	0.75	0.65	0.64	0.68	5.7%	-11.2%
Swede	All Varieties	-	£/kg	0.28	0.28	0.31	0.39	0.37	0.35	-6.0%	5.8%
Sweetcorn	All Varieties	-	£/cob				0.30	0.26	0.21	-18.6%	-13.3%
Tomatoes	Round	Ave	£/kg	1.11	0.86	0.75	0.69	0.70	1.02	45.4%	8.0%
	Vine	Ave	£/kg	1.00	1.07	0.91	0.87	0.99	1.54	56.4%	53.0%
	Cherry	Ave	£/kg	2.91	2.37	2.01	2.03	1.86	2.11	13.3%	1.7%
	Plum	Ave	£/kg		1.02	0.97	1.01	0.97	1.03	6.2%	11.0%
Turnip	All Varieties	-	£/kg	0.96	0.84	0.79	1.03	1.01	1.00	-0.4%	6.1%
Watercress	All Varieties	-	£/bunch	0.55	0.56	0.56	0.55	0.54	0.53	-1.7%	-3.2%
CUT FLOWERS											
Alstromeria	Indoor	-	£/bunch ⁽¹⁾	1.14	1.19	1.21	1.09	1.14	1.24	8.5%	8.0%
Chrysanthemums	Indoor-bloom	-	£/bloom						0.41		-18.8%
	Indoor-spray	-	£/spray	0.63				0.43	0.27	-36.7%	11.5%
Gladioli	All Varieties	-	£/bunch ⁽¹⁾			1.08	0.84	0.63	0.58	-8.2%	4.9%
Irises	Indoor	-	£/bunch ⁽¹⁾	0.80	0.56						
Narcissus-inc.Daffodils	Indoor	-	£/bunch ⁽²⁾	0.42							
Oriental Lilies	Homegrown	-	£/stem	0.79	0.70	0.66	0.65	0.61	0.67	8.6%	-26.3%
Pinks	All Varieties	-	£/bunch ⁽³⁾		0.40	0.41	0.36	0.32	0.27	-14.7%	10.5%
Tulips	Indoor	-	£/bunch ⁽⁴⁾	0.88	0.83						
POT PLANTS											
Begonia-Elatior	13cm	-	£ each	1.10	1.20	1.25	1.08	1.16	1.09	-6.3%	-13.2%
Cyclamen	13cm	-	£ each					0.87	1.06	20.9%	-23.0%
Poinsettia	13cm	-	£ each								
Chrysanthemum	13cm	-	£ each	1.23	1.23	1.22	1.22	1.08	1.01	-6.4%	-18.4%

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>