



## Fruit and vegetable wholesale prices – May 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 (April).

### **Key points**

#### *General*

Trade was steady across the month peaking around the bank holiday.

Many varieties were coming to the end of their season with others coming into season so there was mixed availability. Some prices were also affected by foreign imports.

#### *Fruit*

A lack of demand for fruit on the markets in May led to few major fluctuations in price. Pressure from foreign supplies as the homegrown top fruit season was coming to an end also affected prices.

The price for Cox's Orange apples rose 11% to £0.77/kg as supplies dwindled and produce remained good quality.

A dip in supply towards the end of the month pushed the price of Egremont Russet apples up 19% to £0.82/kg.

The price for Conference pears fell 13% to £0.48/kg as demand dwindled.

The price at the same time last year was £0.52/kg.

Strawberries fell 8.7% to £1.79/kg as supplies grew and competition from imports increased. The price at the same time last year was £2.43/kg when supplies were less.

#### *Vegetables*

The Asparagus price fell 21% to £7.04/kg as increased supplies and greater foreign competition pushed the price down.

The Spring Greens prepacked cabbage price fell 25% to £0.88/kg as supplies increased. The price at the same time last year was £0.72/kg when supplies were less.

The Summer and Autumn round cabbage price rose by 15% to £0.42/kg as new season produce came onto the market. The price at the same time last year was £0.48/kg when supplies were slightly less.

Carrots rose 12% to £0.44/kg as demand fell.  
Parsnips rose 27% to £1.16/kg as supplies fell.

The Forced rhubarb price rose 22% to £5.00/kg. This was due to only high quality produce being available. The price at the same time last year was £3.62/kg as supplies were greater.

The Outdoor rhubarb price fell sharply again as supplies increased.

The prices for both Round and Vine tomatoes fell. Round tomatoes fell to £0.82/kg, 4.9% lower than the same time last year. Greater supplies of new season produce pushed the price down. Increased supplies of Vine tomatoes lowered the price to £0.90/kg, a 15% fall compared to the same time last year.

### *Flowers*

The Tulip price fell 17% to £0.76 per 5 bloom. A drop in quality across the month pushed the price down. The price at the same time last year was £0.83 per 5 bloom when supplies and demand were both down.

### **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	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Per cent change month	12 month
<b>FRUIT</b>											
<b>Blackberries</b>	All Varieties	-	£/kg								
<b>Blackcurrants</b>	All Varieties	-	£/kg								
<b>Cherries</b>	Sweet Black	-	£/kg								
	Sweet White	-	£/kg								
<b>Cooking Apples</b>	Bramley's Seedling	Ave	£/kg	0.56	0.59	0.64	0.65	0.70	0.69	-0.8%	13.6%
<b>Damsons</b>	All Varieties	-	£/kg								
<b>Dessert Apples</b>	Cox's Orange-group	Ave	£/kg	0.58	0.61	0.63	0.67	0.70	0.77	10.8%	
	Discovery	Ave	£/kg								
	Egremont Russet	Ave	£/kg	0.58	0.64	0.72	0.77	0.69	0.82	19.0%	
	Spartan	Ave	£/kg	0.54	0.64						
	Worcester Pearmain	Ave	£/kg	0.46							
	Braeburn	Ave	£/kg	0.55	0.58	0.60	0.61	0.59	0.59	-1.5%	-4.9%
	Gala	Ave	£/kg	0.61	0.67	0.68	0.68	0.66	0.68	2.7%	3.1%
	Other Early Season	-	£/kg								
	Other Mid Season	-	£/kg	0.55							
	Other Late Season	-	£/kg	0.82	0.59	0.52	0.53	0.61	0.65	5.1%	0.8%
	Jonogold – group	Ave	£/kg	0.66							
<b>Gooseberries</b>	All Varieties	-	£/kg								
<b>Pears</b>	Conference	Ave	£/kg	0.48	0.50	0.52	0.54	0.55	0.48	-12.5%	-7.0%
	Doyenne Du Comice	Ave	£/kg	0.61	0.66	0.71	0.78				
	William's Bon Chretien	Ave	£/kg								
	Other	Ave	£/kg	0.44	0.83	0.62	0.56				
<b>Plums and Gages</b>	Czar	-	£/kg								
	Majorie's Seedling	-	£/kg								
	Victoria	-	£/kg								
	Other Varieties	-	£/kg								
	All Varieties	-	£/kg								
<b>Raspberries</b>	All Varieties	-	£/kg								
<b>Redcurrants</b>	All Varieties	-	£/kg								
<b>Strawberries</b>	All Varieties	Ave	£/kg				2.72	1.96	1.79	-8.7%	-26.3%
<b>VEGETABLES</b>											
<b>Asparagus</b>	All Varieties	-	£/kg			14.03	15.50	8.91	7.04	-21.0%	21.5%
<b>Beetroot</b>	Topped	-	£/kg	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	1.3%	-0.7%
<b>Broad Beans</b>	Broad	-	£/kg								
<b>Brussels Sprouts</b>	All Varieties	-	£/kg	0.27	0.28	0.26	0.28				

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

		Quality	Units	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Per cent change month	Per cent change 12 month
<b>VEGETABLES</b>											
<b>Bulb Onions</b>	Yellow	-	£/kg	0.28	0.32	0.29	0.31	0.37	0.39	3.6%	21.1%
	Red	-	£/kg	0.44	0.42	0.42	0.41	0.46	0.48	4.7%	11.3%
<b>Cabbage</b>	Red	-	£/kg	0.33	0.35	0.40	0.52	0.60	0.61	2.8%	59.8%
	Savoy	-	£/head	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.38	0.38	0.39	3.8%	-3.7%
	Spring Greens - Loose	-	£/kg					0.90			
	Spring Greens - Prepacked	-	£/kg	0.65	0.72	0.88	1.28	1.16	0.88	-24.8%	22.2%
	Summer & Autumn-Pointed	-	£/kg	0.52				0.55	0.53	-4.0%	5.7%
	Summer & Autumn Round	-	£/head	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.42	15.2%	-14.0%
	White	-	£/kg	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.32	0.34	0.35	2.1%	-3.3%
	Winter Other	-	£/head	0.36	0.37	0.39	0.38	0.40	0.39	-2.7%	11.7%
	<b>Calabrese</b>	All Varieties	-	£/kg	0.44					0.95	
<b>Capsicums</b>	Green	Ave	£/kg								
	Red	Ave	£/kg								
<b>Carrots</b>	Topped-Washed	-	£/kg	0.34	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.39	0.44	12.0%	1.9%
<b>Cauliflowers</b>	Kent	-	£/head	0.36	0.61	0.62	0.96	0.78	0.75	-5.0%	64.4%
	All Other	-	£/head	0.40	0.56	0.50	0.93	0.78	0.73	-6.7%	67.6%
<b>Celery</b>	All Washed	-	£/kg	0.49							
<b>Courgettes</b>	All Varieties	-	£/kg								
<b>Cucumbers</b>	All Varieties	-	£/kg			0.76	0.74	0.68	0.69	0.9%	6.2%
<b>Beans</b>	Dwarf, French or Kidney	-	£/kg								
<b>Leeks</b>	Trimmed	-	£/kg	0.38	0.39	0.39	0.41	0.44	0.44	1.2%	21.1%
<b>Lettuce</b>	Butterhead – Indoor	Ave	£/head	0.32	0.35	0.36	0.34	0.35	0.34	-1.1%	12.1%
	Cos	Ave	£/head						0.62		19.1%
	Crisp-Iceberg Type	Ave	£/head						0.41		16.4%
	Little Gem	Ave	£/twin	0.62	0.59	0.55	0.52	0.57	0.56	-2.2%	0.1%
<b>Mushrooms</b>	Button – Indoor	-	£/kg								
	Cup – Indoor	-	£/kg								
	Flat – Indoor	-	£/kg								
<b>Parsnips</b>	All Varieties	-	£/kg	0.89	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.92	1.16	26.7%	52.2%
<b>Rhubarb</b>	Forced	-	£/kg		3.25	2.62	3.12	4.10	5.00	22.1%	-11.5%
	Outdoor	-	£/kg				4.02	1.72	1.30	-24.5%	-0.4%
<b>Runner Beans</b>	Runner-Climbing	-	£/kg								
<b>Salad Onions</b>	Salad	-	£/bunch					0.30	0.27	-11.4%	10.8%
<b>Shelling Peas</b>	All Varieties	-	£/kg						1.35		

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

		Quality	Units	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Per cent change month	12 month
<b>VEGETABLES</b>											
<b>Spinach</b>	Leaf - Loose/bunches	-	£/kg	0.63				1.03	0.96	-5.9%	18.7%
<b>Swede</b>	All Varieties	-	£/kg	0.30	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.31	0.29	-5.0%	2.7%
<b>Sweetcorn</b>	All Varieties	-	£/cob								
<b>Tomatoes</b>	Round	Ave	£/kg				2.33	1.02	0.82	-19.8%	-4.9%
	Vine	Ave	£/kg				4.00	1.04	0.90	-13.5%	-15.4%
	Cherry	Ave	£/kg					2.14	2.15	0.4%	-9.3%
	Plum	Ave	£/kg						0.79		-22.6%
<b>Turnip</b>	All Varieties	-	£/kg	0.92	0.93	0.96	0.77	1.00	1.11	10.4%	31.1%
<b>Watercress</b>	All Varieties	-	£/bunch	0.49	0.51	0.52	0.53	0.51	0.50	-0.4%	-9.3%
<b>CUT FLOWERS</b>											
<b>Alstromeria</b>	Indoor	-	£/bunch <sup>(1)</sup>	1.17	1.17	1.24	1.24	1.35	1.36	0.7%	14.5%
<b>Chrysanthemums</b>	Indoor-bloom	-	£/bloom	0.89							
	Indoor-spray	-	£/spray	0.16							
<b>Gladioli</b>	All Varieties	-	£/bunch <sup>(1)</sup>						0.55		
<b>Irises</b>	Indoor	-	£/bunch <sup>(1)</sup>					0.70	0.70	0.0%	25.1%
<b>Narcissus-inc.Daffodils</b>	Indoor	-	£/bunch <sup>(2)</sup>	0.45	0.56	0.44	0.44				
<b>Oriental Lilies</b>	Homegrown	-	£/stem	0.70	0.76		0.69	0.75	0.71	-5.8%	1.2%
<b>Pinks</b>	All Varieties	-	£/bunch <sup>(3)</sup>								
<b>Tulips</b>	Indoor	-	£/bunch <sup>(4)</sup>	0.98	0.79	0.80	0.85	0.92	0.76	-16.9%	-8.5%
<b>POT PLANTS</b>											
<b>Begonia-Elatior</b>	13cm	-	£ each		0.70	1.18					
<b>Cyclamen</b>	13cm	-	£ each	1.33	1.37	0.90					
<b>Poinsettia</b>	13cm	-	£ each	1.99							
<b>Chrysanthemum</b>	13cm	-	£ each	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>