



Fruit and vegetable wholesale prices – July 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 (June).

Key points

General

Trade levels fluctuated across the month. Mixed weather influenced supply and demand and the start of school summer holidays toward the end of the month quietened trade.

The differing trade patterns across the month led to mixed availability and pricing.

Fruit

There was a lack of fruit on the markets in July. New season Blackcurrants, Redcurrants, cherries and plums made their first appearances of the year.

Gooseberries rose 13% to £2.86/kg and Bramley apples rose 16% to £0.84/kg as supplies dwindled. The price for Bramley apples at the same time last year was 42% lower when supplies were much greater.

Raspberry prices rose 13% to £5.56/kg as the quality of domestic fruit improved and supplies dipped. Supplies of imports also fell which helped to strengthen the price.

Strawberries rose 26% to £2.49/kg as supplies fell and demand grew significantly. The price at the same time last year was £1.78/kg when supplies were higher.

Vegetables

The Asparagus price rose 22% to £6.22/kg as supplies fell at the end of season.

Broad beans fell 12% to £1.26/kg as supplies increased.

Red bulb onions fell 21% £0.39/kg as large supplies of imports pushed the price down.

The red cabbage price fell 18% to £0.52/kg as supplies increased. The price at the same time last year was 16% lower as supplies were higher.

Calabrese fell 8.4% to £0.66/kg due to increased supply and pressure from imports.

Kent cauliflowers rose 49% and Other cauliflowers rose 44% as supplies fell sharply.

Parsnips rose 49% to £1.59/kg and swede rose 21% as supplies fell.

The Runner bean price fell 38% as supplies increased and demand fell.

The price for Cherry tomatoes rose 19% to £2.09/kg as supplies decreased.

Flowers

Flower prices were steady across the month with only a few prices available.

The price for new season Gladioli was £0.66/kg and Pinks fell 22% as supplies dwindled.

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	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Per cent change month	12 month
FRUIT											
Blackberries	All Varieties	-	£/kg					5.20	4.89	-6.0%	-15.2%
Blackcurrants	All Varieties	-	£/kg						5.28		-2.3%
Cherries	Sweet Black	-	£/kg						4.06		37.7%
	Sweet White	-	£/kg						3.06		32.1%
Cooking Apples	Bramley's Seedling	Ave	£/kg	0.64	0.65	0.70	0.69	0.73	0.84	16.2%	42.2%
Damsons	All Varieties	-	£/kg								
Dessert Apples	Cox's Orange-group	Ave	£/kg	0.63	0.67	0.70	0.77				
	Discovery	Ave	£/kg								
	Egremont Russet	Ave	£/kg	0.72	0.77	0.69	0.82				
	Spartan	Ave	£/kg								
	Worcester Pearmain	Ave	£/kg								
	Braeburn	Ave	£/kg	0.60	0.61	0.59	0.59	0.55			
	Gala	Ave	£/kg	0.68	0.68	0.66	0.68	0.71			
	Other Early Season	-	£/kg								
	Other Mid Season	-	£/kg								
	Other Late Season	-	£/kg	0.52	0.53	0.61	0.65	0.59			
	Jonogold – group	Ave	£/kg								
	Gooseberries	All Varieties	-	£/kg					2.52	2.86	13.3%
Pears	Conference	Ave	£/kg	0.52	0.54	0.55	0.48				
	Doyenne Du Comice	Ave	£/kg	0.71	0.78						
	William's Bon Chretien	Ave	£/kg								
	Other	Ave	£/kg	0.62	0.56						
Plums and Gages	Czar	-	£/kg								
	Majorie's Seedling	-	£/kg								
	Victoria	-	£/kg								
	Other Varieties	-	£/kg						1.57		49.9%
	All Varieties	-	£/kg					4.94	5.56	12.6%	-15.8%
Raspberries	All Varieties	-	£/kg						3.80		-32.1%
Redcurrants	All Varieties	-	£/kg								
Strawberries	All Varieties	Ave	£/kg		2.72	1.96	1.79	1.98	2.49	25.9%	40.2%
VEGETABLES											
Asparagus	All Varieties	-	£/kg	14.03	15.50	8.91	7.04	5.12	6.22	21.6%	-15.5%
Beetroot	Topped	-	£/kg	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.17	4.7%	-0.5%
Broad Beans	Broad	-	£/kg					1.43	1.26	-11.8%	20.0%
Brussels Sprouts	All Varieties	-	£/kg	0.26	0.28						

Table 1 National average monthly wholesale prices of homegrown produce continued

		Quality	Units	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Per cent change	
										month	12 month
VEGETABLES											
Bulb Onions	Yellow	-	£/kg	0.29	0.31	0.37	0.39	0.40	0.46	13.6%	44.6%
	Red	-	£/kg	0.42	0.41	0.46	0.48	0.49	0.39	-21.2%	-13.3%
Cabbage	Red	-	£/kg	0.40	0.52	0.60	0.61	0.63	0.52	-17.5%	15.9%
	Savoy	-	£/head	0.37	0.38	0.38	0.39	0.46	0.47	0.8%	5.0%
	Spring Greens - Loose	-	£/kg			0.90					
	Spring Greens - Prepacked	-	£/kg	0.88	1.28	1.16	0.88	0.82	0.78	-5.1%	21.6%
	Summer & Autumn-Pointed	-	£/kg			0.55	0.53	0.50	0.50	1.1%	2.8%
	Summer & Autumn Round	-	£/head	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.42	0.41	0.39	-5.8%	-1.8%
	White	-	£/kg	0.30	0.32	0.34	0.35	0.32	0.33	2.6%	-40.6%
	Winter Other	-	£/head	0.39	0.38	0.40	0.39	0.45			
	Calabrese	All Varieties	-	£/kg				0.95	0.72	0.66	-8.4%
Capsicums	Green	Ave	£/kg					0.81	0.81	0.4%	26.7%
	Red	Ave	£/kg					1.21	1.22	0.8%	87.9%
Carrots	Topped-Washed	-	£/kg	0.37	0.37	0.39	0.44	0.43	0.45	4.6%	-1.5%
Cauliflowers	Kent	-	£/head	0.62	0.96	0.78	0.75	0.51	0.75	49.0%	37.8%
	All Other	-	£/head	0.50	0.93	0.78	0.73	0.48	0.69	43.8%	35.4%
Celery	All Washed	-	£/kg					0.68	0.65	-5.0%	-4.4%
Courgettes	All Varieties	-	£/kg					0.51	0.46	-10.4%	21.0%
Cucumbers	All Varieties	-	£/kg	0.76	0.74	0.68	0.69	0.80	0.83	3.8%	6.6%
Beans	Dwarf, French or Kidney	-	£/kg					2.65	2.01	-24.1%	-9.3%
Leeks	Trimmed	-	£/kg	0.39	0.41	0.44	0.44	0.58	0.55	-4.5%	22.7%
Lettuce	Butterhead – Indoor	Ave	£/head	0.36	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.31	0.31	-0.3%	1.7%
	Cos	Ave	£/head				0.62	0.52	0.56	7.4%	15.1%
	Crisp-Iceberg Type	Ave	£/head				0.41	0.37	0.40	9.6%	37.5%
	Little Gem	Ave	£/twin	0.55	0.52	0.57	0.56	0.51	0.51	-0.3%	5.0%
Mushrooms	Button – Indoor	-	£/kg								
	Cup – Indoor	-	£/kg								
	Flat – Indoor	-	£/kg								
Parsnips	All Varieties	-	£/kg	0.86	0.86	0.92	1.16	1.07	1.59	48.9%	67.2%
Rhubarb	Forced	-	£/kg	2.62	3.12	4.10	5.00				
	Outdoor	-	£/kg		4.02	1.72	1.30	1.06	1.12	5.7%	1.4%
Runner Beans	Runner-Climbing	-	£/kg					5.51	3.43	-37.8%	71.2%
Salad Onions	Salad	-	£/bunch			0.30	0.27	0.25	0.25	-1.0%	4.3%
Shelling Peas	All Varieties	-	£/kg				1.35	0.68	0.67	-1.2%	3.2%

Table 1 National average monthly wholesale prices of homegrown produce continued

		Quality	Units	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Per cent change month	12 month
VEGETABLES											
Spinach	Leaf - Loose/bunches	-	£/kg			1.03	0.96	0.98	0.93	-4.3%	43.8%
Swede	All Varieties	-	£/kg	0.31	0.30	0.31	0.29	0.29	0.35	20.5%	-10.1%
Sweetcorn	All Varieties	-	£/cob								
Tomatoes	Round	Ave	£/kg		2.33	1.02	0.82	0.78	0.80	2.6%	15.5%
	Vine	Ave	£/kg		4.00	1.04	0.90	0.76	0.83	8.8%	-4.8%
	Cherry	Ave	£/kg			2.14	2.15	1.76	2.09	18.8%	2.7%
	Plum	Ave	£/kg				0.79	0.88	0.90	2.1%	-10.7%
Turnip	All Varieties	-	£/kg	0.96	0.77	1.00	1.11	0.96	0.90	-6.8%	-12.8%
Watercress	All Varieties	-	£/bunch	0.52	0.53	0.51	0.50	0.52	0.50	-2.5%	-8.1%
CUT FLOWERS											
Alstromeria	Indoor	-	£/bunch ⁽¹⁾	1.24	1.24	1.35	1.36	1.27	1.27	-0.3%	15.7%
Chrysanthemums	Indoor-bloom	-	£/bloom								
	Indoor-spray	-	£/spray								
Gladioli	All Varieties	-	£/bunch ⁽¹⁾				0.55		0.66		-22.2%
Irises	Indoor	-	£/bunch ⁽¹⁾			0.70	0.70				
Narcissus-inc.Daffodils	Indoor	-	£/bunch ⁽²⁾	0.44	0.44						
Oriental Lilies	Homegrown	-	£/stem		0.69	0.75	0.71	0.69	0.69	1.2%	7.4%
Pinks	All Varieties	-	£/bunch ⁽³⁾					0.60	0.47	-22.2%	31.3%
Tulips	Indoor	-	£/bunch ⁽⁴⁾	0.80	0.85	0.92	0.76				
POT PLANTS											
Begonia-Elatior	13cm	-	£ each	1.18					0.50		-53.8%
Cyclamen	13cm	-	£ each	0.90							
Poinsettia	13cm	-	£ each								
Chrysanthemum	13cm	-	£ each	1.25				1.10			

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>