



07 March 2016

Fruit and vegetable wholesale prices – February 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.

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 Valentines day.

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 February led to few major fluctuations in price.

The price for Bramley apples rose by 8.8% to £0.64/kg and Egremont apples rose 12% to £0.72/kg in February compared to January as supplies dwindled and good quality fruit was available. The average monthly price for Other late season apples fell by 12% to £0.52/kg in February due to high supplies pushing the price down. This was broadly similar to the decrease on last year's price.

Comice pears rose by 7.5% to £0.71/kg as supplies dropped. This was a 15% increase on the price at the same time last year when supplies were better. Other pears decreased by 25% to £0.62/kg as supplies were steady and demand fell. This was 48% higher than the price a year ago when there was greater availability.

Vegetables

Between January and February there was a fall in yellow bulb onion price of 8.4% to £0.29/kg due to increased supplies of continental imports.

Red cabbage rose by 14% to £0.40/kg which was 33% higher than the same time last year when supplies were more plentiful. Spring Greens (prepacked) rose by 21% to £0.88/kg due to shrunk supplies.

Kent cauliflower prices returned to a more usual level after the large fluctuations at the end of 2015. The price was down 3.2% compared to a year ago when supplies were slightly lower. The All Other cauliflower price fell 11% to £0.50/kg as large supplies of French imports came onto the market. The price was down 15% on February last year when supplies were lower.

The Forced rhubarb price fell 19% to £2.62/kg between January and February. This was due to slightly higher supplies and a drop from the new season premium price in January. A year ago the price was 24% higher as supplies were lower.

Flowers

Strong competition from field grown Daffodils resulted in the Narcissus price falling 22% to £0.44/bunch between January and February. The price was 29% higher at the same time last year when supplies were at a more normal level.

The Begonia price rose by 68% between January and February as supplies fell sharply and demand also dipped. The price was broadly similar to February last year.

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	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Per cent change	
										month	12 month
FRUIT											
Blackberries	All Varieties	-	£/kg	4.85	6.50						
Blackcurrants	All Varieties	-	£/kg	4.41	4.61						
Cherries	Sweet Black	-	£/kg	2.10							
	Sweet White	-	£/kg								
Cooking Apples	Bramley's Seedling	Ave	£/kg	0.64	0.59	0.57	0.56	0.59	0.64	8.8%	5.5%
Damsons	All Varieties	-	£/kg	1.29							
Dessert Apples	Cox's Orange-group	Ave	£/kg	0.90	0.68	0.58	0.58	0.61	0.63	4.5%	-18.7%
	Discovery	Ave	£/kg	0.53							
	Egremont Russet	Ave	£/kg	0.90	0.66	0.57	0.58	0.64	0.72	11.8%	-6.7%
	Spartan	Ave	£/kg		0.58	0.54	0.54	0.64			
	Worcester Pearmain	Ave	£/kg	0.61	0.52	0.47	0.46				
	Braeburn	Ave	£/kg		0.66	0.58	0.55	0.58	0.60	4.8%	-0.6%
	Gala	Ave	£/kg	0.73	0.66	0.58	0.61	0.67	0.68	1.5%	-2.3%
	Other Early Season	-	£/kg	0.63	0.54						
	Other Mid Season	-	£/kg		0.59	0.52	0.55				
	Other Late Season	-	£/kg			0.72	0.82	0.59	0.52	-12.1%	-11.5%
Gooseberries	Jonogold – group	Ave	£/kg		0.60	0.58	0.66				
	All Varieties	-	£/kg								
Pears	Conference	Ave	£/kg	0.67	0.56	0.53	0.48	0.50	0.52	3.7%	8.4%
	Doyenne Du Comice	Ave	£/kg	0.75	0.66	0.59	0.61	0.66	0.71	7.5%	14.7%
	William's Bon Chretien	Ave	£/kg	0.54	0.51	0.50					
	Other	Ave	£/kg	0.63	0.38	0.40	0.44	0.83	0.62	-25.0%	48.0%
Plums and Gages	Czar	-	£/kg								
	Majorie's Seedling	-	£/kg	1.05	0.91						
	Victoria	-	£/kg	1.17							
	Other Varieties	-	£/kg	1.07	1.87						
Raspberries	All Varieties	-	£/kg	7.83	8.57	7.07					
Redcurrants	All Varieties	-	£/kg	6.80							
Strawberries	All Varieties	Ave	£/kg	2.28	2.43	3.64					
VEGETABLES											
Asparagus	All Varieties	-	£/kg						14.03		
Beetroot	Topped	-	£/kg	0.17	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.17	0.16	-2.9%	2.9%
Broad Beans	Broad	-	£/kg	1.08	1.13	1.06					
Brussels Sprouts	All Varieties	-	£/kg	0.36	0.31	0.29	0.27	0.28	0.26	-5.5%	5.1%

Table 1 National average monthly wholesale prices of homegrown produce continued

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										month	12 month
VEGETABLES											
Bulb Onions	Yellow	-	£/kg	0.34	0.31	0.29	0.28	0.32	0.29	-8.4%	0.1%
	Red	-	£/kg	0.47	0.47	0.45	0.44	0.42	0.42	0.5%	-3.1%
Cabbage	Red	-	£/kg	0.37	0.35	0.35	0.33	0.35	0.40	14.1%	32.5%
	Savoy	-	£/head	0.40	0.38	0.39	0.37	0.37	0.37	-0.4%	-0.6%
	Spring Greens - Loose	-	£/kg								
	Spring Greens - Prepacked	-	£/kg	0.69	0.60	0.60	0.65	0.72	0.88	21.4%	8.9%
	Summer & Autumn-Pointed	-	£/kg	0.44	0.46	0.47	0.52				
	Summer & Autumn Round	-	£/head	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	-0.9%	13.3%
	White	-	£/kg	0.40	0.34	0.32	0.31	0.31	0.30	-1.0%	16.5%
	Winter Other	-	£/head		0.39	0.38	0.36	0.37	0.39	3.5%	15.3%
Calabrese	All Varieties	-	£/kg	0.45	0.52	0.44	0.44				
Capsicums	Green	Ave	£/kg	1.20		0.55					
	Red	Ave	£/kg	0.60		0.43					
Carrots	Topped-Washed	-	£/kg	0.40	0.36	0.34	0.34	0.37	0.37	0.6%	37.6%
Cauliflowers	Kent	-	£/head	0.57	0.69	0.39	0.36	0.61	0.62	2.9%	-3.2%
	All Other	-	£/head	0.46	0.71	0.38	0.40	0.56	0.50	-10.8%	-14.6%
Celery	All Washed	-	£/kg	0.56	0.53	0.51	0.49				
Courgettes	All Varieties	-	£/kg	0.42	0.40						
Cucumbers	All Varieties	-	£/kg	0.91	0.74	0.62			0.76		-38.2%
Beans	Dwarf, French or Kidney	-	£/kg	1.54	1.47						
Leeks	Trimmed	-	£/kg	0.41	0.40	0.39	0.38	0.39	0.39	-0.1%	4.8%
Lettuce	Butterhead – Indoor	Ave	£/head	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.32	0.35	0.36	1.2%	8.5%
	Cos	Ave	£/head	0.47	0.47	0.47					
	Crisp-Iceberg Type	Ave	£/head	0.42	0.41	0.35					
	Little Gem	Ave	£/twin	0.49	0.47	0.48	0.62	0.59	0.55	-6.8%	-10.1%
Mushrooms	Button – Indoor	-	£/kg								
	Cup – Indoor	-	£/kg								
	Flat – Indoor	-	£/kg								
Parsnips	All Varieties	-	£/kg	1.10	1.04	0.93	0.89	0.86	0.86	-0.3%	6.9%
Rhubarb	Forced	-	£/kg					3.25	2.62	-19.3%	-24.0%
	Outdoor	-	£/kg	1.21	1.15						
Runner Beans	Runner-Climbing	-	£/kg	1.23	1.38	1.19					
Salad Onions	Salad	-	£/bunch	0.23	0.23	0.23					
Shelling Peas	All Varieties	-	£/kg	0.71	0.74						

Table 1 National average monthly wholesale prices of homegrown produce continued

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VEGETABLES											
Spinach	Leaf - Loose/bunches	-	£/kg	0.68	0.65	0.63	0.63				
Swede	All Varieties	-	£/kg	0.35	0.32	0.30	0.30	0.31	0.31	-0.2%	7.1%
Sweetcorn	All Varieties	-	£/cob	0.21	0.21	0.21					
Tomatoes	Round	Ave	£/kg	1.02	1.07	0.84					
	Vine	Ave	£/kg	1.54	1.51	0.94					
	Cherry	Ave	£/kg	2.11	2.81	2.37					
	Plum	Ave	£/kg	1.03							
Turnip	All Varieties	-	£/kg	1.00	0.90	0.86	0.92	0.93	0.96	3.7%	84.0%
Watercress	All Varieties	-	£/bunch	0.53	0.51	0.50	0.49	0.51	0.52	1.1%	-6.9%
CUT FLOWERS											
Alstromeria	Indoor	-	£/bunch ⁽¹⁾	1.24	1.19	1.15	1.17	1.17	1.24	6.7%	1.6%
Chrysanthemums	Indoor-bloom	-	£/bloom	0.41	0.35	0.38	0.89				
	Indoor-spray	-	£/spray	0.27	0.15	0.18	0.16				
Gladioli	All Varieties	-	£/bunch ⁽¹⁾	0.58	0.56	0.50					
Irises	Indoor	-	£/bunch ⁽¹⁾								
Narcissus-inc.Daffodils	Indoor	-	£/bunch ⁽²⁾		0.64	0.61	0.45	0.56	0.44	-22.3%	-29.4%
Oriental Lilies	Homegrown	-	£/stem	0.67	0.71	0.68	0.70	0.76			
Pinks	All Varieties	-	£/bunch ⁽³⁾	0.27	0.34						
Tulips	Indoor	-	£/bunch ⁽⁴⁾				0.98	0.79	0.80	0.9%	-6.5%
POT PLANTS											
Begonia-Elatior	13cm	-	£ each	1.09	1.08	1.13		0.70	1.18	67.9%	4.4%
Cyclamen	13cm	-	£ each	1.06	1.23	1.26	1.33	1.37	0.90	-34.5%	
Poinsettia	13cm	-	£ each			2.01	1.99				
Chrysanthemum	13cm	-	£ each	1.01	1.06	1.08	1.14		1.25		4.7%

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>