



Agricultural Price Index – March 2018

The Agricultural Price Index (API) is an index of the price of agricultural outputs and inputs for the UK used to show change over time. More details on the index including how it is produced are in the Background section at the end of this document.

Key points at February 2018

Item	Change	
	Yearly (Mar 2017)	Monthly (Feb 2018)
All outputs	↑ 2.8%	↑ 1.1%
All inputs	↑ 3.2%	↔ 0.0%
<i>Outputs</i>		
Crop products	↓ 2.2%	↑ 1.1%
Barley	↑ 6.2%	↑ 2.3%
Potatoes	↓ 29%	↑ 1.9%
Oilseed Rape	↓ 16%	↓ 1.7%
Forage Plants	↑ 22%	↑ 1.0%
Animals and animal products	↑ 6.1%	↑ 1.1%
Sheep and Lambs	↑ 29%	↑ 12%
Milk	↑ 3.7%	↓ 3.1%
<i>Inputs</i>		
Energy and lubricants	↑ 3.9%	↓ 8.5%

Enquiries on this publication to: Jayne Brigham, Rm 201 Foss House, Kings Pool, 1-2 Peasholme Green, York, YO1 7PX Tel: 020802 66280/66202 email: prices@defra.gsi.gov.uk

A National Statistics publication. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference. For general enquiries about National Statistics, contact the National Statistics Public Enquiry Service: tel. 0845 601 3034 email info@statistics.gov.uk. You can find National Statistics on the internet at www.statistics.gov.uk.

Figure 1: Monthly indices for total Outputs and total Inputs to March 2018 (2010=100)

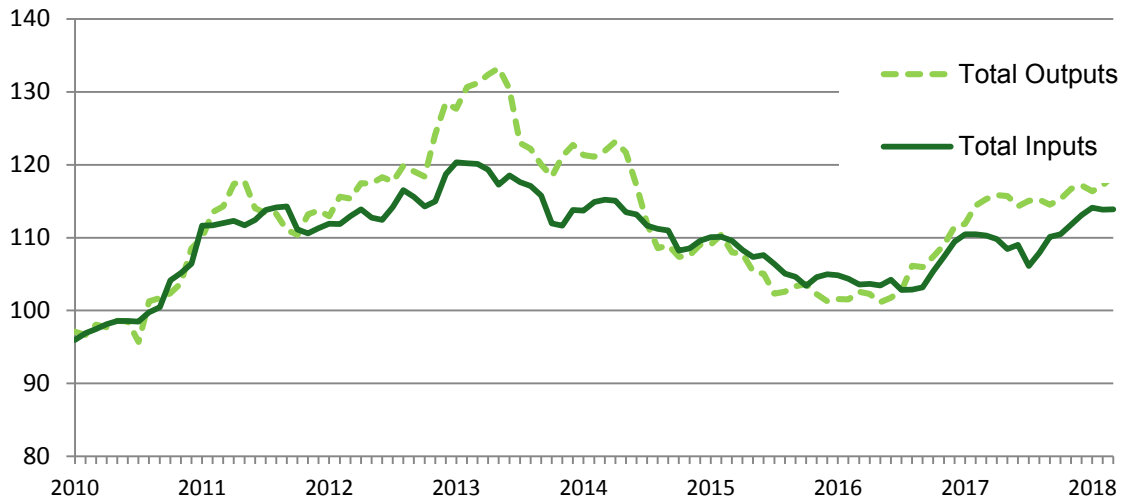


Figure 2: Annual average indices for total Inputs and total Outputs to March 2018 (2010=100)

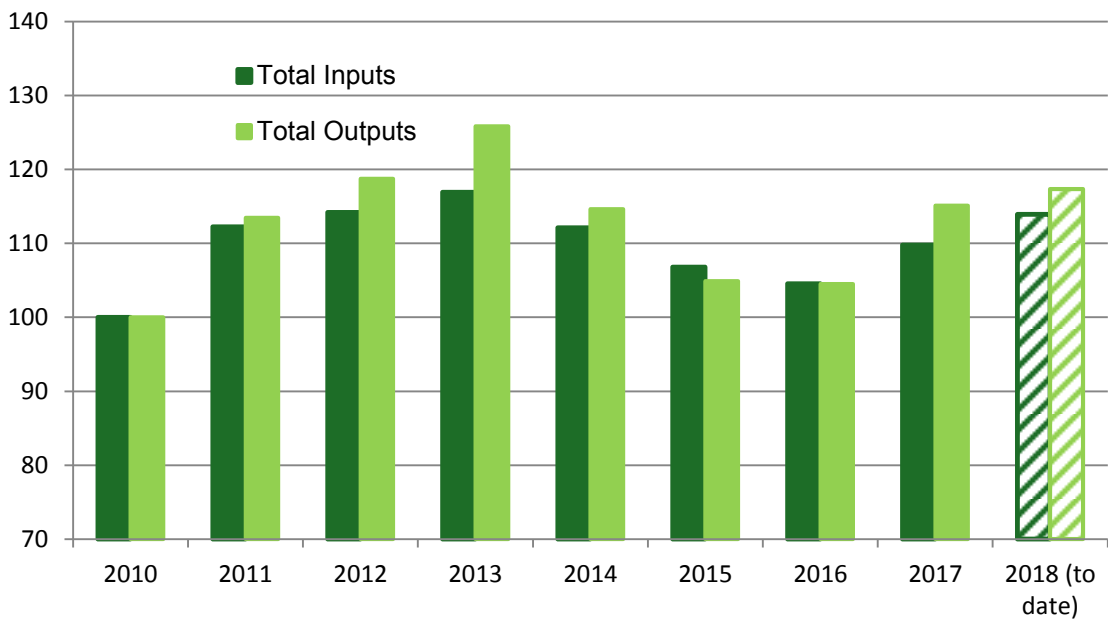
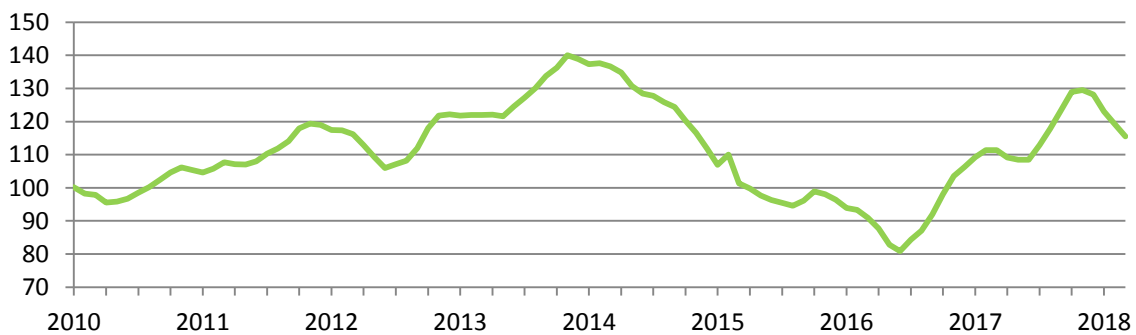


Figure 3: Milk price index to March 2018¹

(2010=100)



¹ For more detail visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/milk-prices-and-composition>

Table 1 Index of Agricultural Outputs UK (2010=100)

	Mar-17	Feb-18	Mar-18	Yearly March 2017 to March 2018	Monthly February 2018 - March 2018
All Outputs	115.3	117.2	118.5	2.8%	1.1%
Crop products	120.1	116.1	117.4	-2.2%	1.1%
Cereals	121.2	121.9	124.3	2.6%	2.0%
Wheat	119.5	118.9	120.9	1.2%	1.7%
Barley	124.6	129.4	132.4	6.2%	2.3%
Oats	124.7	122.8	122.3	-1.9%	-0.4%
Potatoes	165.3	115.2	117.4	-29.0%	1.9%
Industrial Crops	115.9	103.6	102.6	-11.5%	-1.0%
Oilseed Rape	132.5	112.7	110.8	-16.3%	-1.7%
Sugar Beet	87.7	87.7	87.7	0.0%	0.0%
Forage plants	101.2	122.3	123.5	22.1%	1.0%
Fresh Vegetables	118.5	110.8	117.2	-1.1%	5.7%
Fresh Fruit	125.9	129.2	135.2	7.4%	4.6%
Flowers and plants	106.7	107.3	106.6	-0.1%	-0.6%
Other crop products	102.9	102.9	102.9	0.0%	0.0%
Animals and animal products	112.4	118.0	119.2	6.1%	1.1%
Animals (for slaughter & export)	114.0	119.1	123.4	8.2%	3.5%
Cattle and calves	127.8	133.3	135.3	5.9%	1.5%
Pigs	106.7	102.0	101.8	-4.5%	-0.2%
Sheep and lambs	104.1	119.6	134.1	28.8%	12.1%
All Poultry	104.3	109.4	113.6	8.9%	3.9%
Animal products	110.1	116.1	113.4	3.0%	-2.4%
Milk	111.4	119.2	115.5	3.7%	-3.1%
Eggs	100.7	98.7	98.7	-2.0%	0.0%
All Inputs	110.3	113.8	113.9	3.2%	0.0%
All goods and services currently consumed	110.0	113.7	113.8	3.4%	0.0%
Seeds	108.6	106.8	107.2	-1.3%	0.3%
Energy and lubricants	108.6	123.4	112.8	3.9%	-8.5%
Fertilisers and soil improvers	89.8	95.7	98.3	9.5%	2.7%
Plant protection products	107.4	112.3	110.6	3.0%	-1.5%
Veterinary services	108.6	108.9	109.0	0.4%	0.1%
Animal feedingstuffs	114.0	113.0	114.3	0.2%	1.2%
Straight feedingstuffs	115.6	107.3	109.6	-5.2%	2.2%
Compound feedingstuffs	113.2	116.9	116.9	3.3%	0.0%
Maintenance of Materials	113.3	117.4	117.8	4.0%	0.4%
Maintenance of Buildings	112.8	117.9	118.3	4.9%	0.3%
Other goods and services	113.5	121.5	121.7	7.3%	0.1%
Goods and services contricuting to investment	112.2	114.2	114.5	2.1%	0.2%
Materials	111.9	113.2	113.4	1.4%	0.2%
Buildings	110.4	114.2	114.5	3.7%	0.3%
Other (Engineering and soil improvement operations)	117.6	120.3	120.6	2.6%	0.3%

Background

The output series reflects the price farmers receive for their products, also referred to as farm gate price. Information is collected for all major crops (for example wheat and potatoes) and on livestock and livestock products (for example sheep, milk and eggs).

The input series reflects the price farmers pay for goods and services. The series is in two groups: goods and services currently consumed; and goods and services contributing to investment. Goods and services currently consumed refer to items that are used up in the production process, for example fertiliser or seed. Goods and services contributing to investment relate to items that are required but not consumed in the production process, such as tractors or buildings.

Data uses

Farmers use the agricultural price index to help set prices for their output and monitor the price paid for inputs. Analysts in Government, industry and academia use the data to assess the impact that price changes have on industry and consumers.

The Office of National Statistics (ONS) uses API data in the production of the Producer Price Index (PPI), which is one of the key measures of inflation.

Methodology

Defra collect prices from a wide variety sources to produce the monthly API. This includes data from our own surveys, information from the Agricultural, Horticultural Development Board (AHDB), and the ONS. For some items we only receive quarterly or annual data, for example, electricity prices. When no new data are available the data for the previous month is carried forward until new data becomes available.

The methodology used is described in the [Handbook for EU Agricultural Prices](#) and is standard across the EU.

Weights

Each item is assigned a weight which reflects their contribution to the overall index. The weights are based upon the value of the item, for example, if the value of animal feed is three times more than fertilisers then the weight for animal feed will be three times more than the fertiliser.

The overall weight for an item is either split equally between the 12 months or reflects the yearly pattern of sales or purchases. For example, if the sales of apples in October are double June sales then October weight is double the June weight for apples. Some outputs are seasonal, for example strawberries, and these will only have a weight for the months they are in season.

To note all weights are based upon base year data which is 2010.

Revisions

Figures in this notice are provisional and subject to revision. In this edition there are slight revisions from 2014 to the fresh vegetable index as a correction was made to the unit price measure for 6 vegetable commodities.