



Agricultural Price Index – May 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. This is the first release in which the indices have moved from a base year of 2010 to a base year of 2015. More details on the index including how it is produced are in the Background section at the end of this document.

Key points at May 2018

Item	Change	
	Yearly (May 2017)	Monthly (Apr 2018)
All outputs	↑ 1.6%	↓ 0.3%
All inputs	↑ 4.7%	↓ 0.4%
<i>Outputs</i>		
Crop products	↓ 0.7%	↓ 0.4%
Barley	↑ 11%	↓ 0.9%
Potatoes	↓ 22%	↑ 4.4%
Oilseed Rape	↓ 14%	↓ 0.4%
Forage Plants	↑ 40%	↓ 1.1%
Fresh Fruit	↑ 19%	↓ 21%
Animals and animal products	↑ 3.1%	↑ 0.8%
Sheep and Lambs	↑ 20%	↓ 0.1%
Milk	↔ 0.0%	↓ 2.3%
<i>Inputs</i>		
Energy and lubricants	↑ 12%	↑ 3.7%

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Figure 1: Monthly indices for total Outputs and total Inputs to May 2018 (2015=100)

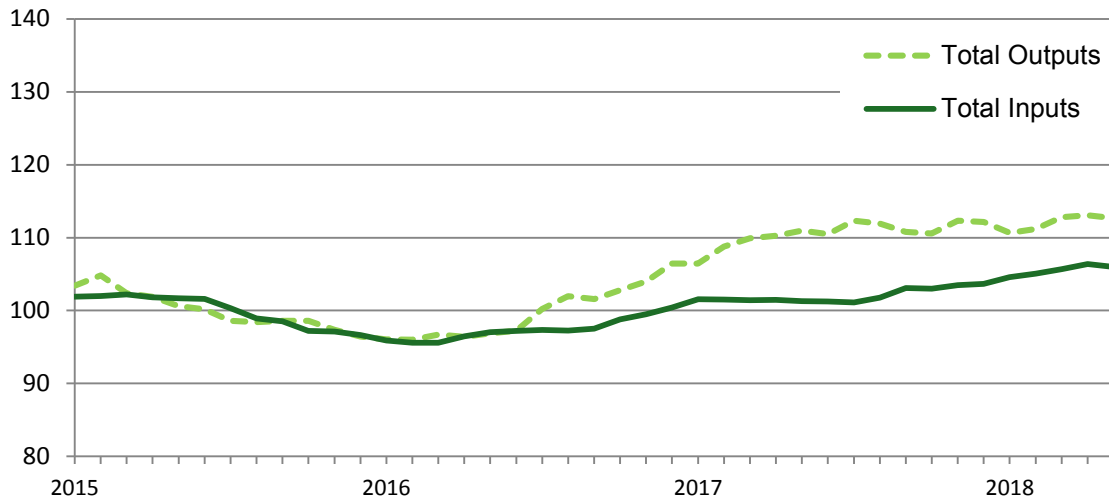


Figure 2: Annual average indices for total Inputs and total Outputs to May 2018 (2015=100)

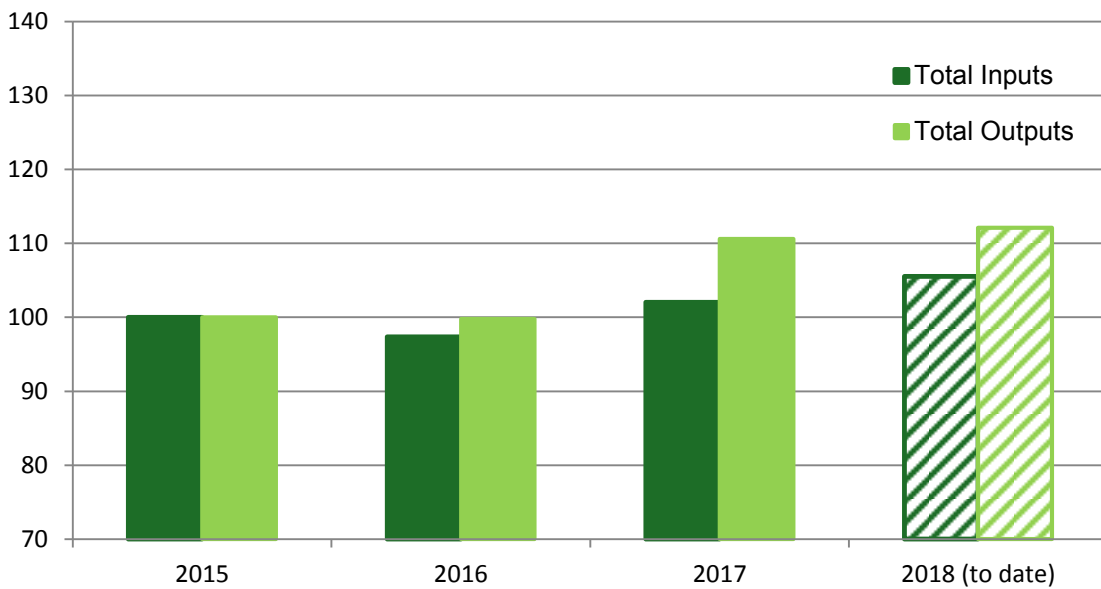
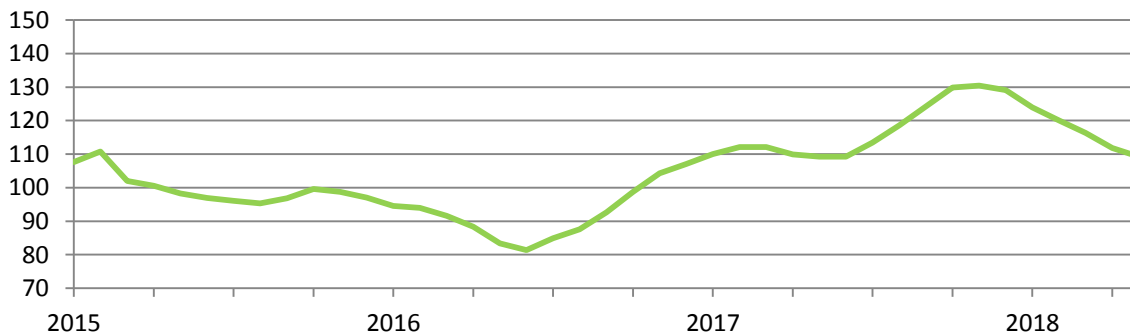


Figure 3: Milk price index to May 2018¹

(2015=100)



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

	Table 1 Index of Prices of Agricultural Outputs and Inputs UK (2015=100)			Yearly	Monthly
	May-17	Apr-18	May-18	May 2017 to May 2018	April 2018 - May 2018
All Outputs	111.0	113.1	112.7	1.6%	-0.3%
Crop products	115.8	115.5	115.1	-0.7%	-0.4%
Cereals	117.3	120.3	121.4	3.6%	0.9%
Wheat	117.9	119.5	120.9	2.6%	1.2%
Barley	112.1	125.3	124.3	10.9%	-0.9%
Oats	128.8	114.6	119.4	-7.3%	4.2%
Potatoes	147.0	110.3	115.2	-21.6%	4.4%
Industrial Crops	121.4	103.5	107.5	-11.4%	3.8%
Oilseed Rape	133.8	115.1	114.6	-14.3%	-0.4%
Sugar Beet	86.7	86.7	86.7	0.0%	0.0%
Forage plants	116.3	164.7	162.8	40.0%	-1.1%
Fresh Vegetables	108.3	113.8	114.3	5.5%	0.4%
Fresh Fruit	106.3	159.5	126.8	19.3%	-20.5%
Flowers and plants	104.6	104.6	104.6	0.0%	0.0%
Animals and animal products	107.9	111.9	111.2	3.1%	-0.6%
Animals (for slaughter & export)	109.1	113.9	114.8	5.3%	0.8%
Cattle and calves	103.7	106.8	108.9	5.0%	2.0%
Pigs	122.4	110.5	112.0	-8.5%	1.3%
Sheep and lambs	122.8	147.1	147.0	19.7%	-0.1%
All Poultry	102.3	108.7	108.5	6.1%	-0.1%
Animal products	106.2	108.2	106.0	-0.2%	-2.1%
Milk	109.2	111.9	109.3	0.0%	-2.3%
Eggs	85.0	83.1	83.1	-2.3%	0.0%
All Inputs	101.3	106.4	106.0	4.7%	-0.4%
All goods and services currently consumed	101.3	106.3	105.8	4.4%	-0.5%
Seeds	100.1	105.5	104.3	4.2%	-1.1%
Energy and lubricants	104.2	112.4	116.6	11.9%	3.7%
Fertilisers and soil improvers	81.0	98.6	88.5	9.3%	-10.3%
Plant protection products	102.0	104.5	104.8	2.8%	0.3%
Veterinary services	100.9	101.3	101.3	0.3%	-0.1%
Animal feedingstuffs	105.4	108.4	108.8	3.2%	0.4%
Straight feedingstuffs	110.2	118.2	119.6	8.5%	1.2%
Compound feedingstuffs	103.2	103.9	103.9	0.6%	0.0%
Maintenance of Materials	103.0	105.8	106.2	3.1%	0.3%
Maintenance of Buildings	104.2	108.7	109.1	4.8%	0.4%
Other goods and services	103.4	105.3	105.3	1.8%	0.0%
Goods and services contributing to investment	101.0	106.8	107.0	6.0%	0.2%
Materials	100.1	106.8	107.0	6.9%	0.1%
Buildings	103.0	106.7	107.1	4.0%	0.4%

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 estimates are made based on previous values 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 price point is assigned a weight which reflects its contribution to the overall index. The weights for each item represent their annual monetary value from the Agricultural Accounts. For example, if the annual value of animal feed purchased is three times more than fertilisers then the annual weight for animal feed will also be three times more than for fertiliser. Where monthly data is available, monthly and quarterly weights for outputs reflect the pattern of sales volumes across the year. For example, if the volume of sales for apples in October is double that in June, then the October weight for apples is double the weight for June. Monthly and quarterly weights for input items do not vary within the year. The weights are recalculated every five years to reflect more recent data. The April 2018 index was the first to be produced using weights based on 2015, replacing weights based on 2010.

Revisions

Figures in this notice are provisional and subject to revision.