



16 July 2020

Agricultural Price Index – May 2020

The Agricultural Price Index (API) is an index of the price of agricultural outputs and inputs for the UK used to track 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 May 2020

Outputs

- The price index for total outputs is 2.1 points higher compared with May 2019. This is driven by increases for crop products (+4.7 points) and, to a lesser extent, animals and animal products (+0.4 points). However, the picture is once again mixed within these product groups, with lower prices for cereals (notably oats) and animal products, and higher prices for fresh fruit and animals (notably pigs, and sheep and lambs). The decrease for animal products was driven by lower prices for milk, partially offset by higher prices for eggs. The largest annual price index change was for fresh fruit (+81.2 points).
- The price index for total outputs increased by 1.1 points from April 2020. Overall, this was driven by a price increase of 2.1 points for animals (most significantly sheep and lambs), partially offset by price decreases of 1.1 points for crop products and 2.4 points for animal products. The largest monthly price index change was for fresh fruit (-46.4 points).

Inputs

- The price index for total inputs is 2.9 points lower compared with May 2019. This is driven by significant decreases in the price for energy and lubricants, and fertilisers and soil improvers, and is only partially offset by price increases for plant protection products and vehicle maintenance. The largest annual price index change was for energy and lubricants (-24.7 points).
- The price index for total inputs was once again little changed from April 2020 (-0.6 points), with all product groupings showing little to no change except for energy and lubricants (-3.7 points).

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What you need to know about this release

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National Statistics Status

National Statistics status means that our statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value, and it is our responsibility to maintain compliance with these standards.

These statistics last underwent a full assessment [Assessment Report 271 Statistics on Agriculture] against the Code of Practice for Statistics in 2014.

Since the latest review by the Office for Statistics Regulation, we have continued to comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics. We have also made improvements to enhance the quality of this publication as part of our regular 5-year rebasing, which has included updating the range of prices collected based on availability and quality, and improving weighting methodology in line with Eurostat guidance.

For general enquiries about National Statistics, contact the National Statistics Public Enquiry Service:

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You can find more information about National Statistics at statistics.gov.uk.

Section 1 – Summary charts for prices indices

Figure 1: Monthly indices for Total Outputs and Total Inputs to May 2020 (2015 = 100)

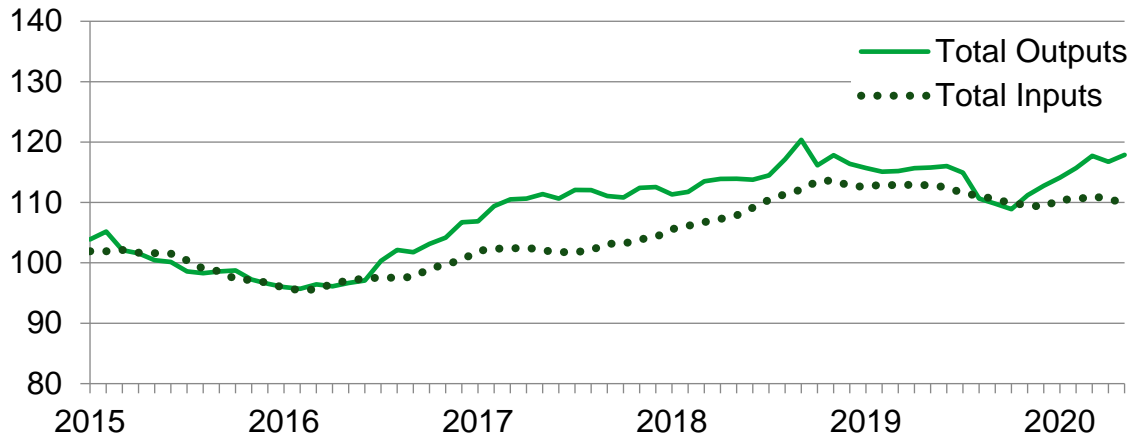


Figure 2: Annual average indices for Total Inputs and Total Outputs to May 2020 (2015 = 100)

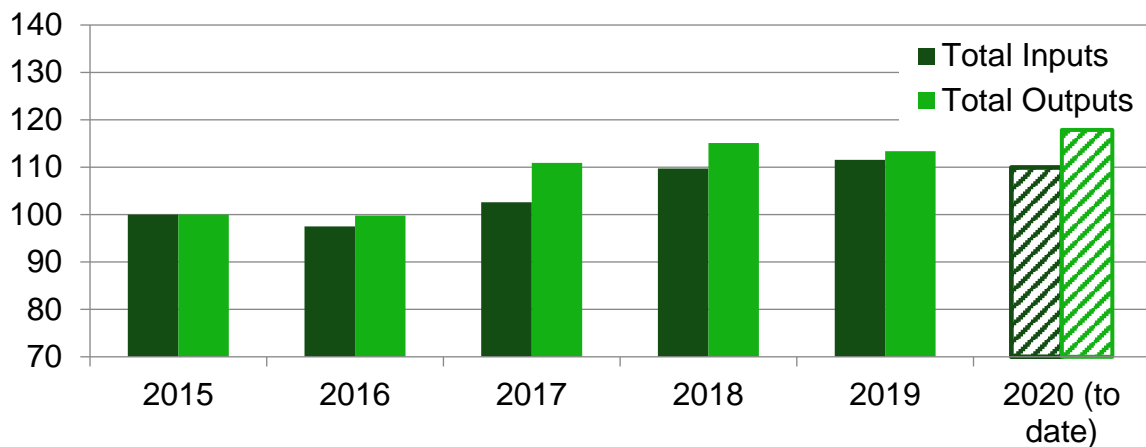
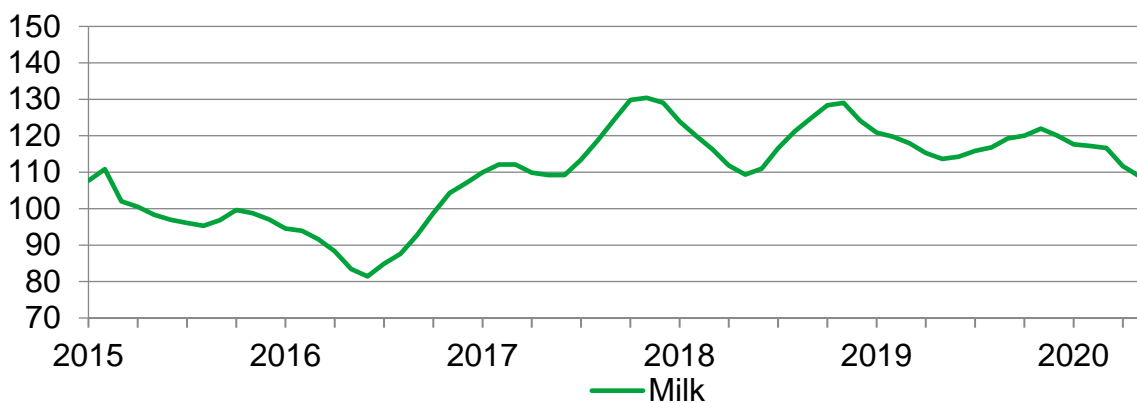


Figure 3: Milk price index to May 2020 (2015 = 100). For more information visit the monthly UK [farm-gate milk price](#) publication.



Section 2 – Details of selected outputs and inputs

Figure 4: Change in annual and monthly price indices for selected outputs for May 2020 (2015 = 100)

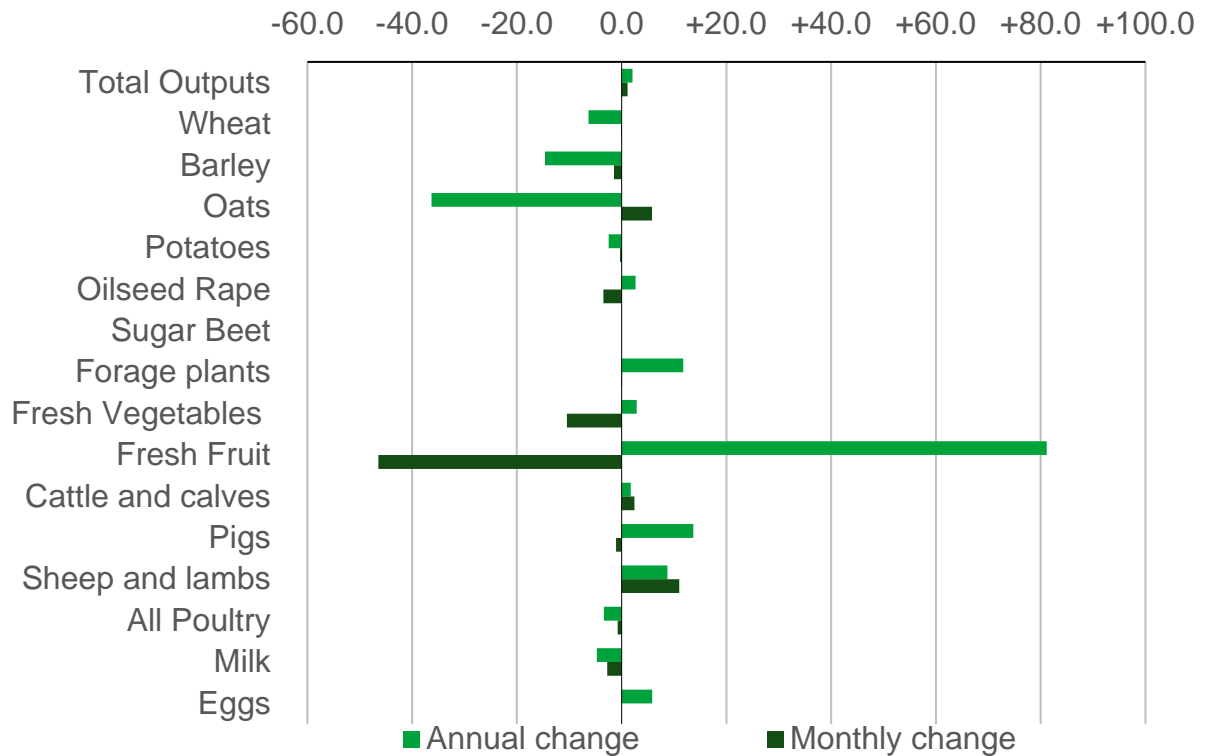
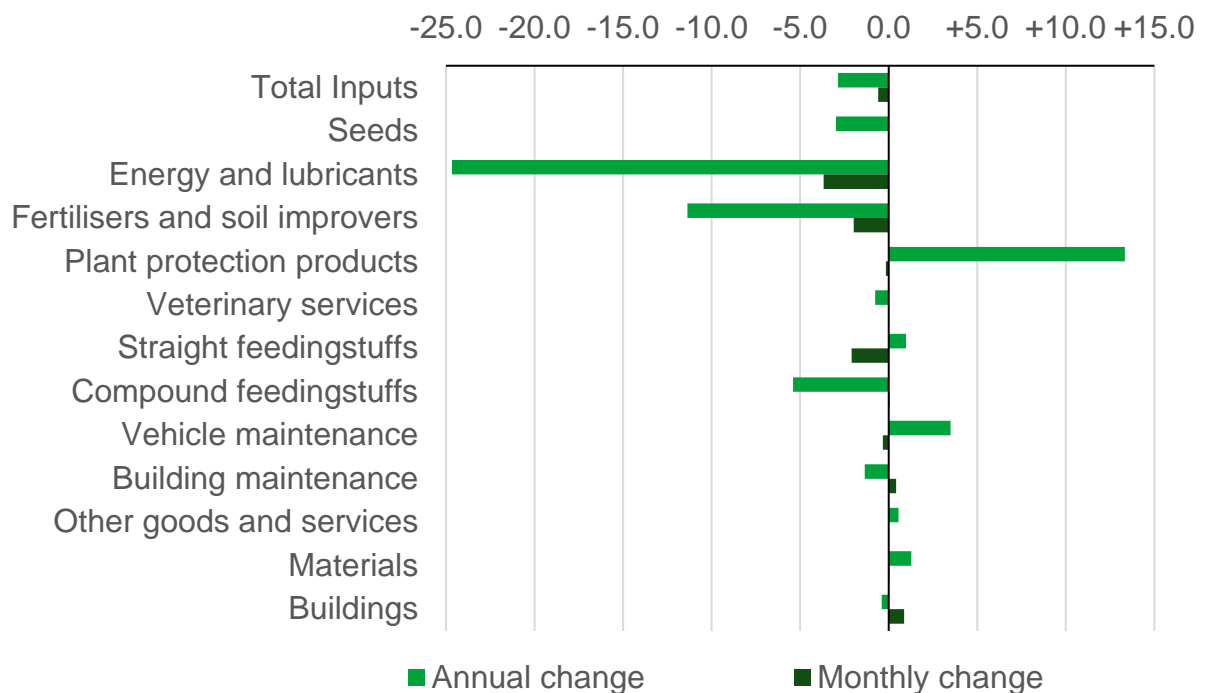


Figure 5: Change in annual and monthly price indices for selected inputs for May 2020 (2015 = 100)



Section 3 – Summary table of price indices

Table 1: Index of prices of agricultural outputs and inputs to May 2020 (2015 = 100), with annual change calculated as the difference from May 2019 and monthly change calculated as the difference from April 2020

	May 2019	Apr 2020	May 2020	Annual change	Monthly change
Total Outputs	115.8	116.7	117.9	+2.1	+1.1
Crop products	127.1	132.8	131.8	+4.7	-1.1
Cereals	137.2	128.6	128.5	-8.7	-0.1
Wheat	137.7	131.5	131.4	-6.3	-0.1
Barley	130.4	117.2	115.8	-14.6	-1.5
Oats	159.8	117.7	123.5	-36.3	+5.8
Potatoes	146.8	144.6	144.3	-2.5	-0.3
Industrial Crops	118.5	120.5	119.7	+1.2	-0.8
Oilseed Rape	120.2	126.3	122.8	+2.7	-3.5
Sugar Beet (1)	100.4	100.4	100.4	0.0	0.0
Forage plants	139.7	151.3	151.4	+11.8	+0.1
Fresh Vegetables	122.7	136.0	125.6	+2.9	-10.4
Fresh Fruit	145.4	273.0	226.6	+81.2	-46.4
Animals and animal products	108.6	108.7	109.0	+0.4	+0.3
Animals	108.1	108.9	111.0	+2.9	+2.1
Cattle and calves	100.7	100.0	102.5	+1.7	+2.4
Pigs	111.3	126.1	125.0	+13.7	-1.1
Sheep and lambs	123.5	121.2	132.2	+8.7	+11.0
All Poultry	107.9	105.3	104.6	-3.4	-0.8
Animal products	109.3	108.5	106.1	-3.2	-2.4
Milk	113.7	111.7	108.9	-4.7	-2.7
Eggs	81.9	87.7	87.7	+5.8	0.0
Total Inputs	112.8	110.5	109.9	-2.9	-0.6
All goods and services currently consumed	113.7	110.8	110.0	-3.7	-0.8
Seeds	107.1	104.2	104.2	-3.0	0.0
Energy and lubricants	127.8	106.8	103.2	-24.7	-3.7
Fertilisers and soil improvers	104.8	95.4	93.4	-11.4	-2.0
Plant protection products	114.5	128.0	127.8	+13.3	-0.2
Veterinary services	115.1	114.4	114.4	-0.8	+0.0
Animal feedingstuffs	116.6	113.8	113.2	-3.4	-0.6
Straight feedingstuffs	123.7	126.8	124.7	+1.0	-2.1
Compound feedingstuffs	113.3	107.9	107.9	-5.4	+0.0
Vehicle maintenance	108.6	112.4	112.1	+3.5	-0.3

Building maintenance	112.9	111.1	111.5	-1.4	+0.4
Other goods and services	109.8	110.4	110.4	+0.6	+0.0
Goods and services contributing to investment (2)	108.7	109.2	109.5	+0.8	+0.3
Materials	107.2	108.5	108.5	+1.3	+0.0
Buildings	112.1	110.8	111.7	-0.4	+0.9

(1) Sugar beet prices are provided annually and with a delay of upwards of a year. Lack of change in this index, monthly or yearly, is not necessarily representative of the price changes within this market.

(2) Provisional.

Section 4 – About these statistics

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.