



## Agricultural Price Index – July 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 July 2020

#### Outputs

- The price index for total outputs increased by 5.7 points compared with July 2019, reflecting price increases for both crop products (+7.1 points), and animals and animal products (+4.6 points). This was driven by significantly higher prices for fresh fruit, forage plants, and sheep and lambs, and only partially offset by lower prices for potatoes, milk, and all cereals except for wheat.
- Compared with June 2020, the price index for total outputs increased by 1.3 points. This was driven by price increases across the majority of animals and animal products (+1.5 points), with a mix of higher and lower prices across crop outputs resulting in little change in aggregate (–0.1 points).

#### Inputs

- In contrast to July 2019, the price index for total inputs decreased by 1.4 points, a consequence of significant falls in the price of energy and lubricants, and fertilisers and soil improvers. This was partially offset by a significant increase in the price of plant protection products (specifically fungicides).
- The price index for total inputs changed little from June 2020 (+0.4 points), with all product groupings showing little to no change except for energy and lubricants (+4.8 points), driven by an increase in the price of motor fuels.

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## What you need to know about this release

### Contact details

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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:

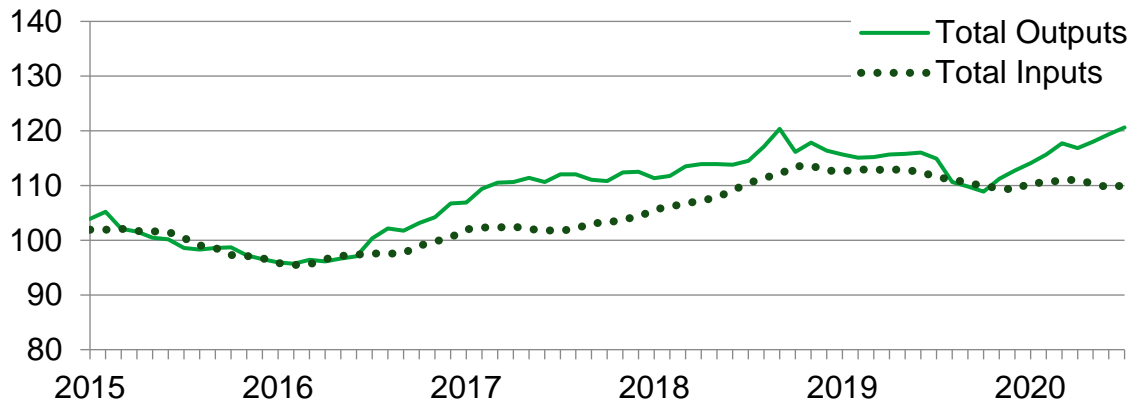
Tel: 0845 601 3034

Email: [info@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:info@statistics.gov.uk).

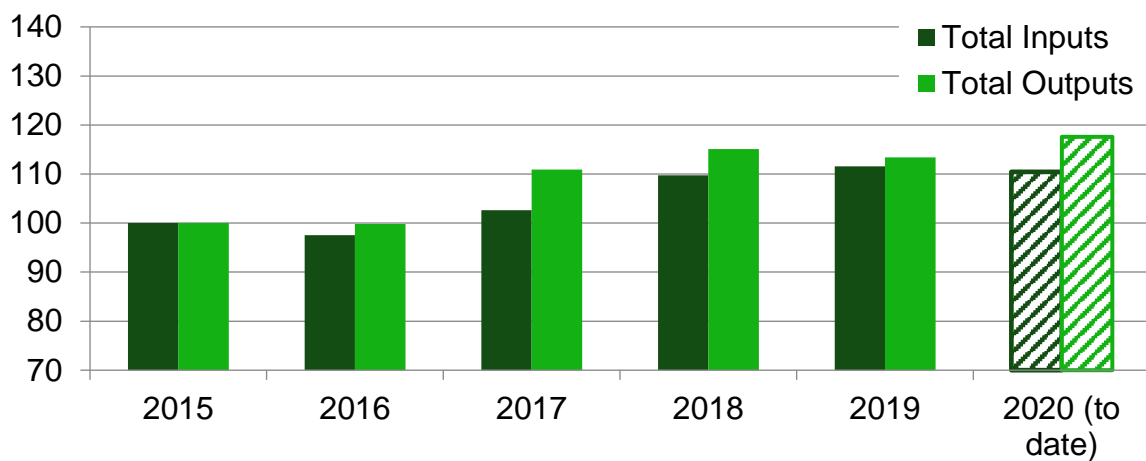
You can find more information about National Statistics at [statistics.gov.uk](http://statistics.gov.uk).

## Section 1 – Summary charts for prices indices

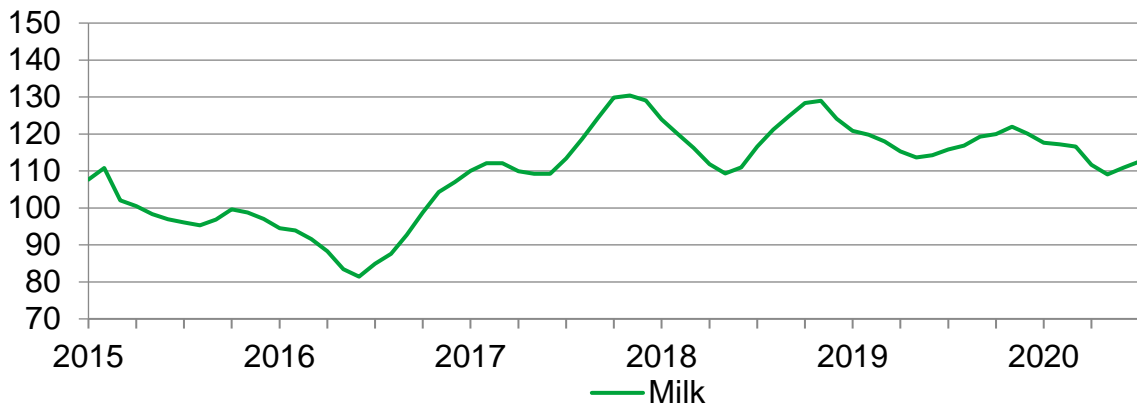
**Figure 1: Monthly indices for Total Outputs and Total Inputs to July 2020 (2015 = 100)**



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

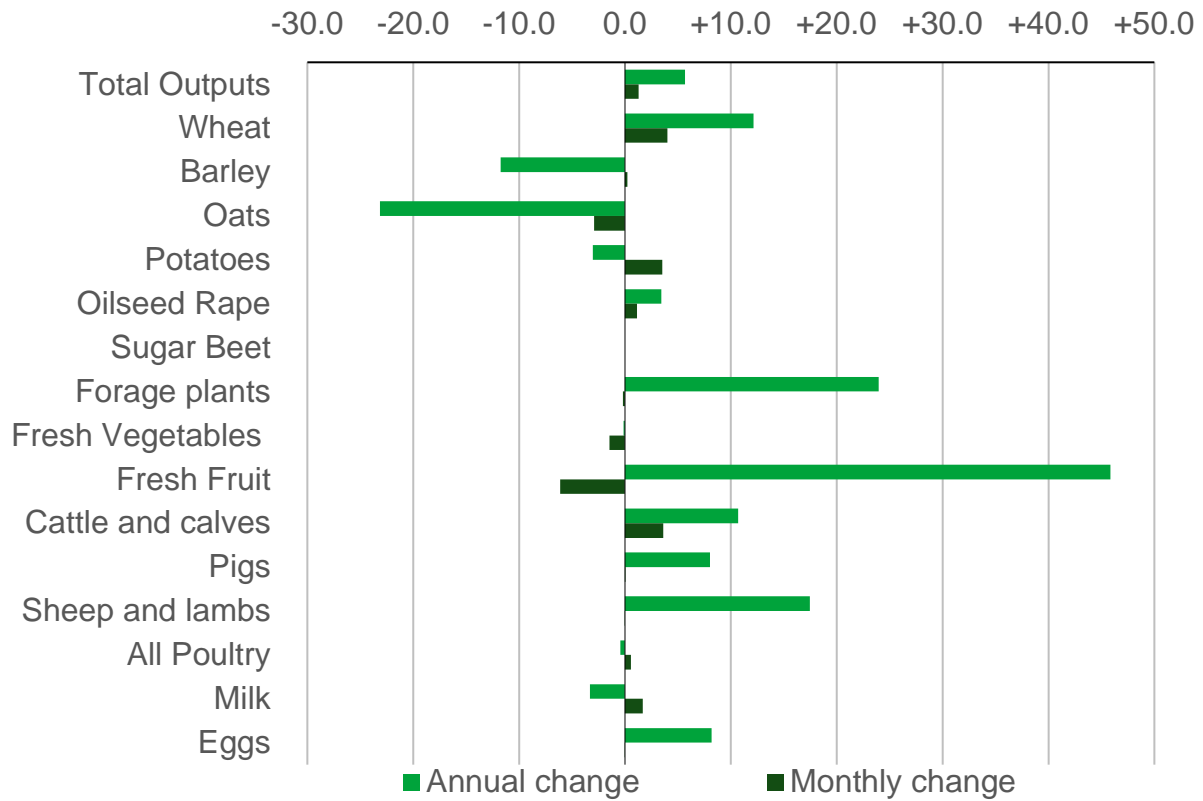


**Figure 3: Milk price index to July 2020 (2015 = 100). For more information visit the monthly UK [farm-gate milk price](#) publication.**

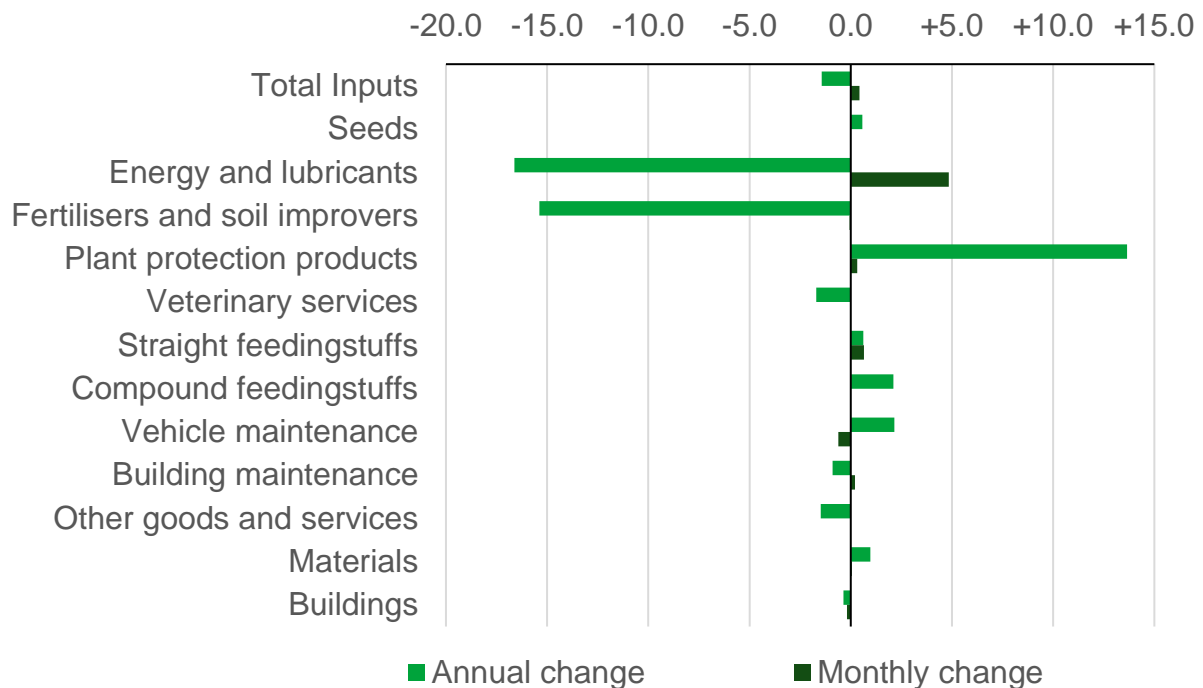


## Section 2 – Details of selected outputs and inputs

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



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



## Section 3 – Summary table of price indices

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

	July 2019	June 2020	July 2020	Annual change	Monthly change
<b>Total Outputs</b>	114.9	119.3	120.6	5.7	1.3
<b>Crop products</b>	125.2	132.5	132.3	7.1	-0.1
Cereals	127.0	131.5	128.2	1.2	-3.3
Wheat	126.6	134.8	138.8	12.2	4.0
Barley	126.6	114.6	114.9	-11.8	0.2
Oats	146.2	126.0	123.1	-23.1	-2.9
Potatoes	150.4	143.9	147.4	-3.0	3.5
Industrial Crops	120.2	119.4	122.2	2.0	2.8
Oilseed Rape	121.8	124.1	125.2	3.4	1.1
Sugar Beet (1)	100.4	100.4	100.4	0.0	0.0
Forage plants	134.5	158.7	158.5	24.0	-0.2
Fresh Vegetables	133.3	134.6	133.2	-0.1	-1.5
Fresh Fruit	124.2	176.2	170.0	45.8	-6.1
<b>Animals and animal products</b>	107.1	110.1	111.7	4.6	1.5
Animals	105.3	111.7	113.2	7.9	1.4
Cattle and calves	98.2	105.3	108.9	10.7	3.6
Pigs	117.2	125.2	125.3	8.0	0.1
Sheep and lambs	107.1	124.6	124.6	17.4	0.0
All Poultry	106.6	105.6	106.2	-0.5	0.6
Animal products	110.5	107.8	108.9	-1.5	1.2
Milk	115.8	110.9	112.5	-3.3	1.7
Eggs	82.0	90.2	90.2	8.2	0.0
<b>Total Inputs</b>	111.5	109.7	110.1	-1.4	0.4
<b>All goods and services currently consumed</b>	112.1	109.7	110.3	-1.9	0.5
Seeds	103.6	104.2	104.2	0.6	0.0
Energy and lubricants	124.4	102.9	107.8	-16.6	4.8
Fertilisers and soil improvers	102.9	87.6	87.5	-15.4	-0.1
Plant protection products	114.5	127.8	128.2	13.7	0.3
Veterinary services	115.3	113.5	113.5	-1.7	0.0
Animal feedingstuffs	113.7	115.1	115.3	1.6	0.2
Straight feedingstuffs	122.7	122.7	123.3	0.6	0.7
Compound feedingstuffs	109.6	111.7	111.7	2.1	0.0
Vehicle maintenance	109.2	111.9	111.3	2.2	-0.6
Building maintenance	112.6	111.5	111.7	-0.9	0.2
Other goods and services	110.3	108.8	108.8	-1.5	0.0
<b>Goods and services</b>	108.7	109.3	109.3	0.6	0.0

**contributing to investment (2)**

Materials	107.6	108.5	108.5	1.0	0.0
Buildings	111.5	111.3	111.1	-0.4	-0.2

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(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 outputs and monitor the prices 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 and 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 Price Statistics 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.