



## Agricultural Price Index – September 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 September 2020

#### Outputs

- The price index for total outputs increased 10.2 points compared with September 2019, reflecting increases for crop products (+16.7 points), and animals and animal products (+5.8 points). Higher prices were reported across all crop products (most significantly forage, fresh fruit and cereals), with potatoes being the only exception (-0.7 points). Higher prices were reported across all animals and eggs, with lower prices for milk.
- In contrast with August 2020, the price index for total outputs increased 3.1 points. Within crop products (+8.0 points), there were particularly large price increases for fresh fruit (+28.5 points) and forage (+26.3 points), and a notable price decrease for potatoes (-17.9 points). Slightly lower prices for animals (-0.5 points), coupled with slightly higher prices for animal products (+2.7 points), again resulted in little change in aggregate for the animals and animal products sector.

#### Inputs

- The price index for total inputs increased 1.4 points compared with September 2019. Higher prices for plant protection products (+15.7 points) and animal feedingstuffs (+7.6 points) were partially offset by continuing lower prices for energy and lubricants (-14.7 points), principally motor fuels, and fertilisers and soil improvers (-11.9 points).
- Compared with August 2020, the price index for total inputs increased only marginally (+0.8 points), with straight feedingstuffs showing the only notable change (+6.4 points).

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## What you need to know about this release

### Historical revisions in this release

This release includes historical revisions to the following price indices:

- A revised honey price for 2019 (carried forward to 2020).
- Revised Q3 2020 egg prices.
- A revised price for building maintenance (October 2019 to present).
- A revised deer price for 2019 (carried forward to 2020).
- Revised Q3 2020 compound feedingstuffs prices.
- Revised Q2 2020 and Q3 2020 cereal seeds prices.

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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:

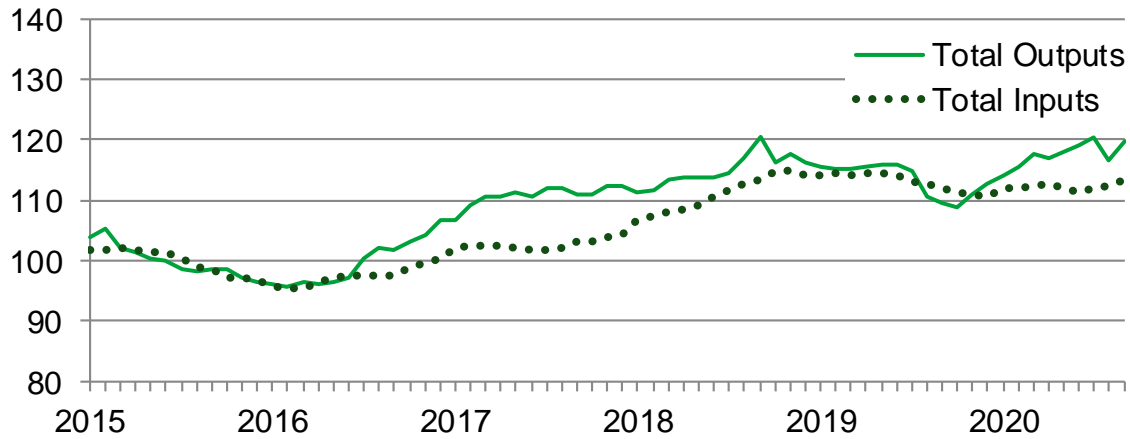
Tel: 0845 601 3034

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

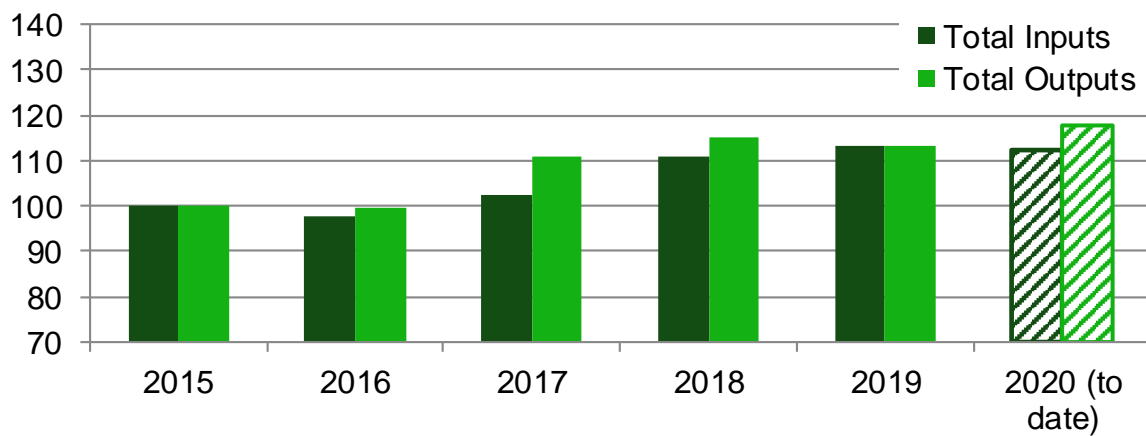
You can find more information about National Statistics at [statistics.gov.uk](https://www.statistics.gov.uk).

## Section 1 – Summary charts for prices indices

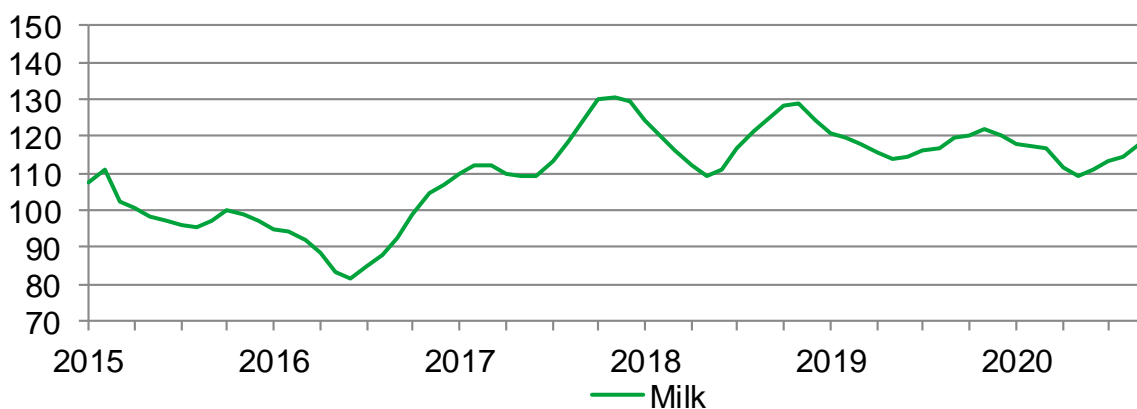
**Figure 1: Monthly indices for Total Outputs and Total Inputs to September 2020 (2015 = 100)**



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

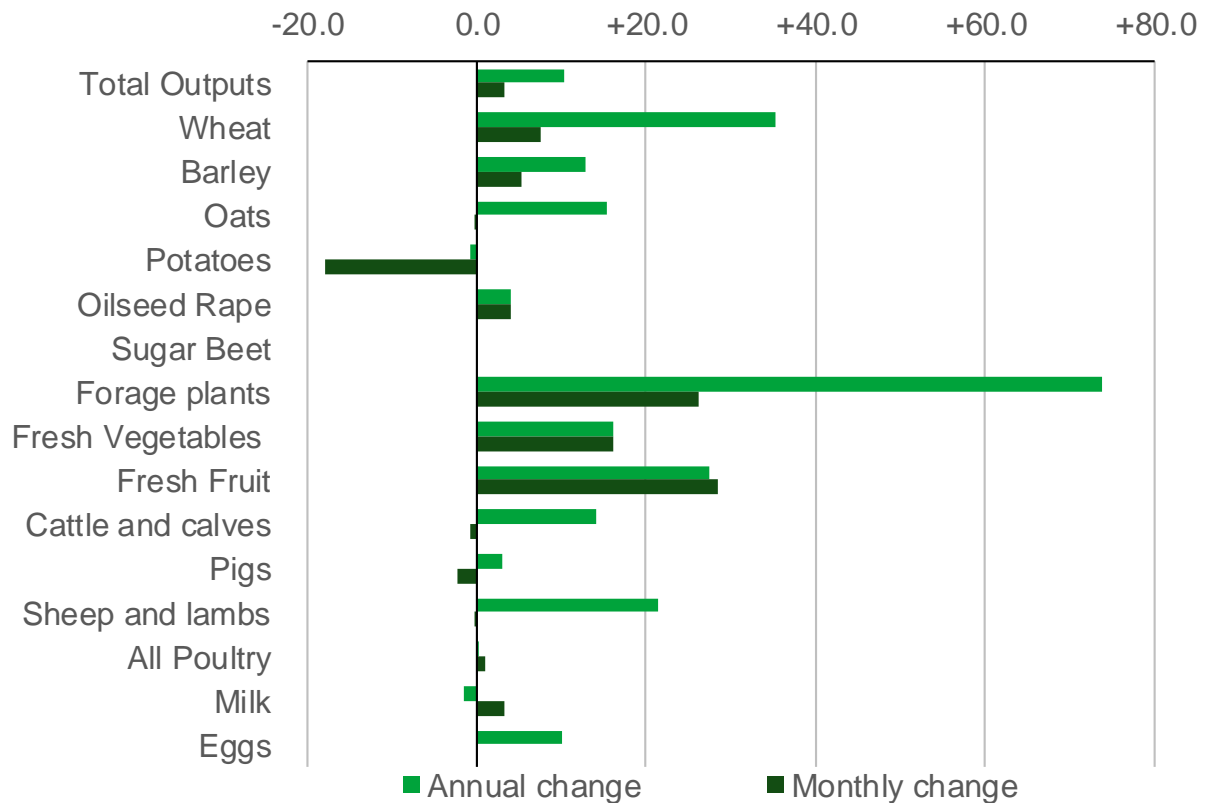


**Figure 3: Milk price index to September 2020 (2015 = 100). For more information visit the monthly UK [farm-gate milk price](#) publication.**

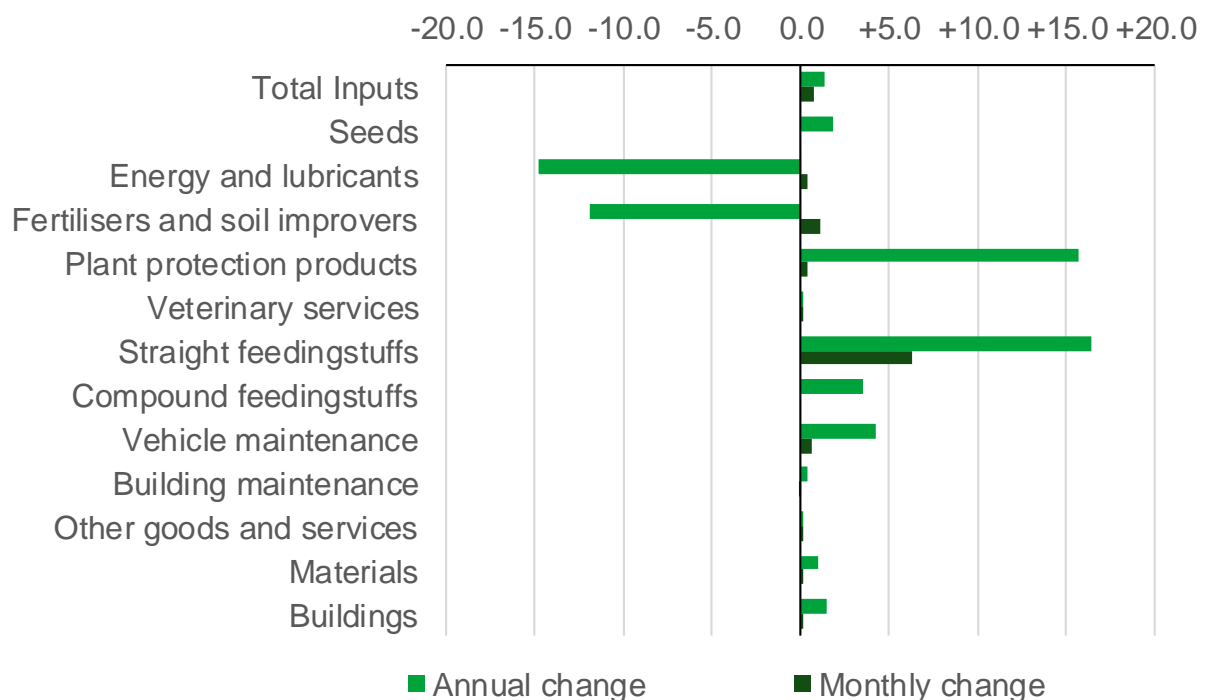


## Section 2 – Details of selected outputs and inputs

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



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



## Section 3 – Summary table of price indices

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

	Sep 2019	Aug 2020	Sep 2020	Annual change	Monthly change
<b>Total Outputs</b>	109.7	116.8	119.9	+10.2	+3.1
<b>Crop products</b>	114.3	123.1	131.0	+16.7	+8.0
Cereals	109.3	127.9	137.4	+28.1	+9.5
Wheat	110.0	137.5	145.2	+35.2	+7.6
Barley	107.9	115.5	120.8	+12.9	+5.3
Oats	106.8	122.3	122.0	+15.2	-0.3
Potatoes	106.7	123.8	106.0	-0.7	-17.9
Industrial Crops	117.6	125.0	121.6	+3.9	-3.5
Oilseed Rape	129.1	129.0	133.0	+4.0	+4.0
Sugar Beet (1)	100.4	100.4	100.4	0.0	0.0
Forage plants	116.2	163.8	190.1	+73.9	+26.3
Fresh Vegetables	123.6	123.7	139.7	+16.1	+16.0
Fresh Fruit	126.7	125.7	154.2	+27.5	+28.5
<b>Animals and animal products</b>	106.6	111.7	112.4	+5.8	+0.8
Animals	102.4	112.3	111.8	+9.4	-0.5
Cattle and calves	95.1	109.8	109.2	+14.1	-0.7
Pigs	118.6	123.8	121.6	+3.0	-2.3
Sheep and lambs	97.7	119.4	119.1	+21.4	-0.3
All Poultry	105.7	104.8	105.8	+0.1	+0.9
Animal products	113.2	110.7	113.4	+0.2	+2.7
Milk	119.3	114.5	117.8	-1.5	+3.2
Eggs	82.1	92.1	92.1	+10.0	0.0
<b>Total Inputs</b>	111.9	112.5	113.3	+1.4	+0.8
<b>All goods and services currently consumed</b>	112.7	113.2	114.2	+1.4	+0.9
Seeds	112.2	114.1	114.1	+1.8	0.0
Energy and lubricants	123.8	108.6	109.1	-14.7	+0.5
Fertilisers and soil improvers	102.6	89.5	90.6	-11.9	+1.1
Plant protection products	131.0	146.3	146.7	+15.7	+0.4
Veterinary services	115.3	115.3	115.3	+0.1	+0.0
Animal feedingstuffs	110.4	116.0	118.0	+7.6	+2.0
Straight feedingstuffs	112.2	122.3	128.7	+16.4	+6.4
Compound feedingstuffs	109.6	113.1	113.1	+3.5	0.0
Vehicle maintenance	109.3	113.0	113.6	+4.3	+0.6
Building maintenance	112.2	112.7	112.6	+0.4	-0.1
Other goods and services	110.5	110.5	110.6	+0.1	+0.1

<b>Goods and services contributing to investment (2)</b>	108.5	109.5	109.6	+1.2	+0.2
Materials	107.7	108.5	108.7	+1.0	+0.2
Buildings	110.2	111.5	111.7	+1.5	+0.2

(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. When new data become available, historical revisions are made and a note is added in the 'What you need to know about this release' section.

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.

### **User engagement**

As part of our ongoing commitment to compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, we wish to strengthen our engagement with users of these statistics and better understand the use made of them and the types of decisions that they inform. Consequently, we invite users to make themselves known, to advise us of the use they do, or might, make of these statistics, and what their wishes are in terms of engagement. Feedback on this notice and enquiries about these statistics are also welcome.