

4 July 2014 | 1100 hrs | 127/2014

In the first quarter, the producer and input price indices for agriculture dropped by 13.5 and 3.5 per cent respectively over the corresponding period last year.

Producer/Input Agricultural Price Indices: Q1/2014

Producer Price Index

The quarterly producer price index for agricultural products stood at 108.08 points, a decrease of 13.5 per cent from 124.98 points in the corresponding quarter of 2013.

A drop of 34.5 per cent was registered in the fresh vegetables price index, resulting from a general increase in the supply of fresh vegetables on the market. As a result, lower producer prices were registered for onions (-75.2 per cent), vegetable marrows (-33.1 per cent) and green beans (-23.8 per cent).

During the period under review, prices for fresh fruit decreased by 25.7 per cent due to an increase in citrus fruit production, mainly oranges, the price of which declined by 39.3 per cent over the comparative period last year.

The animal slaughtering index went down by 2.2 per cent, as lower prices were registered for all slaughtered animals, mainly bulls (-14.6 per cent) and poultry (-4.9 per cent). Furthermore, the animal products index decreased by 7.8 per cent on account of lower producer prices fetched for milk (-11.8 per cent).

Input Price Index

The quarterly input price index for agriculture declined by 3.5 per cent, from 117.62 points in the first quarter of 2013 to 113.53 points in the quarter under review.

The goods and services index, which records movements in running costs, went down by 4.6 per cent over the comparative period last year. This drop was attributed to lower prices of animal feeding stuffs (-9.2 per cent), fertilisers (-9.1 per cent) and motor fuels (-1.5 per cent).

The machinery and investment index edged up by 1.6 per cent on account of higher prices paid for buildings (+1.8 per cent) and materials (+1.4 per cent) over the corresponding period last year ■

Compiled by:

Unit B3: Agriculture and Fisheries Statistics

Directorate B: Business Statistics

Further information on data:

Mr Ronald TANTI

T. +356 2599 7333

E. ronald.tanti@gov.mt

Kindly indicate source when quoting from this release.

The advance release calendar may be consulted at www.nso.gov.mt

Issued by: **External Cooperation and Communication Unit, National Statistics Office, Lascaris, Valletta VLT 2000, Malta.**

T. +356 2599 7219 F. +356 2599 7205 E. nso@gov.mt

Table 1. Agricultural Price Indices (2010=100)

Item	January-March					
	Weight	2012	2013	2014	% change*	
					2013/2012	2014/2013
Output index at producer prices	100.00	123.63	124.98	108.08	1.10	-13.52
Input index at purchase prices	100.00	109.57	117.62	113.53	7.35	-3.48
<i>Output prices by type of product:</i>						
Potatoes	5.02	96.54	122.99	119.96	27.39	-2.46
Fresh vegetables	26.23	171.79	136.94	89.77	-20.28	-34.45
Cauliflowers	2.20	202.00	68.59	71.40	-66.04	4.09
Tomatoes	1.89	139.58	151.99	138.03	8.89	-9.19
Other fresh vegetables	22.13	171.54	142.46	87.47	-16.95	-38.60
Cabbage	0.38	169.18	41.79	48.47	-75.30	15.98
Lettuce	1.06	111.17	62.92	80.24	-43.40	27.52
Onions	5.46	302.30	209.84	52.01	-30.58	-75.22
Green beans	3.42	147.14	187.88	143.23	27.69	-23.76
Globe artichokes	0.83	101.98	137.99	70.67	35.32	-48.79
Bellpepper	0.72	178.56	172.94	148.81	-3.15	-13.95
Vegetable marrows	2.54	205.88	106.90	71.55	-48.08	-33.07
Mushrooms	4.32	57.29	85.34	83.08	48.96	-2.64
Pumpkins	0.38	90.17	156.10	119.11	73.12	-23.70
Fruit	2.63	92.34	117.89	87.60	27.67	-25.69
Fresh Fruit (excluding citrus and grapes)	0.37	154.38	139.38	87.60	-9.72	-37.15
Strawberries	0.37	154.41	139.40	129.77	-9.72	-6.91
Citrus Fruit	2.20	82.21	115.30	80.74	40.26	-29.97
Oranges	1.55	77.41	117.08	71.08	51.25	-39.28
Lemons	0.04	60.05	62.99	43.82	4.89	-30.43
Olives	0.07	85.80	81.26	81.26	-5.30	0.00
Animals	41.42	105.00	115.23	112.65	9.75	-2.24
Bulls	2.15	122.20	119.65	102.18	-2.09	-14.60
Cows	1.49	130.66	123.75	121.29	-5.28	-1.99
Pigs	12.52	105.62	133.15	133.15	26.06	0.00
Poultry	7.52	98.57	105.54	100.37	7.07	-4.89
Rabbits	16.84	101.94	104.48	103.26	2.50	-1.17
Animal products	24.70	112.56	129.78	119.61	15.30	-7.84
Milk	16.91	109.73	126.27	111.41	15.07	-11.77
Eggs	7.57	119.25	138.49	138.50	16.13	0.01
<i>Input prices by type of expenditure:</i>						
Goods and services consumed in agriculture	80.27	110.25	120.09	114.56	8.93	-4.61
Motor fuels	8.17	127.68	130.61	128.62	2.30	-1.52
Fertilisers	2.25	104.25	115.80	105.25	11.09	-9.12
Pesticides	1.14	55.60	54.12	56.44	-2.66	4.29
Animal feeding stuffs	37.57	116.25	135.44	122.99	16.50	-9.19
Maintenance of materials	8.44	103.33	104.87	108.61	1.50	3.57
Maintenance of buildings	2.87	104.11	110.46	110.55	6.10	0.08
Veterinary services	1.71	102.04	103.46	103.58	1.39	0.12
Other goods and services	11.50	98.12	97.66	99.37	-0.46	1.75
Machinery and investment	19.73	106.84	107.60	109.35	0.72	1.62
Materials	6.96	106.47	108.43	109.92	1.84	1.38
Buildings	12.78	107.04	107.15	109.03	0.11	1.75

* Percentage change may differ by 0.01 per cent due to rounding. Sub-weights may not add up to the main weight as only selected products are shown.

Methodological Notes

1. Agricultural price indices are calculated for input and producer prices, having as base year 2010=100, with reference to the quarter just elapsed.
2. Producer price indices provide information about the developments in the prices of fruit, vegetables, animals, and animal products over a particular period, whereas input price indices monitor changes in the purchase prices of raw and auxiliary materials and services from other industries. Producer price indices are calculated using '*producer prices*', which are prices obtained by farmers, excluding subsidies. Input price indices are calculated using purchase prices of raw and auxiliary materials and services. Both the producer and input prices used in the calculation of producer and input indices are calculated net of VAT.
3. Administrative sources are mainly used in the compilation of the producer price index, whilst major retail outlets specialising in the provision of agricultural products used for intermediate consumption provide quarterly data on input prices.
4. Agricultural price indices are calculated on the basis of the Laspeyres formula, where a fixed weighting structure is representative of the base year. A slight variation lies in the compilation of the index for fruit and vegetables due to the seasonality. The composition of each quarterly basket of fruit and vegetables differs due to availability. Due to this, only a comparison of the indices for one period with the same period is meaningful.
5. The data in this release may be subject to revision.

European statistics comparable to data in this News Release are available at:

[EUROSTAT Website/Homepage/Statistics Database](#)

Data Navigation Tree

Database by Themes

>Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

>Agriculture (agri)

>Agricultural Prices and Price Indices (apri)

>Price indices of agricultural products(apri_pi)

>Price indices of agricultural products, base 2010=100(apri_pi10)

Tables by Themes

>Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

>Agriculture (agri)

>Agricultural Prices and Price Indices (apri)

For further assistance send a request from:

http://www.nso.gov.mt/adhoc/adhoc_contact_details.aspx