

News Release



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Agriculture

Input/Output agricultural price indices - Q1/2007

Producer and Input price indices fell by 0.34 per cent and 0.16 per cent respectively during the first quarter of 2007.

In the first quarter of 2007, the producer price index stood at 98.99, a drop of 0.33 points (-0.34 per cent) from 99.32 points in the first quarter of 2006.

Underpinning this result was a drop in the fresh vegetables price index (-9.78 per cent) due to falling prices of cauliflowers by 19.21 per cent and vegetable marrows by 55.77 per cent respectively. The fruit price index fell by 9.17 per cent due to drops in prices of fresh fruit, mainly strawberries.

On the other hand, agricultural producers received higher prices for potatoes (+20.86 per cent), slaughtered animals (+1.04 per cent) and animal products (+1.95 per cent). Higher prices fetched for slaughtered bulls (+2.78 per cent) and cows (+1.90 per cent) were mainly behind the increase in the animals index. While no change in the price fetched for eggs was registered, the producer price for milk increased by 2.67 per cent over the first quarter in 2006.

The input price index for agriculture registered a slight decline of 0.16 per cent, from 108.27 points in the first quarter of 2006 to 108.11 points in the first quarter this year. This was mainly due to a decrease in the index of goods and services consumed in agriculture by 0.17 per cent. The machinery and investment index rose by 0.79 per cent on an annual basis in the first quarter of 2007 ■

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

[EUROSTAT Website/Homepage/Agriculture and Fisheries/Data](http://europa.europa.eu/press/pr/2007/070607_01_en.htm)

- >Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
 - >Agriculture
 - >Agricultural prices and price indices
 - >Price Indices of agricultural products
 - >Price Indices of agricultural products, base 2000=100

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Table 1. Price indices in agriculture (2000 = 100)

Item	1st quarter						% change*	
	Weight	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2006/2005	2007/2006
Output index at producer prices	100.00	109.15	107.79	103.99	99.32	98.99	-4.49	-0.34
Input index at purchase prices	100.00	101.37	101.04	104.86	108.27	108.11	3.25	-0.16
<i>Output prices by type of product:</i>								
Forage	4.35	92.31	55.94	63.08	63.08	63.08	-	-
Potatoes	3.67	109.23	161.65	101.75	116.35	140.62	14.35	20.86
Fresh vegetables	17.19	158.38	140.62	136.11	113.77	102.64	-16.41	-9.78
Tomatoes	1.69	173.68	182.12	169.87	100.70	96.15	-40.72	-4.52
Cauliflowers	1.50	201.14	192.44	95.46	75.77	61.21	-20.63	-19.21
Dry onions	0.43	145.86	399.68	305.84	124.11	296.30	-59.42	138.74
Vegetable marrows	1.05	335.04	240.02	284.23	227.26	100.51	-20.05	-55.77
Sugar melons	0.00	142.70	104.10	198.10	195.89	585.01	-1.12	198.65
Water melons	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mushrooms	8.52	142.14	99.55	101.90	112.50	103.72	10.40	-7.81
Fruit	2.13	132.63	138.49	110.67	124.01	112.63	12.06	-9.17
Fresh Fruit (excluding citrus and grapes)	0.95	184.13	168.05	185.18	165.98	138.43	-10.37	-16.60
Citrus Fruit	1.14	90.51	115.22	48.99	90.12	93.90	83.96	4.20
Grapes	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Olives	0.00	455.07	55.19	20.46	24.81	27.87	21.28	12.35
Animals	48.11	96.92	97.70	98.80	99.33	100.36	0.54	1.04
Bulls	3.51	85.58	91.39	90.65	98.57	101.31	8.73	2.78
Cows	1.45	53.96	67.30	76.83	91.32	93.05	18.85	1.90
Pigs	19.02	81.75	81.75	81.75	81.75	81.75	-	-
Poultry	10.04	91.81	91.81	89.76	89.76	89.76	0.00	-
Rabbits	13.81	128.77	128.60	133.12	131.29	134.05	-1.37	2.11
Animal products	24.54	99.60	103.10	98.72	90.93	92.71	-7.88	1.95
Milk	17.15	107.37	112.38	106.11	94.97	97.51	-10.49	2.67
Eggs	7.39	81.58	81.58	81.58	81.58	81.58	-	-
<i>Input prices by type of expenditure:</i>								
Goods and services consumed in agriculture	98.59	101.39	101.04	104.97	108.40	108.22	3.27	-0.17
Motor fuels	5.98	102.52	118.36	148.70	172.32	161.89	15.89	-6.06
Animal feedingstuffs	58.32	99.20	95.39	96.14	96.14	96.14	-	-
Maintenance of materials	8.94	99.40	98.02	103.15	105.47	115.12	2.25	9.15
Maintenance of buildings	4.61	100.52	102.97	103.74	104.13	106.85	0.37	2.62
Veterinary services	1.98	111.06	115.56	126.81	134.27	139.64	5.89	4.00
Other goods and services	10.52	108.16	121.25	124.11	132.11	135.82	6.45	2.81
Machinery and investment	1.41	100.38	101.35	97.42	99.27	100.05	1.90	0.79
Machinery and other equipment	1.31	98.70	99.62	95.38	97.38	98.22	2.09	0.87
Transport equipment	0.10	121.26	122.88	122.88	122.88	122.88	0.00	-

* Percentage change may differ by 0.01 per cent due to rounding.

Methodological Notes

1. Agricultural price indices are calculated for input and output prices, having as base year 2000=100, with reference to the quarter just elapsed.
2. Output 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. Output price indices are calculated using '*producer prices*', which are prices obtained by farmers, **excluding subsidies**.
3. Input price indices are calculated using purchase prices of raw and auxiliary materials and services. Both the output and input prices used in the calculation of output and input indices are calculated net of VAT.
4. Administrative sources are mainly used in the compilation of the output price index, while major retail outlets specialising in the provision of agricultural products used for intermediate consumption provide monthly data on input prices.
5. 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 correspondance period is meaningful.
6. The data in this release are considered as final and are not normally subject to revision.
7. The data are compiled and published by the NSO and can be directly obtained from the NSO website <http://www.nso.gov.mt>