

News Release



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Agriculture Statistics

Producer/Input agricultural price indices: Q1/2008

During the first quarter of 2008, producer and input prices for agricultural output increased by 14.0 per cent and 22.5 per cent respectively.

Producer Price Index

In the first quarter of 2008, the producer price index for agricultural products stood at 113.3 points, an increase of 13.9 points (+14.0 per cent) from 99.4 points in the first quarter of 2007.

An increase of 50.5 per cent was registered in the fresh vegetables price index, resulting from a general decrease in the supply of fresh vegetables on the market. As a result, higher producer prices were recorded for vegetable marrows (+117.6 per cent), cauliflowers (+79.4 per cent) and onions (+48.8 per cent). On the other hand, the comparative period saw a decline in the average price of potatoes of 7.7 per cent.

During the first quarter of 2008, the fruit price index registered a decline of 27.2 per cent when compared to the same quarter last year, to stand at 108.5 points. This was mainly due to an increase in the supply of citrus fruit, mainly oranges, the price of which decreased by 42.6 per cent.

The animals slaughtering index declined by 2.6 per cent as lower prices were registered for slaughtered bulls (-22.8 per cent) and pigs (-5.0 per cent). The price for slaughtered rabbits rose by 2.3 per cent. The animal products index increased by 22.8 per cent due to higher producer prices fetched for raw milk (+31.9 per cent), while the price of eggs remained unchanged.

Input Price Index

The input price index for agriculture increased by 22.5 per cent, from 103.0 points in the first quarter of 2007 to 126.1 points, mainly due to higher feeding costs.

The goods and services index, which makes up 91.7 per cent of the input price index, registered an increase of 24.3 per cent over the comparative period, resulting mainly from increases in the prices of feeding stuffs (+39.2 per cent), maintenance of materials (+26.3 per cent) and motor fuels (+12.2 per cent).

The machinery and investment index rose by 3.3 per cent on account of higher prices paid for materials (+7.0 per cent). On the other hand, the buildings index declined slightly by 0.9 per cent ■

Theme:
Agriculture and Fisheries

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

[EUROSTAT Website/Homepage/Agriculture and Fisheries/Data](#)

>Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

>Agriculture

>Agricultural prices and price indices

>Price Indices of agricultural products

>Price Indices of agricultural products, base 2005=100

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Table 1. Agricultural Price Indices (2005=100)

Item	1st quarter					
	Weight	2006	2007	2008	% change*	
					2007/2006	2008/2007
Output Index at Producer Prices	100.00	99.26	99.37	113.25	0.11	13.97
Input Index at Purchase Prices	100.00	102.10	102.96	126.11	0.84	22.49
<i>Output prices by type of product:</i>						
Forage	2.93	100.00	100.00	100.00	-	-
Potatoes	6.49	119.30	144.17	133.09	20.86	-7.69
Fresh vegetables	22.58	97.47	88.42	133.11	-9.28	50.54
Tomatoes	2.52	81.45	78.69	104.13	-3.39	32.32
Cauliflowers	3.23	94.55	76.39	137.00	-19.21	79.35
Other fresh vegetables	16.83	100.43	92.19	136.71	-8.20	48.29
Onions	2.44	65.85	159.20	236.96	141.77	48.84
Vegetable marrows	2.66	130.67	57.79	125.78	-55.77	117.64
Sugar melons	0.01	238.93	713.56	325.89	198.64	-54.33
Water melons	0.00	295.28	295.28	155.55	-	-47.32
Mushrooms	3.11	104.75	96.57	104.62	-7.81	8.33
Fruit	4.87	145.64	149.06	108.51	2.35	-27.20
Fresh Fruit (excluding citrus and grapes)	1.32	158.09	131.84	146.05	-16.60	10.78
Citrus Fruit	3.53	141.24	155.78	94.55	10.29	-39.31
Oranges	3.20	144.37	160.13	91.93	10.91	-42.59
Lemons	0.16	100.35	74.06	109.23	-26.20	47.48
Grapes						
Olives	0.01	54.64	61.39	85.73	12.35	39.65
Animals	42.05	99.79	100.73	98.09	0.95	-2.62
Bulls	2.61	103.49	106.37	82.12	2.78	-22.79
Cows	1.10	108.14	110.20	111.05	1.90	0.78
Pigs	14.33	100.00	100.00	95.00	-	-5.01
Poultry	6.62	98.66	98.14	99.70	-0.53	1.58
Rabbits	16.65	98.83	100.91	103.20	2.10	2.27
Animal products	21.09	97.05	96.93	119.04	-0.13	22.82
Milk	15.29	95.93	97.85	129.08	2.00	31.92
Eggs	5.60	100.00	94.30	94.30	-5.70	-
<i>Input prices by type of expenditure:</i>						
Goods and services consumed in agriculture	91.72	101.97	102.37	127.30	0.39	24.35
Motor fuels	9.42	108.34	101.78	114.23	-6.05	12.23
Animal feeding stuffs	46.78	100.00	100.41	139.73	0.41	39.15
Maintenance of materials	8.95	100.62	101.78	128.59	1.15	26.34
Maintenance of buildings	4.05	99.83	102.45	104.97	2.62	2.46
Veterinary services	2.26	103.15	107.28	112.99	4.00	5.33
Other goods and services	11.88	103.30	105.44	108.92	2.07	3.30
Machinery and investment	8.28	103.51	109.42	112.99	5.71	3.26
Materials	4.26	105.67	111.79	119.60	5.79	6.99
Buildings	4.02	101.22	106.90	105.98	5.62	-0.86

* 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 2005=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**. 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.
3. Administrative sources are mainly used in the compilation of the output price index, whilst major retail outlets specializing in the provision of agricultural products used for intermediate consumption provide monthly 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 monthly 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 are considered as final and are not normally subject to revisions.
6. The data are compiled and published by the NSO and can be directly obtained from the NSO website <http://www.nso.gov.mt>