

News Release



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Agriculture Statistics

Producer/Input agricultural price indices: Q3/2008

During the third quarter of 2008, producer prices for agricultural output decreased by 3.0 per cent while the input prices increased by 20.5 per cent.

Producer Price Index

The producer price index for agricultural products decreased by 3.0 per cent, from 108.5 in the third quarter of 2007 to 105.3 in the corresponding quarter this year.

As a result of a general increase in the supply of fresh vegetables in the third quarter, the price index fell by 15.4 per cent to 90.5. With the exception of tomatoes, where a price increase of 2.8 per cent was registered, all the main vegetables supplied to the market declined in prices, from 0.5 per cent for mushrooms to 50.4 per cent for water melons.

During the third quarter of 2008, the fruit price index rose by 1.8 per cent when compared to the same quarter last year, to 113.7. This was mainly due to an increase in the average prices of desert pears (+15.6 per cent), plums (+27.9 per cent) and figs (+8.6 per cent).

The slaughtered animals index went up by 1.7 per cent over the comparative period. Higher prices were registered for slaughtered pigs (+2.7 per cent), poultry (+11.6 per cent) and rabbits (+1.1 per cent). Similarly, the animal products index advanced by 23.0 per cent on account of higher producer prices fetched for raw milk (+29.0 per cent) and eggs (+7.6 per cent).

Input Price Index

The input price index for agriculture increased by 20.5 per cent, from 107.9 in the third quarter of 2007 to 130.1 in the third quarter this year, mainly on account of higher running costs incurred by agricultural holdings.

The goods and services index, which registers running cost movements, increased by 23.0 per cent over the comparative period last year, due to higher prices recorded for feeding stuffs (+31.3 per cent), motor fuels (+22.0 per cent) and the maintenance of materials (+21.1 per cent).

On the other hand, the machinery and investment index declined by 5.5 per cent due to lower prices paid for materials used in capital expenditure (-11.7 per cent), although the buildings index edged up by 1.3 per cent over the same period last year ■

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](http://europa.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/eurostat/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	July-September					
	Weight	2006	2007	2008	% change*	
					2007/2006	2008/2007
Output Index at Producer Prices	100.00	98.48	108.50	105.29	10.17	-2.96
Input Index at Purchase Prices	100.00	103.65	107.96	130.12	4.16	20.53
<i>Output prices by type of product:</i>						
Forage	2.84	105.32	134.16	149.67	27.39	11.56
Potatoes	6.54	99.17	165.01	75.55	66.39	-54.22
Fresh vegetables	21.96	91.74	106.90	90.47	16.52	-15.38
Cauliflowers	0.58	154.24	165.07	132.48	7.02	-19.74
Tomatoes	3.60	74.64	83.25	85.61	11.53	2.83
Other fresh vegetables	17.78	93.16	109.79	90.07	17.85	-17.96
Onions	1.72	65.34	98.90	87.52	51.36	-11.51
Vegetable marrows	1.67	66.65	73.29	69.99	9.96	-4.50
Sugar melons	2.96	123.62	138.53	113.01	12.06	-18.42
Water melons	2.80	100.18	116.84	57.99	16.63	-50.37
Mushrooms	3.48	105.22	111.99	111.49	6.44	-0.45
Fruit	4.78	98.06	111.74	113.73	13.95	1.78
Fresh Fruit (excluding citrus and grapes)	1.82	92.26	107.98	113.29	17.04	4.92
Desert Pears	0.46	110.87	108.34	125.24	-2.28	15.59
Peaches	0.93	74.57	88.45	77.99	18.62	-11.82
Other Fresh Fruit, nuts and dried fruit	0.38	113.74	156.39	186.72	37.50	19.39
Plums	0.25	132.89	190.66	243.78	43.47	27.86
Strawberries	0.02	61.54	70.97	57.67	15.32	-18.74
Citrus Fruit	0.07	206.31	214.49	171.83	3.97	-19.89
Oranges	0.00	47.27	163.82	105.82	246.59	-35.41
Lemons	0.07	206.41	214.53	171.87	3.93	-19.88
Figs	0.13	146.39	258.49	280.64	76.58	8.57
Grapes	2.73	96.93	104.73	104.27	8.05	-0.44
Olives	0.03	94.09	102.22	146.98	8.64	43.78
Animals	42.94	101.39	101.22	102.95	-0.16	1.71
Bulls	2.67	109.53	100.77	85.77	-8.00	-14.89
Cows	1.13	122.75	123.24	105.12	0.40	-14.70
Pigs	14.64	100.00	100.00	102.65	-	2.65
Poultry	6.76	99.18	98.20	109.64	-0.99	11.64
Rabbits	17.01	100.81	101.83	102.89	1.00	1.05
Animal products	20.94	98.56	103.23	126.96	4.74	22.99
Milk	15.62	95.27	103.35	133.35	8.48	29.03
Eggs	5.12	108.52	102.97	110.78	-5.11	7.58
<i>Input prices by type of expenditure:</i>						
Goods and services consumed in agriculture	91.70	103.41	107.81	132.53	4.26	22.93
Motor fuels	9.44	115.33	109.92	134.05	-4.69	21.95
Animal feeding stuffs	46.68	100.00	108.96	143.07	8.96	31.30
Maintenance of materials	8.97	100.62	104.02	125.98	3.38	21.11
Maintenance of buildings	4.05	100.58	102.83	105.72	2.24	2.80
Veterinary services	2.26	104.29	108.76	115.12	4.28	5.85
Other goods and services	11.91	104.78	105.61	114.46	0.79	8.38
Machinery and investment	8.30	106.27	109.58	103.51	3.11	-5.54
Materials	4.27	105.67	112.10	99.04	6.08	-11.65
Buildings	4.03	106.90	106.90	108.24	-	1.25

* 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 may be 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>