

News Release



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Agriculture Statistics

Producer/Input agricultural price indices: Q4/2007

During the fourth quarter of 2007, producer and input prices for agricultural output increased by 8.4 per cent and 13.6 per cent respectively.

The producer price index of agricultural output rose by 8.4 per cent during the fourth quarter of 2007 when compared to the same period last year.

An increase of 29.5 per cent was registered in the fresh vegetables price index, resulting from a general decrease in the market supply of fresh vegetables. As a result, higher prices were fetched for vegetable marrows (+87.6 per cent) and tomatoes (+30.0 per cent). A drop in the supply of potatoes was the main factor for higher prices (+15.8 per cent).

The fresh fruit price index registered a decline of 3.4 per cent, to stand at 102.2 points when compared to the same quarter last year. This was mainly due to an increase in the supply of citrus fruit, mainly oranges, the price of which decreased by 14.7 per cent.

The animals slaughtering index declined by 2.5 per cent as lower prices were registered for slaughtered bulls (-14.6 per cent), cows (-5.9 per cent) and pigs (-5.0 per cent). The price for slaughtered rabbits rose marginally by 1.2 per cent. The animal products index increased by 15.4 per cent due to higher price fetched for raw milk (+20.9 per cent), while the price of eggs remained unchanged.

The input price index for agriculture rose by 13.6 per cent on an annual basis in the fourth quarter of 2007. The goods and services index increased by 13.8 per cent due to higher prices for feeding stuffs (+24.9 per cent) and motor fuels (+7.6 per cent). The machinery and investment index rose by 1.6 per cent on account of higher prices paid for machinery used in the cultivation of crops (+1.8 per cent).

Annual perspective

The annual average producer price index for 2007 stood at 102.1, an increase of 4.6 per cent over 2006. This resulted from an increase in the producer price index of fresh vegetables (+9.1 per cent), fruit (+22.2 per cent), potatoes (+35.1 per cent) and animal products (+6.8 per cent). On the other hand, the producer price index of slaughtered animals declined by 1.1 per cent.

The annual average input price index for 2007 increased by 5.1 per cent mainly due to costlier feeding stuffs (+9.7 per cent) and higher prices paid for the maintenance of materials (+3.7 per cent). Over the comparative period, the machinery and investment index rose slightly by 1.6 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](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&code=sdg.agriculture)

- >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. Agricultural Price Indices (2000=100)

Item	4th quarter							% change*	
	Weight	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2006/2005	2007/2006	
Output Index at Producer Prices	100.00	111.07	98.01	96.71	99.33	107.66	2.72	8.38	
Input Index at Purchase Prices	100.00	100.09	103.88	107.75	108.62	123.41	0.81	13.62	
<i>Output prices by type of product:</i>									
Forage	4.35	55.94	63.08	63.08	63.08	63.08	-	-	
Potatoes	3.67	147.99	61.67	115.10	133.14	154.12	15.68	15.76	
Fresh vegetables	17.19	166.13	111.91	101.30	103.93	134.59	2.59	29.50	
Tomatoes	1.95	282.09	134.67	126.79	103.19	134.10	-18.62	29.96	
Cauliflowers	1.72	158.45	99.56	63.77	80.92	91.40	26.90	12.95	
Dry onions	0.46	202.19	185.67	140.75	154.24	286.11	9.59	85.49	
Vegetable marrows	2.04	214.73	135.04	104.56	104.44	195.98	-0.11	87.64	
Sugar melons	0.24	122.37	101.62	78.02	83.58	103.27	7.12	23.56	
Watermelons	0.15	69.32	119.20	75.99	162.90	149.41	114.37	-8.28	
Mushrooms	6.91	135.81	99.83	103.51	109.39	108.27	5.68	-1.02	
Fruit	2.13	127.83	81.56	96.11	105.81	102.19	10.09	-3.42	
Fresh Fruit (excluding citrus and grapes)	0.22	177.37	158.84	161.62	202.22	169.72	25.12	-16.07	
Citrus Fruit	1.75	122.50	72.57	88.33	98.28	93.49	11.26	-4.87	
Oranges	1.20	128.97	75.63	94.84	107.94	92.09	13.81	-14.68	
Lemons	0.42	101.47	58.64	70.78	67.03	95.58	-5.29	42.58	
Grapes	0.12	129.05	78.15	108.66	59.90	120.80	-44.87	101.67	
Olives	0.02	73.90	69.21	36.96	55.28	55.63	49.57	0.62	
Animals	48.11	96.77	98.97	99.46	100.88	98.41	1.42	-2.45	
Bulls	3.51	91.11	90.96	98.03	104.33	89.08	6.42	-14.61	
Cows	1.45	66.65	77.56	90.10	107.82	101.48	19.66	-5.88	
Pigs	19.02	81.75	81.75	81.75	81.75	77.66	-	-5.00	
Poultry	10.04	91.81	91.81	89.76	89.76	89.76	-	-	
Rabbits	13.81	125.54	132.09	132.02	133.54	135.10	1.16	1.16	
Animal products	24.54	103.36	99.47	91.38	93.93	108.39	2.79	15.39	
Milk	17.15	112.75	107.19	95.60	99.25	119.94	3.82	20.85	
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	100.09	103.91	107.89	108.75	123.73	0.80	13.77	
Motor fuels	5.98	111.48	143.27	174.58	166.57	179.24	-4.59	7.60	
Animal feeding stuffs	58.32	95.39	96.14	96.14	96.14	120.11	-	24.94	
Maintenance of materials	8.94	96.68	102.77	103.30	107.27	112.22	3.85	4.61	
Maintenance of buildings	4.61	100.52	102.91	104.61	105.70	108.19	1.04	2.36	
Veterinary services	1.98	111.06	117.81	131.31	135.77	141.58	3.40	4.28	
Other goods and services	10.52	115.24	123.85	132.49	134.74	133.12	1.70	-1.21	
Machinery and investment	1.41	100.26	101.36	98.21	99.69	101.32	1.51	1.64	
Machinery and other equipment	1.31	98.58	99.76	96.23	97.83	99.59	1.66	1.80	
Transport equipment	0.10	121.26	121.26	122.88	122.88	122.88	-	-	

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

Table 2. Agricultural Price Indices (2000=100)

Item	Year							% change*	
	Weight	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2006/2005		
							2006/2005	2007/2006	
Output Index at Producer Prices	100.00	103.88	98.81	97.77	97.61	102.09	-0.17	4.60	
Input Index at Purchase Prices	100.00	97.34	102.66	105.87	108.71	114.21	2.68	5.06	
<i>Output prices by type of product:</i>									
Forage	4.35	55.94	63.08	63.08	63.08	63.08	-	-	
Potatoes	3.67	122.17	92.43	97.53	110.41	149.13	13.20	35.07	
Fresh vegetables	17.19	133.62	106.30	108.98	105.99	115.64	-2.75	9.10	
Tomatoes	2.36	151.95	94.09	120.17	94.00	98.71	-21.78	5.01	
Cauliflowers	1.01	154.36	114.79	76.47	88.87	78.99	16.23	-11.12	
Dry onions	0.39	138.55	213.33	166.42	130.08	247.49	-21.83	90.25	
Vegetable marrows	1.48	171.21	106.05	138.16	114.58	128.07	-17.07	11.78	
Sugar melons	0.94	81.38	116.38	69.94	125.32	118.10	79.17	-5.76	
Watermelons	0.87	88.83	90.50	88.69	96.76	120.71	9.10	24.76	
Mushrooms	6.29	134.67	106.32	107.19	112.82	112.50	5.25	-0.29	
Fruit	2.13	125.61	97.25	90.09	92.48	113.00	2.65	22.19	
Fresh Fruit (excluding citrus and grapes)	1.30	123.09	95.58	95.22	91.41	101.88	-3.99	11.44	
Citrus Fruit	0.41	121.55	85.03	68.65	95.24	89.64	38.72	-5.88	
Grapes	0.27	125.26	71.51	83.58	57.92	98.02	-30.70	69.24	
Olives	0.00	86.20	71.06	43.31	51.07	52.33	17.91	2.47	
Animals	48.11	96.70	98.48	99.31	100.29	99.17	0.99	-1.12	
Bulls	3.51	88.11	91.26	95.25	102.49	96.79	7.60	-5.56	
Cows	1.45	57.92	73.32	84.44	98.70	98.43	16.89	-0.27	
Pigs	19.02	81.75	81.75	81.75	81.75	78.69	-	-3.75	
Poultry	10.04	91.81	91.81	89.76	89.76	89.76	-	-	
Rabbits	13.81	126.94	130.73	132.85	132.89	134.69	0.03	1.36	
Animal products	24.54	101.01	101.63	93.75	91.12	97.28	-2.80	6.75	
Milk	17.15	109.39	110.28	99.00	95.24	104.05	-3.80	9.25	
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	97.30	102.68	105.99	108.84	114.40	2.69	5.10	
Motor fuels	5.98	107.01	128.70	158.89	175.65	169.72	10.55	-3.38	
Animal feeding stuffs	58.32	95.39	96.14	96.14	96.14	105.50	-	9.73	
Maintenance of materials	8.94	97.74	99.61	103.28	105.99	109.90	2.62	3.70	
Maintenance of buildings	4.61	100.52	102.89	104.31	104.70	107.38	0.38	2.56	
Veterinary services	1.98	111.06	117.25	130.18	135.40	141.10	4.01	4.21	
Other goods and services	10.52	111.64	122.77	127.19	132.89	133.46	4.47	0.44	
Machinery and investment	1.41	100.32	101.42	97.71	99.40	101.00	1.73	1.61	
Machinery and other equipment	1.31	98.64	99.72	95.69	97.52	99.25	1.91	1.77	
Transport equipment	0.10	121.26	122.47	122.88	122.88	122.88	-	-	

* 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**. 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>