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During the fourth quarter last year, producer and input price indices for agriculture dropped by 3.3 per cent and 2.6 per cent respectively over the corresponding quarter of 2013.

## Producer/Input Agricultural Price Indices: Q4/2014

### Producer (output) price index

The producer price index for agricultural products decreased by 3.3 per cent, from 115.82 points in the fourth quarter of 2013 to 112.06 points in the comparative period of 2014.

Underpinning this result was an increase of 7.5 per cent in the fresh vegetable price index, due to higher producer prices recorded mainly for onions (+111.8 per cent), lettuce (+36.9 per cent) and pumpkins (+3.4 per cent). On the other hand, the price of potatoes went down by 30.5 per cent as a result of a sharp increase in supply.

The fruit price index increased by 5.1 per cent. This was mainly due to an increase in prices fetched for olives (+15.2 per cent) and citrus fruit (+3.4 per cent).

The animal slaughtering index decreased by 2.7 per cent as lower prices were registered for poultry (-8.6 per cent) and rabbits (-4.0 per cent). The animal product index registered a decrease of 6.9 per cent on account of lower producer prices received for eggs (-13.1 per cent) and milk (-4.8 per cent) (Table 1).

The annual average producer price index for 2014 stood at 104.91 points, reflecting a drop of 8.5 per cent over 2013. This resulted from a decrease in the producer price index of, mainly, potatoes (-24.6 per cent), fresh vegetables (-15.3 per cent) and animal products (-9.8 per cent) (Table 2).

### Input price index

In the fourth quarter of 2014, the input price index for agriculture dropped by 2.6 per cent to 110.76 points.

The goods and services index, which registers running cost movements, went down by 3.1 per cent over the comparative period of 2013. This was mainly attributed to lower prices of animal feeding stuffs (-6.6 per cent) and fertilisers (-2.7 per cent). The machinery and investment index decreased marginally by 0.2 per cent on account of lower prices paid for buildings (-1.8 per cent) (Table 1).

The annual average input price index for 2014 stood at 112.90 points, down by 2.9 per cent over 2013. Underpinning this result were decreases of 7.2, 5.4 and 1.3 per cent in feeding stuffs, fertilisers and motor fuels respectively. Additionally, the machinery and investment index dropped by 0.3 per cent on account of lower prices for buildings (-1.1 per cent) (Table 2) ■

Compiled by:

**Unit B3: Agriculture and  
Environment Statistics**

**Directorate B: Business  
Statistics**

Further information on data:

**Mr Ronald TANTI**

T. +356 2599 7333

E. ronald.tanti@gov.mt

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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](mailto:nso@gov.mt)

Table 1. Agricultural price indices: October-December  
2010=100

Item	Weight	2012	2013	2014	% change	
					2013/2012	2014/2013
<b>Output index at producer prices</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>122.10</b>	<b>115.82</b>	<b>112.06</b>	<b>-5.14</b>	<b>-3.25</b>
<b>Input index at purchase prices</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>117.42</b>	<b>113.66</b>	<b>110.76</b>	<b>-3.21</b>	<b>-2.55</b>
<b>Output prices by type of product:</b>						
<b>Potatoes</b>	<b>5.01</b>	<b>159.69</b>	<b>159.09</b>	<b>110.56</b>	<b>-0.38</b>	<b>-30.51</b>
<b>Fresh vegetables</b>	<b>24.63</b>	<b>117.42</b>	<b>103.93</b>	<b>111.69</b>	<b>-11.48</b>	<b>7.47</b>
Cauliflowers	3.29	107.36	111.40	99.89	3.77	-10.33
Tomatoes	3.65	134.15	143.12	138.97	6.69	-2.90
Other fresh vegetables	17.68	115.84	94.46	108.27	-18.46	14.62
Cabbages	1.08	73.55	49.40	38.42	-32.84	-22.21
Lettuce	1.84	87.66	80.00	109.49	-8.74	36.87
Onions	3.85	157.62	67.86	143.72	-56.94	111.78
Green beans	0.04	66.59	75.10	94.57	12.79	25.92
Bellpepper	0.69	141.17	127.74	112.85	-9.52	-11.65
Vegetable marrows	2.56	135.93	126.83	118.30	-6.70	-6.72
Mushrooms	4.25	91.00	92.00	72.55	1.10	-21.14
Pumpkins	0.37	106.22	108.13	111.79	1.79	3.38
<b>Fruit</b>	<b>2.31</b>	<b>101.14</b>	<b>94.35</b>	<b>99.13</b>	<b>-6.72</b>	<b>5.06</b>
Fresh Fruit (excluding citrus and grapes)	0.17	139.89	158.27	170.01	13.14	7.42
Other Fresh Fruit, nuts and dried fruit	0.16	133.55	157.02	168.16	17.57	7.10
Strawberries	0.06	206.18	263.12	256.42	27.62	-2.55
Pomegranates	0.09	87.60	92.07	111.83	5.10	21.46
Citrus Fruit	1.89	97.66	87.54	90.51	-10.37	3.40
Oranges	1.39	97.21	82.26	81.53	-15.38	-0.88
Mandarins	0.41	98.76	104.84	107.09	6.15	2.14
Lemons	0.09	99.76	91.43	156.30	-8.35	70.96
Olives	0.21	99.08	103.26	118.95	4.22	15.19
<b>Animals</b>	<b>44.95</b>	<b>114.28</b>	<b>114.38</b>	<b>111.31</b>	<b>0.09</b>	<b>-2.69</b>
Bulls	2.26	122.27	104.42	112.24	-14.60	7.49
Cows	0.70	122.51	121.20	125.24	-1.07	3.33
Pigs	15.51	128.97	133.15	133.15	3.24	-
Poultry	9.09	106.06	104.68	95.69	-1.30	-8.59
Rabbits	16.80	103.64	103.27	99.12	-0.36	-4.02
<b>Animal products</b>	<b>23.11</b>	<b>136.23</b>	<b>124.03</b>	<b>115.51</b>	<b>-8.96</b>	<b>-6.87</b>
Milk	17.83	132.30	119.30	113.55	-9.82	-4.82
Eggs	5.06	151.60	141.69	123.06	-6.54	-13.14
<b>Input prices by type of expenditure:</b>						
<b>Goods and services consumed in agriculture</b>	<b>80.27</b>	<b>119.59</b>	<b>114.45</b>	<b>110.90</b>	<b>-4.30</b>	<b>-3.11</b>
Motor fuels	8.17	131.01	128.54	128.62	-1.88	0.07
Fertilisers	2.25	105.53	108.12	105.22	2.45	-2.69
Pesticides	1.14	54.62	56.44	56.44	3.32	-
Animal feeding stuffs	37.57	135.34	122.99	114.85	-9.12	-6.62
Maintenance of materials	8.44	101.85	108.61	109.56	6.64	0.87
Maintenance of buildings	2.87	109.46	110.56	114.26	1.01	3.35
Veterinary services	1.71	102.94	103.40	104.44	0.45	1.00
Other goods and services	11.50	98.85	98.39	99.67	-0.46	1.30
<b>Machinery and investment</b>	<b>19.73</b>	<b>108.60</b>	<b>110.43</b>	<b>110.19</b>	<b>1.68</b>	<b>-0.22</b>
Materials	6.96	106.14	109.39	112.31	3.06	2.66
Buildings	12.78	109.94	110.99	109.03	0.95	-1.76

Note: 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.

Table 2. Agricultural price indices: January-December  
2010=100

Item	Weight	2012	2013	2014	% change	
					2013/2012	2014/2013
<b>Output index at producer prices</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>113.19</b>	<b>114.59</b>	<b>104.91</b>	<b>1.24</b>	<b>-8.45</b>
<b>Input index at purchase prices</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>114.79</b>	<b>116.28</b>	<b>112.90</b>	<b>1.30</b>	<b>-2.91</b>
<b>Output prices by type of product:</b>						
<b>Forage</b>	<b>3.42</b>	<b>113.88</b>	<b>115.51</b>	<b>121.63</b>	<b>1.43</b>	<b>5.30</b>
<b>Potatoes</b>	<b>4.63</b>	<b>114.60</b>	<b>128.10</b>	<b>96.59</b>	<b>11.78</b>	<b>-24.60</b>
<b>Fresh vegetables</b>	<b>26.28</b>	<b>116.00</b>	<b>103.13</b>	<b>87.38</b>	<b>-11.09</b>	<b>-15.27</b>
Cauliflowers	2.15	126.86	99.45	99.27	-21.61	-0.18
Tomatoes	3.10	111.77	110.84	114.86	-0.83	3.63
Other fresh vegetables	21.03	115.51	102.37	82.12	-11.37	-19.78
Cabbages	0.81	85.51	61.81	49.38	-27.71	-20.11
Lettuce	1.58	86.25	78.51	85.72	-8.97	9.18
Onions	4.36	212.59	132.15	85.04	-37.84	-35.65
Green beans	1.49	97.30	121.12	89.08	24.48	-26.46
Bellpepper	0.71	117.26	108.92	102.35	-7.11	-6.04
Vegetable marrows	2.11	122.51	101.21	82.75	-17.39	-18.25
Sugar melons	1.65	53.46	73.45	49.71	37.39	-32.32
Watermelons	1.23	51.76	85.84	69.71	65.85	-18.79
Mushrooms	3.92	80.64	89.01	78.09	10.39	-12.27
<b>Fruit</b>	<b>4.66</b>	<b>90.59</b>	<b>99.47</b>	<b>90.54</b>	<b>9.80</b>	<b>-8.97</b>
Fresh Fruit (excluding citrus and grapes)	1.42	93.34	111.31	93.18	19.25	-16.29
Desert Pears	0.23	75.25	105.05	123.77	39.61	17.82
Peaches	0.83	96.64	115.52	83.30	19.54	-27.89
Other Fresh Fruit, nuts and dried fruit	0.35	94.62	104.51	95.18	10.45	-8.92
Plums	0.01	69.74	109.60	136.34	57.17	24.40
Strawberries	0.22	90.70	105.99	98.23	16.87	-7.33
Citrus Fruit	1.03	94.01	104.61	88.04	11.28	-15.84
Oranges	0.71	88.64	102.04	76.36	15.11	-25.17
Mandarins	0.24	96.06	108.79	107.01	13.24	-1.63
Lemons	0.08	135.06	114.58	133.47	-15.16	16.48
Figs	0.26	106.10	124.16	129.30	17.03	4.13
Grapes	1.85	83.55	83.83	84.04	0.34	0.25
Olives	0.08	108.49	102.63	98.08	-5.40	-4.43
<b>Animals</b>	<b>39.24</b>	<b>108.42</b>	<b>114.58</b>	<b>111.73</b>	<b>5.69</b>	<b>-2.49</b>
Bulls	1.98	123.19	112.85	103.65	-8.39	-8.16
Cows	1.03	127.17	127.36	118.22	0.15	-7.18
Pigs	12.64	114.03	133.15	133.15	16.76	-
Poultry	7.36	103.50	106.08	98.78	2.49	-6.89
Rabbits	15.53	102.36	102.66	101.13	0.29	-1.50
<b>Animal products</b>	<b>21.77</b>	<b>122.83</b>	<b>128.66</b>	<b>116.00</b>	<b>4.75</b>	<b>-9.84</b>
Milk	16.00	118.52	125.93	112.97	6.25	-10.29
Eggs	5.57	136.02	137.53	125.26	1.11	-8.92
<b>Input prices by type of expenditure:</b>						
<b>Goods and services consumed in agriculture</b>	<b>80.27</b>	<b>116.30</b>	<b>117.85</b>	<b>113.71</b>	<b>1.34</b>	<b>-3.51</b>
Motor fuels	8.17	130.07	130.29	128.64	0.17	-1.27
Fertilisers	2.25	105.21	111.22	105.23	5.71	-5.39
Pesticides	1.14	55.51	55.84	56.44	0.58	1.07
Animal feeding stuffs	37.57	128.41	130.34	121.02	1.50	-7.15
Maintenance of materials	8.44	102.52	107.02	109.21	4.39	2.04
Maintenance of buildings	2.87	107.29	110.50	112.63	2.99	1.93
Veterinary services	1.71	102.45	103.46	104.00	0.99	0.52
Other goods and services	11.50	98.37	97.76	99.40	-0.62	1.67
<b>Machinery and investment</b>	<b>19.73</b>	<b>108.66</b>	<b>109.87</b>	<b>109.57</b>	<b>1.12</b>	<b>-0.27</b>
Materials	6.96	106.35	109.15	110.56	2.64	1.29
Buildings	12.78	109.91	110.26	109.03	0.32	-1.12

Note: 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 output prices, having as base year 2010=100, with reference to the preceding quarter.
2. Output price indices provide information about the developments in the prices of vegetables, fruit, 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 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, while 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, whereby a fixed weighting structure is representative of the base year. There is a slight variation in the compilation of the index for vegetables and fruit due to seasonality. The composition of each quarterly basket of vegetables and fruit differs according to availability. For this reason, a meaningful comparison may only be undertaken between the reference period and the corresponding period in the preceding year.
5. The data in this release may be subject to revision.
6. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:  
Statistical Concepts: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/concepts.aspx>  
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