



PRICE INDICES IN AGRICULTURE, FOURTH QUARTER OF 2024

Producer price indices in agriculture

The producer price index in agriculture for the fourth quarter of 2024 increased by 8.6% in comparison with the same quarter of 2023 as a result of the increase in the crop output price index - by 11.5%, and in the animal output price index - by 0.9%. Compared to the previous year (on an annual basis), the prices of agricultural output went up by 3.1%, as in crop output they increased by 4.5% and in animal output they fell by 0.6% (Table 1).

Compared to the same quarter of 2023, a decrease was registered in the prices of cereals - by 2.7%, as a result of the drop in the price of soft wheat - by 1.7%, while the prices of industrial crops increased by 31.3%, as a result of the rise in the price of sunflower - by 34.1%.

Compared to 2023 (on an annual basis), lower were the prices of cereals - by 8.3%, as a result of the decrease in the price of soft wheat - by 5.2%. The prices of industrial crops went up by 20.9%, as a result of the increase in the price of sunflower - by 22.2%. The prices of fresh vegetables went up by 3.7%, while the prices of fresh fruits went down by 0.4%.

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2023, the prices of live animals fell by 2.5% because of the decrease in the prices of pigs - by 5.7%, and of chickens - by 9.7%. The prices of animal products recorded an increase of 5.7%, which is a result of the 14.2% rise in cow milk price.

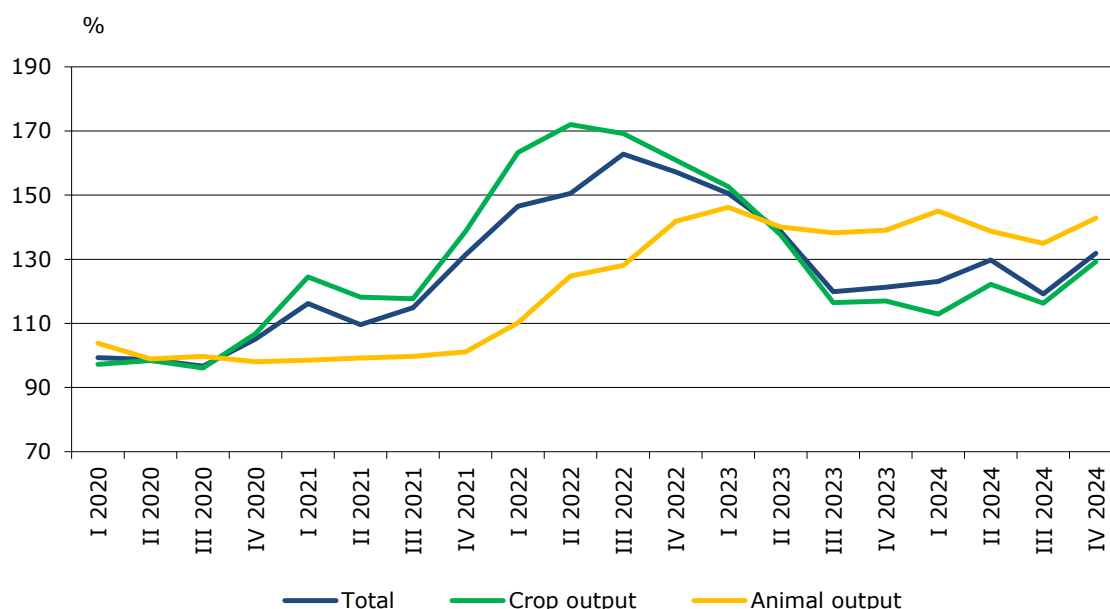
In animal output, in the fourth quarter of 2024, compared to 2023 (on an annual basis), the prices of animals went down by 4.3%, as a result of the decrease in the prices of pigs - by 7.8%, and of poultry - by 11.0%. The prices of animal products increased by 4.7%, as the biggest increase was recorded in the price of cow milk - by 13.3%, and in the price of hen eggs for incubation - by 16.6%. There was a decrease by 8.2% in the price of hen eggs for consumption.

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Table 1. Producer prices indices in agriculture in the fourth quarter of 2024

Indicators	(Per cent)		
	2020 = 100	Corresponding quarter of 2023 = 100	2023 = 100
Total	131.9	108.6	103.1
Crop output	129.3	111.5	104.5
Animal output	142.9	100.9	99.4

Figure 1. Producer prices indices in agriculture, by quarters (2020 = 100)



Price indices of goods and services currently consumed in agriculture

The price index of products and services for current consumption in agriculture for the fourth quarter of 2024 decreased by 2.2% compared to the same quarter of the previous year and by 5.0% compared to 2023 (on an annual basis).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2023, an increase was reported in the prices of: seed and planting material - by 4.9%, plant protection products - by 15.6%, and veterinary expenses - by 5.9%. There was a decrease in the prices of: electricity and fuels - by 8.0%, mineral fertilizers - by 6.7%, and animal feedingstuffs - by 2.3%.

Compared to 2023 (on an annual basis), an increase was reported in the prices of: seed and planting material - by 7.4%, plant protection products - by 17.5%, and veterinary

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expenses - by 9.0%. There was a decrease in the prices of: mineral fertilizers - by 21.0%, animal feedingstuffs - by 6.5%, and electricity and fuels - by 5.0% (Table 2).

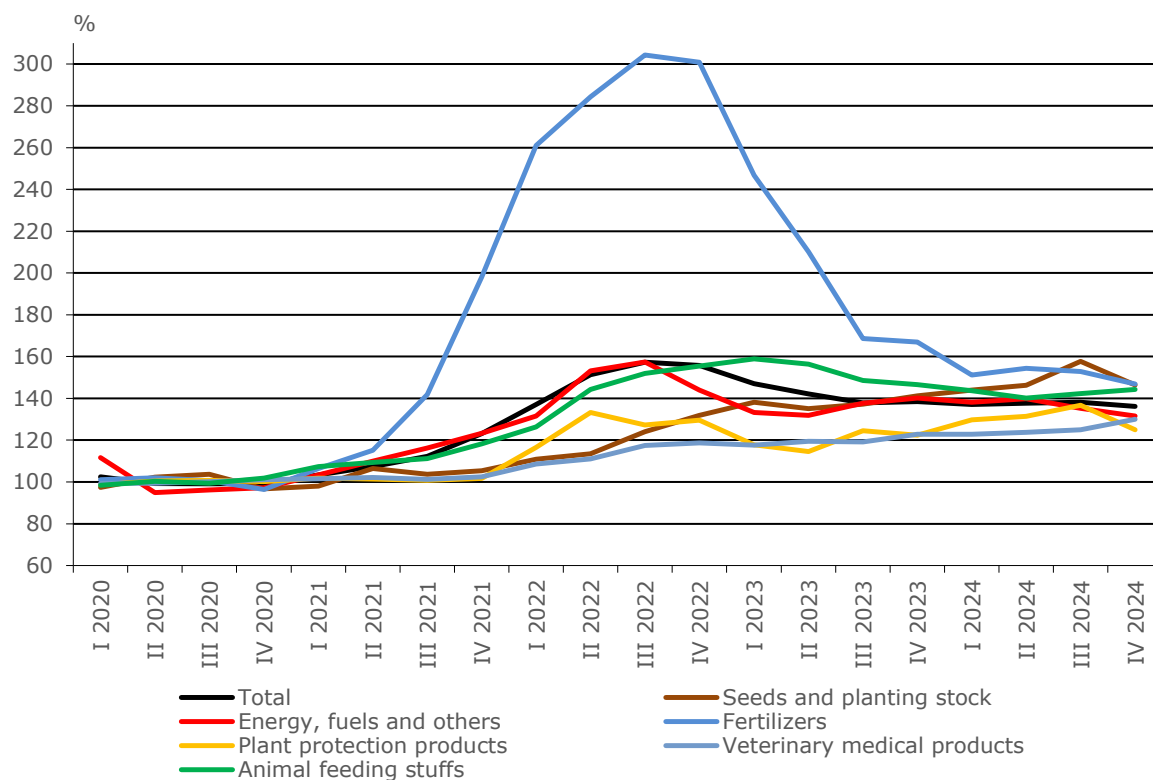
Table 2. Price indices of the goods and services currently consumed in agriculture, fourth quarter of 2024

(Per cent)

Indicators	2020 = 100	Corresponding quarter of 2023 = 100	2023 = 100
Total	136.1	97.8	95.0
Seeds and planting stock	146.4	104.9	107.4
Energy, fuels and others	131.6	92.0	95.0
Fertilizers	146.8	93.3	79.0
Plant protection products	124.9	115.6	117.5
Veterinary medical products	130.0	105.9	109.0
Animal feeding stuffs	144.3	97.7	93.5

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Figure 2. Prices indices of the goods and services currently consumed in agriculture, by quarters (2020 = 100)



Methodological notes

Methodology and main definition

The surveys about the prices in agriculture are carried out in accordance with the main requirements of the EU Handbook for Agricultural Price Indices. In this way harmonization with the EU practices in the domain of agricultural price statistics is achieved from the point of view of:

- Definitions used;
- Techniques of price registration;
- Type of calculated indices;
- Survey periodicity;
- Nomenclatures used;
- Defining the selected products by their quality, quantity, variety and other price characteristics.

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The object of observation are the producer prices of the produced by the farm crops, live animals and animal products and prices of products and services of goods and services currently consumed in agriculture.

Producer price in agriculture is the price received by a farm selling its own agricultural products/live animals. It is recorded at the first market stage of goods - 'farm gate price'. Producer price excludes subsidies on agricultural products/animals, transport costs and taxes. VAT is also excluded from the price.

The examination of prices of goods and services currently consumed in agriculture (Input I) includes five surveys which supply information about the prices of:

- Mineral fertilizers;
- Feeding stuffs;
- Plant protection products;
- Veterinary medicinal products;
- Seeds and planting stocks.

The object of observation is the purchase price of goods and services currently consumed in agriculture. The observed unit price is the price that the buyer actually paid for the means of production. It includes taxes and fees and excludes subsidies and VAT refunded.

Observation units

Observation units within the surveys of agricultural prices are farms - juridical and physical persons and agricultural and veterinary pharmacies. For each survey, a list of respondents is established and during the years a stable number of price registrations of products/livestock categories and means of production is maintained.

The conducted surveys are exhaustive and include all units above a certain threshold defined in value terms. For the survey on the producer prices in agriculture as selection criteria, a value of sales of agricultural products/animals is used and for the surveys on the prices of goods and services currently consumed in agriculture - the expenditures rising from purchases of goods and services for intermediate consumption. The representativeness of prices is assured, both by maintaining a regular number of price registrations and coverage of at least 50% of the value of sales for each product/livestock category or purchase value of goods and services for intermediate consumption in the respective year.

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Data sources

The sources of information are statistical questionnaires for the collection of qualitative and quantitative characteristics of agricultural products/live animals and goods and services currently consumed in agriculture and quarterly questionnaires supplying information about the producer prices of agricultural products/live animals and purchasing prices of goods and services currently consumed in agriculture.

The questionnaires on the qualitative and quantitative characteristics of agricultural products/live animals and goods and services currently consumed in agriculture supply data for the establishment of a list of representative products defined by their quantitative and qualitative, variety and other characteristics which may influence the variation of prices. The established lists of products are periodically updated, as usual in the years ending to 0 or 5, when the Eurostat weighting scheme is rebased.

The quarterly questionnaires supply regular data about the prices of the agricultural products/live animals or goods and services currently consumed in agriculture, included in the scope of surveys.

Calculation of average prices

Within the quarterly surveys, average monthly and quarterly prices are calculated. The average monthly prices are calculated as arithmetical mean derived from all registered prices. The quarterly prices are calculated as arithmetical mean from monthly prices.

Type of index and calculation

The calculation of price indices is carried out by the Laspeyres formula. This type of index has a constant weighting scheme so that the base period of weights and prices is the same. For the calculation of producer price indices as weights - the value of sales of agricultural output is used, and for the indices of prices of goods and services currently consumed in agriculture - the value of purchased intermediate consumption. The weights are calculated within satellite economic accounts for agriculture.

The indices are calculated on three bases: the previous year, the corresponding quarter of previous year and the year ending in 0 or 5 (Eurostat base).

The total index of goods and services currently consumed in agriculture (Input I) is calculated on the base of price indices of five groups of products as well as on the indices of goods and services calculated within the Survey on consumer prices index.

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Classifications

For the survey of producer prices in agriculture, the Nomenclature of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (PRODAGRO) is used. PRODAGRO is used as a basis for further product breakdown in accordance with their qualitative and quantitative characteristics. For the surveys on prices of goods and services, currently consumed in agriculture, own proper classifications are used. These classifications are compiled within the surveys for the establishment of lists of representative products. For calculation and providing Eurostat with harmonized data of price indices in agriculture classification PRAG (Nomenclature of agricultural prices in the Eurostat New CRONOS database) is used.

Consideration of the impact of quality on the prices of agricultural products

To eliminate differences in prices associated with changes in the quality, type, quantity, and packaging, selected products are defined by quality, quantity, species and other characteristics that affect the changes of prices. When a particular product is dropped down from the list it has to be replaced by a new one defined by the same or approximately similar characteristics. The new product should also be representative.

The calculation of the indices of goods and services contributing to the agricultural investments (Input II)

The calculation of the price index of goods and services contributing to agricultural investments is also done by the Laspeyres formula. The values of goods and services, purchased by farms for further investments, calculated within the satellite economic accounts for agriculture, are used as weights. For calculation of the total index of goods and services, contributing to agricultural investments, indices from other surveys conducted by NSI in the domain of the Consumer prices statistics, Foreign trade statistics and Short-term business statistics are also used.

On the basis of the calculated indices of the goods and services for current consumption and of the goods and services for investment purposes, a total index of the prices of the means of agricultural production is calculated (Total Input).