

PRICE INDICES IN AGRICULTURE, FIRST QUARTER OF 2021¹

Producer price indices in agriculture

The **producer price index in agriculture** in the first quarter of 2021 increased by 18.6% in comparison with the same quarter of 2020. The price index of crop output increased by 28.9% while the animal output decreased by 3.7%. In comparison with the previous year, the prices of agricultural output went up by 16.8%, as in crop output they increased by 24.8%, and in animal output a slight decrease of 0.6% was registered (Table 1).

In the first quarter of 2021 compared to the same quarter of 2020 higher were the prices of: cereals - by 25.4%, industrial crops - by 39.4%, fodder crops - by 5.5% and fresh vegetables - by 1.5%. Increase was reported in the prices of: soft wheat - by 20.5%, sunflower - by 40.1%, fodder maize - by 12.1%, cucumbers - by 8.0%, cabbages - by 14.0% and apples - by 4.2%. Lower were the prices of: potatoes - by 17.7%, tomatoes - by 6.6% and walnuts - by 20.8%.

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2020 the prices of live animals decreased by 11.6% as a result of drop in the prices of pigs - by 27.8%, poultry - by 3.9%, and cattle - by 0.4%, which could not be compensated by the increase in the price of sheep and goats - by 12.2%. In the prices of animal products increase was registered by 2.8%, which was as a result of higher prices of cow milk - by 4.2%, buffalo milk - by 1.2% and sheep milk - by 8.4%. A decrease was observed in the prices of hen eggs for consumption - by 2.5% and goat milk - by 5.0%.

Compared to 2020 in the first quarter of 2021 higher were the prices of: cereals - by 22.0%, industrial crops - by 32.1%, fodder crops - by 10.3%, fresh vegetables - by 19.5% and fresh fruits - by 7.7%. An increase was reported in the prices of: soft wheat - by 19.9%, maize - by 24.7%, sunflower - by 32.8%, cabbages - by 24.1%, and tomatoes - by 14.9%. Lower were the prices of lettuces - by 12.0%, green onions - by 9.0%, carrots - by 11.7% and potatoes - by 6.5%.

In the animal output in the first quarter of 2021 compared to 2020 the prices of the animals went down by 6.8%. A drop was registered in the prices of: cattle - by 0.3%, pigs - by 18.1%, and poultry - by 1.7%. An increase was observed in the prices of: sheep - by 10.3% and goats - by 16.8%. The prices of animal product output increased by 4.6%, which was as a result of the increase in the prices of cow milk - by 3.9%, buffalo milk - by 0.2%, sheep milk - by 9.6%, goat milk - by 14.9% and hen eggs for consumption - by 1.0%.

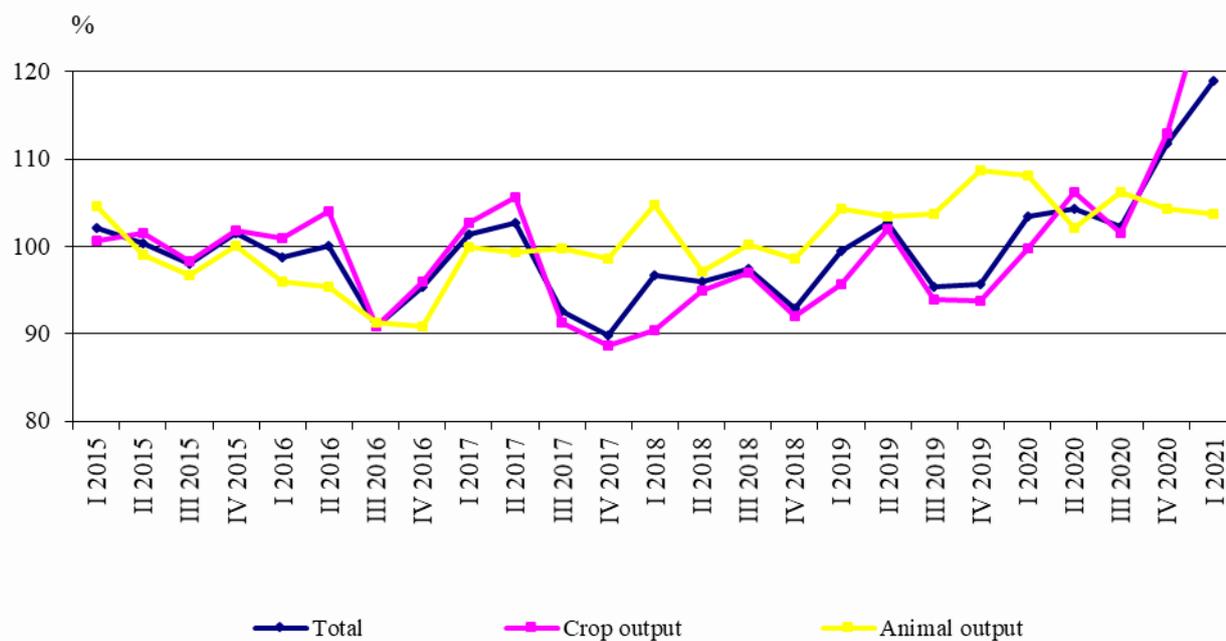
¹ The Agricultural Price Indices were calculated in compliance with requirements of Handbook for EU Agricultural Price Statistics, version 2.0, March 2008. The Handbook was uploaded on the NSI website at the following link: http://www.nsi.bg/sites/default/files/files/metadadata/Agr_Handbook_en.pdf.

1. Producer prices indices in agriculture in the first quarter of 2021

(Per cent)

	2015 = 100	Corresponding quarter of 2020 = 100	2020 = 100
Total	118.9	118.6	116.8
Crop output	131.0	128.9	124.8
Animal output	103.7	96.3	99.4

Figure 1. Producer prices indices in agriculture, by quarters (2015 = 100)



Price indices of goods and services currently consumed in agriculture

The index of prices of goods and services currently consumed in agriculture in the first quarter of 2021 was higher by 1.2% compared to the same quarter of the previous year and by 3.3% compared to 2020.

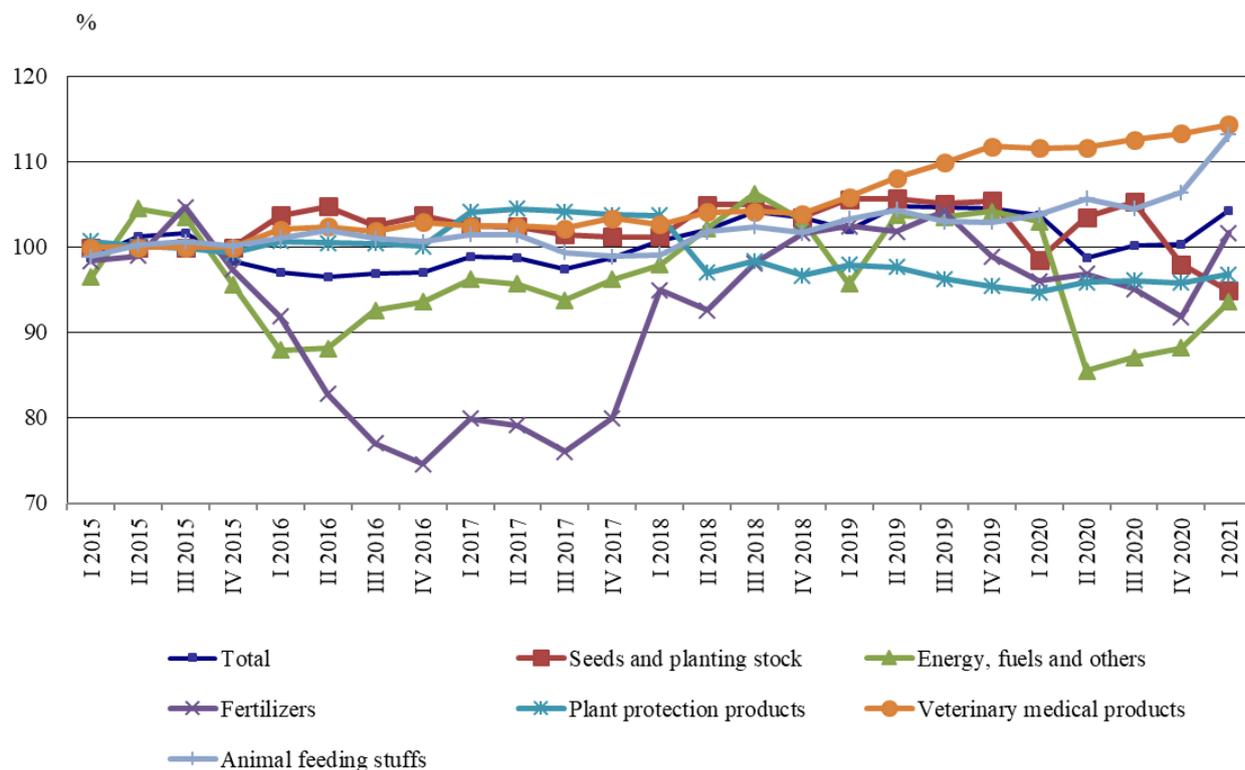
In the first quarter of 2021 compared to the corresponding quarter of 2020 there was an increase in the prices of: mineral fertilizers - by 5.3%, plant protection products - by 5.3%, veterinary medicinal products - by 2.4%, and animal feeding stuffs - by 10.4%. A decrease was reported in the prices of: seeds and planting stock - by 4.9% and electricity and fuels - by 9.7%.

In the first quarter of 2021 compared to 2020 there was an increase in the prices of: electricity and fuels - by 3.0%, mineral fertilizers - by 6.5%, plant protection products - by 2.2%, veterinary products - by 1.6%, and animal feeding stuffs - by 7.7%. A decrease was reported in the prices of seeds and planting stock - by 8.2% (Table 2).

2. Price indices of the goods and services currently consumed in agriculture, first quarter of 2021

	(Per cent)		
	2015 = 100	Corresponding quarter of 2020 = 100	2020 = 100
Total	104.3	101.2	103.3
Seeds and planting stock	94.9	95.1	91.8
Energy, fuels and others	93.6	90.3	103.0
Fertilizers	101.7	105.3	106.5
Plant protection products	96.8	105.3	102.2
Veterinary medical products	114.4	102.4	101.6
Animal feeding stuffs	113.2	110.4	107.7
Maintenance of materials	117.8	102.6	101.2
Maintenance of buildings	108.8	101.9	101.3
Other goods and services	113.6	103.3	101.9

Figure 2. Prices indices of the goods and services currently consumed in agriculture, by quarters (2015 = 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 prices registration
- Type of calculated indices
- Survey periodicity
- Nomenclatures used
- Defining of the selected products by their quality, quantity, variety and other price characteristics.

The object of observation are the producer prices of 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 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 in the price.

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

Statistical unit

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 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 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 the maintaining of 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.

Data sources

The sources of information are statistical questionnaires for 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 establishment of list of representative products defined with their quantitative and qualitative, variety and other characteristics which may have influence on 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 included in the scope of surveys agricultural products/live animals or goods and services currently consumed in agriculture.

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 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 at three bases: previous year, 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.

Classifications

For the survey of producer prices in agriculture the National classification of production in agriculture, forestry and fisheries (PRODAGRO) is used. Classification 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 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, packaging, selected products are defined by quality, quantity, species and other characteristics that affect the changes of prices. When particular product is dropped down from the list it has to be replaced by a new one defined by 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 price index of goods and services contributing to agricultural investments is also done by a Laspeyres formula. As weights the values of goods and services purchased by farms for further investments, calculated within the satellite economic accounts for agriculture are used. For calculation of 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 indices of goods and services currently consumed in agriculture and contributing to agricultural investments, total index of prices of means of production used in agriculture (Total Input) is calculated.