

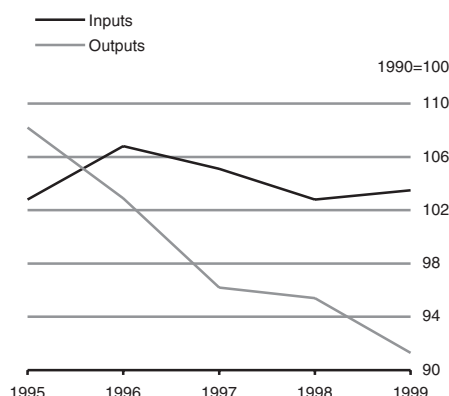


Central Statistics Office
An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh



29 November 1999

Agricultural price indices *Preliminary estimates*



Agricultural Price Indices 1999 - Preliminary estimates

	Output	Input	Terms of trade
	1990 = 100		
1998	95.4	102.8	92.8
1999	91.3	103.5	88.2
% change	-4.3%	0.7%	-5.0%

Output price index down 4.3% in 1999

Preliminary estimates of the agricultural price indices for 1999 show a 4.3% fall in output prices and an increase of 0.7% in input prices from 1998 levels (*see graph*). Thus the terms of trade decreased by 5.0% indicating an unfavourable price movement for farmers in the year.

The decline in the output index of 4.3% was due mainly to falls in the prices of cattle (-5.6%), sheep (-7.0%), pigs (-10.5%), milk (-3.3%) and potatoes (-17.9%). *See Table 1.*

Comparing the 1998 and 1999 indices shows that (*See Tables 1 and 2*):

- ◆ Feeding stuffs and plant protection products fell by 1.5% and 0.5% respectively.
- ◆ Veterinary expenses, fertilizers and energy rose by 1.2%, 0.6% and 4.9% respectively.
- ◆ There were increases in cereals (4.2%) and vegetables (4.1%).

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Diagram 1 : Changes in selected agricultural outputs, 1998-1999

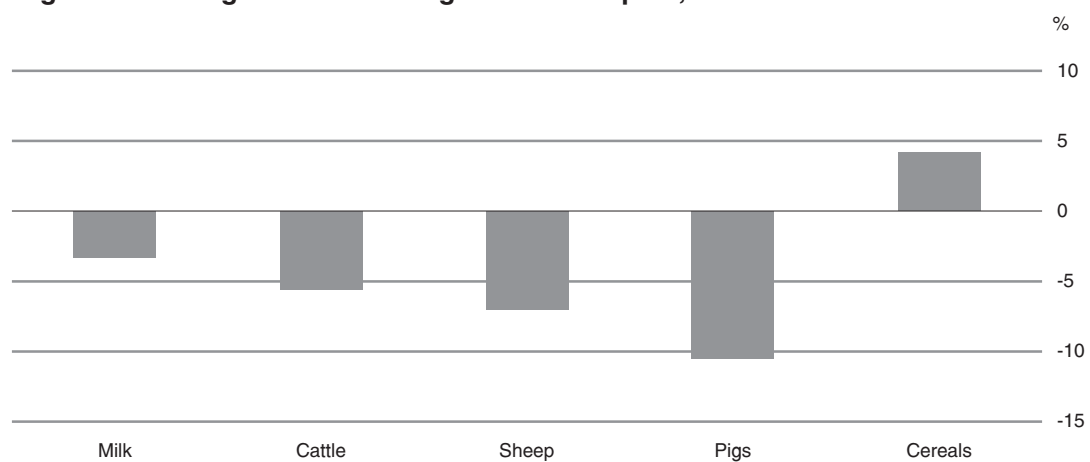


Diagram 2 : Changes in selected agricultural inputs, 1998-1999

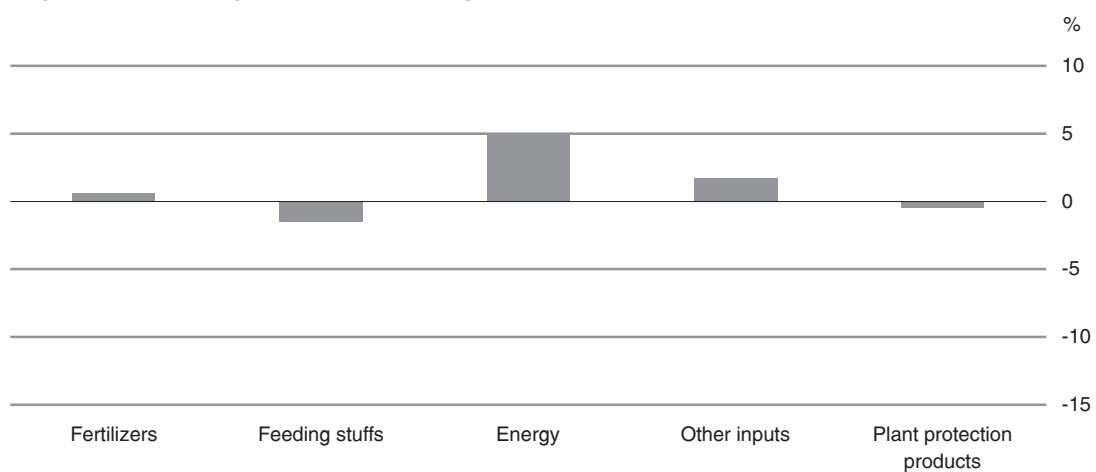


Table 1 Agricultural Output Price Index¹ 1999 - preliminary estimates

Base year 1990=100

Item	1997	1998	1999	1999/1998
Total outputs index	96.2	95.4	91.3	-4.3%
Livestock	88.6	81.3	76.3	-6.1%
Cattle	86.0	81.2	76.7	-5.6%
Sheep	96.8	82.2	76.4	-7.0%
Pigs	95.2	74.5	66.7	-10.5%
Poultry	95.9	94.3	91.1	-3.4%
Milk	109.8	113.7	109.9	-3.3%
Crop products	90.4	104.1	103.2	-0.9%
Cereals	70.2	73.9	77.0	4.2%
Sugar beet	110.2	104.8	104.5	-0.3%
Potatoes	118.3	216.5	177.8	-17.9%
Vegetables	106.6	115.3	120.0	4.1%

¹ Excluding VAT**Table 2 Agricultural Input Price Index¹ 1999 - preliminary estimates**

Base year 1990=100

Item	1997	1998	1999	1999/1998
Total inputs index	105.1	102.8	103.5	0.7%
Feeding stuffs	97.4	93.5	92.1	-1.5%
Fertilizers	99.0	94.5	95.0	0.6%
Seeds	129.8	130.6	136.5	4.5%
Energy	105.7	102.6	107.6	4.9%
Plant protection products	116.9	117.3	116.7	-0.5%
Veterinary expenses	124.6	128.1	129.6	1.2%
Other inputs ²	116.6	118.3	120.3	1.7%

¹ Excluding VAT² "Other inputs" includes maintenance and repairs, services other than veterinary, imports of young/store animals and miscellaneous materials

Background Notes

Introduction This release presents preliminary estimates of agricultural price indices for 1999. The indices monitor trends in prices paid to farmers for their produce and in prices paid by farmers for purchases of goods and services.

The estimates are given to Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities, who provide the Directorate-General for Agriculture in Brussels with forecasts of the annual EU agricultural price indices for the current year.

Methodology The preliminary annual indices are compiled by using the published monthly indices from January to September and forecast estimates for October to December. Preliminary annual indices are then calculated as weighted averages of the twelve monthly indices using volume or the value of sales off farms and the expenditure on farm inputs.

Data Sources The indices are compiled from a wide variety of sources, including direct CSO surveys and administrative data from the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development.

References Agricultural Price Indices, monthly CSO release.
Eurostat Statistics in Focus, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries - Agricultural Price Trends in the EU.