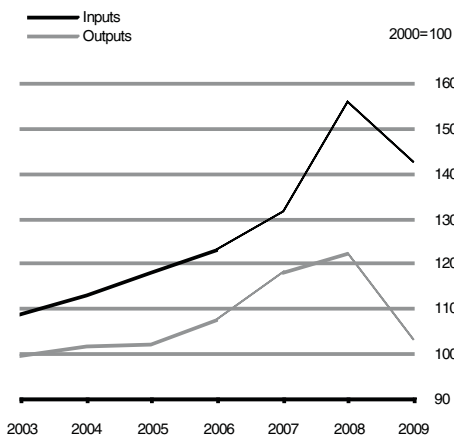




Agricultural Price Indices 2009 - Preliminary estimates

Agricultural price indices
Preliminary estimates



	Output	Input	Terms of trade
	2000 = 100		
2008	122.3	155.9	78.4
2009	103.1	142.5	72.4
% change	-15.7%	-8.6%	-7.7%

Agricultural output price index down 15.7% in 2009

Preliminary estimates of the agricultural price indices for 2009 show a 15.7% decrease in output prices from 2008 levels while input prices decreased by 8.6% (see graph). The terms of trade index decreased by 7.7% indicating an unfavourable price movement for farmers in the year.

The decrease in the input index of 8.6% was due mainly to decreases in fertilizers (16.1%), energy (14.3%), feeding stuffs (7.9%) and seeds (7.3%). See Table 2.

Comparing the annual 2009 output indices with the annual 2008 indices shows that (see Table 1):

- ◆ The milk price index showed a decrease of 31.9% for the year.
- ◆ The livestock price index decreased by 8.0%. This was mostly caused by a decrease of 10.2% in cattle and 8.8% in pigs.
- ◆ Overall crop products decreased by 7.5% due mainly to a decrease of 29.2% in cereals.

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Diagram 1 : Changes in selected agricultural output price indices, 2008/2009

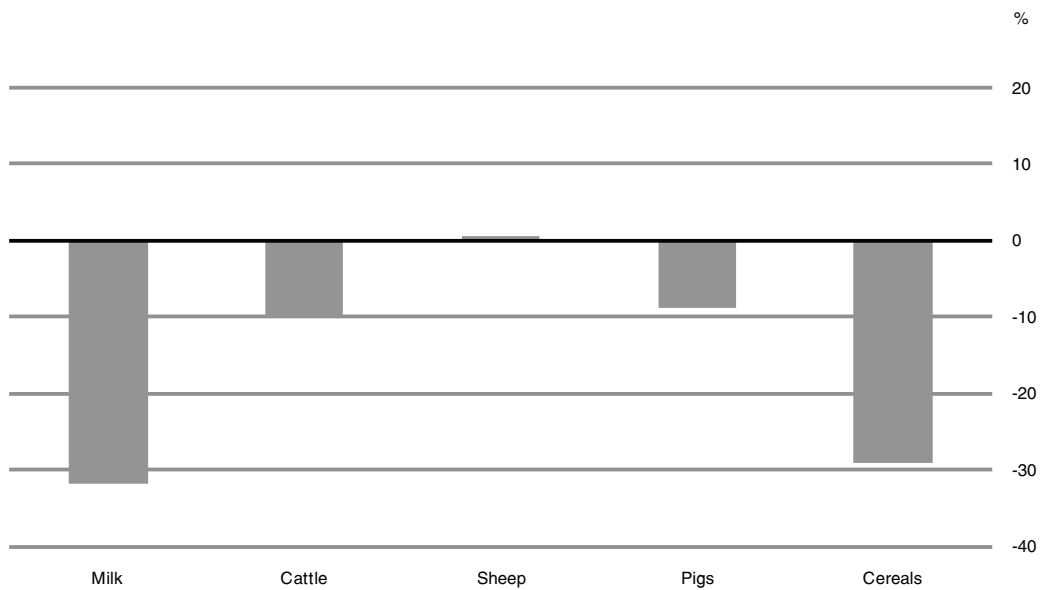


Diagram 2 : Changes in selected agricultural input price indices, 2008/2009

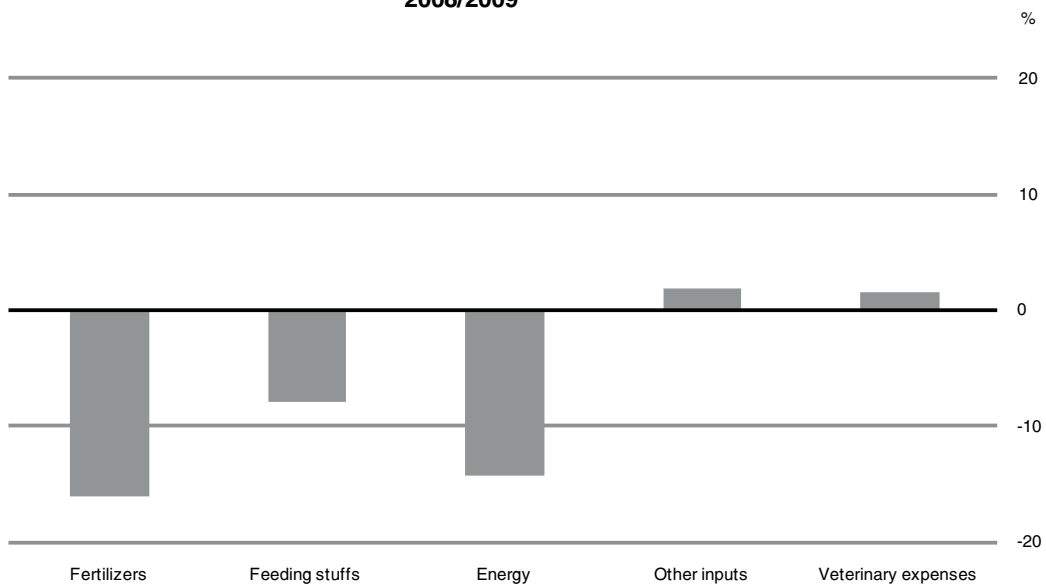


Table 1 Agricultural Output Price Index¹ 2009 - preliminary estimates

Base year 2000=100

Item	2007	2008	2009	2008/2009
Total outputs index	118.0	122.3	103.1	-15.7%
Livestock	110.4	124.5	114.5	-8.0%
Cattle	111.0	127.8	114.8	-10.2%
Sheep	114.9	120.2	120.7	0.4%
Pigs	103.0	112.4	102.5	-8.8%
Poultry	112.2	125.2	126.1	0.7%
Milk	111.0	112.7	76.8	-31.9%
Crop products	162.2	137.9	127.6	-7.5%
Cereals	185.4	133.1	94.2	-29.2%
Potatoes	218.4	179.1	212.2	18.5%
Vegetables	138.1	139.0	131.6	-5.3%

¹ Excluding VAT**Table 2 Agricultural Input Price Index¹ 2009 - preliminary estimates**

Base year 2000=100

Item	2007	2008	2009	2008/2009
Total inputs index	131.3	155.9	142.5	-8.6%
Feeding stuffs	125.6	143.4	132.1	-7.9%
Fertilizers	136.4	220.6	185.1	-16.1%
Seeds	130.8	141.9	131.6	-7.3%
Energy	148.1	168.9	144.8	-14.3%
Plant protection products	101.7	103.1	105.1	1.9%
Veterinary expenses	126.2	128.9	130.9	1.6%
Other inputs ²	128.9	136.8	139.4	1.9%

¹ Excluding VAT² "Other Inputs" includes maintenance and repairs, services other than veterinary and miscellaneous materials

Background Notes

Introduction This release presents preliminary estimates of agricultural price indices. 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 August and forecast estimates for September to December. Preliminary annual indices are obtained either as a simple or weighted arithmetic mean of the corresponding monthly indices. The monthly sub-indices are weighted by the value of sales off farms and the expenditure on farm inputs to derive overall monthly total input and total output indices. From 1995, in line with EU recommendations, the annual input indices are calculated as simple arithmetic averages of the monthly averages.

The agricultural terms of trade index is the output price index expressed as a percentage of the input price index.

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

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