

November 2024

### UK Key Market Movers (CPI)

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a key measure of inflation in the UK. Movements in CPI give a high-level overview of the key categories experiencing inflation. Below is a monthly snapshot of the top food commodity price inflation movements impacting the UK. The data is from Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Item	Percentage Change over 12 months
Milk, Cheese and Eggs	0.5%
Oil and Fats	7.8%
Breads and Cereals	-0.4%
Vegetables	3.3%
Meat	1.0%
Sugar, Jam, Syrups, Chocolate and Confectionary	5.5%
Fish	-3.3%
Fruit	3.7%

### Inflation Figures

The Consumer Prices Index (CPI) rose by 2.3% in the 12 months to October 2024, up from 1.7% in September.

Food and non-alcoholic beverage prices rose by 1.9% in the year to October, the same annual change in prices as September 2024. The Foodservice Price Index (FPI) for food stood at 2.4% in September 2024, still higher than the general inflation index but down from 2.8% in August.

The Retail Price Index (RPI) is now at 3.4% vs. 2.7% last month and the Producer Price Index (PPI) for food is at 1.6%.

#### Latest Inflation Figures as of October 2024\*:

Foodservice Price Index (FPI) in September	2.4%
Food Price Inflation (CPI)	1.9%
Retail Price Index (RPI)	3.4%
Consumer Price Index (CPI)	2.3%
Producer Price Index (PPI)	1.6%

\*Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS), Trading Economics

### Dairy

Dairy fats have been in short supply, which has had a significant impact on farmgate milk pricing. Milk prices have been climbing throughout the year, with Arla announcing their November farmgate price at **47.65p** per litre, a **10p** per litre increase since the start of the year.

Cream prices hit a record high in October, although this has been easing as milk production has increased. Prices remain high, especially as we approach the busy seasonal period when cream usage typically rises.

Butter prices are still elevated, as dairy processors are choosing to sell cream at higher prices rather than churning it into butter, which is more costly. That said, milk production did increase in October. While it's still too early to fully assess the impact, the increase in milk production should help bring prices down if production continues to rise.

### Fish and Seafood

Sea bass and gilthead bream supply is tight, with rising prices due to warmer waters accelerating harvest and increasing disease. Prices are expected to remain high into 2025.

The price of salmon was stable in November but is projected to increase with holiday demand and reduced harvests. Winter sores may also impact quality at this time of year.

Cod prices remain high due to quota cuts, and haddock price increases are starting to hit as well. Coley offers a cost-effective and sustainable alternative.

Monkfish prices will peak in December due to holiday demand and mackerel availability will decrease post November, driving up prices.

We recommend trout, especially chalk stream, as an alternative to salmon's imminent inflation. Coley is a great alternative to volatile priced whitefish.

### Fruit and Veg

Aubergine, cucumber and courgette are being closely monitored as there have been some challenges caused by excessive rainfall and high humidity.

Salads could see some issues with quality and availability caused by the impact of the recent floods.

We are expecting market availability challenges with easy peelers, caused by the Spanish floods, to ease in mid-December as the Moroccan variety arrives.

November has seen poor weather and low light levels which has impacted the tomato crop.

There are currently no major availability issues with potatoes although we expect to see some problems with salad potatoes and large bakers later in the year.

Brassicas are in good supply. We recommend opting for seasonal produce, such as root vegetables, wherever possible.

### Meat

Cattle slaughtering in the UK has been down for a number of years resulting in an inflationary market. Today, kill numbers remain down but demand for UK beef remains high.

Exports are up with high demand coming from other parts of Europe and the Middle East. Deadweight pricing is currently at all-time high, and we don't anticipate this softening over the next few months.

We recommend switching into more cost-effective proteins, such as switching from beef mince into pork mince.