

March 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
Fish	+ 0.1%
Milk, Cheese and Eggs	+ 0.4%
Fruit	+ 4.7%
Meat	+ 5.0%
Breads and Cereals	+ 6.0%
Vegetables	+ 6.3%
Sugar, Jam, Syrups, Chocolate and Confectionary	+ 8.1%
Oils and Fats	+ 8.3%

*Smallest increase by Y-O-Y

*Largest increase by Y-O-Y

Fish and Seafood

Farmed Salmon has reached high prices and is likely to increase in the coming months due to scarcity in supply chain from delayed growth in pens.

Due to cold weather, Mackerel season in the southwest will be delayed. Prices will continue to rise until fish migrate up in late spring.

Farmed Halibut has struggled to meet supply, particularly in larger sizes. Prices are likely to increase as farms are not seeing fish growth.

Fruit and Vegetables

Potatoes are highlighted as in inflation risk as both quality and potential availability challenges are anticipated over the next months. Due to the wet winter, the quality of harvested potatoes put into storage have deteriorated.

Parsnips have also been affected due to wet weather conditions. Flooded fields have led to rotting crops, leading to a shortening of product.



Meat and Poultry

UK Beef production and imports were notably low in December 2023, which have led to knock-on effects on supply and pricing. There has also been a lack of female breeding leading to deadweight cattle prices reaching all-time highs as there is limited cattle in the market.



Dairy

Milk prices have stayed relatively steady over the last couple of months however, we are now starting to see slight increases in the market due to a dip in milk production in January, brought on by the wet weather. Returns of dairy products in the EU are contributing to the slight price upturn.

We are now moving into a 'spring flush', meaning a seasonal boost in milk production during spring linked to reproductive and lactation cycles of dairy cows. Cows graze on nutrient-rich pasture, enhancing milk production due to longer days and warmer weather. The extent of the spring flush should have a positive impact on milk prices in the next months.