

## 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	4.2%
Oil and fats	2.0%
Breads and cereals	3.9%
Vegetables	3.5%
Meat	6.2%
Sugar, jam, syrups, chocolate and confectionary	10.4%
Fish	0.5%
Fruit	3.8%

## Inflation Figures

The Consumer Prices Index (CPI) rose by 3.8% in the 12 months to August 2025, unchanged from July.

The annual inflation rate for food and non-alcoholic beverages increased to 5.1% in August 2025, up from 4.9% in July. This marks the fifth consecutive increase in the annual rate and the highest recorded since January 2024, though it remains well below the peak seen in early 2023.

On a monthly basis, food and non-alcoholic beverages prices rose by 0.4% in August 2025, compared with a 0.2% increase in August 2024.

Latest Inflation Figures as of June 2025*	
Foodservice Price Index (FPI) in April	3.7%
Food Price Inflation (CPI)	5.1%
Retail Price Index (RPI)	4.6%
Consumer Price Index (CPI)	3.8%
Producer Price Index (PPI)	Not released

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

### Fruit and vegetables

We have experienced the driest summer since 1976, which has impacted crops and led to a significant increase in insect activity across the country. This issue affects all field-grown crops, not only in the UK but across the EU. Until recent rains, treatments were largely ineffective without water to carry them around the plants. While growers have now treated crops, it will take at least a week for aphid numbers to fall, as treatments need time to take effect and harvests are restricted for seven days following application.

Lettuce - with restrictions on the timing and amount of treatment that is permitted, it is proving very difficult to provide an immediate solution to the problems, despite additional measures that suppliers have put in place. As iceberg lettuce grows from the inside out, we have seen aphids contaminate the immature heads as the plant develops around them. This means that contact treatment cannot penetrate to the inner layers and take effect, which is adding to the problems.

Broccoli - the crop has been heavily affected by pests, which are being found in large numbers on farms. Mushrooms - growers have faced a very challenging period, as high temperatures in Poland and Ireland have led to reduced yields. Flat and catering mushrooms have been the most affected.

Cabbage - availability issues with both red and white cabbage have arisen due to heat and water shortages during the main growing period, resulting in reduced yield. There are also some ongoing quality issues caused by insect damage and Edema, which means that more leaves need to be removed to reach

acceptable quality, resulting in reduced head weight and overall yields.

Berries – the current cooler temperatures have resulted in a significant reduction in overall berry numbers, with strawberries and raspberries facing the greatest challenges. Blueberries are also becoming increasingly scarce as we approach the end of the British season. Please note that we will be switching off berry stock as we enter the winter period.

### Dairy

Milk – milk prices have remained stable over the past year. However, recent hot weather has scorched the ground, raising concerns about how much silage farmers have been able to harvest and store for winter. If they don't have enough to feed their livestock, they'll need to supplement with more costly purchased feed, potentially pushing up the farmgate milk price.

Cream - cream prices have risen gradually over the past few weeks, reflecting the usual seasonal pattern as demand increases in the lead-up to Christmas. Prices typically stabilise after the holiday period.

Where possible, switching to a lower-fat cream, such as whipping or single cream instead of double cream, can provide commercial advantages.

### Grocery

Cocoa bean - the industry continues to pay close attention to weather conditions in West Africa, with the recent mini dry spell causing some continued concerns over the size of the upcoming main crop. Expana's August crop

surveys showed no change to the 2025/2026 production forecast for the Ivory Coast. However, there was a notable deterioration in new crop prospects in Ghana. Semi-finished product ratios weakened in August, with cocoa butter ratios falling to a 35-month low, confirming the weakness in demand.

Canned sweetcorn – farmgate prices have shown increased stability over the past year, supported by steady crop yields and consistent supply. Any pricing volatility has been offset by the strengthening of the pound against the US dollar over the last 12 months.

## Meat

Beef - after a record year for beef inflation, pricing is beginning to stabilise in the market. However, indicators suggest that further inflation is a risk in the lead-up to Christmas due to increased demand and low cattle availability.

Chicken - this year has seen significant inflation in chicken prices, with increases of approximately 18% to 22% across both the UK and EU markets. Avian influenza (AI) outbreaks earlier in the year and improved stocking density requirements have led to a decrease in availability, increasing prices. UK Red Tractor-certified stock is particularly scarce at present. There is a risk of further inflation as we move into winter with an increased likelihood of new AI outbreaks.

Turkey - over the last eight months, UK whole turkey prices have risen by an average of 25% to 28%, driven by severe supply chain disruptions. Widespread AI outbreaks across the UK and Europe have forced culls, reduced breeder stock, and disrupted imports from key

suppliers such as Poland, France, and Hungary. Halal-certified whole turkeys have experienced even higher inflation (+25% to 32%). Last year, pricing for fresh turkey increased by approximately 20% to 30% in the lead-up to Christmas, and a similar trend is expected this season. In contrast, frozen turkey pricing tends to remain more stable during this period.

Turkey - please book your Christmas volumes as soon as possible and share usage forecasts, especially if you need fresh turkey. Prices are likely to rise as demand increases, so consider frozen or previously frozen options to protect against inflation. Be sure to confirm volumes on these as well.

## Fish and seafood

Sea bass and gilthead bream - prices remain at record highs following slower fish growth last winter. Gilthead bream offers a more cost-effective alternative to sea bass, although larger sizes remain limited.

White fish - cod and haddock supplies remain under pressure with quotas tightening 21% this year and closures reducing availability. Prices are expected to stay firm into 2026. Flexibility is vital; Alaska pollock remains the best alternative to cod and haddock due to its MCS 1 to 2 rating and abundant availability. Fresh hake continues to land well and is increasingly popular with UK customers, making it a strong option for a premium whitefish option.

Canadian lobster - prices are firming on pounded stock until November, although native lobster availability should help support supply.

Plaice is in full swing and provides a great alternative for fish and chips.

Mussels, now out of spawn, will be at their best quality and remain a winter staple during months with an 'R'.

## Food to go

The market is seeing an average increase of 2.2% to 2.5% across the range. This increase reflects broader market pressures, primarily driven by rising raw materials and escalating labour expenses. Given the labour-intensive nature of sandwich production, higher wage demands have had a significant impact on overall pricing.