

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	3.0%
Oil and fats	7.4%
Breads and cereals	3.0%
Vegetables	2.0%
Meat	2.1%
Sugar, jam, syrups, chocolate and confectionary	6.5%
Fish	-2.2%
Fruit	3.6%

Inflation Figures

The Consumer Prices Index (CPI) rose by 2.6% in the 12 months to March, down from 2.8% in the 12 months to February. Food and non-alcoholic beverages prices rose by 3.0% in the 12 months to March, down from 3.3% in the 12 months to February.

Although the FPI remained at 1.8% there is still significant concern about the potential level of inflation impacting the UK Hospitality sector over the coming months.

Latest Inflation Figures as of December 2024*:	
Foodservice Price Index (FPI) in January	1.8%
Food Price Inflation (CPI)	3.0%
Retail Price Index (RPI)	3.2%
Consumer Price Index (CPI)	2.6%
Producer Price Index (PPI)	Not released

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

### Fruit and veg

Melons have been affected by poor weather conditions at the start of the Central American season. Large honeydew melons are expected to be the biggest challenge for the next couple of weeks.

Lettuce supply remains challenging due to the Spanish floods. However, we will be transitioning to the UK crop over the new few weeks.

We are expecting the poor American sweet potato harvest, which is around 40% down on a standard year, to start impacting the market at the end of April. This will lead to a difficult period in the market, potentially lasting until August.

We are approaching the end of the British carrot and parsnip season.

As we approach the end of the Spanish season, there are some quality issues with tomatoes.

We recommend moving into summer berries with the new season starting in May.

### Dairy

Milk production is up this year with a 3.8% year-on-year increase. As a result of the recent good weather, the impact of this year's spring flush is expected to be greater because the cows have returned to the fields earlier, with further increases in milk pools expected as we approach summer. However, it is worth noting the spring flush has had a reduced impact on pricing over recent years due to cows now producing consistent yields throughout the year.

Avian flu has hit Europe hard, with cases continuing to rise. Since the UK isn't self-sufficient in egg production and relies on imports to meet demand, supply has become very tight, with any spare capacity being scarce and expensive. If more cases of avian flu are detected, egg prices are likely to increase further.

### Fish and seafood

Prices of farmed seabass and gilthead bream are rising due to low biomass from last year's high mortality rate, this is expected until September/October when new fish arrive. South-coast seabass offers good value now that the commercial fishing ban has been lifted.

Reduced quotas are driving up cod and haddock prices. Fleets are reducing cod fishing to comply with highgrading restrictions, adding further pressure. Prices for whole cod out of Scotland are unusually high for this time of year. Alaskan pollock and coley remain good alternatives.

South-coast hake landings are improving with larger fish, and prices should ease. However, Scottish boats report that fish have moved, reducing market volumes, which could impact pricing as demand remains strong.

With the UK Lobster season starting, prices for both native and Canadian stocks should lower in May. Native lobsters will be excellent quality at this time.

Salmon prices surged over Easter and will take time to ease due to lower farm stock levels. Chalk stream trout remains a preferred option.

Pricing for South-coast flatfish remains high due to fewer fish available and strong demand.

### Meat

Beef inflation continues and shows no signs of slowing. The market is up 42% year on year (April 24 to April 25), with a 25% increase since January 2025. Demand is still strong, and total cattle availability has reduced, meaning prices may continue to rise. Reports suggest this is going to continue for the majority of 2025.

We recommend moving away from beef to more cost-effective proteins such as chicken or pork.