

Producer Price Index – Agriculture (PPI-A)

First quarter 2006

(Base period year 2002 = 100)

1. Introduction

The Producer Price Index-Agriculture (PPI-A) gives a measure of the average change in the selling prices which producers receive for their agricultural products.

This issue of the Economic and Social Indicators presents monthly PPI-A indices for the months of January, February and March 2006 as well as figures for preceding months updated in the light of additional information that have now become available.

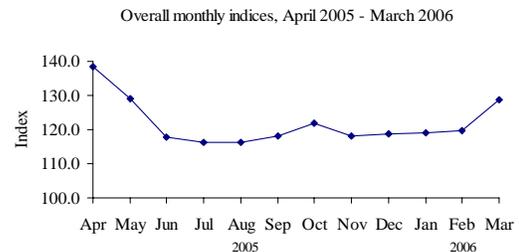
A technical note on the construction of the PPI-A is annexed.

2. Producer Price Index - Agriculture: First Quarter 2006

2.1 Structure of the PPI-A (Base period: 2002=100)

The PPI-A covers two sub-groups, namely "Crop products" and "Animals and animal products". "Crop products" is further subdivided into "Sugar cane" and "Other crop products". Sugar cane heavily influences both the "overall" index and that of sub-group "Crop products", of which it constitutes 61.6% and 74.6% respectively.

2.2 Changes in the monthly index



The PPI-A stood at 128.9 in March 2006, following consecutive increases of 0.4%, 0.5% and 7.7% in January, February and March (Table 2).

The index for "Crop products", which carries 82.6% of the total weight, declined by 1.1% in January and moved up by 0.6% in February and by 9.3% in March. Among the crop products no change has been registered in the producer price of sugar cane during the fourth quarter since such price becomes available in final form only at the end of the crop year (July to June) and is assumed to have prevailed during the whole of the crop year.

As far as the "Other crop products" are concerned, the index went down by 5.1% in January mostly due to the combined effect of decreases of 11.5% in the prices of root crops, 8.2% in the prices of fresh vegetables and 4.4% in those of flowers and ornamental plants and an increase of 19.9% in the prices of fruits. In February increases of 20.9% and 2.6% in the prices of fruits and fresh vegetables respectively

were partially offset by a 13.4% fall in prices of root crops, thus causing an overall increase of 2.8% in the index. In March, high prices of beans, brinjal, calabash, chillies and tomato pushed up the producer prices of fresh vegetables significantly by 74.8%. This rise was mitigated by a 20.1% decrease in the prices of fruits, resulting in an increase of 43.9% in the index of "Other crop products".

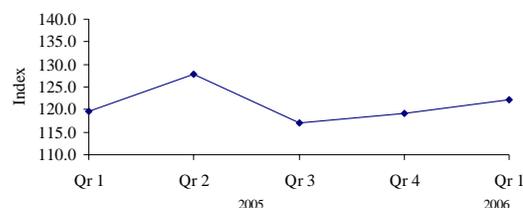
The index for the sub-group "Animals and animal products" increased by 8.6% in January, being mainly the combined effect of increases of 14.2% and 11.2% in the prices of poultry and pigs respectively, and a drop of 1.7% in the prices of eggs. In February, the index declined by 0.3% as a result of a 1.1% decrease in prices of poultry, partially offset by a 2.1% rise in the prices of pigs and another of 1.6% in those of eggs. Prices of poultry and pigs moved up by 1.0% and 0.5% respectively in March while the price of eggs dropped by 1.9%, causing the index to rise by 0.2%.

More details of changes on a month-to-month basis are given in Table 2 and changes over the corresponding month of the previous year in Table 3.

2.3 Changes in the quarterly index

Table 4 gives the evolution of the PPI-A on a quarterly basis. The overall index for the first quarter of 2006 showed a rise of 2.5% over the previous quarter and a decrease of 1.8% over the corresponding quarter of 2005.

Overall quarterly indices, 1st quarter 2005 - 1st quarter 2006



Percentage changes on a quarterly basis and the net contributions of commodity groups and products are given in Table 5.

2.4 Changes in the yearly index

Average prices producers received from the sale of agricultural products in the year 2005 were 6.7% higher compared to the previous year. The annual indices for the years 2003, 2004 and 2005, annual changes and the net contributions of commodity groups and products to the change are presented in Table 6.

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Monthly Producer Price Index -Agriculture (PPI-A)

(Base period: Year 2002=100)

Table 1 : Monthly indices by commodity groups and products, January 2004 - March 2006

Commodity Group	Weight	2006		
		January	February	March
Crop products	825.8	119.0	119.7	130.8
Sugar cane¹	615.9	126.5	126.5	126.5
Other crop products	209.9	96.9	99.6	143.3
Root crops	20.2	112.9	97.8	100.8
Fruits	28.8	87.2	105.4	84.2
Fresh vegetables	138.0	92.4	94.8	165.7
Flowers, ornamental plants ¹	11.5	133.7	135.1	130.3
Tea ¹	7.3	99.7	99.7	99.7
Tobacco	4.1	130.5	130.5	130.5
Animals & animal products	174.2	119.8	119.5	119.7
Cattle	2.2	136.8	136.8	136.8
Pigs	4.6	86.7	88.5	88.9
Goat	1.3	105.0	105.0	105.0
Deer	5.8	106.7	106.7	106.7
Poultry	111.3	122.7	121.4	122.6
Eggs	45.2	118.5	120.4	118.1
Milk	3.8	105.6	105.6	105.6
Overall Index	1,000.0	119.1	119.7	128.9

¹ Provisional

Monthly Producer Price Index -Agriculture (PPI-A)

(Base period:Year 2002 =100)

Table 1 (cont'd) : Monthly indices by commodity groups and products, January - December 2005

Commodity Group	Weight	2005											
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Crop products	825.8	112.7	121.3	132.8	143.7	132.4	118.7	117.1	117.0	119.6	124.3	119.9	120.3
Sugar cane	615.9	120.2	120.2	120.2	120.2	120.2	120.2	126.5	126.5	126.5	126.5	126.5	126.5
Other crop products	209.9	90.8	124.5	169.9	212.8	168.2	114.3	89.4	89.2	99.4	117.7	100.5	102.1
Root crops	20.2	103.5	96.2	92.9	96.4	123.2	118.6	128.1	128.1	127.2	126.8	126.6	127.5
Fruits	28.8	101.7	102.6	85.0	83.8	78.5	77.1	78.3	90.2	99.4	125.2	92.4	72.7
Fresh vegetables	138.0	82.1	133.7	207.4	272.0	201.6	120.6	81.1	78.8	91.6	114.1	94.3	100.6
Flowers, ornamental plants	11.5	126.7	132.3	127.2	130.7	128.9	127.0	128.2	122.2	133.3	132.6 ¹	138.6 ¹	139.9 ¹
Tea	7.3	99.7	99.7	99.7	99.7	99.7	99.7	99.7	99.7	99.7	99.7	99.7	99.7
Tobacco ¹	4.1	130.5	130.5	130.5	130.5	130.5	130.5	130.5	130.5	130.5	130.5	130.5	130.5
Animals & animal products	174.2	111.9	112.0	112.6	112.7	113.4	114.0	113.0	111.6	111.5	110.6	109.0	110.3
Cattle	2.2	105.5	105.5	108.2	109.5	109.5	111.4	115.0	115.0	115.0	121.4	136.4	136.4
Pigs	4.6	54.1	54.1	57.0	57.0	57.0	57.0	62.6	62.6	62.6	72.2	75.7	78.0
Goat	1.3	105.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	105.0
Deer	5.8	104.3	104.3	104.3	104.3	105.0	108.3	108.3	108.3	108.3	106.7 ¹	106.7 ¹	106.7 ¹
Poultry	111.3	112.0	112.0	112.0	112.4	112.4	112.4	109.4	107.4	107.4	107.4	107.4	107.4
Eggs	45.2	119.6	120.1	121.9	121.2	123.6	125.7	128.2	127.9	127.4	122.9	115.7	120.6
Milk	3.8	105.6	105.6	105.6	105.6	105.6	105.6	105.6	105.6	105.6	105.6	105.6	105.6
Overall Index	1,000.0	112.6	119.7	129.3	138.3	129.1	117.9	116.4	116.1	118.2	121.9	118.0	118.6

¹ Revised

Monthly Producer Price Index -Agriculture (PPI-A)

(Base period:Year 2002 =100)

Table 1 (cont'd) : Monthly indices by commodity groups and products, January - December 2004

Commodity Group	Weight	2004											
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Crop products	825.8	114.7	114.5	118.9	119.7	115.4	111.6	114.3	113.3	111.2	112.8	111.5	109.5
Sugar cane	615.9	113.2	113.2	113.2	113.2	113.2	113.2	120.2	120.2	120.2	120.2	120.2	120.2
Other crop products	209.9	118.9	118.5	135.6	138.9	121.9	106.8	97.0	92.9	84.8	91.2	85.9	78.0
Root crops	20.2	102.2	85.3	90.8	94.3	100.8	110.4	117.7	117.9	116.7	116.8	117.6	117.1
Fruits	28.8	120.0	108.4	96.0	97.5	91.8	99.5	115.1	102.7	107.3	94.6	90.6	94.2
Fresh vegetables	138.0	122.1	126.5	154.4	158.6	133.1	107.1	88.0	84.1	70.8	82.6	75.6	62.8
Flowers, ornamental plants	11.5	120.9	118.4	118.6	118.3	116.3	117.0	115.4	117.6	119.7	125.9	122.3	123.2
Tea	7.3	99.3	99.3	99.3	99.3	99.3	99.3	99.7	99.7	99.7	99.7	99.7	99.7
Tobacco	4.1	116.3	116.3	116.3	116.3	116.3	116.3	116.3	116.3	116.3	116.3	116.3	116.3
Animals & animal products	174.2	104.3	108.7	110.3	113.0	113.0	113.4	114.9	114.8	113.6	110.3	111.3	112.5
Cattle	2.2	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Pigs	4.6	75.0	75.0	75.0	72.8	72.8	72.8	76.0	71.5	71.5	54.1	54.1	54.1
Goat	1.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Deer	5.8	104.3	104.3	104.3	104.3	104.3	103.6	103.6	103.6	103.6	104.3	104.3	104.3
Poultry	111.3	103.5	107.2	109.1	112.9	112.9	113.1	114.4	114.4	114.4	113.5	113.5	113.5
Eggs	45.2	109.6	117.3	118.7	120.2	120.0	121.3	123.6	123.4	119.0	110.0	113.8	118.6
Milk	3.8	105.6	105.6	105.6	105.6	105.6	105.6	105.6	105.6	105.6	105.6	105.6	105.6
Overall Index	1,000.0	112.9	113.5	117.4	118.5	115.0	111.9	114.4	113.6	111.6	112.4	111.5	110.0

Monthly Producer Price Index -Agriculture (PPI-A)

(Base period: Year 2002=100)

Table 2 : Percentage changes from previous month by commodity groups and products , April 2005 - March 2006

	Weight	Percentage changes from											
		Mar 05 to	Apr 05 to	May 05 to	June 05 to	July 05 to	Aug 05 to	Sept 05 to	Oct 05 to	Nov 05 to	Dec 05 to	Jan 06 to	Feb 06 to
		Apr 05	May 05	June 05	July 05	Aug05	Sept 05	Oct 05	Nov 05	Dec 05	Jan 06	Feb 06	Mar 06
Crop products	825.8	8.2	-7.9	-10.3	-1.3	-0.1	2.2	3.9	-3.5	0.3	-1.1	0.6	9.3
Sugar cane	615.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other crop products	209.9	25.3	-21.0	-32.0	-21.8	-0.2	11.4	18.4	-14.6	1.6	-5.1	2.8	43.9
Root crops	20.2	3.8	27.8	-3.7	8.0	0.0	-0.7	-0.3	-0.2	0.7	-11.5	-13.4	3.1
Fruits	28.8	-1.4	-6.3	-1.8	1.6	15.2	10.2	26.0	-26.2	-21.3	19.9	20.9	-20.1
Fresh vegetables	138.0	31.1	-25.9	-40.2	-32.8	-2.8	16.2	24.6	-17.4	6.7	-8.2	2.6	74.8
Flowers, ornamental plants	11.5	2.8	-1.4	-1.5	0.9	-4.7	9.1	-0.5	4.5	0.9	-4.4	1.0	-3.6
Tea	7.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Tobacco	4.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Animals & animal products	174.2	0.1	0.6	0.5	-0.9	-1.2	-0.1	-0.8	-1.4	1.2	8.6	-0.3	0.2
Cattle	2.2	1.2	0.0	1.7	3.2	0.0	0.0	5.6	12.4	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0
Pigs	4.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.8	0.0	0.0	15.3	4.8	3.0	11.2	2.1	0.5
Goat	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Deer	5.8	0.0	0.7	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	-1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poultry	111.3	0.4	0.0	0.0	-2.7	-1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.2	-1.1	1.0
Eggs	45.2	-0.6	2.0	1.7	2.0	-0.2	-0.4	-3.5	-5.9	4.2	-1.7	1.6	-1.9
Milk	3.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Overall Change	1,000.0	7.0	-6.7	-8.7	-1.3	-0.3	1.8	3.1	-3.2	0.5	0.4	0.5	7.7

Monthly Producer Price Index -Agriculture (PPI-A)

(Base period:Year 2002=100)

Table 3 : Percentage changes from corresponding month of previous year by commodity groups and products , April 2005 - March 2006

Commodity Group	Weight	Percentage changes from											
		Apr 04 to	May 04 to	Jun 04 to	Jul 04 to	Aug 04 to	Sept 04 to	Oct 04 to	Nov 04 to	Dec 04 to	Jan 05 to	Feb 05 to	Mar 05 to
		Apr 05	May 05	Jun 05	Jul 05	Aug 05	Sept 05	Oct 05	Nov 05	Dec 05	Jan 06	Feb 06	Mar 06
Crop products	825.8	20.1	14.7	6.4	2.4	3.3	7.6	10.2	7.5	9.9	5.6	-1.3	-1.5
Sugar cane	615.9	6.2	6.2	6.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2
Other crop products	209.9	53.2	38.0	7.0	-7.8	-4.0	17.2	29.1	17.0	30.9	6.7	-20.0	-15.7
Root crops	20.2	2.2	22.2	7.4	8.8	8.7	9.0	8.6	7.7	8.9	9.1	1.7	8.5
Fruits	28.8	-14.1	-14.5	-22.5	-32.0	-12.2	-7.4	32.3	2.0	-22.8	-14.3	2.7	-0.9
Fresh vegetables	138.0	71.5	51.5	12.6	-7.8	-6.3	29.4	38.1	24.7	60.2	12.5	-29.1	-20.1
Flowers, ornamental plants	11.5	10.4	10.8	8.5	11.1	3.9	11.4	5.3	13.3	13.6	5.5	2.1	2.4
Tea	7.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Tobacco	4.1	12.2	12.2	12.2	12.2	12.2	12.2	12.2	12.2	12.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Animals & animal products	174.2	-0.3	0.4	0.5	-1.7	-2.8	-1.8	0.3	-2.1	-2.0	7.1	6.7	6.3
Cattle	2.2	9.5	9.5	11.4	15.0	15.0	15.0	21.4	36.4	36.4	29.7	29.7	26.4
Pigs	4.6	-21.7	-21.7	-21.7	-17.6	-12.4	-12.4	33.5	39.9	44.2	60.3	63.6	56.0
Goat	1.3	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Deer	5.8	0.0	0.7	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3
Poultry	111.3	-0.4	-0.4	-0.6	-4.4	-6.1	-6.1	-5.4	-5.4	-5.4	9.6	8.4	9.5
Eggs	45.2	0.8	3.0	3.6	3.7	3.6	7.1	11.7	1.7	1.7	-0.9	0.2	-3.1
Milk	3.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Overall Change	1,000.0	16.7	12.3	5.4	1.7	2.2	5.9	8.5	5.8	7.8	5.8	0.0	-0.3

Quarterly Producer Price Index -Agriculture (PPI-A)

(Base period: Year 2002=100)

Table 4: Quarterly indices ¹ by commodity groups and products, 2nd Quarter 2004 - 1st Quarter 2006

Commodity Group	Weight	2004			2005				2006 ³
		2nd Qr	3rd Qr	4th Qr	1st Qr	2nd Qr	3rd Qr	4th Qr	1st Qr
Crop products	825.8	115.4	112.9	111.4	121.2	130.8	118.0	121.1	122.7
Sugar cane	615.9	113.2	120.2	120.2	120.2	120.2	126.5	126.5	126.5
Other crop products	209.9	121.9	91.4	85.4	123.9	161.9	92.9	105.4	111.4
Root crops	20.2	107.7	117.5	117.2	100.6	117.0	127.9	127.0	108.3
Fruits	28.8	96.4	108.1	93.3	99.3	79.8	90.1	86.1	91.4
Fresh vegetables	138.0	131.1	80.8	74.2	133.2	192.6	84.0	103.2	114.3
Flowers, ornamental plants	11.5	117.2	117.6	123.8	128.7	128.9	127.9	137.0 ²	133.0
Tea	7.3	99.3	99.7	99.7	99.7	99.7	99.7 ³	99.7 ³	99.7
Tobacco	4.1	116.3	116.3	116.3	130.5 ²	130.5 ²	130.5 ²	130.5 ²	130.5
Animals & animal products	174.2	113.2	114.4	111.3	112.2	113.4	112.0	110.0	119.6
Cattle	2.2	100.0	100.0	100.0	106.4	110.1	115.0	131.4	136.8
Pigs	4.6	72.8	73.0	54.1	55.1	57.0	62.6	75.3	88.0
Goat	1.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	105.0
Deer	5.8	104.1	103.6	104.3	104.3	105.9	108.3	106.7 ²	106.7
Poultry	111.3	113.0	114.4	113.5	112.0	112.4	108.1	107.4	122.2
Eggs	45.2	120.5	122.0	114.1	120.5	123.5	127.8	119.7	119.0
Milk	3.8	105.6	105.6	105.6	105.6	105.6	105.6	105.6	105.6
Overall Index	1,000.0	115.0	113.2	111.4	119.6	127.8	117.0	119.2	122.2

¹ using data for base period as weights, and not a simple average of the monthly indices

² Revised

³ Provisional

Quarterly Producer Price Index -Agriculture (PPI-A)

(Base period:Year 2002=100)

Table 5: Quarterly changes (%) and net contributions of commodity groups and products to the change, 1st Quarter 2005 - 1st Quarter 2006

Commodity Group	Weight	Percentage changes from previous quarter				Percentage changes from corresponding quarter of previous year				Net contributions from			
		1st Qr 05	2nd Qr 05	3rd Qr 05	4th Qr 05	2nd Qr 04	3rd Qr 04	4th Qr 04	1st Qr 05	1st Qr 05	2nd Qr 05	3rd Qr 05	4th Qr 05
		to 2nd Qr 05	to 3rd Qr 05	to 4th Qr 05	to 1st Qr 06	to 2nd Qr 05	to 3rd Qr 05	to 4th Qr 05	to 1st Qr 06	to 2nd Qr 05	to 3rd Qr 05	to 4th Qr 05	to 1st Qr 06
Crop products	825.8	7.9	-9.8	2.6	1.3	13.3	4.5	8.7	1.2	7.97	-10.60	2.61	1.25
Sugar cane	615.9	0.0	5.2	0.0	0.0	6.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	0.00	3.88	0.00	0.00
Other crop products	209.9	30.7	-42.6	13.5	5.7	32.8	1.6	23.4	-10.1	7.97	-14.48	2.61	1.25
Root crops	20.2	16.3	9.3	-0.7	-14.7	8.6	8.9	8.4	7.7	0.33	0.22	-0.02	-0.38
Fruits	28.8	-19.6	12.9	-4.4	6.2	-17.2	-16.7	-7.7	-8.0	-0.56	0.30	-0.12	0.15
Fresh vegetables	138.0	44.6	-56.4	22.9	10.8	46.9	4.0	39.1	-14.2	8.20	-14.99	2.65	1.53
Flowers, ornamental plants	11.5	0.2	-0.8	7.1	-2.9	10.0	8.8	10.7	3.3	0.00	-0.01	0.10	-0.05
Tea	7.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tobacco	4.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.2	12.2	12.2	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Animals & animal products	174.2	1.1	-1.2	-1.8	8.7	0.2	-2.1	-1.2	6.6	0.21	-0.24	-0.36	1.69
Cattle	2.2	3.5	4.5	14.3	4.1	10.1	15.0	31.4	28.6	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.01
Pigs	4.6	3.4	9.8	20.3	16.9	-21.7	-14.2	39.2	59.7	0.01	0.03	0.06	0.06
Goat	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Deer	5.8	1.5	2.3	-1.5	0.0	1.7	4.5	2.3	2.3	0.01	0.01	-0.01	0.00
Poultry	111.3	0.4	-3.8	-0.6	13.8	-0.5	-5.5	-5.4	9.1	0.01	-0.48	-0.08	1.65
Eggs	45.2	2.5	3.5	-6.3	-0.6	2.5	4.8	4.9	-1.2	0.14	0.19	-0.37	-0.03
Milk	3.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	1,000.0	6.9	-8.5	1.9	2.5	11.1	3.4	7.0	2.2	8.18	-10.84	2.25	2.94

Annual Producer Price Index -Agriculture (PPI-A)

(Base period: Year 2002=100)

Table 6 : Annual indices, annual changes (%) and net contributions of commodity groups and products to the change, 2003 - 2005

Commodity Group	Weight	Annual index ¹			Percentage changes from		Net contributions from	
		2003	2004	2005	2003 to 2004	2004 to 2005	2003 to 2004	2004 to 2005
Crop products	825.8	108.0	113.1	122.2	4.7	8.0	4.21	7.51
Sugar cane	615.9	108.9	116.7	123.4	7.2	5.7	4.80	4.13
Other crop products	209.9	105.5	102.6	118.5	-2.7	15.5	-0.61	3.34
Root crops	20.2	104.8	116.1	125.9	10.8	8.4	0.23	0.20
Fruits	28.8	98.8	101.7	89.8 ²	2.9	-11.7	0.08	-0.34
Fresh vegetables	138.0	107.2	99.2	123.1	-7.5	24.1	-1.10	3.30
Flowers, ornamental plants	11.5	105.8	119.5	130.6	12.9	9.3	0.16	0.13
Tea	7.3	99.7	99.5	99.7 ³	-0.2	0.2	0.00	0.00
Tobacco	4.1	106.3	116.3	130.5 ²	9.4	12.2	0.04	0.06
Animals & animal products	174.2	101.5	111.6	111.9	10.0	0.3	1.76	0.05
Cattle	2.2	100.0	100.0	117.5	0.0	17.5	0.00	0.04
Pigs	4.6	87.9	63.4	62.9	-27.9	-0.8	-0.11	0.00
Goat	1.3	100.0	100.0	105.0	0.0	5.0	0.00	0.01
Deer	5.8	103.3	104.1	106.3 ²	0.8	2.1	0.00	0.01
Poultry	111.3	102.3	111.9	110.0	9.4	-1.7	1.07	-0.21
Eggs	45.2	100.7	118.0	122.9	17.2	4.2	0.78	0.22
Milk	3.8	104.7	105.6	105.6	0.9	0.0	0.00	0.00
Total	1,000.0	106.9	112.8	120.4	5.5	6.7	5.90	7.60

¹ using data for base period as weights, and not a simple average of the monthly indices

² Revised

³ Provisional

Technical Note**Producer Price Index - Agriculture (PPI-A)****Methodology for the construction of the PPI-A***Weighting scheme*

The weights are derived by multiplying the average of production during 2001, 2002 and 2003 by the average of unit prices in 2002, the reference period. The weight is assigned to each commodity group on the basis of total production (as a proxy for sales) pertaining to the particular group. At commodity level, the weights are apportioned within the commodity group on the basis of production of each product.

Quarterly and annual indices have been computed using a weighting system based on the production value for the base period.

Coverage

The bulk of the products in agriculture, with the exception of forestry, fishing and agricultural services, is taken into account in the producer price index. Thus, about 83% of the total value of agricultural production is covered.

Price collection

In principle, prices collected should refer to farm-gate prices, but it is extremely difficult to obtain such prices for vegetables, not only because of the enormous resources to be mobilised but also crop plantations tend to be very dynamic among planters. Hence, in lieu of the farm-gate price, the wholesale price of the produce is recorded at the two main auction markets (Vacoas and Port-Louis) once a week.

In the case of commodities for which prices are fairly stable, data suppliers are visited on a quarterly basis, but prices are collected for each month of the quarter.

Prices of the main commercial crops like sugar cane, tea leaf and tobacco leaf, which are normally fixed for the crop year, are supplied by the respective marketing agencies.

Index calculation

The PPI-A is calculated according to a modified Laspeyres formula:

$$I_t = \frac{\sum W_i(P_{ti}/P_{oi})}{\sum W_i} \times 100$$

where :

I_t is the index for the current period t

P_{ti} is the price of commodity i in the current period t

P_{oi} is the price of the commodity i in the reference period o (2002)

W_i is the weight associated with commodity i