

Producer Price Index – Agriculture (PPI-A)

First quarter 2007

(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 2007 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 2007

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

Fig 1: Overall monthly indices, April 2006 – March 2007

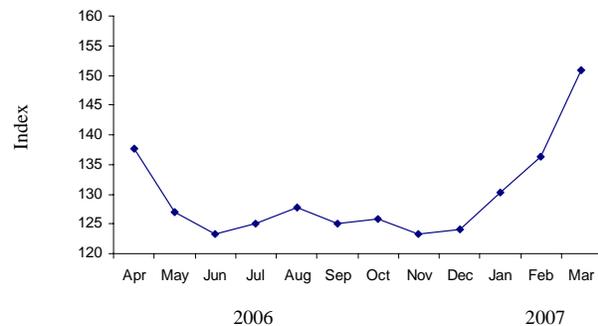


Figure 1 shows the monthly evolution of PPI-A for the period April 2006 to March 2007.

The PPI-A for the month of March worked out to 150.8% following increases of 5.1%, 4.6% and 10.6% in January, February and March respectively. (Table 2).

The index for the sub-group "Crop products", which carries 82.6% of the total weight, went up by 4.4% in January, 5.7% in February and 13.0% in March.

Among the crop products, no change has been registered in the index of sugar cane. It is to be noted that the index is revised at the end of the crop year (June) when the final price becomes available. It is assumed that the same price prevails during the whole of the crop year.

The index for "Other crop products" grew by 21.8% in January mostly due to increases in the prices of fruits (66.8%) and fresh vegetables (27.7%). The index increased further by 24.1% in February. This was largely attributable to increases of 34.6% and 21.8% in the prices of fresh vegetables and fruits, mitigated by a drop of 15.9% in the prices of root crops. In March, the index moved up by 47.8% due to increases

of 69.8 % and 32.9% in the prices of fresh vegetables and root crops respectively, partially offset by a drop of 38.6% in the prices of fruits. The prices of vegetables were high in January, February and March due to excessive rainfalls during these months and the passage of cyclone Gamede in February.

The index for the sub-group "Animals and animal products" went up by 8.3% in January, mainly due to the combine effects of increases in the prices of deer (16.0%), poultry (9.7%), and eggs (6.3 %) and a drop of 10.7% in the prices of goat. In February, no change was registered as the prices remained fairly stable. The slight increase of 0.1% in the index in March was explained by an increase of 0.4% in the prices of eggs.

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

Fig 2: Overall quarterly indices, 4th quarter 2005 – 1st quarter 2007

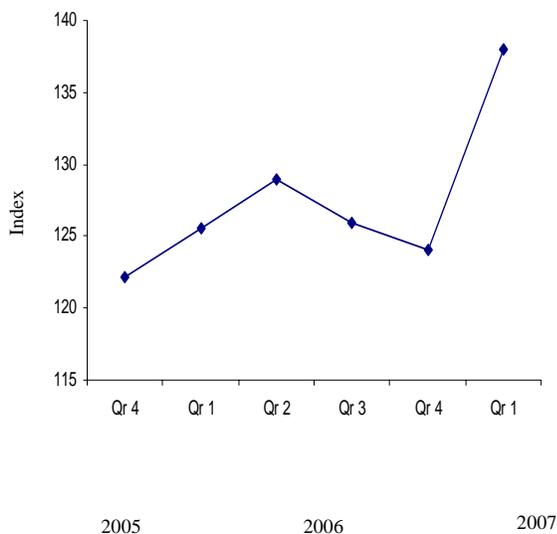


Figure 2 shows the movement of the index from 4th quarter 2005 to 1st quarter 2007.

Table 4 gives the evolution of the PPI-A on a quarterly basis. The overall index for the first quarter of 2007 shows increases of 11.2% compared to the previous quarter and 10.0 % over the corresponding quarter of 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 2006 were 3.4% higher compared to the previous year. The annual indices for the years 2004, 2005 and 2006, 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 2005 - March 2007

Commodity Group	Weight	2007		
		January	February	March
Crop products	825.8	126.9	134.1	151.6
Sugar cane¹	615.9	130.6	130.6	130.6
Other crop products	209.9	116.2	144.2	213.1
Root crops	20.2	119.5	100.5	133.6
Fruits	28.8	98.6	120.1	73.7
Fresh vegetables	138.0	116.7	157.1	266.8
Flowers, ornamental plants ¹	11.5	138.8	146.1	143.7
Tea ¹	7.3	107.3	107.3	107.3
Tobacco	4.1	157.1	157.1	157.1
Animals & animal products	174.2	146.7	146.7	146.9
Cattle	2.2	134.5	134.5	134.5
Pigs	4.6	115.7	119.1	119.1
Goat	1.3	93.8	93.8	93.8
Deer	5.8	126.4	126.4	126.4
Poultry	111.3	152.9	152.9	152.9
Eggs	45.2	142.9	142.6	143.2
Milk	3.8	105.6	105.6	105.6
Overall Index	1000.0	130.3	136.3	150.8

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 2005 - March 2007

Commodity Group	Weight	2006											
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Crop products	825.8	122.5	123.2	134.3	139.8	128.6	123.2	124.8	127.5	124.3	125.4	121.1	121.6
Sugar cane	615.9	131.1	131.1	131.1	131.1	131.1	131.1	130.6¹	130.6¹	130.6¹	130.6¹	130.6¹	130.6¹
Other crop products	209.9	97.2	100.0	143.8	165.3	121.1	100.2	107.8	118.5	105.8	110.0	93.2	95.4
Root crops	20.2	112.9	97.8	100.8	89.4	94.5	124.9	131.1	131.0	130.7	129.2	130.7	130.9
Fruits	28.8	87.2	105.4	84.2	72.4	74.5	78.7	86.2	90.8	98.5	108.6	78.8	59.1
Fresh vegetables	138.0	92.4	94.8	165.7	201.5	133.1	96.0	104.6	120.0	99.2	103.1	84.1	91.4
Flowers, ornamental plants	11.5	133.7	137.5	133.7	136.3	137.3	136.3	141.9	140.8 ²	140.8 ²	147.4 ²	140.6 ²	141.8 ²
Tea	7.3	107.3	107.3	107.3	107.3	107.3	107.3	107.3	107.3	107.3	107.3	107.3	107.3
Tobacco	4.1	131.7	131.7	131.7	157.1 ²	157.1 ²	157.1 ²	157.1 ²	157.1 ²	157.1 ²	157.1 ²	157.1 ²	157.1 ²
Animals & animal products	174.2	120.3	119.9	126.2	127.1	119.0	123.5	126.8	128.8	128.4	127.9	133.6	135.4
Cattle	2.2	136.8	136.8	136.8	136.8	136.8	136.8	136.8	136.8	136.8	136.8	136.8	136.8
Pigs	4.6	86.7	88.5	88.9	96.7	96.7	96.7	102.6	104.6	106.3	112.4	113.7	113.7
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	106.7	106.7	106.7	106.7	106.7	107.1	108.6	108.6	108.6	108.3	109.0	109.0
Poultry	111.3	122.7	121.4	131.9	133.8	121.3	126.9	128.2	128.2	128.2	128.0	137.0	139.4
Eggs	45.2	120.4	121.9	120.5	118.3	118.0	121.3	130.0	137.4	135.9	133.8	133.5	134.4
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	122.1	122.6	132.9	137.6	126.9	123.3	125.1	127.7	125.0	125.8	123.3	124.0

¹ Provisional

² 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 2005 - March 2007

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	120.6	120.5	123.1	127.8	123.4	123.8
Sugar cane	615.9	120.2	120.2	120.2	120.2	120.2	120.2	131.1	131.1	131.1	131.1	131.1	131.1
Other crop products	209.9	90.8	124.5	169.9	212.8	168.3	114.3	89.7	89.5	99.7	118.0	100.8	102.4
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	138.6	139.9
Tea	7.3	99.7	99.7	99.7	99.7	99.7	99.7	107.3	107.3	107.3	107.3	107.3	107.3 ¹
Tobacco	4.1	128.8	128.8	128.8	131.7	131.7	131.7	131.7	131.7	131.7	131.7	131.7	131.7 ¹
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	106.7	106.7
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	119.3	118.9	121.1	124.8	120.9	121.4

¹ Revised

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 2006 - March 2007

	Weight	Percentage changes from											
		Mar 06 to	Apr 06 to	May 06 to	June 06 to	July 06 to	Aug 06 to	Sept 06 to	Oct 06 to	Nov 06 to	Dec 06 to	Jan 07 to	Feb 07 to
		Apr 06	May 06	June 06	July 06	Aug06	Sept 06	Oct 06	Nov 06	Dec 06	Jan 07	Feb 07	Mar 07
Crop products	825.8	4.1	-8.0	-4.2	1.3	2.2	-2.5	0.9	-3.4	0.4	4.4	5.7	13.0
Sugar cane	615.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other crop products	209.9	15.0	-26.7	-17.3	7.6	9.9	-10.7	4.0	-15.3	2.4	21.8	24.1	47.8
Root crops	20.2	-11.3	5.7	32.2	5.0	-0.1	-0.2	-1.1	1.2	0.2	-8.7	-15.9	32.9
Fruits	28.8	-14.0	2.9	5.6	9.5	5.3	8.5	10.3	-27.4	-25.0	66.8	21.8	-38.6
Fresh vegetables	138.0	21.6	-33.9	-27.9	9.0	14.7	-17.3	3.9	-18.4	8.7	27.7	34.6	69.8
Flowers, ornamental plants	11.5	1.9	0.7	-0.7	4.1	-0.8	0.0	4.7	-4.6	0.9	-2.1	5.3	-1.6
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	19.3	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	0.7	-6.4	3.8	2.7	1.6	-0.3	-0.4	4.5	1.3	8.3	0.0	0.1
Cattle	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-1.7	0.0	0.0
Pigs	4.6	8.8	0.0	0.0	6.1	1.9	1.6	5.7	1.2	0.0	1.8	2.9	0.0
Goat	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-10.7	0.0	0.0
Deer	5.8	0.0	0.0	0.4	1.4	0.0	0.0	-0.3	0.6	0.0	16.0	0.0	0.0
Poultry	111.3	1.4	-9.3	4.6	1.0	0.0	0.0	-0.2	7.0	1.8	9.7	0.0	0.0
Eggs	45.2	-1.8	-0.3	2.8	7.2	5.7	-1.1	-1.5	-0.2	0.7	6.3	-0.2	0.4
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	3.5	-7.8	-2.8	1.5	2.1	-2.1	0.6	-2.0	0.6	5.1	4.6	10.6

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 2006 - March 2007

Commodity Group	Weight	Percentage changes from											
		Apr 05 to	May 05 to	Jun 05 to	Jul 05 to	Aug 05 to	Sept 05 to	Oct 05 to	Nov 05 to	Dec 05 to	Jan 06 to	Feb 06 to	Mar 06 to
		Apr 06	May 06	Jun 06	Jul 06	Aug 06	Sept 06	Oct 06	Nov 06	Dec 06	Jan 07	Feb 07	Mar 07
Crop products	825.8	-2.7	-2.9	3.8	3.5	5.8	1.0	-1.9	-1.9	-1.8	3.6	8.8	12.9
Sugar cane	615.9	9.1	9.1	9.1	-0.4								
Other crop products	209.9	-22.3	-28.0	-12.3	20.2	32.4	6.1	-6.8	-7.5	-6.8	19.5	44.2	48.2
Root crops	20.2	-7.3	-23.3	5.3	2.3	2.3	2.8	1.9	3.2	2.7	5.8	2.8	32.5
Fruits	28.8	-13.6	-5.1	2.1	10.1	0.7	-0.9	-13.3	-14.7	-18.7	13.1	13.9	-12.5
Fresh vegetables	138.0	-25.9	-34.0	-20.4	29.0	52.3	8.3	-9.6	-10.8	-9.1	26.3	65.7	61.0
Flowers, ornamental plants	11.5	4.3	6.5	7.3	10.7	15.2	5.6	11.2	1.4	1.4	3.8	6.3	7.5
Tea	7.3	7.6	7.6	7.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Tobacco	4.1	19.3	19.3	19.3	19.3	19.3	19.3	19.3	19.3	19.3	19.3	19.3	19.3
Animals & animal products	174.2	12.8	4.9	8.3	12.2	15.4	15.2	15.6	22.6	22.8	21.9	22.4	16.4
Cattle	2.2	24.9	24.9	22.8	19.0	19.0	19.0	12.7	0.3	0.3	-1.7	-1.7	-1.7
Pigs	4.6	69.6	69.6	69.6	63.9	67.1	69.8	55.7	50.2	45.8	33.4	34.6	34.0
Goat	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-10.7	-10.7	-10.7
Deer	5.8	2.3	1.6	-1.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.5	2.2	2.2	18.5	18.5	18.5
Poultry	111.3	19.0	7.9	12.9	17.2	19.4	19.4	19.2	27.6	29.8	24.6	25.9	15.9
Eggs	45.2	-2.4	-4.5	-3.5	1.4	7.4	6.7	8.9	15.4	11.4	18.7	17.0	18.8
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	-0.5	-1.7	4.6	4.9	7.4	3.2	0.8	2.0	2.1	6.7	11.2	13.5

Quarterly Producer Price Index -Agriculture (PPI-A)

(Base period:Year 2002=100)

Table 4: Quarterly indices ¹ by commodity groups and products, 2nd Quarter 2005 - 1st Quarter 2007

Commodity Group	Weight	2005			2006				2007
		2nd Qr	3rd Qr	4th Qr	1st Qr	2nd Qr	3rd Qr	4th Qr	1st Qr
Crop products	825.8	130.8	121.5	124.6	126.2	130.3	125.5	122.4	136.2
Sugar cane	615.9	120.2	131.1	131.1	131.1	131.1	130.6²	130.6²	130.6²
Other crop products	209.9	161.9	93.2	105.7	111.8	127.8	110.7	98.2	152.6
Root crops	20.2	117.0	127.9	127.0	108.3	117.9	131.0	130.3	118.0
Fruits	28.8	79.8	90.1	86.1	91.4	75.3	92.3	72.1	100.1
Fresh vegetables	138.0	192.6	84.0	103.2	114.3	139.7	107.8	93.0	171.7
Flowers, ornamental plants	11.5	128.9	127.9	137.0	135.0	136.6	141.2 ³	143.3 ³	142.9 ²
Tea	7.3	99.7	107.3	107.3	107.3	107.3 ³	107.3 ³	107.3 ³	107.3 ²
Tobacco	4.1	131.7	131.7	131.7	131.7	157.1 ³	157.1 ³	157.1 ³	157.1 ²
Animals & animal products	174.2	113.4	112.0	110.0	122.1	123.2	128.0	132.3	146.8
Cattle	2.2	110.1	115.0	131.4	136.8	136.8	136.8	136.8	134.5
Pigs	4.6	57.0	62.6	75.3	88.0	96.7	104.5	113.3	118.0
Goat	1.3	105.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	93.8
Deer	5.8	105.9	108.3	106.7	106.7	106.8	108.6	108.8	126.4
Poultry	111.3	112.4	108.1	107.4	125.3	127.3	128.2	134.8	152.9
Eggs	45.2	123.5	127.8	119.7	120.9	119.2	134.4	133.9	142.9
Milk	3.8	105.6	105.6	105.6	105.6	105.6	105.6	105.6	105.6
Overall Index	1,000.0	127.8	119.8	122.1	125.5	129.1	125.9	124.1	138.0

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

² Provisional

³ Revised

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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 2006 - 1st Quarter 2007

Commodity Group	Weight	Percentage changes from previous quarter				Percentage changes from corresponding quarter of previous year				Net contributions from			
		1st Qr 06 to	2nd Qr 06 to	3rd Qr 06 to	4th Qr 06 to	2nd Qr 05 to	3rd Qr 05 to	4th Qr 05 to	1st Qr 06 to	1st Qr 06 to	2nd Qr 06 to	3rd Qr 06 to	4th Qr 06 to
		2nd Qr 06	3rd Qr 06	4th Qr 06	1st Qr 07	2nd Qr 06	3rd Qr 06	4th Qr 06	1st Qr 07	2nd Qr 06	3rd Qr 06	4th Qr 06	1st Qr 07
Crop products	825.8	3.2	-3.7	-2.5	11.3	-0.4	3.3	-1.8	7.9	3.36	-3.91	-2.61	11.42
Sugar cane	615.9	0.0	-0.4	0.0	0.0	9.1	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	0.00	-0.31	0.00	0.00
Other crop products	209.9	14.3	-13.4	-11.3	55.4	-21.1	18.8	-7.1	36.5	3.36	-3.60	-2.61	11.42
Root crops	20.2	8.9	11.1	-0.5	-9.4	0.8	2.4	2.6	9.0	0.19	0.26	-0.01	-0.25
Fruits	28.8	-17.6	22.6	-21.9	38.8	-5.6	2.4	-16.3	9.5	-0.46	0.49	-0.58	0.81
Fresh vegetables	138.0	22.2	-22.8	-13.7	84.6	-27.5	28.3	-9.9	50.2	3.51	-4.40	-2.04	10.86
Flowers, ornamental plants	11.5	1.2	3.4	1.5	-0.3	6.0	10.4	4.6	5.9	0.02	0.05	0.02	0.00
Tea	7.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tobacco	4.1	19.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	19.3	19.3	19.3	19.3	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
Animals & animal products	174.2	0.9	3.9	3.4	11.0	8.6	14.3	20.3	20.2	0.18	0.84	0.75	2.52
Cattle	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	-1.7	24.3	19.0	4.1	-1.7	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.01
Pigs	4.6	9.9	8.1	8.4	4.1	69.6	66.9	50.5	34.1	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.02
Goat	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	-10.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	-10.7	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.01
Deer	5.8	0.1	1.7	0.2	16.2	0.8	0.3	2.0	18.5	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.10
Poultry	111.3	1.6	0.7	5.1	13.4	13.3	18.6	25.5	22.0	0.22	0.10	0.73	2.01
Eggs	45.2	-1.4	12.8	-0.4	6.7	-3.5	5.2	11.9	18.2	-0.08	0.69	-0.02	0.41
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	2.9	-2.5	-1.4	11.2	1.0	5.1	1.6	10.0	3.54	-3.07	-1.86	13.94

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, 2004 - 2006

Commodity Group	Weight	Annual index ¹			Percentage changes from		Net contributions from	
		2004	2005	2006	2004 to 2005	2005 to 2006	2004 to 2005	2005 to 2006
Crop products	825.8	113.1	123.9	125.8	9.5	1.5	8.92	1.60
Sugar cane	615.9	116.7	125.7	130.9 ²	7.7	4.1	5.54	3.20
Other crop products	209.9	102.6	118.7	111.0	15.7	-6.5	3.38	-1.60
Root crops	20.2	116.1	125.9	129.2	8.4	2.6	0.20	0.07
Fruits	28.8	101.7	89.8	81.1	-11.7	-9.7	-0.34	-0.25
Fresh vegetables	138.0	99.2	123.1	111.3	24.1	-9.6	3.30	-1.63
Flowers, ornamental plants	11.5	119.5	130.6	139.0 ²	9.3	6.4	0.13	0.10
Tea	7.3	99.5	103.5 ³	107.3 ³	4.0	3.7	0.03	0.03
Tobacco	4.1	116.3	131.0 ³	150.8 ³	12.6	15.1	0.06	0.08
Animals & animal products	174.2	111.6	111.9	126.4	0.3	13.0	0.07	2.52
Cattle	2.2	100.0	117.5	136.8	17.5	16.4	0.04	0.04
Pigs	4.6	63.4	62.9	101.2	-0.8	60.9	0.00	0.18
Goat	1.3	100.0	105.0	105.0	5.0	0.0	0.01	0.00
Deer	5.8	104.1	106.3	107.7	2.1	1.3	0.01	0.01
Poultry	111.3	111.9	110.0	128.9	-1.7	17.2	-0.21	2.10
Eggs	45.2	118.0	122.9	127.1	4.2	3.4	0.22	0.19
Milk	3.8	105.6	105.6	105.6	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.00
Total	1,000.0	112.8	121.8	125.9	8.0	3.4	8.99	4.12

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

² Provisional

³ Revised

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