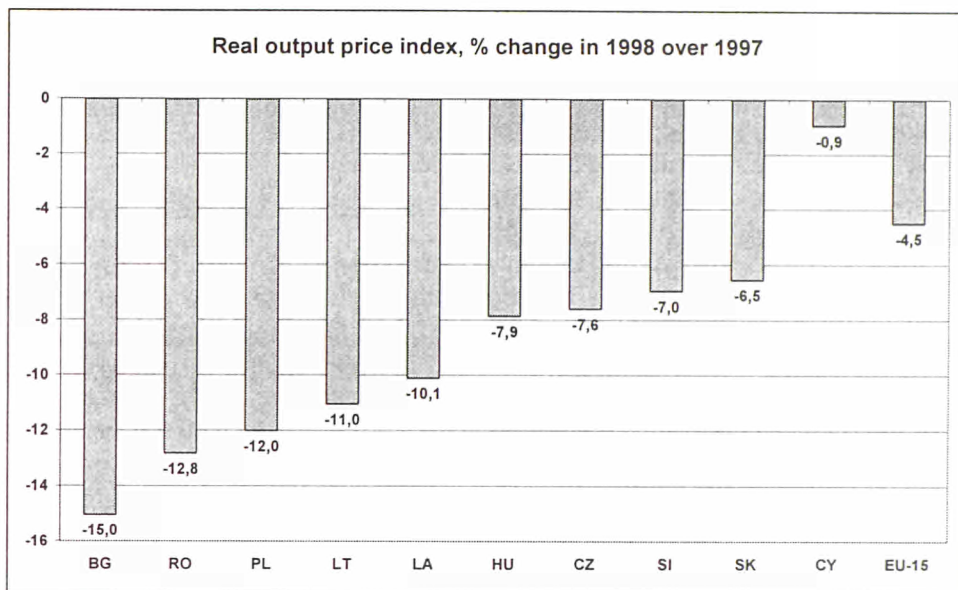


AGRICULTURAL PRICE TRENDS IN THE CANDIDATE COUNTRIES IN 1998

G. Mahon



The annual index of the producer prices of agricultural products declined in real (i.e. deflated) terms in 1998 compared to 1997, for those Candidate Countries for which data were available to Eurostat (see graph). Agricultural output prices in the European Union decreased (-4.5%) and steeper price falls were seen in almost all Candidate Countries, especially in Lithuania (-11.0%), Latvia (-10.1%), Poland (-12.0%), Romania (-12.8%) and Bulgaria (-15.0%). More moderate but still marked declines in the total output price index were seen in the Slovak Republic (-6.5%), Slovenia (-7.0%), the Czech Republic (-7.6%) and Hungary (-7.9%). Cyprus was the exception, showing only a small decrease in real output prices (-0.9%) compared with the previous year.

The marked producer price decreases overall in the Candidate Countries were mainly due to steep price falls for crop products and more moderate but still notable price declines for animals and animal products. In contrast, in the European Union, real prices for crop products were almost unchanged, but prices for animals and animal products fell markedly.

On the input side, price indices for goods and services for current consumption in agriculture were available for five Candidate Countries. A large real price increase was seen in 1998 for Estonia (+33.5%). In contrast, price declines were seen in Poland (-0.5%), the Slovak Republic (-3.3%), Cyprus (-5.3%) and Lithuania (-10.7%). By way of comparison, prices of these inputs fell in the European Union (-4.5%).

Statistics
in focus

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

THEME 5 – 5/2000

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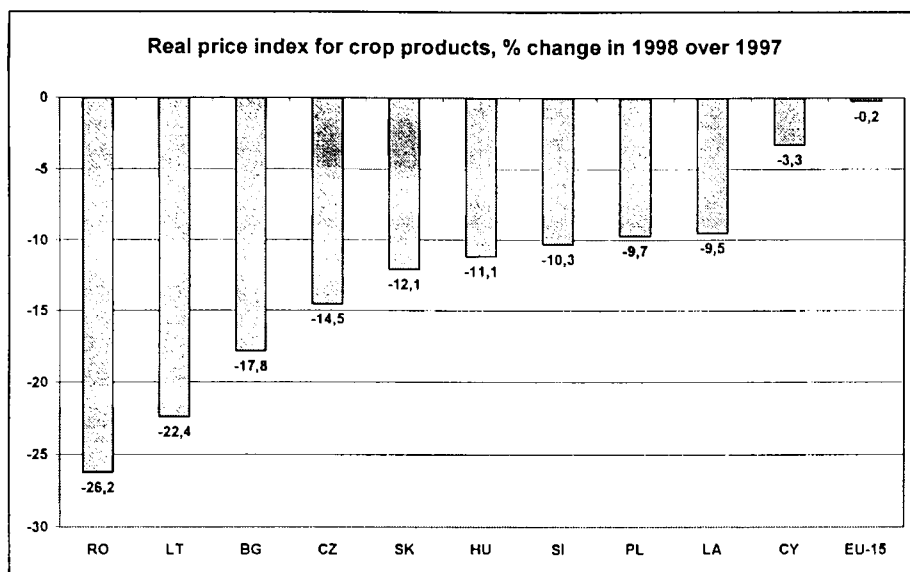
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Crop products

Concerning the producer prices of agricultural products (see Table 1) the declines were noted in the index for crop products and the index for animals and animal products, in all Candidate Countries (with the exception of animals and animal products in Cyprus). For crop products (see graph), real price decreases were seen in all countries. The price fall was moderate in Cyprus (-3.3%) but steep for the continental countries: Latvia (-9.5%), Poland (-9.7%), Slovenia (-10.3%), Hungary (-11.1%), the Slovak Republic (-12.1%), the Czech Republic (-14.5%), Bulgaria (-17.8%), Lithuania (-22.4%) and Romania (-26.2%). In contrast, prices of crop products in the European Union were almost unchanged (-0.2%).

Concerning selected crop products (see Table 2), the price trend was mainly downwards for cereals and rice, upwards for potatoes, and of various sign for fresh vegetables. The decline in the real price index for cereals and rice for the continental Candidate Countries ranged from -9.8% in Slovenia to -44.9% in Bulgaria. In the European Union, a steep price decline was



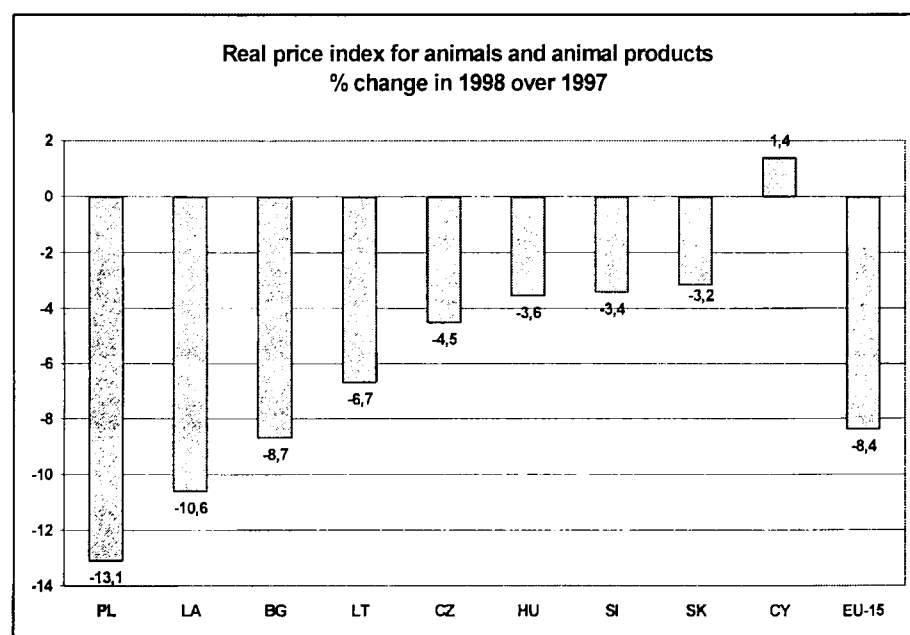
also seen (-9.5%). In contrast, there was a moderate price rise in Cyprus (+2.2%) for cereals and rice.

For potatoes for consumption, marked price rises were observed for most Candidate Countries, ranging from +1.7% in Latvia to +68.2% in Hungary. A large price rise had also been seen in the European Union (+44.4%). However, a decline in the real potato price was reported in Cyprus (-6.9%) and Poland (-15.3%).

Concerning fresh vegetables, a

relatively heterogeneous product group, there were large price increases in Slovenia and Lithuania (+43.6% and +52.0% respectively). Price decreases, ranging from slight to marked, were seen in the other Candidate Countries: the Slovak Republic (-0.5%), Cyprus (-2.2%), the Czech Republic (-6.5%), Hungary (-14.0%), Poland (-14.8%), Romania (-39.0%), Bulgaria (-58.2%) and Latvia (-72.3%). Within the European Union, there was little change in the real price index for fresh vegetables.

Animals and animal products



The real price index for animals and animal products declined in all the continental Candidate Countries (see graph and Table 1). Changes ranged from -3.2% in the Slovak Republic to -13.1% in Poland. Prices for animals and animal products fell steeply in the European Union (-8.4%). Cyprus was again an exception amongst the Candidate Countries with a moderate price rise (+1.4%).

Concerning selected animals and animal products (see Table 3) price changes of various sign were observed for cattle (excluding calves) and milk, but notable price decreases were seen for pigs in most countries. For cattle, there

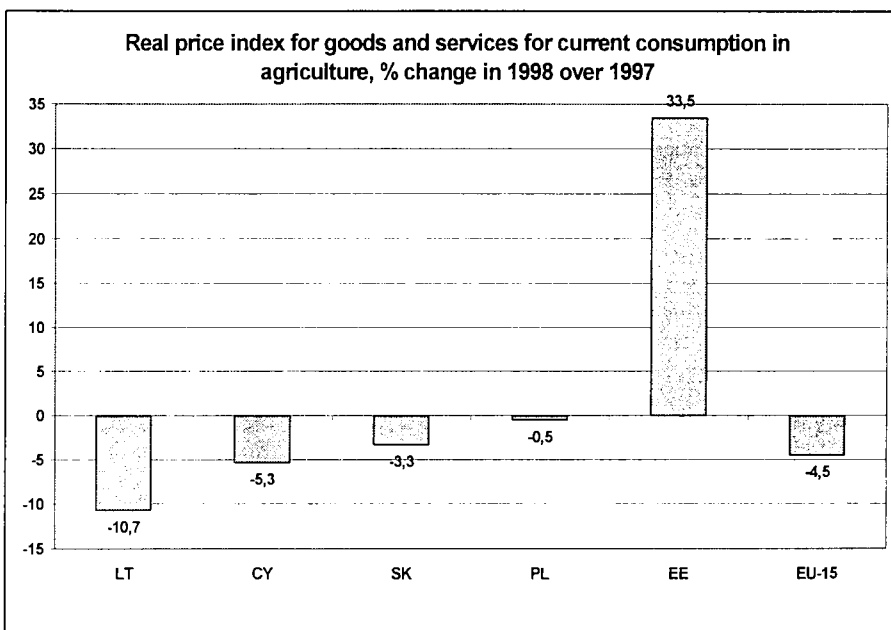
were large price rises in Hungary (+11.5%), Latvia (+20.3%) and Romania (+41.7%) in 1998, reversing the downward trend of previous years. Prices were unchanged in Lithuania. In contrast, price declines were observed in the Slovak Republic (-2.7%), Poland (-12.4%) and Bulgaria (-18.8%). Cattle prices in the European Union were almost unchanged (-0.1%).

The real price index for milk rose in Cyprus (+3.1%), Bulgaria (+7.8%) and Hungary (+8.7%), but fell in the remaining Candidate Countries:- the Czech Republic (-1.0%), the Slovak Republic (-1.2%), Lithuania (-3.5%), Poland (-7.5%), Romania (-8.3%) and Latvia (-25.0%). In the European Union, a moderate decline in the milk price was seen (-1.3%).

For pigs, moderate price rises were observed in Cyprus (+1.8%) and the Czech Republic (+2.2%). However, in the other Candidate Countries, moderate to steep price falls were seen:- the Slovak Republic (-3.7%), Romania (-8.4%), Latvia (-15.2%), Lithuania (-17.7%), Poland (-18.4%) and Bulgaria (-27.5%). The pig price fell even more steeply in the European Union (-29.1%).

Means of production

Fewer data were available for input prices than for output prices. Concerning the real price index for goods and services for current consumption in agriculture (see graph and Table 4), a marked price increase was seen in Estonia (+33.5%). Price decreases were seen in the other Candidate Countries:- Poland (-0.5%), the Slovak Republic (-3.3%), Cyprus (-5.3%) and Lithuania (-10.7%). A price decrease for these current inputs was also observed in the European Union (-4.5%).



Concerning the prices of selected inputs, price declines were recorded in almost all countries for animal feedingstuffs and for fertilizers and soil improvers. However, for energy and lubricants, changes of various sign were seen. Concerning animal feedingstuffs, there was a strong price rise in Estonia (+22.2%) but price falls in all other Candidate Countries:- Cyprus (-6.9%), Poland (-8.6%), Slovenia (-12.0%), the Slovak Republic (-12.5%) and the Czech Republic (-15.0%). A price decline was also seen in the European Union (-7.6%).

For fertilizers and soil improvers, real price increases were observed in the Czech Republic (+3.2%) and Estonia (+7.8%). Price decreases were seen in the other countries:- the Slovak Republic (-2.6%), Cyprus (-3.7%), Poland (-3.8%), Slovenia (-6.8%), Hungary (-9.6%) and especially Lithuania (-25.9%). A price decrease for fertilizers and soil improvers was observed in the European Union (-5.3%).

Concerning energy and lubricants, there were price rises in the Slovak Republic (+0.6%), Slovenia (+7.5%) and especially Estonia (+33.0%). Slight or moderate price declines were seen in the other Candidate Countries:- Hungary (-0.1%), Poland (-1.0%) and Cyprus (-5.2%). A steeper price decline was seen in the European Union (-7.2%).

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Type of index: The price indices received from the different Candidate Countries are usually Laspeyres type indices with various base years or chain indices (Bulgaria: Paasche type index). To enable comparisons to be made, Eurostat has re-referenced all the indices to 1995=100. However, because of the methodological differences, the indices from different countries are not fully comparable.

Deflation: The rate of inflation can be quite different from one country to another. Thus, to improve comparability, Eurostat has deflated each agricultural price index using the consumer price index for the country in question. The terms "deflated" and "real" are used synonymously in this report.

Table 1
Real index of producer prices of agricultural products

1995=100	Deflated index					Annual rate of change %			
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	95/94	96/95	97/96	98/97
Total									
Bulgaria	109.4	100.0	121.7	105.1	89.3	-8.6	21.7	-13.6	-15.0
Cyprus		100.0	95.9	100.1	99.1		-4.1	4.3	-0.9
Czech Republic	101.4	100.0	99.6	94.6	87.4	-1.3	-0.4	-5.0	-7.6
Hungary		100.0	111.0	104.6	96.4		11.0	-5.7	-7.9
Latvia		100.0	91.9	75.6	67.9		-8.1	-17.8	-10.1
Lithuania	93.4	100.0	96.2	83.4	74.2	7.1	-3.8	-13.3	-11.0
Poland		100.0	101.8	97.3	85.7		1.8	-4.4	-12.0
Romania	95.9	100.0	99.8	92.0	80.2	4.2	-0.2	-7.8	-12.8
Slovak Republic	106.4	100.0	99.6	99.2	92.7	-6.0	-0.4	-0.5	-6.5
Slovenia		100.0	102.3	102.5	95.3		2.3	0.2	-7.0
European Union	99.4	100.0	97.4	93.8	89.6	0.6	-2.6	-3.7	-4.5
Crop Products									
Bulgaria	114.6	100.0	150.3	122.1	100.4	-12.7	50.3	-18.7	-17.8
Cyprus		100.0	94.7	104.0	100.6		-5.3	9.8	-3.3
Czech Republic	101.8	100.0	107.3	102.2	87.4	-1.8	7.3	-4.7	-14.5
Hungary		100.0	122.5	107.1	95.2		22.5	-12.6	-11.1
Latvia		100.0	93.4	67.6	61.2		-6.6	-27.6	-9.5
Lithuania	95.6	100.0	105.3	82.7	64.2	4.7	5.3	-21.5	-22.4
Poland		100.0	110.4	96.3	86.9		10.4	-12.8	-9.7
Romania	95.1	100.0	97.9	91.3	67.4	5.1	-2.1	-6.8	-26.2
Slovak Republic	107.8	100.0	103.9	104.0	91.5	-7.2	3.9	0.2	-12.1
Slovenia		100.0	110.0	101.2	90.8		10.0	-8.0	-10.3
European Union	95.2	100.0	96.4	90.9	90.7	5.0	-3.6	-5.6	-0.2
Animals and animal products									
Bulgaria	101.2	100.0	82.4	90.8	82.9	-1.1	-17.6	10.1	-8.7
Cyprus		100.0	97.7	96.0	97.3		-2.3	-1.7	1.4
Czech Republic	100.9	100.0	96.6	91.5	87.4	-0.9	-3.4	-5.2	-4.5
Hungary		100.0	96.6	101.5	97.8		-3.4	5.0	-3.6
Latvia		100.0	90.7	82.1	73.4		-9.3	-9.5	-10.6
Lithuania	93.4	100.0	93.3	83.8	78.2	7.0	-6.7	-10.2	-6.7
Poland		100.0	96.9	97.3	84.6		-3.1	0.3	-13.1
Romania									
Slovak Republic	105.4	100.0	96.5	96.3	93.3	-5.1	-3.5	-0.2	-3.2
Slovenia		100.0	99.4	100.5	97.0		-0.6	1.1	-3.4
European Union	103.5	100.0	98.6	96.6	88.5	-3.4	-1.4	-2.0	-8.4

Table 2
Real index of producer prices of certain crop products

1995=100	Deflated index					Annual rate of change %			
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	95/94	96/95	97/96	98/97
Cereals and rice									
Bulgaria	113.5	100.0	197.1	160.5	88.4	-11.9	97.1	-18.6	-44.9
Cyprus		100.0	97.9	94.7	96.8		-2.1	-3.3	2.2
Czech Republic	117.0	100.0	125.2	130.9	104.9	-14.5	25.2	4.6	-19.9
Hungary		100.0	155.3	123.5	81.3		55.3	-20.5	-34.1
Latvia		100.0	126.8	101.3	76.0		26.8	-20.2	-25.0
Lithuania	77.9	100.0	114.6	87.7	56.9	28.4	14.6	-23.5	-35.1
Poland		100.0	133.4	105.4	85.7		33.4	-21.0	-18.7
Romania									
Slovak Republic	116.5	100.0	110.0	113.2	99.2	-14.2	10.0	2.9	-12.4
Slovenia		100.0	116.9	102.5	92.4		16.9	-12.4	-9.8
European Union	101.1	100.0	95.5	84.6	76.5	-1.0	-4.5	-11.4	-9.5
Potatoes for consumption									
Bulgaria	107.0	100.0	102.6	127.0	142.2	-6.5	2.6	23.8	11.9
Cyprus		100.0	71.6	104.5	97.2		-28.4	45.9	-6.9
Czech Republic	46.5	100.0	59.3	31.8	47.6	115.3	-40.7	-46.3	49.5
Hungary		100.0	57.2	42.9	72.2		-42.8	-25.0	68.2
Latvia		100.0	67.6	42.6	43.3		-32.4	-37.1	1.7
Lithuania	94.6	100.0	37.2	38.5	61.1	5.7	-62.8	3.3	58.8
Poland		100.0	62.3	65.2	55.3		-37.7	4.7	-15.3
Romania	49.5	100.0	82.0	47.6	55.9	102.0	-18.0	-42.0	17.5
Slovak Republic	91.9	100.0	53.0	46.6	52.8	8.8	-47.0	-12.1	13.3
Slovenia									
European Union	80.5	100.0	53.1	47.5	68.6	24.2	-46.9	-10.5	44.4
Fresh vegetables									
Bulgaria	135.0	100.0	131.0	161.3	67.4	-25.9	31.0	23.1	-58.2
Cyprus		100.0	102.6	111.9	109.4		2.6	9.1	-2.2
Czech Republic	103.4	100.0	77.7	80.6	75.4	-3.3	-22.3	3.8	-6.5
Hungary		100.0	101.7	108.3	93.1		1.7	6.4	-14.0
Latvia		100.0	72.5	59.4	16.5		-27.5	-18.0	-72.3
Lithuania	231.1	100.0	89.9	93.3	141.7	-56.7	-10.1	3.8	52.0
Poland		100.0	106.8	105.0	89.4		6.8	-1.7	-14.8
Romania	116.4	100.0	105.6	118.5	72.3	-14.1	5.6	12.2	-39.0
Slovak Republic	107.3	100.0	97.6	104.0	103.5	-6.8	-2.4	6.6	-0.5
Slovenia		100.0	88.4	79.9	114.7		-11.6	-9.6	43.6
European Union	100.6	100.0	100.6	101.6	102.0	-0.6	0.6	1.0	0.4

Table 3

Real index of producer prices of certain animals and animal products

1995=100	Deflated index					Annual rate of change %			
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	95/94	96/95	97/96	98/97
Cattle excluding calves									
Bulgaria	82.5	100.0	62.1	85.6	69.5	21.2	-37.9	38.0	-18.8
Cyprus									
Czech Republic									
Hungary		100.0	83.7	75.1	83.8		-16.3	-10.3	11.5
Latvia		100.0	91.1	82.3	99.0		-8.9	-9.6	20.3
Lithuania	107.6	100.0	95.0	82.4	82.4	-7.1	-5.0	-13.3	0.0
Poland		100.0	94.5	79.9	70.0		-5.5	-15.4	-12.4
Romania	92.6	100.0	96.6	79.1	112.1	7.9	-3.4	-18.1	41.7
Slovak Republic	96.9	100.0	92.1	87.6	85.2	3.2	-7.9	-4.9	-2.7
Slovenia									
European Union	109.2	100.0	85.1	84.4	84.3	-8.5	-14.9	-0.8	-0.1
Milk									
Bulgaria	100.8	100.0	78.0	79.4	85.6	-0.8	-22.0	1.9	7.8
Cyprus		100.0	100.8	98.1	101.2		0.8	-2.6	3.1
Czech Republic	98.5	100.0	97.6	93.5	92.6	1.5	-2.4	-4.2	-1.0
Hungary		100.0	100.0	107.5	116.8		0.0	7.4	8.7
Latvia		100.0	98.9	91.0	68.3		-1.1	-8.0	-25.0
Lithuania	79.0	100.0	91.1	81.1	78.2	26.5	-8.9	-11.0	-3.5
Poland		100.0	96.4	95.9	88.7		-3.6	-0.5	-7.5
Romania	96.3	100.0	119.2	93.2	85.4	3.9	19.2	-21.8	-8.3
Slovak Republic	107.0	100.0	94.1	96.2	95.1	-6.6	-5.9	2.2	-1.2
Slovenia									
European Union	101.8	100.0	97.4	94.1	92.8	-1.8	-2.6	-3.4	-1.3
Pigs									
Bulgaria	93.9	100.0	75.1	119.3	86.5	6.5	-24.9	58.9	-27.5
Cyprus		100.0	99.6	98.5	100.3		-0.4	-1.1	1.8
Czech Republic	97.1	100.0	92.3	82.2	84.1	3.0	-7.7	-11.0	2.2
Hungary		100.0	82.1	91.6	82.8		-17.9	11.6	-9.6
Latvia		100.0	79.3	72.5	61.5		-20.7	-8.5	-15.2
Lithuania	126.4	100.0	95.8	94.1	77.4	-20.9	-4.2	-1.8	-17.7
Poland		100.0	97.2	106.6	87.0		-2.8	9.7	-18.4
Romania	92.3	100.0	98.8	86.7	79.4	8.4	-1.2	-12.2	-8.4
Slovak Republic	101.8	100.0	96.6	97.8	94.2	-1.7	-3.4	1.3	-3.7
Slovenia									
European Union	96.4	100.0	108.3	108.1	76.6	3.8	8.3	-0.2	-29.1

Table 4

Real index of purchase prices of the means of agricultural production

1995=100	Deflated index					Annual rate of change %			
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	95/94	96/95	97/96	98/97
Intermediate consumption									
Cyprus		100.0	101.7	105.4	99.8		1.7	3.6	-5.3
Czech Republic									
Estonia		100.0	30.6	41.9	55.9		-69.4	37.0	33.5
Hungary									
Lithuania	108.9	100.0	101.7	94.9	84.8	-8.2	1.7	-6.7	-10.7
Poland		100.0	99.3	99.6	99.1		-0.7	0.3	-0.5
Slovak Republic		100.0	98.6	105.0	101.6		-1.4	6.5	-3.3
Slovenia									
European Union	100.7	100.0	101.5	100.3	95.8	-0.7	1.5	-1.2	-4.5
Animal feedingstuffs									
Cyprus		100.0	103.5	107.0	99.6		3.5	3.3	-6.9
Czech Republic	100.8	100.0	100.2	109.2	92.8	-0.8	0.2	9.0	-15.0
Estonia		100.0	38.1	39.1	47.8		-61.9	2.7	22.2
Hungary									
Lithuania									
Poland		100.0	109.6	105.7	96.5		9.6	-3.6	-8.6
Slovak Republic		100.0	96.3	118.4	103.6		-3.7	22.9	-12.5
Slovenia		100.0	124.5	124.6	109.6		24.5	0.1	-12.0
European Union	103.5	100.0	102.7	101.2	93.5	-3.4	2.7	-1.4	-7.6
Fertilizers and soil improvers									
Cyprus		100.0	100.2	103.1	99.3		0.2	2.9	-3.7
Czech Republic	93.7	100.0	100.3	86.4	89.2	6.7	0.3	-13.9	3.2
Estonia		100.0	22.6	43.2	46.6		-77.4	91.2	7.8
Hungary		100.0	110.5	101.8	92.0		10.5	-7.9	-9.6
Lithuania	115.0	100.0	103.6	87.0	64.5	-13.0	3.6	-16.1	-25.9
Poland		100.0	93.9	90.4	87.0		-6.1	-3.8	-3.8
Slovak Republic	100.2	100.0	95.7	97.0	94.5	-0.2	-4.3	1.3	-2.6
Slovenia		100.0	98.5	90.0	83.9		-1.5	-8.6	-6.8
European Union	94.5	100.0	102.0	96.3	91.2	5.8	2.0	-5.6	-5.3
Energy and lubricants									
Cyprus		100.0	99.4	105.7	100.1		-0.6	6.2	-5.2
Czech Republic									
Estonia		100.0	19.4	46.7	62.1		-80.6	140.4	33.0
Hungary		100.0	108.3	110.6	110.5		8.3	2.1	-0.1
Lithuania									
Poland		100.0	98.7	100.7	99.7		-1.3	2.0	-1.0
Slovak Republic		100.0	95.2	97.1	97.7		-4.8	2.0	0.6
Slovenia		100.0	98.5	106.7	114.7		-1.5	8.3	7.5
European Union	102.4	100.0	104.7	105.5	97.8	-2.3	4.7	0.7	-7.2

Further information:

➤ Reference publications

Title Agricultural Price Trends in the European Union in 1998
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➤ Databases

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Eurostat thaks L. Gjorgievzka for her collaboration on this report.

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