NIQ Prestige **Foodservice Price Index (FPI)**

Snapshot Report - April 2026

Your source for accurate data, analysis and insights into today's food prices.

Monthly Snapshot..

Executive Summary

The UK Foodservice Price Index reached 150.7 in April 2026, recording a month-on-month inflation rate of 0.2%. Following the sharp 1.4% deflationary drop witnessed in March, this modest upward movement indicates that the temporary period of domestic cost relief has concluded. Year-on-year inflation now stands at 3.3%, reinforcing the reality that while the dramatic price spikes of previous years have smoothed out, the UK hospitality sector remains tethered to a structurally elevated cost base. This return to monthly growth is closely aligned with the sustained firmness in macroeconomic indicators, as the UK supply chain slowly begins to absorb the severe energy and commodity shocks that materialised at the end of the first quarter.

The global environment remains highly inflationary, driven by unrelenting energy costs and tightening agricultural supplies. Average Brent Crude oil prices remained stubbornly high at £87.25 per barrel in April, up marginally from the massive £87.21 spike recorded in March. This sustained high cost of energy continues to underpin transport, packaging, and agricultural input expenses globally. Consequently, the FAO Food Price Index averaged 130.7 points in April, rising 1.6% from its revised March level. This marks the third consecutive monthly increase for the global benchmark, pushing it 2.0% higher than a year ago. The international rise was driven heavily by vegetable oils, meat, and cereals, indicating broad-based global market firmness that is gradually unpicking the UK's domestic pricing buffers.

Inflation Ups & Downs against March..

FISH

Up 2.9%

MEAT & POULTRY

Down 0.6%

MILK, CHEESE & EGGS

Down 0.9%

VEGETABLES

Up 1.0%

The transmission of these global pressures was most visible in specific UK categories during April, led by a sharp 2.9% month-on-month surge in fish pricing. This spike reflects severe structural constraints, including North Atlantic whitefish quota limitations and resilient farmed salmon pricing, exacerbated by the high fuel costs associated with capture fisheries. Fresh produce also returned to inflation, with vegetables rising 1.0% month-on-month as the market transitioned into spring production cycles where energy-intensive protected cropping and unpredictable weather patterns dictate yields. The mineral water, soft drinks, and juices category similarly rose 1.0%, ending its period of stabilisation as high oil prices re-exerted pressure on PET packaging, transport, and global sugar dynamics, alongside tightening Brazilian orange juice supplies. Furthermore, coffee, tea, and cocoa climbed 0.9% due to structural deficits in West African cocoa and weather-related volatility impacting Brazilian and Vietnamese coffee crops.

Despite these upward pressures, strong domestic supply and strategic procurement continued to insulate operators in several major categories. Milk, cheese, and eggs fell by 0.9% month-on-month, serving as the primary deflationary anchor for the basket as robust UK milk supplies offset a firming global dairy powder market. Meat and poultry also registered a 0.6% decline, though this was largely a result of tactical domestic promotional activity masking a structurally tight global protein market where bovine and pig meat prices are trending upward. Oils and fats recorded 0.0% monthly movement, showcasing the effectiveness of UK forward-buying strategies that are actively delaying the impact of the FAO Vegetable Oil Price Index reaching its highest level since July 2022. Finally, bread and cereal edged up by just 0.2%, and sugar, jam, syrups, and chocolate rose a marginal 0.1%, both heavily moderated by existing contract cover despite strengthening international grain and sugar markets. As the sector moves towards the summer, the data clearly signals that the protective buffer of UK forward contracts is wearing thin against sustained global energy and commodity inflation, making strategic, data-led procurement absolutely critical to mitigating impending cost increases.

Prestige Purchasing are a leading expert in Value Chain. We provide knowledge, insight, and practical support to hospitality and foodservice businesses. We improve profitability by improving the way in which our clients source and manage what they sell.

Our services are tailored to allow us to assist businesses of any scale in the sector. Offering a bespoke consultancy based model we offer services contextualised in the statements below for our clients.

Supply Optimisation
For growing businesses that have not yet established a mature supply chain function we provide outsourced services that deliver profit improvement through the application of best in class techniques, using our team of experienced and capable buyers.

Procurement Transformation
For established businesses that have yet to establish "strategic procurement" and wish to introduce national, regional or global supply arrangements, often establishing their own team to develop and maintain them.

Procurement Support Services
A portfolio of services to support fully established procurement and supply chain teams in their mission to add value to their organisation. Services include Insight, Training, Analytics and Benchmarking.

Our services are 100% Transparent FIXED fee based and deliver between 2 and 7 times return on investment all backed up with financial guarantees.

We do not aggregate volume with other operators and build each project or service bespoke for each of our clients' needs delivering the maximum benefit to our clients bottom line.

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