NIQ Prestige Foodservice Price Index (FPI)

Snapshot Report - May 2026

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

Monthly Snapshot..

Executive Summary

The UK Foodservice Price Index reached 150.5 in May 2026, recording a slight month-on-month deflationary movement of 0.1%. Following the 0.2% increase observed in April, this fractional easing indicates a broadly stabilising market environment as UK operators continue to navigate complex global headwinds. Year-on-year inflation has further moderated to 3.1%, confirming that while the extreme inflationary spikes of previous years are firmly in the past, the sector is operating at a structurally higher, yet plateauing, cost base. This domestic stability was largely mirrored on the global stage, with the FAO Food Price Index averaging 130.8 points in May, down a marginal 0.2% from April. The global index now sits 2.9% higher than a year ago, reflecting a delicate balance where rising cereal and sugar costs are currently being offset by falling vegetable oils and dairy products.

However, energy costs continue to exert underlying pressure on the broader supply chain. The average Brent Crude oil price rose again in May to £84.95 per barrel, up from an adjusted £80.99 in April. This sustained firmness in energy markets is having a direct, quantifiable impact on global food commodities, most notably within the sugar complex. The FAO Sugar Price Index surged by 7.5% month-on-month in May, driven by expectations that higher crude oil prices will incentivise Brazilian producers to divert a larger share of their sugarcane crop towards ethanol production. This global dynamic directly influenced the UK market, driving a 0.4% month-on-month increase in both the mineral water, soft drinks, and juices category and the sugar, jam, syrups, and chocolate category, despite UK operators heavily utilising forward purchasing arrangements. Energy-linked volatility also contributed to the 0.7% rise in the coffee, tea, and cocoa category, which continues to battle structural tightness and weather-related disruptions across Brazil, Vietnam, and West Africa.

Inflation Ups & Downs against April..

FISH

Up 0.3%

OILS & FATS

Down 0.8%

SUGAR, JAM, SYRUPS & CHOCOLATE

Up 0.2%

VEGETABLES

Down 1.6%

Conversely, strong seasonal supply and effective UK procurement strategies provided a robust deflationary counterweight. The vegetables category led this relief with a 0.8% month-on-month drop, as the transition into peak European growing conditions significantly boosted availability for salads and leafy crops. The oils and fats category also fell by 0.8%, mirroring a 4.6% drop in the FAO Vegetable Oil Price Index caused by softer international demand for palm and soybean oils. Furthermore, the milk, cheese, and eggs category declined by 0.6%, benefiting from robust UK farmgate milk production that successfully insulated the domestic market from broader global demand fluctuations. The bread and cereal category recorded a minor 0.2% drop, highlighting a stark divergence from global markets where the FAO Cereal Price Index increased by 2.6% due to concerns over smaller harvests in the United States and rising fertiliser costs; UK retail pricing remains controlled by competitive procurement strategies for now.

While the overall basket has stabilised, underlying structural challenges persist in key protein categories. The fish category rose by 0.3% month-on-month, as strict quota restrictions on North Atlantic cod and haddock, combined with high vessel maintenance and fuel costs, kept capture fisheries structurally inflationary. Similarly, meat and poultry edged up by 0.2%, supported by resilient global demand and limited cattle availability in major producing countries undergoing herd rebuilding. As the sector moves into the summer months, the FPI data suggests a market held in equilibrium by conflicting forces: strong seasonal domestic supply effectively masking the impact of firm global energy prices and tightening international agricultural yields. Procurement strategies must focus heavily on climate monitoring, as extreme weather events across major growing regions remain the single greatest risk to unbalancing this fragile stability in the second half of 2026.

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.

Stuart Read
Head of Marketing
T - 07780 437 184
E - stuart.read@prestige-purchasing.com

Shaun Allen
Chief Executive Officer
T - 01908 324066
E - shaun.allen@prestige-purchasing.com

Office Address: Aurora House, Deltic Ave, Rooksley Roundabout, Bradwell Common, Milton Keynes MK13 8LW

NielsenIQ (NYSE: NIQ) is a leading consumer intelligence company, delivering the most complete and trusted understanding of consumer buying behavior and revealing new pathways to growth. By combining an unmatched global data footprint and granular consumer and retail measurement with decades of AI modeling expertise, NIQ builds decision systems that help companies turn complex data into confident action.

With operations in more than 90 countries, NIQ covers approximately 82% of the world's population and more than $7.4 trillion in global consumer spend. Through cloud-based platforms, advanced analytics and AI-driven insights, NIQ delivers The Full View™—helping brands and retailers understand what consumers buy, why they buy it, and what to do next.

For more information, please visit www.niq.com

Reuben Pullan
Senior Insight Consultant
T - 07816 531 977
E - reuben.pullan@nielseniq.com