

Apple prices up 40 percent to highest level ever – corrected

Embargoed until 10:45am – 14 February 2017

Record-high apple prices led to a 2.8 percent rise in food prices in January, Statistics New Zealand said today. The rise in food prices is the highest monthly increase since June 2009.

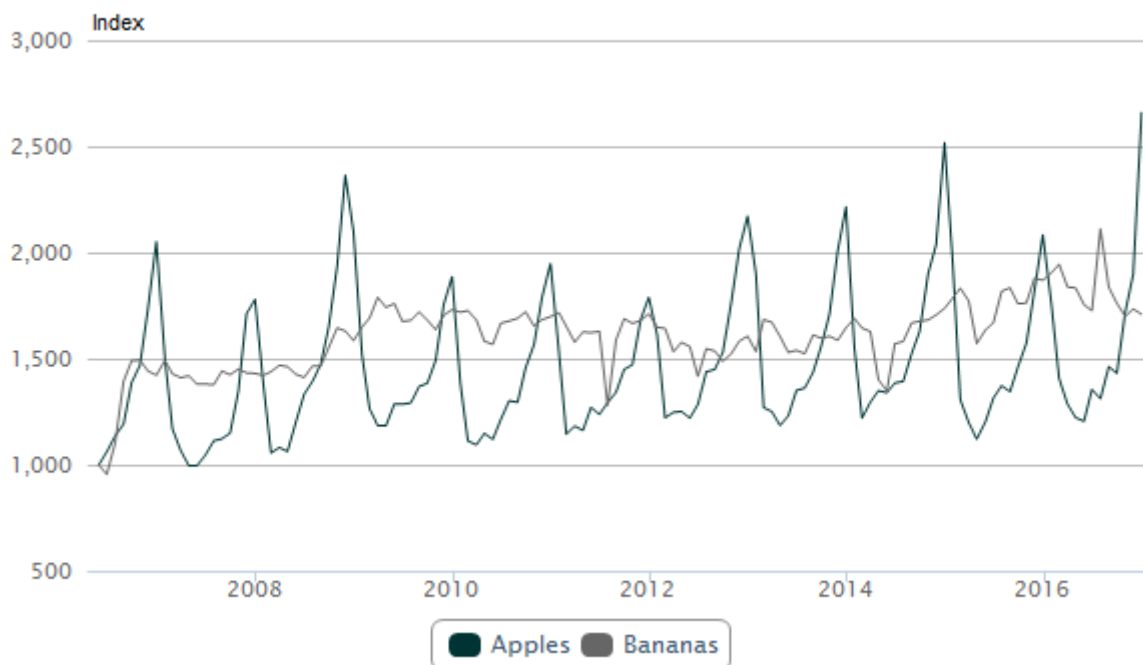
Fruit prices rose 12 percent with higher prices for apples.

“Apple prices usually rise in January months and are now at their highest level ever – with a kilo of apples at \$5.04 compared with \$3.60 last month, a rise of 40 percent,” consumer prices senior manager Jason Attewell said.

Apple prices were \$3.95 a kilo a year ago.

"Apples have been in short supply so far this year and this is reflected in higher prices."

FPI apples and bananas - indexes
Monthly indexes, Base: June 2006 (=1000)



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Vegetable prices rose 5.9 percent in January with seasonally higher prices for broccoli and carrots.

Higher food prices were seen across most food items in January 2017, with grocery food prices rising 2.4 percent due to higher chocolate and fresh milk prices. After seasonal adjustment, food prices rose 0.9 percent.

Food prices increased 1.4 percent in the year to January 2017 due to higher prices for vegetables, milk, and butter.

"Milk prices rose 5.5 percent in the year, from \$3.29 a year ago to \$3.47 for two litres of blue-top milk. Milk prices have had annual increases since October 2016," Mr Attewell said.

Ends

Note: The milk price increase was corrected from 5.8 percent to 5.5 percent on 14 February 2017.

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Authorised by Liz MacPherson, Government Statistician, 14 February 2017