



**An Rialálaí Agraibhia**  
Agri-Food Regulator

# Horticulture Price Trends in Ireland

An Agri-Food Regulator Report Using CSO Data.

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## Introduction

The horticulture sector in Ireland plays a central role in domestic food supply.

Despite its importance, there is a notable lack of comprehensive and detailed data on pricing across the wide range of produce covered by horticulture. This data gap makes it challenging to track trends, assess market conditions, and inform policy decisions accurately.

At present, there are limited publicly available pricing datasets that capture the diverse outputs of the horticulture sector. While some commodity groups are monitored closely, much of the sector remains underrepresented in official reporting.

Given these limitations, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) indexes provide the most consistent and reliable source of data for analysing price movements in the sector. Although these indexes aggregate a broad category of agricultural products, they offer valuable insights into long-term pricing trends. By focusing on these indexes, this report aims to present a clear and consistent picture of how input and output prices have evolved over 3, 5 and 10 year periods, providing a foundation for further analysis and discussion on the state of the Irish horticulture sector.





## Main CSO Indexes used in this Report

### Agricultural Input Price Index

This index tracks the cost of essential inputs in agricultural production. For the horticulture sector, it includes key categories such as fertilisers, energy, electricity, seeds, and plant protection.

### Agricultural Output Price Index

This index reflects the prices received by farmers for their produce. In the horticulture sector, it includes crop outputs, cereals, fruit and vegetables, and potatoes.

### Industrial Price Index for Fruit and Vegetables

This index monitors the prices of processed fruit and vegetable products. It reflects trends beyond raw agricultural output, capturing price movements at the industrial stage of the supply chain.

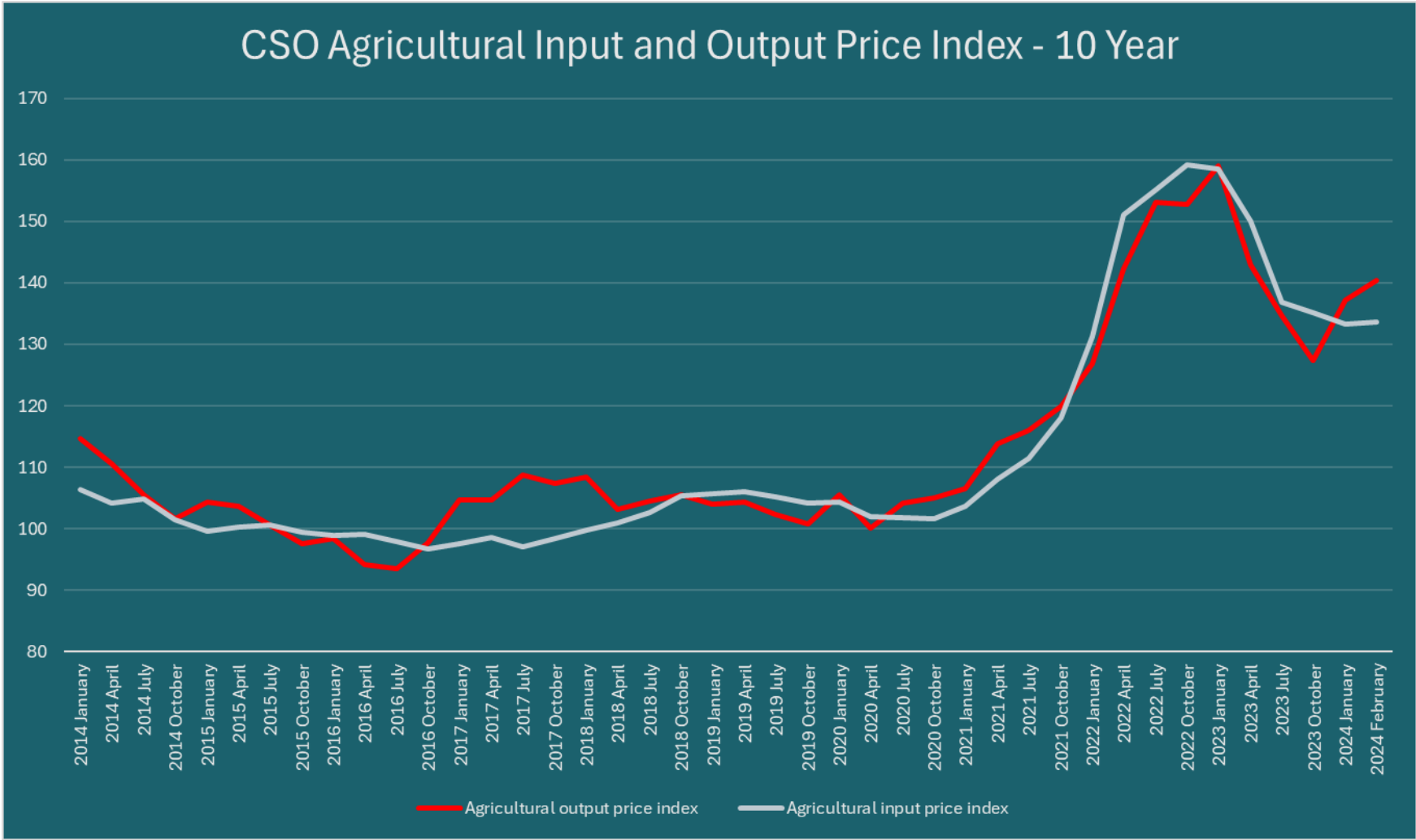
### Consumer Price Index (CPI)

This index measures the final retail prices paid by consumers. It provides insights into how input cost changes and other factors affect consumer-facing prices for food, fruit, vegetables, and potatoes.

\* A link to the CSO data source and a link to the details of subindexes used is provided under each slide.

# CSO Agricultural Input and Output Price Index

## 10 Year



### Input Index:

Between January 2014 and October 2016, the CSO Agricultural Input Index fell by over 9%.

This was followed by a significant increase beginning in 2021, with the index peaking in November 2022 at 50% above its 2014 value.

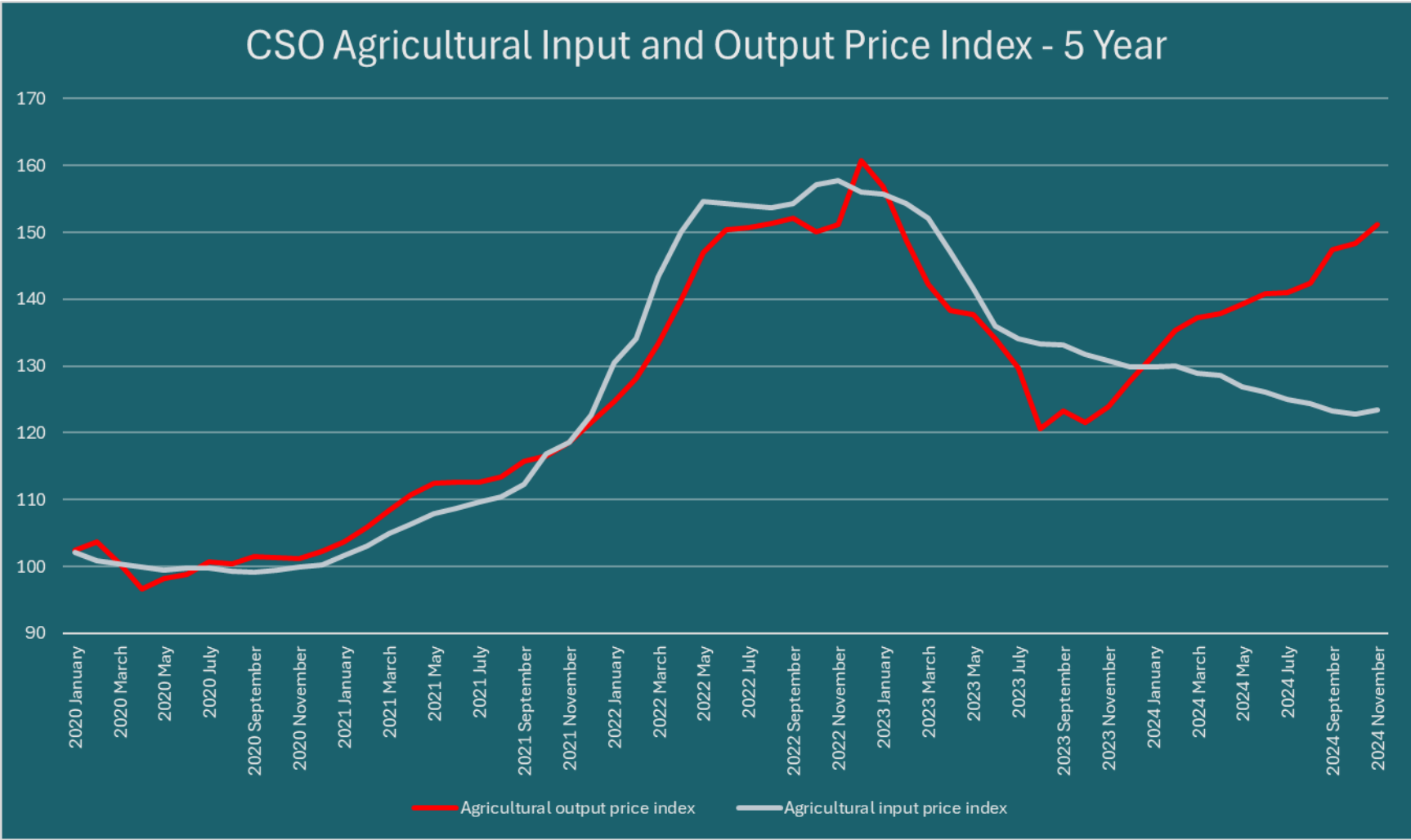
### Output Index:

A decline of over 18% occurred between January 2014 and July 2016.

However, output prices subsequently rose sharply, with the index reaching its highest point in December 2022, more than 42% above its starting value.

# CSO Agricultural Input and Output Price Index

## 5 Year



### Input Index:

Since January 2020, the Input Index increased considerably, peaking in November 2022 at 54% above its starting point.

This rise was particularly driven by substantial increases in the costs of fertilisers and energy.

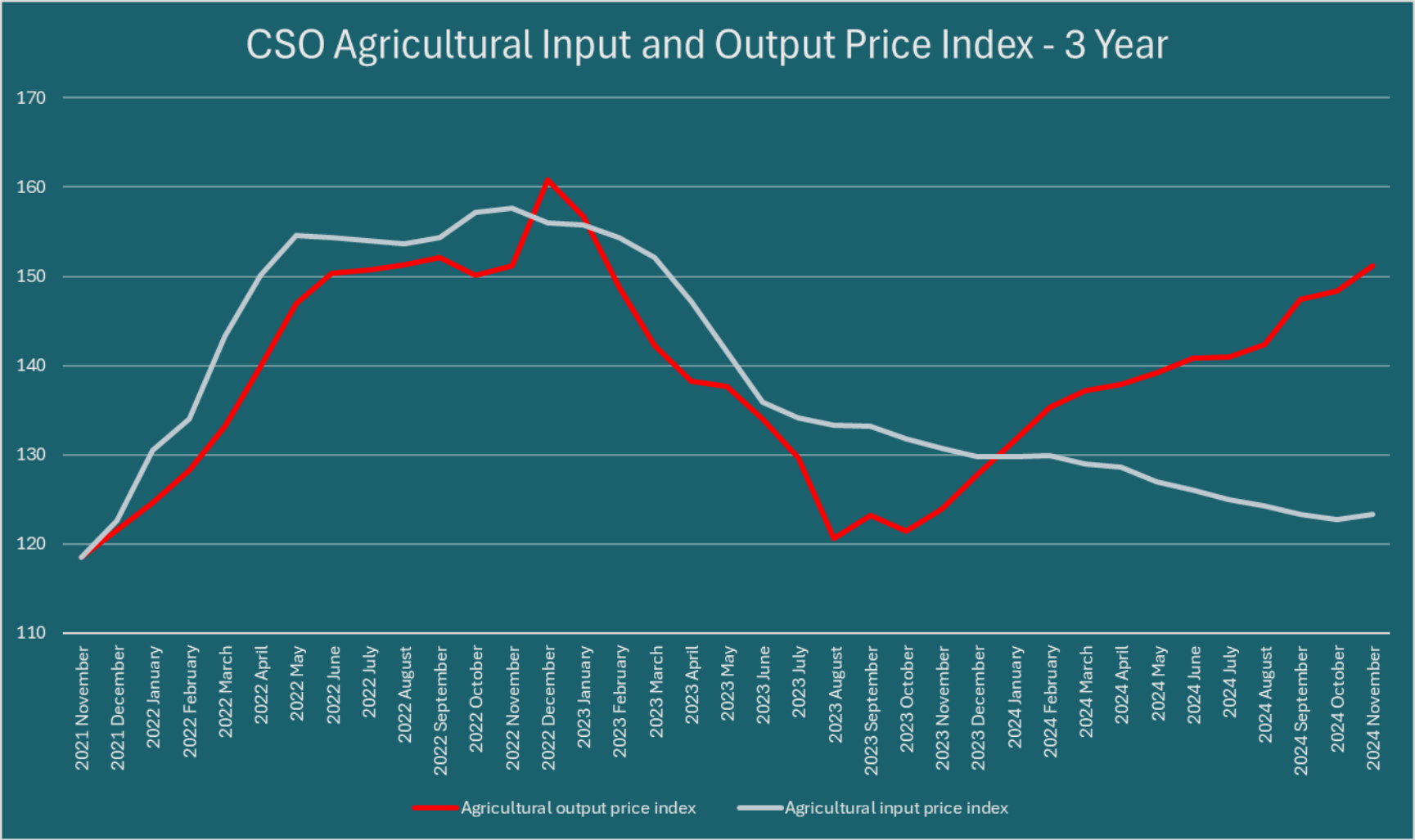
### Output Index:

Output prices also climbed significantly, peaking in December 2022 with a 57% increase.

Following this peak, the index declined steadily until August 2023, after which it began to rise again.

# CSO Agricultural Input and Output Price Index

## 3 Year



### Input Index:

Over the past three years, the Input Index has experienced sharp increases from 2020, culminating in a peak in late 2022.

This was followed by a gradual decline, which continued through to the end of 2024.

### Output Index:

A similar initial trend occurred for output prices, which fell sharply in August 2023 before recovering to near the peak.

# Teagasc - Key Horticulture Inputs 2024



Teagasc data highlights the primary cost drivers in horticulture, including fertiliser prices, energy consumption and plant protection measures.

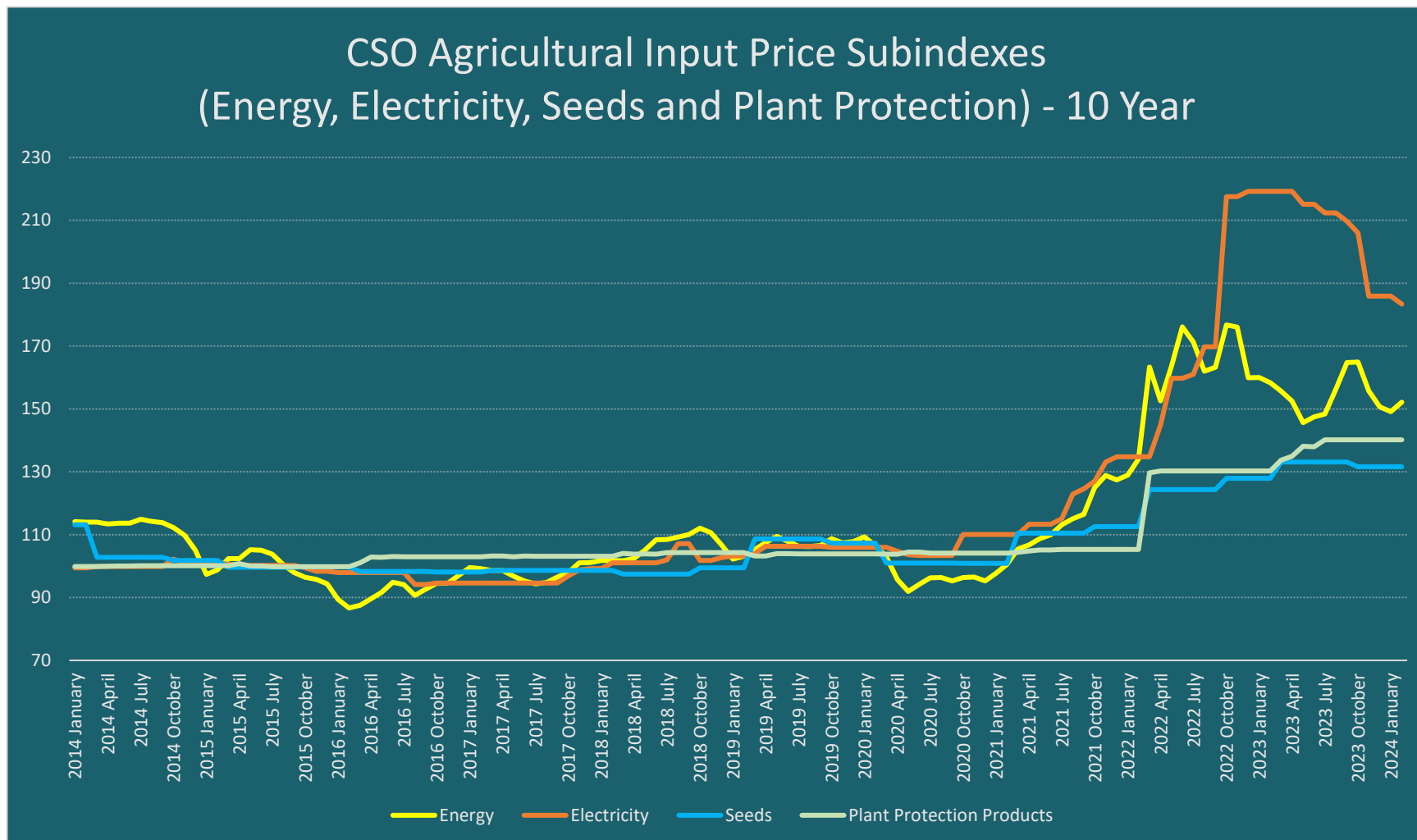
The Agri-Food Regulator looked to utilise sub-indexes to indicate how input and output in this sector might have changed over the period of this report.

Teagasc Crop Input Report 2024	Labour	Packaging	Fertilisers	Plant protection	Energy	Sector specific inputs	others
Mushrooms	46.3%	7.7%	0.0%	1.8%	5.9%	35.2%	3.1%
Nursery stock	36.5%	7.2%	5.5%	6.1%	7.2%	4.9%	32.5%
Soft fruit	43.1%	4.6%	4.8%	4.9%	9.6%	9.6%	23.4%
Top Fruit	46.9%	9.2%	2.4%	13.8%	3.3%	0.0%	24.4%
Vegetables	38.7%	5.4%	6.5%	4.9%	5.5%	10.2%	28.8%
Protected Salad Crops	39.9%	9.0%	5.7%	4.9%	6.4%	16.5%	17.6%
High Wire Crops	41.6%	5.6%	3.2%	2.0%	19.2%	10.0%	18.4%

<https://www.teagasc.ie/media/website/publications/2024/Horticulture-Crop-Input-Prices-2024.pdf>



# CSO Agricultural Input Price Subindexes (Energy, Electricity, Seeds and Plant Protection) - 10 Year



## Horticulture Input Cost Indexes for Energy, Electricity, Seeds and Plant Protection

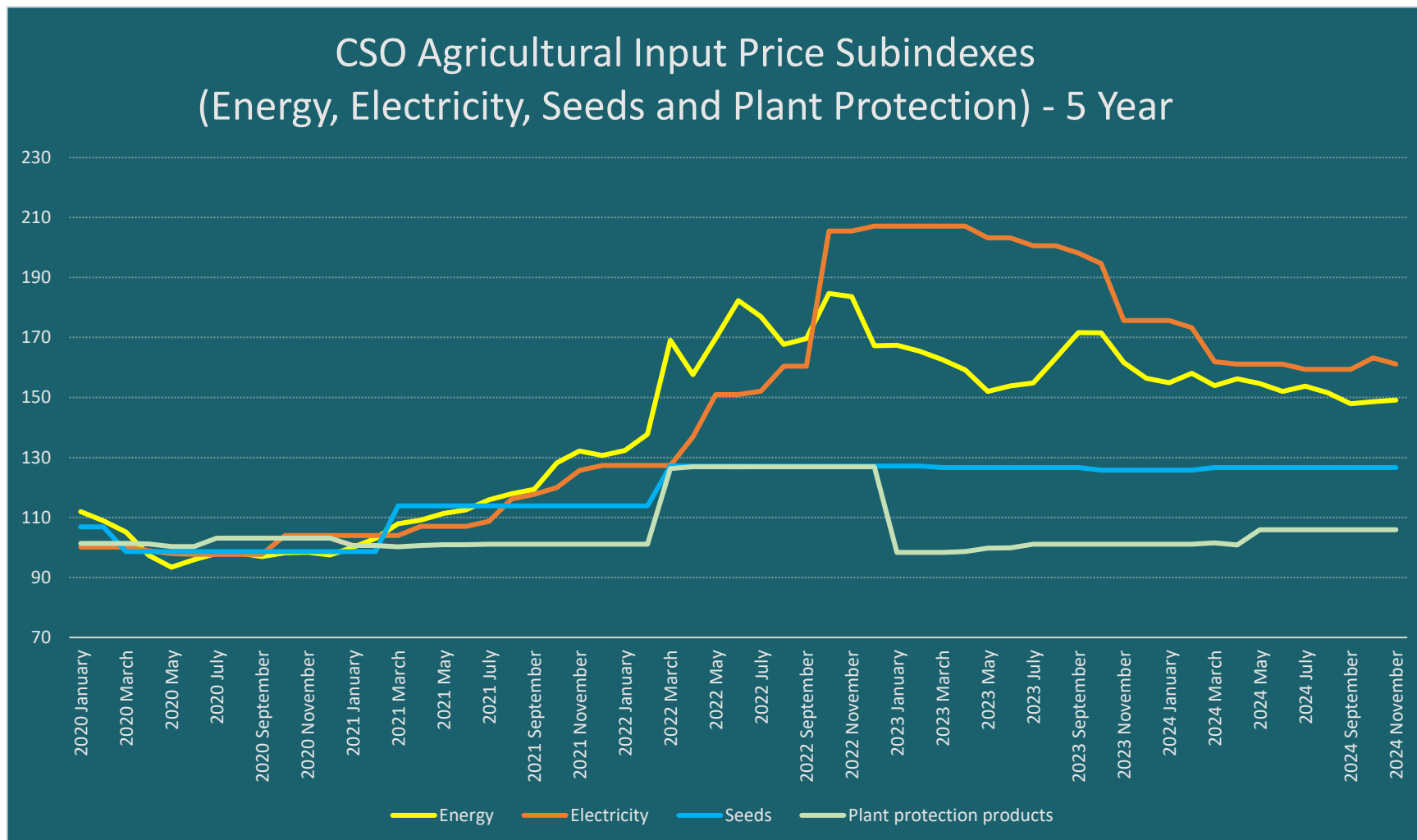
Over the first seven years of this chart, the Energy, Electricity, and Seed price indexes all fall, each reaching their lowest point at different times.

Electricity hit its lowest point in February 2016 down 24%, the Seed price index down 14% by September 2018, and energy fell by 5% to May 2017.

By 2021, all price indexes had risen above their January 2014 levels.



# CSO Agricultural Input Price Subindexes (Energy, Electricity, Seeds and Plant Protection) - 5 Year



## Horticulture Input Cost Indexes for Energy, Electricity, Seeds and Plant Protection

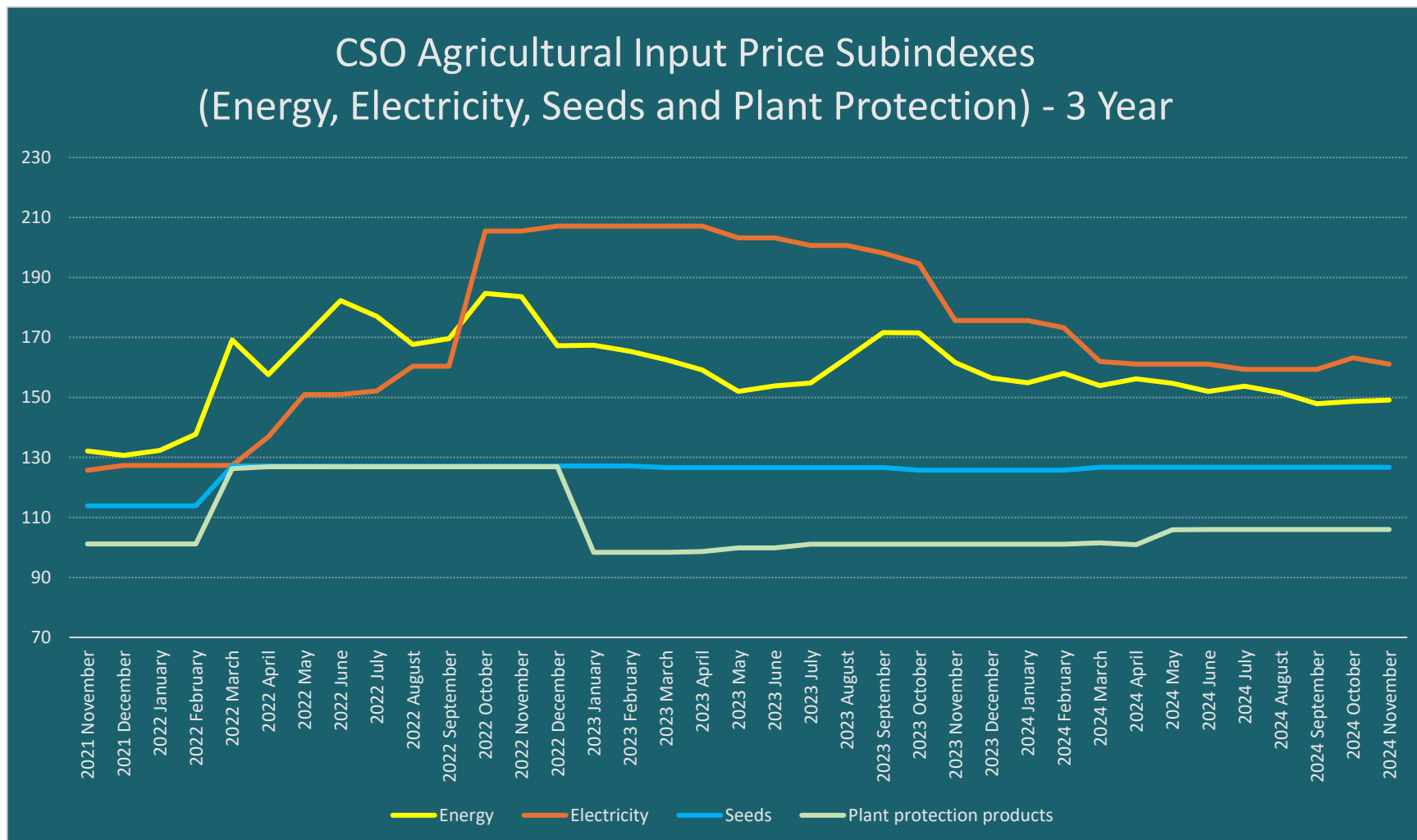
Over the past five years, Electricity and Energy prices have risen sharply, driven by global energy market trends.

The Electricity Index peaked in December 2022, having more than doubled (+107%) in less than two years. The Energy Index also increased by 65% by October 2022.

Seed price index was up by 19% in March 2022, while Plant Protection prices rose by 25% to June 2022.



# CSO Agricultural Input Price Subindexes (Energy, Electricity, Seeds and Plant Protection) - 3 Year

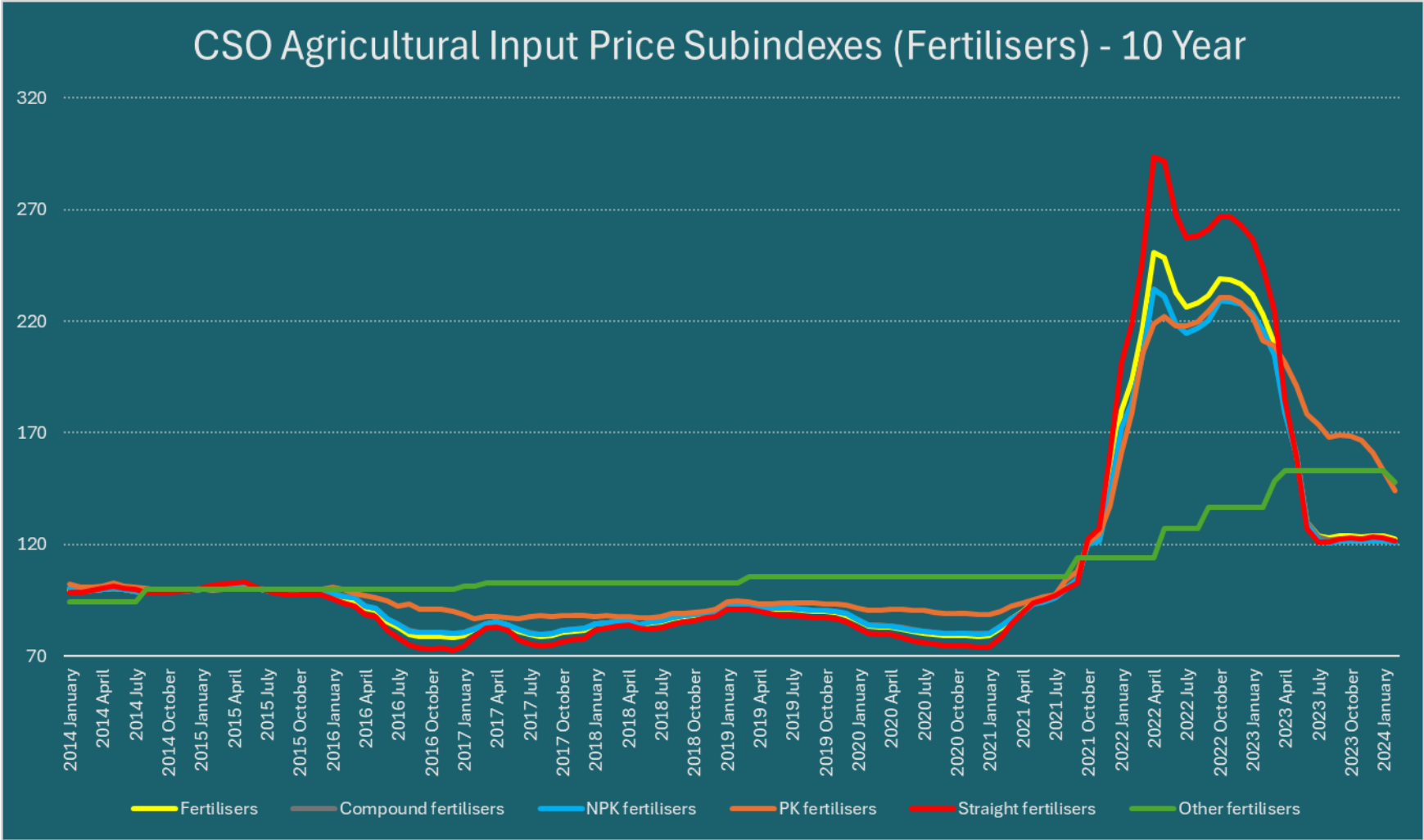


## Horticulture Input Cost Indexes for Energy, Electricity, Seeds and Plant Protection

Following the significant increases across all four indexes, all except the Seeds index saw decreases in their respective price indexes towards the end of 2024.

Electricity fell by 22%, Energy by 19%, and Plant Protection by 17% from their respective peaks in this chart.

# CSO Agricultural Input Price Subindexes (Fertilisers) - 10 Year

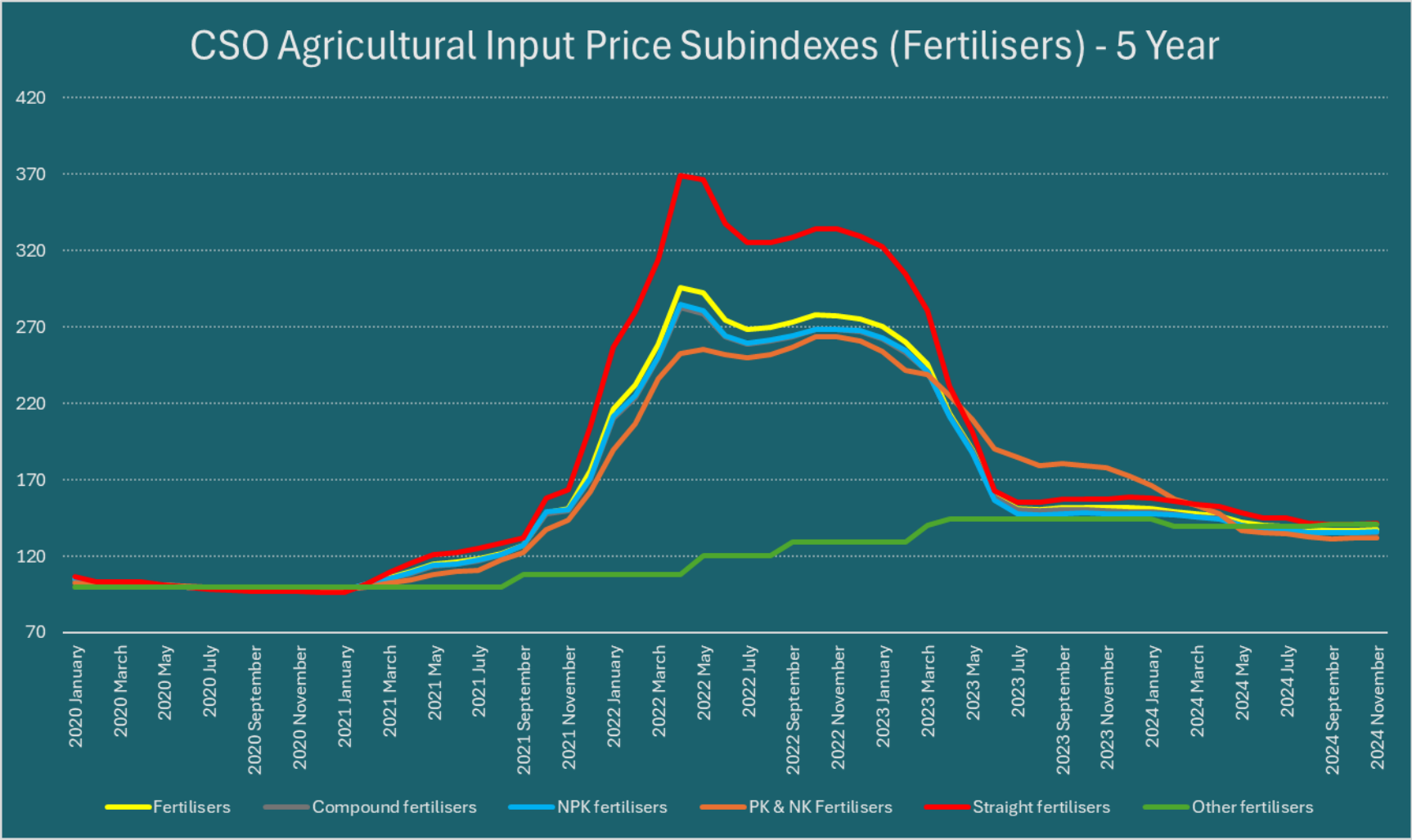


## CSO Agricultural Input Price Indexes for Fertilisers

The CSO Agricultural Input Price Indexes related to fertilisers remained relatively stable during the first two years of data in this chart. This was followed by significant decreases across all indexes except the other Fertiliser Index.

The lowest point for each index was as follows: Straight Fertiliser fell by 26% and the overall Fertiliser Index by 21% in December 2016, while NPK dropped by 20% and PK & NK by 21% in August 2017. By January 2021, all indexes had begun to rise.

# CSO Agricultural Input Price Subindexes (Fertilisers) - 5 Year



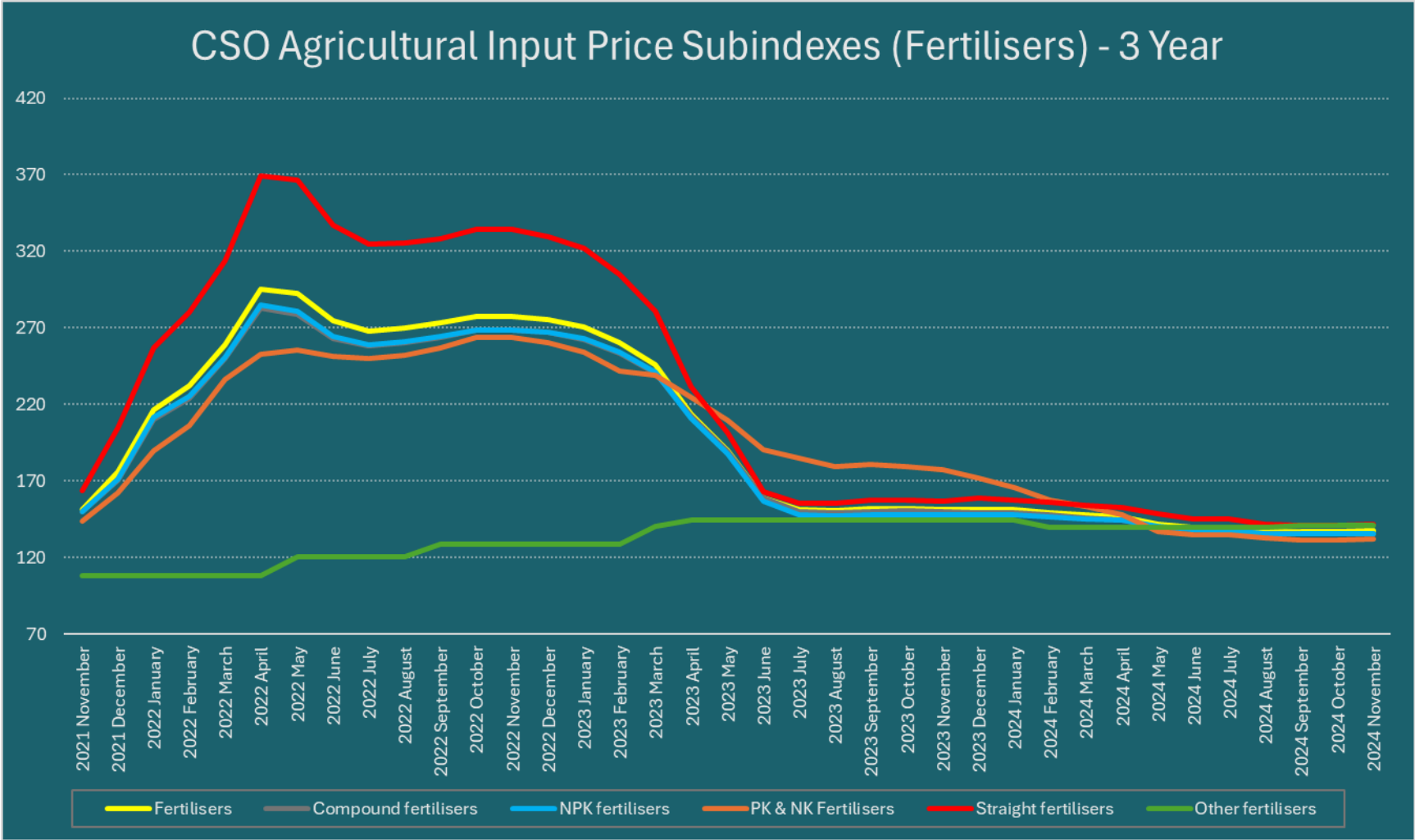
## CSO Agricultural Input Price Indexes for Fertilisers

By January 2021, all CSO Agricultural Input Price Indexes for fertilisers had begun to rise sharply, reaching the peak in 2022.

The index increases were as follows: Straight Fertiliser 246%, Fertiliser 181%, NPK Fertiliser 171%, and Compound Fertiliser 170% in March 2022.

PK & NK Fertiliser rose by 158% in October 2022, while the Other Fertiliser Index increased by 45% in April 2023.

# CSO Agricultural Input Price Subindexes (Fertilisers) - 3 Year



## CSO Agricultural Input Price Indexes for Fertilisers

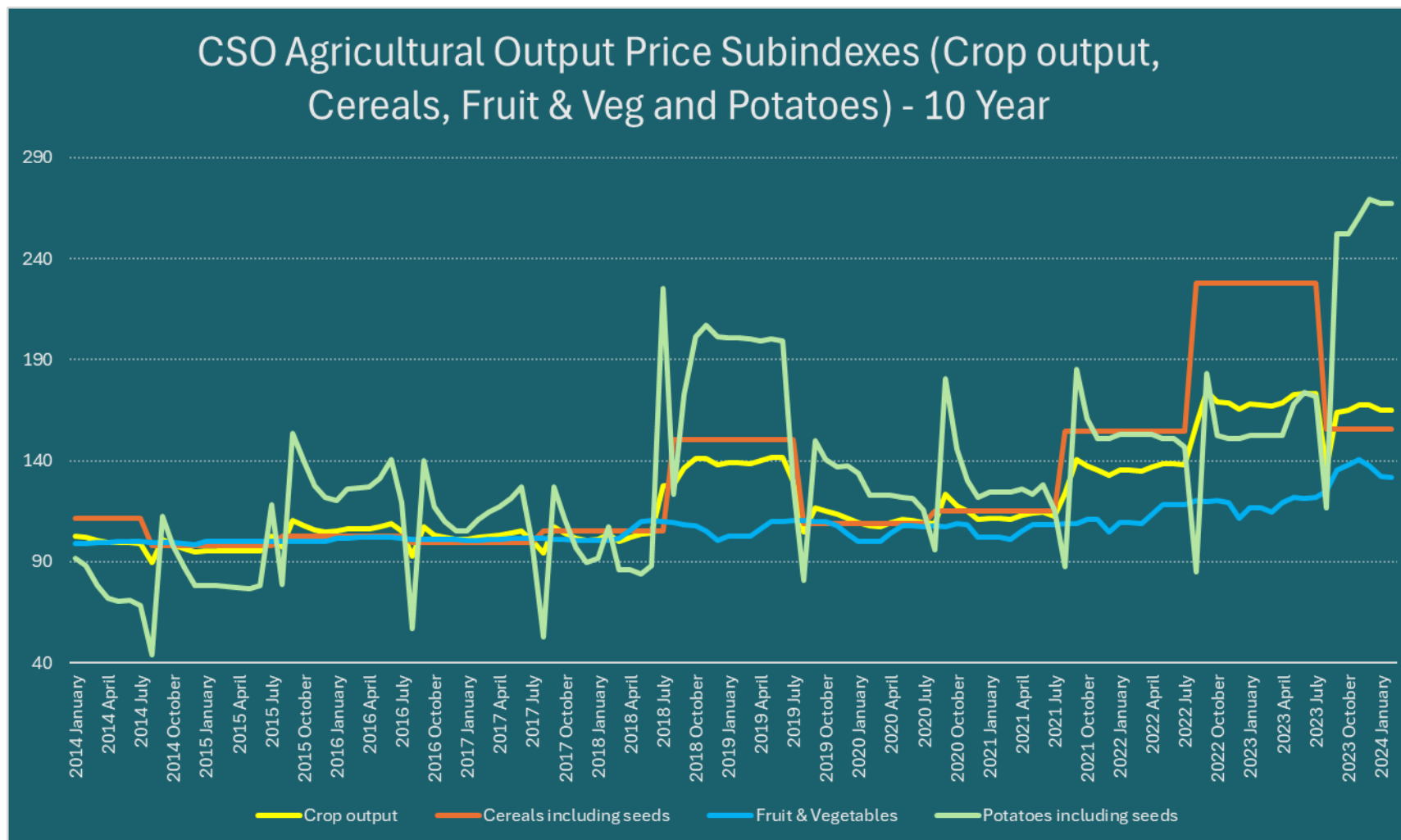
Following the increases discussed on the previous page, all indexes except Straight Fertiliser have decreased significantly since their peak in 2022.

The decreases from the 2022 peak were as follows: Straight Fertiliser 58%, Fertiliser 50%, NPK Fertiliser 50%, Compound Fertiliser 50%, and PK & NK -50% by 2024.

The indexes appear less volatile towards the end of 2024.



# CSO Agricultural Output Price Subindexes (Crop output, Cereals, Fruit & Veg and Potatoes) - 10 Year



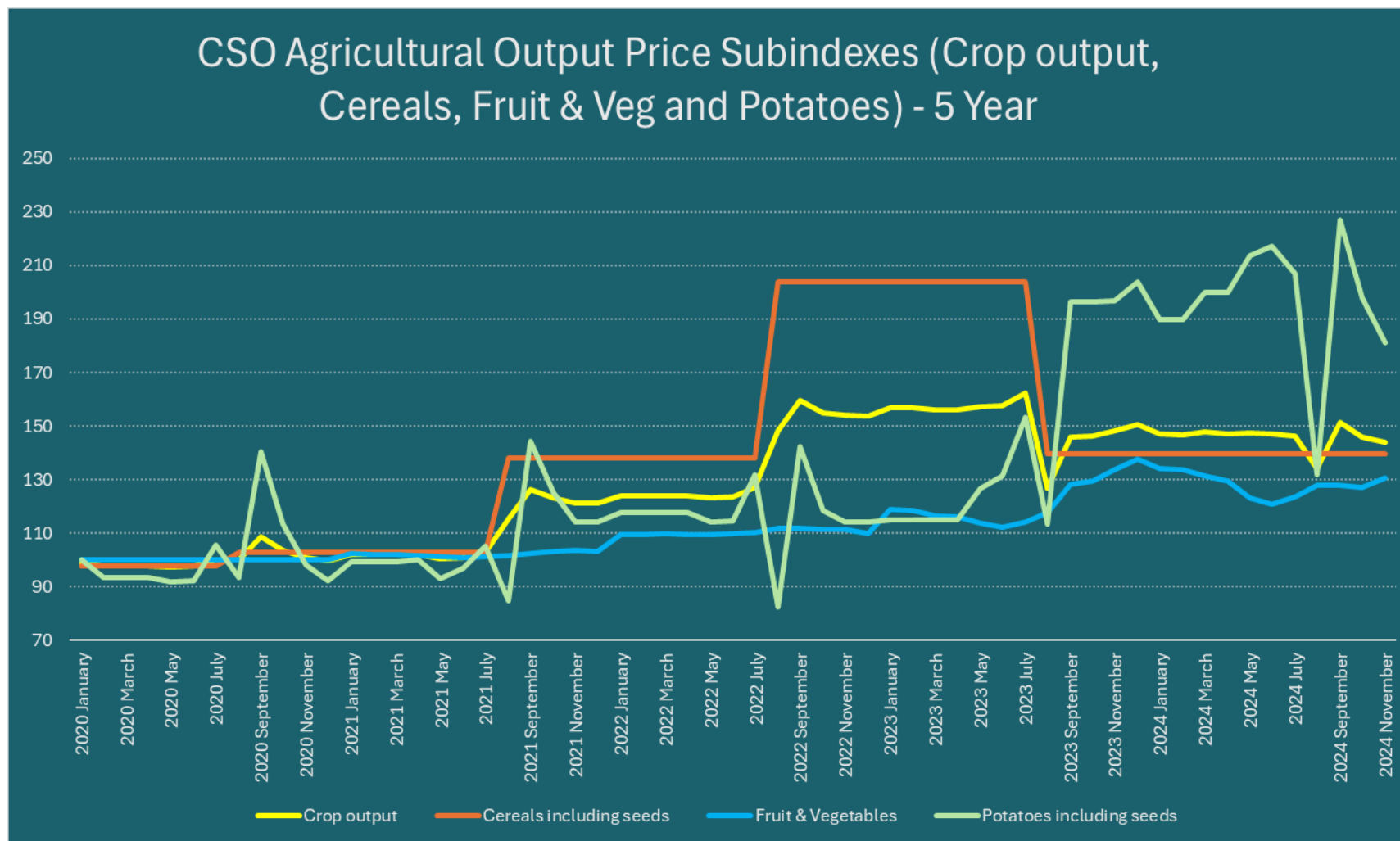
## Agricultural Output Price Indexes

Output prices have generally trended upwards over the past decade. The Agricultural Output Price Index for Fruit and Vegetables has seen gradual increases, while Potato prices have fluctuated during this period.

The Crop Output and Cereal Indexes have also risen over this time.



# CSO Agricultural Output Price Subindexes (Crop output, Cereals, Fruit & Veg and Potatoes) - 5 Year



## Agricultural Output Price Indexes

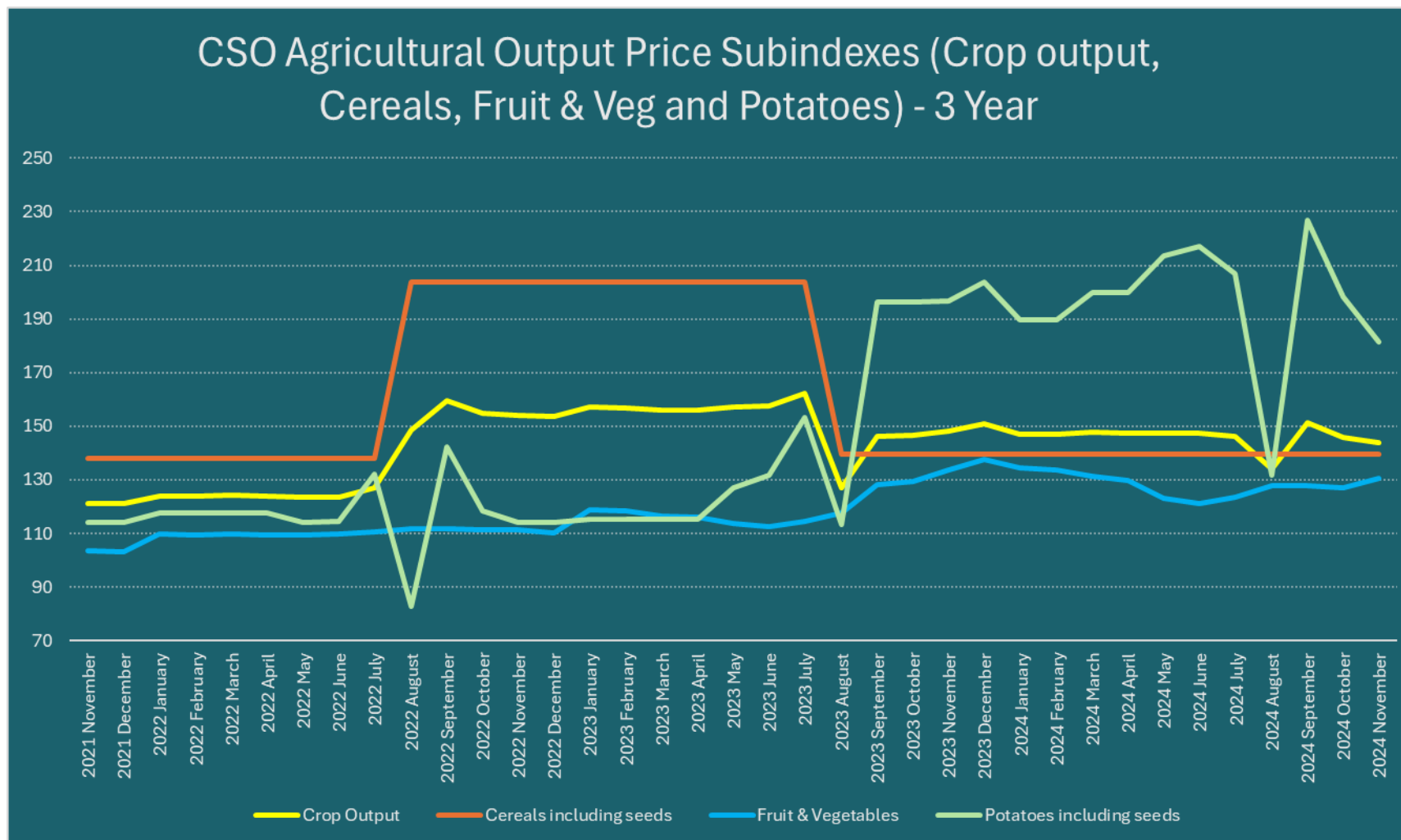
When viewed over five years, there are significant peaks across the output price indexes.

The Crop Output Index rose by 61% and the Cereal Output Index by 108%, both peaking in September 2022.

The Fruit & Vegetable Index reached its highest point in December 2023 at 38%, while the Potato Price Index peaked at 127% in September 2024.



# CSO Agricultural Output Price Subindexes (Crop output, Cereals, Fruit & Veg and Potatoes) - 3 Year



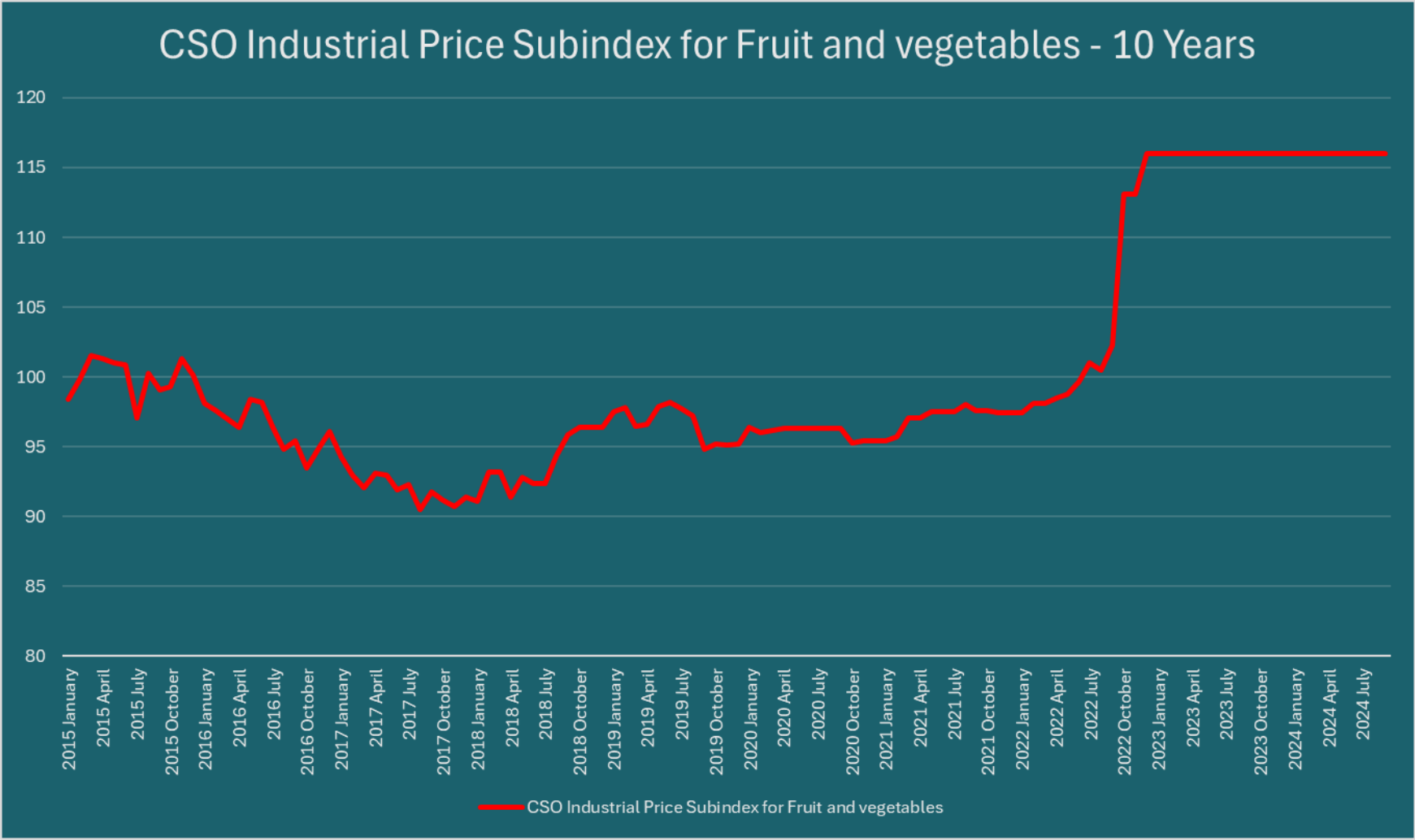
## Agricultural Output Price Indexes

Over the past three years, the output price indexes have shown considerable volatility.

However, with the exception of the Potato Output Price Index, they have stabilised somewhat in 2023 and 2024.

# CSO Industrial Price Subindex Fruit and Vegetable

## 10 Years



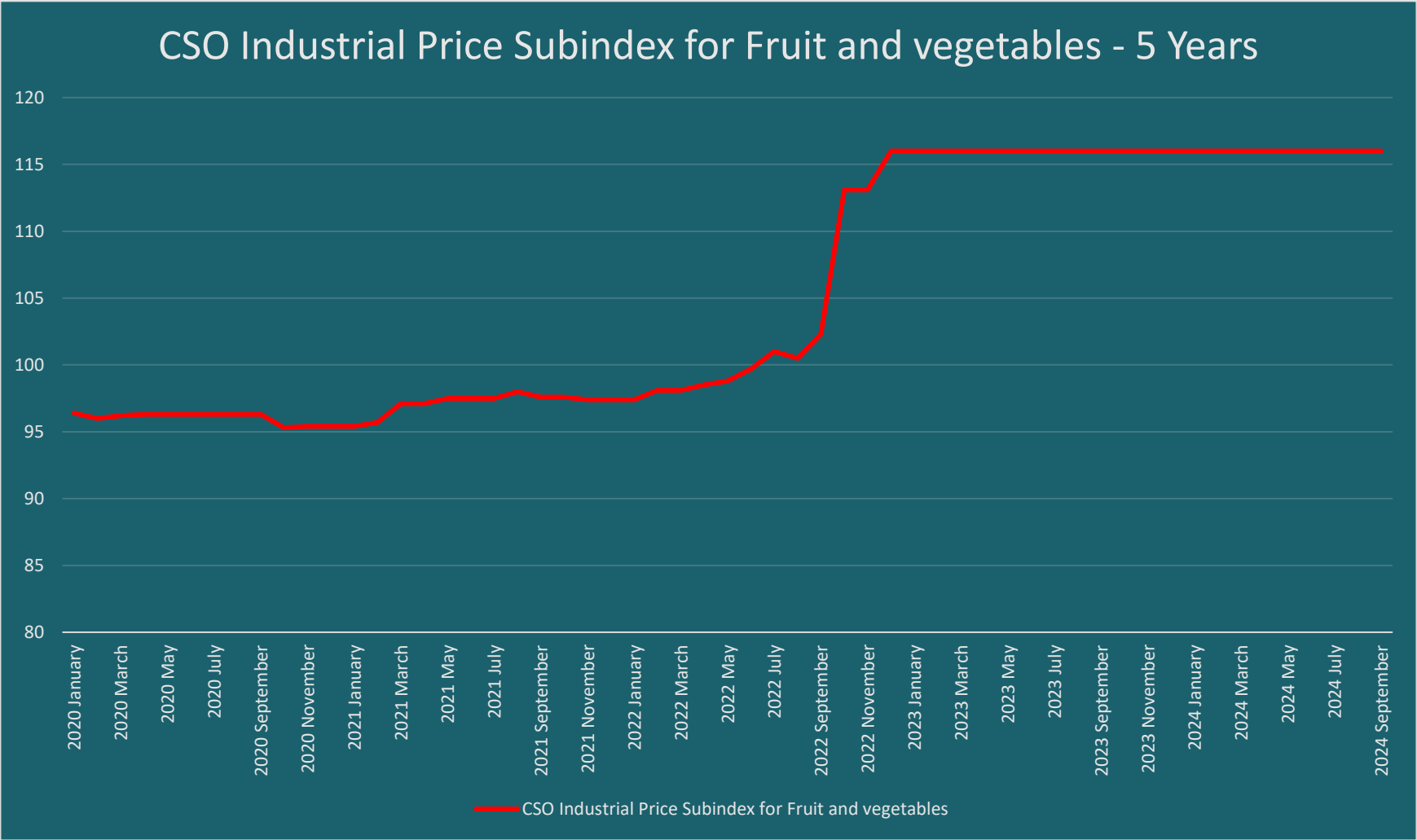
### Industrial Price Index for Fruit and Vegetables

Industrial prices for Fruit and Vegetables showed a steady downward trend from January 2015 until August 2017 falling by 8%.

While the Industrial price index for Fruit and Vegetables began to rise from March 2018 the index did rise above the January 2015 value until April 2022.

# CSO Industrial Price Subindex Fruit and Vegetable

## 5 Years



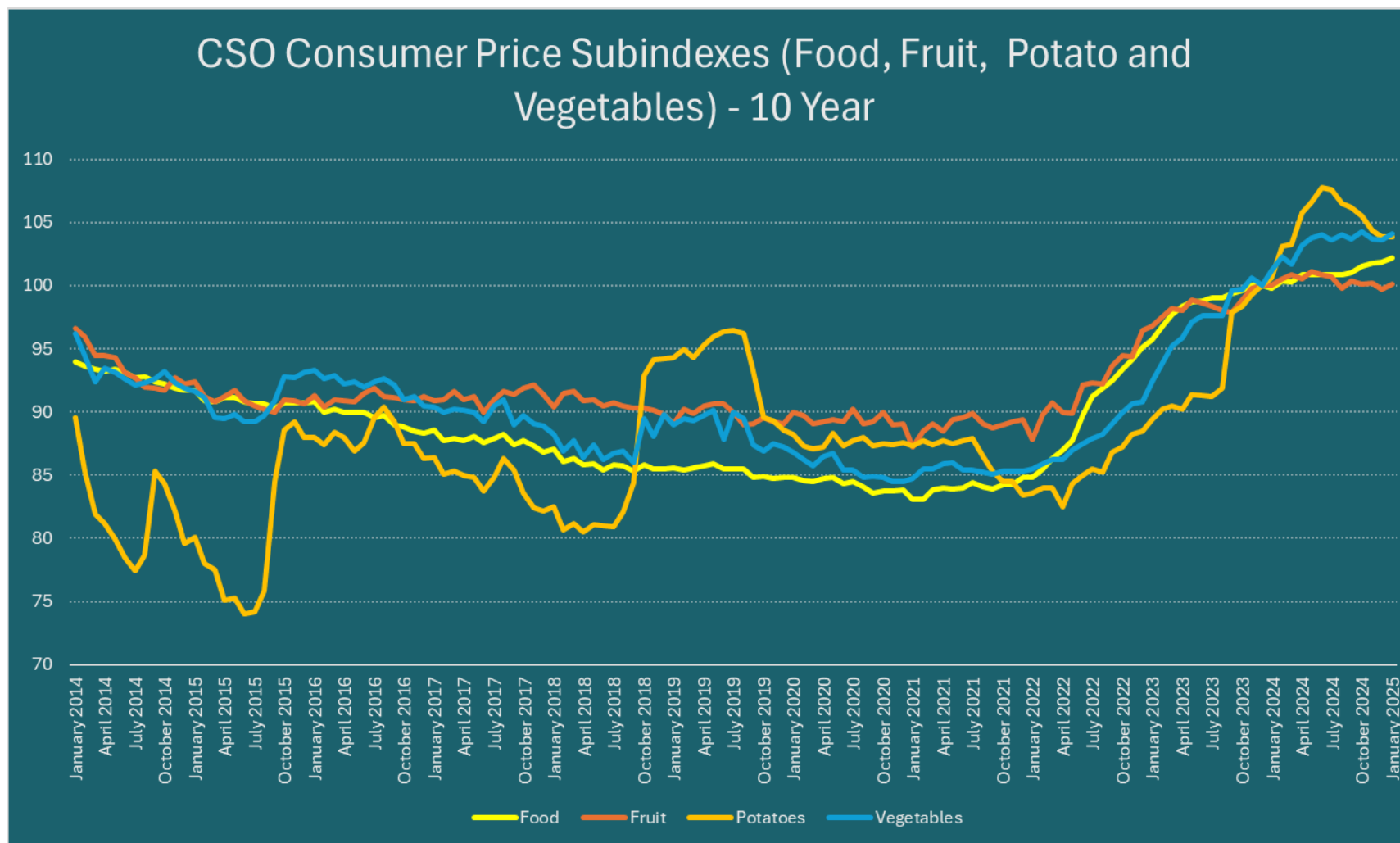
### Industrial Price Index for Fruit and Vegetables

Over the past five years, the industrial price index for Fruit and Vegetables peaked at 18% in December 2022.

Since then, prices have remained steady throughout 2023 and 2024.



# CSO Consumer Price Subindexes (Food, Fruit, Potato and Vegetables) - 10 Year



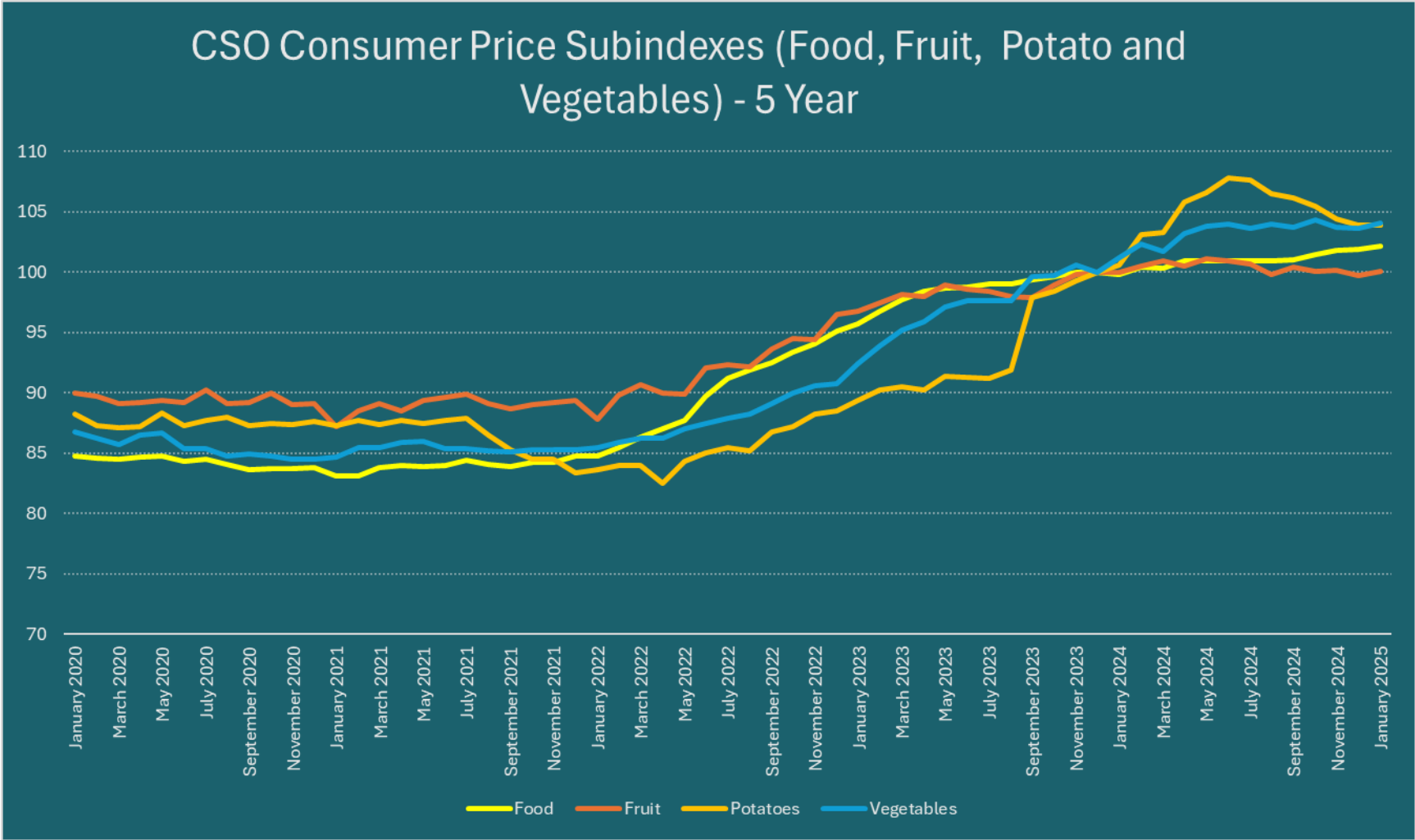
## Food, Fruit, Potato and Vegetables Consumer Price Indexes

CSO consumer price subindexes for Food, Fruit, and Vegetables showed a gradual downward trend from 2014 until January 2021, with Food falling by 12%, Fruit by 10%, and Vegetables down 12% during this period.

By the end of 2021, all three indexes began to rise, a trend that continued through to 2024.

The Potato price index was more erratic but also began to increase from 2022, continuing its upward movement until mid-2024.

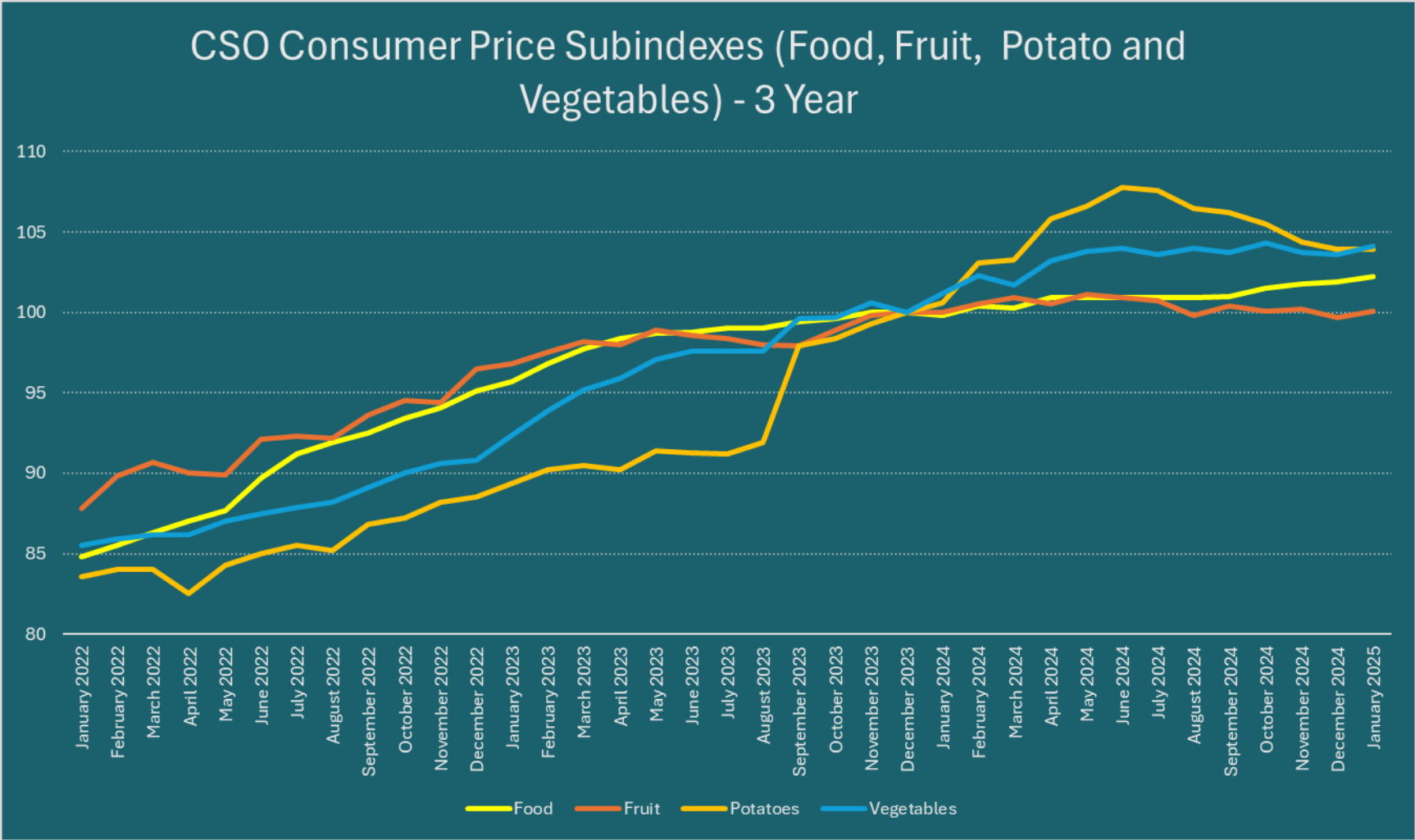
# CSO Consumer Price Subindexes (Food, Fruit, Potato and Vegetables) - 5 Year



## Food, Fruit, Potato and Vegetables Consumer Price Indexes

Viewed over five years, the CSO consumer price subindexes for Food, Fruit, Potato, and Vegetables remained stable, with only small rises or falls until mid-2022.

# CSO Consumer Price Subindexes (Food, Fruit, Potato and Vegetables) - 3 Year



## Food, Fruit, Potato and Vegetables Consumer Price Indexes

Over the past three years, the value of the Food, Fruit, Potato, and Vegetable consumer price subindexes have increased from their starting point in 2022.

During this period, the Food price index increased by 21%, the Fruit price index by 14%, the potato price index by 24%, and the Vegetable price index by 22% to January 2025.



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