



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Agricultural Inputs and Commodity Price Bulletin *in the Syrian Arab Republic*

August 2022– Issue #8



Background

Agriculture, including crop and animal husbandry, forestry, fisheries and agro-processing, post-harvest handling and marketing, provides a source of livelihoods for most smallholder farmers in the Syrian Arab Republic (SAR). The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Syria works on strengthening value chains and food production systems by building technical and productive capacity of stakeholders, mainly farmers, expanding their knowledge and understanding of the local context and situation by sharing reports that aim to make agricultural production more sustainable, gender sensitive, market-driven and climate smart. The Organization in Syria releases the “*Monthly Agriculture Input and Commodity Price Bulletin - AICPB*”, which provides timely insights from 35 districts across Homs, Hama, Aleppo, Tartous, Deir-ez-Zor, Rural Damascus, Al-Hasakeh and Dar’a governorates. The purpose of the bulletin is to inform relevant stakeholders, including the Food Security and Agriculture (FSA) partners supporting agricultural and food security interventions in the country, about the prevailing price trends of agricultural inputs and commodities. The bulletin is a periodic resource as markets and market information, play an important role in enhancing food security, income generation, resilience and rural-urban market linkages. Regular dissemination of market information benefits smallholder farmers in their market-oriented production endeavor.

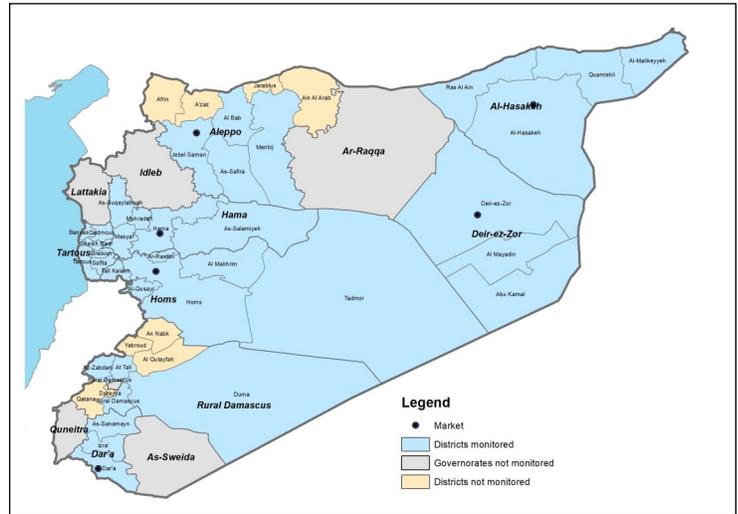


Figure 1: Markets monitored by FAO country office on a monthly basis.

Map source: UN – OCHA Feb 2021.

Map Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on these map (s) do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries. Dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

Key Highlights

Fuel shortages continue to persist in most governorates with a notable increase in the price of petrol in August 2022. The price of subsidized octane 90 increased to 2 500 SYP per litre from 1 100 in July 2022. Non-subsidized octane 90 reached 4 000 SYP per litre from 3 500 SYP per litre in July 2022. This continues to present challenges to farmers who also rely on fuel for transportation and other day to day aspects. The high prices coupled with fuel shortages and supply constraints are putting financial pressure on farmers since this is having knock-on effects on overall production costs for both crops and live-stock.

The shortage and the high cost of poultry, cattle and sheep fodder, coupled with the fragile veterinary services, remain a challenge for livestock keepers. In August 2022, the poultry sector suffered from heat waves and other factors such as limited access and availability to fuel and electricity. This challenge particularly affected the coastal area due to the high humidity in August. Subsequently, an increase in the price of poultry products such as eggs and meat were observed during this reporting month. Most small to medium scale poultry keepers are finding it difficult to break even and some have

discontinued poultry production to the high production costs and limited financial returns or margin. In the medium to long term, this will have detrimental effects on the supply side of the poultry sector and may affect most households’ dietary diversity, especially animal protein intake.

Urea is no longer subsidized by the agricultural banks in the monitored governorates. In general, the price of urea increased to 2, 4 million SYP per metric ton from 1, 3 million SYP per metric ton, mainly due to an increase in the importation costs and the insurance value. This increase could also be attributed to the challenges being experienced in global agricultural markets. Vulnerable smallholder farmers continue to struggle to source quality agriculture inputs at affordable prices, especially fertilizer and other key inputs such as animal feed, fuel, seeds and tools. Taking into account that the government’s subsidized inputs are unable to meet the farmer’s full requirements, there is an urgent need to address the prevailing economic hardships and limited access to agricultural inputs by most farming families across the country in a holistic manner.

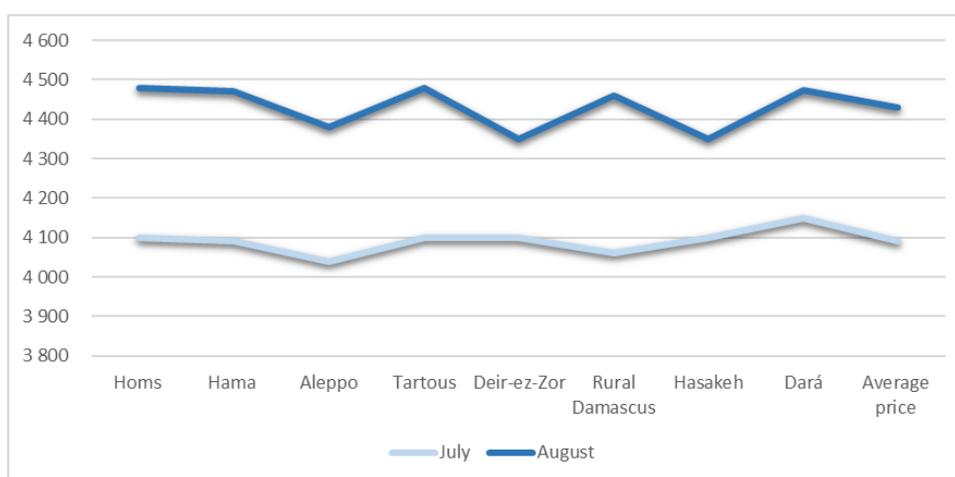
Exchange Rate

The Syrian pound continued to slide in the informal exchange rate market and reached 4 431 SYP/USD in August 2022, as an average across the monitored governorates (8 percent increase m-o-m). The depreciation of the domestic currency continues to result in an increase in agricultural input prices, further limiting access for vulnerable smallholder farmers' in most governorates. Despite the informal exchange rate increasing slightly and remaining generally high as above, the official exchange rate was at 2 814 SYP/USD in August 2022. It is important to highlight that the FAO market bulletin continues to monitor prices in the official domestic currency and does not specifically analyze the changes in prices in other foreign currencies. The price trends, whether increase or decrease, are therefore in reference to the domestic currency and not in USD terms.

Trends of unofficial exchange rate for the last two months (SYP/USD)									
	Homs	Hama	Aleppo	Tartous	Deir-ez-Zor	Rural Damascus	Hasakeh	Dará	Average price
July	4 100	4 090	4 040	4 100	4 100	4 060	4 100	4 150	4 093
August	4 480	4 470	4 380	4 480	4 350	4 460	4 350	4 475	4 431

Source: Monthly survey conducted by FAO field staff

Note: The exchange rate was 50 SYP/USD before the crisis in 2012.



Agricultural Inputs

In general, most of the crops seeds were available across monitored governorates and the prices were relatively constant since July 2022. Local varieties of tomato seed witnessed a moderate increase (11 percent m-o-m), and the average price reached 37 289 SYP per kg. The average price of maize (yellow corn) seed was 2 906 SYP per kg in August 2022. In Dará governorate, there are farmers who plant hybrid golden sweet maize or corn varieties and the price of this specific seed reached 95 000 SYP per kg (6 percent m-o-m). This species is desirable by farmers due to the high demand, particularly in fancy restaurants, hence the generally high cost of the seed. Barley and spinach seeds observed a slight increase (10 and 9 percent m-o-m respectively) and the price reached 2 234 and 12 992 SYP per kg respectively.

Tomato Hybrid

SYP/1 000 seeds

1M: 3 LM: 141 775
6M: 8 1Y: 5



Maize seeds SYP/kg

1M: 2 LM: 2 906
6M: 14 1Y: 46



Cucumbers Local Seeds

SYP/kg

1M: 7 LM: 58 992
6M: 5 1Y: 5



Y1: % Current Month Vs. Same Month Previous year in LM

6M: % Current Month Vs. 6 Months Before in LM

1M: % Current Month Vs. Previous Month in LM

LM: The price in Local Market in SYP

Agro-chemicals

In general, Agrochemicals witnessed a slight increase in August 2022 (9 percent m-o-m). Urea from the agricultural bank observed a significant increase (78 percent m-o-m) as it became officially non-subsidized due to the high importation costs and challenges being faced in the global agricultural markets and supply chains of most agrochemicals. Nitrate (liquid) from local markets witnessed a slight increase (10 percent m-o-m), while NPK observed a moderate increase (15 percent m-o-m), and the average price reached 13 447 SYP per kg. Most fertilizers were generally available across all the monitored markets in August 2022. On average, the prices of various insecticides remained relatively constant since July 2022. Fungicide prices and herbicide prices also remained relatively constant since July 2022 (6 percent m-o-m). Some limited access to various important agro-chemicals, including inorganic soil fertility amendments (i.e. synthetic fertilizers) due to the high prices, still persists across most monitored locations. There is therefore need for sector partners to promote locally-available organic materials that may be used to address soil fertility constraints (i.e. home-made compost). Furthermore, sector partners are also encouraged to promote relevant cropping systems such as crop rotation and intercropping, especially with leguminous crop species. FAO's vision is to promote sustainable agricultural production and productivity, through achieving higher production while conserving natural resources, reducing negative impact on the environment and enhancing the natural capital. FAO once again encourages sector partners to continue supporting vulnerable and resource constrained farmers with interventions that improve access to quality and critical inputs to support local food production, coupled with relevant agricultural training on integrated pest management (IPM), integrated weed management (IWM) and integrated soil fertility management (ISFM). The afore-mentioned techniques and approaches, will likely cushion farmers against market-related shocks and ensure that farmers rely less on synthetic or inorganic agro-chemicals.

Items		Unit	Rural Damascus	Homs	Hama	Aleppo	Deir-ez-Zur	Tartous	Hasakeh	Dará	Average price	
Fertilizer	Top dressing	Urea (Agriculture Bank)	bag(50 kg)	75 000			120 000	125 000		94 250	59 179	
		Urea (Granular) Local Market	bag(50 kg)	137 500	215 000	215 000	150 000	185 000	215 000	170 000	180 000	183 438
		Nitrate (Liquid) (Local Market)	lt	17 500	7 000	7 000	13 100	12 333	7 000	11 000	13 000	10 992
	Basal	Phosphate fertilizers (Agriculture Bank)	bag(50 kg)	50 000				60 000			45 000	51 667
		Phosphate fertilizers (Local Market)	bag(50 kg)	112 500	106 000	106 900	80 000	106 667	106 700	154 500	77 000	106 283
		NPK (Local Market)	kg	11 875	16 000	16 900	9 600	11 000	16 700	13 500	12 000	13 447
Pesticides	Insecticide	(Dusts, Granules, Wettable powders)										
		Mythomel	kg	143 390	85 000	85 000	261 000	186 667	85 000	65 500	131 000	130 320
		Acetamiprid	kg	122 700	96 000	96 900	135 800	86 000	96 700	62 750	95 000	98 981
		(Liquids)										
		Dimethoate	lt	74 825	58 000	58 900	82 600	40 000	58 700	50 500	73 000	62 066
		Delta Methrin	lt	80 705	59 000	59 900	89 000	87 000	59 700	60 000	78 000	71 663
	Fungicide	(Dusts, Granules or Wettable powders)										
		Thiophanate-methyl	kg	98 760	66 000	66 900	108 900	45 000	66 700	51 000	105 000	76 033
		Trifloxystrobin	kg	83 790	51 000	51 900	600 000	240 000	51 700	205 000		183 341
		(Liquids)										
		Propamocarb Hydrochloride	lt	71 850	76 000	76 900	79 400	48 667	76 700	68 000	77 000	71 815
	Herbicide	(Dusts, Granules or Wettable powders)										
		sulfonyl urea	kg	34 125	121 000	121 900	47 900	185 000	121 700	185 000	85 000	112 703
		Glyphosate Equivalent	kg	50 610	72 000	72 900	77 400	40 333	72 700	52 000		62 563
		(Liquids)										
glyphosate		lt	45 685	63 000	63 900	49 900	39 333	63 700	40 000	45 000	51 315	
Haloxypop-R-methyl		lt	79 315	53 000	53 900	87 500	74 000	53 700	83 500	79 000	70 489	
Trifluralin	lt	58 570	53 000	53 900	64 600	38 667	53 700	40 000	56 000	52 305		

Livestock feed

In August 2022, livestock feed was generally available across the monitored markets except for soybean meal and cottonseed meal, which were only available in Rural Damascus, Dará and Aleppo governorates. Barley grains and soya bean witnessed a moderate increase in the average price (12 and 15 percent m-o-m respectively). This could be due to increased demand by livestock breeders amid limited supply of barley due to the limited production in the last cropping season. Poultry feed for egg production and cattle feed (compound fodder pellets) observed a moderate increase (11 percent m-o-m). This can mainly be attributed to the prevailing economic difficulties and the weakening of the local currency. The continuous increase in production costs, particularly for poultry production, remains the major reason behind the increase in chicken meat prices in the local markets. The increase in chicken meat prices will further limit access to vulnerable and financially constrained families.



Barley grain

1M: 12 LM:2 277
6M: 24 1Y: 42

SYP/kg



Maize

1M: 3 LM:2 407
6M: 19 1Y: 44

SYP/kg



Cottonseed meal

1M: 17 LM:2 865
6M: 40 1Y: 55

SYP/kg



wheat bran

1M: 7 LM:1 285
6M: 3 1Y: 14

SYP/kg



Poultry feed for Egg production

1M: 11 LM:2 973
6M: 18 1Y: 36

SYP/kg



Crop residues

1M: 6 LM:994
6M: -3 1Y: 15

SYP/kg



Soybean meal

1M: 15 LM:3 519
6M: 17 1Y: 39

SYP/kg



Poultry feed for Meat production

1M: 7 LM:3 667
6M: 21 1Y: 39

SYP/kg



Cattle feed

1M: 11 LM:2 298
6M: 23 1Y: 34

SYP/kg



wheat straw

1M: 7 LM:640
6M: -11 1Y: 9

SYP/kg

1M: % Current Month Vs. Same Month Previous year in LM

LM: The price in Local Market in SYP

1Y: % Current Month Vs. Previous year in LM

6M: % Current Month Vs. 6 Months Before in LM

Live Animal



Sheep SYP/kg

1M: 4 LM:12 646
3M: 2 1Y: 6



Sheep female SYP/Head

1M:-5 LM:374 328
3M:-8 1Y:-6



Dairy Cow SYP/Head

1M: 0 LM:4 428 021
3M: 1 1Y: 1



Calf SYP/Kg

1M: 0 LM:11 492
3M:-1 1Y: 2

1M: % Current Month Vs. Same Month Previous Month in LM

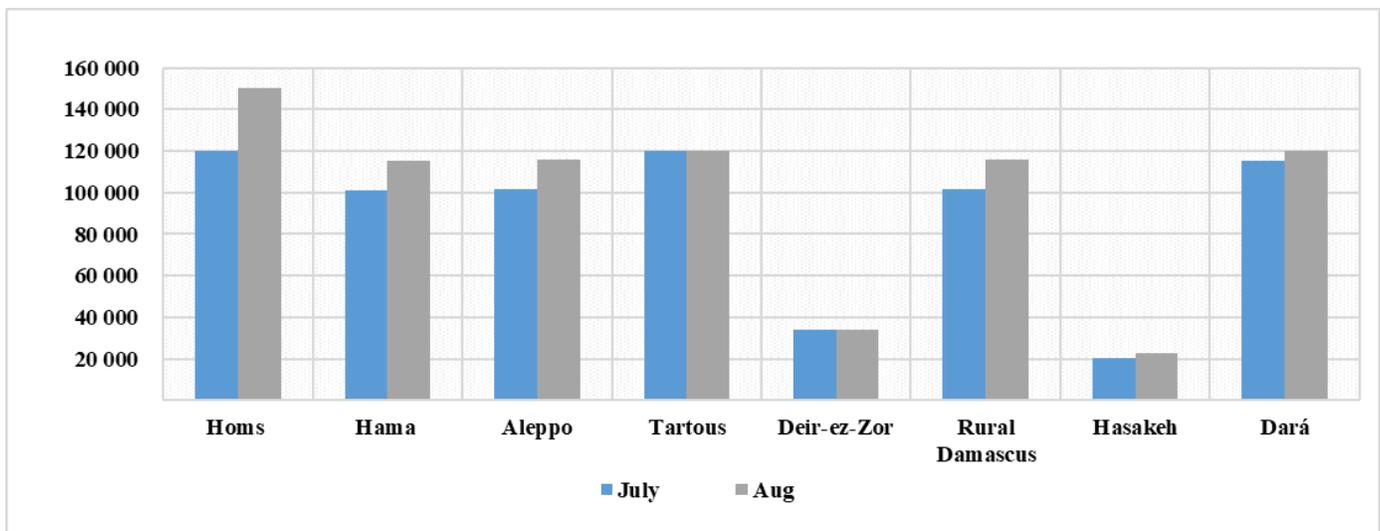
LM: The price in Local Market in SYP

Y1: % Current Month Vs. Previous year in LM

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Diesel Fuel (20 liters)

The average selling price of diesel fuel increased moderately (11 percent m-o-m) in August 2022, and the price was 99 125 SYP per 20 liters. In Tartous, Hama and Homs governorates, the price of diesel fuel increased moderately (14, 14 and 13 percent m-o-m respectively), reaching 115 000 SYP per 20 litre in Tartous, 116 000 SYP per 20 litre in Hama, and 115 500 SYP per 20 litre in Homs governorate. In Hasakeh governorate the price observed a slight increase (10 percent m-o-m), while in Rural Damascus, the price increased significantly (25 percent m-o-m). Fuel shortages and access related constraints continue to exert pressure on smallholder farmers as well as impacting various segments of the agricultural value chain activities of farmers. Unfortunately, the worsening economic hardships continue erode the resilience of most vulnerable and resource constrained farmers.



Food Items

Potato witnessed a significant increase (36 percent m-o-m) and this increase could be attributed to high demand combined with limited supply in the local market. Chicken meat, tomato and cow milk witnessed a moderate increase (13, 11, and 11 percent m-o-m respectively), reaching 12 108 SYP for 1kg of chicken meat, 1 207 SYP for 1kg of tomato, and 2 293 SYP per litre for cow milk. In contrast, eggplant witnessed a significant decrease (17 percent m-o-m) due to low demand in the local market. The rest of the food commodities remained relatively constant since July 2022.

Items	M-O-M
Eggplant	↓ -17%
Bread	↓ -3%
Fish Meat /Sea	↑ 1%
Flour	↑ 1%
Olive oil	↑ 4%
Sheep Meat	↑ 5%
Sugar	↑ 5%
Cow Meat (Calf)	↑ 6%
Rice	↑ 6%
Sheep Milk	↑ 6%
Sunflower oil	↑ 6%
Eggs crate	↑ 7%
Fish Meat /Rivers	↑ 7%
Cow Milk	↑ 11%
Tomatoes	↑ 11%
Chicken Meat	↑ 13%
Potatoes	↑ 36%

1M: % Current Month Vs. Same Month Previous Month in LM

LM: The price in Local Market in SYP

Y1: % Current Month Vs. Previous year in LM

6M: % Current Month Vs. 6 Months Before in LM

Bread



SYP/kg

1M: -3 LM: 275
6M: -6 1Y: -3

Rice



SYP/kg

1M: 6 LM: 4 544
6M: 17 1Y: 29

Chicken Meat



SYP/kg

1M: 13 LM: 12 108
6M: 19 1Y: 32

Sunflower oil



SYP/kg

1M: 6 LM: 14 090
6M: 5 1Y: 30

Flour



SYP/kg

1M: 1 LM: 3 280
6M: 16 1Y: 38

Egg



SYP/(1800—2000)g

1M: 7 LM: 14 174
6M: 17 1Y: 29

Cow Meat



SYP/kg

1M: 6 LM: 25 602
6M: 7 1Y: 15

Tomato



SYP/kg

1M: 11 LM: 1 207
6M: -46 1Y: -32

Sugar



SYP/kg

1M: 5 LM: 4 928
6M: 32 1Y: 59

Cow milk



SYP/litre

1M: 11 LM: 2 293
6M: 13 1Y: 29

Sheep Meat



SYP/kg

1M: 5 LM: 27 102
6M: 0 1Y: 8

Eggplant



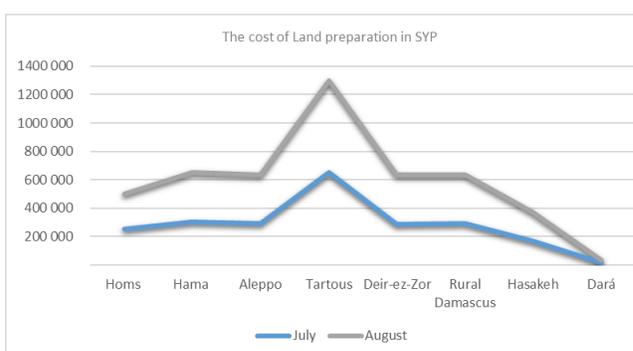
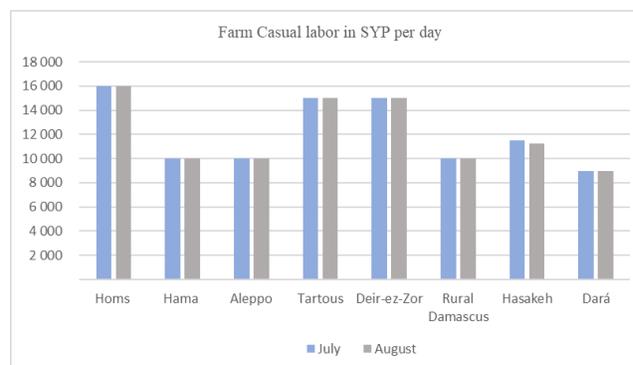
SYP/kg

1M: -17 LM: 932
6M: -53 1Y: -42

Other Factors

In general, the average daily wage rate remained constant since August 2022, though it remains generally high. The prevailing high labour rate continues to drive the overall agriculture production costs upward as the autumn and winter seasons approach.

The average cost for land preparation and cultivation witnessed a moderate increase in August 2022 (11 percent m-o-m), with the average cost for cultivating one hectare reaching 313 269 SYP in August 2022. Deir-ez-Zor and Hasakeh governorates witnessed a significant increase (23 and 20 percent m-o-m respectively). This could be attributed to the increase in the fuel price, especially diesel. The prevailing fuel shortages and economic sanctions on Syria are adversely affecting the capacity of farmers to efficiently use and adopt mechanization in agriculture and this is compromising farm worker productivity and agriculture output. FAO will continue to closely monitor the cost of land preparation and cultivation as the winter cropping season approaches.



DISCLAIMER

The information in this bulletin comes from monthly market monitoring surveys conducted informally by FAO field staff. While FAO Syria strives to provide accurate and timely market information, there may be slight unintended technical or factual inaccuracies. Decisions based on information contained herein are the sole responsibility of the reader. All changes in market prices for the monitored agriculture inputs and commodities are in local Syrian currency (SYP). For further insights and analysis on food commodities, WFP also issues regular Market Price Bulletins for Syria and these can be found on the official Syria Food Security Cluster (FSC) website.

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