



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Agricultural Inputs and Commodity Price Bulletin

in the Syrian Arab Republic

September 2022– Issue #9



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.

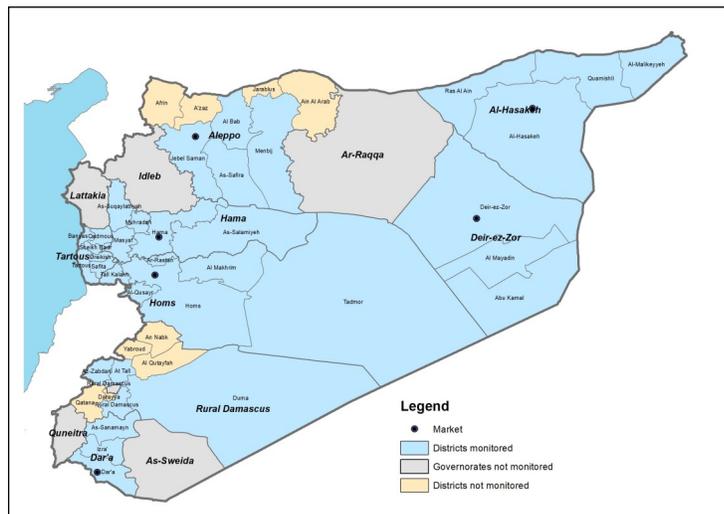


Figure 1: Markets monitored by FAO country office on a monthly basis.

Map source: UN – OCHA Feb 2021.

Key Highlights

- ◆ Market price fluctuation still persists for most agriculture inputs and food commodities in Syria. This continues to exert continuous economic pressure on Syrian families. The recurrent price increases, attributed to the broader macroeconomic challenges, and the prevailing high cost of agriculture inputs will continue to limit access to quality agriculture inputs in the local markets, especially for crisis-affected and resource constrained vulnerable smallholder farmers. Leading to further erosion of resilience of most crisis-affected families.
- ◆ In September 2022, the average price of chicken meat was (12 975 SYP per kg). Though there was a very slight decrease in the price of chicken meat (7 percent m-o-m), the prevailing high cost is primarily due to the high production costs for poultry meat. Particularly poultry feed (i.e. broiler starter, grower and finisher diets) and vaccines, coupled with the high cost of 76 million SYP, required for fuel on a monthly basis, to generate adequate power for lighting and heating, amid recurrent load shedding and power black outs. The most affected areas are in the

coastal areas, since the poultry sector suffered from a sequence of heat waves coupled with relatively high humidity in August 2022. Some small to medium scale poultry keepers or producers, have been pushed to discontinue poultry production, due to the above mentioned factors and viability considerations. In the medium to long term, this will have detrimental effects on the supply side of the poultry meat and eggs, and the entire sector in general, and may affect most households' dietary diversity, especially animal protein intake and poultry-based livelihood systems.

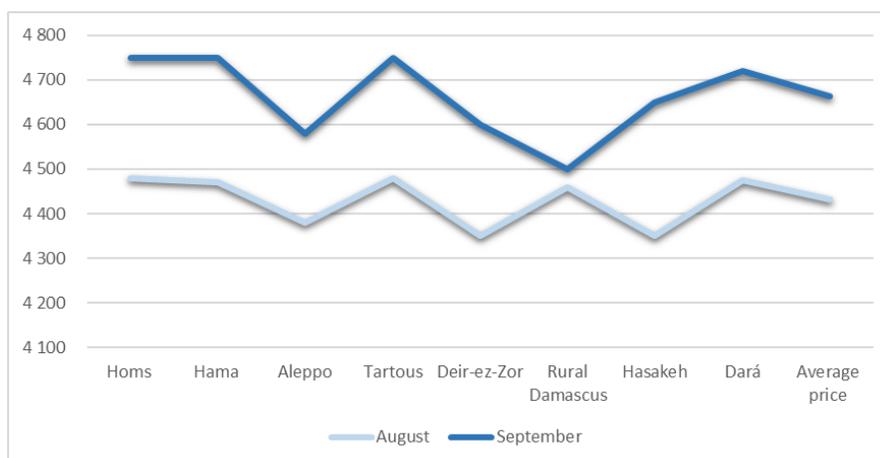
Exchange Rate

In September 2022, the Syrian pound continued to slide in the informal exchange rate market and reached 4 663 SYP/USD (5 percent 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. The official exchange rate issued by the Syrian central bank in September 2022 witnessed a slight increase (7 percent m-o-m) and reached 3 015 SYP/USD. It is important to highlight that since its launch, the FAO market bulletin continues to monitor prices in the official domestic currency and does not specifically analyse 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
August	4 480	4 470	4 380	4 480	4 350	4 460	4 350	4 475	4 431
September	4 750	4 750	4 580	4 750	4 600	4 500	4 650	4 720	4 663

Source: Monthly survey conducted by FAO field staff

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



Agricultural Inputs

In September 2022, most of the crop seeds were generally available across monitored governorates and some seeds for winter crops started to witness an increase in price due to increased demand by farmers, as they prepare for the winter cropping season. Faba bean seeds from the local market, lettuce and carrot seeds observed a 10, 9 and 10 percent m-o-m increase respectively, and the average price was 3 471 SYP per kg for Faba bean, 28 932 SYP per kg for lettuce and 28 712 SYP per kg for carrots. While cabbage seeds witnessed a significant increase (89 percent m-o-m increase). The prices of hybrid seeds of tomato and cucumber witnessed a moderate increase (11 percent m-o-m) in September 2022. A moderate increase was also observed for the local seeds of cucumbers and eggplant (14 and 15 percent m-o-m). Prices for all the remaining various crop seeds was relatively constant since August 2022.



Tomato Hybrid
SYP/1 000 seeds

1M: 5 LM: 149 127
6M: 11 1Y: 10



Maize seeds SYP/kg

1M: 1 LM: 2 938
6M: 9 1Y: 47



Cucumbers Local Seeds
SYP/kg

1M: 13 LM: 66 824
6M: 15 1Y: 82

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 September 2022, nitrate (liquid) from the local market observed a significant increase (26 percent m-o-m) due to the challenges affecting supply chains and the continued weakening of the domestic currency against the USD. The prevailing currency depreciation is tending to result in the contraction of real imports for some agriculture inputs, especially agrochemicals. Phosphate fertilizers from the agricultural bank also witnessed a significant increase (45 percent m-o-m), while NPK observed a moderate increase (17 percent m-o-m), with the average NPK price reaching 15 779 SYP per kg. Most fertilizers were generally available across all monitored markets in August 2022. On average, the prices of insecticides increased moderately (22 percent m-o-m). While fungicide prices remained relatively constant since August 2022 (6 percent m-o-m). For herbicides, the average price increased moderately (13 percent m-o-m). The price of herbicides will likely increase in the coming months as the winter season progresses and demand rises for herbicides, especially when wheat starts tillering.

The limited access to agro chemicals for most crisis-affected small-medium scale farmers, still persists across most monitored locations due to the continuous increase in the prices and limited disposable income. There is therefore need for sector partners to continue promoting locally-available organic materials that may be used to address soil fertility constraints (i.e. home-made compost). Compost making and application has great soil fertility benefits since compost contains the main plant nutrients namely nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K), improves the organic matter in the soil by providing humus, helps the soil hold both water and air for optimum plant health and makes trace elements or micronutrients available to plants.

FAO continues to encourage 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). IPM in particular, combines biological, chemical, physical and crop specific (i.e. cultural) management strategies and practices to grow healthy nutritious crops and minimize the use of pesticides. The afore-mentioned techniques and approaches, will likely cushion farmers against market-related shocks and ensure that farmers reduce their reliance on synthetic or inorganic agro-chemicals, which are now generally expensive, of low quality and sometimes not available.

Items		Unit	Rural Damascus	Homs	Hama	Aleppo	Deir-ez-Zur	Tartous	Hasakeh	Darā	Average price	
Fertilizer	Top dressing	Urea (Agriculture Bank)	bag(50 kg)	137 500			120 000	125 000		122 500	126 250	
		Urea (Granular) Local Market	bag(50 kg)	137 500	250 000	250 000	210 000	200 000	250 000	186 250	200 000	210 469
		Nitrate (Liquid) (Local Market)	lt	25 000	8 300	8 300	15 210	12 333	8 300	12 250	25 000	14 337
	Basal	Phosphate fertilizers (Agriculture Bank)	bag(50 kg)	90 000				60 000			60 000	70 000
		Phosphate fertilizers (Local Market)	bag(50 kg)	90 000	106 000	106 900	135 000	118 333	106 700	186 250	77 000	115 773
		NPK (Local Market)	kg	20 000	18 000	18 900	11 154	15 000	18 700	13 500	15 000	16 282
Pesticides	Insecticide	(Dusts, Granules, Wettable powders)										
		Mythomel	kg	155 000	96 000	96 000	304 200	183 333	96 000	78 667	165 000	146 775
		Acetamiprid	kg	113 500	97 000	97 900	143 000	86 667	97 700	70 000	122 000	103 471
		(Liquids)										
		Dimethoate	lt	91 150	73 000	73 900	87 000	45 000	73 700	54 750	95 000	74 188
		Delta Methrin	lt	98 350	72 000	72 900	93 500	89 333	72 700	60 000	98 000	82 098
	Fungicide	(Dusts, Granules or Wettable powders)										
		Thiophanate-methyl	kg	120 200	73 000	73 900	115 000	47 333	73 700	58 000	130 000	86 392
		Trifloxystrobin	kg	92 400	61 000	61 900	648 960	240 000	61 700	205 000		195 851
		(Liquids)										
		Propamocarb Hydrochloride	lt	87 500	80 000	80 900	84 000	50 000	80 700	74 500	90 000	78 450
		Herbicide	(Dusts, Granules or Wettable powders)									
	sulfonyl urea		kg	163 600	129 000	129 900	55 770	231 667	129 700	210 000	105 000	144 330
	Glyphosate Equivalent		kg	85 400	76 000	76 900	82 000	45 000	76 700	54 500		70 929
	(Liquids)											
glyphosate	lt		73 800	73 000	73 900	47 200	41 000	73 700	41 500	50 000	59 263	
Haloxypop-R-methyl	lt		96 600	63 000	63 900	92 000	80 000	63 700	97 250	95 000	81 431	
Trifluralin	lt	71 350	59 000	59 900	68 000	42 000	59 700	40 000	80 000	59 994		

Livestock feed

In general, livestock feed availability status was similar to the previous month (i.e. August 2022). Fodder was available across the monitored governorates except for soybean meal and cottonseed meal, which were only available in Rural Damascus, Dará and Aleppo governorates. The prices of the monitored fodder types remained relatively constant since August 2022. Sector partners are encouraged to continue scaling up support towards own fodder production by crisis-affected smallholder farmers, particularly corn, lucerne and soybean, due to the nutritious value. Furthermore, sector partners are also encouraged to consider spineless cactus as a supplementary fodder crop, since it is generally drought-tolerant and more resilient to water scarcity.

High poultry production costs continue to persist, especially for feed (i.e. broiler starter, grower and finisher feed) and vaccines, coupled with the high cost for fuel required every month, to generate adequate power for lighting and heating. The high price of chicken meat continues to limit access to poultry meat for vulnerable and financially constrained families.



Barley grain

1M: -1 LM:2 245
6M: 16 1Y: 33

SYP/kg



Maize

1M: 3 LM:2 398
6M: 11 1Y: 36

SYP/kg



Cottonseed meal

1M: -1 LM:2 831
6M: 22 1Y: 44

SYP/kg



wheat bran

1M: 3 LM:1 329
6M: 5 1Y: 15

SYP/kg



Poultry feed for Egg production

1M: 0 LM:2 984
6M: 13 1Y: 31

SYP/kg



Crop residues

1M: 2 LM:1 012
6M: -1 1Y: 13

SYP/kg



Soybean meal

1M: 0 LM:3 519
6M: 10 1Y: 33

SYP/kg



Poultry feed for Meat production

1M: -3 LM:3 558
6M: 10 1Y: 29

SYP/kg



Cattle feed

1M: 2 LM:2 348
6M: 18 1Y: 31

SYP/kg



wheat straw

1M: 4 LM:667
6M: -5 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: 1 LM:12 764
3M: 2 1Y: 6



Sheep female SYP/Head

1M:-1 LM:369 797
3M:-5 1Y:-7



Dairy Cow SYP/Head

1M: 1 LM:4 475 417
3M: 2 1Y: 2



Calf SYP/Kg

1M: 6 LM:12 208
3M: 4 1Y: 8

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

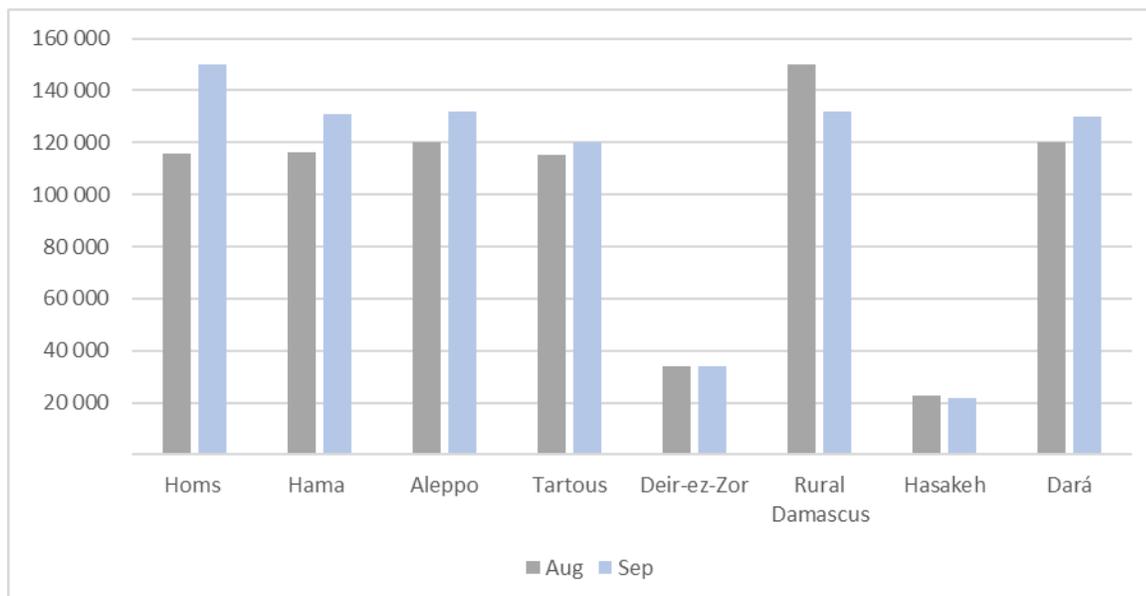
LM: The price in Local Market in SYP

Y1: % Current Month Vs. Previous year in LM

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

Diesel Fuel (20 liters)

The average selling price of diesel fuel increased slightly (7 percent m-o-m) in September 2022, and the price reached 116 657 SYP per 20 liters. In Homs governorate, the price of diesel fuel increased significantly (30 percent m-o-m), reaching 150 000 SYP per 20 litre. In Hama, the price increased moderately (13 percent m-o-m) and the price reached 131 000 SYP per 20 litre, while the price in Aleppo witnessed a slight increase (10 percent m-o-m). In contrast, Rural Damascus governorate observed a moderate decrease (12 percent m-o-m).



Food Items

The average price for a crate of eggs, olive oil per liter and sheep milk per liter witnessed a moderate increase (16, 12 and 11 percent m-o-m respectively) and this increase could be attributed to increased demand, combined with under supply in the local market. Chicken meat witnessed a slight increase (7 percent m-o-m), reaching 12 975 SYP. The rest of the food commodities remained relatively constant since August 2022. For more detailed analysis on food commodities, please refer to the WFP Market Price Bulletins for Syria, found on the official Syria Food Security Cluster (FSC) website.

Items	M-O-M
Bread	↓ -6%
Sunflower oil	↓ -6%
Sugar	↓ -3%
Flour	→ 0%
Cow Meat (Calf)	↑ 1%
Eggplant	↑ 1%
Rice	↑ 2%
Tomatoes	↑ 4%
Fish Meat /Rivers	↑ 5%
Sheep Meat	↑ 5%
Cow Milk	↑ 6%
Fish Meat /Sea	↑ 6%
Potatoes	↑ 6%
Chicken Meat	↑ 7%
Sheep Milk	↑ 11%
Olive oil	↑ 12%
Eggs crate	↑ 16%

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: -6 LM:241
6M: -11 1Y: -10

Rice



SYP/kg

1M: 2 LM:4 646
6M: 15 1Y: 28

Chicken Meat



SYP/kg

1M: 7 LM:12 975
6M: 23 1Y: 35

Sunflower oil



SYP/Litre

1M:-6 LM:13 277
6M:-5 1Y: 16

Flour



SYP/kg

1M: 0 LM:3 372
6M: 10 1Y: 31

Egg



SYP/(1800—2000)g

1M: 16 LM:16 418
6M: 31 1Y: 43

Cow Meat



SYP/kg

1M: 1 LM:25 863
6M: 5 1Y: 14

Tomato



SYP/kg

1M: 4 LM:1 253
6M: -41 1Y: -30

Sugar



SYP/kg

1M: -3 LM:4 793
6M: 18 1Y: 43

Cow milk



SYP/litre

1M:6 LM:2 424
6M: 16 1Y: 30

Sheep Meat



SYP/kg

1M: 5 LM:28 347
6M: 4 1Y: 11

olive oil

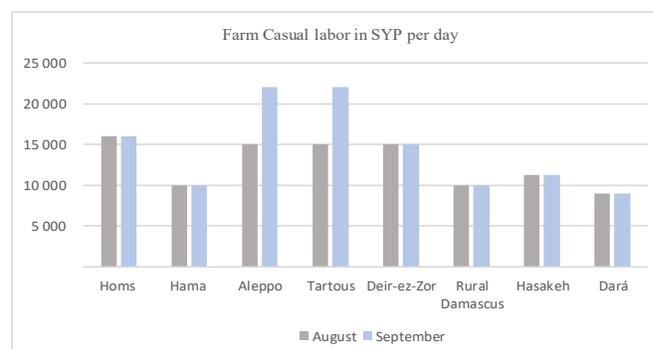


SYP/Litre

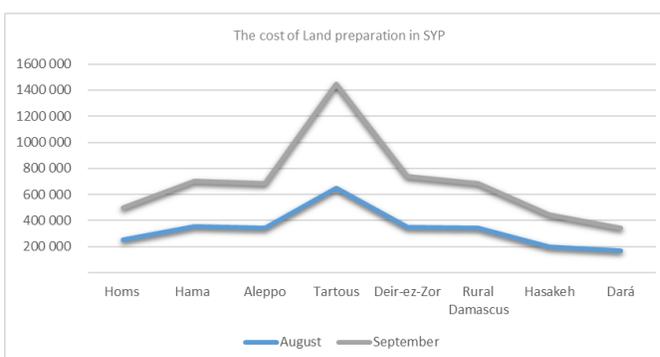
1M: 12 LM:16 663
6M: 12 1Y: 13 772

Other Factors

In general, the average daily wage rate increased (16 percent m-o-m) since August 2022, and the average wage was 14 406 SYP per a day. Tartous and Aleppo governorates witnessed a significant increase (47 percent m-o-m) due to the high labour demand for the olive harvesting period. The prevailing high wage rate for labour continues to drive the overall agriculture production costs upwards.



The average cost for land preparation and cultivation witnessed a slight increase in September 2022 (9 percent m-o-m), with the average cost for cultivating one hectare reaching 361 508 SYP in August 2022. Tartous and Hasakeh governorates witnessed a significant increase (23 and 20 percent m-o-m respectively). This could be attributed to the increase in fuel price, especially diesel, coupled with high demand versus low capacity.



The prevailing fuel shortages and continued economic sanctions on Syria are adversely affecting the capacity of farmers to efficiently use and adopt mechanization in agriculture. FAO will continue to closely monitor the cost of land preparation and cultivation as the winter cropping season begins.

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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