



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# Agricultural Inputs and Commodity Price Bulletin

*in the Syrian Arab Republic*

May 2025– Issue #41



## Background

The economy of the Syrian Arab Republic remains significantly weakened following fourteen years of civil unrest. The agriculture sector – the backbone of the country's economy, is among the most affected by the protracted conflict and instability, which has led to prolonged widespread displacement amidst persistent hostilities and damage and destruction of the sector's critical infrastructure. Additionally, the sector faces severe challenges ranging from climate change to environmental degradation, economic decline, and global inflation, among others which altogether are responsible for the declining productivity.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in the Syrian Arab republic monitors agricultural inputs and food commodity markets and releases the "**Monthly Agriculture Input and Commodity Price Bulletin - AICPB**" now in its fifth year of publication, which offers latest market information from 35 districts across eight governorates of **Homs, Hama, Aleppo, Tartous, Deir-ez-Zor, Rural Damas-**

**cus, Al-Hasakeh, and Dar'a.** The bulletin aims to inform Food Security and Agriculture (FSA) sector actors and other stakeholders on pricing of key food commodities and agricultural inputs. This regular publication disseminates information on prices, supply and demand, market conditions, and other relevant market-information. Smallholder farmers benefit from the disseminated market information by engaging in meaningful, market-oriented production activities.

The main goals of the monthly bulletin are to enhance informed decision-making across key agricultural value chains and food production systems by improving the technical and productive capacities of stakeholders, particularly farmers. This involves expanding their understanding of the local context through the disseminated reports and making agricultural production—encompassing crop and animal husbandry, forestry, fisheries, and agro-processing—more sustainable, gender-sensitive, market-oriented, and resilient to climate and other shocks.

## Key Highlights

- ◆ In May 2025, both the official exchange rate by the Central Bank of Syrian Arab Republic (CBS) and the informal exchange rate in the black market reported a slight decrease to 11 350SYP/USD, and 9 984 SYP/USD, respectively.
- ◆ The FAO-Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS) forecasts that cereal production for 2024-2025 will fall below the average level. GIEWS further forecasts that nearly 2.5 million tons of cereal imports will be required to offset the 2025 domestic cereal deficit.
- ◆ The price of summer vegetable and other crop seeds declined seasonally by 5 percent compared to the previous month. Vegetable seed price decreases typically occur at the end of the main cropping season.
- ◆ The government is moving to restrict/ban importation and encourage exportation of certain vegetables that are locally available. This is aimed at boosting consumption of locally available vegetable foods and increase exports of same to neighbouring countries.
- ◆ The effects of the 2025 drought, coupled with the uncertainties related to the political transition period, continue to contribute to unexplained commodity price deviations from seasonal trends.
- ◆ The FAO Food Price Index (FFPI) averaged 127.7 points in May 2025, down 1.0 points (0.8 percent) from April levels. FAO further forecasts world cereal production to reach a record level of 2 911 million tons in 2025, surpassing the 2024 output by 2.1 percent. The forecasted world cereal record production will likely keep global cereal prices stable.
- ◆ Due to severe drought that hit key agricultural areas of the country, most seasonal sources of water have dried up while others are at their lowest levels as the winter season ends. The permanent water sources are equally at their lowest levels, and there are heightened concerns that the impacts of this year's drought situation could worsen to unprecedented levels and persist throughout the summer season.
- ◆ In May 2025, the prices of agricultural inputs continued to seasonally decline. Fertilizer prices decreased marginally by 6 percent from the previous month. Similarly, the average price of pesticides (fungicide, herbicide) decreased by 4 percent in comparison with the previous month, primarily due to increase -

- ◆ - in imported pesticides from China and Türkiye, among others, and a general decline in the exchange rate.
- ◆ The agricultural input vendors are retaining the highest exchange rate (of 15 000) while selling pesticides. They adopted this practice to maintain profits amidst fluctuations in the exchange rate.
- ◆ There is significant shortage of crop residues in the country, amidst high demand. In May 2025, while the prices of fodder decreased by an average of 4 percent for all feed products, crop residues and wheat straw prices experienced an increase of 22 percent and 2 percent respectively compared to the previous month.
- ◆ The average price of live animals remained stable relative to the prior month, with the price of female animals slightly declining by 4 percent while male sheep increased marginally by 6 percent.
- ◆ The availability of diesel fuel increased pushing prices

to decline by an average of 6 percent in May 2025 compared to the previous month, with significant growth noted primarily in Coastal and northern cross border areas.

- ◆ In May 2025, most monitored food commodities registered stable prices, with prices of crop-based food commodities generally declining 6 percent and animal food products declining 3 percent below last month averages. These trends are typical of the harvest period.
- ◆ Among vegetables, tomatoes registered the highest prices increases of 19 percent above last month. The price of potatoes also rose by 11 percent, and these increases are attributed to increase in demand for vegetable exports to neighboring countries and reduced production due to drought.
- ◆ The price of eggs experienced a 9 percent decrease due to market supply and competition from imported Turkish eggs.

## Exchange Rate

The average black-market informal currency exchange rate in the seven targeted governorates was 9 984 SYP/USD as of May 2025, against the Central Bank Syrian pound (SYP) official exchange rate of 11 350 SYP/USD.

To facilitate a more comprehensive understanding of the market fluctuations of the Syrian pound and the USD, the subsequent points should be underscored.

1. May 2025 official exchange rate of the Central Bank Syrian pound decreased by 6 percent from that of the previous month (12 000 SYP/USD in April-2025).
2. On average, there was a 12 percent decrease of the informal exchange rate (Parallel/black) with that of the previous month across the 7 targeted governorates (11 145 SYP/USD reported in April-2025).
3. Comparison of informal with Official Exchange rate from CBS indicates an improvement of the value of

the Syrian pound against the USD with a 12 percent increase between April and May 2025.

Nonetheless, the reported improvement in the value of the Syrian pound is misleading. There are still challenges related to currency liquidity, exchange rate fluctuations, and limitations on withdrawals. Consequently, the purchasing power of the population remains weak.

The fluctuations and currency instability are forcing traders to set prices at the highest exchange rate of 15 000 SYP/USD to secure a satisfactory profit margin for themselves, which transfers pressure onto the consumers.

In our analysis, we observed that the disparity between the black-market rate and the rate utilized by traders indicates that individuals are incurring costs that are 33 percent above the actual price, thereby diminishing their capacity to fulfill essential needs.

**Table 1: Comparison of exchange rates between Central Bank and parallel/black-market, May-2025**

Comparison of Exchange Rate-April-2025	Compare April-25 with Mar-25 %	Compare May-25 with 6 Months Before	Same Month Previous year % Compare May-25 with May-24
Central Bank Exchange Rate	↓ -6%	↓ -10%	↓ -10%
Informal/ Black market Exchange Rate	↓ -12%	↓ -48%	↓ -47%

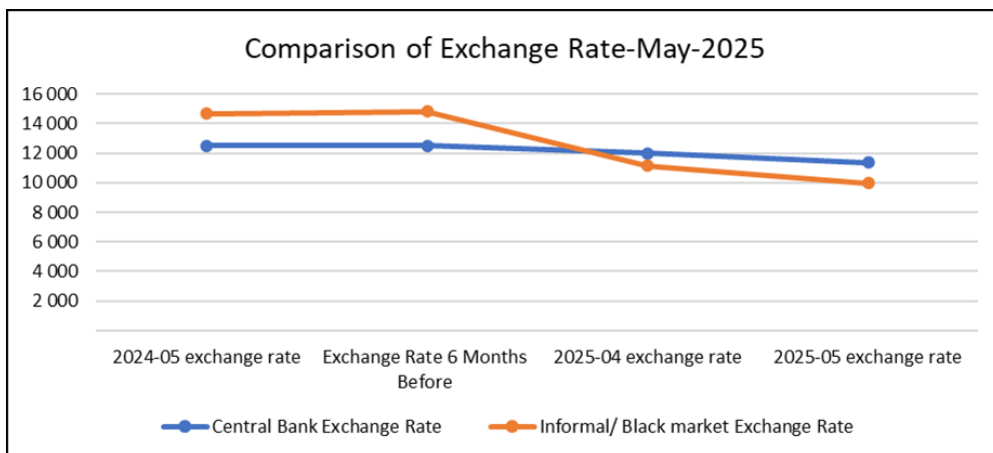
On May 23, a notable development was reported concerning the US decision to lift sanctions on the Syrian Arab Republic. Secretary of State Marco Rubio stated that a 180-day waiver on sanctions imposed under the Caesar Act had been issued to ensure that these sanctions do not obstruct investments and to facilitate the provision of electricity, energy, water, healthcare, and

humanitarian relief efforts.

These developments are welcome as they could ease and facilitate trade and enhance access to essential needs and services.

The official and informal exchange rate flows are shown in the table below.

**Figure 1: Variation in exchange rate between parallel/black-market & Central Bank, May 2025**



Source: Authors' own elaboration

**Note:** FAO market bulletin monitors prices of agriculture inputs and products in the official domestic currency - Syrian Pound (SYP) - and does not specifically analyse changes in prices in any other foreign currencies. The price trends, whether increases or decreases, are therefore in reference to the domestic currency.

## Agricultural Inputs

The prices of winter crop seeds have experienced a slight decline of 5 percent compared to the previous month, attributed to the conclusion of the growing season. In the same context, the FAO-Global Information and Early Warning System reported a decline in the Cereal Price Index for May 2025, which decreased by 1.8 percent from April and is 8.2 percent lower than its level in May 2024. World wheat prices have declined slightly as a result of enhanced crop conditions in the northern hemisphere. In contrast, the FAO All-Rice Price Index saw an increase of 1.4 percent in May 2025, influenced by strong demand for aromatic varieties, rising prices for Indica rice, and fluctuations in currency values.

The local production of winter vegetable seeds experienced a 5 percent decline from the previous month due to the conclusion of the season; however, it remains 91 percent higher than last year. This situation is primarily attributed to production challenges, including contextual instability, and insufficient rainfall during the growing season.

Due to the high market demand and low production, the price of summer crop seeds (cotton, maize, and soybean) rose by 8 percent from the previous month. Summer vegetable crops are mainly cultivated under intensive agricultural systems mostly at the end of the wheat growing season.

Some regions have begun cultivating while others are yet to start, particularly for maize. However, the crop plan for 2025 indicates a target of 49 246 hectares for

cotton, while the implemented area has reached approximately 24 599 hectares.

For soybean seeds, the planned area was 3 862 hectares, yet the planted area is only 11 hectares. Regarding maize (yellow corn) seeds, the planned area is set at 86 021 hectares, with only 1 450 hectares planted to date. It is important to note that the figures for maize may change in the upcoming months due to the ongoing planting season.

As previously noted, the cultivated area for cotton this season is significantly smaller compared to the area cultivated prior to the crisis. However, due to adverse weather conditions, low rainfall, and rising production costs, cotton cultivation areas have decreased by 50 percent from the planned figures. It is important to highlight that cotton was once a strategic crop and a vital source of livelihood for thousands of families in agricultural regions .

Prices for summer vegetable seeds were reported to have dropped by 3 percent in May as compared to the previous month. The Ministry of Agriculture, in conjunction with the Ministry of Economy and Industry, has made a formal decision to prohibit the importation of specific vegetable varieties effective June 1st, 2025.

This decision is intended to bolster local production and decrease dependence on imports, according to reports from Syria TV. The decision includes tomatoes, cucumbers, potatoes, zucchini, eggplant, onions, and garlic.

## Agricultural Inputs

According to FAO-Global Information and Early Warning System, the month of May marked the end of winter cereal cropping season and a transition to summer as no major winter rainfall activity is expected beyond May. Due to significant rainfall deficits and depletion of key water sources experienced during the winter season, the crops that are still growing are adversely impacted. Most seasonal water sources are depleted while the permanent water sources are at their lowest levels.

There is therefore a very high likelihood that the severe impacts of drought conditions will persist or worsen throughout the summer season, accompanied by numerous heatwaves that may heighten the risk of widespread fire hazards and escalation of water scarcity.

While the entire country has witnessed severe impact of drought, the agricultural regions most impacted include Hassakeh, Aleppo, Idleb, Hama, Dara, and Homs.

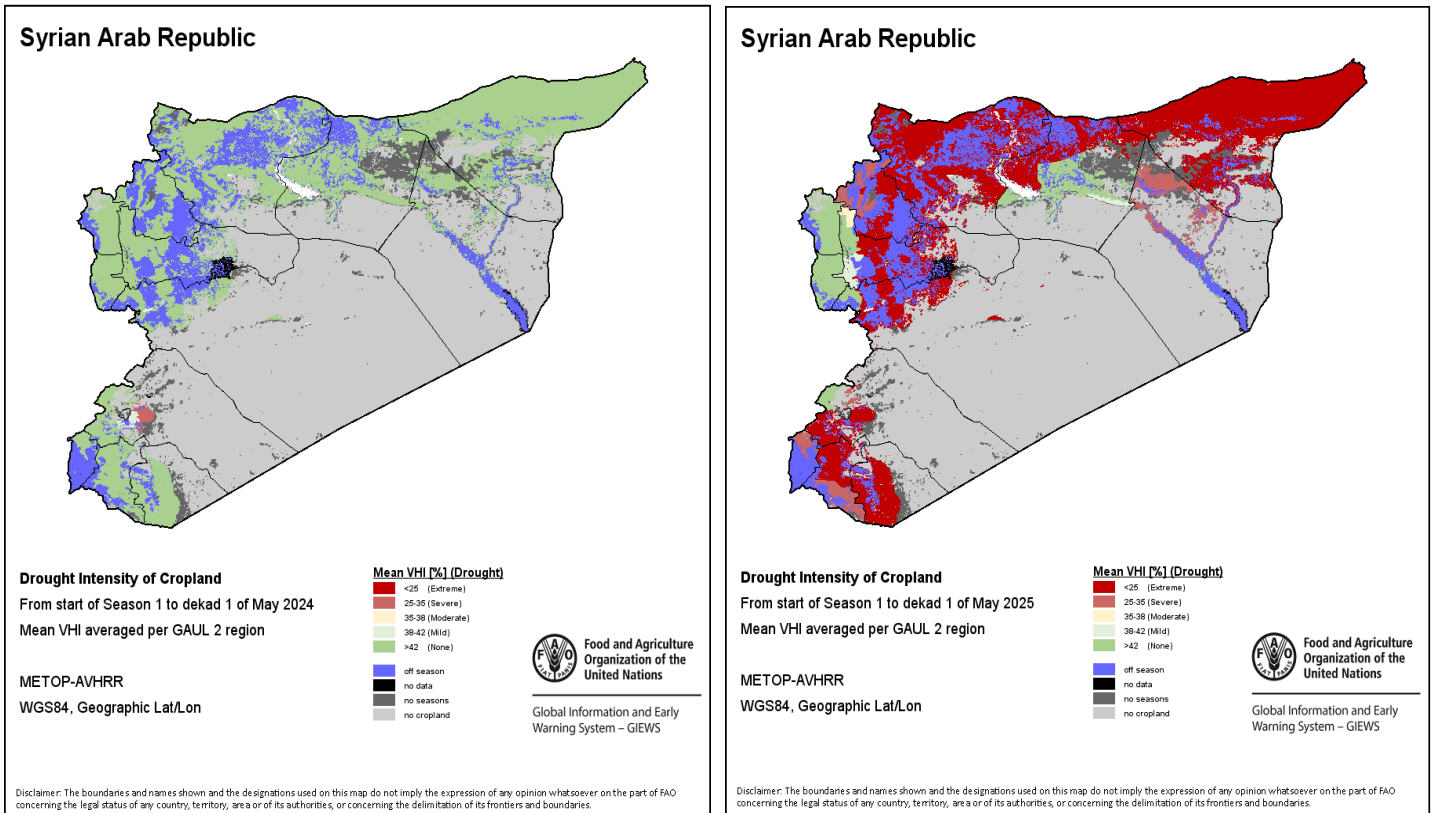
An estimated 25 000 square kilometres (2.5 million hectares) of cultivated land in the 10 most impacted regions experienced severe to extreme drought conditions.

The Director of Agricultural Economics at the Ministry of Agriculture has confirmed that the reduction in water resources this season has necessitated a revision of the agricultural plan for summer crops. Due to climate change, the significant reduction in rainfall this season, and the decrease in water levels in the dams, ground aquifers and lakes, the agricultural plan for summer crops has been adjusted, and modifications have been implemented to the agricultural calendar.

The designated cultivated areas have been decreased by roughly 21 000 hectares, which will affect the availability of summer crops.

The Ministry of Agriculture is collaborating with the Ministry of Water Resources to address water depletion by monitoring illegal wells utilized for crop irrigation, which have emerged as a significant crisis for the agricultural sector.

**Figure 2: Comparison of drought intensity indicator May 2024 and May 2025**



## Agricultural Inputs



### Lentil seeds

Price in the local market; 12 625 SYP/kg.



### Chickpeas seeds

Price in the local market; 13 993 SYP/kg.



### Peas Seeds

Price in the local market; 24 706 SYP/kg.



### Faba bean Seeds

Price in the local market; 12 267 SYP/kg.



### Cotton seeds

Price in the local market; 5 250 SYP/kg.



### Maize (Yellow Corn) seeds

Price in the local market; 5 598 SYP/kg.



### Soyabean seeds

Price in the local market; 14 997 SYP/kg.



### Bean Seeds

Price in the local market; 49 300 SYP/kg.



### Carrot Seeds

Price in the local market; 127 567 SYP/kg.



### Eggplant Local Seeds

Price in the local market; 226 806 SYP/kg.



### Cucumbers Local Seeds

Price in the local market; 200 217 SYP/kg.



### Cucumbers Hybrid Seeds

Price in the local market; 375 179 SYP/kg.



### Tomato Local Seeds

Price in the local market; 162 667 SYP/kg.



### Tomato Hybrid Seeds

Price in the local market; 409 107 SYP/kg.

## Agro-chemicals

In May 2025, fertilizer prices experienced a continued decline, with a slight decrease of 6 percent from the previous month, reflecting a significant 33 percent drop compared to the same period last year. Similarly, pesticide prices saw an average reduction of 4 percent from the previous month.

This downward trend can be attributed to the increased availability of various imported fertilizers and pesticides, including those from China and Türkiye, as well as a 12 percent decline in the exchange rate from the previous month. The widespread use of various agro-chemical

types, coupled with insufficient control and a lack of technical restrictions concerning quality, minimum standards, and lack of testing, poses significant risks to the sector, with food safety concerns.

This situation may adversely impact the acceptable amounts and types of agro-chemicals utilized by farmers, often without their awareness of potential side effects and residual effects on plants, animals, and humans. The continued reduction in the price of some agro-chemicals is attributed to the removal of some restrictions on importation through open borders and removal of informal

**Table 2: Comparison of agro-chemical price changes for May 2025**

Agro Chemical	Item	2024-05	2024-11	2025-04	2025-05	Comparison: Current Month Vis Previous Month (%)	Comparison: Current Month Vis 6 Months Before (%)	Comparison: Current Month Vis Same Month Previous Year (%)
Fertilizers	Urea (Granular) Local Market	577 381	596 429	314 845	292 679	↓ -7%	↓ -51%	↓ -49%
	Nitrate (Liquid) (Local Market)	38 086	40 486	50 433	48 083	↓ -5%	↑ 19%	↑ 19%
	Phosphate fertilizers (Local Market)	495 776	484 905	292 357	271 440	↓ -7%	↓ -44%	↓ -45%
	NPK (Local Market)	56 786	52 900	27 251	25 440	↓ -7%	↓ -52%	↓ -55%
Insecticides	Mhythomel	363 262	460 762	207 375	184 083	↓ -11%	↓ -60%	↓ -49%
	Acetamiprid	254 752	330 181	186 542	184 650	↓ -1%	↓ -44%	↓ -28%
	Dimethoate	218 015	253 671	99 048	92 417	↓ -7%	↓ -64%	↓ -58%
	Delta Methrin	221 571	265 226	103 750	100 321	↓ -3%	↓ -62%	↓ -55%
Fungicides	Thiophanate-methyl	256 852	291 287	119 143	116 190	↓ -2%	↓ -60%	↓ -55%
	Trifloxystrobin	302 211	324 856	194 306	195 000	⇒ 0%	↓ -40%	↓ -35%
	Propamocarb Hydrochloride	223 914	278 685	125 000	121 893	↓ -2%	↓ -56%	↓ -46%
Herbicides	Sulfonyl urea	276 481	335 652	217 667	183 762	↓ -16%	↓ -45%	↓ -34%
	Glyphosate Equivalent	188 873	212 335	95 333	93 042	↓ -2%	↓ -56%	↓ -51%
	Glyphosate	154 129	162 587	69 095	67 631	↓ -2%	↓ -58%	↓ -56%
	Haloxypop-R-methyl	226 700	257 730	123 405	119 119	↓ -3%	↓ -54%	↓ -47%
	Trifluralin	190 509	217 407	93 905	92 214	↓ -2%	↓ -58%	↓ -52%

Source: Authors' own elaboration



### Fertilizers Price/SYP

Current Month Vs. Previous Month -6%



### Insecticides Price/SYP

Current Month Vs. Previous Month -6%



### Fungicide Price/SYP

Current Month Vs. Previous Month -2%



### Herbicide Price/SYP

Current Month Vs. Previous Month -5%

## Livestock feed

In May 2025, the prices of fodder decreased by an average of 12 percent for all feed products except for crop residues, wheat straw and cattle feed which experienced an increase of 22 percent for crop residues, 2 percent for straw and 3 percent for cattle feed compared to the previous month. The reason behind the increment of the wheat straw and crop residues prices is high demand and shortage in the market, due to the reduced production from the main crops (wheat and barley) occasioned by drought conditions.

months as natural pasture and crop residues will get depleted sooner than usual. Poor vegetation (crop and pasture) conditions have been observed across all agricultural areas since the beginning of winter rains in Nov/Dec 2024 through the end of May 2025.

This resulted into poor biomass production, raising concerns for 2025 feed production prospects. Dry and hotter than normal conditions are forecasted throughout the upcoming summer period.

However, it's worth mentioning that the cost and prices of fodder will likely increase in the upcoming summer

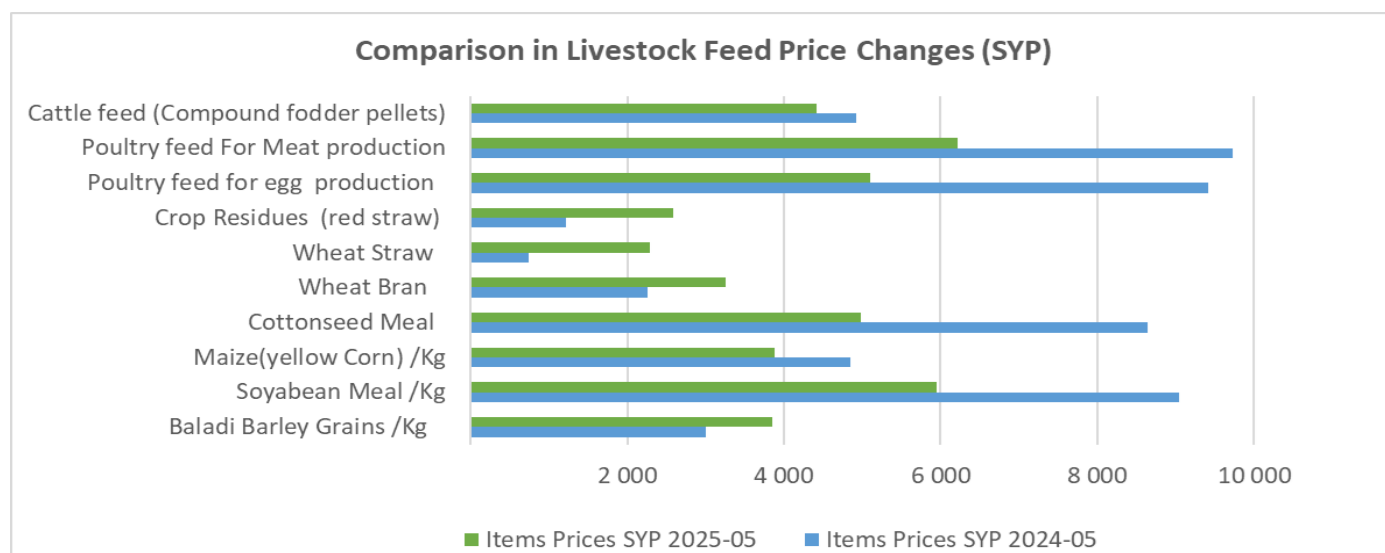
For additional details, refer to the table below, which contains the reported prices in SYP/kg for May.

**Table 3: Comparison of livestock feed price changes for May 2025**

Livestock Feed	Livestock feed price changes (%)		
	2025-05 Month-over-Month (MoM)% and 2025-04	2025-05 6 Months Before % and 2024-11	2025-05 Same Month Previous year % and 2024-05
Baladi Barley Grains /Kg	↓ -2%	↓ -7%	↑ 28%
Soyabean Meal /Kg	↓ -7%	↓ -36%	↓ -34%
Maize(yellow Corn) /Kg	↓ -4%	↓ -27%	↓ -20%
Cottonseed Meal	↓ -5%	↓ -42%	↓ -42%
Wheat Bran	↓ -6%	↑ 33%	↑ 44%
Wheat Straw	↑ 2%	↑ 122%	↑ 209%
Crop Residues (red straw)	↑ 22%	↑ 92%	↑ 112%
Poultry feed for egg production	↓ -54%	↓ -44%	↓ -46%
Poultry feed For Meat production	↓ -2%	↓ -39%	↓ -36%
Cattle feed (Compound fodder pellets)	↑ 3%	↓ -19%	↓ -10%

Source: Authors' own elaboration

**Figure 3: Variation of livestock feed between May 2025 and May 2024**



Source: Authors' own elaboration

## Livestock feed



### Barley grain

Price in the local market; 3 846 SYP/kg.



### Maize

Price in the local market; 3 877 SYP/kg.



### Cottonseeds Meal

Price in the local market; 4 976 SYP/kg.



### Soybean meal

Price in the local market; 5 955 SYP/kg.



### Wheat bran

Price in the local market; 3 250 SYP/kg.



### Wheat straw

Price in the local market; 2 295 SYP/kg.



### Crop residues

Price in the local market; 2 586 SYP/kg.



### Cattle feed

Price in the local market; 4 421 SYP/kg.



### Poultry Feed for Egg

Price in the local market; 5 107 SYP/kg.



### Poultry Feed for Meat

Price in the local market; 6 218 SYP/kg.



### Livestock Feed

Price in the local market; 4 253 SYP/kg.

## Live Animals

In May 2025, the average price of live animals experienced a decline of 4 percent compared to the previous month for female sheep, old calves, and dairy cows, whereas the price of male sheep saw an increase of 6 percent.

The underlying reason for this situation is linked to the export of live animals to neighbouring countries, especially male sheep for the Hajj season, along with the heightened demand for sacrificial animals, particularly

male sheep, in the lead-up to Eid al-Adha.

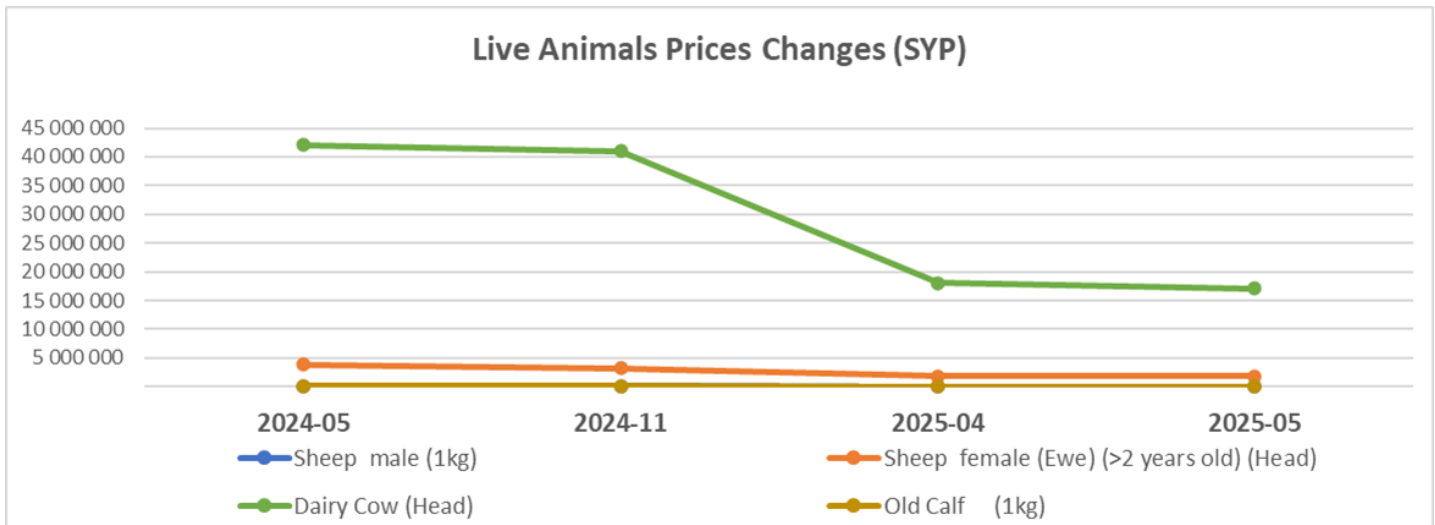
The price of female sheep (ewes over 2 years old per head) saw a 2 percent decline from the previous month, while indicating a 44 percent decrease compared to the same period last year. The price of old calves and dairy cows declined by 4 percent compared to the previous month. Additional information can be found in the table below.

**Table 4: Variation of live animal prices for May 2025**

Live Animal	Comparison of Prices in SYP			
	2024-05	2024-11	2025-04	2025-05
Sheep male (1kg)	81 333	66 574	47 024	49 731
Sheep female (Ewe) (>2 years old) (Head)	3 852 000	3 204 238	1 851 786	1 807 143
Dairy Cow (Head)	42 043 810	41 022 857	18 090 476	17 132 143
Old Calf (1kg)	66 476	58 390	39 810	38 631

Source: Authors' own elaboration

**Figure 4: Variation of live animal prices per Governorate**



Source: Authors' own elaboration



### Male Sheep SYP/Kg

Current Month Vs. Previous Year -39%



### Female sheep SYP/Head

Current Month Vs. Previous Year -53%



### Calf SYP/Kg

Current Month Vs. Previous Year -42%



### Dairy Cow SYP/Head

Current Month Vs. Previous Year -59%

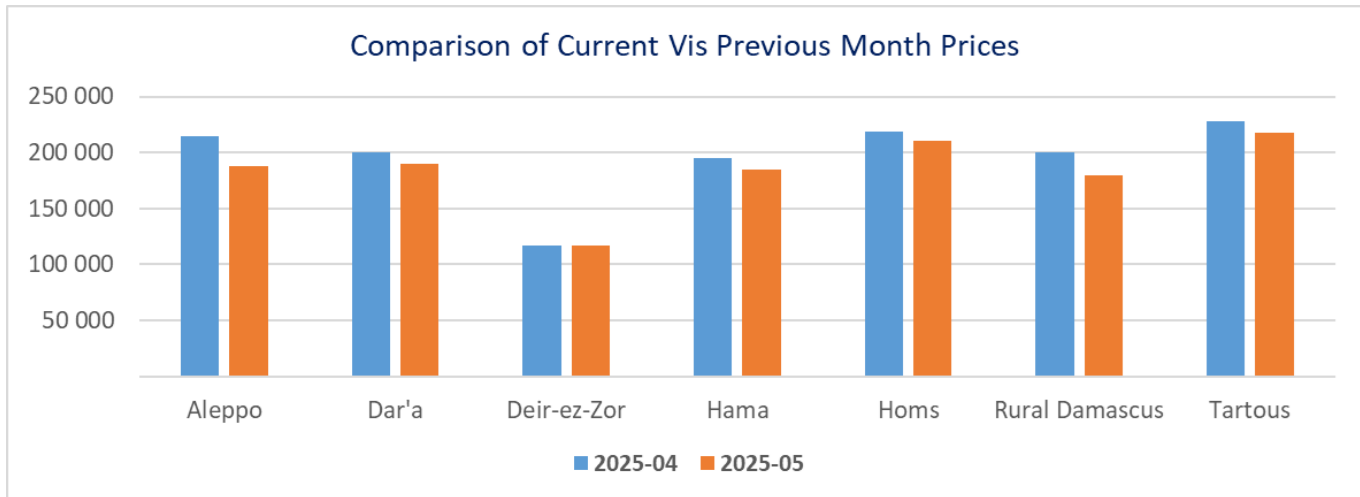
## Diesel Fuel (20 liters)

The availability of diesel fuel increased, resulting in an average price decrease of 6 percent in May 2025 compared to the previous month. It is essential to recognize that the instability and significant fluctuations between months are linked to security and accessibility factors, open borders, and the absence of restrictions on fuel

imports from neighbouring countries.

The discussion primarily revolves around availability, policies, and supply, as many individuals tend to prefer the lower prices of imports from Lebanon and Türkiye over those offered at official stations.

**Figure 5: Variation in diesel fuel prices (20 litres) per Governorate, May 2025/Apr 2025**

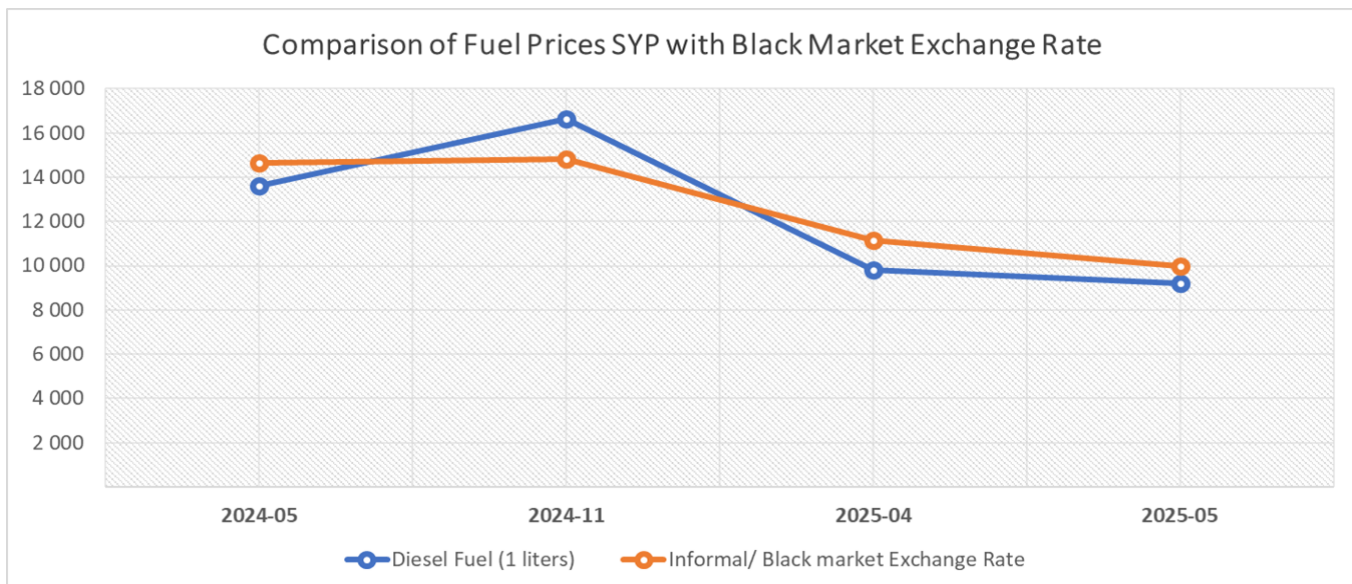


Source: Authors' own elaboration

**Table 5: Comparison of fuel prices (SYP with informal exchange rate), May 2025**

Comparison of Fuel Prices SYP with Black Market Exchange Rate	2024-05	2024-11	2025-04	2025-05
Diesel Fuel (1 liters)	13 624	16 617	9 808	9 194
Informal/ Black market Exchange Rate	14 662	14 806	11 145	9 984

**Figure 6: Variation of fuel prices with informal/black market exchange rate for**



Source: Authors' own elaboration

## Food Items

In May 2025, the price of bread remained stable compared to the previous month, with bakeries indicating a price of 3 893 SYP per bundle (1.1 Kg). In contrast, stores priced bundles (1.1 Kg) at between 4 250 and 9 488 SYP. Due to Eid al-Adha preparations, the open market, and the availability of large quantities of various products in the local market, most food commodities experienced significant fluctuations in May. However, by the end of the month, the prices of many primary food commodities, such as flour, rice, sugar, milk, and oils, had decreased by an average of 6 percent.

In relation to animal products, the price of cow and sheep meat has experienced a decrease of 3 percent compared to the previous month. As a result of the distribution of sacrificial meat before and during Eid al-Adha, the price of fish meat (both sea and river) increased by 7 percent. Conversely, The FAO Meat Price Index recorded an average of 124.6 points in May, reflecting an increase of 1.6 points (1.3 percent) from the revised value in April and a rise of 7.9 points (6.8 percent) compared to the same period last year. The rise was attributed to elevated international prices for bovine, ovine, and pig meats, effectively counterbalancing a decrease in poultry meat quotations.

May showed a 6 percent drop in sunflower oil prices and

a 1 percent increase in olive oil prices. Meanwhile, the FAO Vegetable Oil Price Index averaged 152.2 points in May, down 5.8 points (3.7 percent) from April but still 19.1 percent over its level from the previous year. The ongoing decrease was indicative of reduced prices for palm, rapeseed, soy, and sunflower oils.

The average value of vegetables, such as eggplant and potatoes, declined by 11 percent due to seasonal supply factors. In contrast, tomatoes experienced a 19 percent increase from the previous month, attributed to the export demand for Syrian varieties to neighbouring countries. Additionally, it is important to note that the Syrian Ministry of Economy and Industry made a decision to suspend the importation of specific vegetable varieties. This decision is intended to boost local production and decrease dependence on imports.

Consequently, the importation of the following vegetable varieties will be suspended effective June 1st, 2025: tomatoes, cucumbers, potatoes, zucchini, eggplant, onions, and garlic. The status of this decision, whether it is temporary or permanent, remains undetermined, and the available alternatives to satisfy local demand for these vegetables have yet to be identified.

**Table 6: Comparison of food commodity price changes for May 2025**

Food items in Average	Comparison in changing of Prices %		
	2025-05 Month-over-Month (MoM)% and 2025-04	2025-05 6 Months Before % and 2024-11	2025-05 Same Month Previous year % and 2024-05
Bread	→ 0%	↑ 625%	↑ 761%
Flour	↓ -1%	↓ -37%	↓ -37%
Sugar	↓ -10%	↓ -41%	↓ -46%
Rice(Egyptian small type)	↓ -6%	↓ -44%	↓ -49%
Eggs crate (1800-2000)g	↓ -4%	↓ -53%	↓ -53%
Cow Milk	→ 0%	↓ -27%	↓ -18%
Sheep Milk	↓ -2%	→ 0%	↓ -4%
Chicken Meat	↑ 2%	↓ -29%	↓ -32%
Sheep Meat	↓ -4%	↓ -41%	↓ -43%
Cow Meat (Calf)	↓ -2%	↓ -39%	↓ -44%
Fish Meat	↑ 6%	↓ -23%	↓ -12%
Fish Meat	↑ 8%	↓ -52%	↓ -36%
Olive oil	↑ 1%	↓ -47%	↓ -49%
Sunflower oil	↓ -6%	↓ -28%	↓ -27%
Tomatoes	↑ 19%	↑ 18%	↑ 6%
Potatoes	↓ -11%	↓ -59%	↓ -54%
Eggplant	↓ -10%	↑ 10%	↓ -8%

Source: Authors' own elaboration

Nonetheless, the FAO Food Price Index\* (FFPI) averaged 127.7 points in May 2025, down 1.0 points (0.8 percent) from April. While the price indices for dairy products and meat increased, they were more than offset by declines in those for cereals, sugar and vegetable oils. Overall, the FFPI was 7.2 points (6.0 percent) higher than its level last year but remained 32.6 points (20.3 percent) below its peak reached in March 2022.

For a more detailed analysis of food commodities and market price trends, please refer to the WFP Market Price Bulletins for Syria, and FAO Global Food Price Index. Website: [FAO Food Price Index dips in May amid lower cereal, sugar and vegetable oil prices](#)



### Bread

Price in the local market: 4 250 SYP/kg



### Flour

Price in the local market: 5 620 SYP/kg.



### Sugar

Price in the local market: 7 879 SYP/kg.



### Rice (Egyptian small type)

Price in the local market: 9 599 SYP/kg.



### Eggs crate

Price in the local market: 24 821 SYP/kg.



### Cow Milk

Price in the local market: 5 161 SYP/kg.



### Chicken

Price in the local market: 28 584 SYP/kg.



### Sheep Meat

Price in the local market: 104 643 SYP/kg.



### Cow Meat (Calf)

Price in the local market: 91 036 SYP/



### Fish Meat

Price in the local market: 77 625 SYP/kg.



### olive oil

Price in the local market: 42 607 SYP/kg.



### sunflower oil

Price in the local market: 17 935 SYP/kg.



### Eggplant

Price in the local market: 6 685 SYP/kg.



### Potatoes

Price in the local market: 3 804 SYP/kg.



### Tomatoes

Price in the local market: 7 169 SYP/kg.

## Other Factors

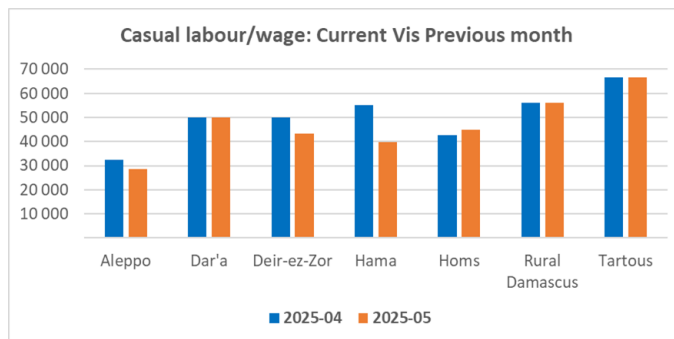
### Farm Casual Labour and Wage

In the specified governorates, the average daily wage for agricultural workers was around 47 029 SYP. This reflects a 7 percent decline from the previous month and a 13 percent reduction over the past six months. The observed decrease is associated with the seasonal reduction in agricultural activity, despite an increase in the number of agricultural labourers due in part to the return of refugees from other countries. It is important to note the prevalent high wage gap between men and women, particularly among rural workers. Many of these workers are managed by a Shawish, who organizes them into groups and takes a percentage of their earnings. Given the high vulnerability of women and prevailing cultural norms, many women are tasked with labor-intensive activities, while men typically handle mechanized and driving tasks.

### Mechanized Farm Operations

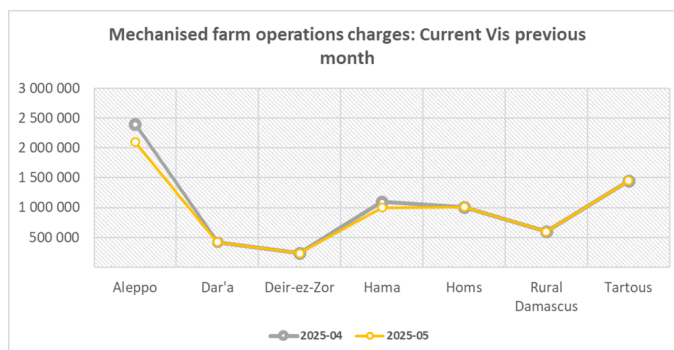
Mechanized services in May 2025 cost 974 405 SYP per hectare, a 3 percent reduction from the previous month and 25 percent decrease over the preceding six months. The persistent low cost of mechanized services is linked to both lower fuel prices and restricted mobility of operational services and machinery as a result of the shorter harvesting season.

Figure 7: Variation in casual labour costs for May 2025



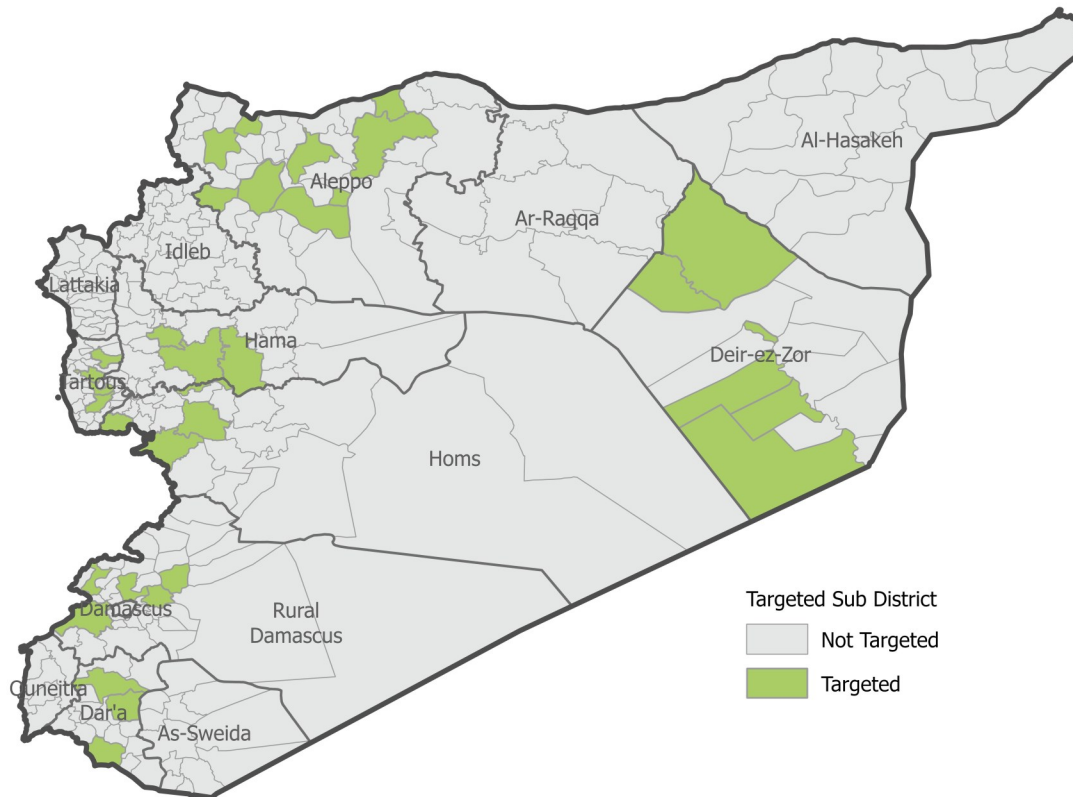
Source: Authors' own elaboration

Figure 8: Variation in mechanized farm operations charges for May 2025



Source: Authors' own elaboration

Figure 9: Map showing monitored markets, May 2025



For more information, please contact:

FAO in the Syrian Arab Republic

FAO-SY@fao.org

[www.fao.org/Syria](http://www.fao.org/Syria)

Twitter: @FAOinSyria

Facebook: FAO Syria

### **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**

Damascus, The Syrian Arab Republic

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