GB Fertiliser Price Market Update

September 2019



Monthly average prices for August 2019

Price data has been aggregated and anonymised to produce the monthly averages shown below. This series is an average of spot prices and therefore should be used as an indicator of pricing trends.

	Aug-19 (£/tonne)	Jul-19 (£/tonne)	Change from previous month (%)	Aug-18 (£/tonne)	Change from previous year (%)
AN – UK produced (34.5% N)	258	258	0%	260	-1%
AN – Imported* (34.5% N)	248	245	1%	245	1%
Granular Urea - Standard Specification (46% N)	281	282	0%	285	-1%
UAN (30% N w/w kg per 100kg)	224	224	0%	208	8%
Muriate of Potash (MOP)	291	281	4%	270	8%
Diammonium Phosphate (DAP)	358	365	-2%	405	-12%
Triple Super Phosphate (TSP)	308	307	0%	329	-6%

^{*}Imported prices are based upon product delivered via a range of sea ports

Source: AHDB

Currency and tariff impacts on fertilisers

Over the course of August prices of most fertilisers, with the possible exception of Muriate of Potash, were relatively stable. MOP prices have continued their general upward trend and are likely to continue to do so through the next couple of months as applications increase in line with winter planting programmes.

With little movement elsewhere in prices it is worth considering the implication of currency movements and tariffs on fertilisers and farm inputs as a whole.

While we have seen weakness in sterling supporting the value of UK grain markets, a weak sterling increases the cost of importing inputs. This is likely to have a significant effect on UK arable farming, with the UK a large net importer of fertiliser products. As a result, an increase in the likelihood of a no-deal Brexit could result in an increase in the cost of fertiliser at farm-gate level.

Additionally to the impact of a fall in the value of sterling, there is further Brexit risk in the form of tariffs. The UK's proposed tariff schedule post-Brexit highlights a 6.5% tariff on all fertiliser products. Once more this would raise the potential cost of fertiliser at a farm-gate level, with importers potentially passing on the additional cost to growers.

About the price series

AHDB's monthly GB fertiliser prices was launched in January 2018, with the aim of increasing transparency in the market and helping levy payers understand price trends for a key input. The prices cover the most commonly used products: ammonium nitrate (UK produced and imported), granular urea, liquid nitrogen (UAN), potash and phosphates.

For more information on this price series, including the specification and validation ranges, please click here: Key Information

Any businesses in the farm supply chain interested in contributing should contact AHDB at mi@ahdb.org.uk.

To subscribe to future issues please email mi@ahdb.org.uk with your details, titling your email 'Subscribe – GB Fertiliser'. The average prices will be updated monthly and published here: Historical Prices

This publication and its content is produced by the AHDB Market Intelligence team whose quality management systems are certificated to ISO 9001:2015

While the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board seeks to ensure that the information contained within this document is accurate at the time of printing, no warranty is given in respect thereof and, to the maximum extent permitted by law, the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board accepts no liability for loss, damage or injury howsoever caused (including that caused by negligence) or suffered directly or indirectly in relation to information and opinions contained in or omitted from this document

