GB Fertiliser Price Market Update

June 2021

Monthly average prices for April 2021

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.

	Apr-21 (£/tonne)	Mar-21 (£/tonne)	Change from previous month (%)	Apr-20 (£/tonne)	Change from previous year (%)
AN – UK produced (34.5% N)	281	283	-1%	236	19%
AN – Imported* (34.5% N)	270	271	0%	223	21%
Granular Urea - Standard Specification (46% N)	N/a	318	N/a	N/a	N/a
UAN (30% N w/w kg per 100kg)	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
Muriate of Potash (MOP)	257	254	1%	269	-5%
Diammonium Phosphate (DAP)	486	454	7%	332	46%
Triple Super Phosphate (TSP)	392	343	14%	280	40%

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

Source: AHDB

New season N prices likely to start high.

At the start of June, we find ourselves at a key point in the fertiliser market, with new season terms being released. In the run up to the new season values we have seen vastly elevated prices for ammonium nitrate (AN). Values of both domestic and imported AN continued to be strong in March and April, as we moved through a period of strong input prices.

This strong input prices are liable to influence the new terms offered now. We have seen natural gas and crude oil prices in May well ahead of last year. Nearby brent crude futures in May were 109% ahead of 2020. Similarly, the value of another key input in the AN process, natural gas, has seen prices 64% ahead of last year's levels, in May.

Alongside firm input prices, high output prices also show a key link with the value of AN. In May, nearby Chicago maize futures averaged $274.56/t, $130.46/t ahead of the average of the previous three seasons. Moreover, nearby maize futures in May were 119% ahead of 2020.

All of these drivers point, unsurprisingly, to the likelihood of a high new season AN price.

While nitrogen prices have been high of late, phosphate prices have rocketed. Both Diammonium and Triple-Super Phosphate (DAP and TSP), have hit their highest point since 2011. While output prices are high, it is more important than ever to pay close attention to the value of inputs.

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.

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