

Wednesday, June 3, 2026



HALLGARTEN + COMPANY

Sector Coverage

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Growth Minerals Review Morocco & LatAm on the Mind

June 2026

Growth Minerals Sector

Morocco & LatAm on the Mind

- × **Heavy rests the crown for Morocco's "king" of phosphate as he wrestles with supply shocks for raw materials that once transited the Straits of Hormuz**
- + **The takeover action with Agnico's Avenir arm making a move on Fox River, a listed Ontario phosphate story electrified Canadian phosphate names in recent weeks**
- + **All is not gloom and doom in sulphuric acid as the blockages in the Middle East have given extra oomph to long-gestating projects elsewhere**
- + **The entry of massively cash-up stablecoin company, Tether, into Argentine fertilisers, is a harbinger of potential further action in South American agro**
- + **Meanwhile, Argentina has seized the advantage from the US in penetrating further into the Chinese market for soybeans**
- + **Brazil is also successfully snatching market space in soybeans from the US when it comes to China**
- × **The global economy needs to focus more on chokepoints in shipping & trade for now countries in the Global South are being empowered by realizing the geographical leverage with which they are endowed**
- × **Geopolitics (and dirty deals thereunder) are reshaping the flow of wheat supplies, particularly in the Black Sea region**

Morocco's Other "King"

A headline in Africa Intelligence that was buried along with the phosphate fertilizer topics was one of the most important ones of all—"Phosphate king Mostafa Terrab moves to contain Middle East supply shock". That's a lower case "k" in the title because Mostafa Terrab is the CEO of Morocco's state-owned phosphate company, OCP Group. The ongoing problems facing phosphate fertilizer production are derived from the constant pressures of high raw material costs. The Strait of Hormuz disruptions to ammonia and sulphuric acid will pose more challenges than opportunities for the world's largest phosphate producer's bottom line in the months to come. The article asserts that the government in Morocco has upped the pressure on Mostafa Terrab to "shoulder responsibility for the crisis".

Mostafa Terrab has done amazing work for Morocco's state-owned phosphate mining industry. He led the formation of a joint venture with various French banking entities to take the company from OCP to OCP Group. This was part of the strategy to advance Morocco's phosphate industry from purely phosphate rock mining to expanding phosphate rock resources for downstream processing into phosphate fertilizer products for global exports. The major port expansion and industrial zone

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at Jorf Lasfar Complex in El Jadida was also carried out under his leadership, which became a 50-50 joint venture with Koch Industries. These are all amazing developments for a phosphate mining company.

Terrab is known for his ties to the U.S. He was a graduate of the renowned MIT university. However, this is not the best-case scenario for Morocco at this time. When the U.S. is attacking the Middle East, it is a major case of concern for a country that also is highly dependent on energy and food supplies. And then there's the issue of the CVDs which we've been talking about for several months. The results of the phosphate CVDs legal dispute put Moroccan phosphate products out of the U.S. market and thus has been a black eye in the U.S.-Morocco relations ever since.

Where some retreat, Eagles dare to fly!

Another black eye for OCP Group, and its U.S. competitor, The Mosaic Company, is the soaring cost for raw material inputs of sulphur and ammonia. We reported in the previous monthly that the Phosphate PPI has risen steadily since July 2023 at about 100 basis points. The latest data from FRED indicates that a new milestone has been reached for the Phosphate PPI figures. The market is back at a 120-point threshold that had previously been reached after the short and more decisive Israel-Iran war in July 2025.

Due to high fertilizer prices, several junior phosphate companies have emerged from the shadows, and not all of them are even trying to break into the phosphate fertilizer market. Volatile phosphate prices in the USD \$800-\$900 per ton range are a new reality in the MAP and DAP fertilizer markets. Higher raw material input costs from ammonia and sulphur found their way into higher prices for phosphate production. The Phosphate Producer Price Index (PPI) has risen over 120 points since bottoming out in July 2023.

The Eagle Picks Off its Prey

In recent years, new phosphate projects are getting a lot of attention in the capital markets. Even the battery-intensive companies with their LFP battery dreams in sight are getting noticed for the high phosphate fertilizer prices. In a very intriguing transaction, on 25 May 2026, it was announced that Agnico Eagle, via its subsidiary Avenir Minerals Ltd, was acquiring Fox River Resources (CSE:FOX) by way of a statutory plan of arrangement under the Canada Business Corporations Act. For more information on the phosphate space, refer to [our Corporate Actions note](#) of the deal published last month.

Agnico's acquisition is a prescient move by a mining major to acquire a junior phosphate company in Canada. Current policy actions from the U.S. and Canada are positive for the phosphate mining sector. However, future policies will require more than just boosting domestic production in the U.S and Canada: there must be a complete rethink on the entire phosphate supply chain in North America because Morocco, China and Algeria have some of the world's largest reserves of phosphate rock.

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The Sulphuric Acid Saga Takes some Interesting Twists

A new announcement from Russia about a new sulphuric acid plant investment in Kazakhstan reveals that there is a new strategy in the works for global fertilizer trade patterns. We've been getting some questions about Russia's strategy to export sulphuric acid in the future. The news story about Eurochem's commissioning of a new sulphuric acid in Kazakhstan is foretelling to that question. The new investment in Kazakhstan is very timely because of skyrocketing raw material prices for fertilizer production and rising global demand for food production.

EuroChem's new sulfuric acid production facility will be located in the Zhambyl region of southern Kazakhstan. The first phase of this USD \$1 billion chemical complex is designed to produce 800,000 tons of sulphuric acid per year, serving as the downstream fertilizer production hub for Central Asia and Asia-Pacific agriculture demand, enabling the complex to reach over 1 million tons of premium mineral fertilizers annually upon full completion by 2027.

Itafos Secures Its Needs

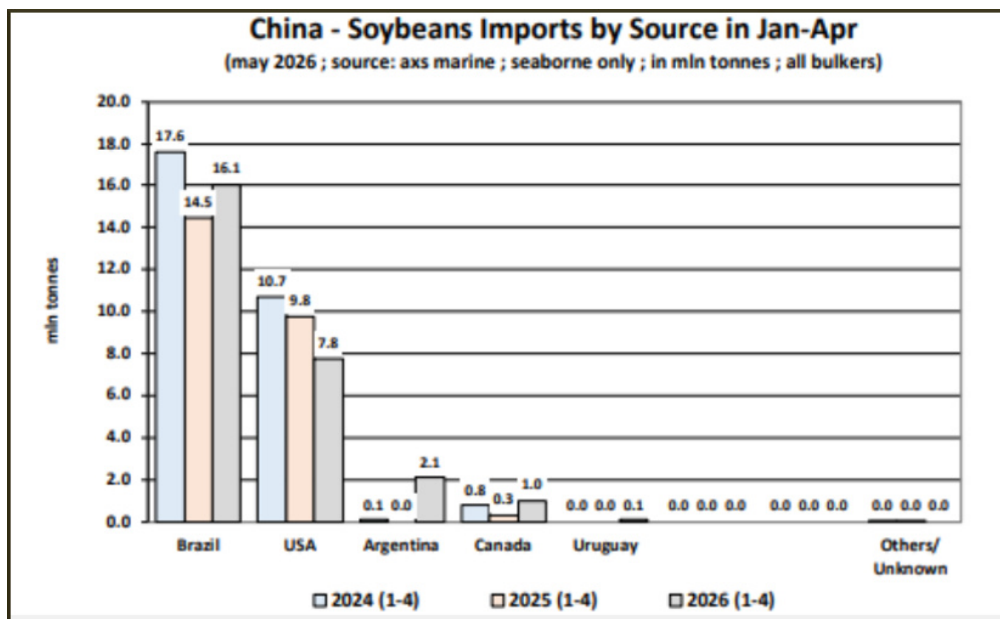
In another positive event in the sulphur saga, we came across a company in our Growth Minerals table, Itafos (TSX-V: IFOS), a phosphate fertilizer producer in the U.S and Brazil, that has signed a new sulphuric acid agreement with Rio Tinto. The mining major has agreed to supply Itafos with sulphuric acid under an amended agreement from 1 May 2026-31 December 2029. The amendment is about pricing benchmarks for sulphuric acid. Instead of Vancouver, the new agreement handles pricing at ports in Tampa Bay, Florida. Itafos has a production capacity of 550,000 tons per annum of MAP at the Conda phosphate facility in the state of Idaho. The Toronto-listed phosphate producer also produces a variety of phosphate fertilizer products at the phosphate fertilizer facility in Tocantins, Brazil.

Argentina soybean exports make up for shortfall in U.S. exports to China

Argentina President Javier Milei came through for Argentine farmers in a big way. The decision by the Milei government to roll out export duty reductions was announced on 22 May. The export duties for wheat and barley will be reduced from 7.5% to 5.5% beginning in June. This will also include a separate duty reduction for soybean exports that have already allowed for higher export levels to meet China's growing demand to replace U.S. imports of soybeans.

Argentina's Economy Minister, Luis Caputo, said at a press conference that the government will steadily reduce its export taxes on grain exports throughout the next two years. This will also occur on top of a tax regime on soybean exports, currently at 24%, which will be cut monthly throughout 2027, reaching 21% at the end of next year and 15% by the end of 2028. Argentina's Rosario Grains Exchange raised its 2025/26 soybean forecast to 50 million tons, up 2 million tons from previous forecasts citing positive yields from the spring planting season in the central and northern agricultural areas.

On the other hand, the first estimate for the 2026/27 wheat crop came in at just 18-19 million tons, down sharply from 29.5 million tons in the previous crop season. That was initially going to be 10 millions tons of wheat out of the market from Argentina. High urea fertilizer costs have been cited as the primary cause for lower yields from Argentina wheat fields. Then, the good news came in for wheat plantings after Argentine farmers made better progress than the initial wheat planting area forecasts. The Buenos Aires Grain Exchange changed the total wheat harvest to 21.3 million tons, but still short of the previous crop season by around 8 million tons—this will likely cause a 23.4% reduction in wheat exports from Argentina.



Source: Hellenic Shipping/Banchero Costa

Brazil is the place to play for potash (and other fertilizers)

China continues to source extraordinary soybean volumes from Brazil. For the first four months of 2026, Brazilian soybean exports have accounted for 45 million metric tons of the 61.7 million metric tons exported globally so far—that’s approximately 73% of the world total. Soybean exports are already up by an additional 6 million metric tons (a 55.6 million) compared to the same months during 2025.

The global soybean trade is all about Brazilian production and China demand. The trade figures from January-April 2026 reveal that U.S. soybean exports to China are falling even faster than the previous two years, from 10.7 million metric tons in 2024 to 7.8 million metric tons during the first four months. Argentina’s soybean exports slightly rose to make up for this lack of U.S. import demand. Argentina has recorded nearly two million metric tons of soybean exports to China from January-April 2026. We addressed this agriculture trade shift in a recent interview on the Mining Network. During global fertilizer trade disruptions, the most disadvantaged party of all is Brazil.

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Current fertilizer trading prices for the U.S. and Brazil markets are provided below:

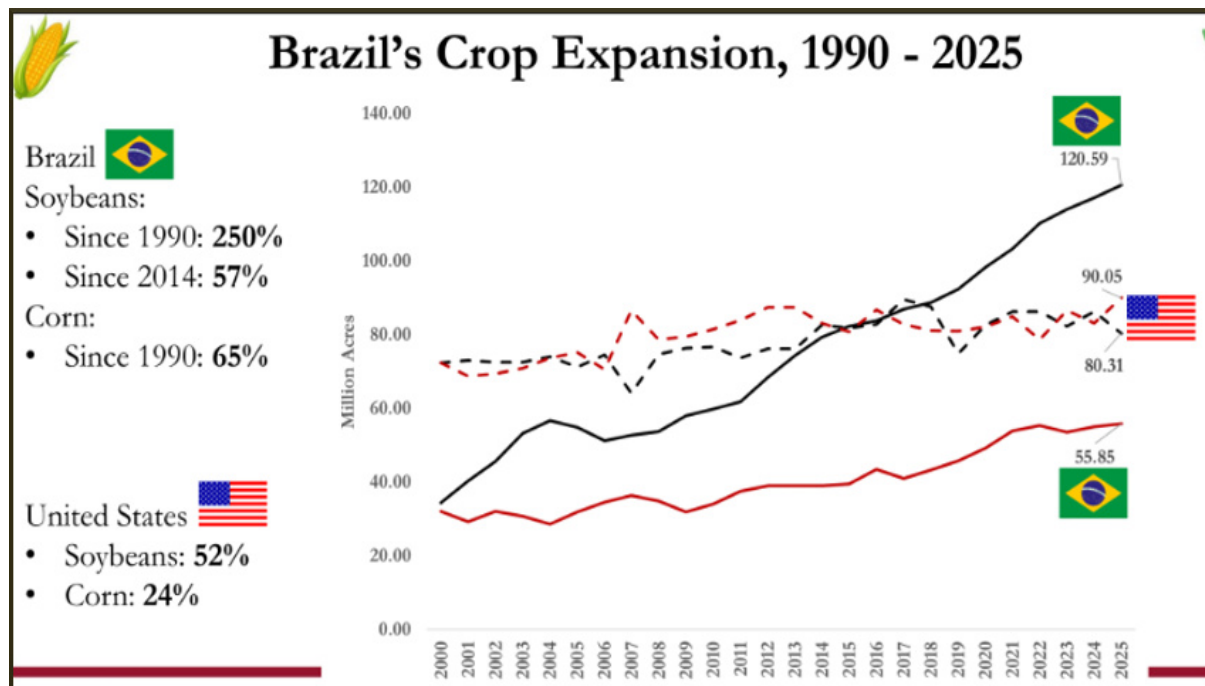
USD/Mt		Jun	July	Aug
UREA	FOB AG – latest index 599	550-590	540-590	
UREA	FOB Egypt – latest index 625	550-620	540-600	
UREA	CFR Brazil – latest index 585	540-600	520-550	500-550

		Jun	July	Aug
Amsul	CFR Brazil – latest index 260	250-260	250-270	250-270
MAP	CFR Brazil – latest index 900	870-920	850-910	850-910
SSP	CFR Brazil			

UREA	Nola	445-460	440-445	435-445
DAP	Nola	780-795	780-795	780-795
UAN	Nola	500-510	500-515	

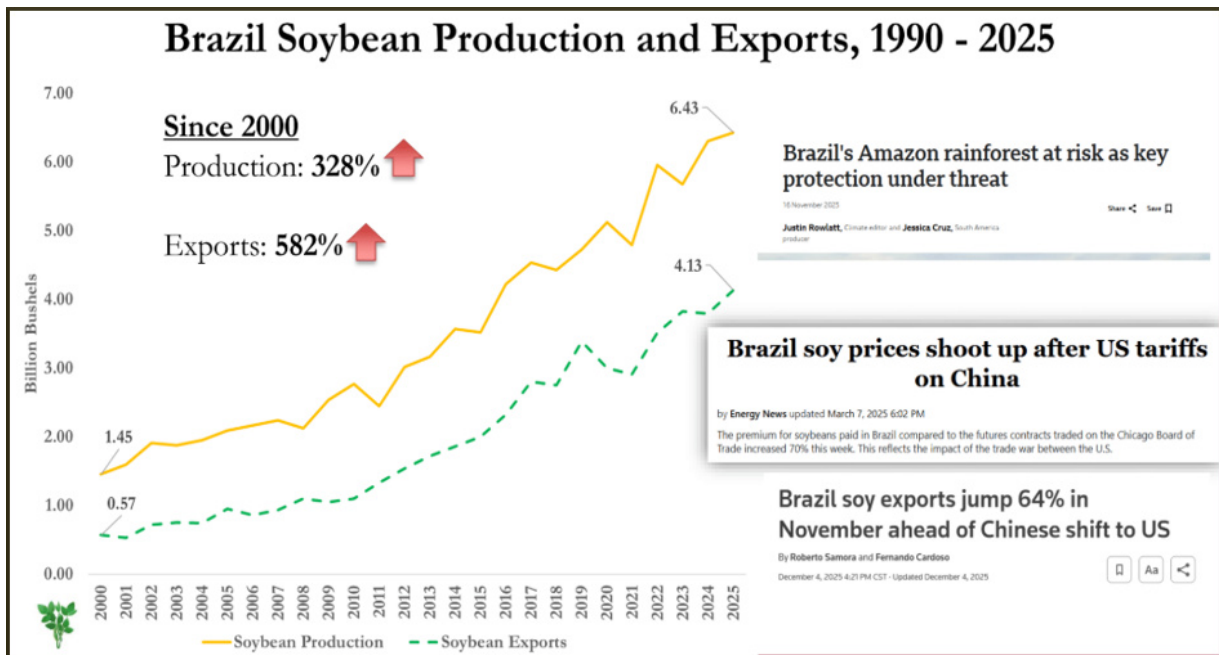
Source: Aquifert

Brazil imports 95% of its potash needs. The country is desperately scrambling at the moment to ensure some better guarantee in the future that its massive soybean crops are fertilized.



Source: 2026 International and Domestic Outlook, Ryan M. Loy, Agricultural Council of Arkansas

Brazil has long been dependent on potash sources from Russia and Belarus. Brazil is trying to kickstart a domestic potash industry to reduce imports. The crop yields for Brazil would just plunge without potash. The knock-on effects to corn and soybeans are like dominoes.



Source: 2026 International and Domestic Outlook, Ryan M. Loy, Agricultural Council of Arkansas

Brazil's Advantage over the US and Yet It Remains Needy

The reciprocal tariffs by China on U.S. agricultural goods were lowered to 13% in November 2025, and yet, China still gives Brazil a significant advantage vis-à-vis U.S. with a tariff of only 3%. It is increasingly clear that U.S.-China trade tensions will prevent large purchases of U.S. soybeans. The discussion once revolved around an additional 12 million metric tons of U.S. soybeans being sold to China by the end of 2025—that's a foregone conclusion! Then, there was the idea that China would be willing to buy U.S. agricultural commodities at a premium as a favor to Trump's new trade deal. Yet, no favors were given after the Xi-Trump meeting on the agriculture trade front. All the favors went to Argentina and Brazil.

That's why our investment thesis for Brazil Potash remains focused on the critical nexus of geopolitical risk and Brazilian fertilizer independence. The company is not exaggerating when it refers to the Autazes project as one of the world's largest undeveloped potash basins in Brazil's own backyard. The most critical aspect is that the potash will be sold domestically—for Brazilian farmers first—thus fulfilling the goals of the National Fertilizer Plan.

Our recent site visit to the Autazes Potash Project made clear that the company is very advanced in site preparation for the processing plant and the port terminal for the Autazes project. The port and other infrastructure is one of the greatest advantages compared with other mining projects in the region. The Autazes potash mine is located near to the Madeira River which gives the company downriver access to Mato Grosso, where the captive market of Brazilian soybean and corn producers hunger for a domestic supply of fertilizers.

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The rise of Tether into uncharted NPK territory in Latin America

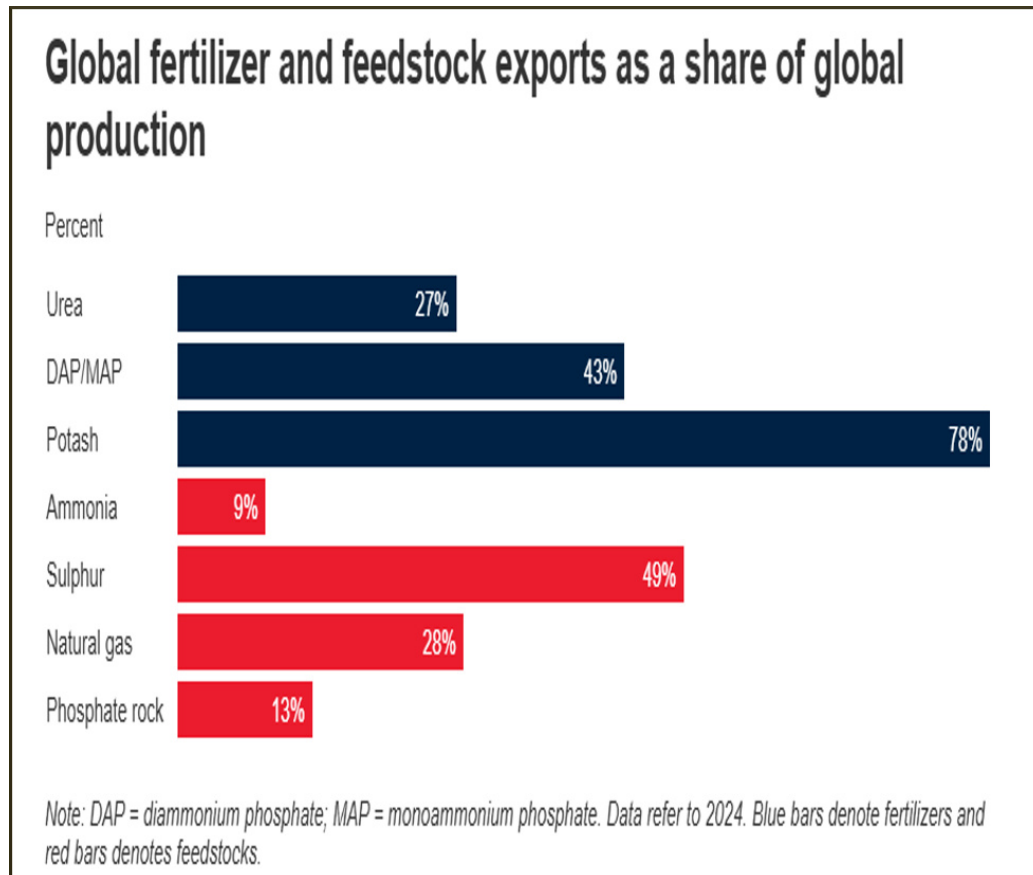
Latin America is ahead of the game—way ahead of the U.S.—in terms of plans to diversify domestic and international sources of fertilizers. When Tether, the world’s largest stablecoin, bought a majority stake in Adecoagro back in March 2025, the company knew that it was getting involved in both agriculture and fertilizer projects in Latin America. Adecoagro is an agriculture and renewable energy company with operations in Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay. Tether purchased 70% of the company for a price of USD \$600 million. The deal is related to the stablecoin giant’s strategy to expand its crypto influence into a broader set of brick-and-mortar assets. For example, agricultural commodities form part of Tether’s strategy to expand on more innovative forms of “tokenization” that will potentially adopt sugar or corn tokens for hedging tools or a source of collateral. The sugarcane operations that Adecoagro owns will also be utilized to power Tether’s crypto-mining operations with a limitless bio-fuel energy source of electricity.

So what does this have to do with fertilizers after all? Adecoagro bought a 90% stake in Profertil—formerly operated as one of Nutrien’s nitrogen fertilizer assets—in Argentina for a purchase price of approximately US\$600 million in December 2025. In relation to acquisition of Nutrien’s 50 % interest in Profertil, this allowed Adecoagro to acquire YPF’s 50% stake in Profertil S.A., the largest Latin American producer of granular urea located in Bahía Blanca, with an annual capacity of approximately 1.3 million metric tons of urea and 790 thousand metric tons of ammonia. This will give the company approximately 60% of Argentina’s domestic urea market.

In Argentina, it has been reported that nearly 56% of fertilizers are imported, mainly from Morocco, China, the U.S., and Peru, of which figures change according to agricultural commodities prices during each crop season. With this fertilizer import dilemma, Tether has the funding to significantly grab market share of Argentina’s domestic fertilizer market and other fertilizer markets throughout Latin America. Argentina is also an importer of phosphate and potash, and we have two companies of interest in Brazil that meet those needs for potential Tether acquisitions: Brazil Potash (NYSE: GRO) and Agua Resources (ASX: AGR).

Agua Resources had its Tres Estradas Phosphate Project approved by FEPAM, Brazil’s main environmental regulatory agency. Agua thus commenced phosphate operations at the plant as of 18 May 2026. The company now has the Operating License in hand, and it will have the capacity to produce and process 300,000 tons per year of P205 from the greenfield processing plant in Brazil’s Rio Grande do Sul agricultural region.

Brazil Potash and Agua Resources are prime targets for a Latin American regional expansion. Tether already has a foot and leg in the door of this market with Argentina’s nitrogen fertilizer assets. What’s stopping Tether from becoming one of the world’s next NPK giants? With Tether on board in Latin America, Yara, Eurochem and Nutrien need to step up their game in this globally dynamic fertilizer market going forward!



Source: World Bank/S&P Global, https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/opendata/fertilizer-prices-surge-as-strait-of-hormuz-disruptions-tighten-?cid=SHR_BlogSiteShare_EN_EXT

Global Potash Pricing Trends

China imported another 1.2 million tons of MOP during April 2026. The mutual option for an additional 340,000 metric tons of MOP was likely exercised between ICL and China during this unexpected stockpiling of potash. Israeli potash exports have already earned over USD \$100 million from exports to China since the beginning of this year. From January-April 2026, the value of potash exports to China have averaged USD \$163 million per month from Russian supplies and USD \$134 million per month from Belarusian supplies. While Canada, Laos and Israel have a combined potash export value total of USD \$195 million to China so far this year.

China's total fertilizer demand is mostly made up with potassium chloride, or MOP, imports from Russia, Belarus, Canada, Laos and Israel. China's potash stockpiling this year continues to outpace the previous two years by a margin of approximately 600,000 metric tons. In the past two years, China potash imports began to pick up around the beginning of July. It is possible that China is trying to build up the potash stockpiles in order to focus more on export opportunities in nitrogen and phosphate fertilizers throughout the rest of the year.

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Global MOP prices rose more than 5% and were nearly 17 percent higher than last year. The higher price levels are being sustained by growing demand and exports from all of the top potash suppliers. The World Bank forecasts that MOP prices could rise about 12 percent in 2026 before easing 6 percent in 2027. The broader outlook on potash prices remains balanced, according to the World Bank forecasts, as potash markets are less exposed to Middle East disruptions than other fertilizers. Pricing trends have indeed revealed higher prices above the range of USD \$400-500 for Brazil and the U.S. markets.

The chart on the next page reveals how much of the potash supply and demand is affected by a few exporting countries. At around 78% of global fertilizer production, any of the countries that export potash hold the key to food security, because all it takes is for one country to exit the market, and the prices will inevitably rise.

Russia and Belarus Make New Potash Deals

The Belarusian Potash Company (BPC) made a deal with India Potash Ltd (IPL) at a price that really got the market's attention—USD \$383/t cfr. That's because the price is somewhat higher than the China potash contract, but also higher than the previous potash trade deal between those two companies at USD \$349/t. Potash volumes from BPC to India will likely fall within 500,000-650,000 tons.

While most of the fertilizer analysts are squabbling over the BPC-India deal, another potash deal emerged with more significance to Russia's fertilizer export quotas. The Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) renewed an agreement with Russia's Prodintorg—a Russian fertilizer trade association—to import 595,000 tons of MOP fertilizer from Russian potash producers. Prodintorg is a lesser-known entity in the Russian potash sector, but that's because this current deal revolves around a so-called humanitarian angle between the two governments. In Russia's fertilizer export quota system, the quotas on exports are not applied to any fertilizer deals that involve this kind of humanitarian cooperation.

Bangladesh and Russia have a long history of fertilizer trade cooperation, both commercially and on the grounds of food security in the South Asian country. This deal for 595,000 tons will be the largest fertilizer supply agreement in the history of their bilateral cooperation.

This is an important deal for Bangladesh's agriculture production and food security, but also for Russia as a country that supplies a huge amount of the world's potash fertilizers on the global market. But doesn't Russia's domestic agriculture industry need more fertilizers itself now? Let's not forget that Russia has effectively occupied Ukrainian territory, where the stolen Ukrainian grain is likely synonymous with boosting Russia's own domestic agriculture production. Russia's fertilizer export quota reflects needs for Russia's own populations, domestic agriculture businesses and the global fertilizer supply and demand trends.

Prodintorg is subordinate organization of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation with

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100% state participation. Government-to-government arrangements on behalf of the Russian Federation are carried out with Bangladesh, Pakistan, Venezuela and Cuba.

Canpotex leans in on the global demand for potash supplies

Both Nutrien and Mosaic had exceptional performances in their potash segments during the Q1 2026 earnings seasons. Although Mosaic reported an operating loss of US\$373mn and a net loss of US\$258mn, potash sales were significant drivers of the company's bottom line. Of the company's US\$3 billion in fertilizer sales, potash made up US\$667mn of net sales revenue. Potash income was US\$275mn in EBITDA at the end of the quarter. This is even more significant when looking at the results in all of Mosaic's other segments where there were operating losses across the board.

The Mosaic Company's US\$275mn in potash revenue is still below the previous quarter's US\$336mn, and that's because the company had sold potash at a gross margin of USD\$115 on a per ton of MOP in 4Q25. The more intriguing aspect in Mosaic's quarterly results is that the company continued to produce 2.2 million tons of potash which was in line with the previous year's production results. The company clearly sees growing potash demand ahead for the rest of the year, with production guidance confirmed at 9 million tonnes for 2026.

Nutrien made US\$6.6 billion in total fertilizer sales during 1Q26, with EBITDA coming in at US \$1.1 billion. Nearly half of the company's reported EBITDA for the quarter derived from potash sales of USD\$578 million. Nutrien increased its potash production to meet the global demand, maintaining a production cost of below US\$60 per ton. Indeed, the biggest increase in potash sales came from Latin American markets. This brought the price to a higher range of US\$250 per ton of potash for the offshore markets, and the net selling price to North America has also increased from US\$243 to USD \$287. In a word, the global market is paying a higher price for potash supplies from Canpotex this year.

The fertilizer stocks have all come down since the start of the U.S.-Iran War. Markets are imperfect beasts. Investors are likely taking money off the table during these uncertain times in the Middle East, but as in any casino scenario, investors are taking the money to another table where they might win. The overarching question about the major fertilizer producers isn't about whether the government should get involved, and whether Trump or someone else is willing to pay more for stake, but do investors want to pay more for the fertilizer stock? Explorers and developers get slapped, but we've also seen fertilizer producers get slapped, so it just shows the inefficiencies of the market right now.

Saskatchewan potash production and value from Gensource Potash

In 2025, Saskatchewan potash production contributed USD \$9.3 billion in sales from the world's largest potash province. The province also led in the category of annual mineral investment in Canada at USD \$6.7 billion. Saskatchewan became a top three mining jurisdiction of The Fraser Institute's ranking system this year, citing the province's competitive incentives and predictable

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regulatory system.

This is all great news for some of Saskatchewan's own junior potash explorers and developers, and which is why we have reignited our interest in the Gensource Potash (TSX-V: GSP) Tugaske Project located in southwestern Saskatchewan. The company intends to build a selective solution facility using a modular design system to extract potash. This will not require any salt tailings which are all piled up at the large-scale mines of other potash producers in Saskatchewan.

Gensource Potash is currently undergoing a re-capitalization plan. A final investment decision (FID) is expected by the end of summer 2026. We were more curious about the company's offtake agreement with an unknown party in the multilateral organization known as the Association of Southeastern Asian Nations (ASEAN). The company already has offtake agreements in place, including a "potash exclusivity agreement" with ASEAN along the lines of supplying one of the host nations with a potash supply deal in the future.

The good and the bad for global wheat production

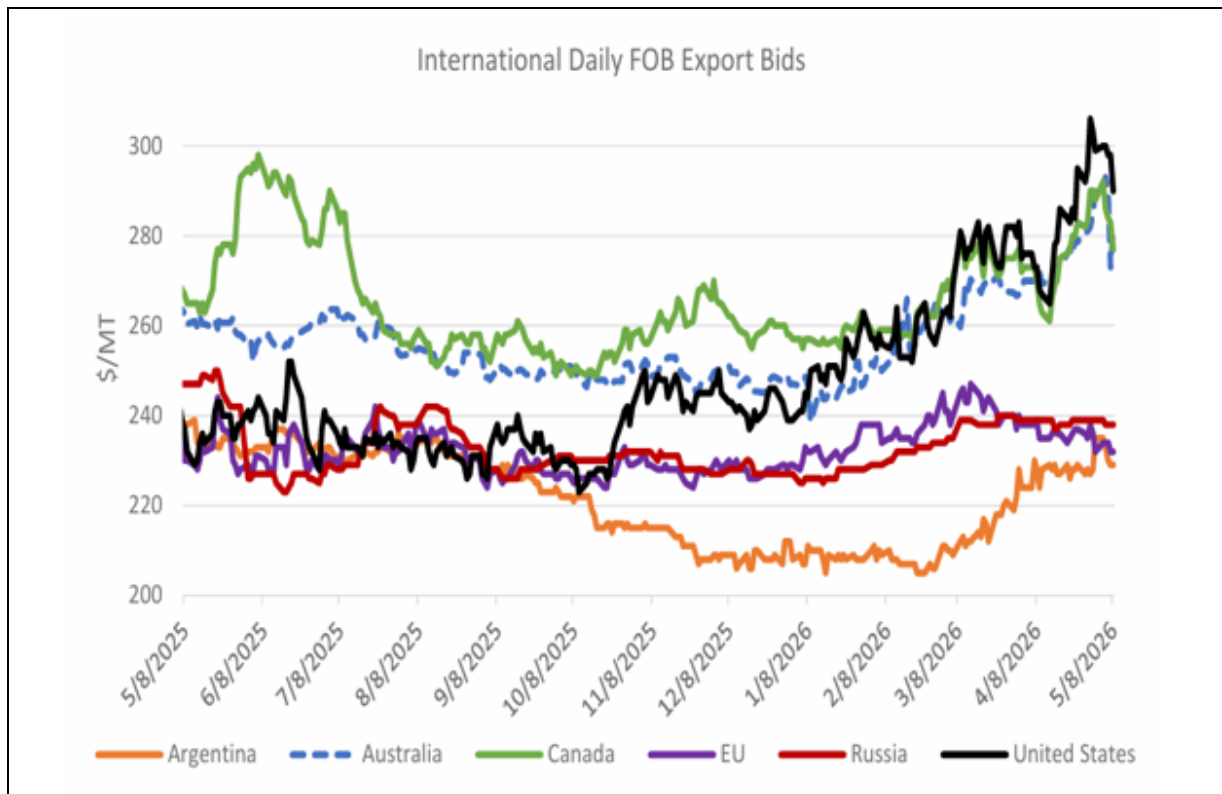
We've been covering the volatility in global wheat prices since the beginning of the year, and for good reasons, because the global spring wheat planting season has been very unpredictable. The global wheat forecasts from North and South America continue to fluctuate between good and bad ratings. Globally, however, the wheat production outlook is facing a steep decline after a record harvest season for the 2025/26 crop years.

Wheat exporting countries from North America, Latin America and the Black Sea cannot sell high volumes of wheat to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) markets this year. The wheat ending stocks are forecast to decline in the U.S., E.U, China, and Australia. Irregular wheat suppliers such as India will be having a seat at the table as a result.

The USDA figures for global wheat production in the 2026/27 crop seasons are forecast at 819.1 million tons, down 24.8 million from the record 2025/26 crop. The cuts are most significant for the U.S. at a decline of 11.5 million tons, which is a 21% reduction from the previous year. Argentina's production cuts take up the largest drop by percentage, at a loss of 6.9 million tons—a 25% reduction. Australia, Canada and Kazakhstan are all lowering production figures as well, with approximately 15.3 million tons of wheat in total at stake.

The E.U. and Russia are forecasted to reduce wheat production figures by 9.1 million tons and 4.3 million tons, respectively, which means they are all in the best position to capture higher wheat prices on the global benchmarks. The U.S. and Australia are seeing higher price estimates for wheat exports in the range USD \$11-17 per ton. This gives the E.U. and Russia a negotiation advantage to sell higher wheat volumes at a lower price.

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Source: As of May 8, 2026, USDA Grain: World Markets and Trade Report for May 2026

And the Ugly for Wheat: Geopolitics is coming back with a vengeance!

At the end of May, the prices of many grains retreated from the highs of a U.S.-China trade deal in the works. U.S. wheat was particularly hit by this reaction, seeing prices go down on the CBOT following lower crude oil prices on a report that Iran would restore traffic through the Strait of Hormuz. Meanwhile, recent reports suggest that the U.S. wheat production could see some improvements in the precipitation forecast for the Great Plains. U.S. Corn and soybean planting areas are advancing at more profitable levels than the wheat plantings.

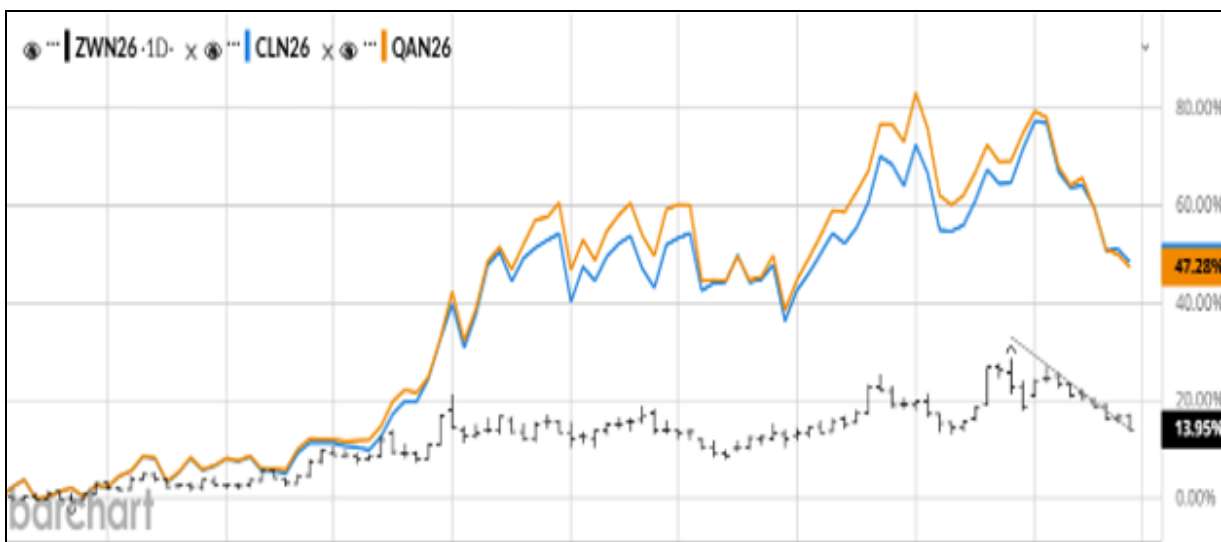
Sovecon raised its forecast for Russia's 2026 wheat crop to 90.3 million metric tons from 89.7 million metric tons. This places their first estimate for total Russian grain and pulse production for 2026 at 137.4 million metric tons, down from 141.2 million metric tons year-over-year. As for Ukraine, SovEcon estimates Ukraine's 2026/27 wheat exports at 21.2 million metric tons, which is significantly higher than the current 13.2 million metric tons for the current crop season. The Deputy Economy Minister, Taras Vysotskiy, reported that Ukrainian farmers used less fertilizer in the 2026 spring sowing period, so this is likely the cause for the negative crop yields in Ukrainian wheat production in 2025/26.

Both Russia and Ukraine are important wheat exports to the global market. There is also Romania,

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which is leading the E.U. in wheat production this year. Bulgaria will be another swing producer for Black Sea supplies to the global wheat market. It should be expected that Romania, Bulgaria and Ukraine will take up an accumulated export strategy in the future, forming a new kind of intergovernmental arrangement in the Black Sea, both for food security and national security reasons. This kind of coordinated strategy, with the auspices of Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey as NATO members, shouldn't be underestimated during a time when Russia is upping drone strikes on Ukraine, including a reckless drone incursion that entered and hit Romania's territory on 29 May 2026.

We should keep in mind that Russian and Ukrainian drone incursions have occurred around Turkey's, Romania's and Moldova's Black Sea maritime territories since the beginning of the escalation in the Black Sea war in 2023.



Source: barchart, wheat prices on the CBOT compared with WTI and Brent Crude prices

This year, both Russian and Ukrainian military attacks on grain vessels and wheat facilities have continued to escalate going into the summer season:

- A mid-April attack saw seven Russian drones strike a vast southern Ukrainian grain terminal owned by US farming giant Cargill
- The Ukrainian Ambassador to the US, Olha Stefanishyna, noted that Washington pressured Kyiv to refrain from striking a Russian Black Sea oil terminal because US companies held stakes in it
- Operations at ADM's oil extraction facility in Ukraine's Chornomorsk remain suspended following damage caused by a drone strike on April 26, 2026
- According to the New York Times, assets linked to American corporations Cargill, Coca-

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Cola, Boeing, Mondelez, Philip Morris, Flex Ltd. and Bunge have come under attack since the summer of 2025

Commercial vessels carrying wheat cargoes have always been some of the biggest targets for both Russian and Ukrainian attacks on the Black Sea since the beginning of the war. Clearly, there is no sign of trade normalization there for the foreseeable future.

Chokepoints around the world: Nothing is set in stone

We had the opportunity to speak with Mining Network last month about what's going on in the growth minerals space. It is impossible to ignore the geopolitical tensions when talking about food, energy and fertilizers. This cease-fire from U.S. and Iran has just given everyone time to think. The cease-fire has been a time of re-alignments, which could have quite interesting implications, because if the Saudis, Kuwaitis and Qataris do not seek to be belligerents, then the entire landscape in the Middle East has changed for good.

In the Black Sea, business as usual with Russia has also changed for good. Turkey showed signs of cooperation with Ukraine last month following the rejection of the alleged stolen-grain-from-Ukraine cargo on May 13. Ankara officially denied the vessel's entry into Istanbul on the grounds of Russia's stolen grain cargo. AIS data also revealed that a lot of the grain exports from Russia (or Ukraine, depending from what angle one is analyzing this news story) are hovering near the maritime boundary of Turkey and Syria. Syria has historically been a leading destination market for ex-Ukrainian grain sold by Russian exporters, and it continues to be the top consumer of these alleged stolen grain cargoes despite the regime change in Syria last year.

Wheat is also shaping up to be the biggest test for the Syrian interim government. Syrian farmers went out in the streets in May to protest the government's price mechanisms. According to local Syrian market sources, the government's purchase price of a ton of wheat was set at 46,000 SYP, or US\$330 per ton. It shouldn't be a fallacious statement to say that the maritime boundary of Turkey and Syria in the Eastern Mediterranean could become a new chokepoint due to tensions between Turkey and Israel.

This actually could have far-reaching consequences for phosphate and potash fertilizer supplies. The actions of this new government in Syria toward its own farmers should be taken seriously in this era of geopolitical instability.

In Closing

Funding for new agriculture, fertilizer and renewable energy projects in Latin America are all tied in together with promoting food security globally and ensuring energy security for those countries domestically. Global capital for new projects in Latin America has demonstrated that investors place a premium on logistics and infrastructure development in this era of chokepoints and chokeholds on international trade flows.

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Notes from the Editor on our tables:

This month saw the deletion of Fox River due to its agreed takeover by Avenir/Agnico

We have added Keras and Canadian Phosphate, two new listings in the space.

GROWTH MINERALS STOCKS

	Security	Ticker	Rating	Currency	Price	Market Cap. mns	Status	Country
Potash	Kore Potash	LSE: KP2	Neutral	GBP	2.92	151	Developer	Congo Brazzaville
	Millennial Potash	TSX-V: MLP	LONG	CAD	2.23	263.6	Developer	Gabon
	Brazil Potash	NYSE: GRO	LONG	USD	2.50	153.23	Developer	Brazil
	Nutrien	NTR.to, NYSE: NTR	Neutral	CAD	96.35	46,250	Producer	Canada
	Altamin	ASX: AZI	Neutral	ASX	0.03	20.60	Explorer	Italy
	Intrepid Potash	NYSE: IPI	Neutral	USD	38.19	513	Producer	USA
	Ethiopotash B.V.		Neutral	Private			Developer	Ethiopia
	Verde Agritech	NPK.to	Neutral	CAD	0.83	46.00	Producer	Brazil
	Sage Potash	SAGE.v	Neutral	CAD	0.14	23.1	Developer	USA
	Peak Minerals		Neutral	Private			Developer	USA
	Buffalo Potash	TSX-V: BUFF	Neutral	CAD	0.50	40.34	Developer	Canada
	Karnalyte Resources	KRN.to	Neutral	CAD	0.34	18.11	Developer	Canada
	K2O Potash		Neutral	Private			Explorer	Poland
	American Critical	CSE: KCLI	AVOID	CAD	0.25	21.28	Explorer	USA
	Gensource Potash	TSX-V: GSP	Neutral	CAD	0.14	65.57	Developer	Canada
	The Mosaic Company	NYSE: MOS	Neutral	USD	23.33	7,415	Producer	Canada/USA

GROWTH MINERALS STOCKS								
	Security	Ticker	Rating	Currency	Price	Market Cap. mns	Status	Country
Phosphate	First Phosphate	CSE: PHOS	LONG	CAD	1.85	\$332.9	Developer	Canada
	Nevada Organic	CSE:NOP	Neutral	CAD	0.255	\$37.0	Explorer	USA
	Kropz	LSE: KRPZ	Neutral	GBP	1.30	£20.6	Producer	South Africa
	ItaFos	TSX-V: IFOS	Neutral	CAD	4.43	\$500.6	Developer	Guinea-Bissau/Brazil
	Aguia Resources	AGR.ax	Neutral	AUD	0.02	\$38.1	Developer	Brazil
	PhosCo	PHO.ax	Neutral	AUD	0.17	\$89.2	Developer	Tunisia
	Arianne Phosphate	DAN.v	AVOID	CAD	0.43	\$98.3	Explorer	Canada
	Minbos	MNB.ax	LONG	AUD	0.03	\$27.7	Developer	Angola
	Keras Resources	KRS.L	Neutral	GBP	1.09	\$2.6	Producer	Utah
	Canadian Phosphate	CP8.ax	Neutral	AUD	0.02	\$64.2	Developer	BC/Utah/Mexico

Important disclosures

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