

# ECONOMIC BULLETIN Q4 2021

**Sustained increase in turnover, manufacturing prices and trade –  
with agricultural commodity prices at record level**

## Food and drink industry

### Continued increase in production, turnover and manufacturing prices

- In Q4 2021, EU food and drink industry production increased by 1.0% compared to the previous quarter.
- EU food and drink industry turnover increased by 3.3% compared to the previous quarter.
- The year-on-year comparison confirms the upward trend in food and drink industry production and in total manufacturing production (5.3% and 0.9% respectively, compared to Q4 2020). A similar trend is observed for food and drink industry turnover and total manufacturing turnover (10.8% and 13.8% respectively, compared to Q4 2020).
- Food manufacturing prices increased by 2.3% compared to the previous quarter and were up by 6.8% compared to Q4 2020.

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### Mixed picture in food and drink industry employment

- In Q4 2021, employment levels both in food manufacturing and in total manufacturing show an increase (0.9% and 0.4% respectively) whereas drink industry employment declined (-1.9%) compared to the previous quarter.
- Year-on-year, employment levels increased in the food industry (0.8%) and in total manufacturing (0.9%), but decreased in the drink industry (-1.3%).

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### Mixed confidence levels in the food and drink industry

- Food industry confidence dropped for Q1 2022 (-2.4 points) as did confidence in total manufacturing (-1.7 points). By contrast, confidence improved in the drink industry (+1.6 points) compared to the previous quarter.

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### EU exports totalled €41.1 billion

- EU exports of food and drinks totalled €41.1 billion in Q4 2021 (Q4 2021/Q4 2020: +4.9%).
- The trade balance reached a surplus of €17.6 billion (Q4 2021/Q4 2020: -7.9%).

- The top 5 products with the largest share in export value generated €20.4 billion in Q4 2021 (meat products, wine, dairy products, processed fruits and vegetables, cocoa, chocolate and confectionery).
- EU imports of food and drinks reached €23.5 billion (Q4 2021/Q4 2020: +17.1%).

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## Agricultural commodities

### FAO food price index reaches new peak

- The FAO food price index increased by 5.4% in Q4 2021 compared to the previous quarter and by 27.5% compared to Q4 2020.
- In Q4 2021, the majority of agricultural commodities on the world market show increasing prices, with the exception of soybean, soybean meal and cocoa.
- The year-on-year comparison shows double-digit growth in EU and world market prices for all agricultural commodities but soybean meal and cocoa.

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## Retail

### Increase in retail trade in foodstuffs

- Retail trade in foodstuffs in Q4 2021 increased by 0.7% compared to the previous quarter whereas total retail trade was up by 0.4%.
- Year-on-year, retail trade in foodstuffs decreased by -0.3%. Total retail trade observed a growth of 4.6%.
- Consumer prices increased by 1.2% compared to the previous quarter and 3.2% year-on-year.

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## Focus on ...

### Special Economic Bulletin on input costs

- Provides detailed information on the inflationary pressures on energy prices, transport costs, packaging, machinery for processing, labour, agricultural raw materials, animal feed and fertilizers.

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## Methodology

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- Except for imports and exports data which represent the evolution of the current quarter compared to the same quarter of the previous year, all other evolutions are primarily represented with respect to the previous quarter.
- **EU refers to EU27 (excluding the UK)** in the text, unless otherwise specified.
- The EU food and drink industry is identified by NACE Rev.2 codes C10 (manufacture of food products) and C11 (manufacture of beverages).

### Sources

European Commission, Eurostat data and indices (production, turnover, retail trade, employment, prices)

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/home>

European Commission, Eurostat statistics explained

[http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Main\\_Page](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Main_Page)

European Commission, Eurostat Easy Comext Trade Data (based on division 10 & 11 of the NACE Rev.2 classification), CPA 2008

<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/newxtweb/mainxtnet.do>

European Commission, DG ECFIN business survey data

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/indicators-statistics/economic-databases/business-and-consumer-surveys\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/indicators-statistics/economic-databases/business-and-consumer-surveys_en)

FAO Food Price Index

<http://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/foodpricesindex/en/>

European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI)

<https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/>

European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI), Commodity price dashboard

[http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/markets-and-prices/price-monitoring/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/markets-and-prices/price-monitoring/index_en.htm)

European Commission, Eurostat News Release 28/2022, 'Volume of retail trade up by 0.2% in euro area and by 0.6% in the EU', 4 March 2022

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/14358050/4-04032022-AP-EN.pdf/0776f273-b735-2e56-015e-972fc8097fec>

### About the quarterly economic bulletin

FoodDrinkEurope's Economic Bulletin is published on a quarterly basis. It covers a set of key indicators which highlight the major economic trends in the European food and drink industry: production, turnover, employment, external trade, key raw material prices, and retail trade.

**For more information on FoodDrinkEurope and its activities, please visit: [www.fooddrinkeurope.eu](http://www.fooddrinkeurope.eu)**

# ECONOMIC BULLETIN Q4 2021

## Annex

### Production and turnover of the EU food and drink industry

#### Production index (2015=100)

	2020 Q4	2021 Q1	2021 Q2	2021 Q3	2021 Q4	y-o-y
<b>Total manufacturing</b>	106.1	107.8	107.6	106.9	107.1	
<b>% change</b>	5.7	1.6	-0.2	-0.7	0.2	0.9
<b>Food and drink industry</b>	102.2	104.3	106.0	106.5	107.6	
<b>% change</b>	-0.9	2.1	1.6	0.5	1.0	5.3

Source: Eurostat

The industrial production index (also called industrial output index or industrial volume index) measures the changes in the price-adjusted output of industry.

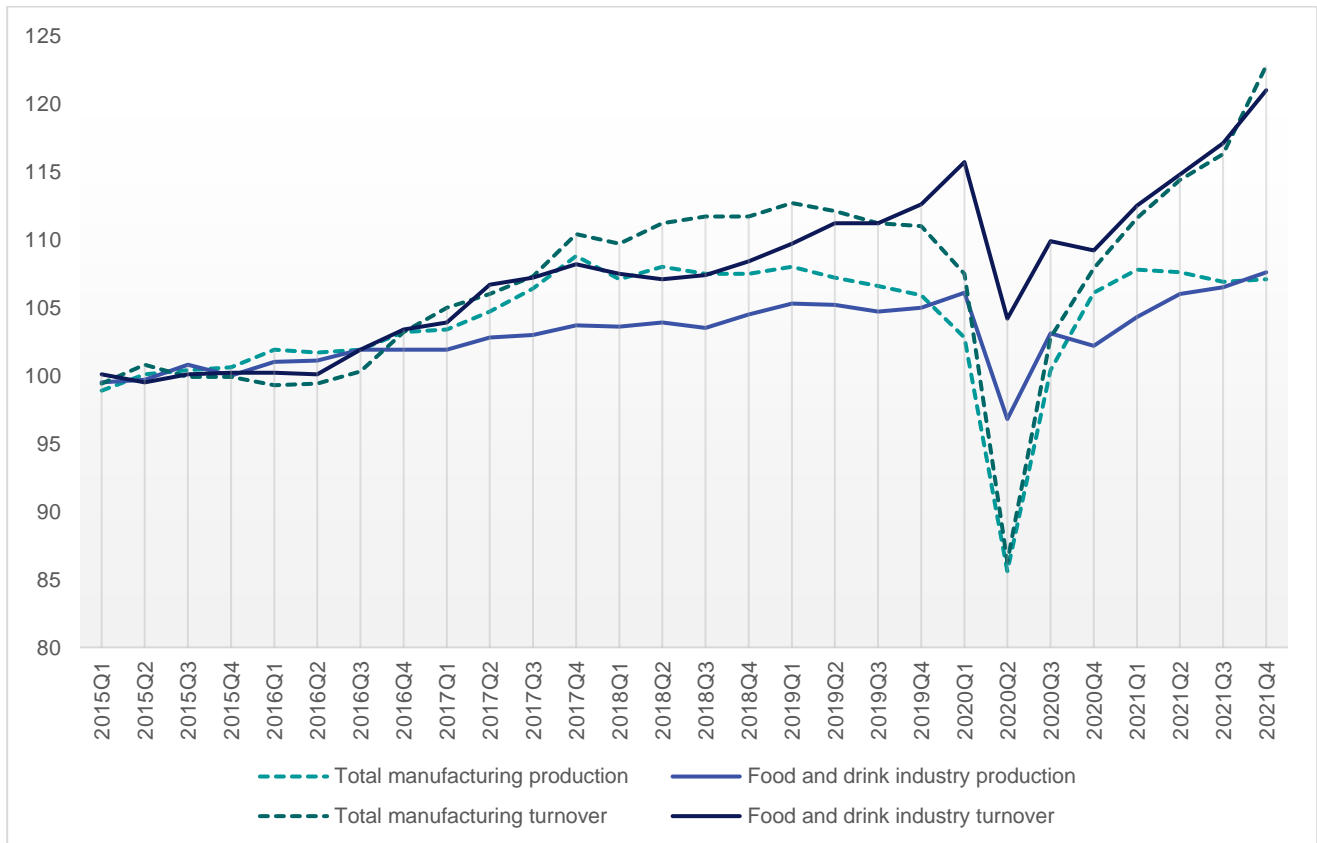
#### Turnover index (2015=100)

	2020 Q4	2021 Q1	2021 Q2	2021 Q3	2021 Q4	y-o-y
<b>Total manufacturing</b>	107.9	111.6	114.4	116.3	122.8	
<b>% change</b>	5.0	3.4	2.5	1.7	5.6	13.8
<b>Food and drink industry</b>	109.2	112.5	114.8	117.1	121.0	
<b>% change</b>	-0.6	3.0	2.0	2.0	3.3	10.8

Source: Eurostat

The index of industrial turnover measures the development of turnover (sales) in the European industry (it is influenced by changes in prices of the traded industrial goods and by changes of the traded volumes of goods).

## EU quarterly manufacturing production and turnover, 2015-2021 (2015=100)



Source: Eurostat

## Food and drink production by Member State

Member State	2021 Q3 / 2021 Q2 (% change)	2021 Q4 / 2021 Q3 (% change)	2021 Q4 / 2020 Q4 (% change)
<b>EU</b>	0.5	1.0	5.3
<b>Austria</b>	1.9	2.4	8.5
<b>Belgium</b>	-1.0	0.7	2.8
<b>Bulgaria</b>	-1.2	3.4	3.5
<b>Czech Republic</b>	3.1	0.6	8.0
<b>Denmark</b>	1.0	1.0	3.8
<b>Finland</b>	0.2	-0.6	1.4
<b>France</b>	0.8	1.3	4.8
<b>Germany</b>	1.5	-1.1	0.9
<b>Greece</b>	0.7	4.9	9.4
<b>Hungary</b>	2.1	3.4	12.8
<b>Italy</b>	1.5	0.7	7.0
<b>Latvia</b>	0.8	-0.7	2.7
<b>Lithuania</b>	0.4	4.8	7.2
<b>Netherlands</b>	-0.9	2.0	3.2
<b>Poland</b>	1.5	2.4	8.4
<b>Portugal</b>	-4.0	5.6	5.8
<b>Romania</b>	1.7	-2.2	3.5
<b>Spain</b>	2.6	1.5	7.5

Source: Eurostat. No data available for Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden

**Food and drink turnover by Member State**

Member State	2021 Q3 / 2021 Q2 (% change)	2021 Q4 / 2021 Q3 (% change)	2021 Q4 / 2020 Q4 (% change)
<b>EU</b>	2.0	3.3	10.8
<b>Austria</b>	3.8	2.3	12.8
<b>Belgium</b>	-0.3	1.8	8.4
<b>Czech Republic</b>	3.0	2.9	10.9
<b>Denmark</b>	0.3	3.8	7.9
<b>Finland</b>	0.7	0.9	4.8
<b>France</b>	2.2	1.5	8.8
<b>Germany</b>	2.0	2.8	6.0
<b>Greece</b>	4.0	4.3	12.5
<b>Hungary</b>	3.0	2.3	12.7
<b>Italy</b>	2.6	2.8	12.0
<b>Latvia</b>	1.8	2.5	9.5
<b>Lithuania</b>	3.5	6.8	12.6
<b>Netherlands</b>	3.6	6.1	16.3
<b>Poland</b>	3.2	6.6	19.1
<b>Portugal</b>	0.3	6.3	13.6
<b>Romania</b>	5.1	4.2	23.1
<b>Spain</b>	0.8	5.4	13.9

Source: Eurostat. No data available for Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden

## Employment in the EU food and drink industry

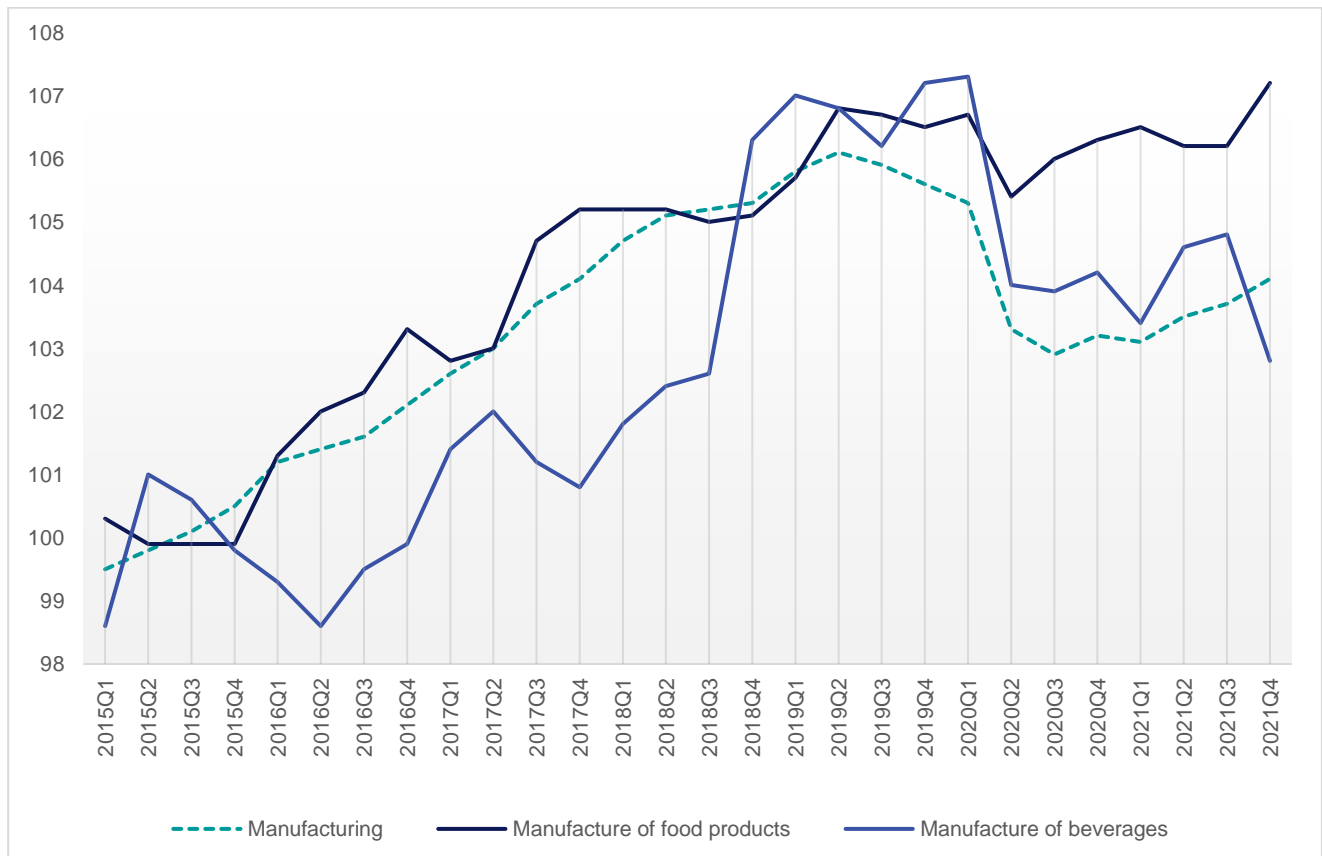
### Employment index (2015=100)

Employment	2020 Q4	2021 Q1	2021 Q2	2021 Q3	2021 Q4	y-o-y
<b>Total manufacturing</b>	103.2	103.1	103.5	103.7	104.1	
<b>% change</b>	0.3	-0.1	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.9
<b>Food industry</b>	106.3	106.5	106.2	106.2	107.2	
<b>% change</b>	0.3	0.2	-0.3	0.0	0.9	0.8
<b>Drink industry</b>	104.2	103.4	104.6	104.8	102.8	
<b>% change</b>	0.3	-0.8	1.2	0.2	-1.9	-1.3

Source: Eurostat

The employment index measures the number of persons employed in the total manufacturing industry vs. the food and drink industry in the EU, seasonally adjusted.

### Employment in the EU food and drink industry compared to manufacturing, 2015-2021 (2015=100)



Source: Eurostat

**Food industry employment by Member State**

Member State	2021 Q3 / 2021 Q2 (% change)	2021 Q4 / 2021 Q3 (% change)	2021 Q4 / 2020 Q4 (% change)
EU	0.0	0.9	0.8
Austria	0.3	0.9	0.9
Belgium	0.5	na	na
Croatia	0.4	-1.4	-2.2
Czech Republic	-0.1	-1.6	-3.6
Denmark	0.1	na	na
Finland	-7.1	14.2	13.2
France	0.8	0.9	3.8
Germany	0.3	0.3	4.6
Greece	-0.2	-5.6	-7.2
Ireland	-3.5	4.4	6.2
Italy	-0.5	1.6	-0.8
Latvia	-0.5	-2.2	1.1
Lithuania	0.2	-0.1	1.6
Netherlands	0.2	na	na
Poland	-0.4	-0.1	-0.9
Portugal	0.2	1.0	0.6
Spain	1.1	3.3	1.8
Sweden	0.1	0.9	2.2

Source: Eurostat. No data available for Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Luxembourg, Malta, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia

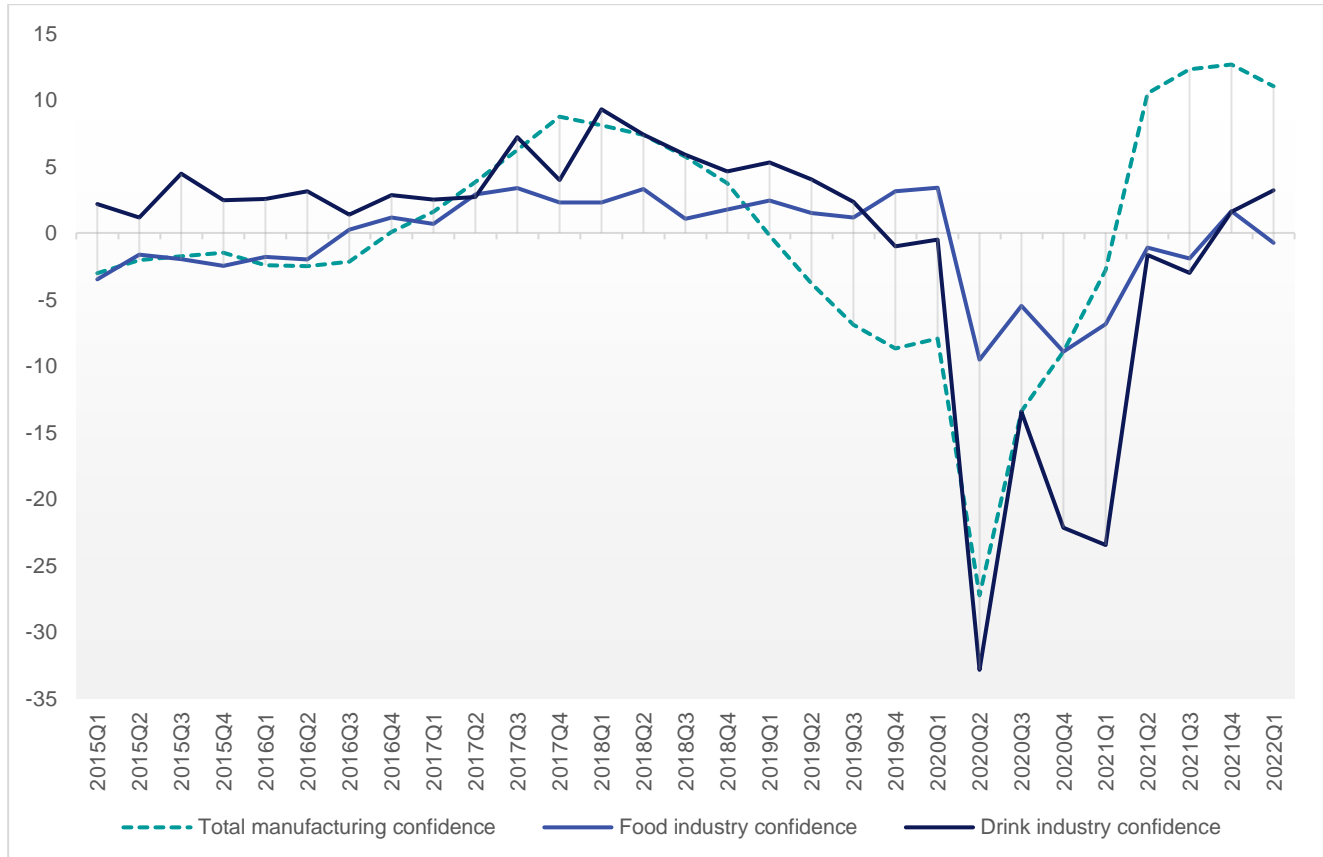
**Drink industry employment by Member State**

Member State	2021 Q3 / 2021 Q2 (% change)	2021 Q4 / 2021 Q3 (% change)	2021 Q4 / 2020 Q4 (% change)
EU	0.2	-1.9	-1.3
Austria	-0.1	0.5	-1.4
Belgium	0.5	na	na
Croatia	-0.6	1.8	0.0
Czech Republic	0.7	-2.5	-2.4
Denmark	2.3	na	na
Finland	-8.1	na	na
France	0.7	0.8	4.0
Germany	-0.6	0.8	-0.9
Greece	5.6	3.2	21.2
Ireland	-7.9	-1.1	-8.6
Italy	5.0	-1.5	2.8
Latvia	-5.6	1.3	14.8
Lithuania	1.4	0.6	4.8
Netherlands	1.3	na	na
Poland	-0.4	0.2	-2.3
Portugal	0.4	0.6	1.4
Spain	-3.4	-9.1	-13.9
Sweden	0.7	0.1	-0.8

Source: Eurostat. No data available for Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Luxembourg, Malta, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia

## Confidence in the EU food and drink industry

EU quarterly manufacturing confidence indicators, 2015-2022



\* Subsector level data (i.e. the divisions of NACE rev.2 at the 2-digit level) for the industry have not undergone a full validation process, hence their use and interpretation deserve more caution.

Source: European Commission, DG ECFIN business survey data, own calculations

The confidence indicator is a statistical indicator based on the results from business surveys interrogating enterprises on their current economic situation and their expectations about future developments. The indicator is calculated as the simple arithmetic average of the seasonally adjusted balances of positive and negative answers to specific questions, e.g. regarding economic expectations.



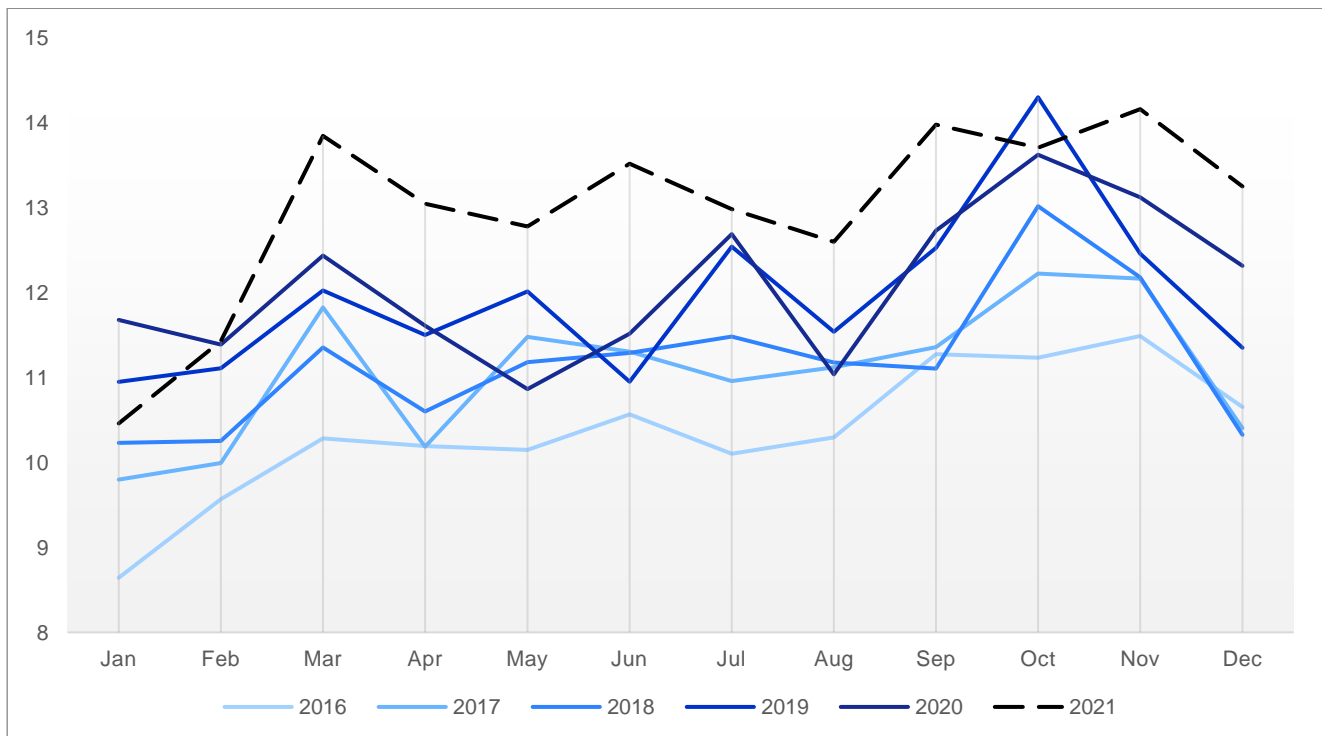
## External trade

### EU food and drink trade (€ billion)

	2020 Q4	2021 Q1	2021 Q2	2021 Q3	2021 Q4	y-o-y
<b>Exports</b>	39.2	35.7	39.3	39.6	41.1	4.9%
<b>Imports</b>	20.1	17.9	20.1	21.3	23.5	17.1%
<b>Balance</b>	19.1	17.9	19.2	18.3	17.6	-7.9%

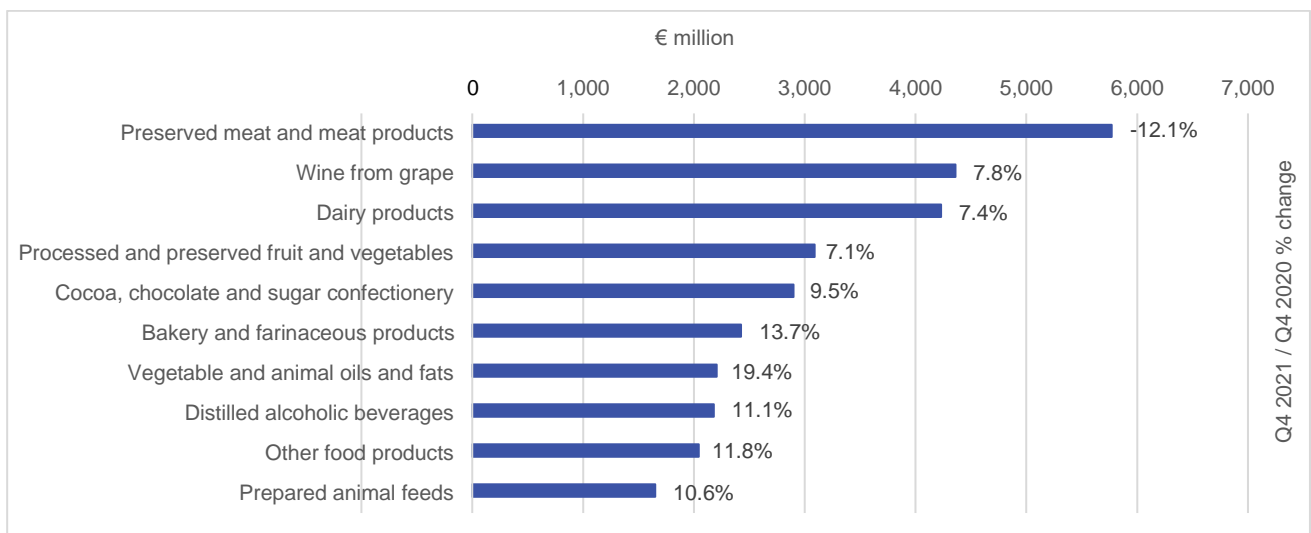
Source: Eurostat

### EU food and drink exports, 2016-2021 (€ billion)



Source: Eurostat

### Export performance by sector



Source: Eurostat - COMEXT, Nace Rev.2, Divisions 10 & 11

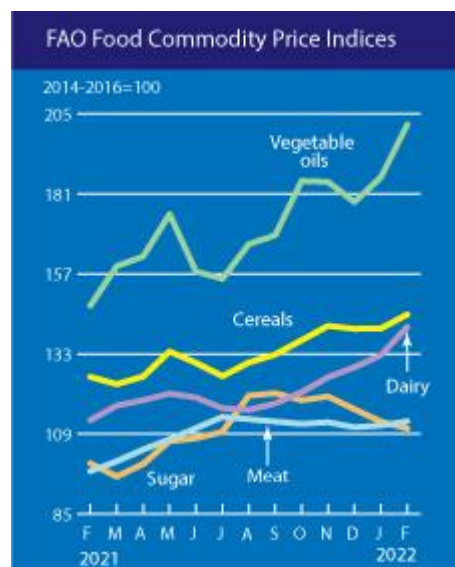
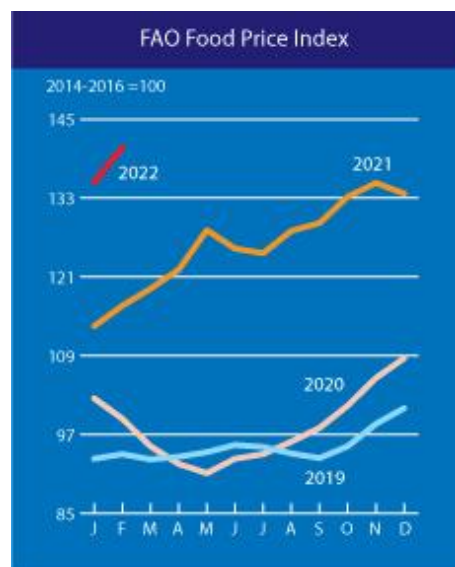
## EU food and drink trade by sector

Sector / Period	Exports			Imports			Balance		
	Q4 2020	Q4 2021	change	Q4 2020	Q4 2021	change	Q4 2020	Q4 2021	change
	€ million			€ million			€ million		
<b>Food and drinks</b>	<b>39,194</b>	<b>41,110</b>	<b>4.9%</b>	<b>20,054</b>	<b>23,478</b>	<b>17.1%</b>	<b>19,140</b>	<b>17,632</b>	<b>-7.9%</b>
10 Food products	30,383	31,725	4.4%	18,144	21,348	17.7%	12,240	10,376	-15.2%
11 Beverages	8,811	9,386	6.5%	1,910	2,130	11.5%	6,900	7,256	5.2%
<b>101 Preserved meat and meat products</b>	<b>6,561</b>	<b>5,770</b>	<b>-12.1%</b>	<b>1,511</b>	<b>1,786</b>	<b>18.2%</b>	<b>5,049</b>	<b>3,984</b>	<b>-21.1%</b>
1011 Processed and preserved meat	4,496	3,519	-21.7%	1,078	1,296	20.2%	3,418	2,223	-35.0%
1012 Processed and preserved poultry meat	748	850	13.6%	141	183	29.9%	608	667	9.8%
1013 Meat and poultry meat products	1,316	1,401	6.5%	292	307	5.1%	1,024	1,094	6.9%
<b>102 Processed and preserved fish, crustaceans and molluscs</b>	<b>1,462</b>	<b>1,585</b>	<b>8.4%</b>	<b>4,538</b>	<b>5,262</b>	<b>16.0%</b>	<b>-3,076</b>	<b>-3,677</b>	<b>19.6%</b>
<b>103 Processed and preserved fruit and vegetables</b>	<b>2,886</b>	<b>3,090</b>	<b>7.1%</b>	<b>2,223</b>	<b>2,520</b>	<b>13.4%</b>	<b>662</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>-13.9%</b>
1031 Processed and preserved potatoes	616	684	11.2%	50	28	-43.3%	566	656	16.0%
1032 Fruit and vegetable juices	416	423	1.6%	447	438	-2.0%	-30	-15	-51.7%
1039 Other processed and preserved fruit and vegetables	1,854	1,983	7.0%	1,727	2,054	19.0%	127	-71	-156.2%
<b>104 Vegetable and animal oils and fats</b>	<b>1,847</b>	<b>2,205</b>	<b>19.4%</b>	<b>3,996</b>	<b>5,533</b>	<b>38.5%</b>	<b>-2,149</b>	<b>-3,328</b>	<b>54.9%</b>
1041 Oils and fats	1,688	2,012	19.2%	3,961	5,478	38.3%	-2,273	-3,465	52.4%
1042 Margarine and similar edible fats	159	192	20.9%	34	55	60.1%	125	137	10.1%
<b>105 Dairy products</b>	<b>3,940</b>	<b>4,230</b>	<b>7.4%</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>-5.2%</b>	<b>3,361</b>	<b>3,682</b>	<b>9.5%</b>
1051 Dairy and cheese products	3,794	4,070	7.3%	549	520	-5.3%	3,245	3,550	9.4%
1052 Ice cream	146	159	9.4%	29	28	-3.2%	117	131	12.6%
<b>106 Grain mill products, starches and starch products</b>	<b>1,153</b>	<b>1,297</b>	<b>12.6%</b>	<b>636</b>	<b>708</b>	<b>11.3%</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>14.2%</b>
1061 Grain mill products	667	689	3.3%	517	592	14.4%	150	98	-34.8%
1062 Starches and starch products	485	608	25.3%	119	116	-2.1%	366	492	34.3%
<b>107 Bakery and farinaceous products</b>	<b>2,133</b>	<b>2,426</b>	<b>13.7%</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>11.0%</b>	<b>1,730</b>	<b>1,979</b>	<b>14.4%</b>
1071 Bread; fresh pastry goods and cakes	445	590	32.5%	82	113	38.5%	363	476	31.2%
1072 Rusks; and biscuits; preserved pastry goods and cakes	1,297	1,423	9.7%	295	306	3.9%	1,003	1,117	11.4%
1073 Macaroni, noodles, couscous and similar farinaceous products	391	413	5.6%	26	27	4.5%	365	386	5.7%
<b>108 Other food products</b>	<b>8,771</b>	<b>9,388</b>	<b>7.0%</b>	<b>3,621</b>	<b>3,913</b>	<b>8.1%</b>	<b>5,150</b>	<b>5,475</b>	<b>6.3%</b>
1081 Sugar	194	230	18.3%	313	443	41.7%	-119	-214	80.1%
1082 Cocoa, chocolate and sugar confectionery	2,649	2,899	9.5%	1,011	1,054	4.2%	1,637	1,846	12.7%
1083 Processed tea and coffee	824	850	3.2%	734	727	-0.9%	91	123	36.0%
1084 Condiments and seasonings	708	760	7.3%	314	363	15.4%	394	397	0.8%
1085 Prepared meals and dishes	1,440	1,491	3.5%	366	373	2.1%	1,075	1,118	4.0%
1086 Homogenised food preparations and dietetic food	1,127	1,113	-1.2%	32	16	-50.3%	1,095	1,097	0.3%
1089 Other food products n.e.c.	1,829	2,045	11.8%	852	937	10.1%	977	1,107	13.3%
<b>109 Prepared animal feeds</b>	<b>1,494</b>	<b>1,651</b>	<b>10.6%</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>5.1%</b>	<b>894</b>	<b>1,021</b>	<b>14.2%</b>
1091 Prepared feeds for farm animals	821	908	10.6%	220	249	13.1%	601	659	9.8%
1092 Prepared pet foods	673	743	10.4%	380	381	0.4%	293	362	23.4%
<b>110 Beverages</b>	<b>8,811</b>	<b>9,386</b>	<b>6.5%</b>	<b>1,910</b>	<b>2,130</b>	<b>11.5%</b>	<b>6,900</b>	<b>7,256</b>	<b>5.2%</b>
1101 Distilled alcoholic beverages	1,963	2,181	11.1%	945	1,073	13.5%	1,017	1,108	8.9%
1102 Wine from grape	4,045	4,360	7.8%	461	520	12.8%	3,584	3,841	7.2%
1103 Cider and other fruit wines	130	132	0.9%	14	16	13.8%	117	116	-0.7%
1104 Other non-distilled fermented beverages	60	56	-5.6%	2	1	-63.1%	58	56	-3.6%
1105 Beer	876	840	-4.1%	144	151	4.6%	732	689	-5.9%
1106 Malt	259	275	6.3%	4	8	106.6%	255	267	4.9%
1107 Soft drinks; mineral waters and other bottled waters	1,478	1,541	4.3%	341	362	6.1%	1,137	1,179	3.7%

Source: Eurostat - COMEXT, Nace Rev.2, Divisions 10 &amp; 11

## Prices of agricultural commodities

### FAO Food Price Index



Source: FAO Food Price Index

### Main agricultural commodity prices

Agricultural commodity	Q4 2021 average	EU		Q4 2021 average	WORLD	
		Q4 2021/ Q3 2021	Q4 2021/ Q4 2020		Q4 2021/ Q3 2021	Q4 2021/ Q4 2020
	EUR/T	% change	% change	EUR/T	% change	% change
<b>CEREALS</b>						
Maize	255	5.4	41.5	218	1.2	33.4
Soft wheat	273	25.5	40.5	278	24.9	32.1
SMP	3,043	19.5	40.0	3,093	17.0	26.2
WMP	3,762	17.8	37.8	3,392	7.4	30.0
White sugar*				440	8.8	29.8
				USD/T	% change	% change
<b>OILS AND OIL CROPS</b>						
Soybean oil				1,446	0.9	48.8
Soybean				552	-5.0	13.1
Soybean meal				452	-3.8	-7.0
Rapeseed				799	20.4	65.4
Rape oil				1,774	18.8	75.4
Palm oil				1,307	15.8	42.4
<b>COFFEE AND COCOA</b>						
Cocoa				2,449	-0.3	4.1
Coffee				4,261	20.2	75.5

\* EU white sugar prices for EU28 are discontinued as from December 2020 and continue as EU27. They do therefore currently not allow representative calculation.

Sources: World prices: FAO (cereals), CIAL (dairy), USDA (sugar); EU prices: DG AGRI; own calculations

## Retail trade

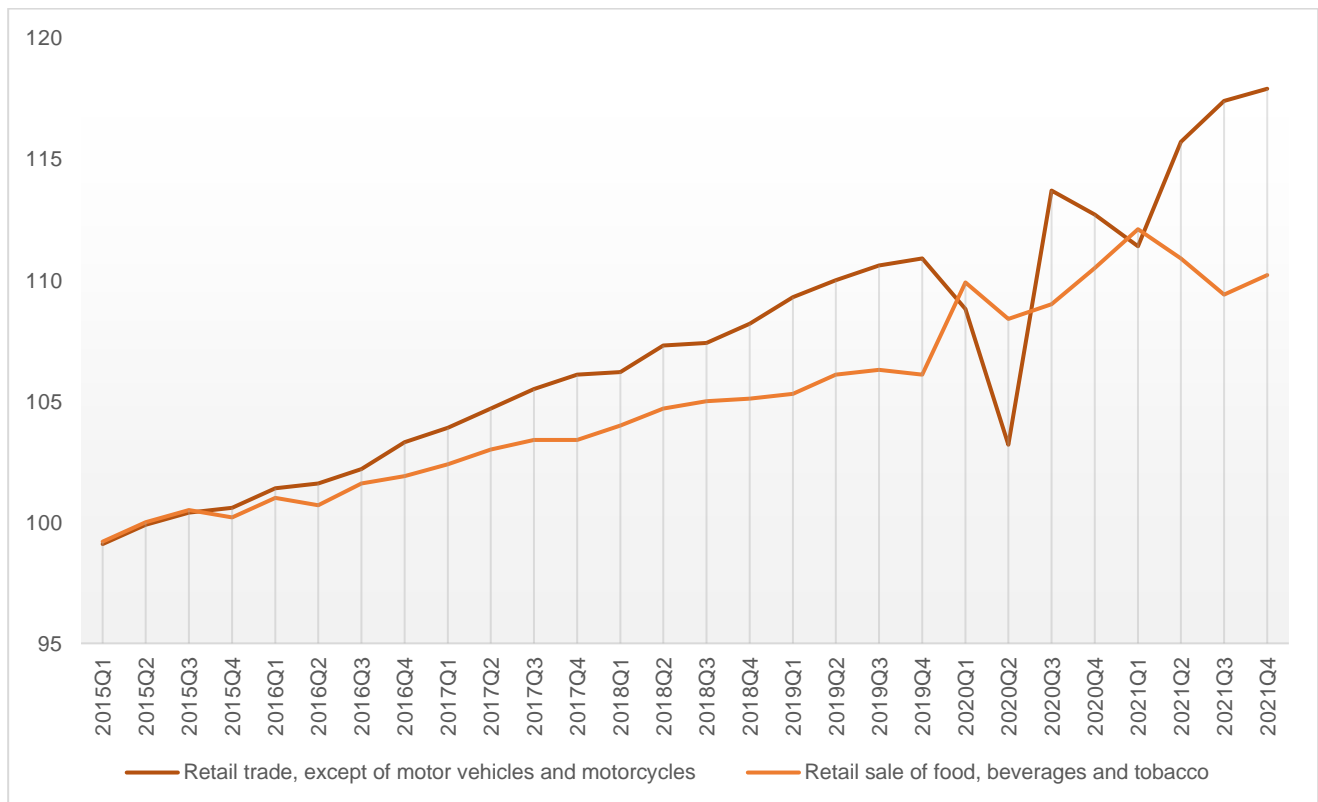
### Retail sales index (2015=100)

	2020 Q4	2021 Q1	2021 Q2	2021 Q3	2021 Q4	y-o-y
<b>Total retail trade</b>	112.7	111.4	115.7	117.4	117.9	
<b>% change</b>	-0.9	-1.2	3.9	1.5	0.4	4.6
<b>Food, drinks and tobacco</b>	110.5	112.1	110.9	109.4	110.2	
<b>% change</b>	1.4	1.4	-1.1	-1.4	0.7	-0.3

Source: Eurostat

The index of the volume of retail trade measures the evolution of the turnover in retail trade, adjusted for price changes (deflated), i.e. the evolution of the total amount of goods sold, based on data adjusted for calendar and seasonal effects.

### EU turnover in retail trade by economic activity, 2015-2021 (2015=100)

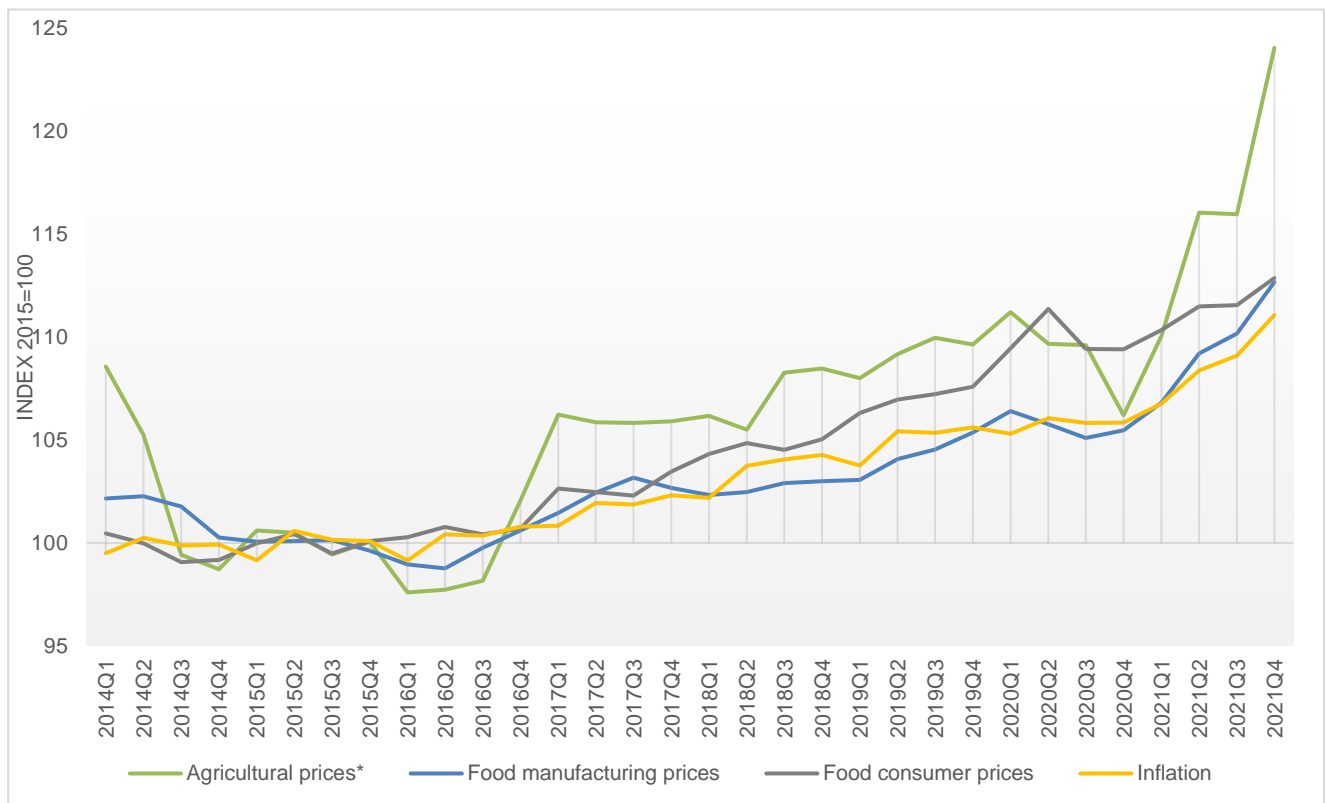


Source: Eurostat

## Price developments along the EU food chain

### Price developments (% change)

	2020 Q4	2021 Q1	2021 Q2	2021 Q3	2021 Q4	y-o-y
<b>Agricultural prices*</b>	-3.1	3.6	5.5	-0.1	7.0	16.8
<b>Food manufacturing prices</b>	0.3	1.3	2.2	0.9	2.3	6.8
<b>Food consumer prices</b>	0	0.9	1.0	0.1	1.2	3.2
<b>Inflation</b>	0	0.9	1.5	0.7	1.8	4.9




\* EU farmer price indices are not available before January 2015. Before this date, the monthly change is estimated based on Member States data weighted by their share in the agricultural output. Latest Eurostat monthly indices for EU farmer prices are available in June 2020. Since this date, the index is estimated based on cereals, sugar, milk, meat, tomatoes and apples monthly prices weighted by annual production (updated by the latest edition of short-term outlook: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/farming/facts-and-figures/markets/outlook/short-term\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/farming/facts-and-figures/markets/outlook/short-term_en)).

Sources: Eurostat and DG Agriculture and Rural Development; own calculations

## Focus on ...

March 2022



## ECONOMIC BULLETIN on INPUT COSTS

### Up to November/December 2021

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#### Food and drink producer prices, consumer prices and inflation

- In December 2021, EU food and drink producer prices increased by 7.2% compared to December 2020.
- Consumer food prices registered a 4.3% increase since December 2020.
- Inflation was up by 5.3% in December 2021 year on year.

[Click here for more information](#)

- Year-on-year, producer prices index of light metal packaging registered a lower increase (M12 2021/M12 2020: +7%).

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#### Energy prices

##### Crude oil and natural gas

- In December 2021, crude oil prices increased by 51% compared to December 2020.
- EU natural gas prices rose by 549% since December 2020, while US prices have increased by 46%.

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#### Machinery for processing

- The producer price index of machinery for food and drink processing registered a 4% increase since December 2020.

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#### Transport costs

##### Global shipping and air freight

- The global container freight rate index increased by 226% between December 2020 and December 2021. Following a peak in September 2021, the index declined by 13% in December 2021 compared to September 2021.
- Air freight rates are up 50% compared to December 2020.

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#### Labour

##### Labour shortage

- The job vacancy rate in the EU manufacturing industry has risen significantly since Q4 2020 (Q4 2021/Q4 2020: +62%).
- In November 2021, the job vacancy rate in the manufacturing industry varied across Member States, from 4.2% in the Netherlands to 0.4% and 0.3% in Greece and Spain respectively.

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#### Packaging

##### Wood and paper

- December year-on-year, producer prices index of wooden containers grew by 37%. After a peak in September 2021, they slightly decreased (M12 2021/M09 2020: -2%).
- Producer price indices of pulp and paper have continuously increased in 2021 and registered a 26% rise compared to December 2020.

##### Plastics and metal

- The producer price index of plastic packing goods grew by 13% since December 2020.

#### Agricultural raw materials

- The FAO food price index increased by 24% in December 2021 year on year.
- For further details, please see the European Commission's monthly [commodity price dashboard](#).

#### Animal feed

- Producer prices of animal feed have continuously increased since August 2020.
- The December year-on-year comparison shows that the producer price index of animal feed grew by 16%.

[Click here for more information](#)

#### Fertilizers

- Most fertiliser prices soared in 2021, particularly those for phosphates and urea.
- Year-on-year, prices of diammonium phosphate, triple superphosphate and urea increased by 92%, 115% and 263% respectively.

[Click here for more information](#)

Source: FoodDrinkEurope – Economic Bulletin on Input Costs (Nov-Dec 2021) [weblink](#).