

ECONOMIC BULLETIN on INPUT COSTS Up to February/March 2022

Food and drink producer prices, consumer prices and inflation

- In February 2022, EU food and drink producer prices increased by 9.8% compared to February 2021.
- Consumer food prices registered a 5.6% increase since February 2021.
- Inflation was up by 6.2% in February 2022 year on year.

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Energy prices

Crude oil and natural gas

- In March 2022, crude oil prices increased by 76% compared to March 2021.
- EU natural gas prices rose by 592% since March 2021, while US prices have increased by 90%.

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Transport costs

Global shipping and air freight

- The global container freight rate index increased by 120% between March 2021 and March 2022. Following a peak in September 2021, the index declined by 11.5% in March 2022 compared to September 2021.
- Air freight rates are up 37% compared to March 2021.

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Packaging

Wood and paper

- February year-on-year, producer prices index of wooden containers grew by 37%. They slightly exceeded the peak reached in September 2021 (M02 2022/M09 2021: 0.2%).
- Producer price indices of pulp and paper have continuously increased in 2021 and registered a 34% rise compared to February 2021.

Plastics and metal

- The producer price index of plastic packing goods grew by 16% since February 2021.

- Year-on-year, producer prices index of light metal packaging registered a higher increase (M02 2022/M02 2021: +19%).

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Machinery for processing

- The producer price index of machinery for food and drink processing registered a 7% increase since February 2021.

[Click here for more information](#)

Labour

Labour shortage

- The job vacancy rate in the EU manufacturing industry has risen significantly since Q4 2020 (Q4 2021/Q4 2020: +62%).
- In December 2021, the job vacancy rate in the manufacturing industry varied across Member States, from 5.2% in the Czech Republic to 0.3% in Greece.

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Agricultural raw materials

- The FAO food price index increased by 34% in March 2022 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 February year-on-year comparison shows that the producer price index of animal feed grew by 18%.

[Click here for more information](#)

Fertilizers

- Most fertiliser prices soared in 2021, particularly those for phosphates and urea.
- In March year-on-year, prices of diammonium phosphate, triple superphosphate and urea increased by 76%, 73% and 157% respectively.

[Click here for more information](#)

Methodology

- **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

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

European Commission, Eurostat statistics explained

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Main_Page

European Commission, Eurostat short-term statistics

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database>

European Commission, Eurostat, labour markets

https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/jvs_q_nace2/default/table?lang=en

The World Bank, Commodity markets, monthly prices

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/research/commodity-markets>

Note on

- **Producer Prices Index (PPI)**

The PPI for a specific economic activity measures the monthly change in the trading price of products and related services. The PPI is an output index - it measures price changes from the seller's perspective. The prices collected in period t should refer to orders booked during period t (at the moment of the order) and not the moment when the commodities leave the factory gates.

- **Job vacancy**

A job vacancy is defined as a paid post that is newly created, unoccupied, or about to become vacant:

- for which the employer is taking active steps and is prepared to take further steps to find a suitable candidate from outside the enterprise concerned; and
- which the employer intends to fill either immediately or within a specific period of time.

Job vacancy represents the unmet demand for labour.

For more information on FoodDrinkEurope and its activities, including the Quarterly Economic Bulletin, please visit: www.fooddrinkeurope.eu

ECONOMIC BULLETIN ON INPUT COSTS

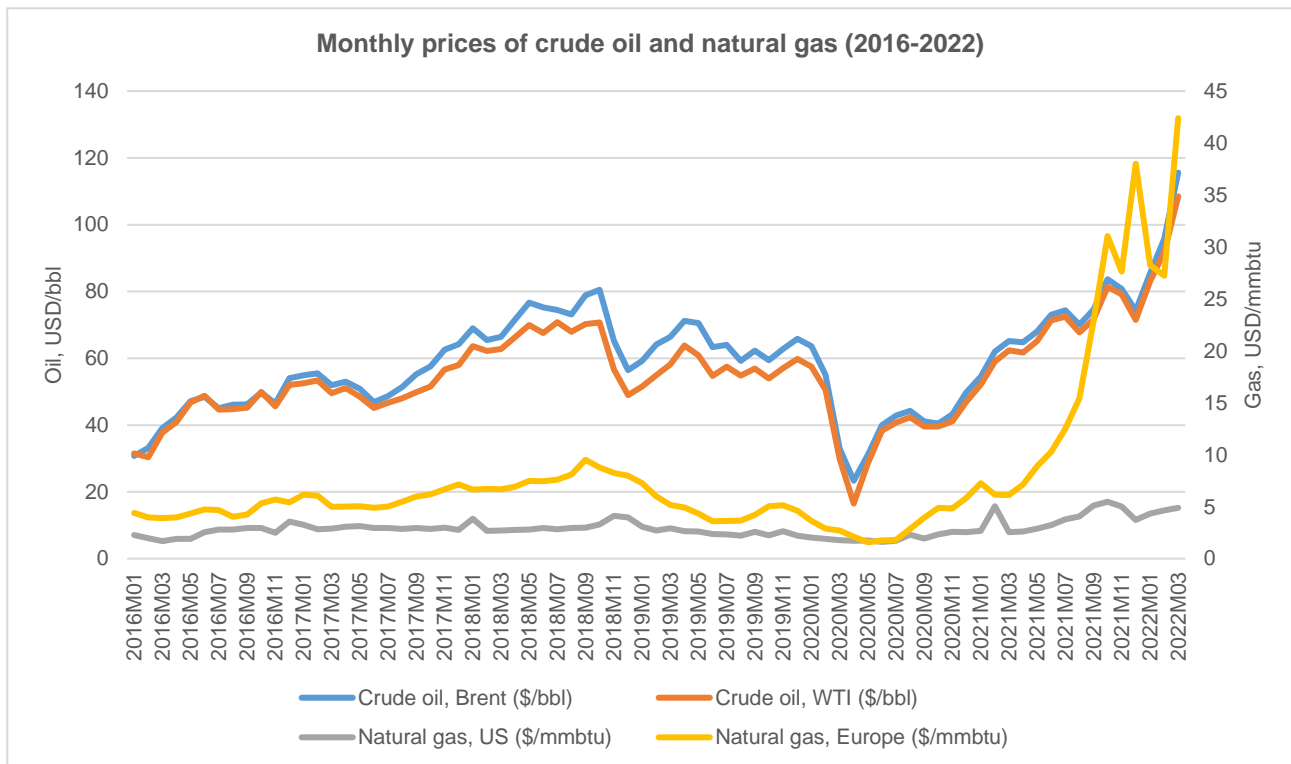
Annex

Food and drink producer prices, consumer prices and inflation

| | Food and drink producer prices | Consumer food prices | Inflation |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | 2022M02 / 2021M02 (% change) | 2022M02 / 2021M02 (% change) | 2022M02 / 2021M02 (% change) |
| EU | 9.8 | 5.6 | 6.2 |
| Austria | 6.0 | 4.2 | 5.5 |
| Belgium | 14.2 | 4.1 | 9.5 |
| Bulgaria | 12.2 | 13.4 | 8.4 |
| Croatia | 5.6 | 10.6 | 6.3 |
| Cyprus | na | 9.4 | 5.8 |
| Czechia | 8.1 | 7.0 | 10.0 |
| Denmark | 8.3 | 5.7 | 5.3 |
| Estonia | na | 12.5 | 11.6 |
| Finland | 7.6 | 3.8 | 4.4 |
| France | 6.9 | 2.5 | 4.2 |
| Germany | 10.8 | 5.2 | 5.5 |
| Greece | 4.3 | 7.5 | 6.3 |
| Hungary | 17.2 | 12.1 | 8.4 |
| Ireland | na | 2.8 | 5.7 |
| Italy | 8.9 | 5.2 | 6.2 |
| Latvia | na | 12.4 | 8.8 |
| Lithuania | 10.2 | 15.3 | 14.0 |
| Luxembourg | na | 3.4 | 7.8 |
| Malta | na | 9.2 | 4.2 |
| Netherlands | 14.4 | 4.9 | 7.3 |
| Poland | 13.8 | 7.5 | 8.1 |
| Portugal | 12.0 | 4.7 | 4.4 |
| Romania | 12.8 | 9.5 | 7.9 |
| Slovakia | na | 9.8 | 8.3 |
| Slovenia | 7.7 | 6.3 | 7.0 |
| Spain | 9.3 | 5.6 | 7.6 |
| Sweden | 7.9 | 3.9 | 4.4 |

Source: Eurostat

Energy prices

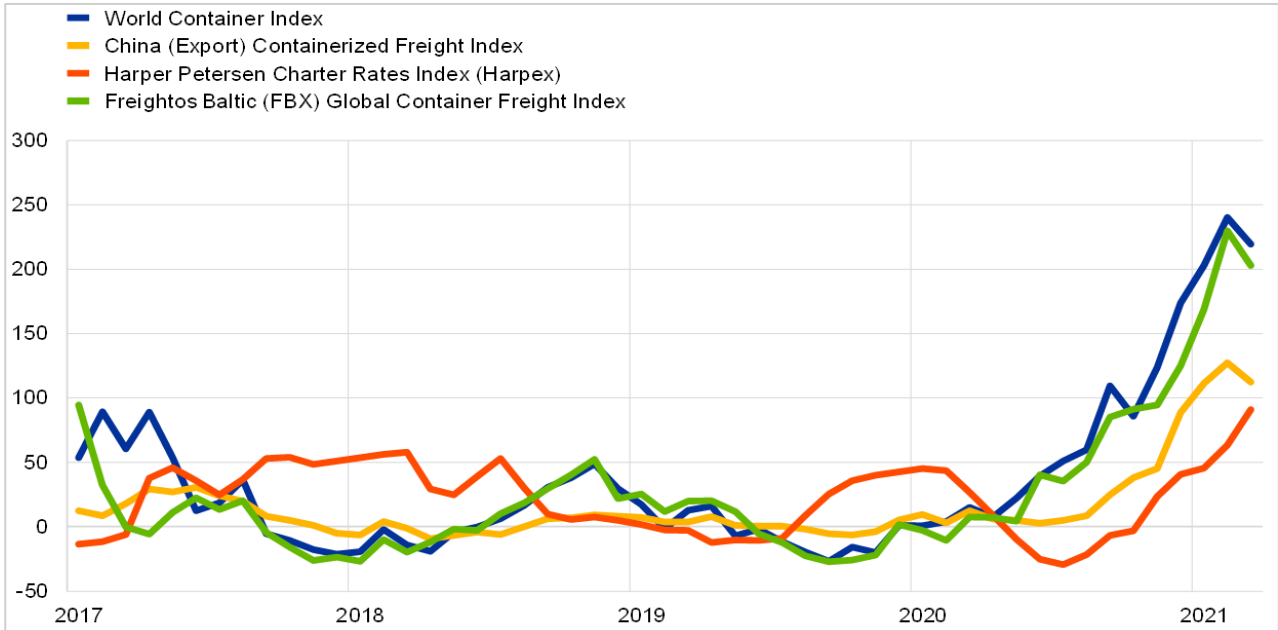


Source: World Bank Commodity Price Data

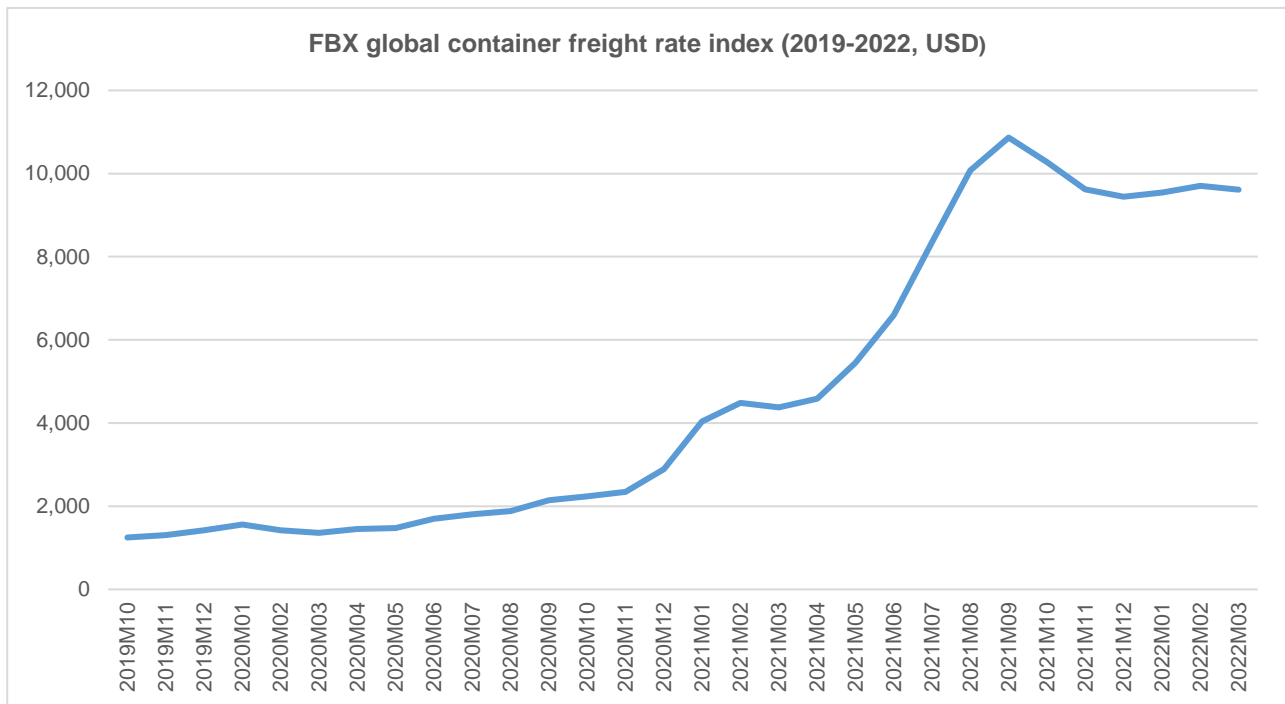
| | Crude oil, Brent (USD/bbl) | Crude oil, WTI (USD/bbl) | Natural gas, Europe (USD/mmbtu) | Natural gas, US (USD/mmbtu) |
|---------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2020M11 | 43 | 41 | 5 | 3 |
| 2020M12 | 50 | 47 | 6 | 3 |
| 2021M01 | 55 | 52 | 7 | 3 |
| 2021M02 | 62 | 59 | 6 | 5 |
| 2021M03 | 65 | 62 | 6 | 3 |
| 2021M04 | 65 | 62 | 7 | 3 |
| 2021M05 | 68 | 65 | 9 | 3 |
| 2021M06 | 73 | 71 | 10 | 3 |
| 2021M07 | 74 | 72 | 13 | 4 |
| 2021M08 | 70 | 68 | 15 | 4 |
| 2021M09 | 75 | 72 | 23 | 5 |
| 2021M10 | 84 | 81 | 31 | 5 |
| 2021M11 | 81 | 79 | 28 | 5 |
| 2021M12 | 74 | 72 | 38 | 4 |
| 2022M01 | 86 | 83 | 28 | 4 |
| 2022M02 | 96 | 92 | 27 | 5 |
| 2022M03 | 116 | 108 | 42 | 5 |

Transport costs

Global shipping costs (year-on-year, % changes)



Source: [ECB](#)

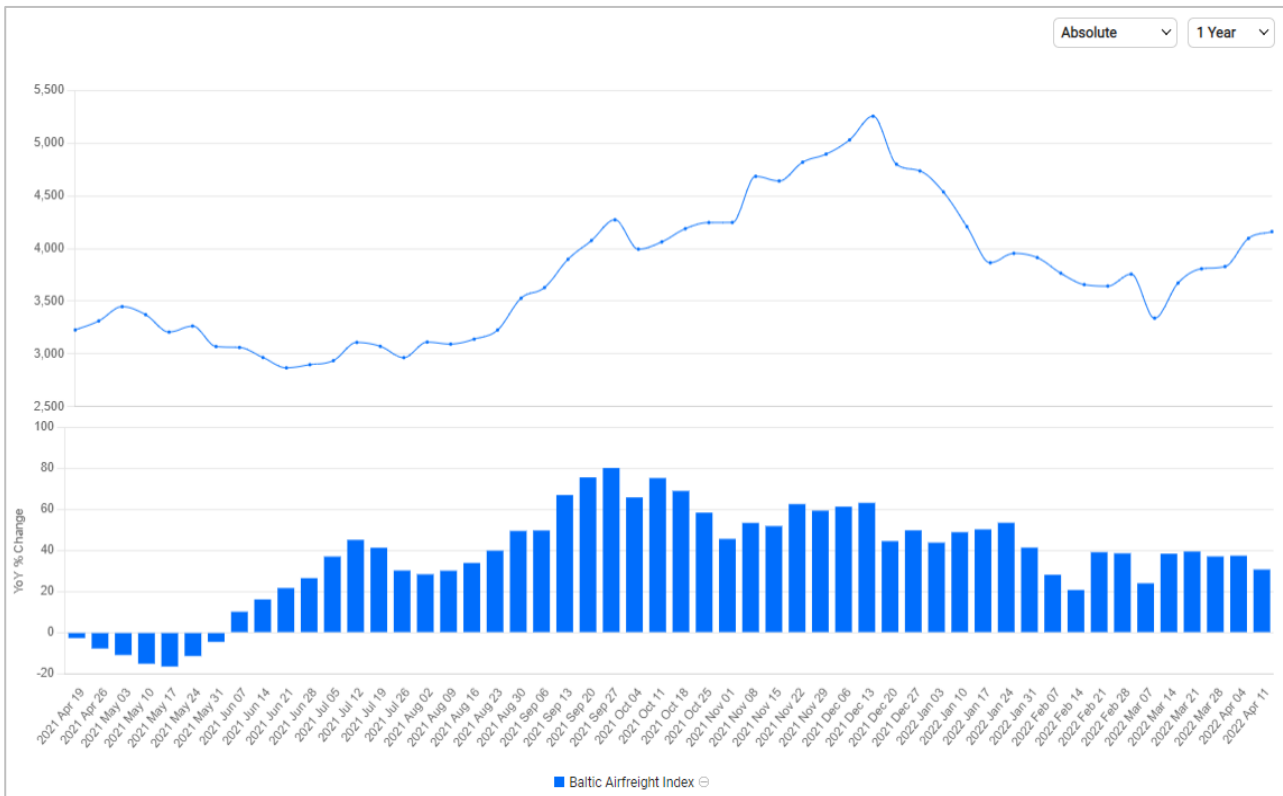


Source: *Freightos, global container freight rate index, cited by MacroMicro*

Supplementary notes:

FBX stands for Freightos Baltic Index. The index represents a market rate for freight for any given shipping lane for a 40' container. The index is based on aggregated and anonymized real-time business data from global freight carriers, freight forwarders, and shippers that use the WebCargo by [Freightos](#) freight rate management platform. The values are an average of the five business days of the last full week in each month. The values are a monthly average of weekly prices.

Air freight index

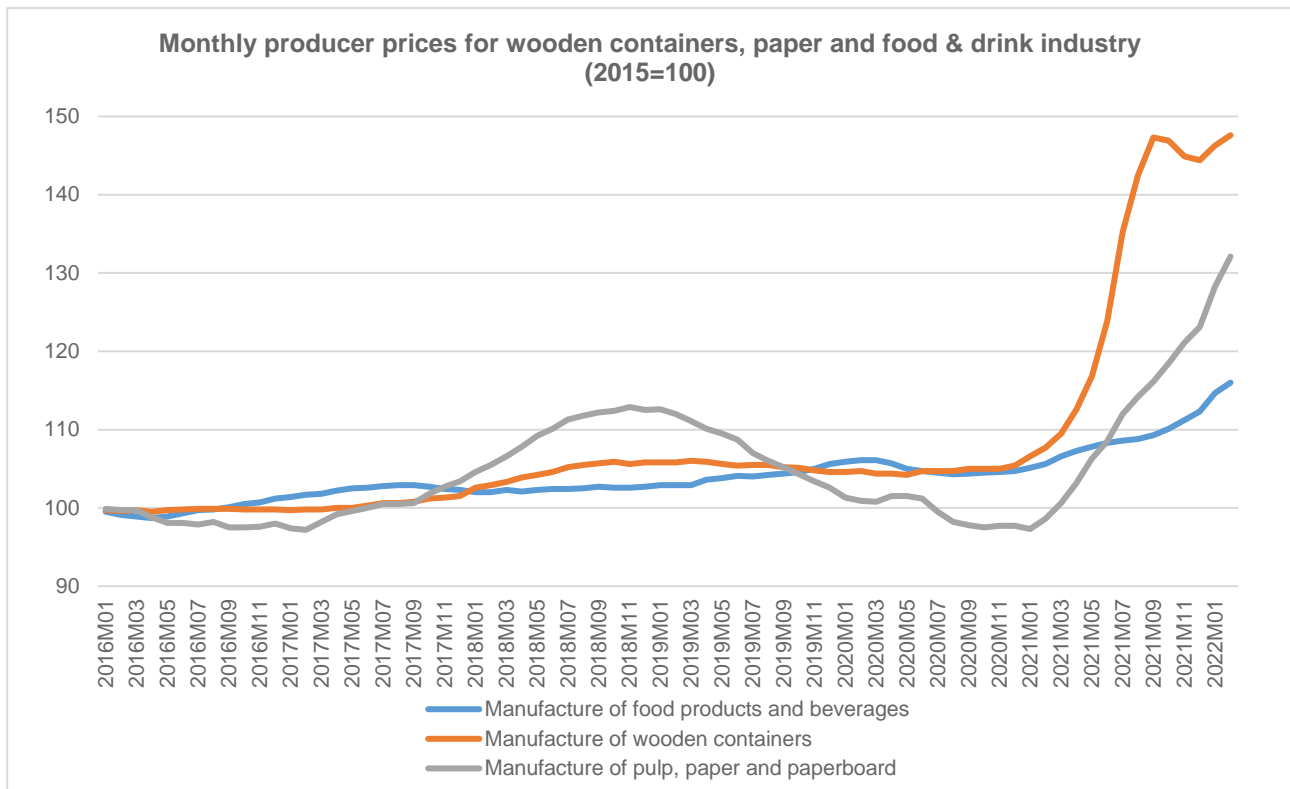


Source: [Baltic airfreight index](#)

The Baltic Exchange Airfreight Index (BAI) – powered by TAC data – reflects the price per kilogram of general cargo flown on 17 key trade lanes, from origin airport to destination region. The Baltic Air Freight Indices (BAI) reflect weekly transactional rates for general cargo as provided by freight forwarders. The data includes a headline index - the BAI Index – a weighted average of the 17 underlying destination basket routes, as well as six outbound indices – a weighted average of the destination baskets from each of the six origin airports.

Packaging

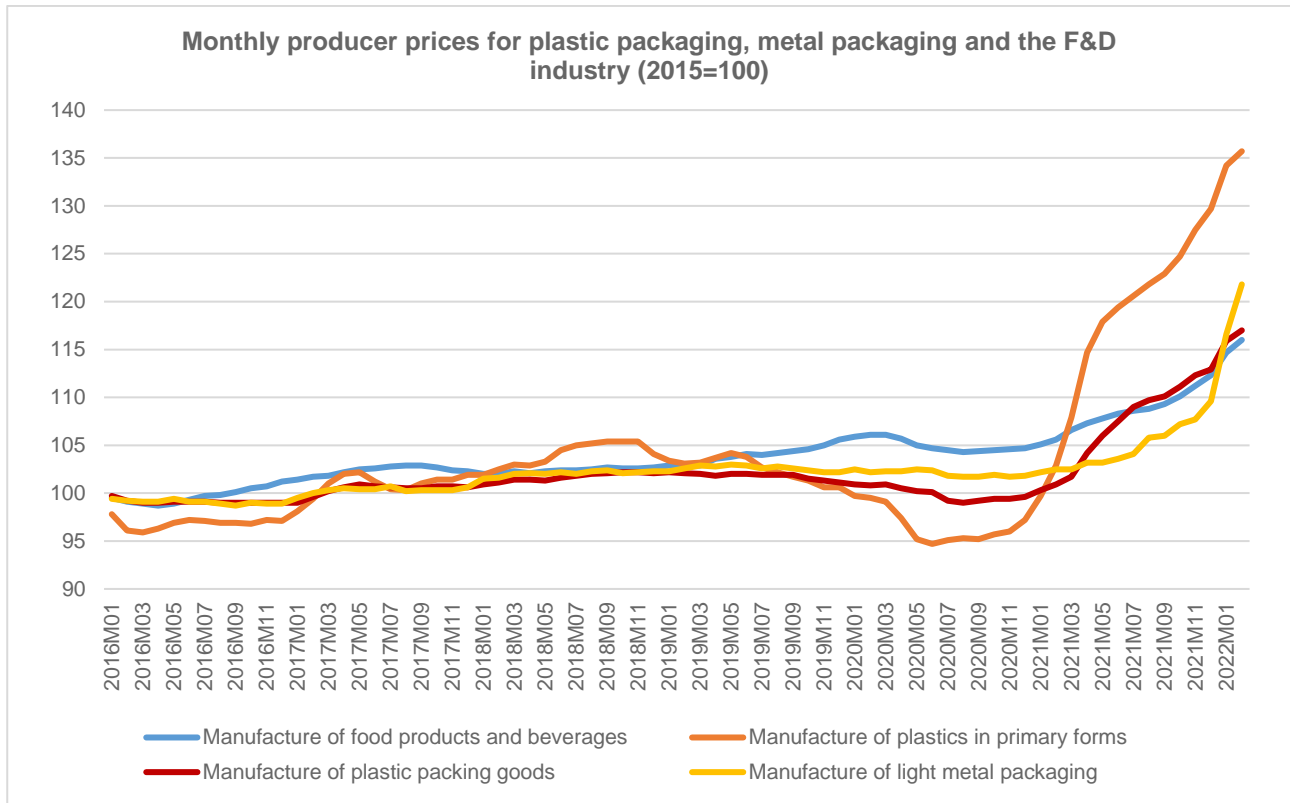
Wood and paper industries



Source: Eurostat (STS)

| | Manufacture of wooden containers | Manufacture of pulp, paper and paperboard |
|---------|----------------------------------|---|
| 2020M11 | 105 | 98 |
| 2020M12 | 105 | 98 |
| 2021M01 | 107 | 97 |
| 2021M02 | 108 | 99 |
| 2021M03 | 110 | 101 |
| 2021M04 | 113 | 103 |
| 2021M05 | 117 | 106 |
| 2021M06 | 124 | 109 |
| 2021M07 | 135 | 112 |
| 2021M08 | 143 | 114 |
| 2021M09 | 147 | 116 |
| 2021M10 | 147 | 119 |
| 2021M11 | 145 | 121 |
| 2021M12 | 144 | 123 |
| 2022M01 | 146 | 128 |
| 2022M02 | 148 | 132 |

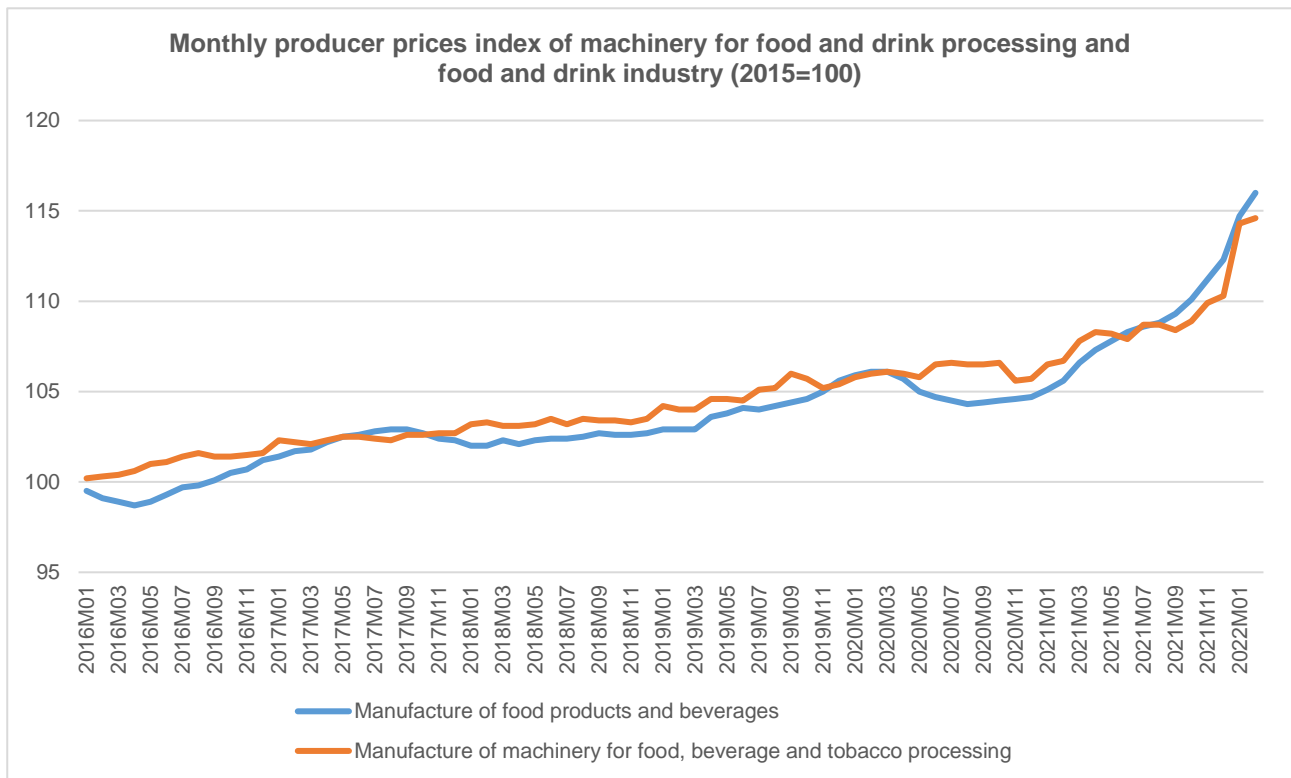
Plastic and metal industries



Source: Eurostat (STS)

| | Manufacture of plastics in primary forms | Manufacture of plastic packing goods | Manufacture of light metal packaging |
|---------|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2020M11 | 96 | 99 | 102 |
| 2020M12 | 97 | 100 | 102 |
| 2021M01 | 100 | 100 | 102 |
| 2021M02 | 103 | 101 | 103 |
| 2021M03 | 108 | 102 | 103 |
| 2021M04 | 115 | 104 | 103 |
| 2021M05 | 118 | 106 | 103 |
| 2021M06 | 119 | 108 | 104 |
| 2021M07 | 121 | 109 | 104 |
| 2021M08 | 122 | 110 | 106 |
| 2021M09 | 123 | 110 | 106 |
| 2021M10 | 125 | 111 | 107 |
| 2021M11 | 128 | 112 | 107 |
| 2021M12 | 130 | 113 | 109 |
| 2022M01 | 134 | 116 | 117 |
| 2022M02 | 136 | 117 | 122 |

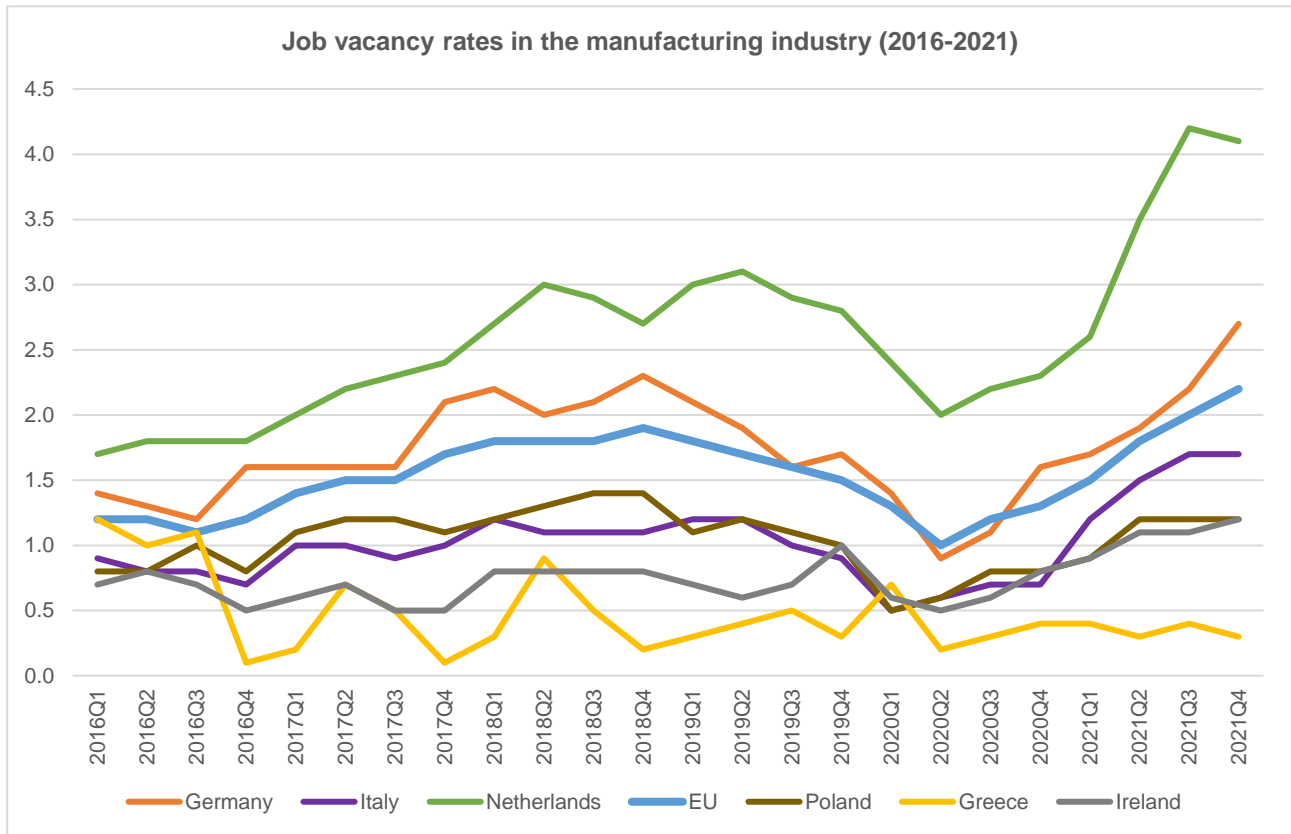
Machinery for food and drink processing



Source: Eurostat (STS)

| Manufacture of machinery for food, beverage and tobacco processing | |
|--|-----|
| 2020M11 | 106 |
| 2020M12 | 106 |
| 2021M01 | 107 |
| 2021M02 | 107 |
| 2021M03 | 108 |
| 2021M04 | 108 |
| 2021M05 | 108 |
| 2021M06 | 108 |
| 2021M07 | 109 |
| 2021M08 | 109 |
| 2021M09 | 108 |
| 2021M10 | 109 |
| 2021M11 | 110 |
| 2021M12 | 110 |
| 2022M01 | 114 |
| 2022M02 | 115 |

Labour



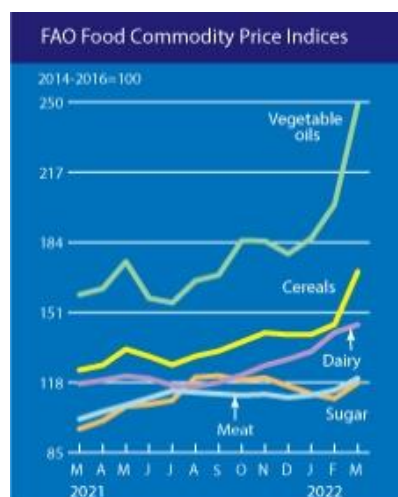
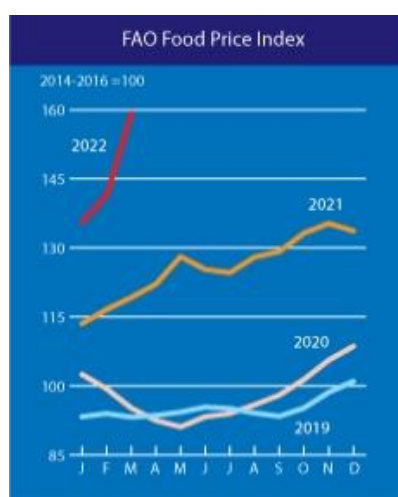
Source: Eurostat (jvs)

Job vacancy rate in the manufacturing industry

| | 2020Q1 | 2020Q2 | 2020Q3 | 2020Q4 | 2021Q1 | 2021Q2 | 2021Q3 | 2021Q4 |
|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| EU | 1.3 | 1.0 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 2.0 | 2.1 |
| Germany | 1.4 | 0.9 | 1.1 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 1.9 | 2.2 | 2.7 |
| Greece | 0.7 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.3 |
| Ireland | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.2 |
| Italy | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 1.2 | 1.5 | 1.7 | 1.7 |
| Netherlands | 2.4 | 2 | 2.2 | 2.3 | 2.6 | 3.5 | 4.2 | 4.1 |
| Poland | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 |

Source: Eurostat

Agricultural raw materials



Source: [FAO Food Price Index](#)

AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY PRICES – March 2022

| Agricultural Commodity | EUROPEAN UNION 27 | | | WORLD | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------|
| | Monthly average | Annual change | Monthly change | Monthly average | | Annual change | Monthly change |
| CEREALS ⁽¹⁾ | EUR/T | % | % | USD/T | EUR/T | % | % |
| Soft wheat | 384 | 64.6% | 39.6% | 445 ⁽²⁾ | 404 | 62.6% | 32.9% |
| Durum wheat | 440 ⁽⁵⁾ | 57.8% | -1.5% | 486 ⁽³⁾ | 441 | 77.0% | 25.9% |
| Maize | 369 | 61.3% | 42.5% | 334 | 303 | 35.7% | 14.7% |
| Barley | 376 | 74.2% | 42.1% | 390 | 354 | 62.0% | 30.5% |
| MEAT | | | | | | | |
| Beef | 4,987 | 33.3% | 6.6% | 6,249 | 5,671 | 32.4% | 0.6% |
| Pork | 1,697 | 12.1% | 28.3% | 2,273 ⁽⁶⁾ | 2,062 ⁽⁶⁾ | 16.1% | 19.8% |
| Poultry | 2,423 | 25.0% | 7.5% | 3,202 | 2,906 | 72.0% | 15.5% |
| DAIRY | | | | | | | |
| Butter | 6,279 | 61.5% | 5.7% | 6,925 | 6,285 | 21.0% | 5.7% |
| Cheese | 3,704 | 20.3% | 1.9% | 6,167 | 5,596 | 40.2% | 6.2% |
| SMP | 3,888 | 59.9% | 8.0% | 4,550 | 4,129 | 33.6% | 7.3% |
| WMP | 4,837 | 54.7% | 7.0% | 4,629 | 4,201 | 12.7% | 4.6% |
| OILSEEDS | | | | | | | |
| Soya beans | : | : | : | 720 ⁽⁵⁾ | 653 | 23.7% | 7.6% |
| Rapeseed | 925 ⁽⁵⁾ | 77.8% | 30.6% | : | : | : | : |
| SUGAR | | | | | | | |
| White sugar | 441 ⁽⁴⁾ | 13.1% | 1.6% | 536 ⁽⁵⁾ | 486 | 18.8% | 8.3% |
| RICE (milled) | | | | | | | |
| Japonica | 1,195 | 70.7% | 3.0% | 1,260 ⁽⁵⁾ | 1,143 | 32.3% | 2.2% |
| Indica | 810 | 9.5% | 2.5% | 398 ⁽⁵⁾ | 361 | -20.5% | -1.0% |

Notes:

Changes in world prices are based on prices expressed in USD.

1) EU cereal quotations: soft wheat and barley (delivered Rouen), durum wheat (Port-La-Nouvelle/La Palice) and maize (Bordeaux).

2-3) US Soft Red Winter Wheat and US Hard Red Winter Wheat.

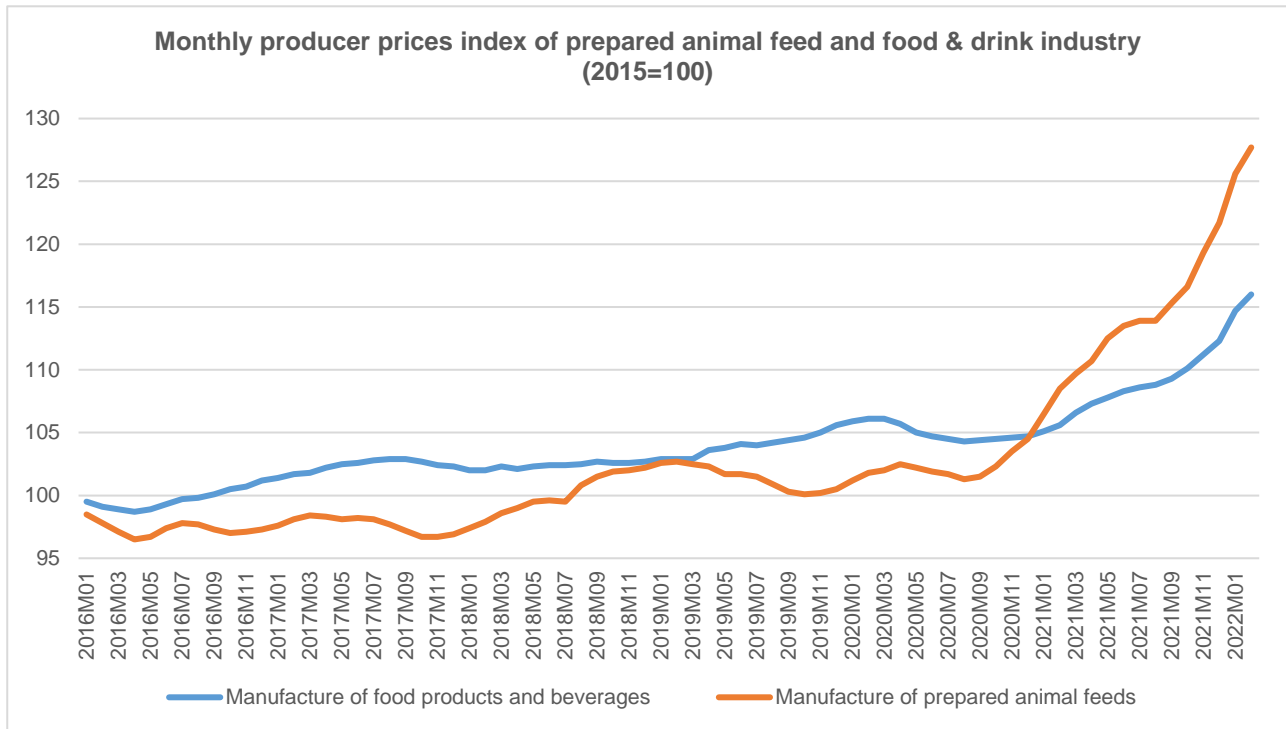
4) Figures for previous month.

5) Preliminary price.

6) World pork price is represented by US, as it is the biggest world exporter after the EU.

Source: [European Commission PRICE DASHBOARD No 117 – February 2022 edition](#)

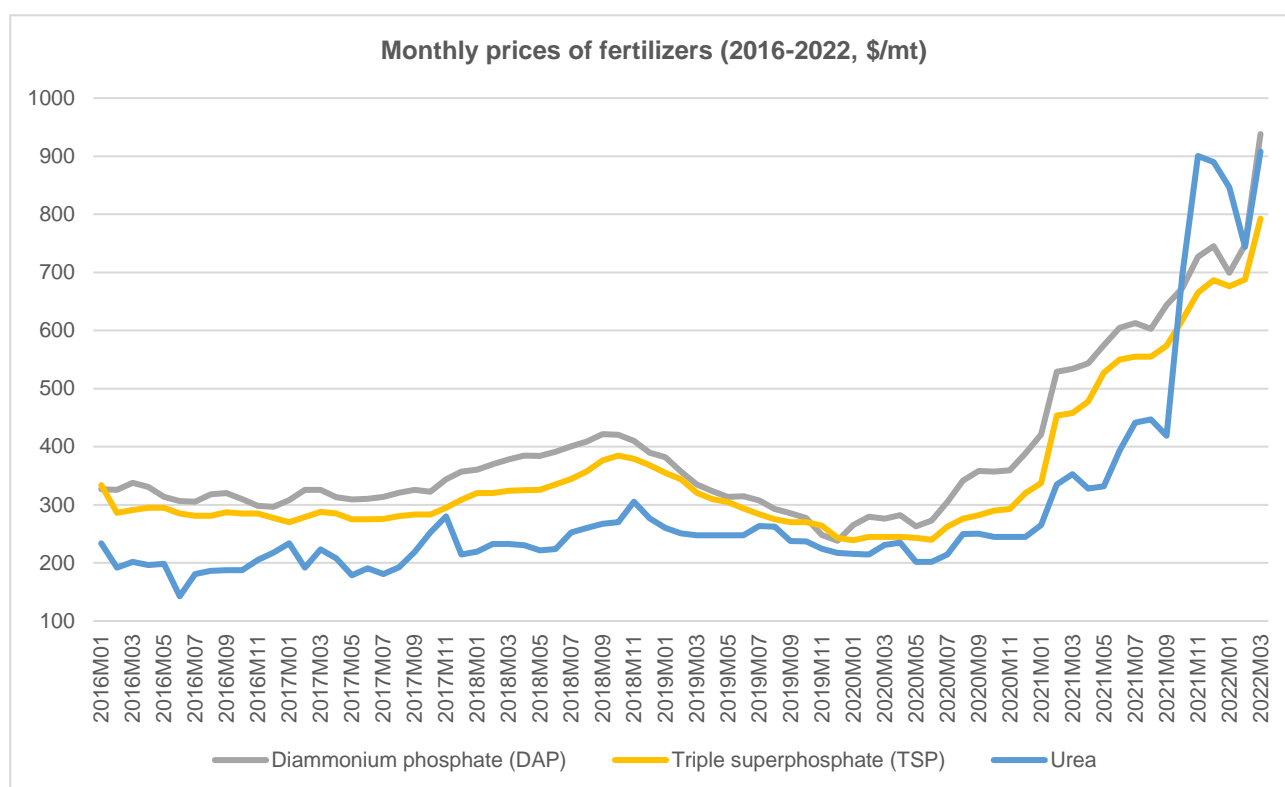
Animal feed



Source: Eurostat (STS)

| Manufacture of prepared animal feeds | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| 2020M11 | 104 |
| 2020M12 | 105 |
| 2021M01 | 107 |
| 2021M02 | 109 |
| 2021M03 | 110 |
| 2021M04 | 111 |
| 2021M05 | 113 |
| 2021M06 | 114 |
| 2021M07 | 114 |
| 2021M08 | 114 |
| 2021M09 | 115 |
| 2021M10 | 117 |
| 2021M11 | 119 |
| 2021M12 | 122 |
| 2022M01 | 126 |
| 2022M02 | 128 |

Fertilizers



Source: World Bank Commodity Price Data

| | Diammonium phosphate DAP (\$/mt) | Triple superphosphate TSP (\$/mt) | Urea (\$/mt) |
|---------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| 2020M11 | 360 | 293 | 245 |
| 2020M12 | 389 | 320 | 245 |
| 2021M01 | 421 | 338 | 265 |
| 2021M02 | 529 | 454 | 335 |
| 2021M03 | 534 | 458 | 353 |
| 2021M04 | 543 | 478 | 328 |
| 2021M05 | 575 | 528 | 332 |
| 2021M06 | 605 | 550 | 393 |
| 2021M07 | 613 | 555 | 442 |
| 2021M08 | 603 | 555 | 447 |
| 2021M09 | 644 | 574 | 419 |
| 2021M10 | 673 | 618 | 695 |
| 2021M11 | 727 | 665 | 901 |
| 2021M12 | 745 | 687 | 890 |
| 2022M01 | 699 | 676 | 846 |
| 2022M02 | 747 | 688 | 744 |
| 2022M03 | 938 | 793 | 908 |