

ECONOMIC BULLETIN on INPUT COSTS Up to February/March 2023

Food and drink producer prices, consumer prices and inflation

- In February 2023, EU food and drink producer prices increased by 18.5% compared to February 2022.
- Consumer food prices registered a 19.5% increase since February 2022.
- Inflation was up by 9.9% in February 2023 year-on-year.

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Energy prices

Crude oil and natural gas

- In March 2023, crude oil prices decreased by 32% on average compared to March 2022.
- EU natural gas prices decreased by 67% since March 2022.

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Transport costs

Global shipping and air freight

- The global container freight rate index decreased by 84% between March 2022 and March 2023.
- Air freight rates were down 32% compared to March 2022.

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Packaging

Wood and paper

- February year-on-year, producer prices index of wooden containers grew by 3%.
- Producer price indices of pulp, paper and paperboard have continuously increased over the same period and registered a 15% rise compared to February 2022.

Plastics and metal

- The producer price index of plastic packing goods grew by 8% since February 2022.
- The February year-on-year comparison shows that the producer price index of light metal packaging grew by 13%.

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Machinery for processing

- The producer price index of machinery for food and drink processing registered a 6% increase since February 2023.

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Labour

Labour shortage

- The job vacancy rate in the EU manufacturing industry has risen significantly since Q4 2021 (Q4 2022/Q4 2021: +5%).
- In Q4 2022, the job vacancy rate in the manufacturing industry varied across Member States, from 4.7% in the Czech Republic to 0.6% in Greece.

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Agricultural raw materials

- The FAO food price index was down 20.5% compared to March 2022.
- 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 and have remained at constant high levels since July 2022.
- The February 2023 year-on-year comparison shows that the producer price index of animal feed grew by 16%.

[Click here for more information](#)

Fertilizers

- In March 2023 year-on-year, prices of diammonium phosphate, triple superphosphate and urea decreased by 35%, 32% and 64% respectively.

[Click here for more information](#)

Methodology

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/ivs_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.

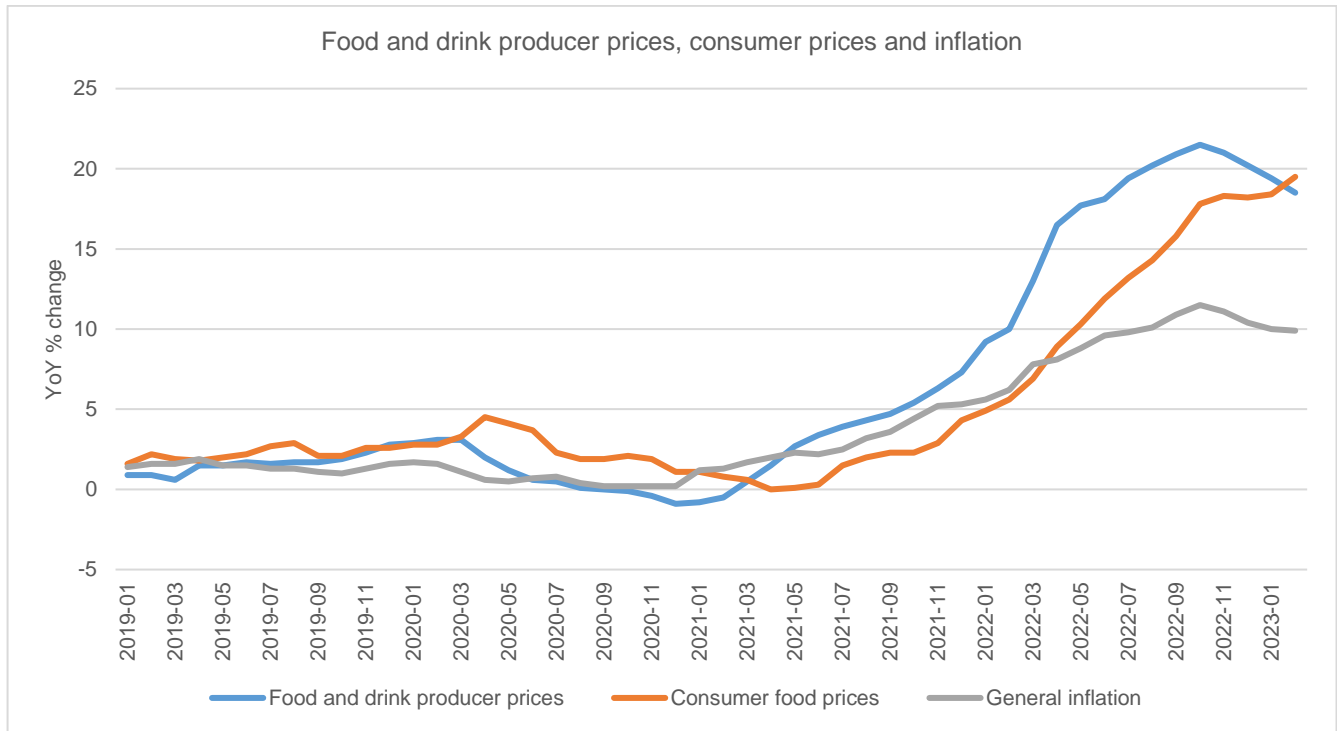
Job vacancy represents the unmet demand for labour.

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

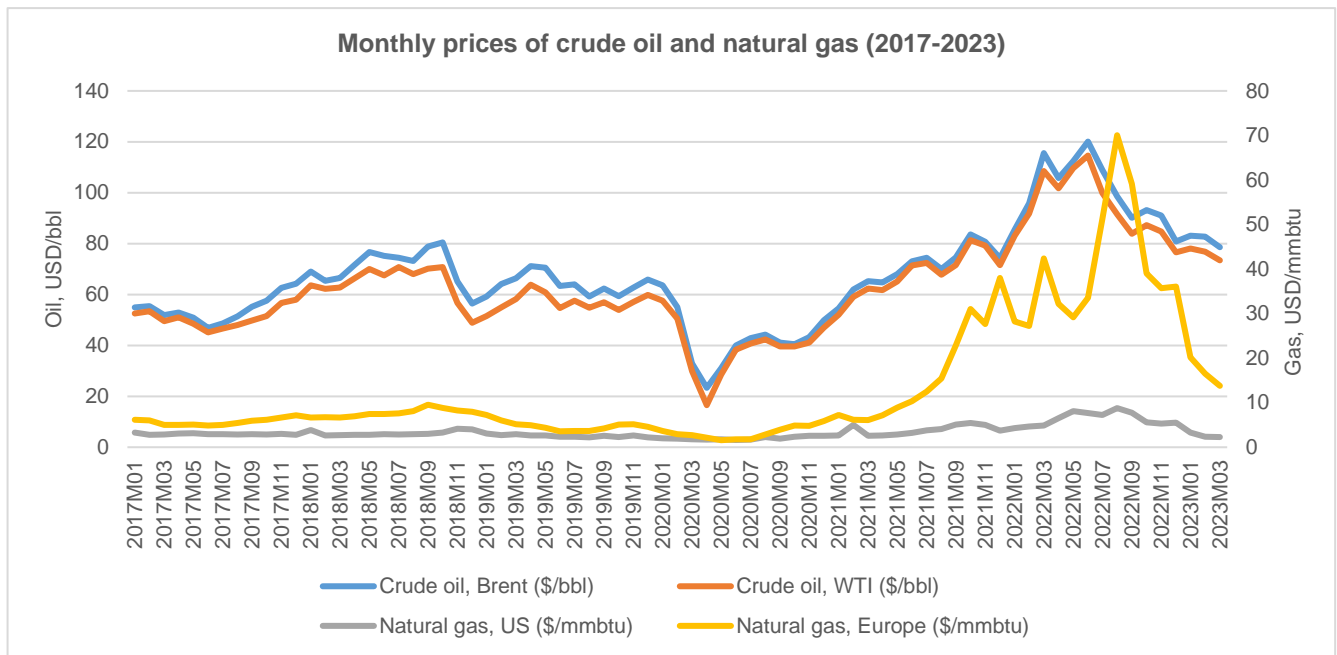


	Food and drink producer prices	Consumer food prices	Inflation
	2023M02 / 2022M02 (% change)		
EU	18.5	19.5	9.9
Austria	10.0	16.5	11.0
Belgium	23.8	19.9	5.4
Bulgaria	21.5	25.0	13.7
Croatia	13.7	17.9	11.7
Cyprus	na	9.1	6.7
Czechia	na	25.2	18.4
Denmark	20.9	15.3	8.3
Estonia	na	25.8	17.8
Finland	17.1	17.3	8.0
France	20.1	16.1	7.3
Germany	19.0	22.3	9.3
Greece	12.2	14.7	6.5
Hungary	40.7	47.0	25.8

Ireland	6.5	13.3	8.1
Italy	13.9	13.5	9.8
Latvia	na	25.4	20.1
Lithuania	18.1	29.7	17.2
Luxembourg	na	13.5	4.8
Malta	na	13.6	7.0
Netherlands	16.0	18.4	8.9
Poland	20.0	24.5	17.2
Portugal	25.0	22.0	8.6
Romania	22.2	22.9	13.4
Slovakia	na	28.7	15.4
Slovenia	23.4	19.0	9.4
Spain	18.1	16.7	6.0
Sweden	20.8	22.6	9.7

Source: Eurostat

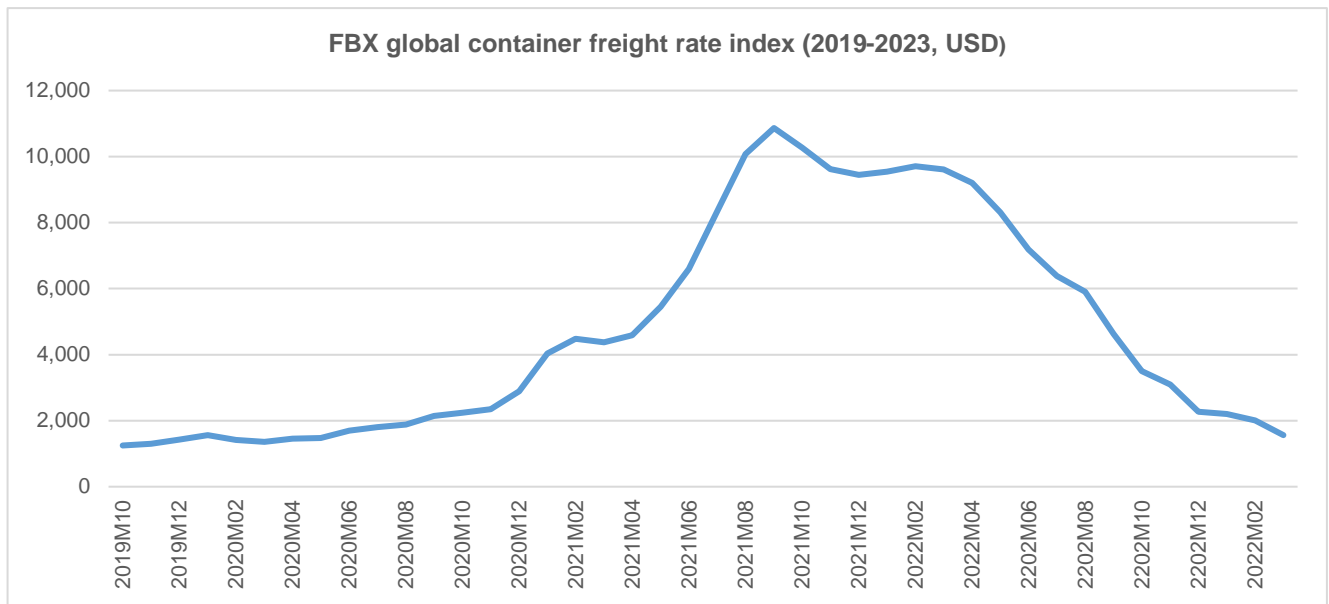
Energy prices



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)
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
2022M04	106	102	32	7
2022M05	112	110	29	8
2022M06	120	115	34	8
2022M07	109	100	51	7
2022M08	99	92	70	9
2022M09	90	84	59	8
2022M10	93	87	39	6
2022M11	91	85	36	5
2022M12	81	77	36	6
2023M01	83	78	20	3
2023M02	83	77	17	2
2023M03	79	73	14	2

Transport costs

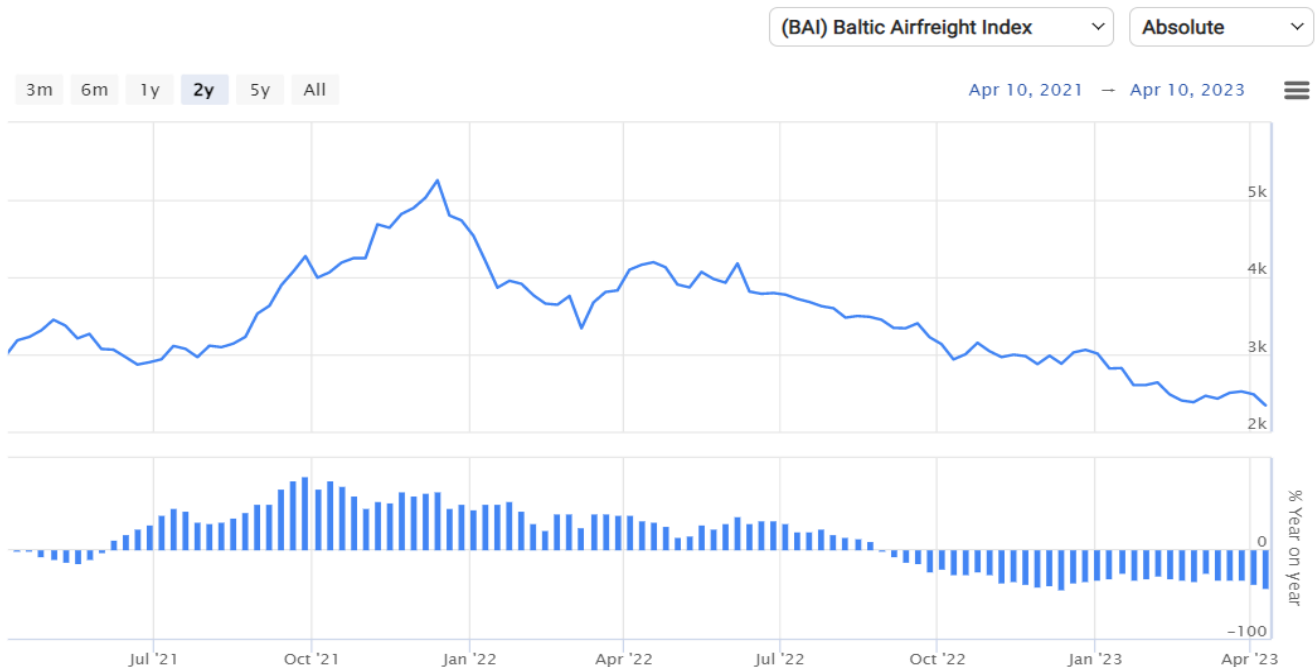


Source: [Freightos](#), Global Container Freight Index

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

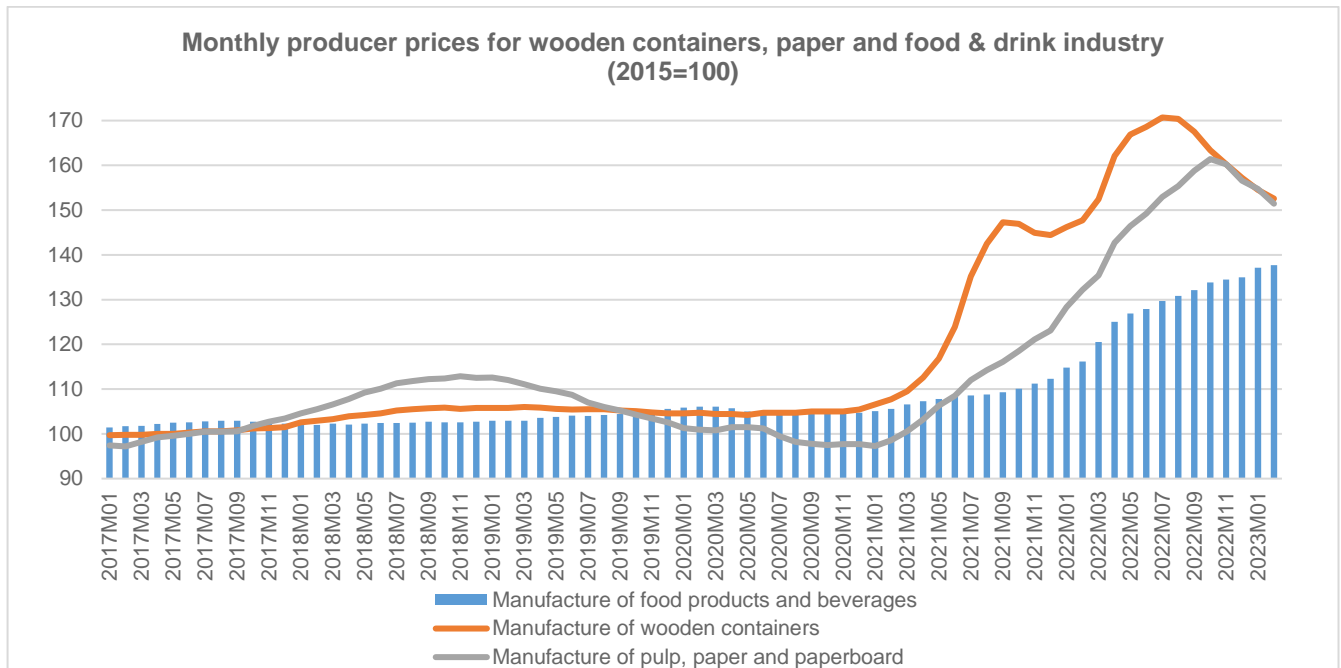


Source: [Baltic airfreight index](#)

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

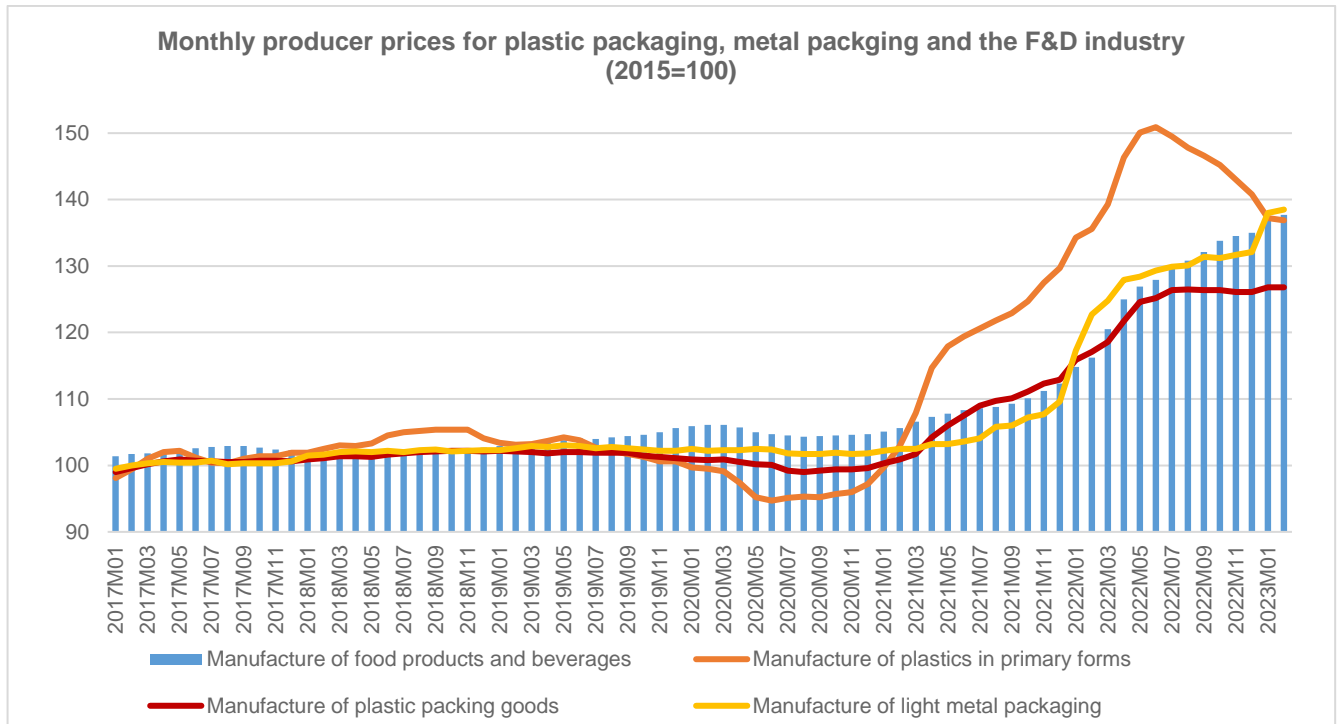
Wood and paper industries



Source: Eurostat (STS)

	Manufacture of wooden containers	Manufacture of pulp, paper and paperboard
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
2022M03	152	135
2022M04	162	143
2022M05	167	146
2022M06	168	149
2022M07	170	153
2022M08	170	155
2022M09	167	159
2022M10	163	161
2022M11	160	160
2022M12	157	157
2023M01	155	155
2023M02	153	151

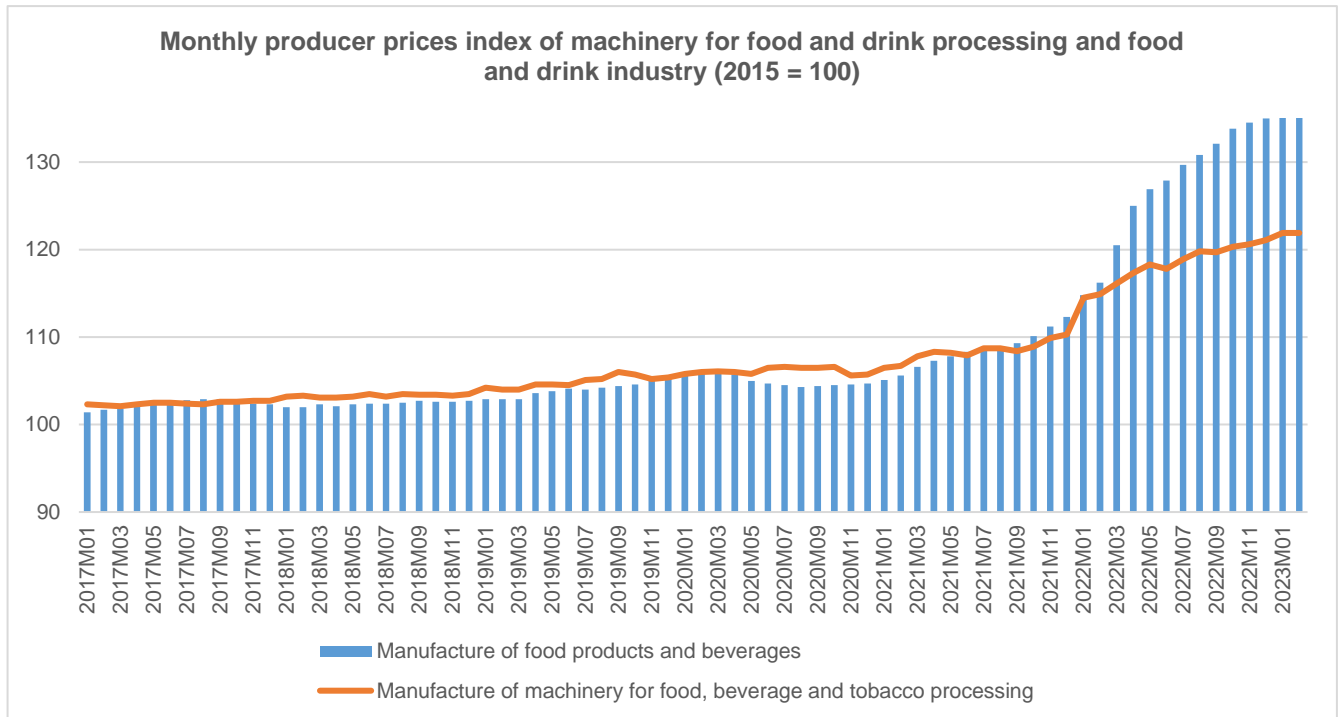
Plastic and metal industries



Source: Eurostat (STS)

	Manufacture of plastics in primary forms	Manufacture of plastic packing goods	Manufacture of light metal packaging
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	123
2022M03	139	119	125
2022M04	146	122	128
2022M05	150	125	128
2022M06	151	125	129
2022M07	150	126	130
2022M08	148	126	130
2022M09	147	126	131
2022M10	145	126	131
2022M11	143	126	132
2022M12	141	126	132
2023M01	137	127	138
2023M02	137	127	139

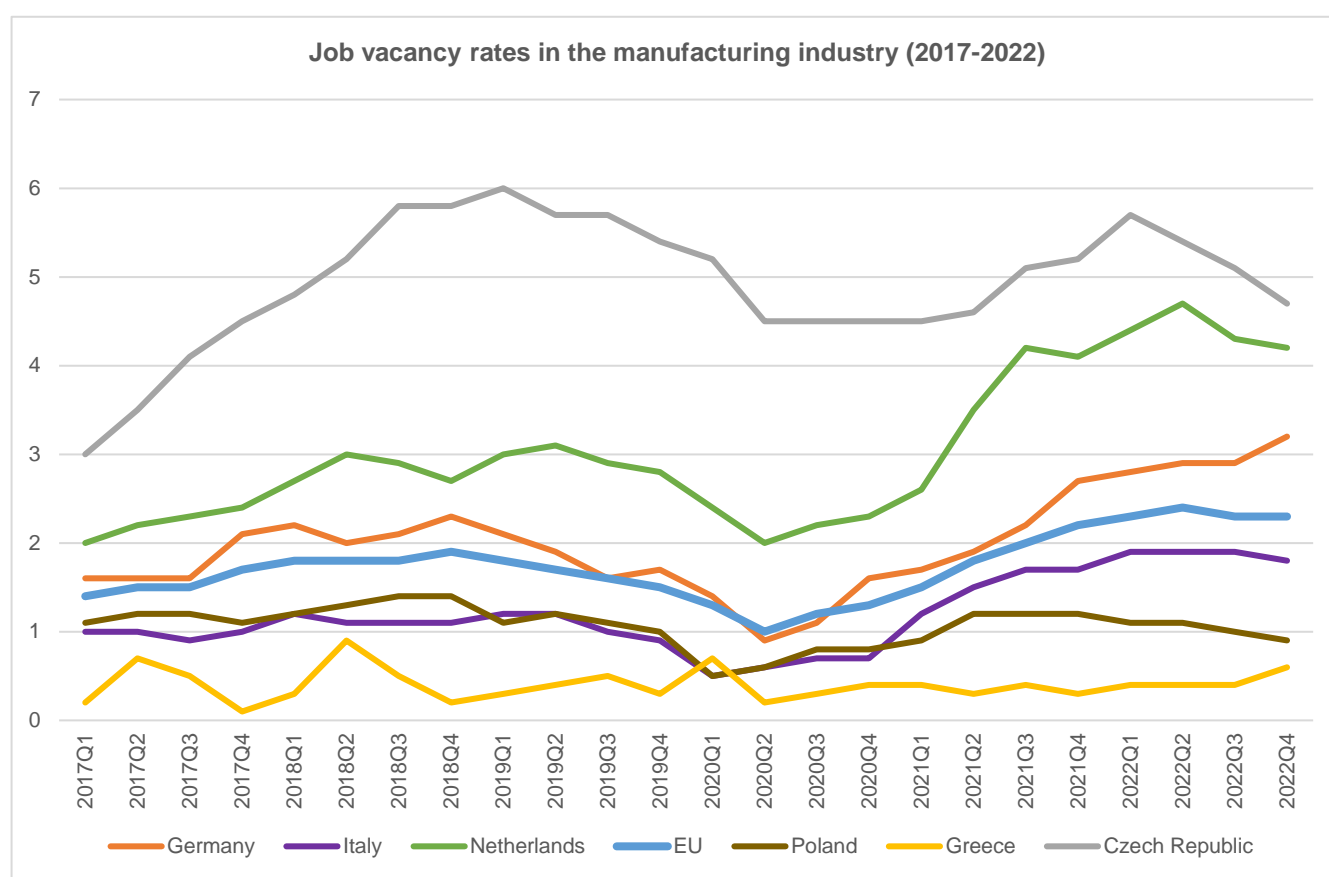
Machinery for food and drink processing



Source: Eurostat (STS)

Manufacture of machinery for food, beverage and tobacco processing	
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
2022M03	116
2022M04	117
2022M05	118
2022M06	118
2022M07	119
2022M08	120
2022M09	120
2022M10	120
2022M11	121
2022M12	121
2023M01	122
2023M02	122

Labour



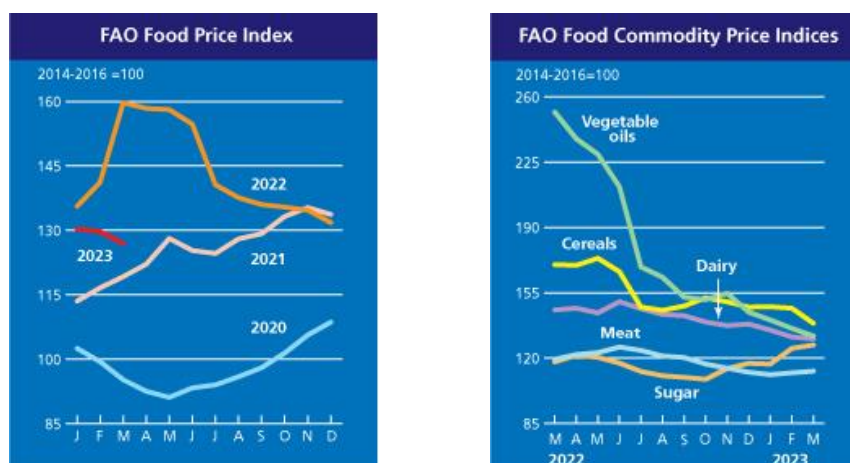
Source: Eurostat (jvs)

Job vacancy rate in the manufacturing industry

	2021Q4	2022Q1	2022Q2	2022 Q3	2022 Q4
EU	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.3
Czech Republic	5.2	5.7	5.4	5.1	4.7
Germany	2.7	2.8	2.9	2.9	3.2
Greece	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.6
Italy	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8
Netherlands	4.1	4.4	4.7	4.3	4.2
Poland	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.9

Source: Eurostat

Agricultural raw materials



Source: [FAO Food Price Index](#)

AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY PRICES – February 2023

Agricultural Commodity	EUROPEAN UNION 27			WORLD			
	Monthly average	Annual change	Monthly change	Monthly average	Annual change	Monthly change	Monthly change
CEREALS ⁽¹⁾	EUR/T	%	%	USD/T	EUR/T	%	%
Soft wheat	292	5.9%	-1.7%	312 ⁽²⁾	291	-8.1%	-0.5%
Durum wheat	430	-3.8%	-6.6%	395 ⁽³⁾	368	1.1%	3.8%
Maize	296	14.1%	3.2%	298	278	1.8%	-1.6%
Barley	276	4.0%	1.4%	279	260	-6.7%	0.9%
MEAT							
Beef	5,137	9.8%	-0.7%	5,079	4,740	-18.2%	4.5%
Pork	2,175	64.5%	7.3%	1,672 ⁽⁶⁾	1,560 ⁽⁶⁾	-11.8%	4.8%
Poultry	2,649	17.5%	0.5%	2,683	2,504	-3.3%	-0.1%
DAIRY							
Butter	4,950	-16.7%	-6.3%	4,708	4,394	-28.1%	4.3%
Cheese	4,572	25.8%	-1.6%	4,988	4,655	-14.1%	0.8%
SMP	2,589	-28.1%	-4.5%	2,850	2,660	-32.8%	-1.7%
WMP	3,555	-21.4%	-6.2%	3,258	3,041	-26.4%	1.8%
OILSEEDS							
Soya beans	:	:	:	651 ⁽⁵⁾	608	-2.7%	0.5%
Rapeseed	549 ⁽⁵⁾	-22.5%	-1.5%	:	:	:	:
SUGAR							
White sugar	773 ⁽⁴⁾	78.5%	18.0%	566	528	14.8%	3.1%
RICE (milled)							
Japonica	1,260	8.6%	-13.7%	1,700	1,587	37.9%	3.7%
Indica	900	13.9%	0.0%	463	432	15.2%	-2.8%

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.

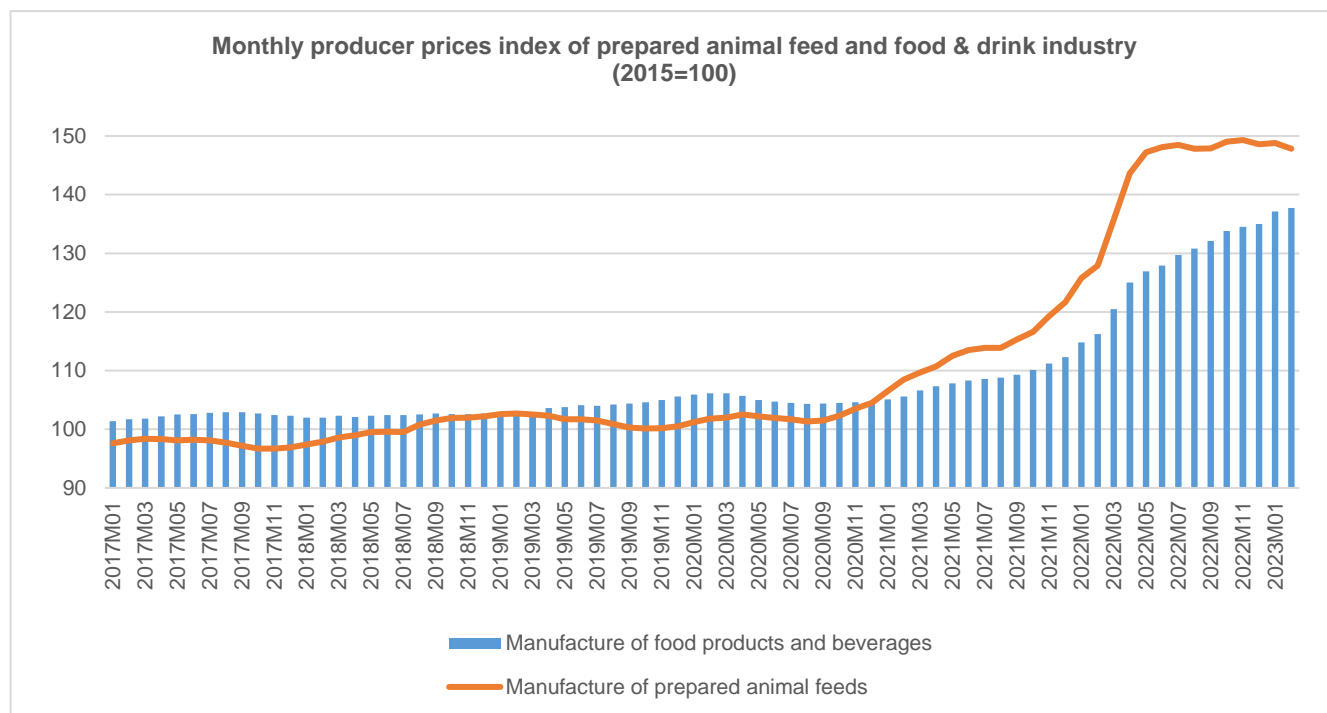
4) Figures for previous month.

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 125 – October 2022 edition](#)

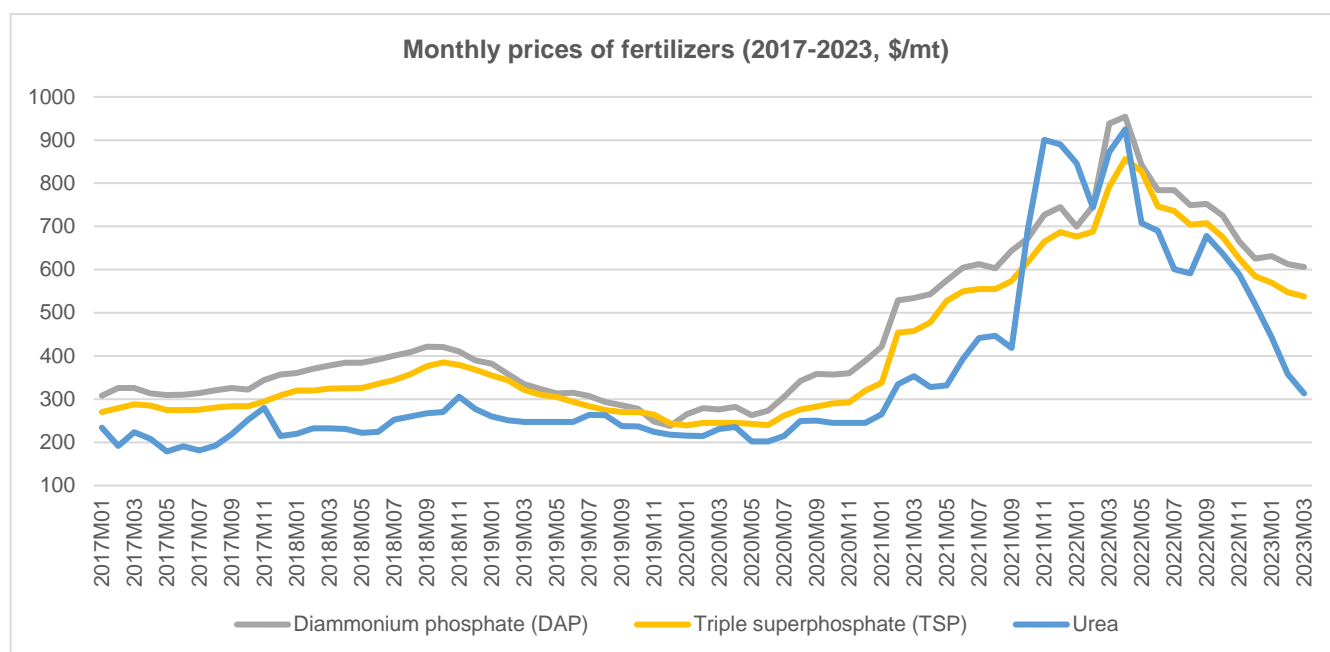
Animal feed



Source: Eurostat (STS)

Manufacture of prepared animal feeds	
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
2022M03	136
2022M04	144
2022M05	147
2022M06	148
2022M07	149
2022M08	148
2022M09	148
2022M10	149
2022M11	149
2022M12	149
2023M01	149
2023M02	148

Fertilizers



Source: World Bank Commodity Price Data

	Diammonium phosphate DAP (\$/mt)	Triple superphosphate TSP (\$/mt)	Urea (\$/mt)
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	873
2022M04	954	856	925
2022M05	843	828	708
2022M06	784	747	690
2022M07	784	736	601
2022M08	749	704	591
2022M09	752	708	678
2022M10	725	675	636
2022M11	666	625	589
2022M12	625	584	519
2023M01	631	569	444
2023M02	613	548	358
2023M03	606	538	314