

# ECONOMIC BULLETIN on INPUT COSTS Up to November/December 2023

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

- In November 2023, EU food and drink producer prices increased by 1.6% compared to November 2022 (highest year-on-year value - 21.5% - in October 2022).
- Consumer food prices registered a 5.7% increase since December 2022 (highest - 19.6% - in March 2023).
- Inflation was up by 3.4% in December 2023 year-on-year (highest year-on-year value - 11.5% - in October 2022).

[Click here for more information](#)

## Energy prices

### Crude oil and natural gas

- In December 2023, crude oil prices decreased by 5% on average compared to December 2022.
- EU natural gas prices decreased by 68% since December 2022.

[Click here for more information](#)

## Transport costs

### Global shipping and air freight

- The global container freight rate index decreased by 44% between December 2022 and December 2023.
- Air freight rates were down 14% compared to December 2022.

[Click here for more information](#)

## Packaging

### Wood and paper

- November year-on-year, producer prices index of wooden containers dropped by 12%, but were up 34% compared to November 2020.
- Producer price indices of pulp, paper and paperboard dropped by 20% compared to November 2022, but were up 32% compared to November 2020.

### Plastics and metal

- The producer price index of plastic packing goods has decreased by 4% compared to November 2022, but was up 22% compared to November 2020.
- The November year-on-year comparison shows that the producer price index of light metal

packaging grew by 4% and was up 35% compared to November 2020.

[Click here for more information](#)

## Machinery for processing

- The producer price index of machinery for food and drink processing registered a 4% increase since November 2022.

[Click here for more information](#)

## Labour

### Labour shortage

- The job vacancy rate in the EU manufacturing industry marked a decrease since Q3 2022 (Q3 2023/Q2 2023: -13%).
- In Q3 2023, the job vacancy rate in the manufacturing industry varied across Member States, from 4.1% in the Netherlands to 0.8% in Poland.

[Click here for more information](#)

## Agricultural raw materials

- The FAO food price index was down 10.1% compared to December 2022.
- For further details, please see the European Commission's monthly [commodity price dashboard](#).

## Animal feed

- Producer prices of animal feed increased since August 2020, plateaued in the second half of 2022, and started to decrease in Q1 2023.
- The November 2023 year-on-year comparison shows that the producer price index of animal feed was down by 12%, but was up 27% compared to November 2020.

[Click here for more information](#)

## Fertilizers

- In December 2023 year-on-year, prices of diammonium phosphate, triple superphosphate and urea decreased by 10%, 23% and 32% respectively, but remained 45%, 40% and 44% higher compared to December 2020.

[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](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](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.

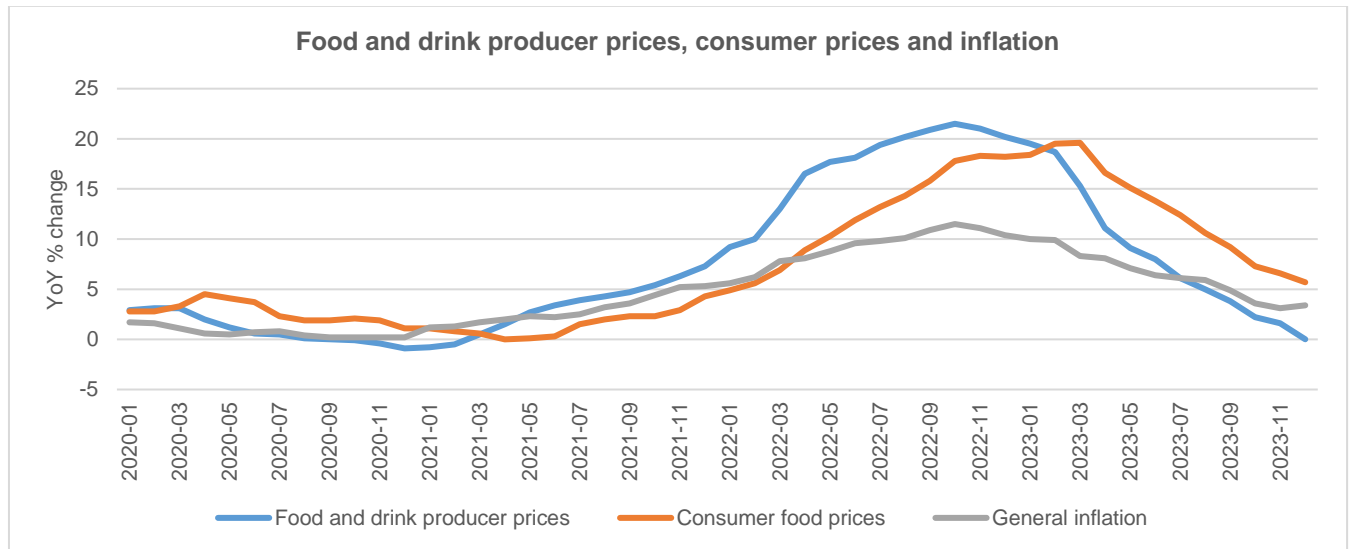
Job vacancy represents the unmet demand for labour.

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

# ECONOMIC BULLETIN ON INPUT COSTS

## Annex

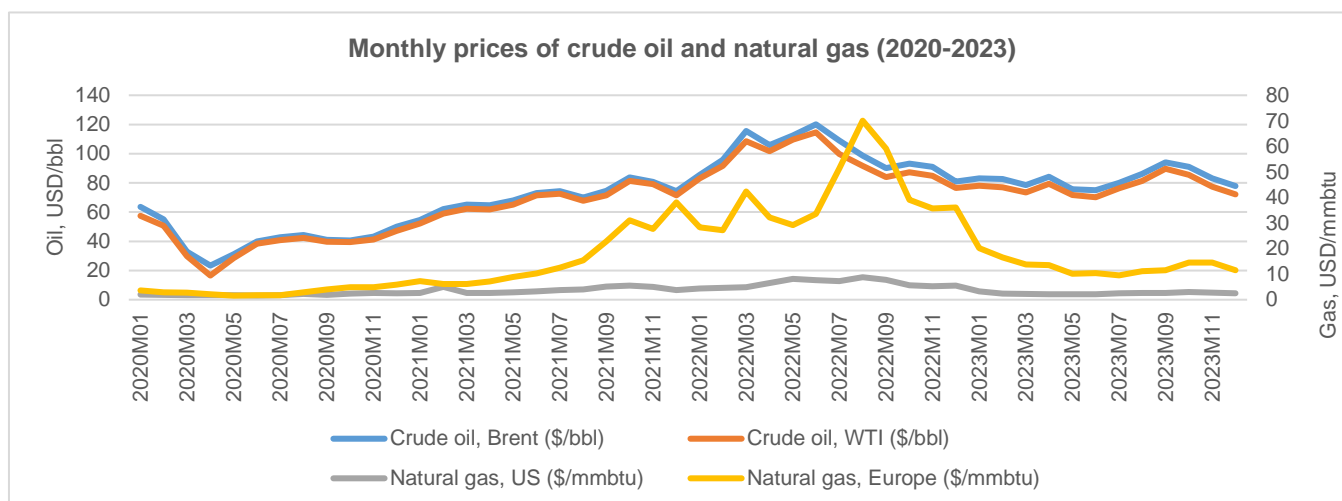
### Food and drink producer prices, consumer prices and inflation



	Food and drink producer prices	Consumer food prices	Inflation
	2023M11 / 2022M11 (% change)		
EU	1.6	6.6	3.1
Austria	2.3	6.9	4.9
Belgium	4.2	8.1	-0.8
Bulgaria	-0.7	5.5	5.5
Croatia	3.5	7.9	5.5
Cyprus	na	2.3	2.4
Czechia	-0.5	0.8	8.0
Denmark	3.5	2.9	0.3
Estonia	na	5.7	4.1
Finland	0.7	3.0	0.7
France	2.4	7.8	3.9
Germany	1.2	5.8	2.3
Greece	5.8	8.8	2.9
Hungary	-3.8	2.8	7.7
Ireland	-7.6	6.3	2.5
Italy	0.5	6.1	0.6
Latvia	na	2.8	1.1
Lithuania	1.0	3.4	2.3
Luxembourg	na	7.8	2.1
Malta	na	8.6	3.9
Netherlands	1.1	6.3	1.4
Poland	-3.5	8.3	6.3
Portugal	1.4	2.8	2.2
Romania	2.0	5.6	6.9
Slovakia	na	7.7	6.9
Slovenia	3.8	5.7	4.5
Spain	6.2	9.0	3.3
Sweden	3.0	6.7	3.3

Source: Eurostat

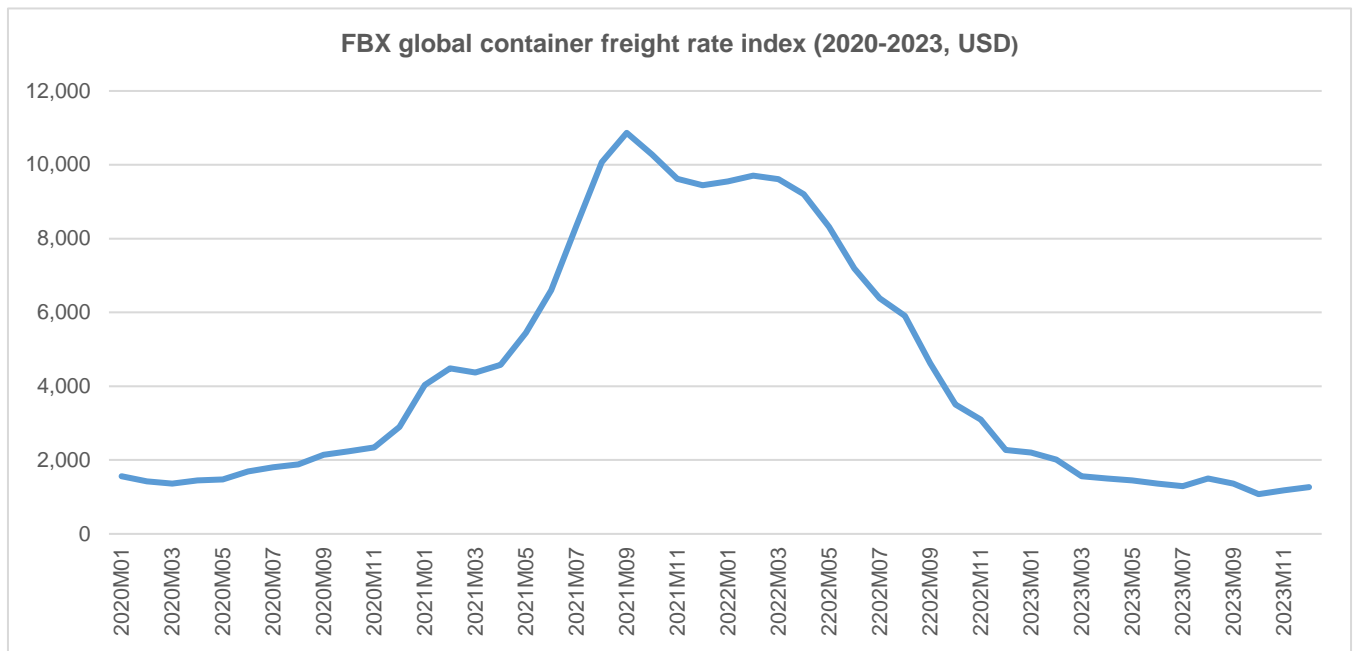
## Energy prices



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
2023M04	84	79	14	2
2023M05	76	72	10	2
2023M06	75	70	10	2
2023M07	80	76	10	3
2023M08	86	81	11	3
2023M09	94	90	12	3
2023M10	91	86	15	3
2023M11	83	77	14	3
2023M12	78	72	12	3

## Transport costs

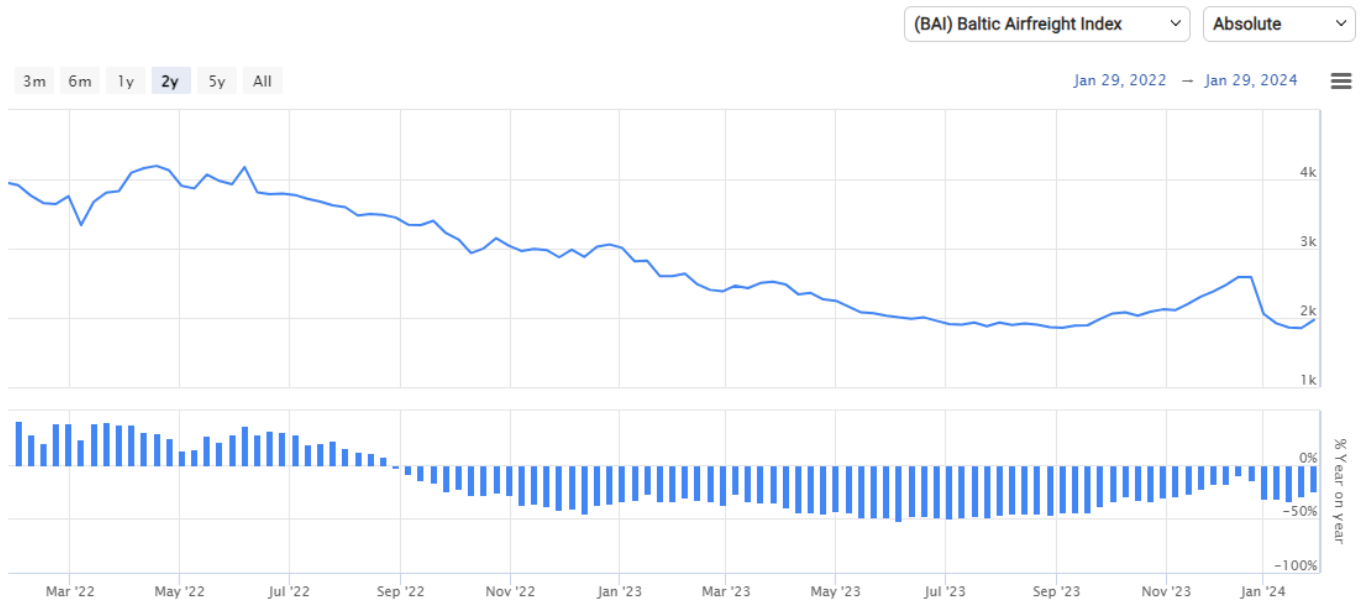


Source: [Freightos](#), Global Container Freight Index

### 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

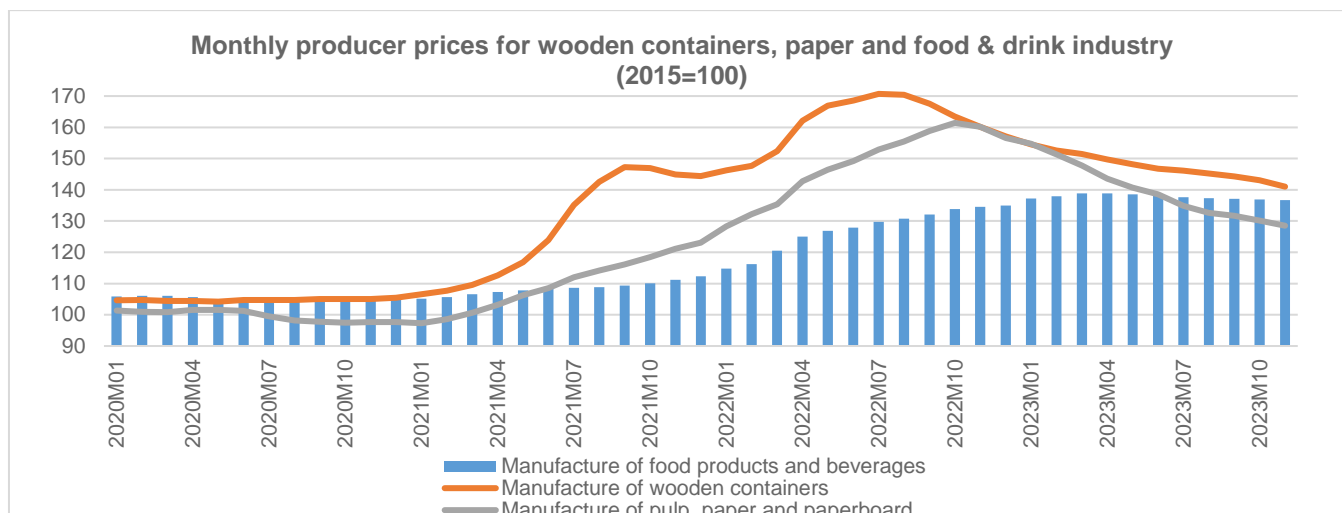


Source: [Baltic airfreight index](#)

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

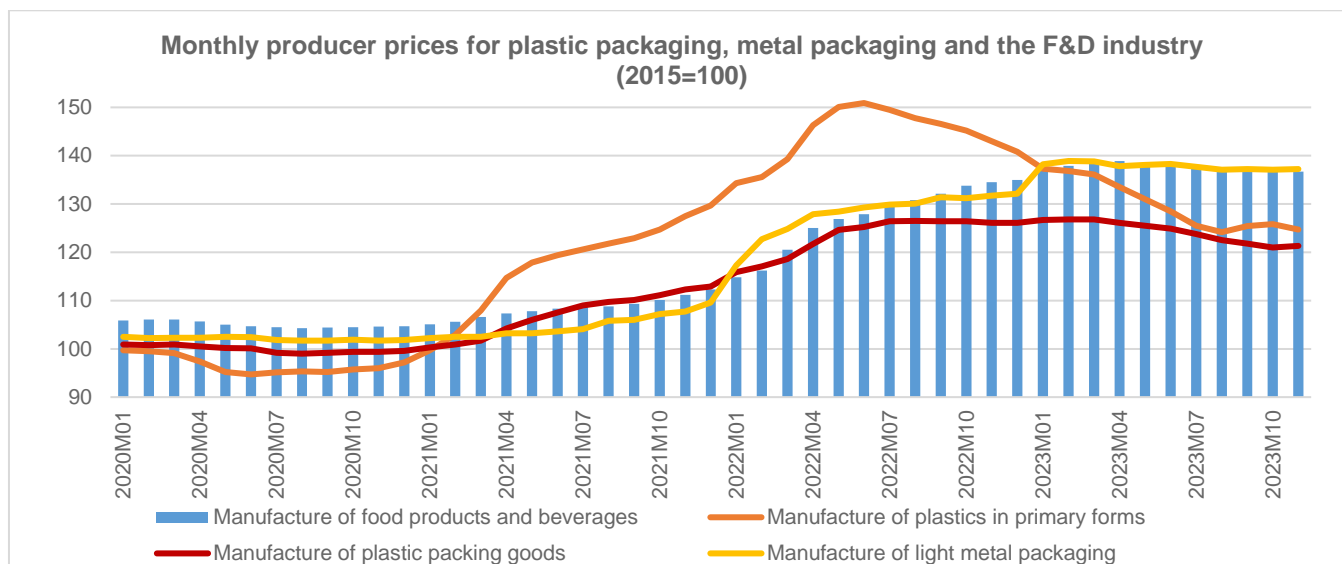
### Wood and paper industries



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
2023M03	152	148
2023M04	150	144
2023M05	148	141
2023M06	147	139
2023M07	146	135
2023M08	145	133
2023M09	144	132
2023M10	143	130
2023M11	141	129

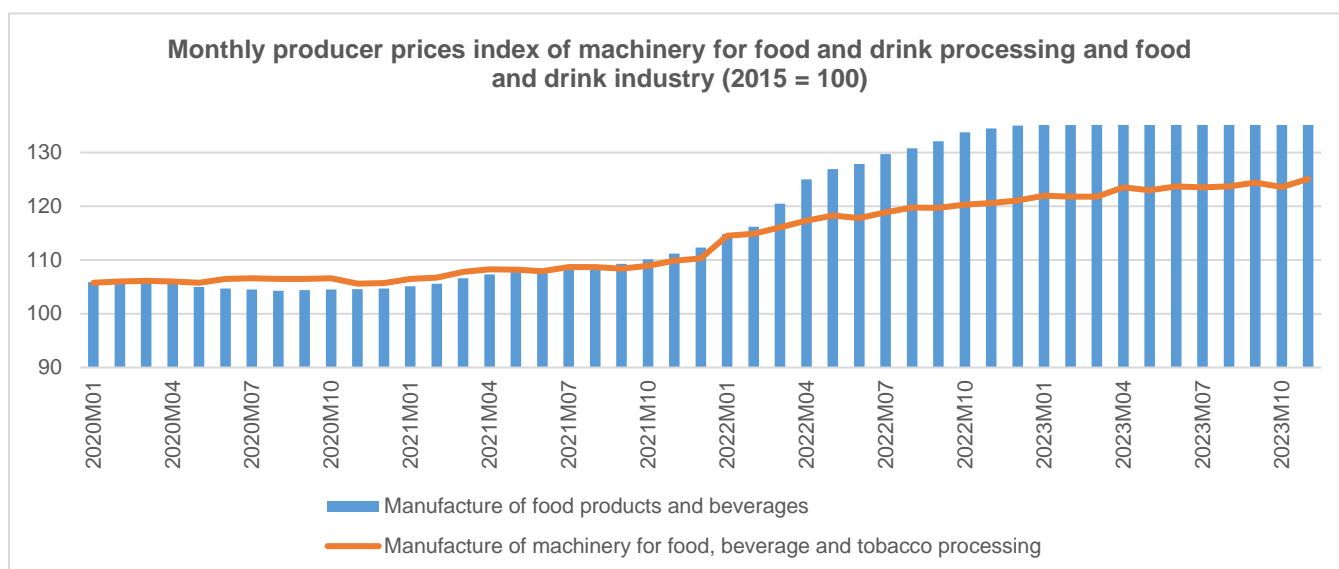
## Plastic and metal industries



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
2023M03	136	127	139
2023M04	134	126	138
2023M05	131	126	138
2023M06	129	125	138
2023M07	126	124	138
2023M08	124	123	137
2023M09	125	122	137
2023M10	126	121	137
2023M11	125	121	137

## Machinery for food and drink processing

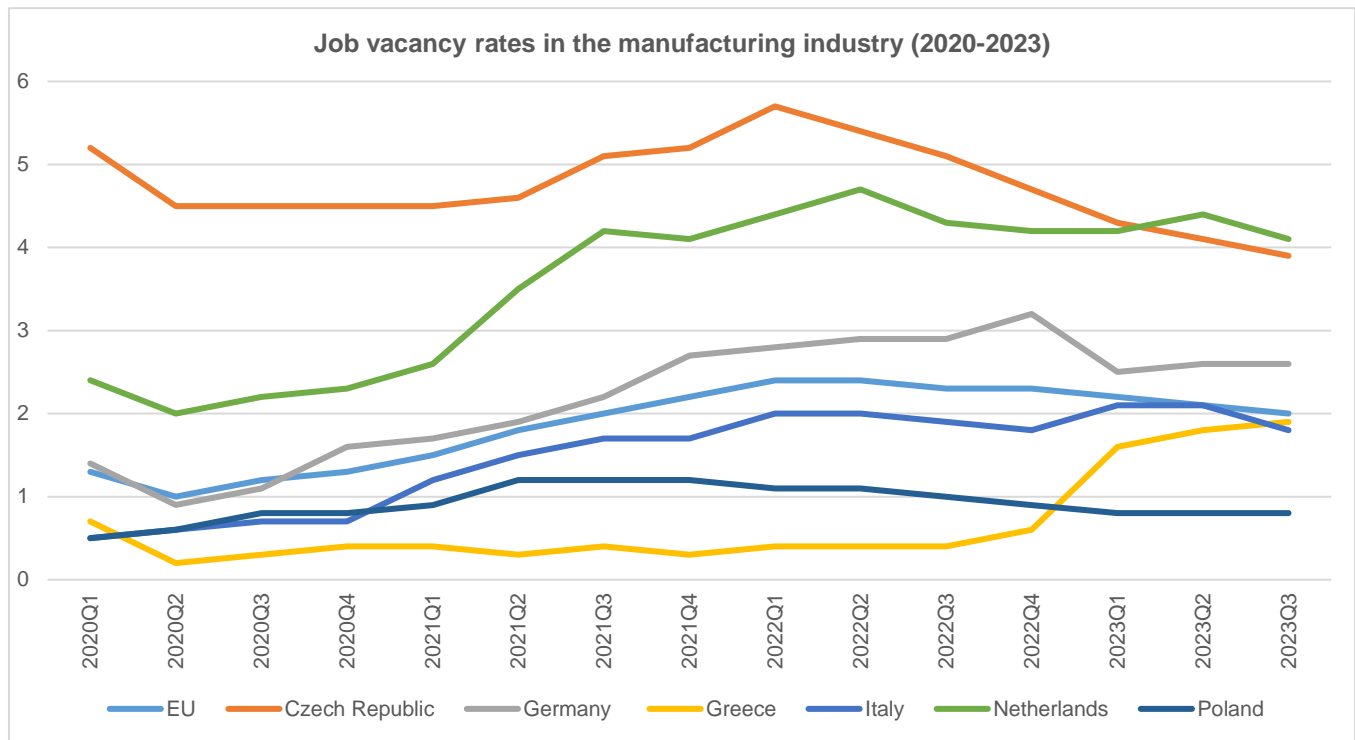


Source: Eurostat (STS)

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
2023M03	122
2023M04	124
2023M05	123
2023M06	124
2023M07	124
2023M08	124
2023M09	124
2023M10	124
2023M11	125



## Labour



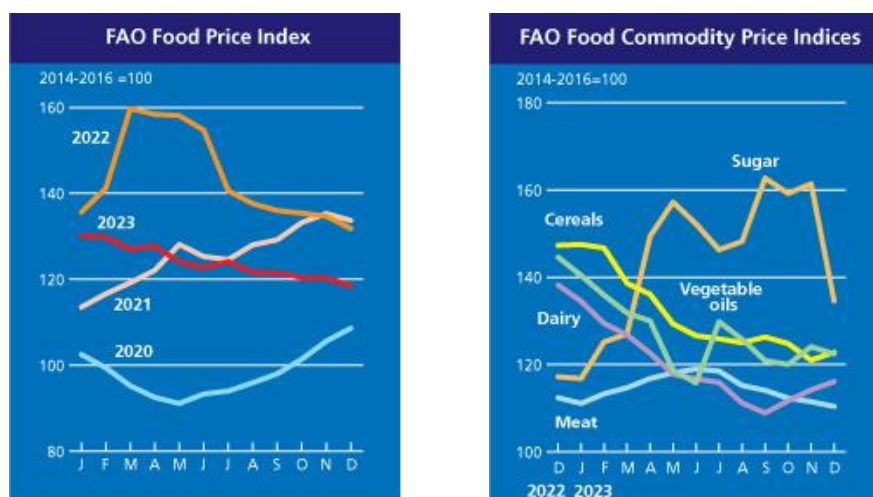
Source: Eurostat (jvs)

### Job vacancy rate in the manufacturing industry

	2022 Q3	2022 Q4	2023Q1	2023Q2	2023Q3
<b>EU</b>	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.0
<b>Czech Republic</b>	5.1	4.7	4.3	4.1	3.9
<b>Germany</b>	2.9	3.2	2.5	2.6	2.6
<b>Greece</b>	0.4	0.6	1.6	1.8	1.9
<b>Italy</b>	1.9	1.8	2.1	2.1	1.8
<b>Netherlands</b>	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.4	4.1
<b>Poland</b>	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8

Source: Eurostat

## Agricultural raw materials



Source: [FAO Food Price Index](#)

### AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY PRICES – December 2023

Agricultural Commodity	EUROPEAN UNION 27			WORLD			
	Monthly average	Annual change	Monthly change	Monthly average		Annual change	Monthly change
<b>CEREALS</b> <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>EUR/T</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>USD/T</b>	<b>EUR/T</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Soft wheat	223	-28.5%	-1.6%	257 <sup>(2)</sup>	236	-18.3%	8.4%
Durum wheat	365	-23.3%	-2.6%	290 <sup>(3)</sup>	266	-24.8%	3.6%
Maize	199	-31.9%	-3.4%	204	187	-32.6%	2.1%
Barley	201	-28.3%	-1.5%	193	177	-29.5%	10.2%
<b>MEAT</b>							
Beef	4,956	-3.9%	1.0%	4,791	4,395	1.7%	-1.9%
Pork	2,119	3.7%	-0.1%	1,083 <sup>(6)</sup>	993 <sup>(6)</sup>	-38.6%	-23.4%
Poultry	2,669	0.6%	-0.5%	2,753	2,525	0.8%	8.6%
<b>DAIRY</b>							
Butter	5,449	-7.4%	5.0%	5,200	4,769	10.8%	5.1%
Cheese	3,625	-32.5%	0.2%	4,142	3,799	-16.2%	4.2%
SMP	2,622	-11.8%	0.0%	2,621	2,404	-14.3%	-2.3%
WMP	3,686	-12.1%	1.3%	3,142	2,882	-5.0%	3.7%
<b>OILSEEDS</b>							
Soya beans	:	:	:	526 <sup>(5)</sup>	483	-18.5%	-5.0%
Rapeseed	388 <sup>(5)</sup>	-31.7%	-3.7%	:	:	:	:
<b>SUGAR</b>							
White sugar	854 <sup>(4)</sup>	37.3%	1.5%	633	581	15.3%	-15.0%
<b>RICE (milled)</b>							
Japonica	1,400	-4.1%	6.1%	1,025	940	-36.2%	-1.8%
Indica	1,070	18.9%	2.7%	625	574	41.4%	11.6%

#### 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.

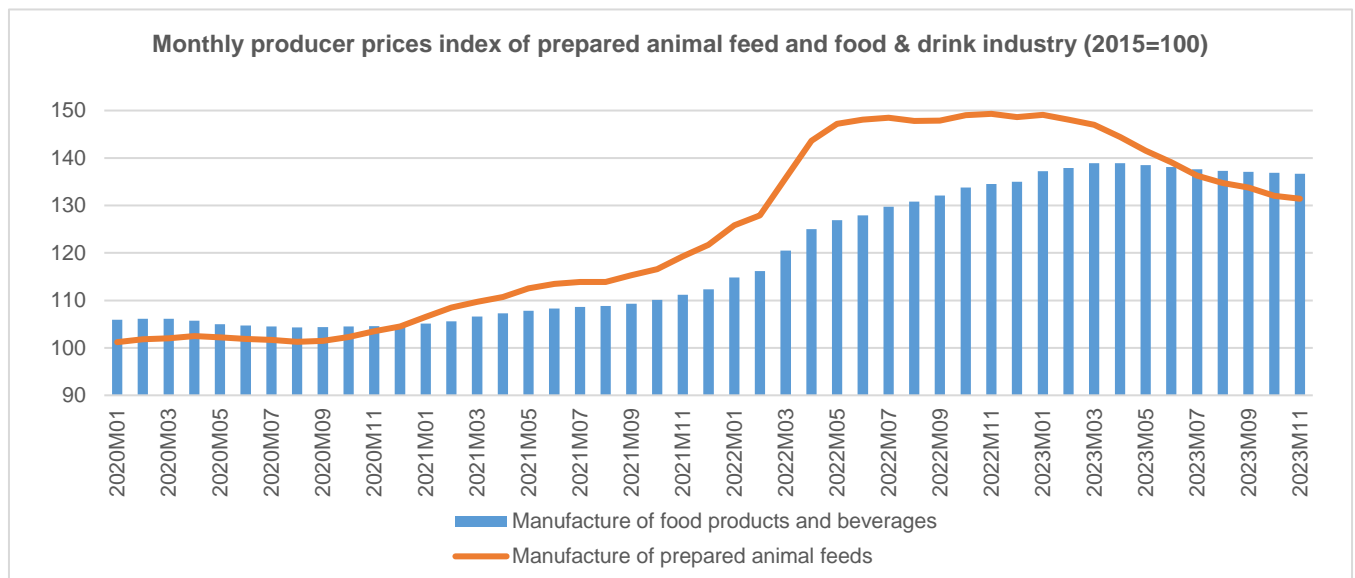
4) Figures for previous month.

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 139 – December 2023 edition](#)

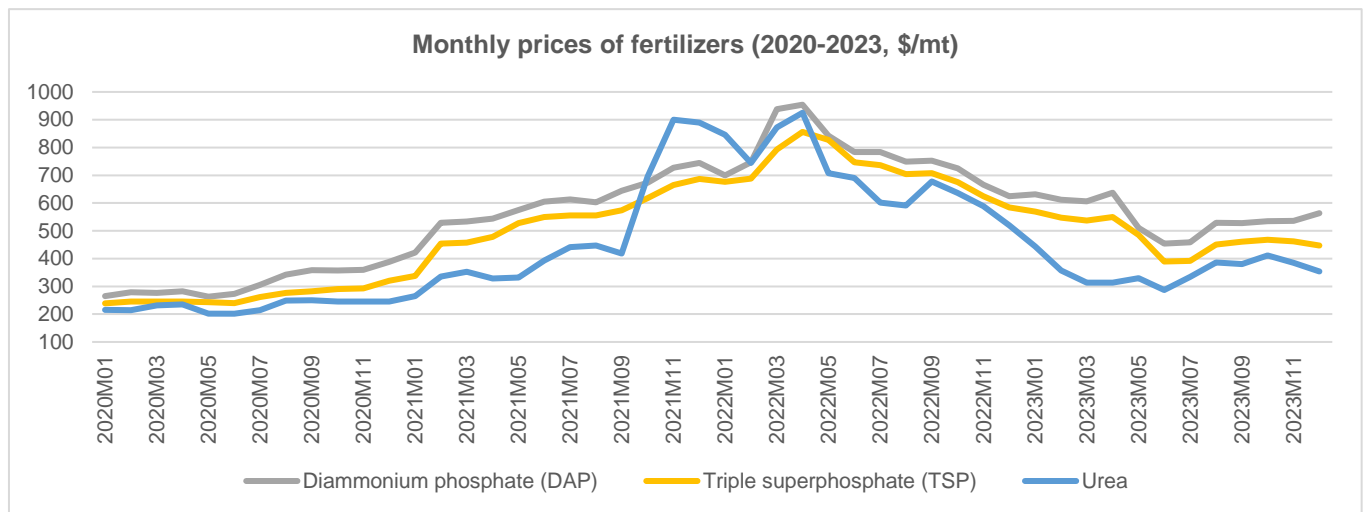
## Animal feed



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
2023M03	147
2023M04	144
2023M05	142
2023M06	139
2023M07	136
2023M08	135
2023M09	134
2023M10	132
2023M11	131

## 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
2023M04	637	550	313
2023M05	510	486	329
2023M06	455	390	288
2023M07	459	392	335
2023M08	529	451	386
2023M09	528	462	380
2023M10	535	468	411
2023M11	536	463	386
2023M12	564	448	354