

# Inflation: the role of profiteering and monopolising in the food and energy sectors

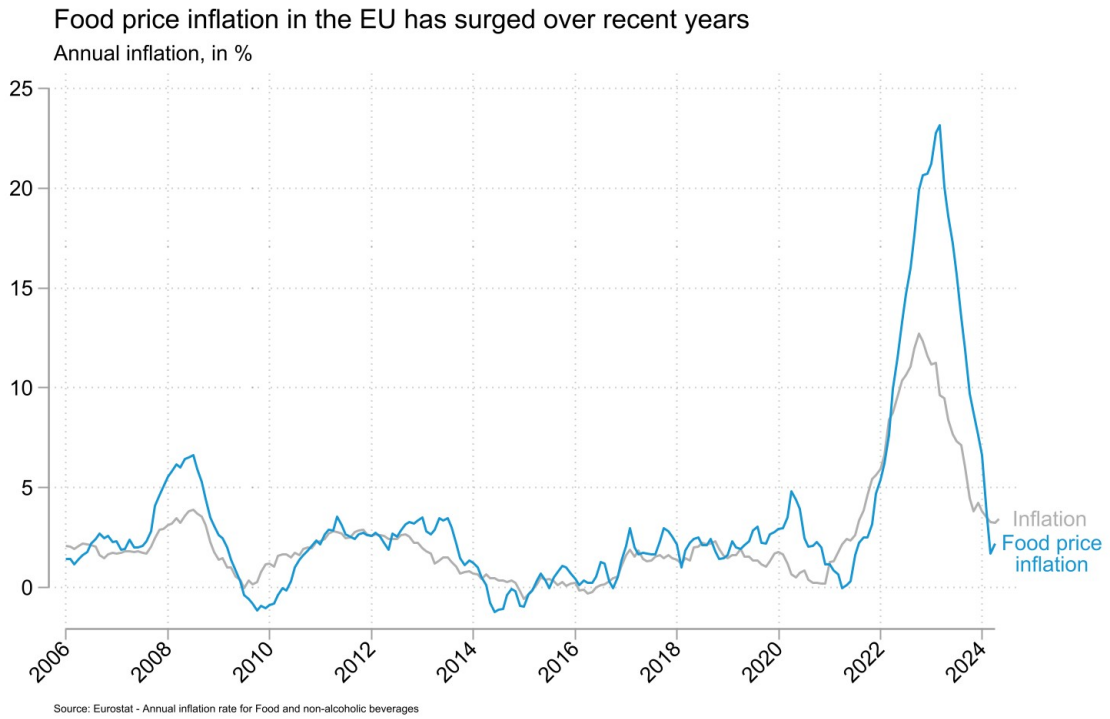
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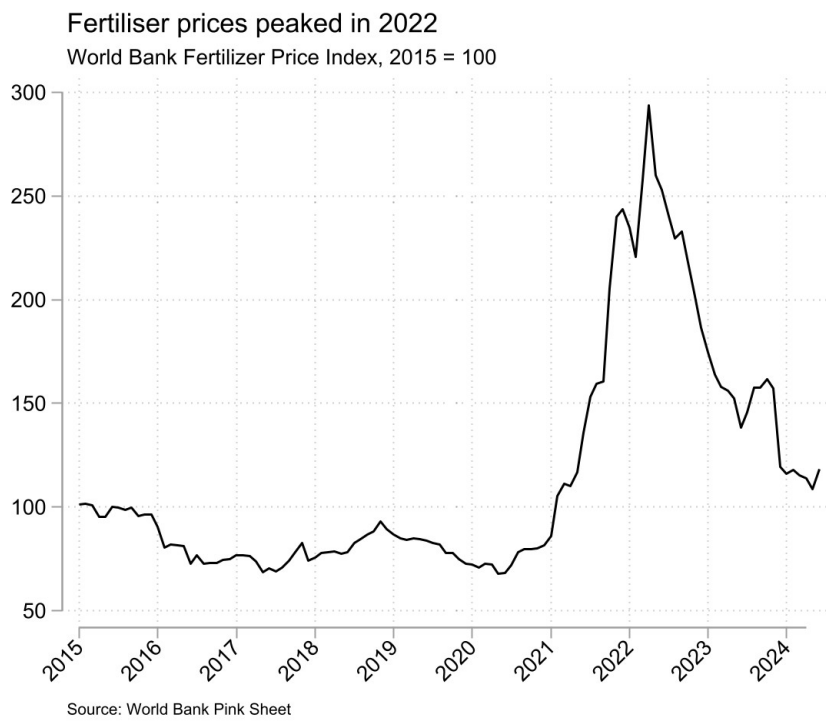
*Preliminary results, do not cite without permission.*

# 1 Sectoral analysis: food

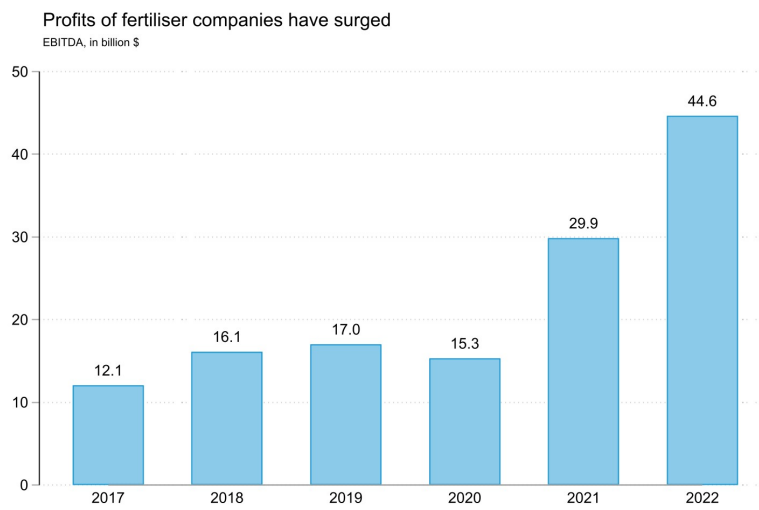
Figure 1: Food price inflation in the EU has surged over recent years



**Figure 2: Fertiliser prices peaked in 2022**



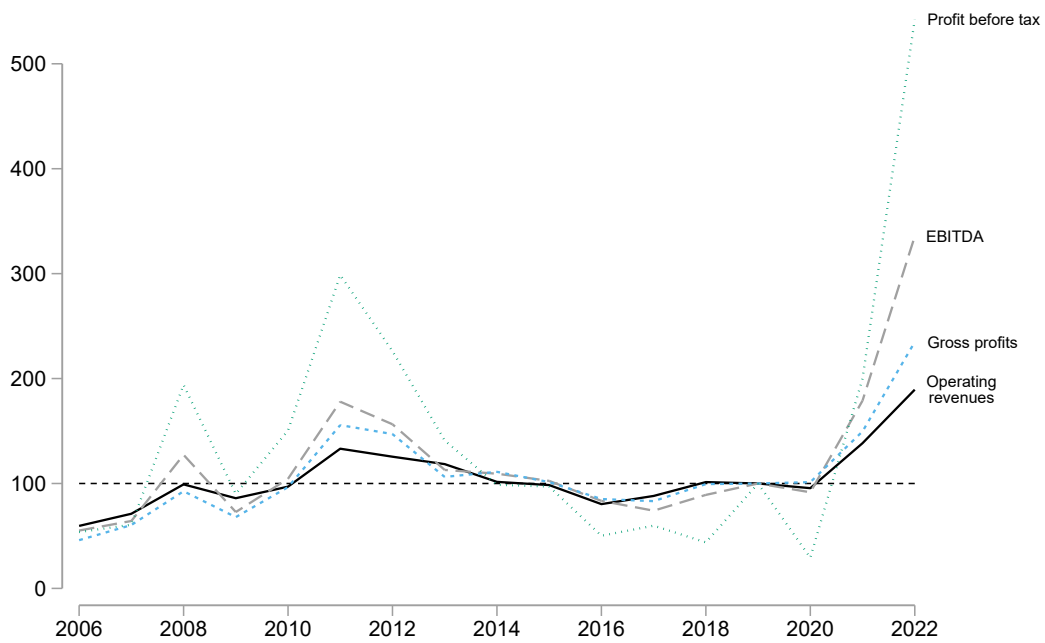
**Figure 3: Profits of fertiliser companies have surged**



Own calculations based on ORBIS data. The figure shows fertiliser companies' EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, and depreciation - a commonly used measure for profit) for each year, based on available corporate data from CF INDUSTRIES, ICL, K+S, MOSAIC, NUTRIEN LTD., OCI N.V., PHOSAGRO, WESFARMERS and YARA.

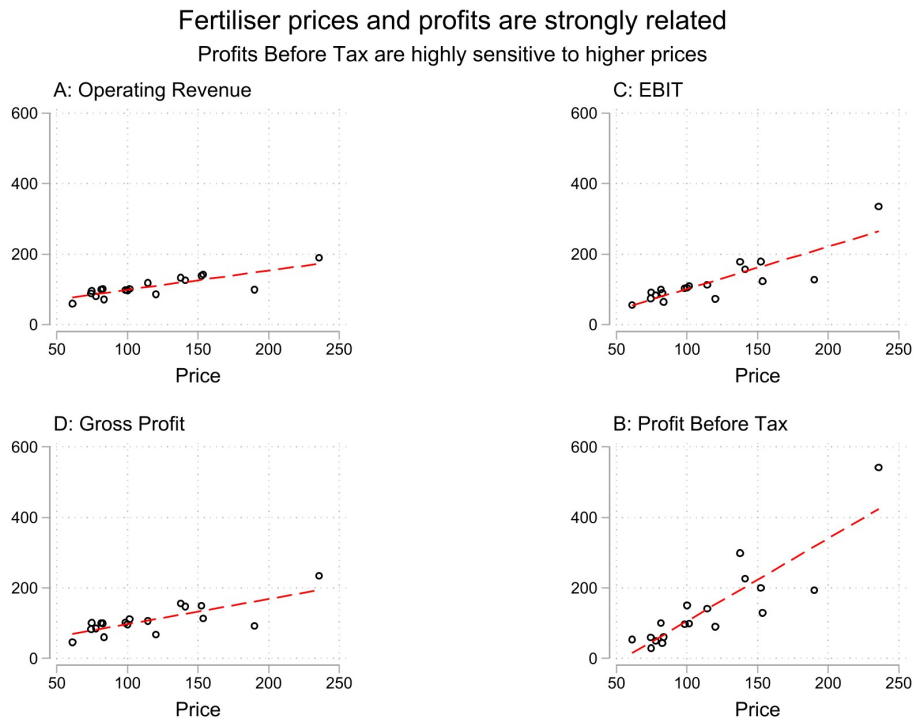
**Figure 4: Financial operations drive profit growth of fertiliser companies**

Financial operations drive profit growth of fertiliser companies  
Median fertiliser companies profits and revenues, 2019 = 100



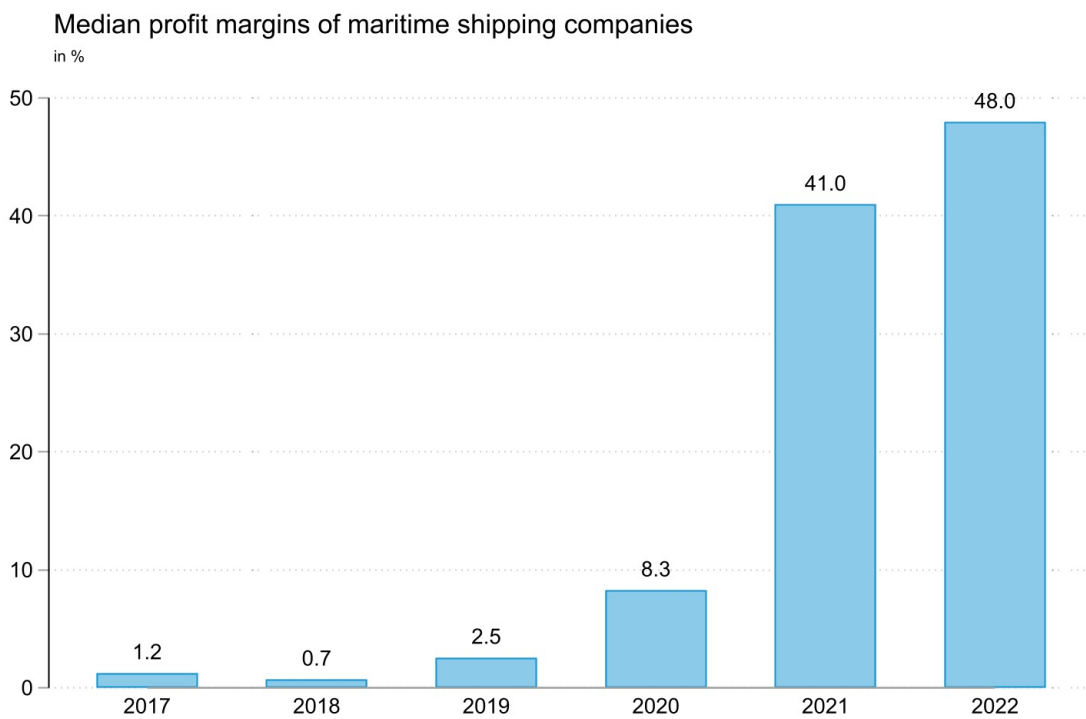
Source: ORBIS. Own calculations based on available corporate data from CF INDUSTRIES, ICL, K+S, MOSAIC, NUTRIEN LTD., OCI N.V., PHOSAGRO, WESFARMERS and YARA. Methodology based on UNCTAD(2023).

**Figure 5: Fertiliser prices and profits are strongly related**



Source: ORBIS. Own calculations based on available corporate data from CF INDUSTRIES, ICL, K+S, MOSAIC, NUTRIEN LTD., OCI N.V., PHOSAGRO, WESFARMERS and YARA.

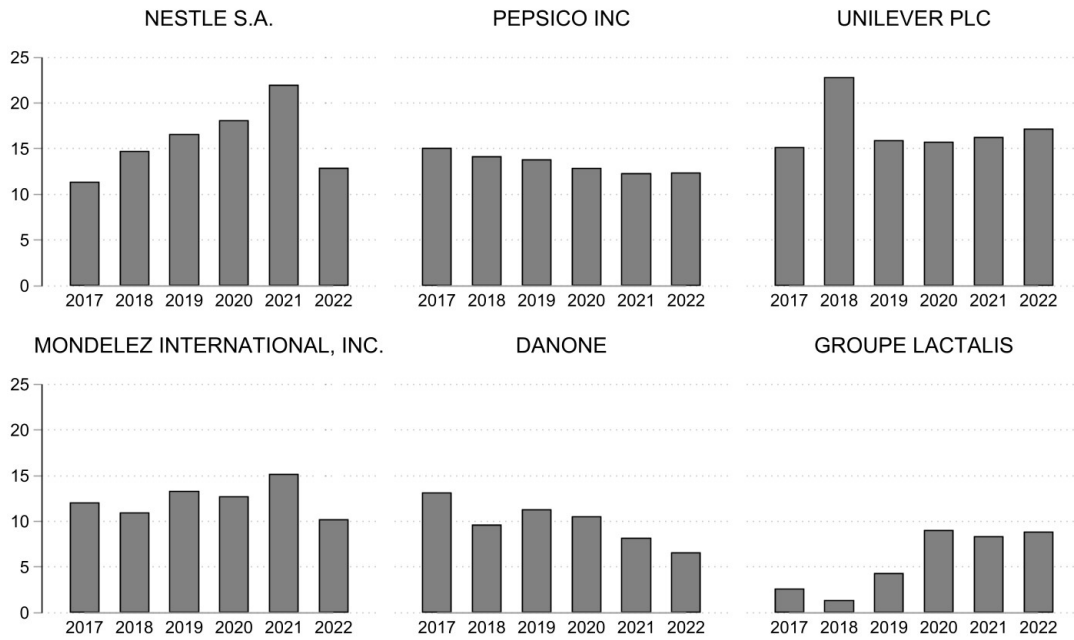
**Figure 6: Profit margins of shipping companies have skyrocketed**



Source: ORBIS. Own calculations based on available corporate data from A P MOLLER-MAERSK, COSCO SHIPPING, DFDS, EVERGREEN, HAPAG-LLOYD, HMM, MITSUI OSK LINES, NIPPON YUSEN KABUSHIKI KAISHA and ZIM.

**Figure 7: Profit margins of food manufacturers are consistently high**

Profit margins of food manufacturers

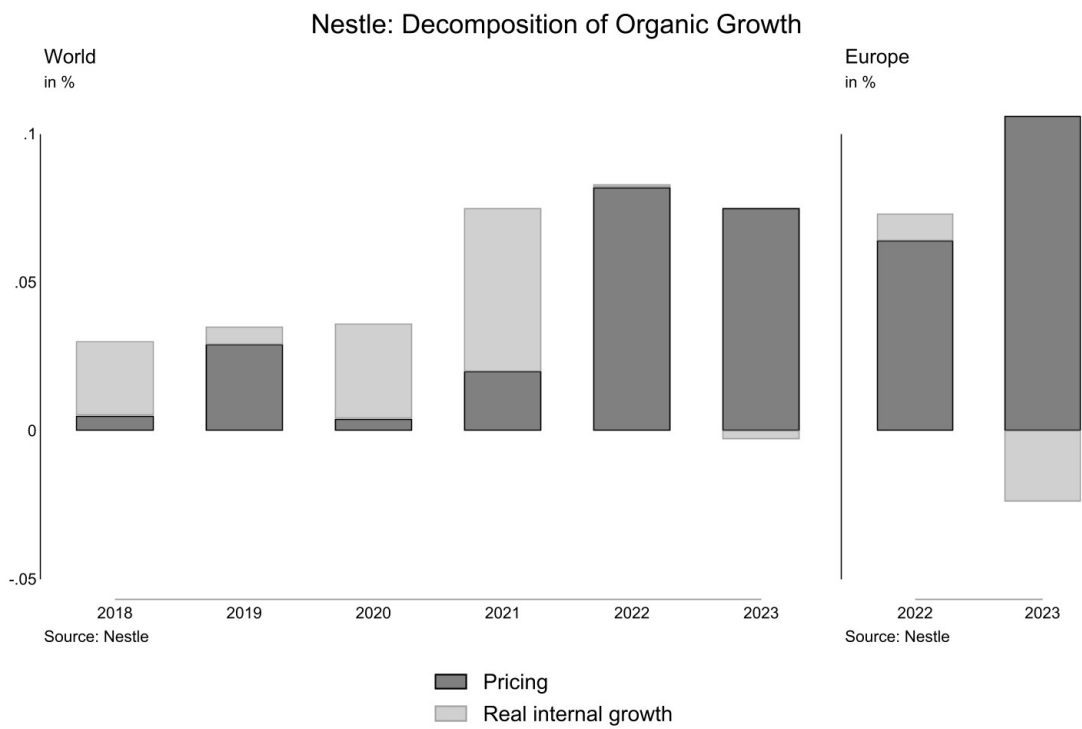


Source: Orbis

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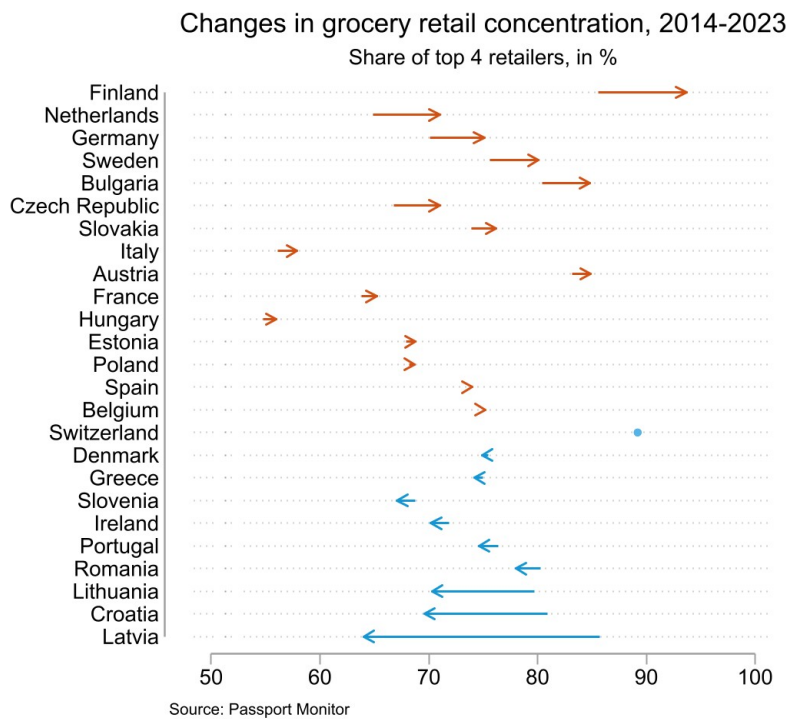


**Figure 8:** Nestle's growth comes from price growth, not sales volume growth



Source: Nestle.

**Figure 9: Changes in grocery retail concentration 2014-2023**



Source: Passport Monitor