

# The Future of Food

**Lowest price of selected 30 everyday groceries, item-level price changes, September 2022 compared with September 2021**

Source: ONS press release October 2022



## British farming

With high calorie consumption and an increasing population British farms are trying to increase yields. This is challenging as food insecurity is a growing issue.

### Food price volatility

contributes to this problem. Recent volatility has been caused by **higher freight costs, rising commodity prices, export restrictions initiated during COVID-19, and the war in Ukraine** increasing the cost of fertiliser<sup>1</sup>.

Profit margins on British farms are projected to be much tighter than they have been for some time, endangering the livelihoods of small-scale British farmers.

British sustainable food should be encouraged. For example, meat production based around a grass-fed system is more sustainable (and therefore a better option) than grain-fed meat.

The green revolution requires continued investment. The use of fertilisers, pesticides, high-yield crops, and irrigation techniques will need to support a growing British population.

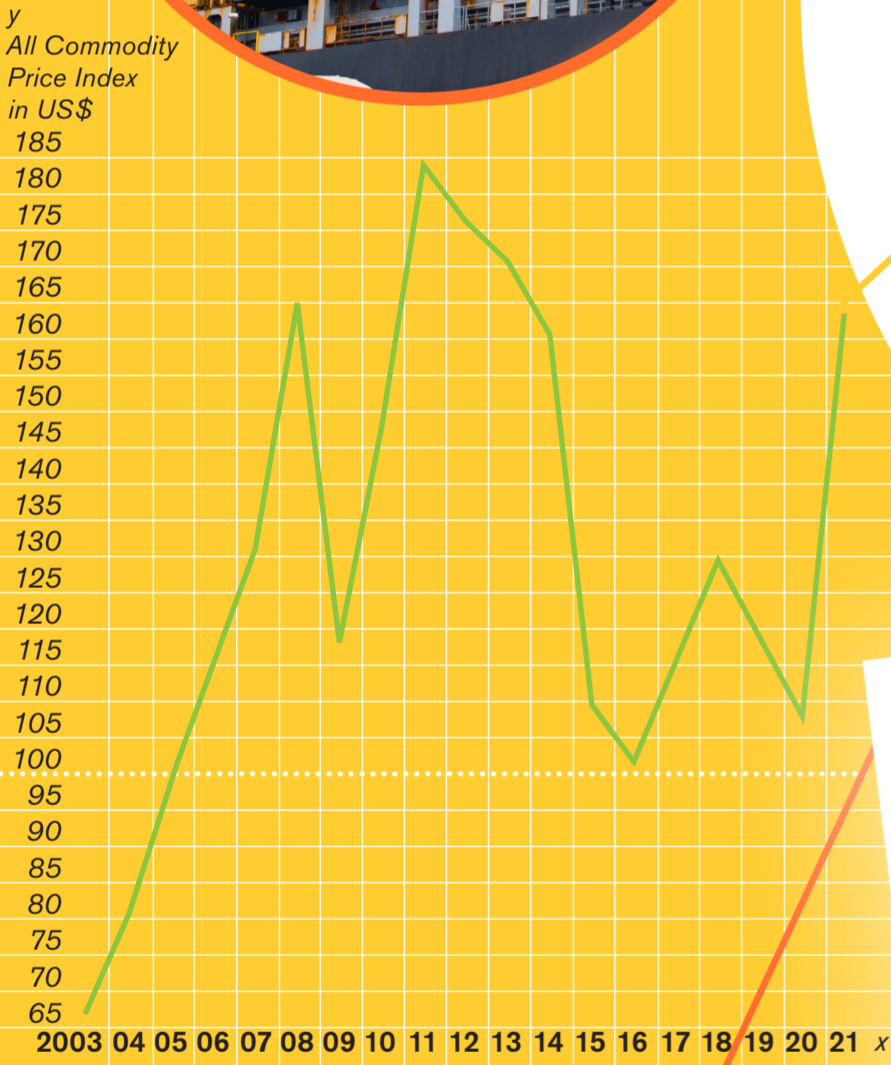
## Solutions

Food waste must be reduced. The estimated annual combined surplus and waste in primary production is 3.6 million tonnes (Mt), which is between 6 and 7% of total output. Wastage in households and post production businesses also reduces the effective supply of UK food.

Supermarkets need to clearly label products to allow consumers to make informed choices.

Post production, waste is estimated at 9.5Mt, of which 7.7Mt is in households and hospitality and 1.8Mt in manufacturing and retail. These figures compare to around 43Mt of food purchased for consumption in the UK.<sup>2</sup>

Composting is an excellent way to prevent food waste whilst also enriching soils. If less is thrown away, less needs to be grown.



\*\*\*\*\*  
 \*\*\*\* 2022 has seen \*\*\*\*  
 \*\*\*\* a global hike \*\*\*\*  
 \*\*\*\* in food prices \*\*\*\*  
 \*\*\*\*\*

Food price inflation is partly due to the war between Russia and Ukraine. The two countries account for nearly 30% of global wheat exports and 80% of sunflower oil exports.

A 500g bag of own-brand pasta that cost ~55p in 2020 is now typically ~70p - a rise of more than a quarter.

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