

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000328/26
to the Commission
Nikolaos Anadiotis (NI)
(27 January 2026)**

Subject: Food price hikes in Greece compared to Member States with lower prices and milder increases

Despite the relative de-escalation of general inflation in the European Union, food prices in Greece remain high and the increases excessive.

According to recent data, food prices in Greece increased by around 3.6% in December 2025 on an annual basis ⁽¹⁾, a higher percentage when compared e.g. with Spain and Poland, which, for the same indicator over the same period, recorded an increase of around 3% and 2.4% respectively ⁽²⁾, ⁽³⁾. In addition, Eurostat price indices indicate that in countries such as Romania, food price levels are significantly lower (-15%) than the EU average, indicating structural differences in the food market ⁽⁴⁾, ⁽⁵⁾.

In light of the above:

1. How does the Commission assess the differences in food price increases between Greece, Spain and Poland within the EU?
2. What are the structural reasons that explain why Greece exhibits higher price increases compared to other Member States?
3. Does the Commission intend to promote any interventions to address inequalities in the food market and protect consumers?

Submitted: 27.1.2026

**Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis on behalf of the European Commission
(31 March 2026)**

Food prices are typically highly volatile. Therefore, the Commission focuses on average price increases over longer periods. Food prices ⁽¹⁾ increased by 2% in Greece in 2025, i.e. at a slower pace than in Poland (4.4%), Spain (2.1%) or the EU average (2.8%) ⁽²⁾. Still, food prices were 5.5% higher in Greece than the EU average in 2024 ⁽³⁾.

Higher food prices in Greece are due to several factors such as the relative low supply of arable land and higher energy and transport costs. Moreover, the value added tax (VAT) on foodstuff is slightly higher in Greece than in several other Member States ⁽⁴⁾.

The impact of climate change including national disasters ⁽⁵⁾ also tend to contribute to higher food prices. Finally, the functioning and the structure of Greece's food retail sector can affect the price formation.

Both national authorities and the Commission have investigated potential non-competitive behaviour ⁽⁶⁾. Furthermore, a fact-finding exercise carried out by the Commission in the framework of the Single Market Enforcement Taskforce between 2024 and 2025 found that non-regulatory business-to-business practices such as territorial supply constraints occur in Greece and could be a factor contributing to higher prices for branded consumer goods ⁽⁷⁾.

¹ <https://tradingeconomics.com/greece/food-inflation>

² <https://tradingeconomics.com/spain/food-inflation>

³ <https://tradingeconomics.com/poland/food-inflation>

⁴ <https://www.euronews.com/business/2025/12/15/food-prices-in-europe-which-countries-are-the-most-and-least-expensive>

⁵ <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/hicp>

⁽¹⁾ 'Food' refers to processed and unprocessed food items excluding beverages.

⁽²⁾ Only four countries, namely Slovakia, Finland, France and Cyprus reported lower food price increases than Greece in 2025, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/prc_hicp_minr__custom_20089947/default/table.

⁽³⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/prc_ppp_ind_1__custom_20090418/default/table.

⁽⁴⁾ VAT on food items is 13% in Greece, 11% in Romania, 4% (basic food) and 10% (non-basic) in Spain, while foodstuffs are subject to a VAT rate of 5% (basic food) or 8% (processed food) in Poland.

⁽⁵⁾ Such as wildfires and floods.

⁽⁶⁾ The retail markets are national responsibilities, and Greek authorities have been active through investigations of the national competition authority and measures to improve price information for consumers. The Commission has been also investigating practices that could raise prices to the detriment of consumers across many Member States including Greece, for instance regarding restrictions of trade (See https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_2727, https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/mt/ip_25_737 and https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_1356, https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_405).

⁽⁷⁾ Territorial supply constraints are limitations imposed by certain large manufacturers that make it very difficult or impossible for retailers to buy products in one Member State and resell them in another, see COM(2025) 500 final.

Moreover, the Commission set up a food prices monitoring tool ⁽⁸⁾ to promote price transparency. Finally, the Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan for Greece ⁽⁹⁾ includes measures to modernise agricultural infrastructure and reduce production costs.

⁽⁸⁾ The EU food prices monitoring tool, launched in 2024, includes real-time data on Greek retail prices, enabling consumers to compare costs across regions, <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/website/economy/food-price-monitoring/>.

⁽⁹⁾ <https://www.agrotikianaptixi.gr/category/sskap-2023-2027/sskap-egkrisi-tropopoiiseis/>.