

G S E E

GREEK GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF LABOUR

WEDNESDAY

GENERAL STRIKE

17 APRIL 2024

PRICES sky-high
WAGES way down

We want
REAL PAY RISES

We want
BACK our COLLECTIVE
AGREEMENTS

and we want them NOW!

RALLY WEDNESDAY 17 APRIL
KLAFTHMONOS SQUARE | 11:00 am

Decent Living Crisis

IMPACT OF THE CRISIS IN GREECE



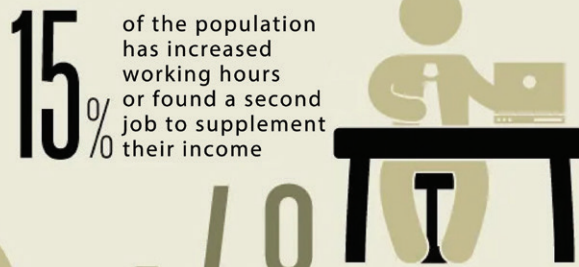
of the population has reduced overall purchases in food and groceries



of the population has decreased entertainment expenses such as restaurants, holidays, travel etc.



of the population has postponed maintenance and repair works, e.g. at home or in the car



of the population has increased working hours or found a second job to supplement their income



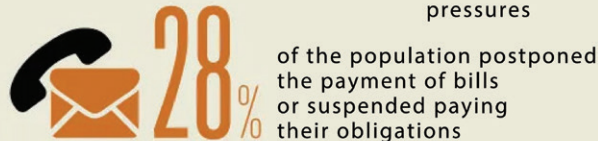
of the population has used their savings to cover their purchases



of the population has changed product brand/name



only of the population claims to have taken no absolute action to deal with inflationary pressures



of the population postponed the payment of bills or suspended paying their obligations

Source: Research Institute of Retail Consumer Goods (IELKA)

PERCENTAGE PRICE INCREASE OVER THE THREE-YEAR PERIOD 2020-2023



87,4%

Oils and fats



35,2%

Vegetables



33,8%

Dairy products and eggs



31,2%

Meat



25,3%

Bread and cereals

Source: Labour Institute of GSEE (INE GSEE)

Prices sky - high!

High prices erode households' income, diminishing the purchasing power of millions of low-paid workers and low-income pensioners. Many households face an acute cost-of-living crisis as they cannot afford monthly living expenses and energy bills. As people in Greece experience a new blunt reality, their day-to-day experience at supermarkets and street markets irrefutably proves the squeeze on living standards and price hikes.

PRICE HIKES

- ✗ **Oils and fats 87,4%**
- ✗ **Vegetables 35,2%**
- ✗ **Dairy products and eggs 33,8%**
- ✗ **Meat 31,2%**
- ✗ **Bread and cereals 25,3%**
- ✗ **Electricity, natural gas and other fuels 39,1%**
- ✗ **Rents 8,3%**
- ✗ **Other goods and services related to repair and maintenance of housing 7,9%**

One minimum wage per month for milk formula, nappies, baby wipes and baby cereal powder!



COST IN NUMBERS

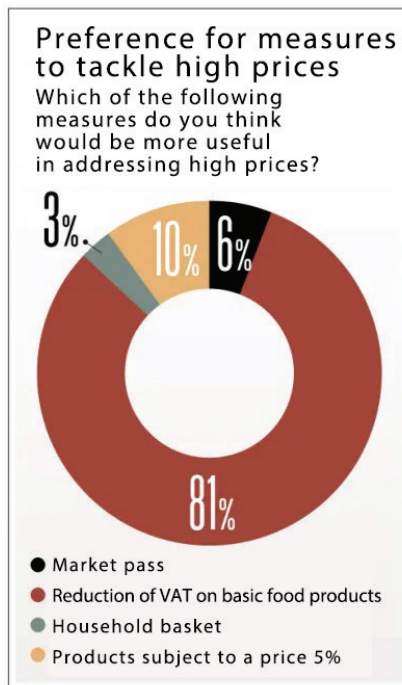
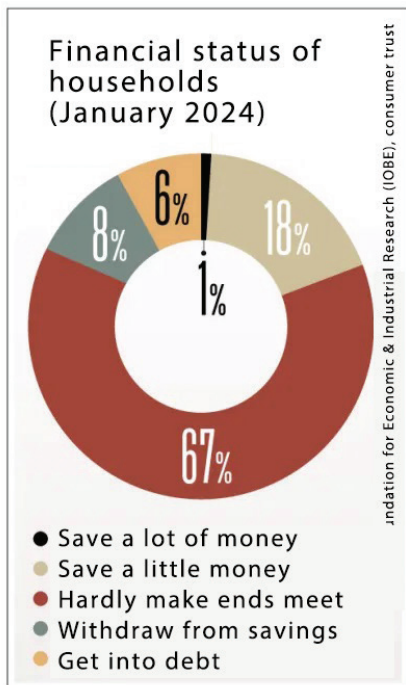
MILK FORMULA (800 gram tin)
€23,9 - €31,7

NAPPIES (PER ITEM)
€0,50 - €0,86

BABY CEREAL
€3 - €6

BABY WIPES (PER ITEM)
€0,02 - €0,05

Source: Union for Working Consumers of Greece (EEKE-GSEE)



Meanwhile, the government claims inflation is imported and that it would soon start to decrease.

This was disproved!

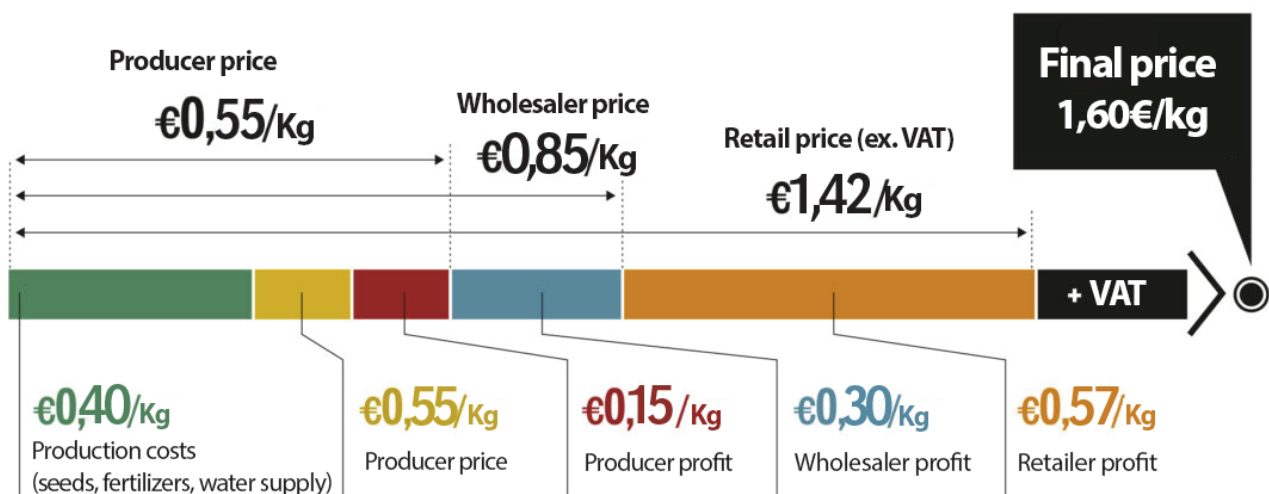
OUR WAGES way down!

The average wage was reduced by 8.7% in 2022 compared to 2021. Despite the nominal increases in statutory minimum wage in the last two years, the purchasing power of minimum wage workers in October 2023 has only reached 2015 levels.

Greece ranks among the last in terms of wages in Europe while being Europe's champion in high prices and companies' profitability. In order to address the cost-of-living crisis experienced by the majority of Greek households, Greek trade unions propose the review of all fiscal, income and social policy measures to lower prices and protect households' purchasing power.

Prices four times higher from orchard to table!

From orchard to table: the inflationary journey of an apple*



Source: Union for Working Consumers of Greece (EKEE-GSEE) / *Starking apples from Agia in Larissa

GREEK TRADE UNIONS propose

- VAT reduction on basic foodstuff for a period of one year and a price cap for essential goods such as milk formula, pasteurised milk, cereals, cheese, charcuterie, chicken, pork, pasta, pulses, vegetables, nappies, personal hygiene products and detergents
- Price indexation for tax brackets to ensure that nominal wages and income are not eroded by tax hikes
- Indexation of social benefits to align with cost-of-living changes
- Broadening eligibility criteria for rent subsidies to include a wider range of beneficiaries based on income and social factors, to alleviate high housing costs, particularly for young couples and students
- Establishing a public reserve dedicated to social housing to provide sustainable housing for those in need



GREEK TRADE UNIONS demand

- An increase in salaries to safeguard the purchasing power of lower- and middle-income households
- The restitution of minimum wage determination through social partners' negotiation within the framework of the National General Collective Labour Agreement, along with the restoration of collective labour law priorities, including the extension of collective agreements, the principle of favourability and a protective framework for their after-effects.
- Strict institutional oversight and transparency concerning costs, pricing and profit margins within the supply chain, through the effective reinforcement of the Hellenic Competition Commission.
- A targeted clampdown on food companies' profiteering and the introduction of an exceptional tax on the profits of supermarket chains, energy providers, transport companies and banks.

Wages are not the root cause of inflation.

**Workers and socially vulnerable groups are the victims
of profit-driven inflation crisis**

This is the last straw!



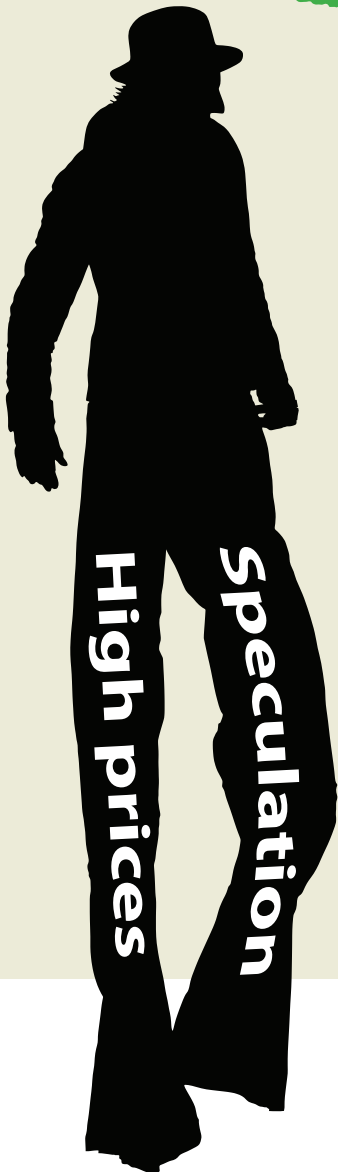
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