

Publication

High-level analysis of the Irish Grocery Retail Sector

From [Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment \(/en/organisation/departments-of-enterprise-trade-and-employment/\)](#)

Published on 20 June 2023

Last updated on 28 June 2023

The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) has carried out a high-level analysis of the grocery sector in Ireland using publicly available data.

Observations in the analysis include the following:

- the grocery sector is a critical one for Irish consumers and recent price increases have caused real stress on many households
- concentration in the grocery retail sector has reduced and competition on price, quality, location and service has improved in recent years
- this has resulted in more choice for consumers and they can switch easily between competitors
- there have been significant gains in market share by some players in recent years, although some barriers to entry may remain at local level
- food prices remain high when compared internationally. However, over recent years food inflation in Ireland has been the lowest in the EU
- changes in input prices do not appear to be immediately reflected in retail prices – recent falls in input prices may take time to be passed onto consumers due, in part, to the lag effect in supplier/retailer contracts
- the CCPC has seen no indication in this analysis to suggest market failure or “excessive pricing” as a result of an abuse of dominance at this time
- the CCPC identified a number of price interventions internationally in relation to the grocery retail sector but have not seen any evidence that price interventions have

benefitted consumers. Price interventions carry significant risk of unintended consequences and may actually harm consumers

- acknowledging that it is an area outside of the CCPC remit, information is also provided on the international experience in relation to price observatories and price monitoring in this area, noting there are pros and cons to these tools
- as part of ongoing activities the CCPC will continue to engage with the grocery sector

Documents



High-level analysis of the Irish Grocery Retail Sector

[Download \(https://assets.gov.ie/262066/e2655f00-8343-4dbf-b34a-260dee40bfd5.pdf\)](https://assets.gov.ie/262066/e2655f00-8343-4dbf-b34a-260dee40bfd5.pdf)

[View \(/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/262066/e2655f00-8343-4dbf-b34a-260dee40bfd5.pdf#page=null\)](/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/262066/e2655f00-8343-4dbf-b34a-260dee40bfd5.pdf#page=null)



Letter from Patrick Kenny, CCPC to Minister Coveney

[Download \(https://assets.gov.ie/262067/2d379f44-8a3f-4ddd-af17-b1a514aa63b8.pdf\)](https://assets.gov.ie/262067/2d379f44-8a3f-4ddd-af17-b1a514aa63b8.pdf)

[View \(/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/262067/2d379f44-8a3f-4ddd-af17-b1a514aa63b8.pdf#page=null\)](/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/262067/2d379f44-8a3f-4ddd-af17-b1a514aa63b8.pdf#page=null)



Letter from Minister Coveney to Patrick Kenny, CCPC

[Download \(https://assets.gov.ie/262069/88757306-75d5-46b5-b7e5-f6f83afde9ce.pdf\)](https://assets.gov.ie/262069/88757306-75d5-46b5-b7e5-f6f83afde9ce.pdf)
[View \(/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/262069/88757306-75d5-46b5-b7e5-f6f83afde9ce.pdf#page=null\)](/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/262069/88757306-75d5-46b5-b7e5-f6f83afde9ce.pdf#page=null)

Part of

Policies

[Business and Trade \(/en/policy/61efd3-business-and-trade/\)](/en/policy/61efd3-business-and-trade/)

BETA

This is a prototype - your feedback will help us to improve it.

Help us improve gov.ie

[Leave feedback](#)

Departments and publications

[Circulars \(/en/circulars/\)](/en/circulars/)

[Consultations \(/en/consultations/\)](/en/consultations/)

[Directory \(/en/directory/\)](/en/directory/)

[Policies \(/en/policies/\)](/en/policies/)

[Publications \(/en/publications/\)](/en/publications/)

About gov.ie

[About gov.ie \(/en/help/about-govie/\)](/en/help/about-govie/)

[Accessibility \(/en/help/accessibility/\)](/en/help/accessibility/)

[Privacy policy \(/en/help/privacy-policy/\)](/en/help/privacy-policy/)

[Who does what \(/en/help/e170a-who-does-what/\)](/en/help/e170a-who-does-what/)



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Manage cookie preferences

Manage preferences