## >>> ACCELERATING your digital connection with consumers





## **INFLATION'S IMPACT:**

Chicken shows surprising strength despite rising prices

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## Inflation's impact on chicken consumption: Chicken shows surprising strength despite rising prices

How we got here

Consumer's reactions

**Price sensitivity** 

Managing going forward



### This is not the first nor last inflation, but this one is very different - there has never been such a convergence of inflation-driving factors since The Great Depression in the 1920s

#### **Commodity Prices Rising**

Energy: Crude Oil, Gas Non Energy: Beverages, Food (Grains, Oils & Meals Fertiliser), Gold, Minerals (Iron, Copper)

#### **Soaring Energy Prices**

Volatile & Not Forecastable Govt. not getting involved

#### **Transportation Disruption**

Skilled Driver Shortages 100.000 HGV drivers lost

#### **Russia-Ukraine Crisis**

Additional pressure on Oil, Wheat & Corn Prices, Stock Market concerns, Metal/Car Prices

#### **Shipping Costs 7x**

Capacity Gaps 9-12 months to fix

#### **Uneven Consumer Demand**

Pent up demand or Fear Disposable income inequality & Unemployment

#### **Seasonal Labor Gaps**

Anti-Immigration Sentiment

#### **COVID Uncertainty**

New lockdown measures drag mobility **Business Confidence** 

Fruit & Veg Picker shortages

#### **Govt Support Ends; Cross-Border + Begin**

VAT holidays, farming subsidies & furlough end New Brexit border hurdles & EU VAT Tariff Changes

#### **Prolonged Unseasonable Weather**

Spring & Autumn Harvest yields down High spot prices for grains and oils

#### **Ingredient & Component Shortages**

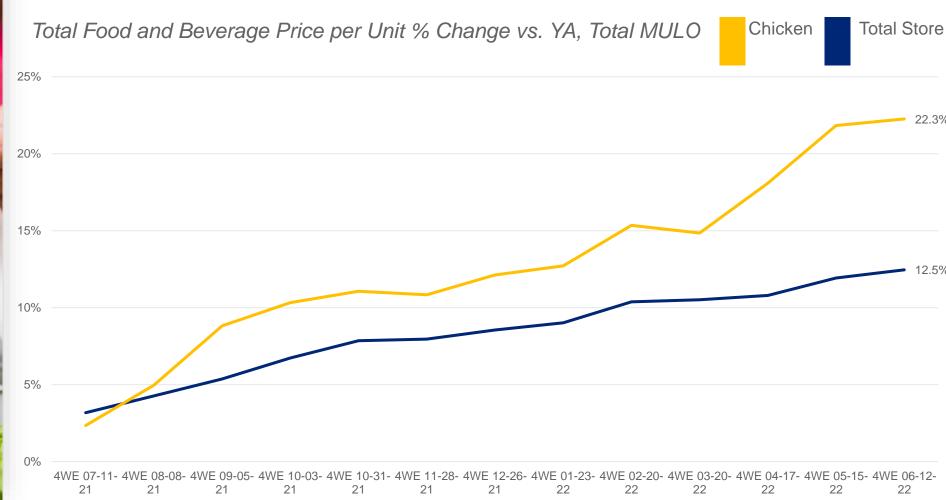
Poor Quality, Higher than normal Waste Equipment unserviceable, Process material gaps







## All aisles experienced continued price increase in the last 52 weeks; Chicken price appreciation is steeper







### **Shopping in the Age of Inflation:**

### Consumers are switching and looking for deals at a higher rate than 2021

Shopping Changes Are Very Fragmented Due to Pricing: There is Not a One-Size-Fits-All Solution



45% Looked for sales for deals more often

36% Cut back on non-essentials

24% Switched to Private Label more often

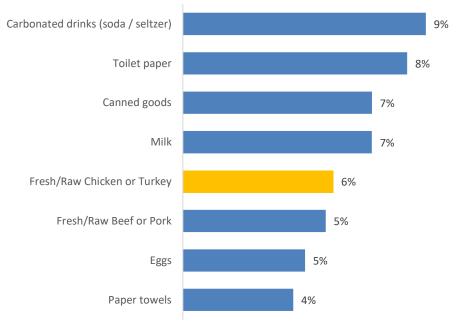
16% Bought in bulk (value sizes) more often

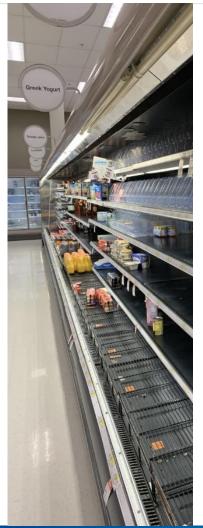


### Out of stock issues are persistent, but not category consistent

#### **Most Impacted Categories**

Have you personally experienced issues with out-ofstocks or items being unavailable during the past week (ending 5/10/22) when you tried to buy any of the following types of products?





#### Changes in Shopping Behavior

What did you do most often when something you wanted to buy was recently unavailable at your store/site?

**34%** Went to a different physical store

**26%** Did not make the purchase

**24%** Bought a different brand/variety from same store

19% Went to the same store when item was back in stock

**7%** Ordered the item online





## Dollar sales continue to be strong as consumer demand at retail has a strong floor. Volume shifts are very different across proteins

Core Proteins	Dollar Sales (in \$MM)	% Change vs. YA	% Change vs. 2YA	% Change vs. 3YA
Beef	\$30,817	4.1%	9.6%	27.0%
Chicken	\$14,503	9.9%	12.1%	24.7%
Pork	\$7,315	5.8%	5.9%	21.1%
Turkey	\$2,794	5.1%	4.8%	14.0%

Core Proteins	Volume Sales (in MM pounds)	% Change vs. YA	% Change vs. 2YA	% Change vs. 3YA
Beef	5,097	-6.8%	-5.6%	1.8%
Chicken	5,173	-2.3%	-4.5%	3.1%
Pork	2,283	-5.4%	-7.4%	0.5%
Turkey	1,179	-3.1%	-5.4%	-2.5%

- Work from home and an increased focus on cooking are driving demand
- Most proteins are still higher than prepandemic





## Chicken cuts sales are strong across the board. Wings and thighs continue to power chicken sales overall and are powering increases over the last 3 years

Total Chicken & Top Cuts	Dollar Sales (in \$MM)	% Change vs. YA	% Change vs. 2YA	% Change vs. 3YA
Total Chicken	\$14,503	9.9%	12.1%	24.7%
Chicken Breast	\$8,353	7.3%	9.2%	19.5%
Chicken Thighs	\$2,104	15.4%	21.3%	41.5%
Chicken Wings	\$1,484	18.2%	33.8%	59.3%
Chicken Legs	\$1,052	13.6%	2.0%	14.5%
Whole Bird	\$756	4.7%	-1.8%	7.8%

Total Chicken & Top Cuts	Volume Sales (in MM pounds)	% Change vs. YA	% Change vs. 2YA	% Change vs. 3YA
Total Chicken	5,1731	-2.3%	-4.5%	3.1%
Chicken Breast	2,287	-4.9%	-5.3%	0.1%
Chicken Thighs	874	1.0%	4.1%	17.1%
Chicken Wings	405	-1.8%	3.2%	19.3%
Chicken Legs	833	1.5%	-9.9%	-1.8%
Whole Bird	500	-5.3%	-13.4%	-7.7%

- Wings and Thighs continue their superstar results
- Whole Bird has consistently been the weakest performer





### Price increases impacted all protein categories

Two Year Performance for Select Proteins	I,				
Price per Volume % Change vs YA	11.2%	11.9%	12.7%	7.1%	14.6%
Price per Volume % Change vs 2 YA	16.5%	18.1%	15.2%	13.9%	17.2%
Dollar Sales % Change vs YA	8.5%	3.7%	5.4%	1.0%	5.6%
Dollar Sales % Change vs 2 YA	11.7%	12.1%	7.8%	2.0%	11.5%
Volume Sales % Change vs YA	-2.5%	-7.3%	-6.5%	-5.7%	-7.9%
Volume Sales % Change vs 2 YA	-4.2%	-5.0%	-6.5%	-10.5%	-4.9%
	Highest	Lowest			





## Increasing prices put pressure on volume sales for all proteins, the impact on Beef has been the most severe in the last 5 quarters

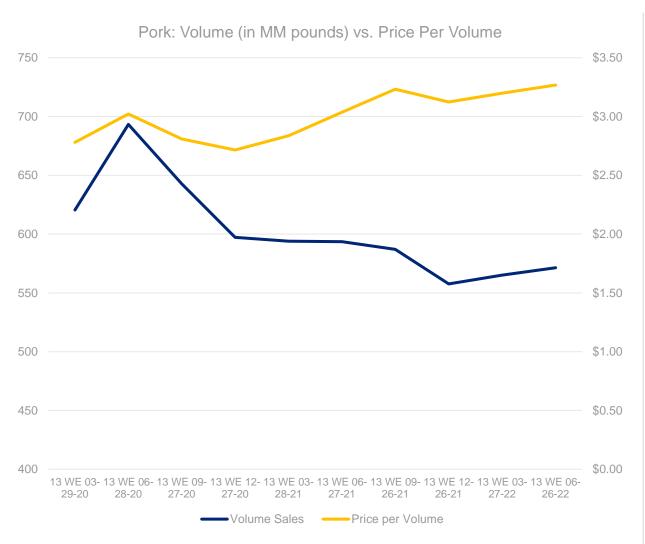


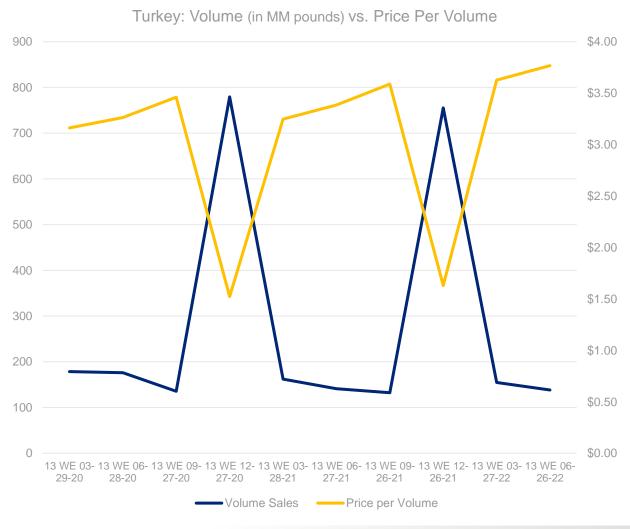






## Pork followed a similar pattern with Chicken and Beef; inflation's impact on Turkey is yet to be seen in Q4-2023









## Consumer Reaction to Price is Not a Mystery – it's Measurable... and Changing

Price Sensitivity\* is what happens when a change in price results in an impact to volume. It is a directional signpost to watch for "tipping point."

#### **MORE SENSITIVE to Price Changes**

- More risk when prices increase
- More benefit when prices decline

#### **Typical Characteristics**

- Heavily promoted or fast turn items
- Many similar competitors, fragmented
- More commoditized, many substitutes
- Low involvement categories

#### **LESS SENSITIVE to Price Changes**

- Less risk when prices increase
- Less benefit when prices decline

#### **Typical Characteristics**

- High spend / low movement category
- Strong product equity and loyalty
- Limited similar choices
- · Premium product, highly differentiated

Highly Sensitive

Sensitive

Moderately Sensitive

Insensitive

Highly Insensitive

Price Sensitive -

Price Change Causes Greatest Volume Impact

Price Insensitive –

Price Change Causes Lower Volume Impact





**Consumer Insights** 537 US adults, 18+ Data collected June 30 – July 5, 2022



### Shoppers Are Concerned About Prices and Are Changing Their Behavior



The % of shoppers who rate their current financial situation less than excellent

Will eat more at home as much or as often in next 6 months vs prior, now due to inflation, more so than COVID-19

Noticed higher **Chicken** prices vs. January 2022

Plan to cut back on restaurant purchases, including fast food, casual, fine dining and takeout



### Future expectations: Consumers expect some improvement

We asked consumers to rate their current financial situation and expectations for a year from now, on a 7-point scale 'Much better' Mean score 4.5 Mean score 3.9 All but Boomers are feeling more Midpoint of scale optimistic, with highest scores above the Boomers skewed a little higher; Gen Z a 3.5 mean for Gen Z and Millennials little lower. Those who consume chicken daily an Those who intend to consume "much those who say they will consume "much more" chicken 5.1, significantly higher more" in next 6 months feel slightly than those who intend to consume better off, above the mean at 4.3 and "more" and "less" 1.5 4.7 respectively 'Much worse' Current situation Future expectation



Poor

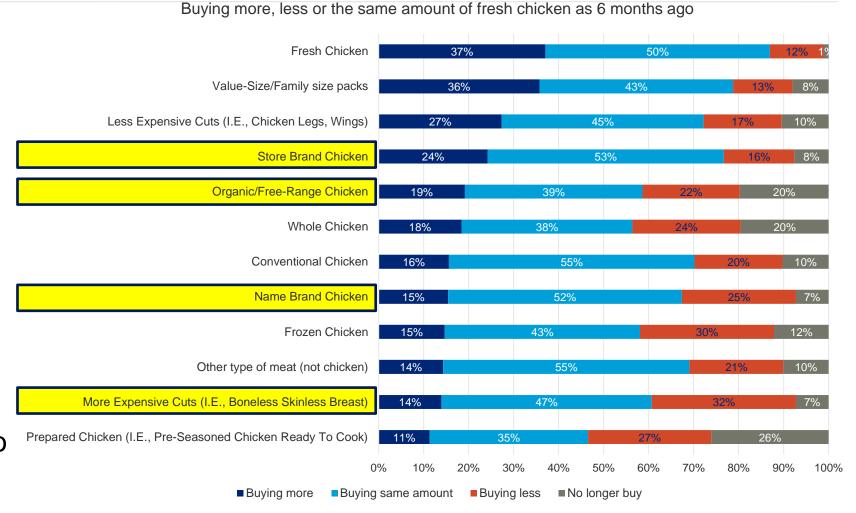
Excellent"



## Consumers are eating more chicken, more often in past 6 months, but trading-down

 99% said they eat meals made with fresh chicken more than once a month<sup>1</sup> vs 96% in 2021

- 88% more than once a week<sup>1</sup>
- Healthy choice, versatile, value for price are top drivers<sup>2</sup>
- 87% buying more or the same amount of fresh chicken now compared to 6 months ago<sup>3</sup>



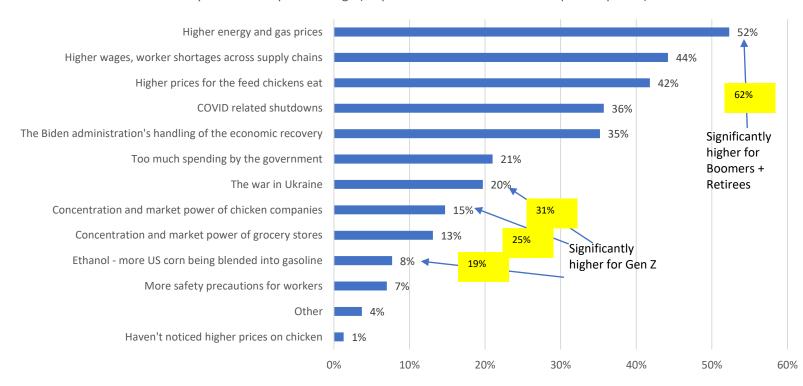


1 Q4 How often do you/your household consume dishes/meals made from fresh chicken?
2 Q1 What has motivated you to buy fresh chicken over the past 6 months?
3 Q3 Which of the following are you buying more, the same or less than you did 6 months ago?

### Consumers are aware of rising prices

85% recognize that chicken prices are higher than at the start of the year<sup>1</sup>, citing higher prices of fuel, higher wages for workers, higher prices for chicken feed<sup>2</sup>

Why are chicken prices rising? (respondents allowed to choose up to 3 options)



1 CP1 Thinking about the prices you have paid for fresh chicken in the past 6 months, do they generally seem higher, lower or about the same as at the start of this year?

2 CP2 Why in your opinion are chicken prices rising? (Select top 3 reasons)



### Yet, chicken is still a mealtime staple

#### Chicken remains "center of the plate" for 53%<sup>1</sup>

59% are preparing recipes with chicken and other ingredients (trading down from purchasing prepared chicken)

32% are using chicken to make soup

29% are roasting whole chicken – 43% for Gen Z

These even

more so for

Gen X \_

While 24% say they are eating less meat in general, that number is significantly lower for Gen Z (15%) and Millennials (20%)



#### More important now vs last year<sup>2</sup>:

Overall price

Price per pound

Fresh

Value-size/family pack

ABF (more so for Millenials)

Less important now vs last year:

Frozen

Brand name

Organic/Free range

Individual portions (except for Boomers)



1 Q6 Thinking about preparing and serving chicken dishes, which of the following, if any, have you been doing more in the past 6 months? (Select all that apply) 2 Q2 Still thinking about purchasing fresh chicken, which of the following have become more important to you now vs last year?





Boomers

## 85% will consume more or same amount of fresh chicken at home in next 6-12 months

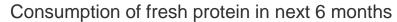
- 33% anticipate they will eat more fresh chicken
  - "healthier than other protein"
  - "better value for the money than other protein types"
  - "plan to eat at home more to save money."
- Those planning to eat less fresh chicken say they are planning to eat less meat in general

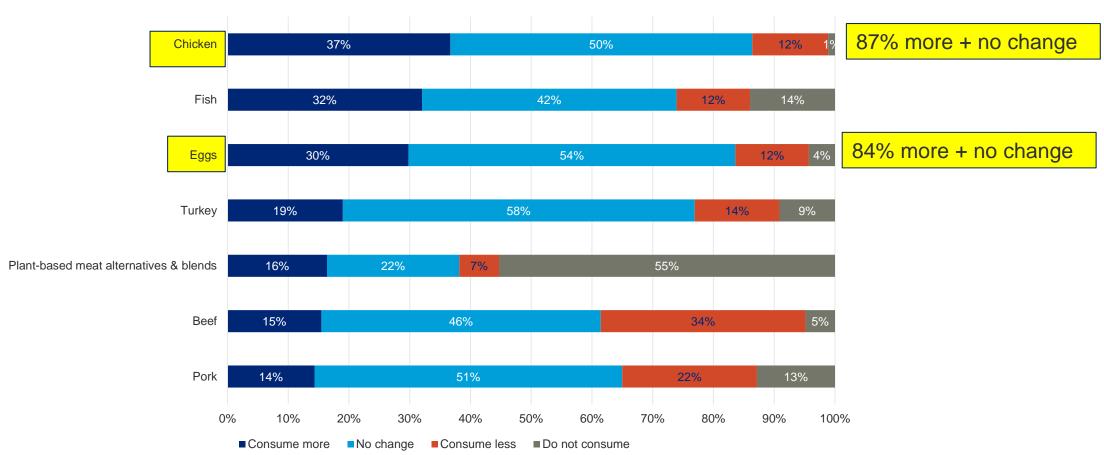


Q9 Thinking about the next 6 to 12 months, how, if at all, do you anticipate your fresh chicken consumption at home will change? Q9A Why?



### Chicken, eggs are top protein choices for next 6 months





Q10 Which of the following fresh protein types do you plan to consume in the next 6 months?



### **Adding Value**

Communicate sustainability benefits/features in simple language that consumers can grasp quickly, easily.

Sustainability even more important to those who will consume more fresh chicken

Company reputation 78% Animal welfare 94% Minimal packaging Locally sourced 69% Biodegradable or recyclable packaging Minimizing carbon footprint 93% 59% Organic 84% ■ Total sample ■ Plan to consume much more

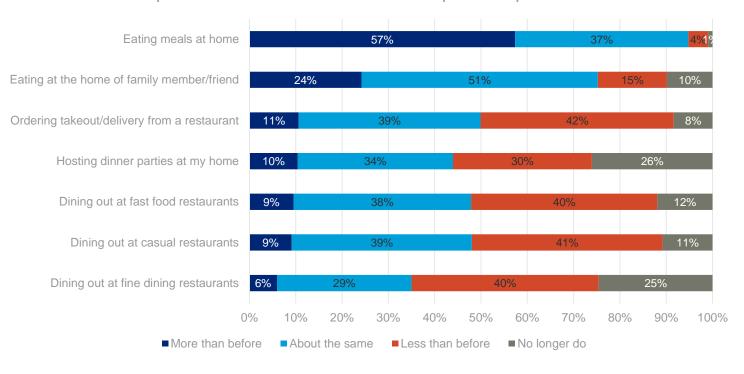




### Where we'll be eating

- More anticipate eating at home than during past 6 months.
- While restaurant menu prices are not rising at same rate as retail food prices, 8 in 10 consumers say they are eating out less often due to inflation
- Trading down: fine dining restaurants hit the hardest, fast & casual seeing a comeback
- "About the same" reflects convenience with takeout & delivery with online ordering, apps – along with healthy choices, smaller portions

#### Anticipated activities next 6 months compared to past 6 months



Q11 Thinking about the next 6 months, do you anticipate participating in these activities more or less than in the past 6 months?

https://morningconsult.com/2022/06/21/inflation-has-consumers-cutting-back-on-dining-and-meat/





### In summary

Financial situation & expectations – lingering impacts, not much change one year from now

Eating more & trading down – Chicken remains a staple, center of plate tradeoffs with less expensive cuts, store brands, value packs

Purchase drivers remain the same – Healthy choice of protein, versatility, value for price

Adding value with sustainability benefits – important for millennials & Gen Z, give clear information to make it easy to feel good about the chicken they buy

Chicken is positioned for future demand -- Eating at home will continue; Millennials coming into buying power



### **Consumer Insights – in summary**

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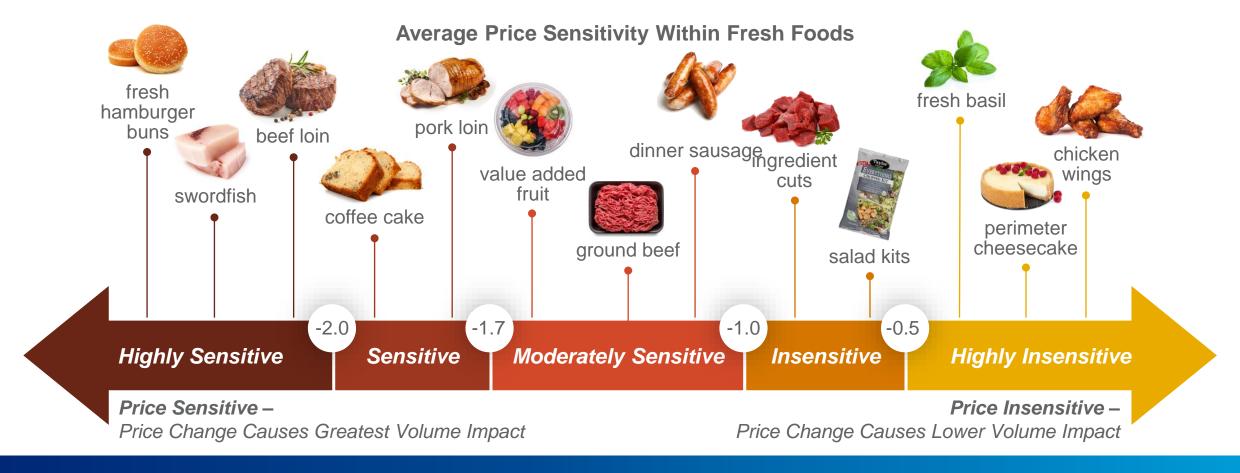
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## Price sensitivity is varied within fresh foods – this complexity is critical to understand to strategically leverage all products to drive efficient growth

More insensitive items may not be the most efficient to promote, either purchased by many or only a select few or situationally, where price changes will not drive a ton more (or less) of volume.

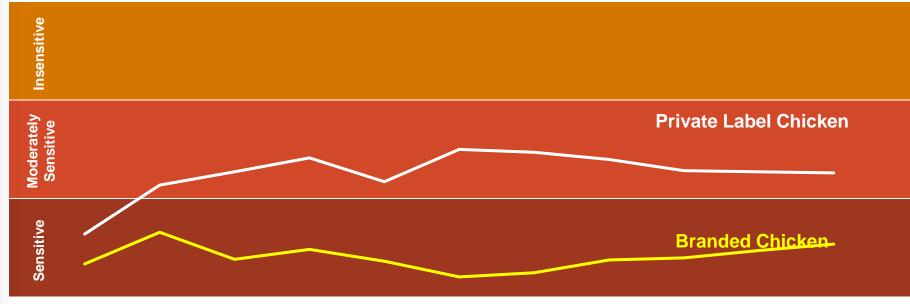








## Post pandemic response to pricing has dampened more for Private Label than for Branded in Fresh Chicken



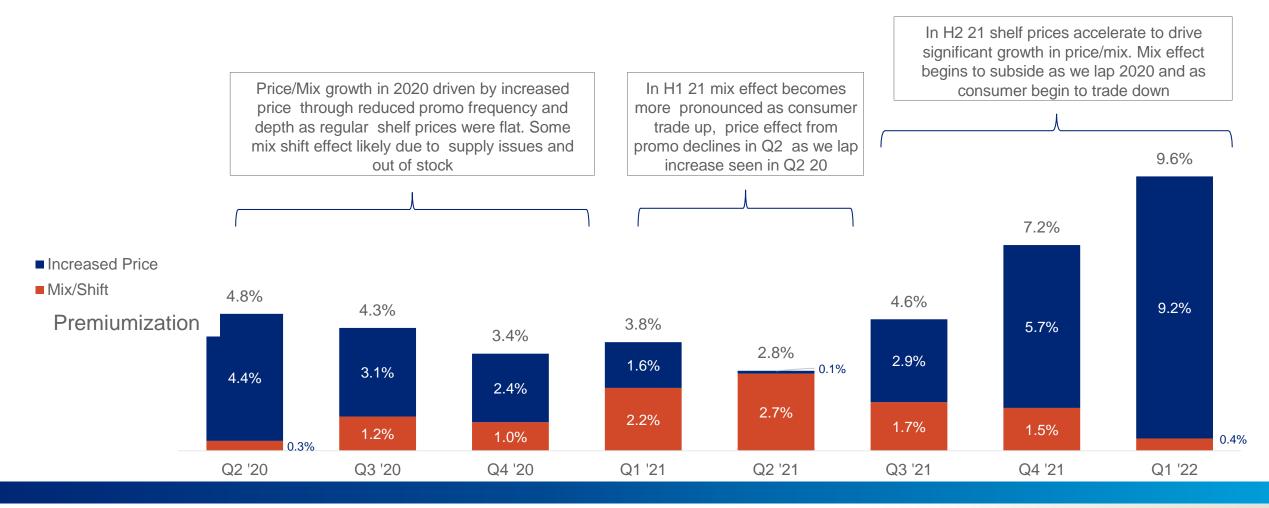




10-31-21 11-28-21 12-26-21 01-30-22 02-27-22 03-27-22 04-24-22 05-29-22 06-26-22

## Reduced promotion depth and frequency drove higher early pandemic prices, shifting to premiumization and trading up H1 '21 until inflation lead to elevated everyday shelf prices

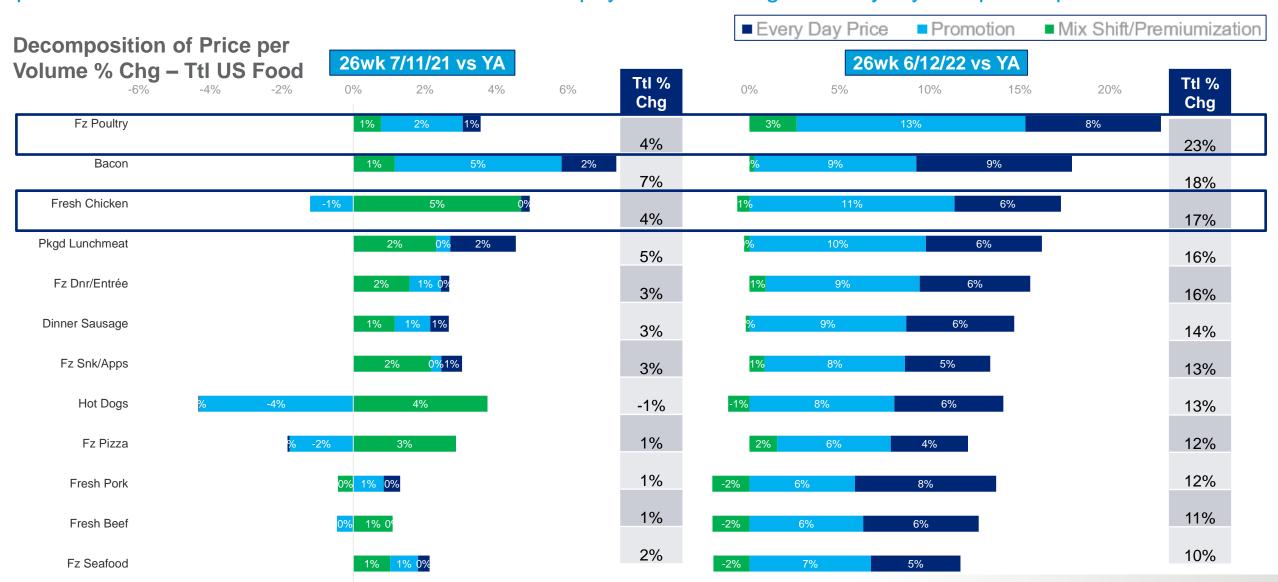
Decomposition of Price per Volume % change vs. YA for Avg F&B Categories - MULO







## Consumers paid higher prices at the start of the pandemic as promotions were cut and they traded up to more premium items. Inflation has forced consumers to pay more from higher everyday and promo prices



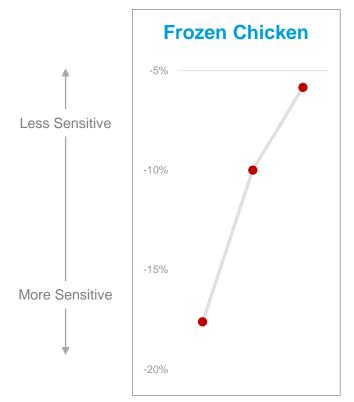


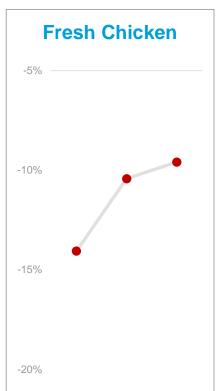


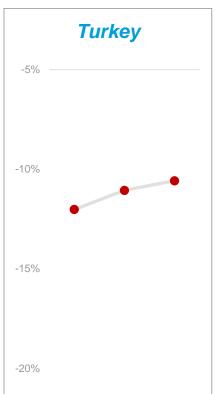
## Consumer response to category level pricing is changing. As inflation persists expect pricing impacts to shift back towards pre-pandemic levels

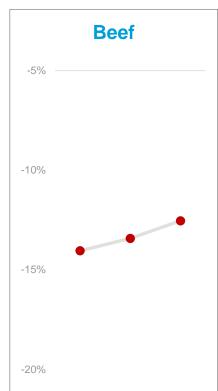
Category % Pound Change from 10% Avg Price Increase – Total US Food

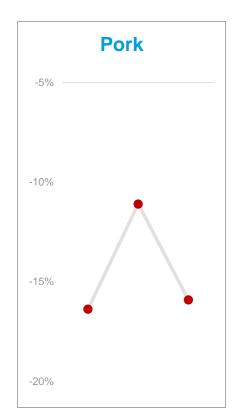












Source: IRI Price Sensitivity – Pre = 2019, During = 52wk Sept 2021, Forward = 52wk Jun 2022

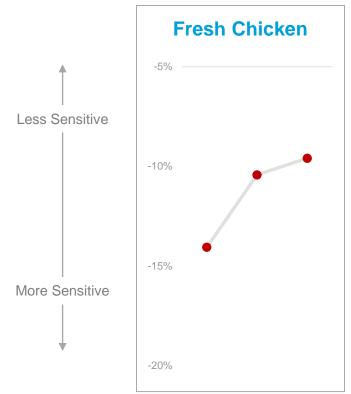


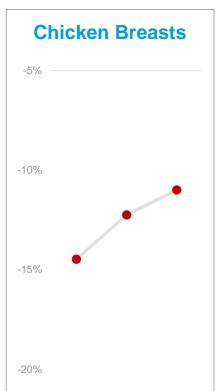


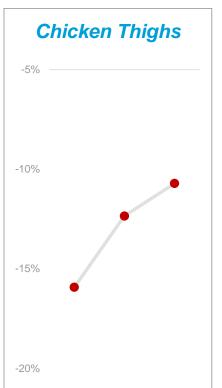
## For chicken cuts, consumer response to price has dropped across all segments with sensitivity to legs dropping significantly

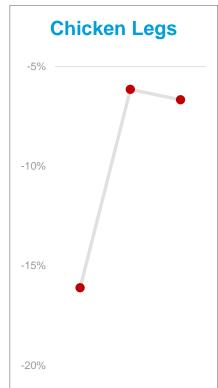
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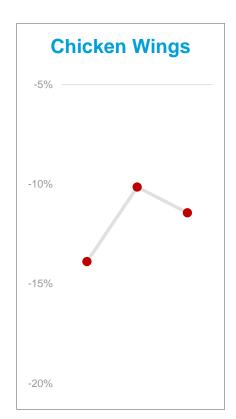


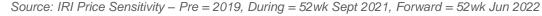
















## As the pendulum continues to swing before normalizing, Manufacturers should focus in these areas to drive profitable growth in 2022







finally becoming more

concerned

**Brand innovation** 



