



57%
13.4%

UNITE EXPOSES CRISIS OF PROFITEERING



EXPOSED:

How bosses are taking advantage of the crisis to raise profits

Unite Investigates is exposing how profiteering – not workers' wages – is behind the inflation keeping prices high.

Our new report is the first to show **how** it's happening and **where** it's happening.

Make no mistake, many companies are doing very well indeed. The profits of the UK's largest companies are now **89% higher** than before the pandemic.

Unite has analysed evidence of profiteering in **energy, oil & petrol, food, automotive, road freight and shipping.**

These critical industries are responsible for the majority – **57%** – of inflation. **This profiteering crisis is behind the spiralling prices** we all have to pay.

In this broken economy companies can take advantage of the crisis to raise their prices – and governments are letting them do it.

It's time to take on the profiteers. **The only answer to sky high prices is for workers to be paid what they are owed!**

It's time for a **Workers' Economy.**



This crisis is about choices. Thousands of decision makers in major corporations have been choosing to raise their prices. Governments are choosing to help them.

It is these choices which have resulted in the "price spiralling" now driving inflation – not workers' wages



Sharon Graham, Unite General Secretary

Profiteering in numbers

89% How much the profits of the UK's biggest companies have gone up since the pandemic.

57% The majority of inflation (RPI) driven by the industries named in Unite's report.

13.4% Inflation - how fast prices are rising. (RPI, January 2022)

-5.7% The fall in real wages.

Unite's verdict ... Runaway profiteering is driving historic high prices – not workers' wages!

THEIR PROFITS RAISE OUR PRICES

Unite finds evidence of profiteering across industries



ENERGY: A license to print money

From the North Sea to the power going into your home – profiteering is rife across the energy supply chain.

The “Big 4” energy providers (Centrica, E.ON, EDF and Scottish Power) made **£9.5 billion profit between them, up 84%**.

The handful of companies given licenses to distribute electricity and gas made **£6.3 billion** – with profit margins over 40%!

Energy networks such as National Grid are effectively state-licensed cash machines.



OIL & PETROL: A cash machine

Global giants have cashed in on spiking oil prices, like Saudi Aramco which made \$87.9 billion in the first half of 2022 alone.

No wonder the boss of BP called it a ‘**cash machine**’ – after raking in the firm’s highest quarterly earnings in a decade.

This all works its way to the petrol pumps, where prices hit £1.90 a litre in 2022. Now we’re seeing a “rocket and feather” effect. Prices go **up like a rocket** with oil prices – but **fall like a feather** when those same oil prices drop!



ROAD FREIGHT: Passing down costs

Road freight companies have managed to pass down rising fuel and vehicle costs – while boosting their own profits.

The combined profit margins of the UK’s major road freight companies jumped **67%** since 2019.

The parent companies of top road freight operators did even better – increased their profits by **149% compared to 2019**.



FOOD: Exploiting a crisis

There have been huge increases in the costs of essential foods in the UK and worldwide.

Companies have **exploited a series of crises** to raise their prices all along global supply chains.

That starts in the global agribusinesses – whose profits jumped **255%**!

It ends closer to home. The major supermarkets. Tesco, Asda and Sainsbury’s doubled their profits to over £3.2 billion.



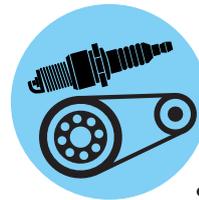
DOCKS & SHIPPING: Floating cartels

The UK is the most expensive cargo shipping destination in Europe – and container freight is the most blatant example of inflation profiteering!

The top shippers increased their profits **20,650%** – over 200 times – compared to before the pandemic.

They manage this because such a small number of companies dominate the market. This makes it easier to set prices – and hike profits.

The UK’s leading ports employers have also banked healthy profits - with ABP and Peel Ports recording net profit margins of over **21%**.



AUTOMOTIVE: Supply crunch

Supply chain disruption has plagued the automotive sector, but some employers have found ways to make profits from scarcity.

Big winners have been **semiconductor makers** – like Samsung and TSMC whose profits soared by **73%** and **82%** respectively.

Car makers like BMW also took advantage of ‘positive pricing’ to make £13.2bn in the first half of 2022. That’s a historic high!

Is your employer profiteering?

Read the full report:



See your bosses’ profits:

