

# Retails:Time for change (again)

Julien COTTIER



















# PROSOL



# **PROSOL**

Prosol is France's fresh products distribution specialist with the mission of providing, for 30 years, a wide range of high-quality fresh food products at the best value for money. Prosol masters the entire value chain, from product sourcing to store operations.

To date, Prosol operates in over than 300 stores represented by 4 brands: Grand Frais (Prosol operates in the fruit and vegetable, dairy and seafood departments, with butchery and delicatessen handled by specialized partners), fresh, Banco Fresco and mon-marché.fr.

The company establishes solid and long-term partnerships with direct producers, without middlemen, and supports them in developing their farming methods to create a form of agriculture that is more respectful of soil and biodiversity.

Its mastery of ultra-fast logistics enables it to preserve the freshness and flavour of products from upstream to the stores, in the traditional concept of "halles".

# THE SPECIALIST OF FRESH PRODUCTS









303 shops

45 shops

8 shops

6 workshops

















## Agenda

- Covid : Golden years for retails
- Crisis: end of mass consumption?
- Questioning time for retails



## COVID-19: GOLDEN YEARS FOR THE RETAILS

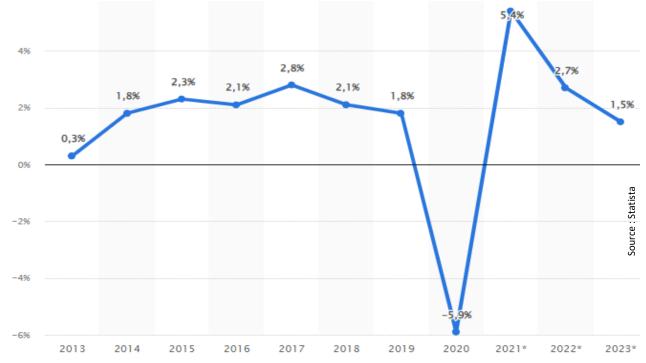
#### Context:

- Start of the Covid-19 pandemic in China in November 2019,

quick spread all other the World in 2020:

- 6,9 millions of people passed away (WHO, May 2023)
- All the countries have been touched
- Economic crisis due to lockdown of worldwide economy and closing of many borders.

- A social and societal earthquake :
  - Health impact : disease (Covid) and future diseases with sedentary lifestyle, screen drug, etc.
  - Social impact : lockdown, increase of isolation.1 out 4 couples in danger. Paranoia feeling.



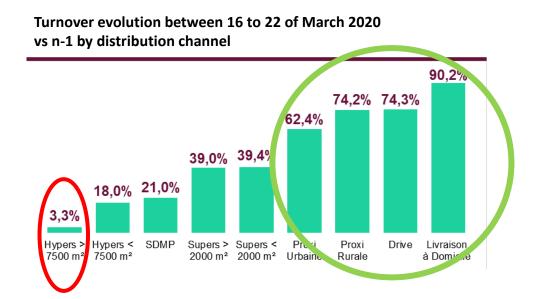
EU GDP evolution 2013-2023

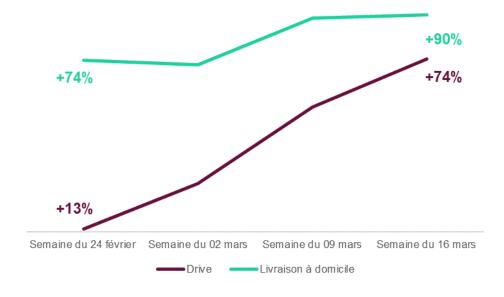


## **COVID-19: GOLDEN YEARS FOR THE RETAILS**

#### About the consumption:

- New trends:
  - Time to cook with relatives
  - Monopoly of the retails, only way to be outside
  - New way to sell with the locking of traditional fresh counter: grow of self-service (plastic = healthy)
  - Development of drive and home delivery classified as "essential services" by some governments with new consumers (40yo +).
    - +90% of turnover (vs n-1) instead of "only"+3,3% for big supermarkets (Carrefour or Auchan).



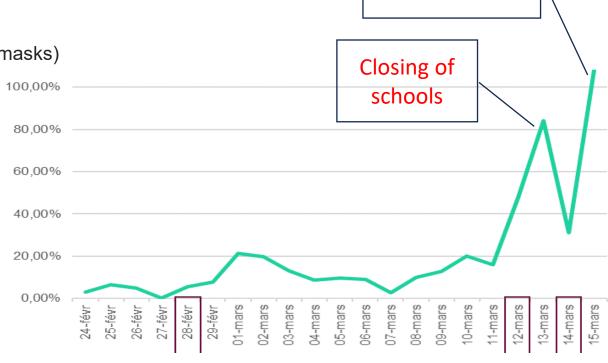




## **COVID-19: GOLDEN YEARS FOR THE RETAILS**

#### About the consumption:

- Pressure on the retails :
  - Lot of out of stock: stockpiling behaviour (toilet paper, pasta, masks)
  - Lack of manpower with isolation system of Covid
  - New organisation inside shops (vinyl curtains for cashier, floor stickers to indicate social distancing)
- The fundamental role of the retails in the society:
  - Not only the retails but also all the industry, especially food one.
  - Motto was to fulfil people fridges
  - Real attachment of the retail brands



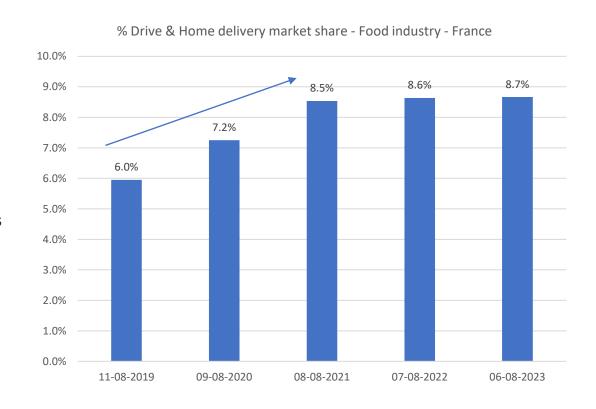
1st lockdown

announcement

Sales evolution of high consumption products February-March 2020 in France



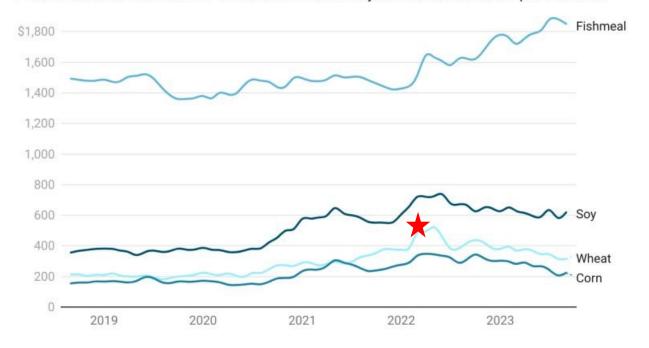
- Post-covid: time to live again
- Reopening of the tourism industry
  - End of the "2 years retail monopoly"
  - Pressure on food market: need to supply rapidly empty fridges → high demand on damaged offer
  - China remains closed : premises of the inflation with boom on steel and energy prices
  - Pressure on workforce market : artificial full employment due to government action
    - → Wage competition : premises of the inflation
- New competitors:
  - During Covid, development of Online business in many sectors (Cinema to Netflix, physical meetings to Teams/Zoom...)
    - We saw an important growth of Drive or Home delivery.
    - → Impact on the suburbs commercial area

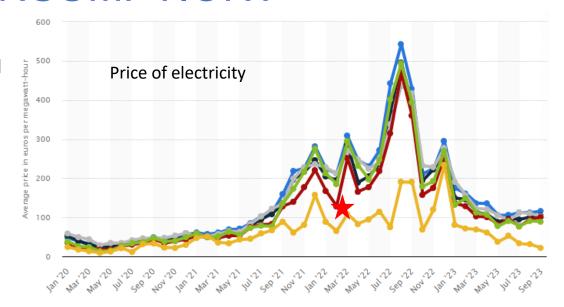


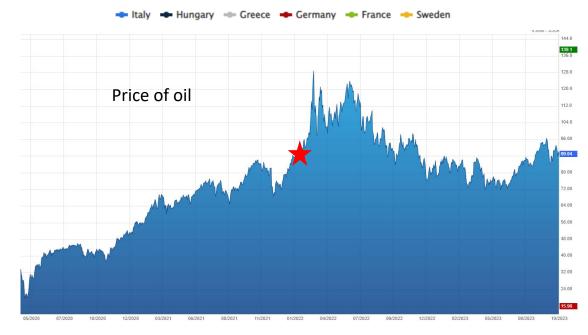


- War in Ukraine : February 2022 \*
- Ukraine: a leading producer of cereals (sunflower, wheat and corns) and has important mineral resources (iron, steel, uranium...).
- Lot of gas pipeline between Europe and Russia
- Huge impact on the global economy: sudden inflation of energy and all raw materials and pressure on cereal markets.

Price of common fish feed raw material over the last 5 years measured in USD per metric ton



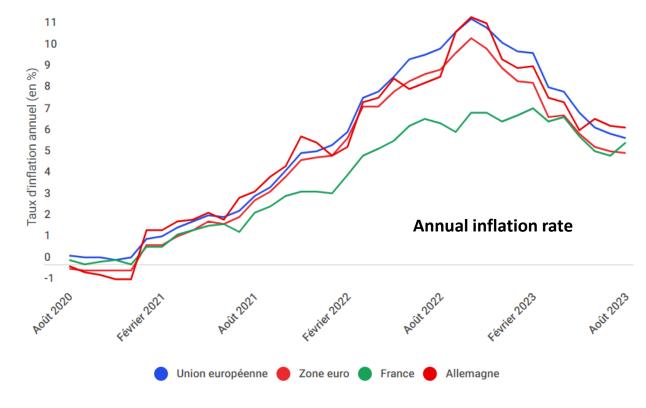




#### Consequences: Inflation

- Inflation: has started during post covid with pressure on all the markets after 2 years off and has been accelerated by the War.
- Main consequences for industry :
  - Increase of energy costs (electricity and gas)
  - Increase of raw material prices and shortages (cereals)
  - Increase of wages
  - Decrease of volumes
- Main consequences for people :
  - Increase of energy cost (electricity and gas)
  - Boom of prices in supermarkets (+26%)
  - Drop of the purchasing power

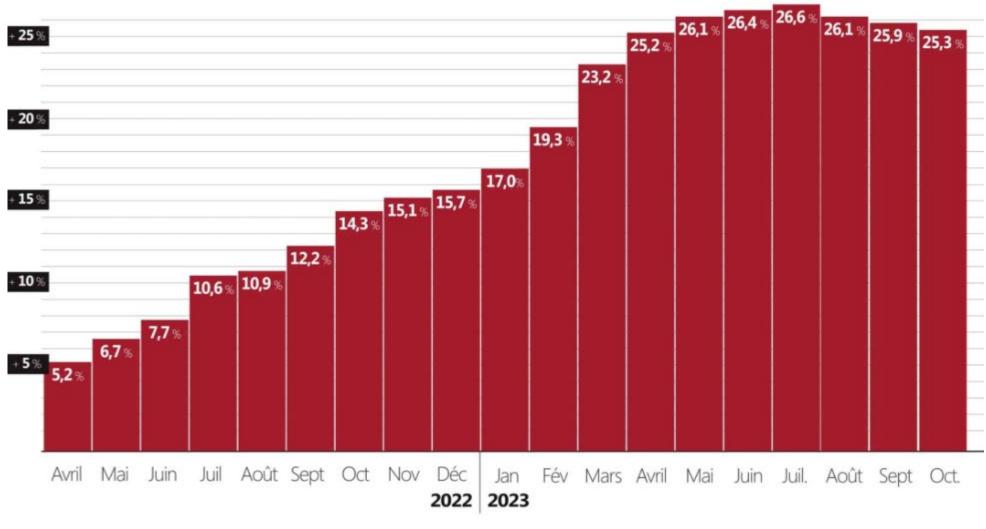




- Main consequences for retails
  - Increase of charges (energy, workforce, products)
  - Decrease of volumes









#### Changes on consumer expectations:

- Before Covid: priorities were focus on quality and origin: more local and producer to consumer concept.
  - Organic food supermarkets were booming, and historical retailers increased a lot their range of organic products.
  - Plastic bashing

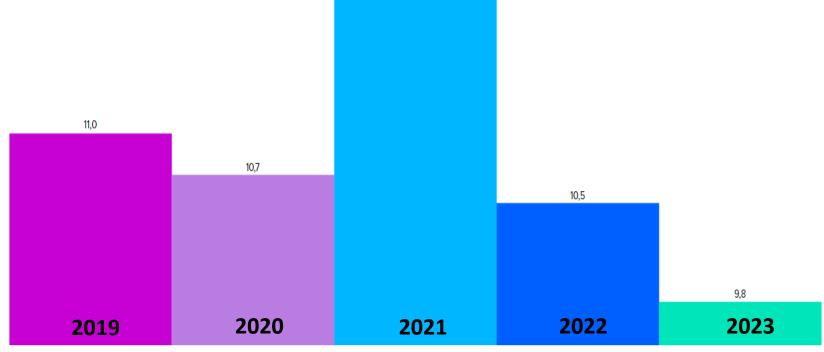
#### During Covid:

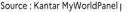
- Time to cook, more money to spend on food
- Increase of prepacked products
- Increase of online business
- Producer to consumer

#### Crisis times:

- Value for money products
- Less importance given to origin or premium quality (organic sector in troubles).
- Focus on promotion and opportunities
- Essential products and private label
- Hard time for restaurants

## Purchase of fresh fish per year per people in France (kg)

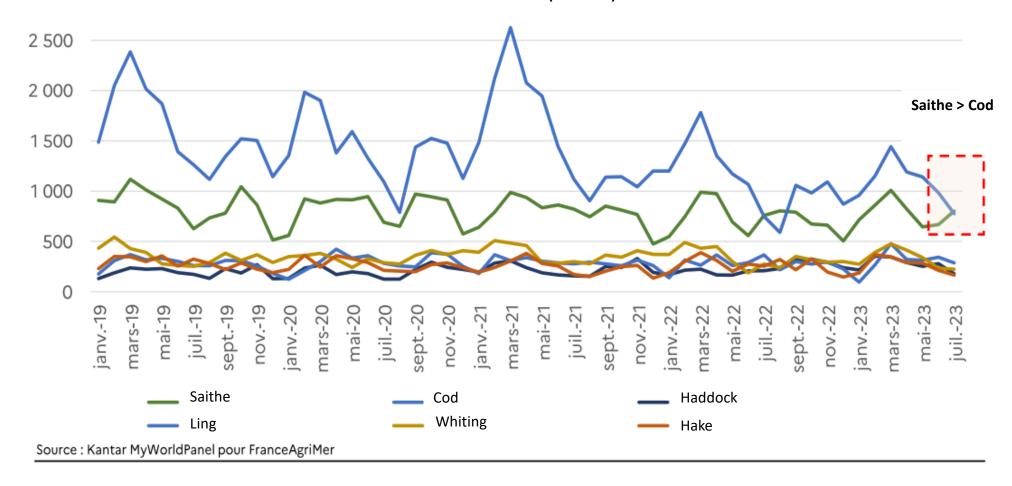






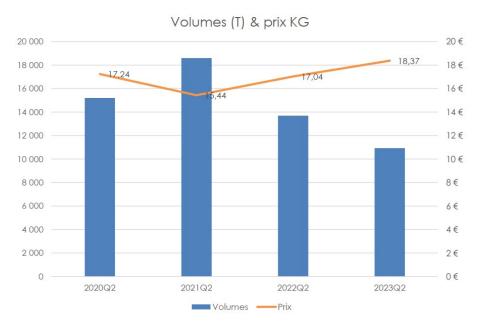
Changes on consumer expectations:

Evolution of fresh white fish sales in France (in ton)



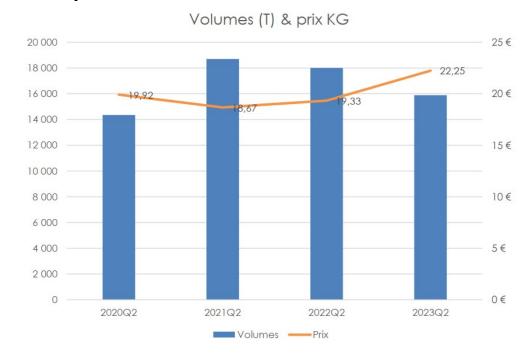


#### Changes on consumer expectations:



**Traditional fresh salmon sales in France** 

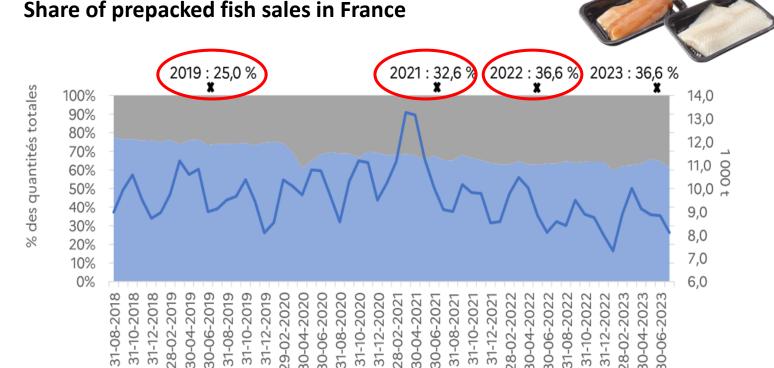
#### **Prepacked fresh salmon sales in France**





#### To adapt or not, that is the question:

- Crisis has pushed all the retail companies to question themselves, to rethink their structural model and their image.
- New trend of sales developed during covid and still important now: home delivery, prepacked products.
- New trend: increase of the purchasing frequency but with diminution of the average ticket value.
- Lot of fresh fish counters remained closed after Covid:
  - Cost of energy and waste of water
  - Hard to find experienced fishmongers
- More and more shops turn into self-service in addition (or not) to the fresh counter.
- The keys to come out the other side :
  - Flexibility and opportunity
  - Price killing image and communication
  - Listen to consumer expectations
  - Importance of the value for money
  - Break the routine and innovation (way to sell, range of products, service...)
- Concentration wave :
  - 2020, Aldi bought Leader Price
  - Cora/Match bought by Carrefour in 2023
  - Casino, THE historical French retailers in bad situation



Total fish sales



Source: Kantar MyWorldPanel pour FranceAgriMer

Stand

Packed

#### **Market share of French retailers – Fresh products**

