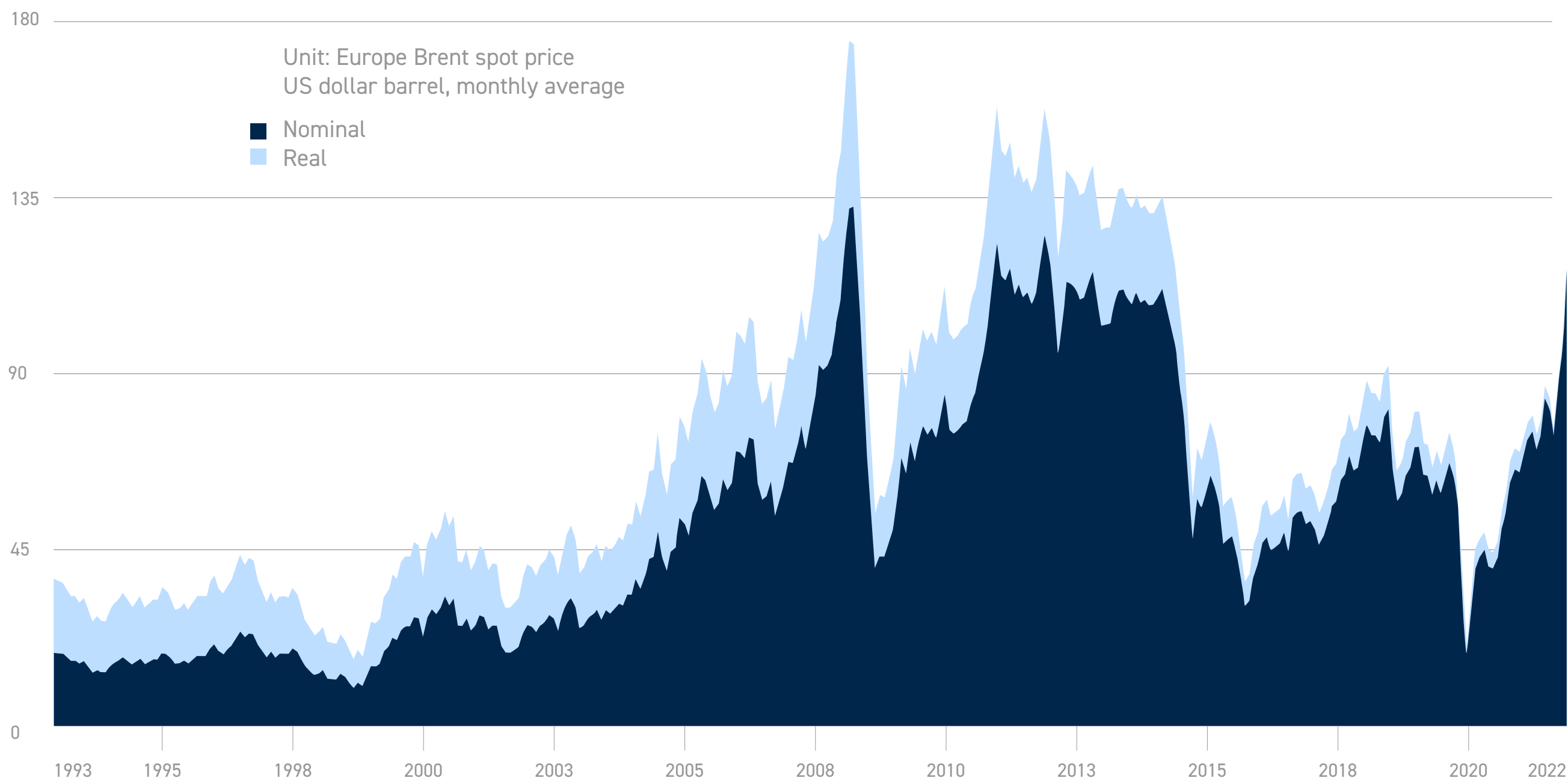


FIG.05

CRUDE OIL PRICE EVOLUTION

Source: Energy Information Administration and Federal Reserve Economic Data



The EU refining industry operates between two global, open and transparent markets: the market for crude oil and the market for refined products. The main benchmarks are priced in USD. The price of crude oil is set on international spot markets and reported by designated agencies. The price of oil is an important marker for the global economy and is closely watched by businesses and policy-makers.

After a decade of relatively low prices, oil started rising leading to peaks just before the financial crisis in 2008. Amid the Covid-19 pandemic and a price war between Riyadh and Moscow, demand in April 2020 reached down to a level last seen in 1995. While the oil price level bounced back, following the reopening of the global economy, it dramatically jumped to around \$120/bbl level after the breakout of the Russian war on Ukraine in 2022.