KEY FIGURES ON THE EUROPEAN FOOD CHAIN

2025 EDITION

eurostat

KEY FIGURES

List of EU and EFTA countries

BE	Belgium	**ES**	Spain	**HU**	Hungary	**SK**	Slovakia
BG	Bulgaria	**FR**	France	**MT**	Malta	**FI**	Finland
CZ	Czechia	**HR**	Croatia	**NL**	Netherlands	**SE**	Sweden
DK	Denmark	**IT**	Italy	**AT**	Austria		
DE	Germany	**CY**	Cyprus	**PL**	Poland	**IS**	Iceland
EE	Estonia	**LV**	Latvia	**PT**	Portugal	**LI**	Liechtenstein
IE	Ireland	**LT**	Lithuania	**RO**	Romania	**NO**	Norway
EL	Greece	**LU**	Luxembourg	**SI**	Slovenia	**CH**	Switzerland

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Foreword

Welcome to this fifth edition of 'Key figures on the European food chain'. The publication brings together a wide range of official statistics from Eurostat to show how food is produced, processed, traded and consumed across the EU. These data provide valuable insights to inform debates on issues such as food inflation, security and sustainability.

The publication is organised into 3 main parts. It starts with an overview of primary production of agriculture and fisheries, as well as the processing of food and beverages. The second section is on distribution – covering international trade, transport and distributive trades, showing how food reaches supermarkets, other shops, bars, restaurants and other outlets. The final part of the publication covers consumption and the environment – focusing on what we eat and drink, alongside the environmental impact of the food chain.

The EU's Vision for Agriculture and Food is central to building a sustainable food system and protecting biodiversity, while securing rural livelihoods and enhancing the stability of the food chain, alongside ambitions to achieve climate neutrality. Key priorities include: strengthening the role of farmers in the food value chain; promoting sustainable farming practices and empowering consumers to choose balanced, eco-friendly diets; encouraging generational renewal and gender equality; making knowledge, training and skills more accessible; improving resilience by helping the food system adapt to shocks, such as climate change, market volatility or systemic crises.

The common agricultural policy plays a pivotal role in shaping the EU's agricultural industry. Recent reforms have encouraged greener practices by allocating more funds to conservation and biodiversity. The common agricultural policy also supports farmers' livelihoods, ensures food supply and security by stabilising agricultural markets, while contributing to EU trade negotiations (such as the EU-Mercosur partnership agreement) by maintaining high quality and safety standards for agricultural products.

The common fisheries policy pursues similar goals at sea. It works to protect marine ecosystems, ensure profitability in the fisheries sector, support the revitalisation of coastal communities and improve their economic prospects.

Enjoy discovering the extensive set of statistics offered by Eurostat along the EU's food chain!

Arturo de la Fuente Nuño

(Acting) Director of sectoral and regional statistics, Eurostat

Abstract

'Key figures on the European food chain' provides a selection of indicators on the food chain, from primary production in agriculture and fisheries through to consumption. Statistical data are presented for the European Union (EU), EU countries and European Free Trade Agreement (EFTA) countries.

For some readers, this publication may offer an introduction to agriculture, fisheries and food chain statistics, while others can use it as a starting point to explore further a wide range of data and information. These are freely available on Eurostat's website and in Statistics Explained.

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For more information please consult

Eurostat's website: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat
Statistics Explained: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained

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The editor of this publication would like to thank colleagues in Eurostat who were involved in its preparation.

Contents

Introduction

Eurostat is the statistical office of the European Union (EU). Our mission is to provide high-quality statistics on Europe, offering the public and decision-makers key information on the EU's economy, society and environment.

'Key figures on the European food chain' describes the food chain of the EU and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries. The food chain stretches from primary production in agriculture and fisheries through to consumption, in other words, an often lengthy journey from the farm to fork.

Structure of the publication

'Key figures on the European food chain' provides users with an overview of data on the food chain available on Eurostat's website and in its online database. The publication is divided into 3 parts:

- the first looks at production with its main focus on the primary production of agricultural and fishery products; additional information is presented on downstream processing in food and beverages manufacturing
- the second covers distribution – international trade, transport and the wholesaling, retailing and serving of food and beverages
- the third examines the consumption of food and beverages and environmental aspects such as fertiliser and pesticide use, greenhouse gas emissions and food waste.

In most sections, you can follow hyperlinks to Statistics Explained articles for more detailed information.

Policy background

The EU's Vision for Agriculture and Food sets out a plan for making Europe's food systems more sustainable, resilient and competitive. It aims to build trust and foster dialogue along the entire food chain by engaging farmers, other food chain operators, institutions and civil society. This roadmap highlights several key priorities to shape the future of farming and food in Europe through to 2040.

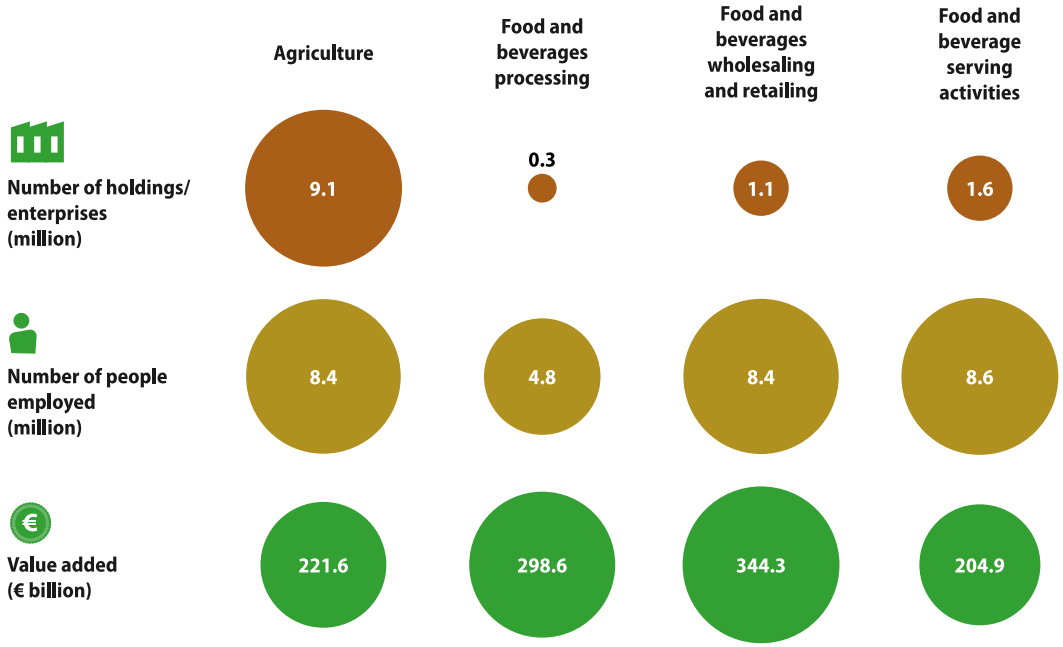
At the heart of the vision is the goal of making the EU's agri-food sector more competitive and attractive, so it can thrive, innovate and continue benefitting society. EU farmers play a crucial role in this effort, ensuring food security and providing citizens with high-quality food.

Innovation and digital tools are central to the vision, helping farms of all sizes to operate more efficiently, reduce their environmental impact and adopt climate- and nature-friendly farming practices. The vision supports sustainable food systems that protect biodiversity, contribute to climate change mitigation, ensure food security and nutrition, and promote public health.

At the same time, the vision aims to ensure fair economic returns, while encouraging future generations to pursue careers in agriculture, promoting gender equality and integrating rural communities into sustainable development initiatives, in line with the United Nations' sustainable development goals (SDGs).

The food chain

(EU, 2023)



Note: value added at basic prices for agriculture. Value added at factor cost for the other parts of the food chain. For agriculture: number of holdings, 2020.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: ef_fsi_farms, nama_10_a64_e, aact_eaa01 and sbs_sc_act)

By providing such opportunities, the vision can help spark entrepreneurial ideas for new, innovative agri-food businesses, keeping Europe's rural economy dynamic and sustainable.

Practical actions under the vision include funding for precision farming, which uses technology and data to get the best results from crops and resources; digital farm management tools, which help farmers turn data into clear, actionable decisions; and data-driven approaches to improve efficiency while reducing environmental impacts. The vision also supports initiatives such as shortening supply chains and increasing transparency through traceability. Dedicated programmes aim to strengthen rural infrastructure, promote knowledge sharing and improve access to finance for small and medium-sized farms, ensuring that all stakeholders can take part in the transition to more sustainable agriculture.

Finally, the vision also recognises several challenges facing the food chain. Securing the future of farming will require an agricultural industry that is financially sustainable and protected from unfair practices. This means helping farmers earn income from multiple sources, strengthening their role in the food chain and ensuring they are properly rewarded for the ecosystem services / environmental benefits they provide.

The EU's Vision for Agriculture and Food is closely interconnected with the long-term vision for the EU's rural areas, reflecting a comprehensive approach to advancing Europe's food system and rural development. Both visions emphasise digital transformation and innovation, environmental sustainability and resilience, and fair living conditions. In addition, the long-term vision for rural areas aims to create stronger, better-connected and more prosperous communities by fostering territorial cohesion, attracting innovative businesses, providing access to quality jobs, promoting new and improved skills, improving infrastructure and services, alongside leveraging the role of sustainable agriculture and diversified economic activities.

Launched in 1962, the EU's common agricultural policy (CAP) is funded from the EU budget with national co-financing from EU countries. The CAP is designed as a partnership between agriculture and society that seeks to ensure the stable supply of food, while safeguarding farmers' incomes and protecting the environment, rural landscapes and biodiversity.

The common agricultural policy 2023–27 entered into force on 1 January 2023. It has a budget of €269.5 billion for this 5-year period, split between the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). The former primarily provides income support for farmers, coupled with market measures to stabilise agricultural markets. The latter is focused on rural development, aiming to boost agricultural competitiveness, sustainability and rural community support.

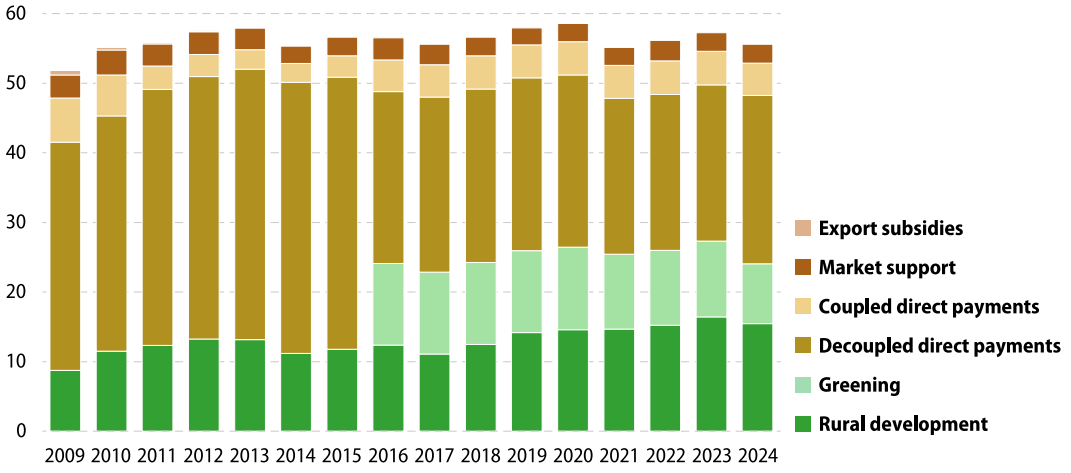
In 2024, CAP financing accounted for 23.3% of the EU's total expenditure. Direct payments (€28.8 billion) were the largest item, followed by rural development (€15.5 billion), greening (€8.6 billion) and market support (€2.7 billion).

During the period 2023–27, the CAP will provide increased funding for eco-schemes, climate-friendly farming practices and the preservation of biodiversity. Among other actions, it aims to redistribute income support in favour of smaller farms and younger farmers, while promoting gender equality. The CAP has been redesigned to give EU countries greater flexibility to redistribute funds according to local conditions by developing national strategic plans.

Complementing the CAP, EU trade reforms aim to strengthen the agri-food sector by ensuring fair competition, opening new markets and aligning with sustainability standards. These reforms help farmers and food producers adapt to global challenges while maintaining EU quality, safety and environmental rules, further supporting resilience and competitiveness in international trade.

Common agricultural policy expenditure

(€ billion, 2009–24)



Note: changing EU aggregate that reflects membership applicable for each reference year.

Source: Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development

The EU also intends to further promote sustainable public procurement, with the aim to reinforce CAP objectives by supporting regional economies and territorial resilience, short supply chains and local farmers. This primarily targets public institutions, including schools, hospitals and other catering services, ensuring that meals served use locally produced, high-quality food, thereby linking environmental sustainability with social and economic benefits.

Looking ahead, the CAP post-2027 is central to the European Commission's proposed Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2028–34. Building on the Vision for Agriculture and Food, it aims to make farming across the EU more competitive, sustainable, resilient and fair, while continuing to support environmental goals, rural development and generational renewal. These proposals are currently under review by the European Parliament and Council.

Data extraction and coverage

Data extraction

Most of the statistical data in this publication were extracted at the end of September 2025. Data on crops, agricultural output value and economic performance, as well as data on the processing of food and beverages and wholesale, retail and services provision of food and beverages (from structural business statistics) were extracted at the end of October 2024. Please note that Eurostat's online database may contain fresher data.

Spatial data coverage

This publication presents information for the EU (a sum/average covering the 27 current members of the EU, unless otherwise noted) as well as its individual countries and the 4 EFTA countries.

The countries in figures/charts are usually ranked according to the values for one of the indicators illustrated.

References in the publication to EU countries being in northern, eastern, southern or western Europe are based on groupings provided by EU vocabularies.

The map on the inside cover page shows EU and EFTA countries.

Country codes and names

BE Belgium
BG Bulgaria
CZ Czechia
DK Denmark
DE Germany
EE Estonia
IE Ireland
EL Greece
ES Spain
FR France
HR Croatia
IT Italy
CY Cyprus
LV Latvia
LT Lithuania
LU Luxembourg
HU Hungary
MT Malta
NL Netherlands
AT Austria
PL Poland
PT Portugal
RO Romania
SI Slovenia
SK Slovakia
FI Finland
SE Sweden

IS Iceland
LI Liechtenstein
NO Norway
CH Switzerland

Temporal data coverage

If data for a reference year (or reference period) are not available for a particular country, the authors completed the coverage using data for recent previous reference years (these exceptions are noted under each visualisation).

Economic activity coverage

The statistical classification of economic activities (NACE Rev. 2) is used in this publication. Since the reference data generally cover up to and including 2024, the NACE Rev. 2 classification is applied (not the newer NACE Rev. 2.1). The following terms related to economic activities are used.

- Agriculture, forestry and fishing – Section A
  - Agriculture (formally crop and animal production, hunting and related service activities) – Division 01
  - Fishing and aquaculture – Division 03
- Food and beverage processing
  - Manufacture of food products – Division 10
  - Manufacture of beverages – Division 11

- Wholesaling, retailing and serving of food and beverages
  - Food and beverage wholesaling (includes tobacco wholesaling)
    - Food and beverage wholesale agents – Class 46.17
    - Food and beverage wholesale resellers – Group 46.3
  - Food and beverage retailing (includes tobacco retailing)
    - Non-specialised in-store food and beverage retail – Class 47.11
    - Specialised in-store food and beverage retail – Group 47.2
    - Food and beverage retail via stalls and markets – Class 47.81
  - Food and beverage serving (covers restaurants, bars, cafés and other food and beverage outlets) – Division 56

Data for food and beverage processing are compared with the manufacturing total, which is defined in NACE as Section C. Data for the wholesaling, retailing and serving of food and beverages are compared with the total for market services, which is defined as NACE Sections G to N and P to R and Divisions 95 and 96.

For more information about the NACE Rev. 2 classification, please refer to Eurostat's dedicated section on NACE.

Notes and flags

Notes and flags are used to explain and/or define specific characteristics of data. In this publication, their use has been kept to a minimum to allow more space for presenting data. Only the most important notes are included – those needed to interpret the data or to indicate when data for one year have been replaced by another. Data missing from figures/charts may simply be not available or may be confidential. A complete set of notes and flags can be found on Eurostat's website via the online data code(s) provided for each figure/chart.

Accessing European statistics

The simplest way to access Eurostat's wide range of statistical information is through Eurostat's website. Users have free access to Eurostat's databases and publications. The website is updated daily and presents the latest and most comprehensive statistical information available on the EU as well as individual EU, EFTA and enlargement countries (for some datasets, information may be provided for a wider range of non-EU countries).

You can use the Eurostat online data codes, such as 'ef_lus_main', to find the most recent data. These online data codes are given as part of the source below each figure/chart.

Some of the indicators presented in this publication can be complex. The Statistics Explained website provides a comprehensive online glossary containing definitions of a broad range of statistical indicators, concepts and terms. Whenever a specialist term is used in the text, it's linked to its glossary definition.

Future release dates for statistical indicators and other products are available on Eurostat's release calendar.

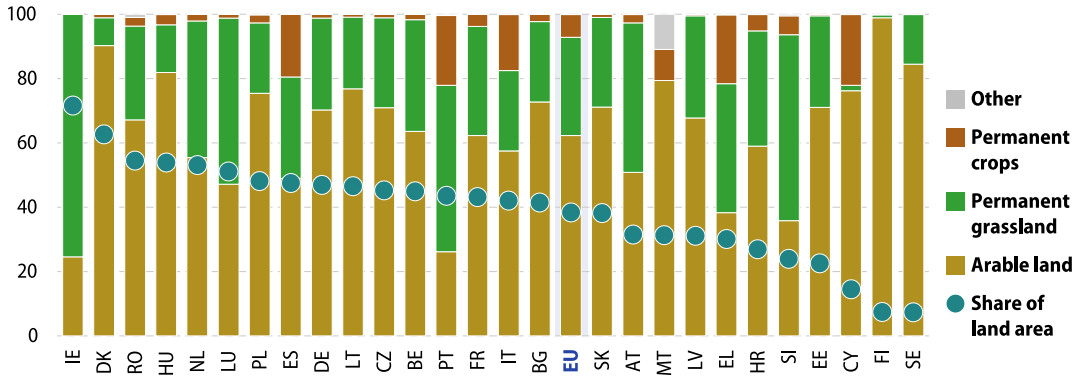
1

Production

Farms and farm labour force

Land used for agriculture as a share of land area and farm land use as a share of total utilised agricultural area

(%, 2020)



Source: Eurostat (online data codes: ef_fsi_lus and reg_area3)

The utilised agricultural area refers to the land used for agricultural production. It is somewhat smaller than the total farm area, which also includes wooded land or parts of the farm unsuitable for production, such as buildings, roads or water bodies.

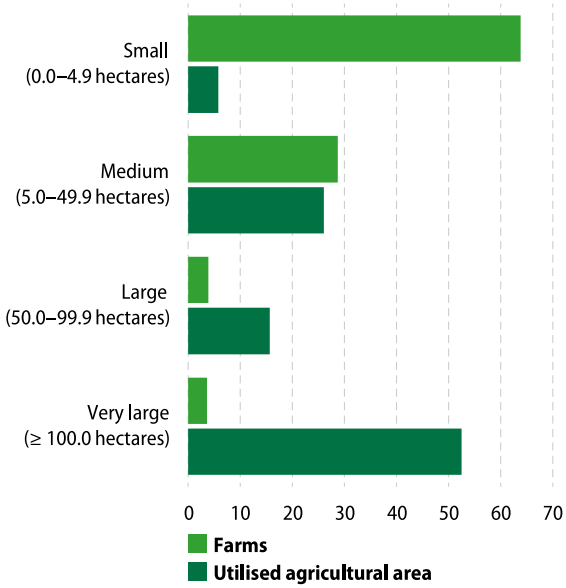
Farming mainly concerns growing crops and raising livestock, supplying essential primary ingredients for food and drink. Structural statistics on farms and farmland presented here come from the 2020 agricultural census, a comprehensive survey conducted every 10 years. Data from the 2023 farm structure survey are not yet available.

In 2020, the EU's utilised agricultural area covered 157.4 million hectares, or 38.4% of its total land area. The share of land used for agriculture varied widely across EU countries, from less than a tenth in Sweden and Finland to over half in Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Hungary, Romania and Denmark, peaking at 71.7% in Ireland. In absolute terms, the largest agricultural areas were in France (27.4 million hectares; 17.4% of the EU total) and Spain (23.9 million hectares; 15.2%).

Of this agricultural area in 2020, 62.3% was arable land, primarily used to grow crops for human and animal consumption, while 30.5% was permanent grassland, providing fodder and forage for livestock. Most of the remaining area was devoted to permanent crops (7.1%), such as fruit (including grapes) and olives.

Distribution of farms and farmland by farm size

(% share of total, EU, 2020)



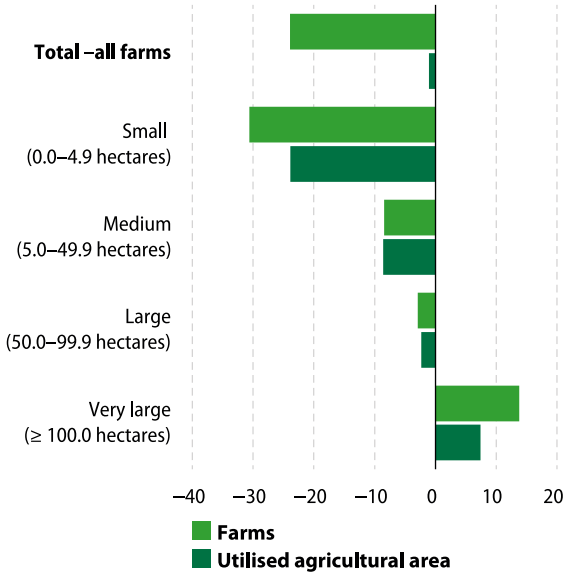
There were 9.1 million farms in the EU in 2020. Almost a third (31.8%) were located in Romania, while Poland (14.4%), Italy (12.5%) and Spain (10.1%) also recorded double-digit shares.

In 2020, the average (mean) farm size in the EU was 17.4 hectares. However, 63.8% of all farms were smaller than 5.0 hectares. By contrast, very large farms of at least 100.0 hectares represented 3.6% of the total, while cultivating just over half (52.5%) of the EU's agricultural land. This highlights an EU agricultural sector with many small, semi-subsistence farms and relatively few large ones.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: ef_fsi_farms and ef_fsi_physz)

Overall change in farms and farmland by farm size

(%, EU, 2010–20)



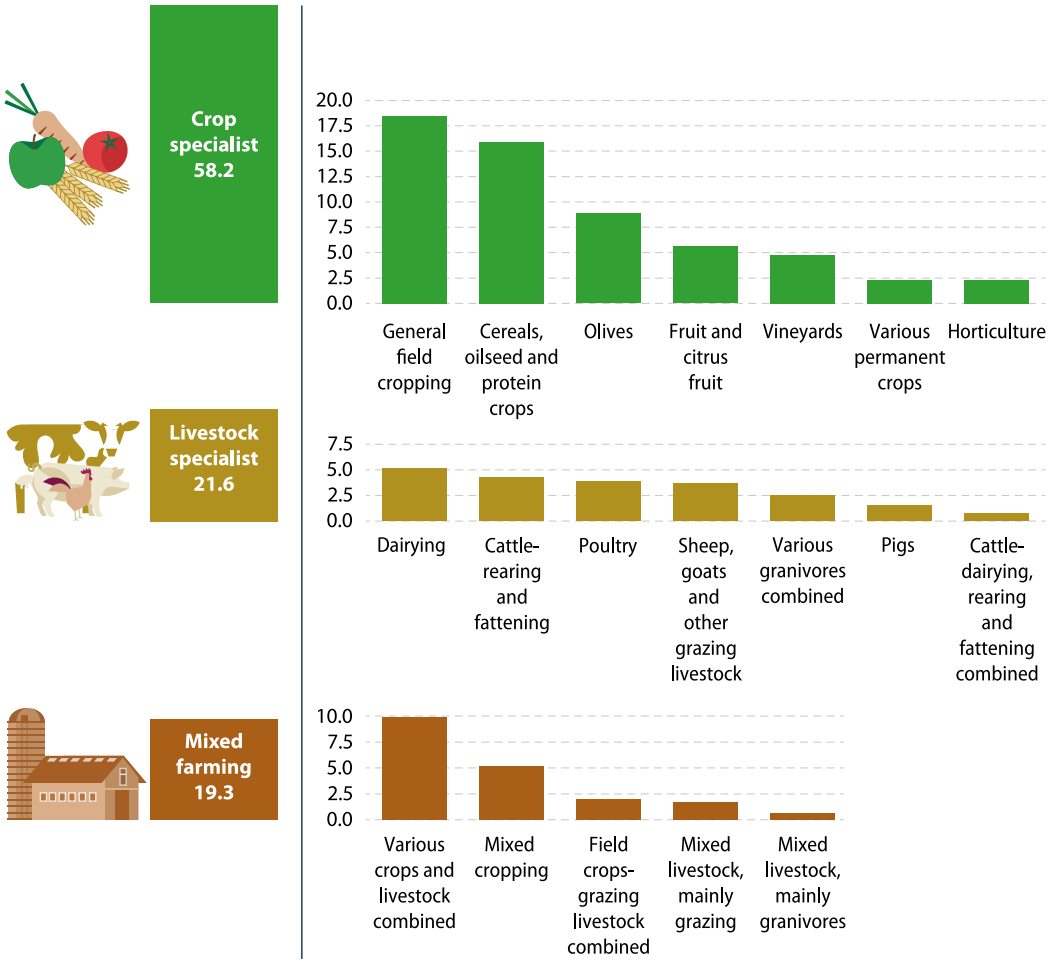
There were 3.0 million fewer farms across the EU in 2020 than in 2010, equivalent to a decrease of 24.8% (1). Most of this decline came from small farms of less than 5.0 hectares, their number falling by 2.7 million (down 31.7%). On the other hand, the number of very large farms increased by around 41 000 (up 14.3%). The process of farm buyouts from mergers and acquisitions resulted in the total area under agricultural production remaining relatively unchanged, falling by only 1.1%.

(1) Some of this observed change may reflect methodological differences in the statistics for 2010 and 2020 (in particular, changes in survey thresholds).

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: ef_fsi_farms and ef_fsi_physz)

Farm specialisations

(% share of all farms, EU, 2020)



Note: 0.8% of farms could not be classified as specialist holdings. The shares do not sum to 100.0% due to rounding.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: ef_fsi_ecsz)

In 2020, 58.2% of EU farms were classified as specialist crop farms. Just over a third of EU farms specialised in field crops (general field cropping, cereals, oilseed and protein crops), while slightly more than one fifth specialised in permanent crops (olives, fruits and citrus fruit, vineyards and various other permanent crops). A smaller share (2.3%) were specialised in horticulture.

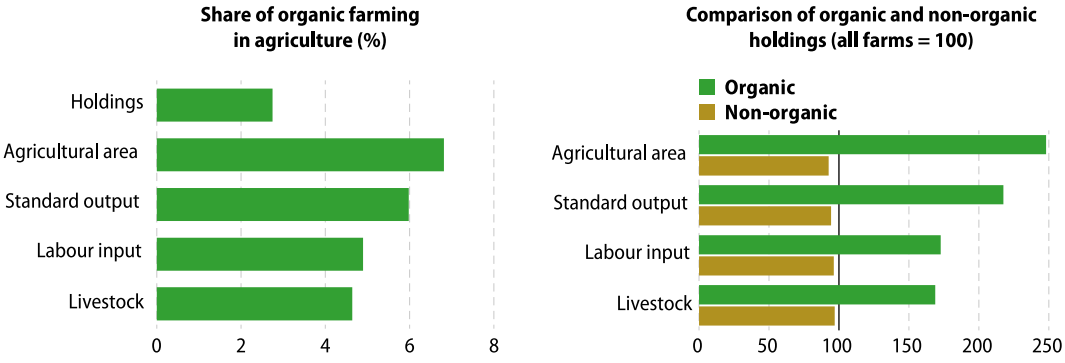
Specialist livestock farms accounted for 21.6% of EU farms in 2020. Dairying was the most common livestock specialisation (5.1% of all farms), followed by cattle-rearing and fattening (4.3%), poultry (3.9%) and sheep, goats and other grazing livestock (3.6%).

Mixed farms – which either produce crops and raise livestock, or include multiple crop or livestock types – accounted for 19.3% of EU farms in 2020.

More information: farms and farmland.

Relative importance of organic farming

(EU, 2020)



Note: organic farming includes fully converted areas and areas under conversion. Labour input: estimate made for the purpose of this publication (excluding Spain, Lithuania and Slovenia).

Source: Eurostat (online data code: ef_m_org)

Organic farming is a method that relies on natural substances and processes, aiming to be more sustainable than conventional farming. As part of its action plan for organic production, the EU aims to have at least 25% of its agricultural land under organic farming by 2030.

Organic farms are, on average, larger than non-organic farms. In 2020, they accounted for 6.8% of the EU's utilised agricultural area, while representing 6.0% of standard output, 4.9% of labour input, 4.6% of livestock and a considerably lower share of agricultural holdings (2.7%).

In 2020, organic farms in the EU averaged 42.4 hectares, larger than non-organic farms with 15.9 hectares. They had a higher level of standard output (€86 400 compared with €37 500 for non-organic farms), more livestock (21.7 livestock units (LSUs) compared with 12.5) and greater labour input (1.5 annual work units (AWUs) compared with 0.8).

Organic area

(% share of total utilised agricultural area, 2013 and 2023)

Note: includes fully converted areas and areas under conversion. EU: 2023; estimate made for the purpose of this publication (based on latest data available for each EU country, excluding EL for which data are under validation).

AT (estimate made for the purpose of this publication) and NO: 2022 instead of 2023. IS: 2020 instead of 2023.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: org_cropar)

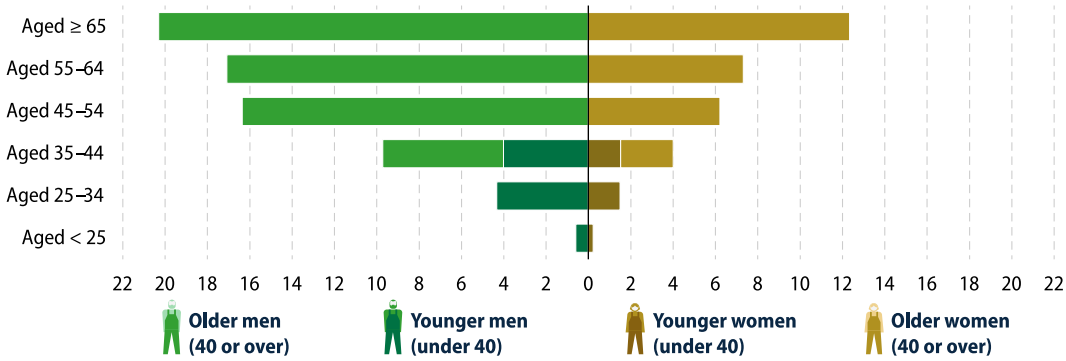
By 2023, EU land farmed organically represented an estimated 10.8% of the total utilised agricultural area.

Between 2013 and 2023, the organic area of 26 EU countries (excluding Greece, for which data are under validation) expanded by 7.6 million hectares (an increase of 84%), almost doubling its share of the utilised agricultural area.

More information: organic farming statistics.

Age and sex of farm managers

(% share of all farm managers, EU, 2020)



Note: one person per farm is identified as the farm manager.

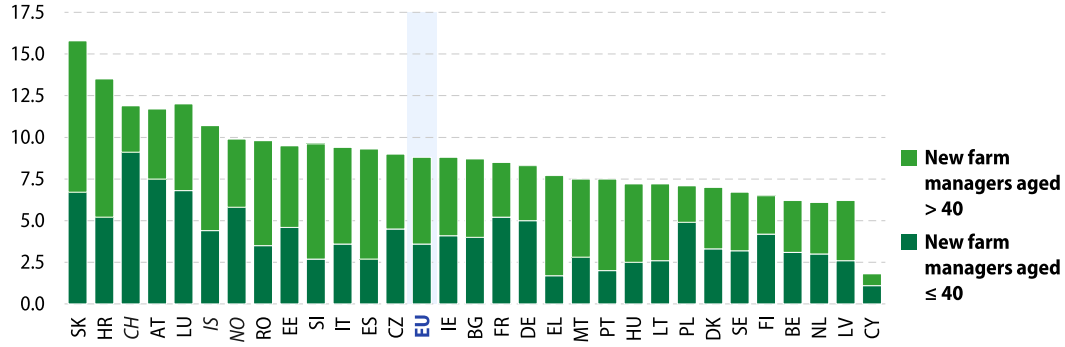
Source: Eurostat (online data code: ef_fsi_agesex)

In 2020, 32.6% of farm managers across the EU were aged 65 or over; they typically worked on small or semi-subsistence farms. By contrast, only 12.2% of farm managers were younger than 40.

Men accounted for 62.2% of all farm managers aged 65 or over. Their share was considerably higher among farm managers under the age of 40, at 73.5%.

New farm managers, by age

(% of all farm managers, 2020)



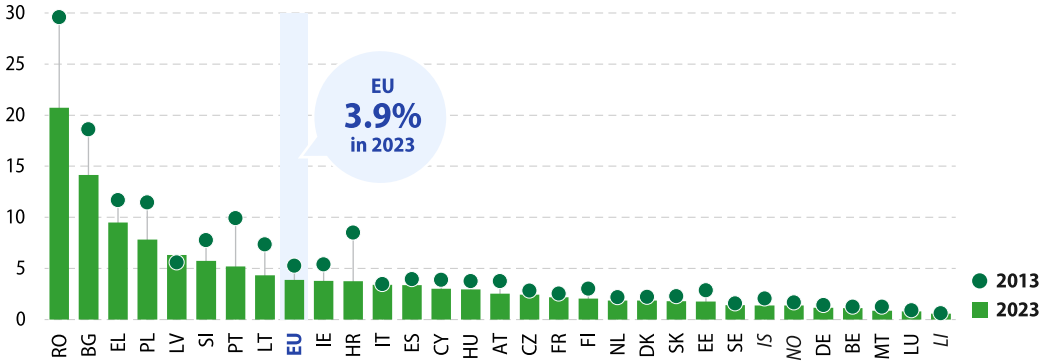
Source: Eurostat (online data code: ef_fsi_nfm)

In 2020, new farm managers (those who became managers within the preceding 3 years) accounted for 8.8% of the 9.1 million farms across the EU; most (58.9%) were aged over 40. In Greece, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain, more than 70% of all new farm managers were over 40, while in 9 EU countries, a majority of new farm managers were aged 40 or younger, notably in Poland, Finland and Austria.

More information:
farm managers and the agricultural labour force.

Employment in agriculture, hunting and related service activities

(% share of total employment, 2013 and 2023)



Note: LI and NO, 2022 instead of 2023.

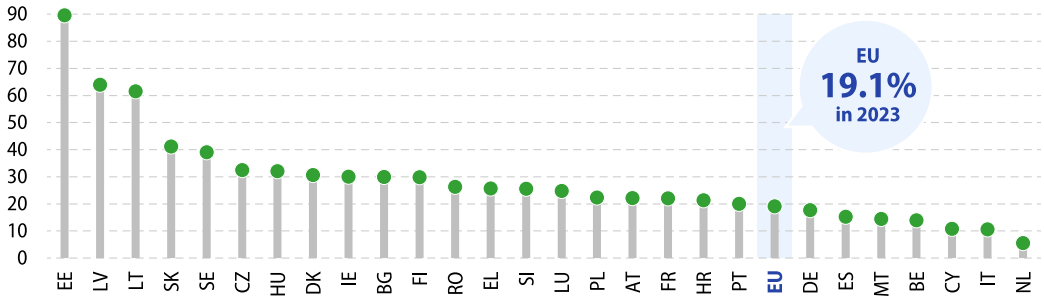
Source: Eurostat (online data code: nama_10_a64_e)

In 2023, there were 8.4 million people employed ([2]) in the EU's agricultural sector (including hunting and related service activities). As the number of farms declined, agricultural employment fell, with its share of the EU workforce dropping from 5.2% in 2013 to 3.9% a decade later. These developments are often driven by labour-saving technologies, such as mechanisation, automation and other innovations. They are transforming agriculture and shaping both economic incentives and people's choices to work in the sector. Between 2013 and 2023, agriculture's share of total employment fell in every EU country, with the largest decrease in Romania (down 8.9 percentage points from a high of 29.6%).

([2]) Note that a simple count of employed people does not take account of the extent of part-time work in different economic activities. Furthermore, employment data cover employees and self-employed people, but exclude many part-time farmers and help from family members.

Share of direct support in agricultural factor income

(%, 2023)

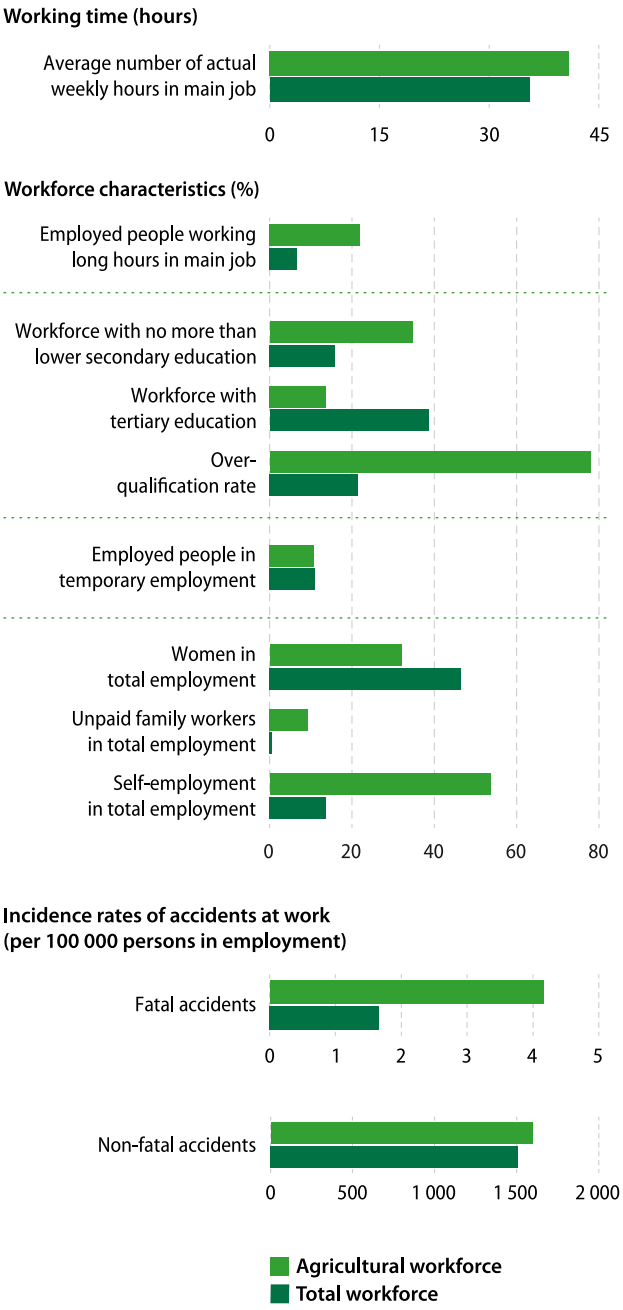


Source: Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development

In 2023, direct support accounted for 19.1% of agricultural factor income across the EU. In the Baltic EU countries of Estonia (89.5%), Latvia (63.9%) and Lithuania (61.4%), farmers relied heavily on direct payments to support their income. At the other end of the spectrum, the Netherlands (5.5%), Italy (10.5%) and Cyprus (10.7%) had much lower shares, indicating that most of their farm income came from agricultural production. This wide variation between EU countries highlights, among other things, differences in farm size and structure, the intensity with which land, labour and capital are used in agricultural production, climatic and soil conditions, as well as the role of policy support in stabilising incomes, supporting rural livelihoods and encouraging environmental protection.

Agricultural workforce

(EU, 2024)



Note: data cover all people aged 15 years and over in employment. Over-qualification rate: number of people employed whose highest level of educational attainment is higher than the level required by their job, expressed as a share of all employed people. Accidents: 2022.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: lfsa_ewhan2, lfsa_qoe_3a2, lfsa_egised, lfsa_eoqgan2, lfsa_etgan2, lfsa_egan22d, lfsa_egaps, lfsa_esgan2, hsw_n2_02 and hsw_n2_01) and special data extractions

The EU's agricultural workforce differs from the overall workforce in several ways. In 2024, average working hours in agriculture were higher, at 40.6 hours per week, compared with 35.5 hours for the whole economy. Long working hours (49 or more per week) were also more common, affecting 22.0% of agricultural workers, compared with 6.5% across all sectors.

Education levels also differed markedly. In 2024, 34.7% of the EU's agricultural workforce had a low level of educational attainment (no more than lower secondary), more than double the economy-wide average of 15.9%. By contrast, 13.8% of agricultural workers had a tertiary education, compared with 38.6% across all sectors. The over-qualification rate – tertiary employed people working in low- or medium-skilled occupations – was 77.9% in agriculture, over 3 times as high as the economy-wide average of 21.5%.

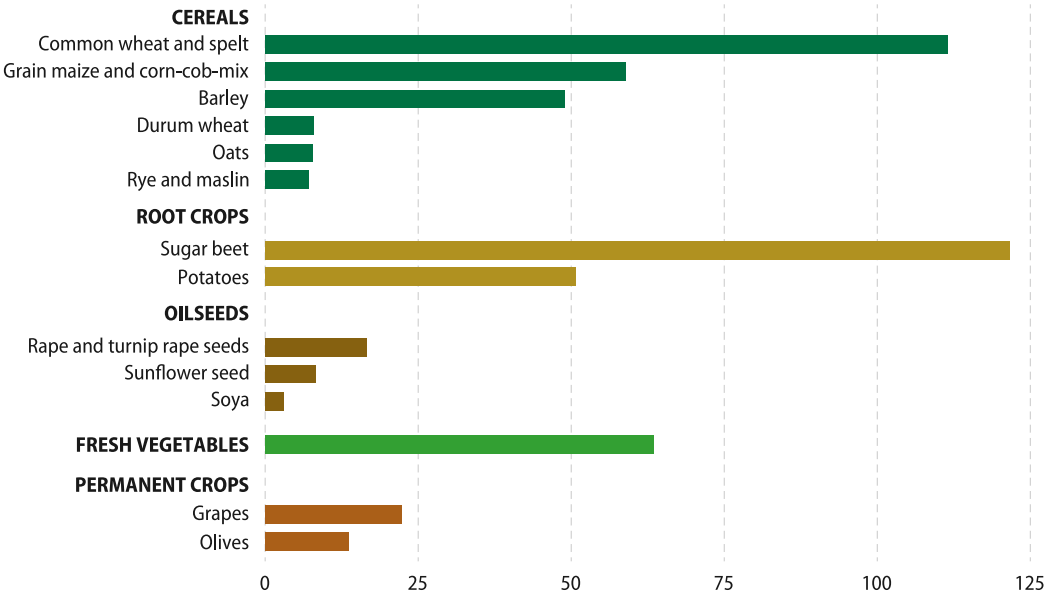
Employment status also sets agriculture apart: in 2024, 53.7% of the agricultural workforce were self-employed, compared with 13.7% across all sectors. Unpaid family work was also much more prevalent: 9.4% of the EU's agricultural workforce were unpaid family workers, compared with 0.6% for the whole economy.

Agricultural work also carries greater health risks, including physical hazards, working with machinery, chemical exposure, long working hours and isolation. In 2022, there were 4.2 fatal accidents per 100 000 people employed in the EU's agricultural workforce, which was 2.5 times as high as the economy-wide average (1.7 fatal accidents).

Agricultural products

Production of selected crops

(million tonnes, EU, 2024)



Note: main crop groups (CEREALS, ROOT CROPS and so on) are indicated in capital letters, while crop types (Common wheat and spelt, Grain maize and corn-cob-mix, and so on) are presented in lower case. Data are shown for selected crops; the list is not exhaustive. Fresh vegetables also include melons and strawberries. Sugar beet and olives: 2023.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: apro_cpsh1)

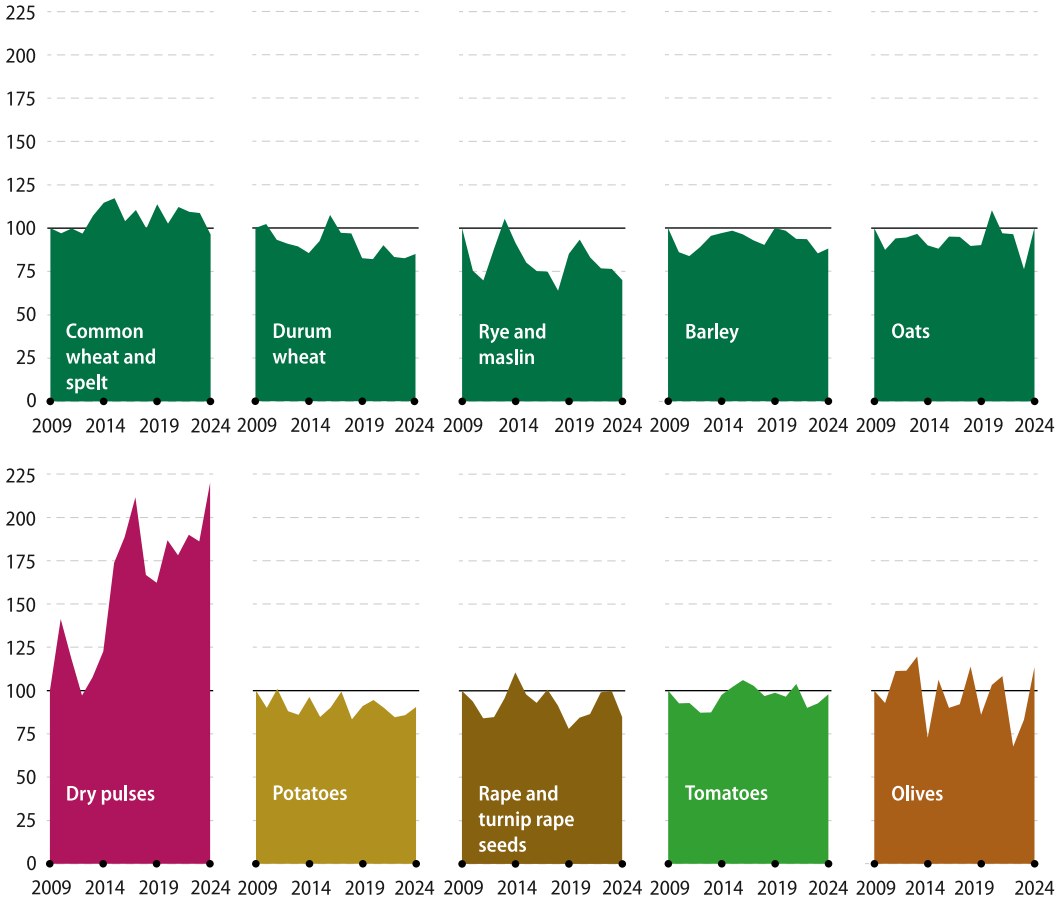
The EU's Vision for Agriculture and Food aims to build a more sustainable and resilient food system, helping consumers feel closer to the food they eat by choosing sustainably sourced products or animal welfare friendly products. Farmers are supported to make this transition through financial incentives for eco-friendly practices, improved market access for certified organic products, advisory services on crop diversification and soil health, and stronger community ties via local producer networks or cooperative.

Crop production is affected by weather throughout the growing season and at harvest, as well as by factors such as soil quality, nutrient availability and pests, all of which can affect yields and quality. In 2024, extreme weather conditions posed major challenges for EU farmers: central and south-eastern Europe experienced prolonged droughts, while western and northern regions, as well as much of the Iberian Peninsula, experienced heavy summer rainfall. Lower yields and a reduced cereal-growing area (–2.9%) contributed to a 5.1% decline in EU cereal production. The 257.7 million tonnes harvested was 50.2 million tonnes less than the record harvest of 2014.

In 2024, some of the EU's main crops included sugar beet (121.6 million tonnes of harvested production), common wheat and spelt (111.6 million tonnes), fresh vegetables (including melons and strawberries; 63.5 million tonnes), grain maize and corn-cob mix (58.9 million tonnes), potatoes (50.8 million tonnes) and barley (49.0 million tonnes).

Developments of crop production

(2009 = 100 based on tonnes, EU, 2009–24)



Note: estimates made for the purpose of this publication. Data are shown for selected crops that have a relatively complete time series for the EU.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: apro_cpsh1)

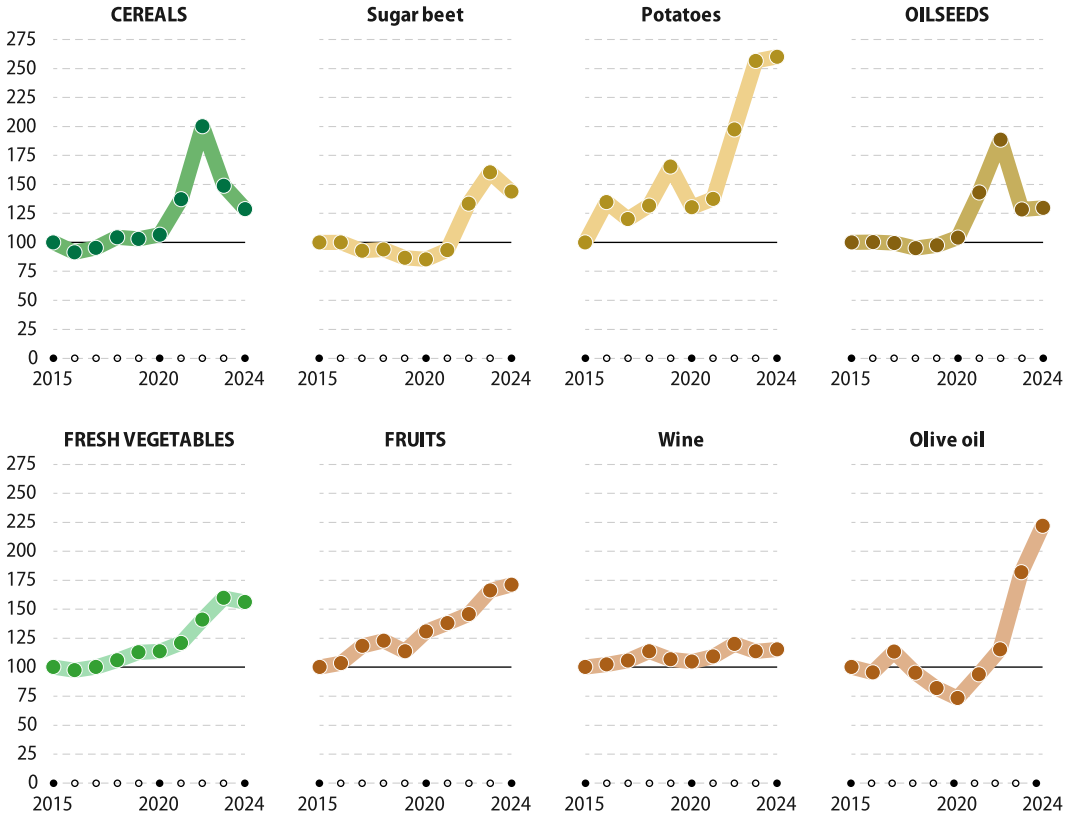
When choosing annual crops to sow, farmers weigh agronomic factors (such as crop rotations and soil conditions), labour and machinery availability, input costs (such as seed and fertiliser prices), expected market returns and policy incentives or restrictions. These choices shape crop production from year to year.

Such decision-making is less relevant for farmers with permanent crops like olives, apples and grapes. However, their output can still fluctuate – not only because of weather variations or disease, but also because some trees, including olives and certain fruits, follow an alternate bearing cycle, meaning that they produce a significant crop one year and a smaller crop or no crop the following year.

From 2009 to 2024, annual crop production fluctuated considerably, with many crops recording an overall decline in output. Alongside changing weather, these fluctuations often reflected reduced cultivated areas – for example, the area for EU cereals fell 12.4% – while apparent yields generally rose. The largest falls in EU production were recorded for rye and maslin, durum wheat, and rape and turnip rape seeds. By contrast, dry pulse production more than doubled. Olive production also increased, up 13.6% from 2009 to 2024, with a particularly sharp rise (36.5%) between 2023 and 2024. Oats were the only other crop (among those shown) to record a positive trend, with production rising by 0.3% compared with 2009.

Developments of output price indices for crop products

(2015 = 100, EU, 2015–24)



Note: main crop groups are indicated in capital letters, while crop types are presented in lower case. 2021-24, estimates made for the purpose of this publication based on indices initially compiled with 2020 = 100.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: apri_pi15_outa and apri_pi20_outa)

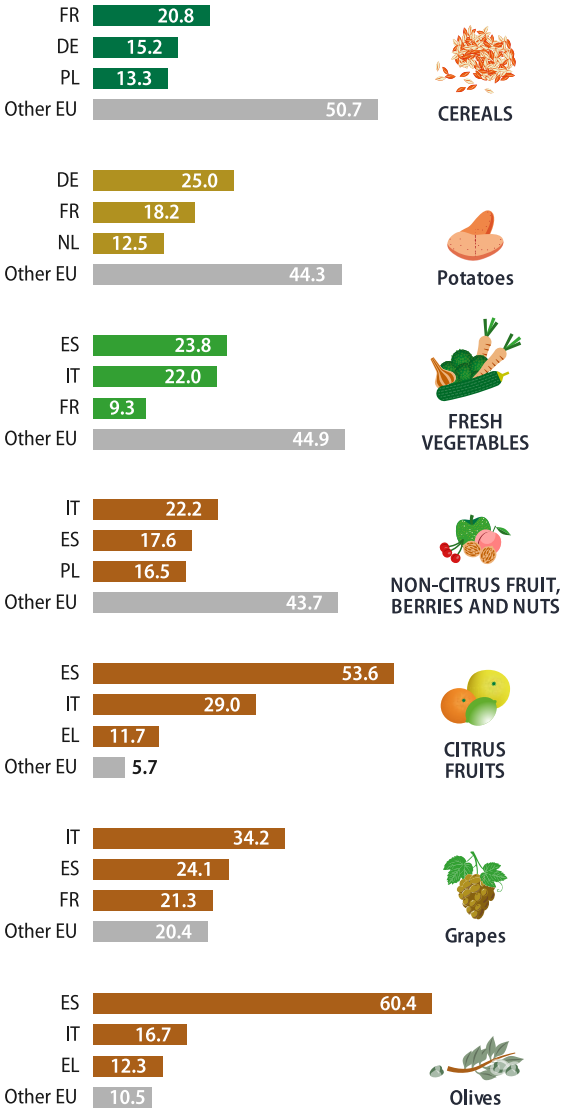
Weather and growing conditions play a key role in determining the quantity and quality of harvested production; these factors often affect agricultural prices as markets try to balance supply and demand. In 2022, output (or producer) prices for most crops in the EU rose quickly. Poor growing conditions contributed, but prices also rose due to higher input costs for fertilisers and energy, and global trade disruptions, both linked to the impact of Russia's war of aggression on Ukraine. Although this upward trend in prices continued for many major crops through 2023, price growth generally slowed or turned negative in 2024.

The largest price falls across the EU were for cereals: their prices peaked in 2022, then fell 25.6% in 2023 and by a further 13.5% in 2024. For fruits, wine, potatoes, and oilseeds and oleaginous fruits, output price increases were relatively modest in 2024, not exceeding 3.0%. By contrast, olive oil output prices rose 22.1% in 2024, after surging by 57.8% in 2023.

Despite these changes, all the crops presented had higher output prices in 2024 than in 2015. The largest overall increases were for potatoes (up 160.2%) and olive oil (up 122.0%).

Share of EU production of various crops

(% based on tonnes, 2024)



Note: main crop groups are indicated in capital letters, while crop types are presented in lower case. Estimates made for the purpose of this publication. Due to rounding, not all shares sum to 100.0%.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: apro_cpsh1)

In 2024, the EU harvested 49.5 million hectares (495 000 km^2) of cereals, producing 257.7 million tonnes. France accounted for 20.8% of the EU's cereals production.

Potatoes were grown on 1.4 million hectares across the EU in 2024, with a harvested production of 50.8 million tonnes. Germany was the main producer (25.0% of the EU total).

Fresh vegetables were cultivated on 2.0 million hectares across the EU in 2024, with a harvested production of 63.5 million tonnes. Spain (23.8% of the EU total) was the leading producer.

The EU harvested 24.5 million tonnes of fruit, berries and nuts (excluding citrus fruit, grapes and strawberries) in 2024. Italy was the main producer (22.2% of the EU total).

The harvested production of citrus fruit in the EU was 10.7 million tonnes in 2024, with Spain producing more than half (53.6%) of the total.

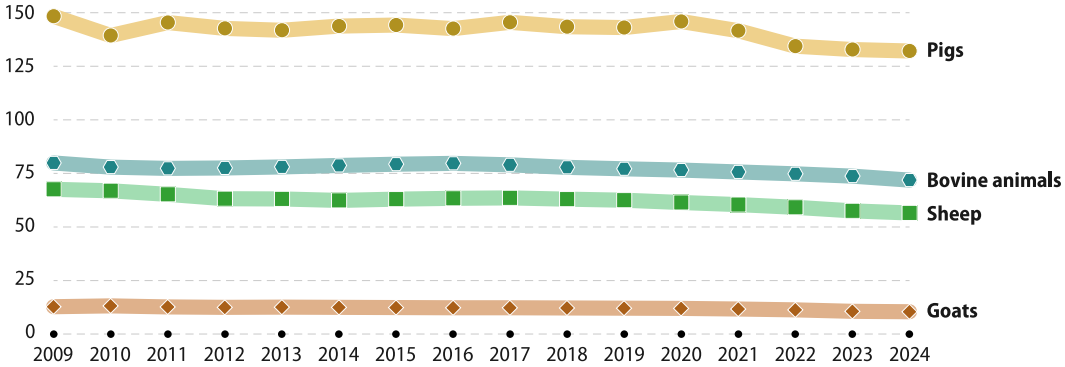
Grape production in the EU amounted to 22.3 million tonnes in 2024, with Italy accounting for 34.2% of the EU total.

The EU's harvested production of olives was 13.8 million tonnes in 2024, with Spain producing the largest share at 60.4%.

More information: crop statistics.

Developments of livestock populations

(million head of animals, EU, 2009–24)



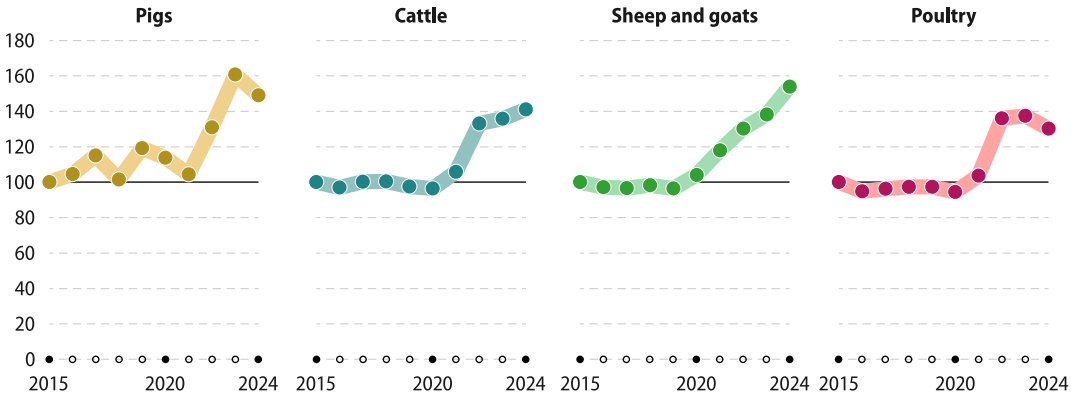
Source: Eurostat (online data codes: apro_mt_lspig, apro_mt_lscatl, apro_mt_lssheep and apro_mt_lsgoat)

The EU has a sizeable livestock population. At the end of 2024, there were 132 million head of pigs, 72 million head of bovine animals (such as cattle or buffalo), and 67 million head of sheep and goats on EU farms.

Between 2009 and 2024, livestock numbers in the EU declined. The total number of pigs, bovine animals, sheep and goats fell 12.2%, from 309 million to 271 million. The goat population declined mostly sharply (down 18.1%), while bovine animal numbers declined least rapidly (down 10.0%).

Developments of output price indices for animals

(2015 = 100, EU, 2015–24)



Note: 2021-24, estimates made for the purpose of this publication based on indices initially compiled with 2020 = 100.

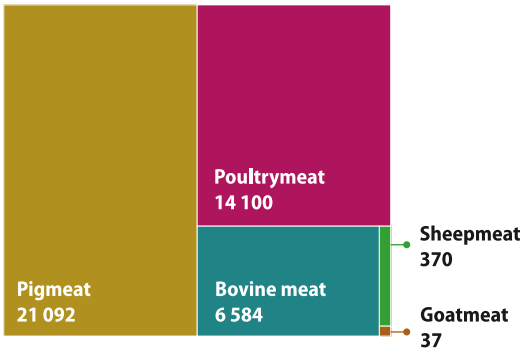
Source: Eurostat (online data codes: apri_pi15_outa and apri_pi20_outa)

Prices for live pigs were more cyclical and volatile than for other livestock. This volatility intensified after 2020, with rises of 25.3% in 2022 and 22.8% in 2023, separated by declines in 2021 (-8.3%) and 2024 (-7.4%). Cattle and poultry prices rose strongly in 2021 and especially 2022, but growth slowed or turned negative thereafter. By contrast, output prices for sheep and goats rose at a relatively rapid and regular pace between 2020 and 2024.

In 2024, annual price developments were 11.4% for sheep and goats, 3.9% for cattle, with falling prices for poultry (down 5.3%) and for pigs (down 7.4%).

Meat production

(1 000 tonnes, EU, 2024)



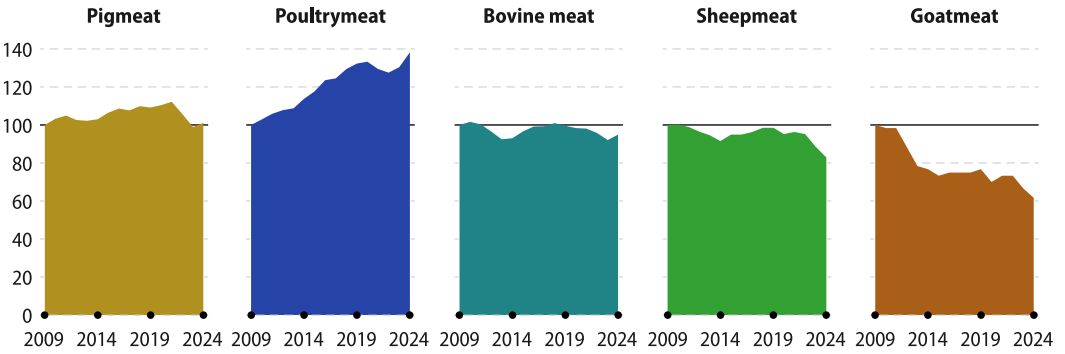
Note: estimates made for the purpose of this publication.
Source: Eurostat (online data code: apro_mt_pann)

Better animal welfare and health are central to the EU's vision for sustainable agriculture, supporting higher-quality food and more responsible farming practices. Among other actions, the European Commission plans to revise legislation on animal slaughter, phase out the use of cages for animals, and strengthen the alignment of welfare standards for imported animals and food.

In 2024, EU pigmeat production was 21.1 million tonnes, accounting for half of all meat production. Poultrymeat production totalled 14.1 million tonnes, more than twice the quantity of bovine meat (6.6 million tonnes), while sheepmeat and goatmeat production remained much smaller.

Developments of the quantity of meat production

(2009 = 100 based on tonnes, EU, 2009–24)



Note: estimates made for the purpose of this publication.
Source: Eurostat (online data code: apro_mt_pann)

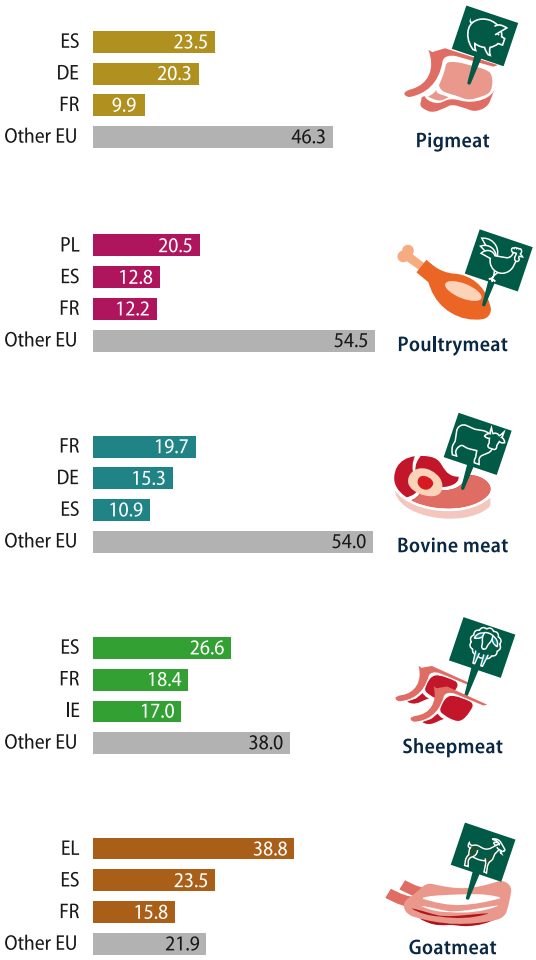
EU pigmeat production grew relatively steadily between 2009 and 2021 (up 12.2% overall), despite fewer pigs. Production subsequently fell 5.7% in 2022 and by a further 6.5% in 2023, before partially rebounding in 2024 (up 2.2%). EU pigmeat production in 2024 remained 2.3 million tonnes below the peak level of 2021.

Between 2009 and 2020, EU poultrymeat production increased rapidly and relatively uniformly, rising overall by an estimated 33.3%. After downturns in 2021 (a reduction of 2.9%) and 2022 (a reduction of 1.5%), the upward trend in production resumed in 2023 (up 2.3%) and then accelerated in 2024 (up 6.0%).

Bovine meat, sheepmeat and goatmeat production in the EU generally declined between 2009 and 2024. Over this period, bovine meat production fell by 5.1%, whereas production of sheepmeat and goatmeat declined more markedly, by 17.2% and 38.3%, respectively.

Share of EU meat production

(% based on tonnes, 2024)



Note: estimates made for the purpose of this publication.
Due to rounding, not all shares sum to 100.0%.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: apro_mt_pann)

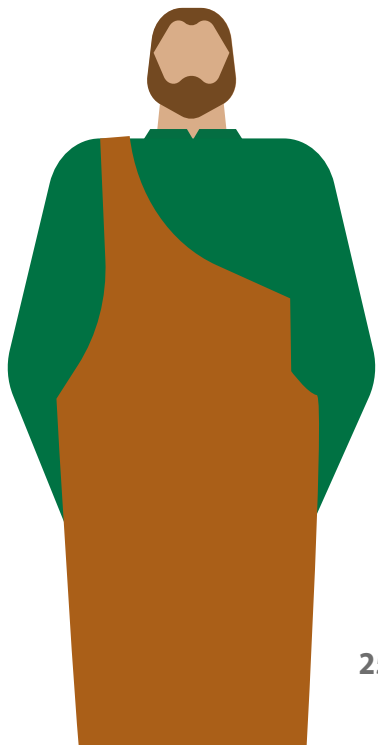
In 2024, Spain produced 5.0 million tonnes of pigmeat, accounting for 23.5% of the EU total, while Germany contributed a slightly smaller share (20.3%). All of the other EU countries had single-digit shares, with France providing the next highest contribution (9.9%).

Poland recorded the highest level of poultrymeat production in 2024 (2.9 million tonnes, 20.5% of the EU total). There were 3 other EU countries with double digit shares: Spain (12.8%), France (12.2%) and Germany (10.9%).

France produced 1.3 million tonnes of bovine meat in 2024, accounting for 19.7% of the EU total, while Germany (15.3%), Spain (10.9%), Italy (10.0%), Poland (9.7%) and Ireland (9.2%) also had relatively high shares.

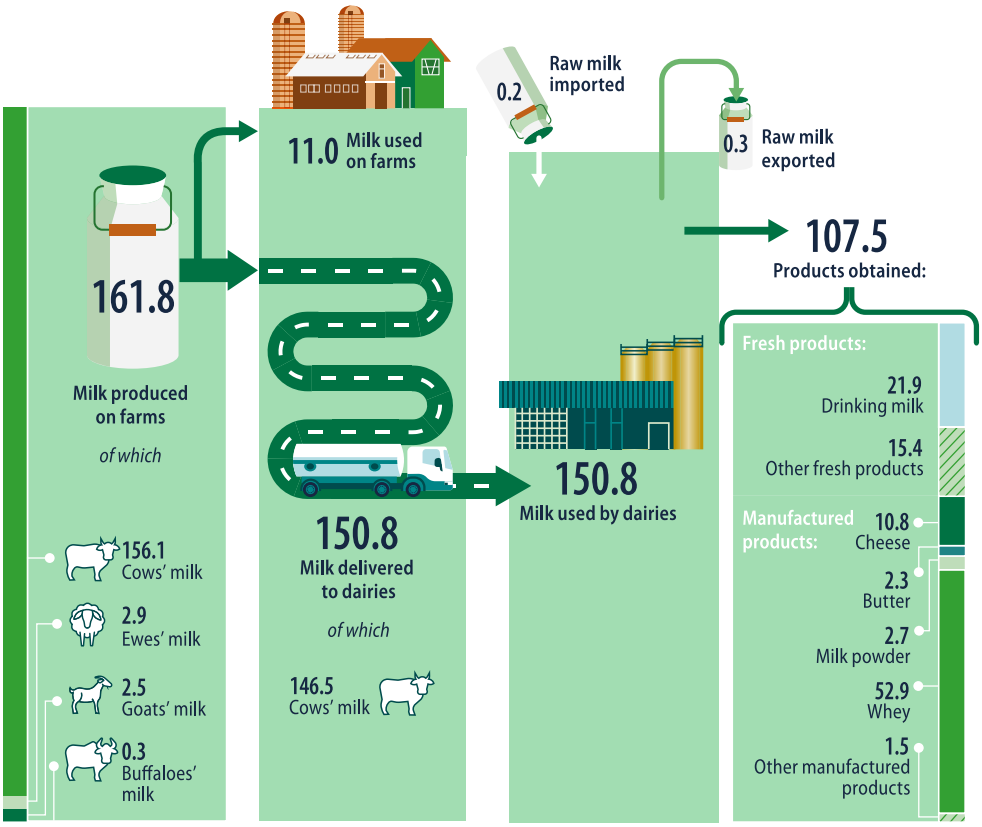
Spain had the largest share of the EU's sheepmeat production in 2024 (98 500 tonnes, 26.6% of the EU total), followed by France (18.4%), Ireland (17.0%) and Greece (11.5%).

More information: livestock and meat statistics.



Production and use of milk

(million tonnes, EU, 2024)



Note: estimates made for the purpose of this publication. Due to rounding, not all components sum to their total. Milk used on farms: in whole milk equivalent. Butter: includes other yellow fat dairy products; expressed in butter equivalent. Whey: in liquid whey equivalent.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: apro_mk_pobta and apro_mk_farm)

In 2024, raw milk production on EU farms was an estimated 161.8 million tonnes, a modest increase of 1.0 million tonnes (or 0.6%) compared with the previous year. The vast majority of raw milk production is delivered to dairies; farms used 11.0 million tonnes for family consumption, direct sales to consumers, animal feed or on-farm processing. Of the 150.8 million tonnes of milk delivered to dairies, 146.5 million tonnes came from cows, with the rest from other livestock such as ewes (sheep), goats and buffaloes.

Share of EU dairy products

(% based on tonnes, 2024)

Note: estimates made for the purpose of this publication. Some shares do not sum to 100% due to rounding.

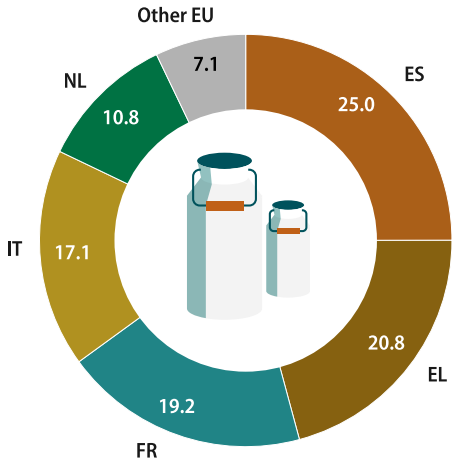
Source: Eurostat (online data code: apro_mk_pobta)

Some of the main dairy products produced in the EU include drinking milk, whey (a by-product of cheese production that is widely used in animal feed), butter and cheese. Germany was the leading producer across the EU for all these products in 2024, with 14.4 million tonnes of whey (about 27% of the EU total), 4.1 million tonnes of drinking milk (19%), 2.4 million tonnes of cheese (23%) and 401 000 tonnes of butter (21%).

Other major cheese-producing countries in the EU included France (1.9 million tonnes in 2024, about 18% of the EU total), Italy (1.4 million tonnes; 13%), Poland and the Netherlands (each 1.0 million tonnes; 9%). The Netherlands and Poland had the second and third highest levels of whey production, with an estimated 8.9 million tonnes and 5.5 million tonnes, respectively. France and Ireland were the second and third largest butter producers in the EU, with 348 000 and 268 000 tonnes, respectively.

Share of EU milk from animals other than cows

(% based on tonnes of deliveries to dairies, 2024)



Note: estimates made for the purpose of this publication.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: apro_mk_pobta)

In some EU countries, livestock other than cows make a substantial contribution to overall milk production; this is particularly the case in arid regions of the Mediterranean basin. In 2024, Spain, Greece, France and Italy collectively accounted for more than 80% of the non-cows' milk delivered to EU dairies.

Greece delivered 731 000 tonnes of ewes' milk to dairies in 2024 (about 33% of the EU total), with Spain also recording a relatively high level (622 000 tonnes; 28%).

The main producers of goats' milk were France (522 000 tonnes in 2024; about 29% of the EU total), the Netherlands (459 000 tonnes; 26%) and Spain (442 000 tonnes; 25%).

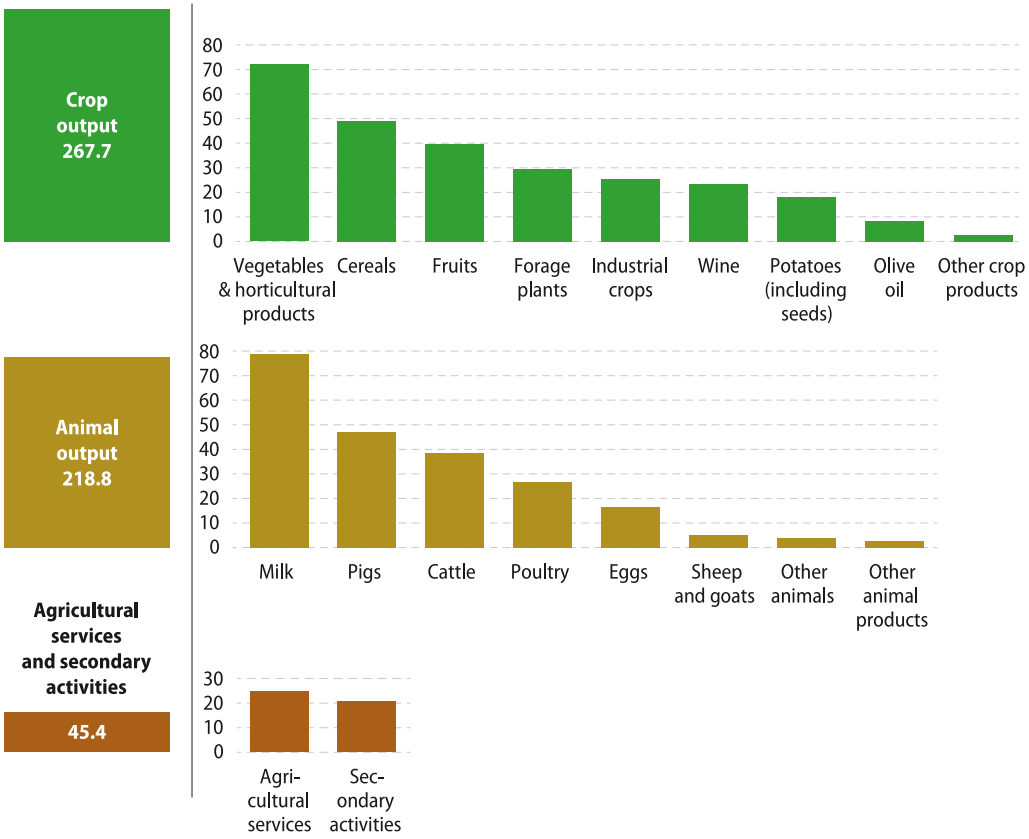
In Italy, some 233 000 tonnes of milk delivered to dairies in 2024 came from buffaloes; this was approximately 98% of the EU total and was mainly used for making cheese.

More information: milk and milk product statistics.

Agricultutral output value and economic performance

Distribution of gross output for the agricultural industry

(€ billion, values at basic prices, EU, 2024)



Note: gross output is the production value.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: aact_eaa01)

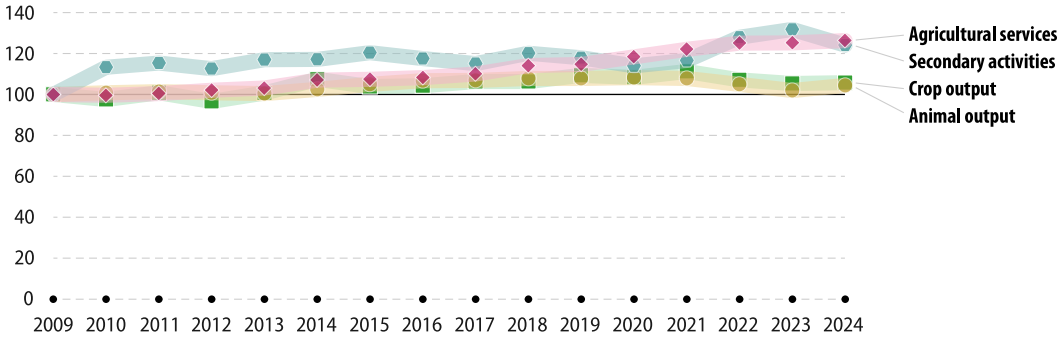
The term agricultural industry refers to all farms involved in agricultural production, producer groups (co-operatives) that make wine and olive oil, as well as specialised agricultural contractors.

Among its objectives, the EU's Vision for Agriculture and Food seeks to secure fairer economic returns for farmers and strengthen the competitiveness of agriculture. Gross output of the EU's agricultural industry was valued at €531.9 billion in 2024, comprising crop output (€267.7 billion; 50.3% of the total), animal output (€218.8 billion; 41.1%), agricultural services (€24.8 billion; 4.7%), and inseparable non-agricultural goods and services (€20.6 billion; 3.9%).

In 2024, the EU's largest categories of agricultural output were milk (€78.6 billion; 14.8%), vegetables and horticultural products (€72.0 billion; 13.5%), cereals (€48.9 billion; 9.2%), pigs (€46.8 billion; 8.8%), fruits (€39.5 billion; 7.4%) and cattle (€38.4 billion; 7.2%).

Developments of gross output for the agricultural industry

(2009 = 100, volume index of values at basic prices, EU, 2009–24)



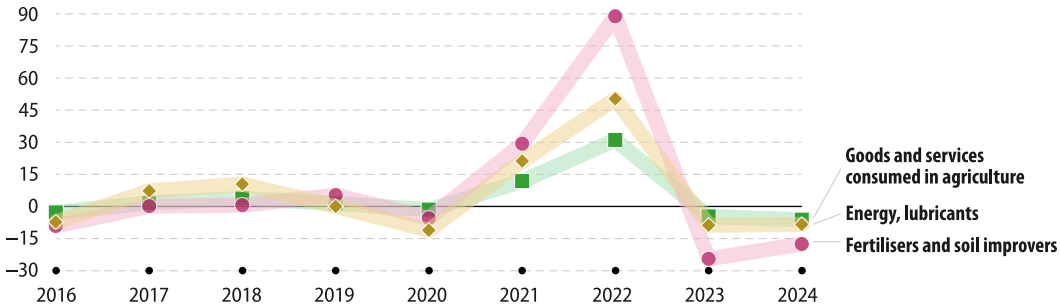
Source: Eurostat (online data code: aact_eaa05)

Changes in volume indices of output reflect a change in the value of output after removing the effects of output price changes (inflation or deflation); this is broadly synonymous with a change in constant prices.

With an overall increase of 64.3% in the value of output and a slightly lower increase (53.6%) in output prices of agricultural goods and services, the volume index of output for the EU's agricultural industry rose 6.9% between 2009 and 2024. Within the EU, the volume index for animal output rose 2.4% between 2023 and 2024, while the output of agricultural services increased 0.9% and crop output by 0.4%. By contrast, the output of secondary activities – other economic activities generating income but ancillary to the farm's main production – fell 5.8%.

Annual rate of change of input price indices for the agricultural industry

(%, EU, 2016–24)



Note: 2021-24, estimates made for the purpose of this publication based on indices initially compiled with 2020 = 100.

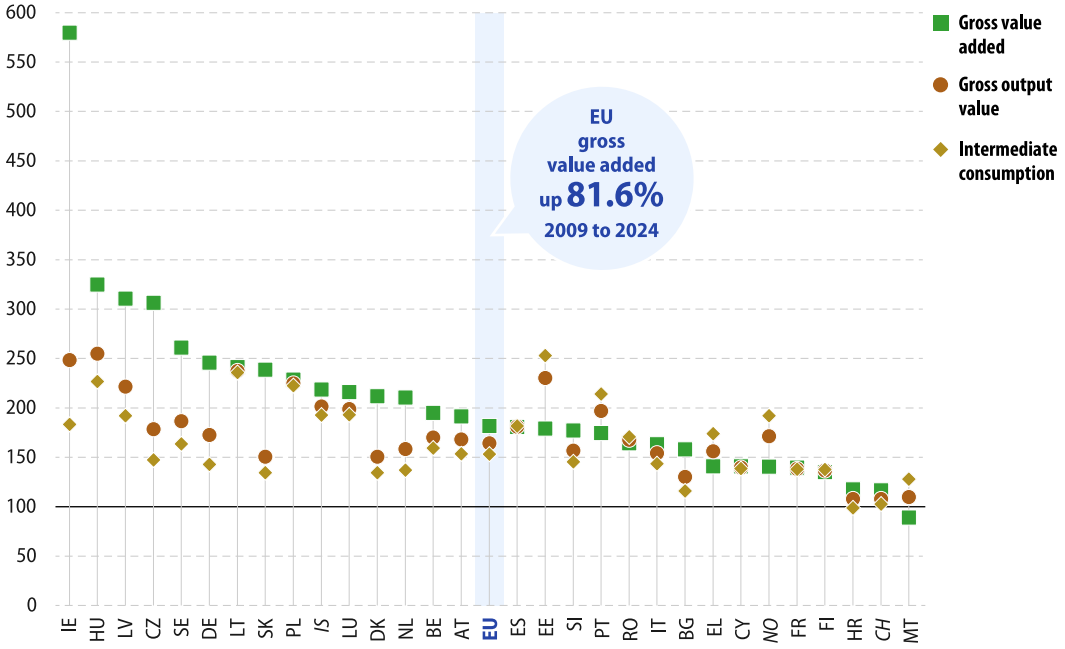
Source: Eurostat (online data codes: apri_pi15_ina and apri_pi20_ina)

Input price indices cover the costs of intermediate consumption of goods and services (for example, fertilisers, pesticides, seed or energy) as well as gross fixed capital formation (for example, machinery and equipment).

In 2024, there was a further decline in the overall price of goods and services consumed in EU agriculture (down 6.1%), after a decline in 2023 (down 4.7%). These falls came after a sharp increase in 2022 (up 31.1%) when Russia launched its war of aggression against Ukraine, which drove up global energy prices and, in turn, impacted downstream prices in agriculture, such as those for fertilisers. In 2023 and 2024, there were particularly large falls in the price of fertilisers and soil improvers (down 24.5% and 17.6%, respectively).

Developments of output and consumption for the agricultural industry

(2009 = 100, values at current basic prices, 2024)



Note: indices originally compiled with 2015 = 100; rescaled to 2009 = 100. Ranked on the change in value added.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: aact_eaa05)

Inputs of products that are used up (consumed) in the production process – such as fertilisers, pesticides, seed, animal feed, energy and veterinary services – are referred to as intermediate consumption.

In 2024, the cost of intermediate inputs for the EU's agricultural industry totalled €303.3 billion. The difference between the output value (€531.9 billion) and the cost of intermediate consumption represents value added at basic prices, that is, the added value from the agricultural production processes. In 2024, gross value added for the EU's agricultural industry was €228.6 billion.

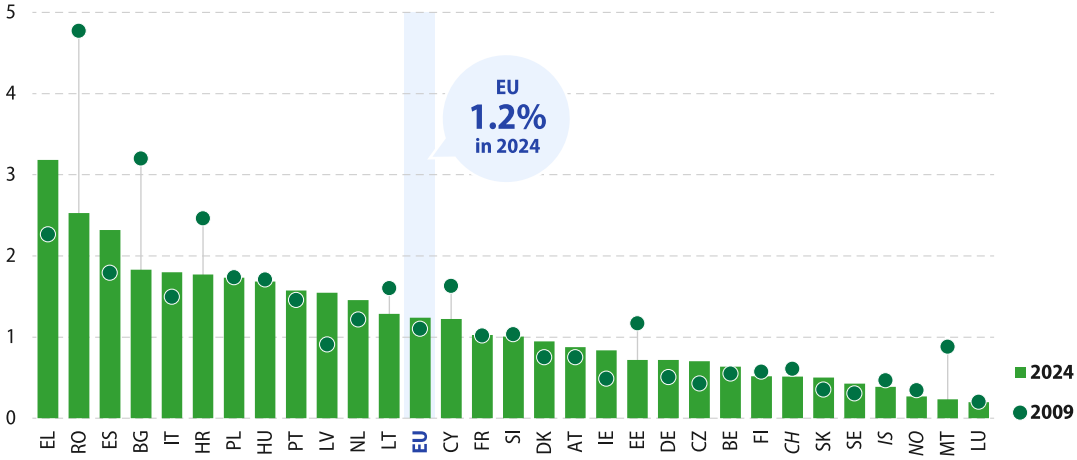
Between 2009 and 2024, gross value added in the EU's agricultural industry increased by 81.6% in current price terms, reflecting a 64.3% rise in output value. This was partly offset by a 53.2% increase in expenditure on intermediate consumption.

In 4 EU countries – Ireland, Hungary, Latvia and Czechia – value added in the agricultural industry more than trebled between 2009 and 2024. By contrast, Malta recorded a lower level of value added in 2024 than in 2009.

In 2024, output value in the agricultural industry exceeded its 2009 level in all EU countries, while the same was true for intermediate consumption, except in Croatia. Output value more than doubled in Hungary, Ireland, the 3 Baltic EU countries and Poland, while intermediate consumption more than doubled in Estonia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland and Portugal.

Gross value added from agriculture

(% relative to GDP, 2009 and 2024)

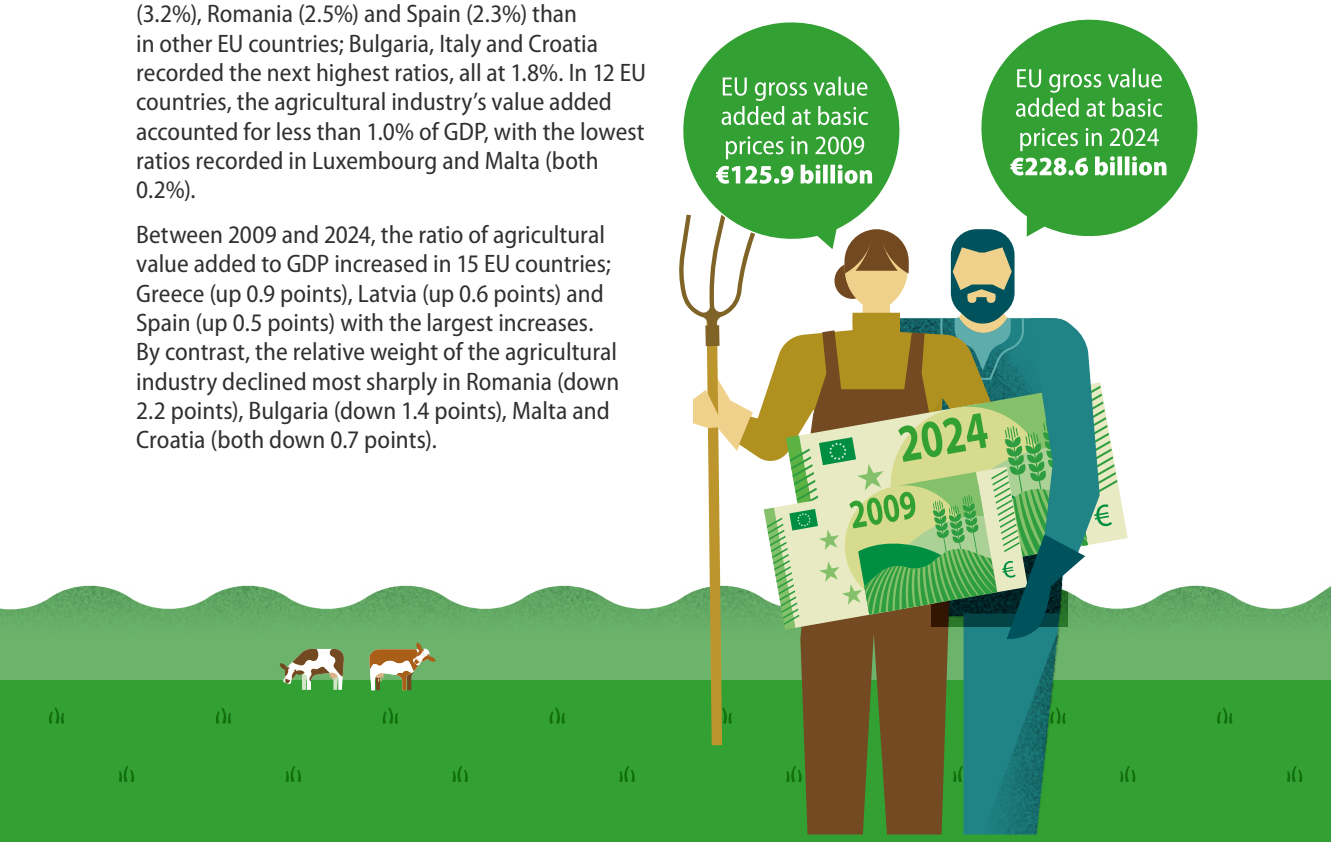


Source: Eurostat (online data codes: aact_eaa01 and nama_10_gdp)

In 2024, value added from the EU's agricultural industry amounted to 1.2% of gross domestic product (GDP), which was 0.1 percentage points higher than in 2009.

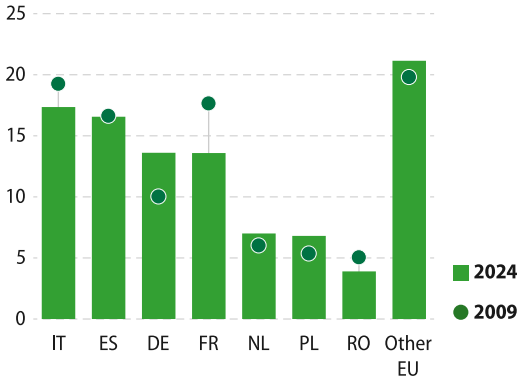
The ratio of the agricultural industry's value added to GDP was, in 2024, notably higher in Greece (3.2%), Romania (2.5%) and Spain (2.3%) than in other EU countries; Bulgaria, Italy and Croatia recorded the next highest ratios, all at 1.8%. In 12 EU countries, the agricultural industry's value added accounted for less than 1.0% of GDP, with the lowest ratios recorded in Luxembourg and Malta (both 0.2%).

Between 2009 and 2024, the ratio of agricultural value added to GDP increased in 15 EU countries; Greece (up 0.9 points), Latvia (up 0.6 points) and Spain (up 0.5 points) with the largest increases. By contrast, the relative weight of the agricultural industry declined most sharply in Romania (down 2.2 points), Bulgaria (down 1.4 points), Malta and Croatia (both down 0.7 points).



Share of EU gross value added for the agricultural industry

(% based on values at current prices, 2009 and 2024)



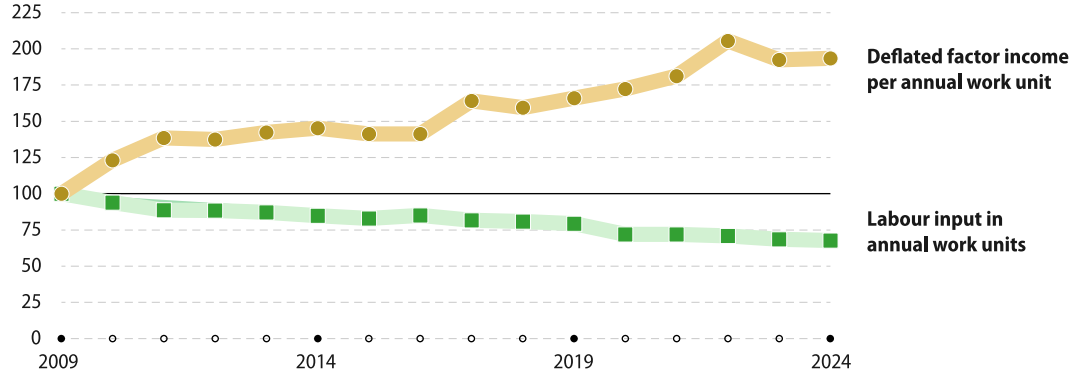
Source: Eurostat (online data code: aact_eava01)

In 2024, Italy's agricultural industry had the highest value added among EU countries, contributing 17.4% of the EU total. Spain (16.6%), Germany (13.6%) and France (13.6%) were the only other EU countries with double-digit shares.

Between 2009 and 2024, France and Italy experienced the largest declines in their shares of the EU's agricultural value added (down 4.1 and 1.9 percentage points, respectively), while Germany (up 3.6 points), Ireland and Poland (both up 1.4 points) recorded the largest increases.

Agricultural labour input and income

(2009 = 100, EU, 2009–2024)



Note: indices originally compiled with 2015 = 100; rescaled to 2009 = 100.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: aact_eaa06 and aact_ali02)

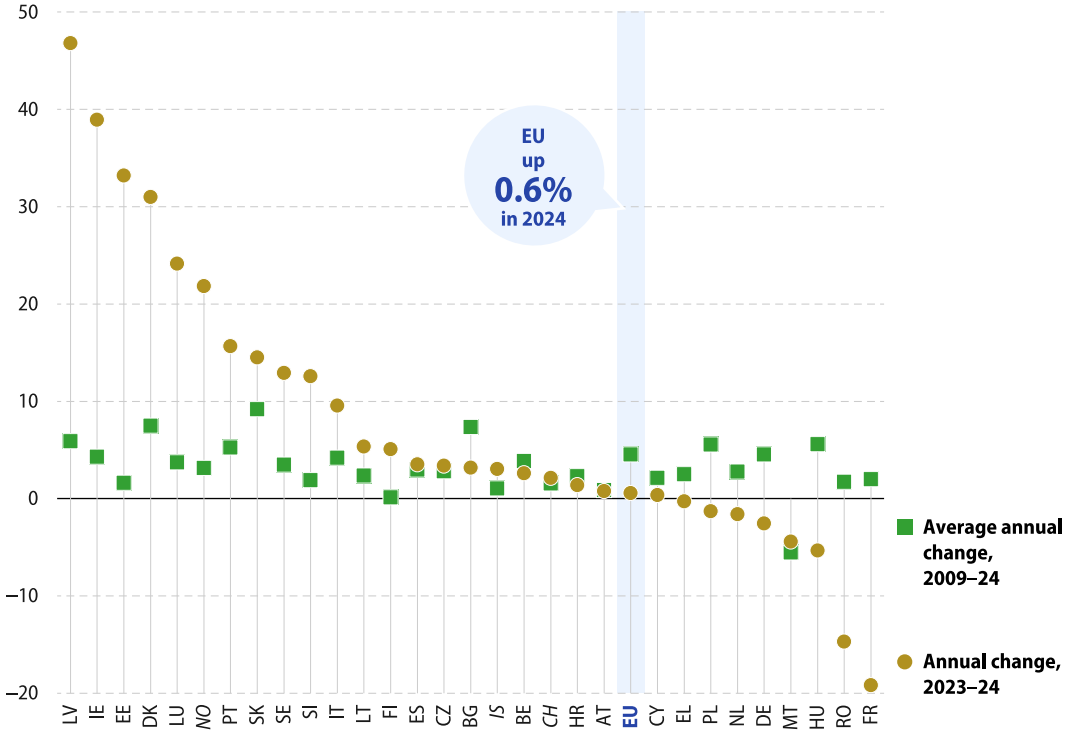
Net value added at factor cost, also referred to as factor income, may be used to measure the economic performance of the agricultural industry. When expressed relative to employment, factor income provides a partial measure of labour productivity; however, caution is needed when interpreting results for part-time, seasonal or unpaid (often family) labour.

The amount of work actually carried out in agriculture may be expressed in annual work units, each equivalent to the work performed by one person working full-time for a year. Factor income per annual work unit represents the net value added per full-time worker, with this value deflated and expressed as an index.

Between 2009 and 2024, agricultural labour input in the EU fell by 32.3%, corresponding to an average annual decline of 2.6%. Over the same period, real factor income per annual work unit in the EU increased 93.6%, equivalent to an average annual increase of 4.5%.

Real developments in agricultural factor income per annual work unit

(%, 2009–24 and 2023–24)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: aact_eaa06)

Between 2023 and 2024, the EU's agricultural factor income per annual work unit increased 0.6%. In 2024, 19 EU countries recorded increases in their index of agricultural factor income per annual work unit. The largest gains were in Latvia (up 46.8%), Ireland (up 38.9%), Estonia (up 33.2%) and Denmark (up 31.0%). The relatively modest overall increase for the EU reflects substantial decreases for several of the EU's biggest agricultural producing countries. The sharpest reductions were recorded in France (down 19.1%) and Romania (down 14.7%). The index also declined in another 3 of the EU's 7 biggest agricultural producing countries: Germany (down 2.5%), the Netherlands (down 1.6%) and Poland (down 1.3%).

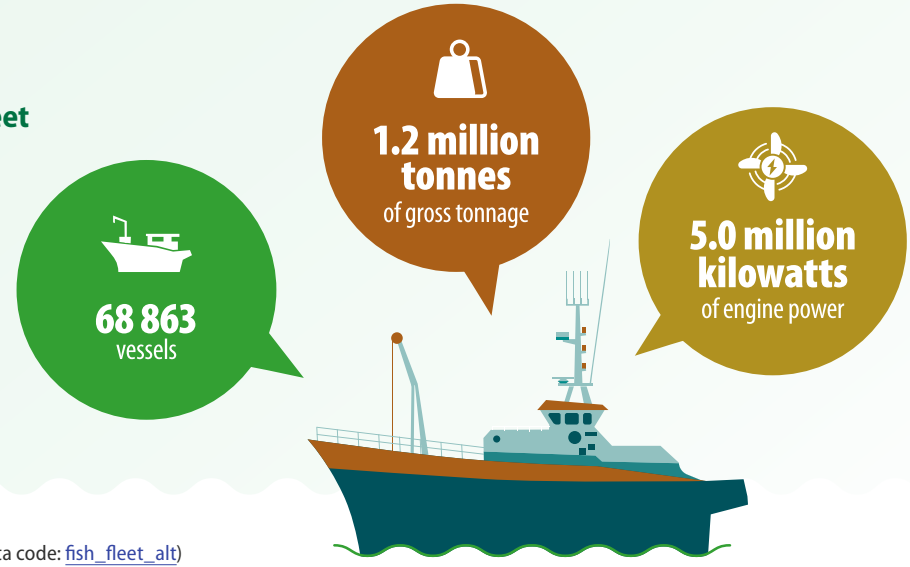
Over a longer time horizon (2009 to 2024), Malta was the only EU country to record a real fall in agricultural factor income per annual work unit (an average decrease of 5.5% each year). Among the larger EU economies, increases in this income indicator were generally below or close to the EU average of 4.5% per year; for example, France (up 2.0% per year), Spain (3.0%), Italy (4.2%) and Germany (4.6%). The main exception was Poland, with an average annual increase of 5.6% – the same as in Hungary – which was only surpassed by Latvia (5.9% per year), Bulgaria (7.4%), Denmark (7.5%) and Slovakia (9.2%).

More information: performance of the agricultural sector.

Fishing and aquaculture

Size of fishing fleet

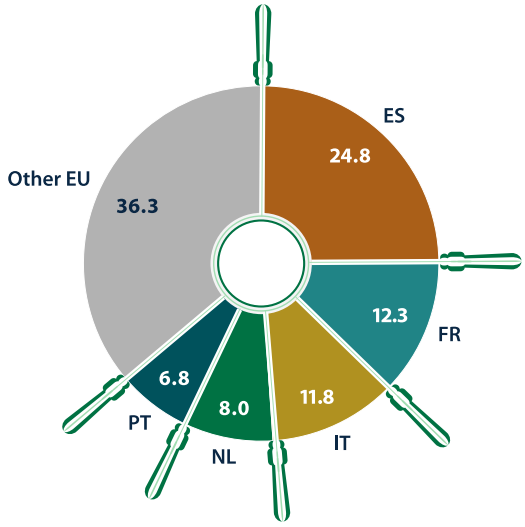
(EU, 2024)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: fish_fleet_alt)

In 2024, the EU's fishing fleet numbered 68 863 catching vessels, with a gross tonnage (a measure of fish-holding capacity) of 1.2 million tonnes and a total engine power (an indicator of the power available for fishing gear) of 5.0 million kilowatts. The vast majority of vessels within the EU's fishing fleet were no more than 10 metres long.

Over the past decade, the EU's fishing fleet has declined steadily in terms of number, tonnage and engine power. Compared with 2014, the fleet had 10 850 fewer vessels in 2024, a decrease of 13.6%; its combined capacity was 14.9% smaller, while total engine power was 12.3% lower.



Source: Eurostat (online data code: fish_fleet_alt)

Share of EU's fishing fleet

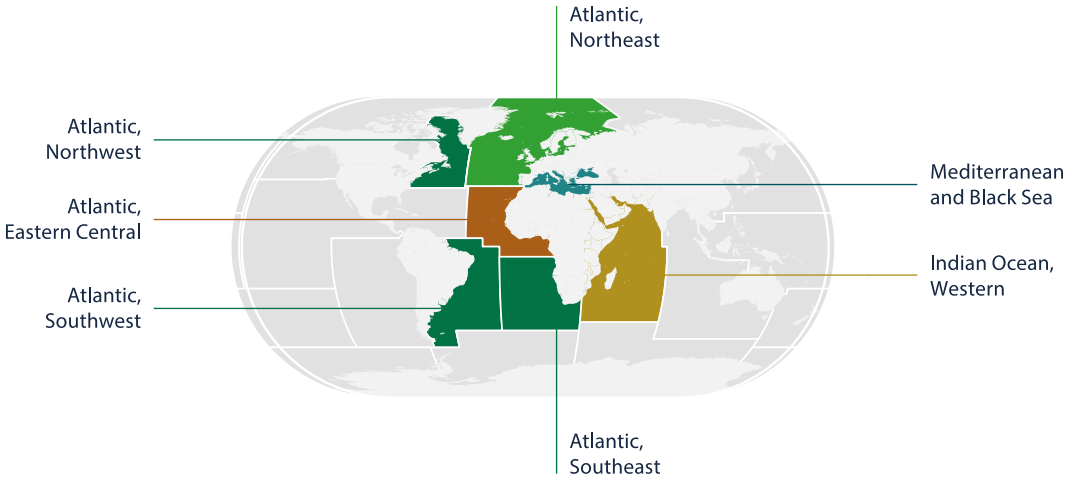
(% based on gross tonnage, 2024)

Measured by gross tonnage, Spain had by far the largest fishing fleet among EU countries, accounting for 24.8% of the EU total in 2024, followed by France (12.3%) and Italy (11.8%).

By engine power, Italy had the largest fleet (18.9% of the EU total in 2024), closely followed by France (18.2%).

Italy also had the largest fleet by number of vessels (17.9% of the EU total in 2024), closely followed by Greece (16.6%).

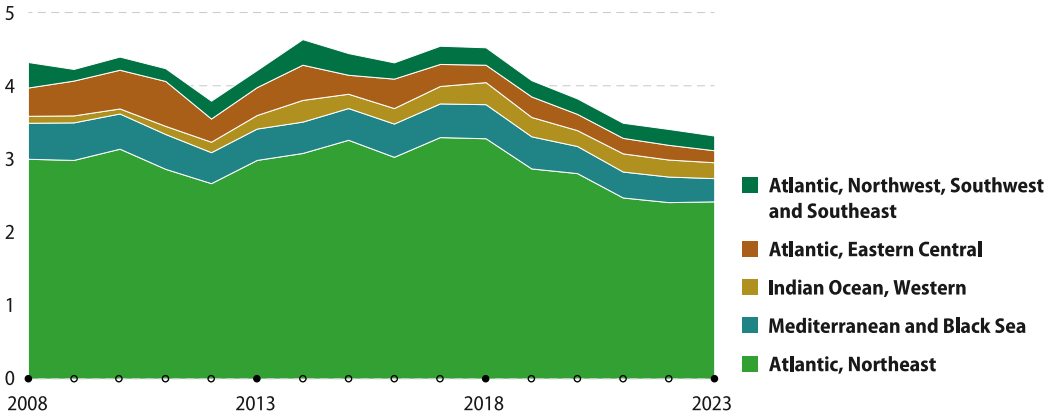
Marine fishing areas for catch by EU fleet



Fish are a renewable and mobile natural resource. Within the EU, fish stocks are managed collectively under the common fisheries policy. Although the EU's fishing fleet operates worldwide, official statistics cover 7 major marine fishing areas, as shown in the map. These areas are defined by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Based on scientific advice, the EU sets annual quotas for most commercial fish species in each fishing area, specifying the total allowable catch for each EU country.

Developments of catch

(million tonnes, EU, 2008–23)



Note: estimates made for the purpose of this publication.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: fish_ca_main) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) – Fisheries and Aquaculture Division (NFI)

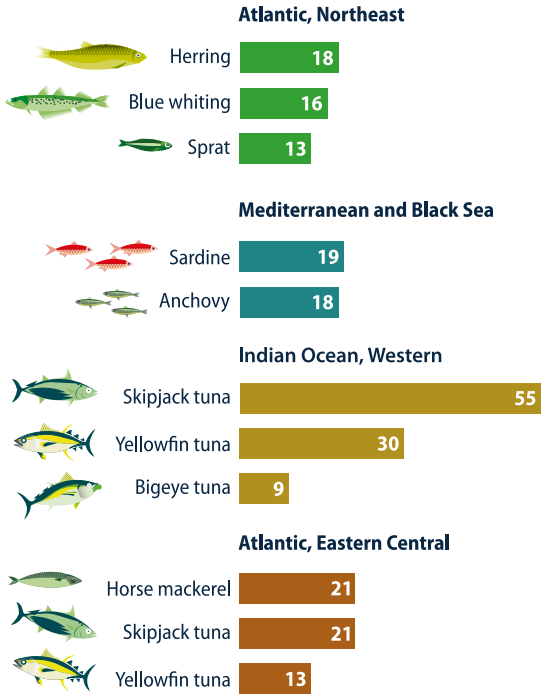
In 2023, the EU's fish catch was estimated at 3.3 million tonnes (live weight equivalent), 3% lower than in 2022 and 23% below its level from 2008. The vast majority of the EU's catch is taken in the Northeast area of the Atlantic (73% of the total catch in the 7 major fishing areas). Around 10% of the EU's catch was taken in the Mediterranean and Black Sea, followed by the Western area of the Indian Ocean (6%) and the Eastern Central area of the Atlantic (5%).

Share of main species in catch

(% of total live weight caught in each marine fishing area, EU, 2023)

The EU's fishing fleet catches a wide variety of fish species. This reflects, among other factors, the characteristics of fishing grounds, types of fishing techniques and gear, quotas and patterns of consumer demand.

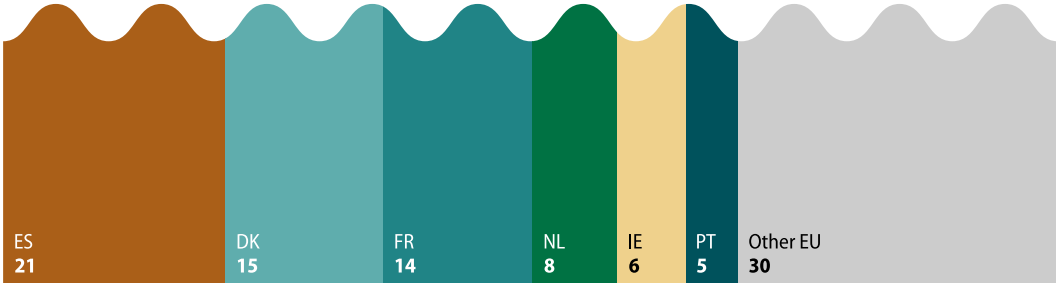
In 2023, the main species caught in the Northeast area of the Atlantic were herring (18% by live weight), blue whiting (16%) and sprat (13%). In the Mediterranean and Black Sea, the main species were sardine (19%, mainly European pilchard) and anchovy (18%). The EU fishing fleet in the Western area of the Indian Ocean caught almost exclusively tuna, particularly skipjack (55%), yellowfin (30%) and bigeye (9%). In the Eastern Central area of the Atlantic, the catch was principally composed of horse mackerel (21%), skipjack (21%) and yellowfin tuna (13%).



Note: estimates made for the purpose of this publication.
Source: Eurostat (online data code: fish_ca_main)

Share of EU's catch

(% based on tonnes, 2023)



Note: estimates made for the purpose of this publication.

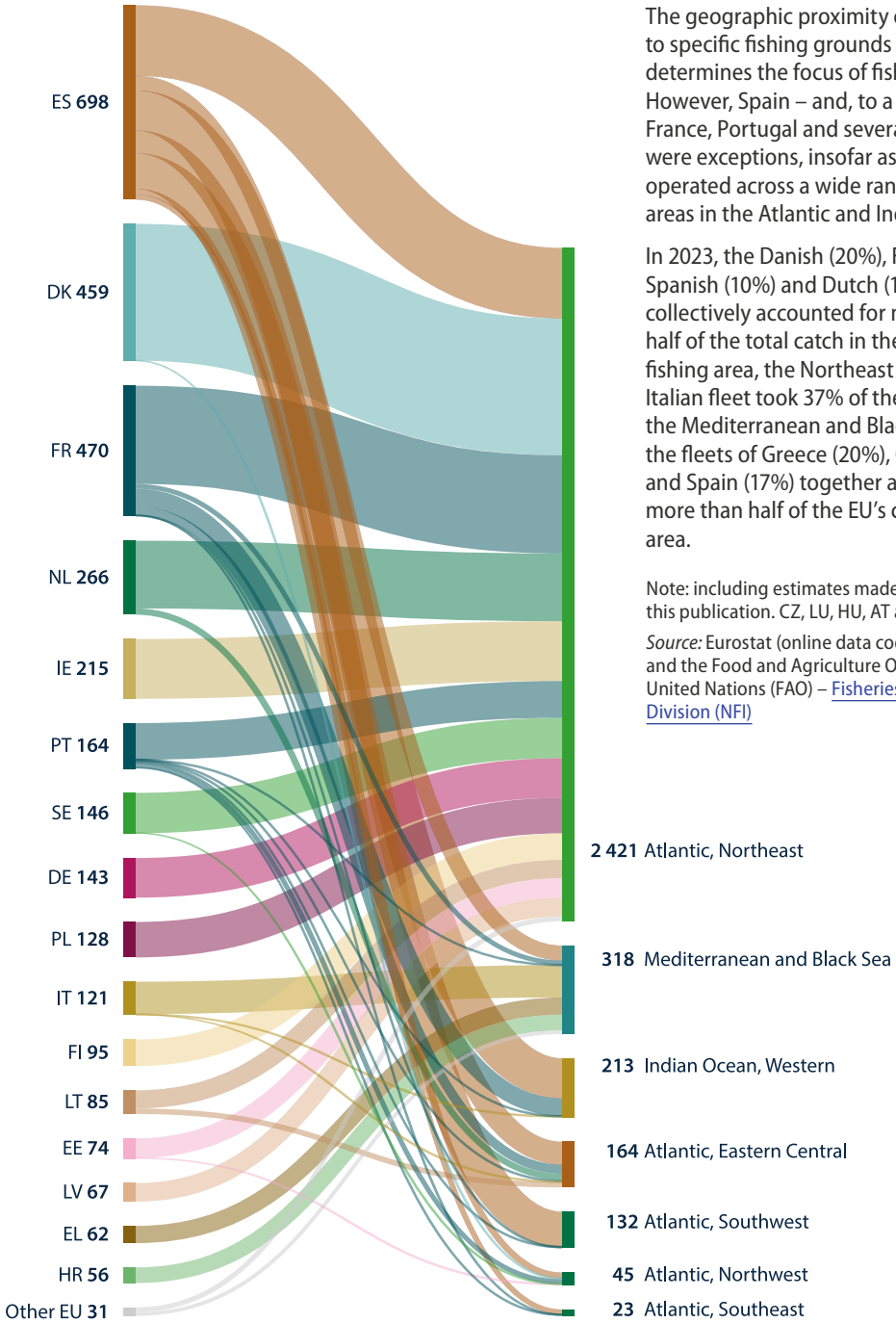
Source: Eurostat (online data code: fish_ca_main) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) – Fisheries and Aquaculture Division (NFI)

In 2023, Spain had the largest fish catch among EU countries, with 698 000 tonnes of live weight (21% of the total), followed by Denmark (495 000 tonnes; 15%) and France (470 000 tonnes; 14%).

Iceland and Norway had a combined catch of 3.6 million tonnes of fish in 2023, 10% higher than the overall catch taken by the entire EU fishing fleet.

Catches by EU countries' fleets in marine fishing areas

(1 000 tonnes, 2023)



The geographic proximity of a port to specific fishing grounds often determines the focus of fishing activities. However, Spain – and, to a lesser extent, France, Portugal and several others – were exceptions, insofar as their fleets operated across a wide range of fishing areas in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans.

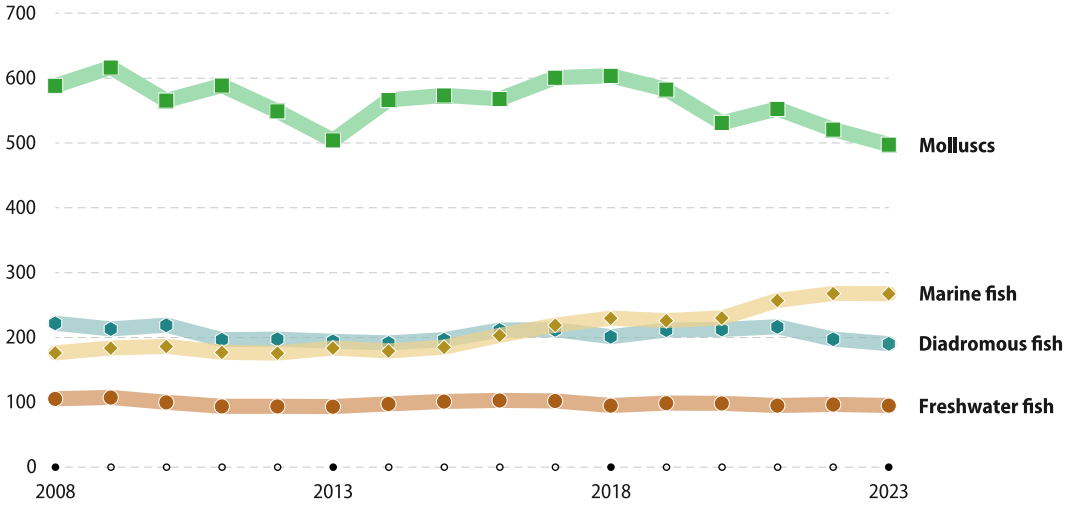
In 2023, the Danish (20%), French (15%), Spanish (10%) and Dutch (10%) fleets collectively accounted for more than half of the total catch in the EU's main fishing area, the Northeast Atlantic. The Italian fleet took 37% of the EU's catch in the Mediterranean and Black Sea, while the fleets of Greece (20%), Croatia (18%) and Spain (17%) together accounted for more than half of the EU's catch in this area.

Note: including estimates made for the purpose of this publication. CZ, LU, HU, AT and SK: landlocked.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: fish_ca_main) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) – Fisheries and Aquaculture Division (NFI)

Developments of aquaculture production

(1 000 tonnes, EU, 2008–23)



Note: estimates made for the purpose of this publication. Crustaceans and aquatic plants: not significant.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: fish_aq2a) and the European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture (EUMOFA)

Aquaculture is the production of fish and other aquatic organisms, such as molluscs and crustaceans, under controlled conditions, both inland and in marine areas.

In 2023, the EU's estimated aquaculture output for all fishery products – including the very limited, but highly-priced production of fish eggs for human consumption ([3]) – was 1.05 million tonnes (live weight equivalent).

Between 2008 and 2023, the EU's aquaculture output of fishery products fluctuated between 0.98 and 1.13 million tonnes. Stagnation in recent years contrasts starkly with global trends; indeed, the FAO estimates that world aquaculture production surpassed the world fish catch in 2022.

([3]) Fish farmers in the EU cultivated 1 416 tonnes of fish eggs for human consumption, with an average price of €93 910 per tonne.

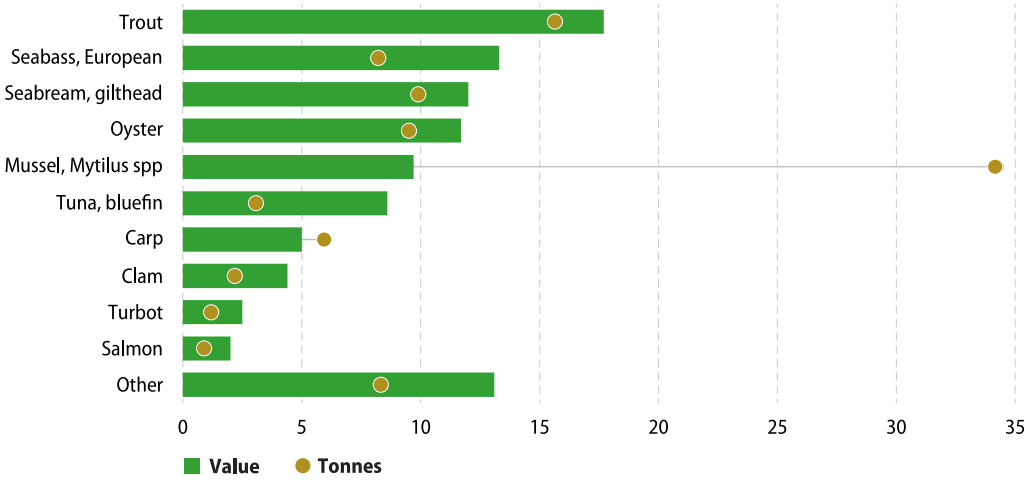
Molluscs – for example, mussels, oysters or clams – accounted for 47.4% of the EU's total aquaculture production in 2023, while marine fish accounted for 25.5%. Diadromous fish – species that migrate between seawater and freshwater, like salmon – had the next highest share (18.1%), followed by freshwater fish (9.0%).

Between 2008 and 2023, EU aquaculture output declined for freshwater fish, diadromous fish and molluscs, with falls of 10%, 14% and 15%, respectively (in live weight equivalents). By contrast, the production of marine fish increased 52% over the same period, reaching a peak of 268 000 tonnes in 2022 and 2023.

More information: fisheries – catches and landings.

Main species of aquaculture production

(%, EU, 2023)



Note: estimates made for the purpose of this publication.

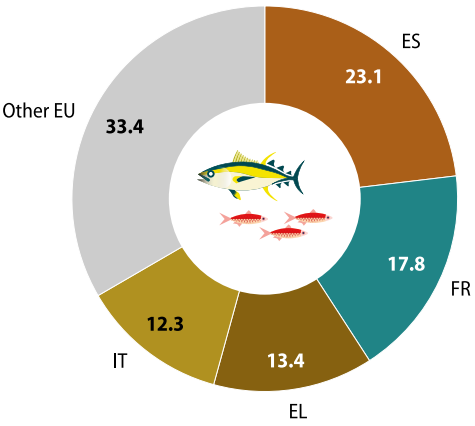
Source: Eurostat (online data code: fish_aq2a)

The EU produced about 362 000 tonnes of farmed mussels in 2023, equivalent to 35% of its total aquaculture output. The next largest species, by quantity, were trout (16%), gilthead seabream (10%), oysters (also 10%) and European seabass (8%).

The estimated production value of trout was around €851 million in 2023, the highest of any farmed species and equivalent to 18% of the EU's aquaculture production value. Differences in market prices explain why mussels accounted for only 10% of total production value, considerably lower than their share by quantity. By contrast, the high market price of bluefin tuna meant that its share in value terms was 9%, almost 3 times as high as its share by quantity.

Share of EU aquaculture production

(% based on tonnes, 2023)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: fish_aq2a)

Aquaculture plays an important role in most EU countries bordering the Mediterranean and Black Sea. In 2023, Spain (23.1%), France (17.8%), Greece (13.4%) and Italy (12.3%) together accounted for two thirds of the EU's aquaculture output by quantity.

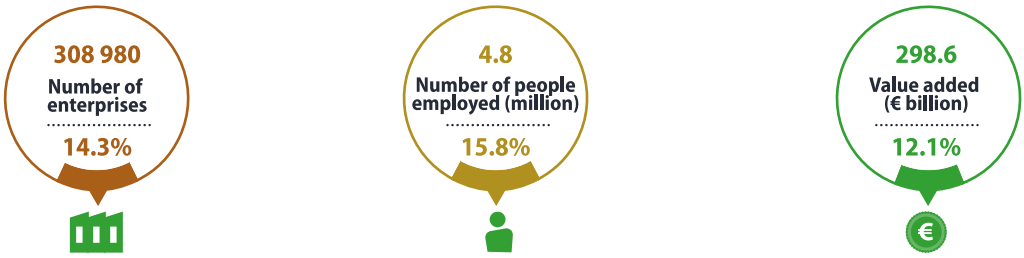
Aquaculture production in Norway (1.65 million tonnes in 2023) exceeded that of the entire EU (1.05 million tonnes) and consisted almost exclusively of farmed salmon.

More information: aquaculture statistics.

Processing of food and beverages

Size of food and beverage processing

(EU, 2023)



Note: the percentages show the share within manufacturing.

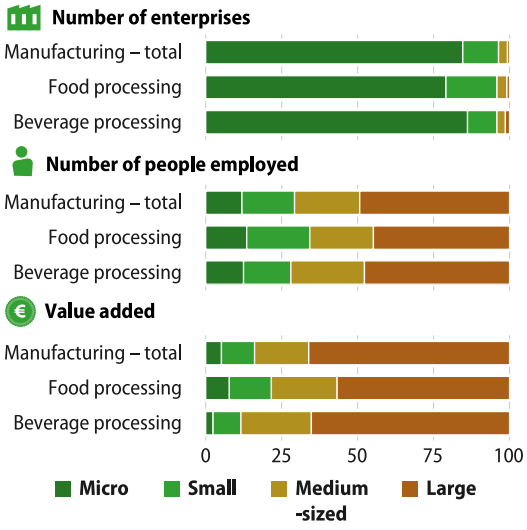
Source: Eurostat (online data code: sbs_ovw_act)

The food chain extends far beyond farming, encompassing food and beverage processing, distribution and services. In line with the EU's Vision for Agriculture and Food, food and beverage processors are expected to help build a sustainable, resilient and competitive system, by improving the availability and affordability of healthy, sustainable and diversified products, through innovation, resource-efficient production and stronger supply chains.

In 2023, the EU had 309 000 food and beverage processing enterprises, accounting for 14.3% of all manufacturing enterprises. They employed 4.8 million people and generated €299 billion of value added, some 37% more than agriculture (€218 billion, at basic prices).

Key size class indicators

(%, EU, 2023)



Most EU food and beverage processors primarily serve local or national markets, while a few, very large enterprises operate global brands with considerable market reach. This diversity is a strength: smaller enterprises support territorial cohesion, resilience and sustainability, while larger ones drive innovation and competitiveness, enhancing the EU's global position.

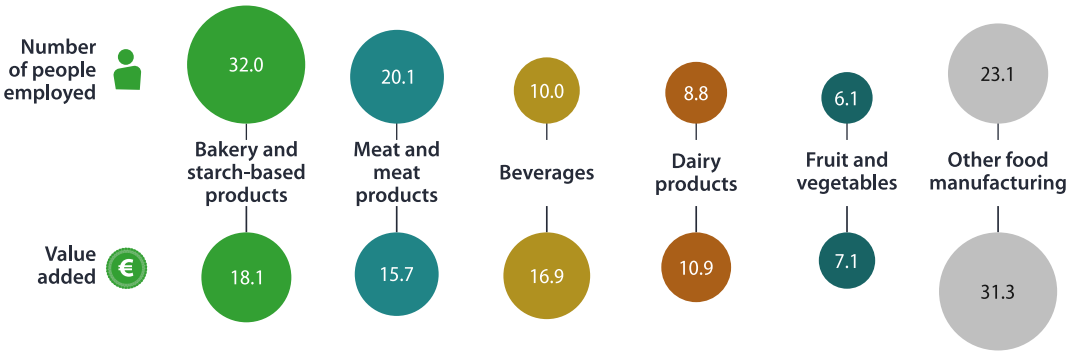
In 2023, the vast majority (95.8%) of EU food and beverage processors were micro or small enterprises, employing fewer than 50 people. By contrast, large enterprises with 250 or more people employed, accounted for 56.8% of the value added generated in food processing and 65.2% in beverage processing.

Note: includes estimates made for the purpose of this publication.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sbs_sc_ovw)

Structure of food and beverage processing

(%, EU, 2023)



Note: ranked on share for the number of people employed. Includes estimates made for the purpose of this publication.

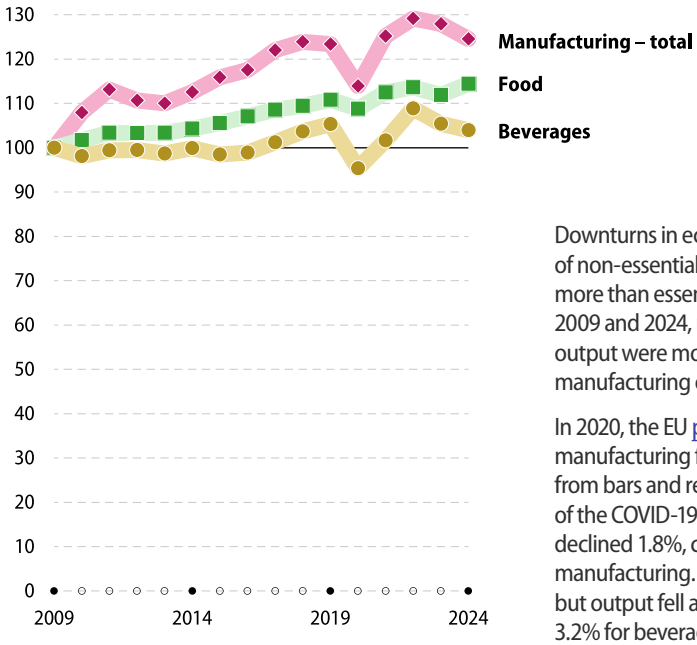
Source: Eurostat (online data code: sbs_ovw_act)

In 2023, almost a third (32.0%) of the EU's food and beverage processing workforce were employed in the manufacture of bakery and starch-based products (such as bread, cakes, biscuits, pasta and noodles). The next largest share was recorded for the manufacture of meat and meat products (20.1%).

Bakery and starch-based products generated 18.1% of the value added by EU food and beverage processors in 2023. High shares were also recorded for beverages (16.9%, considerably above their 10.0% share of employment) and for meat and meat products (15.7%).

Volume index of production

(2009 = 100, EU, 2009–24)

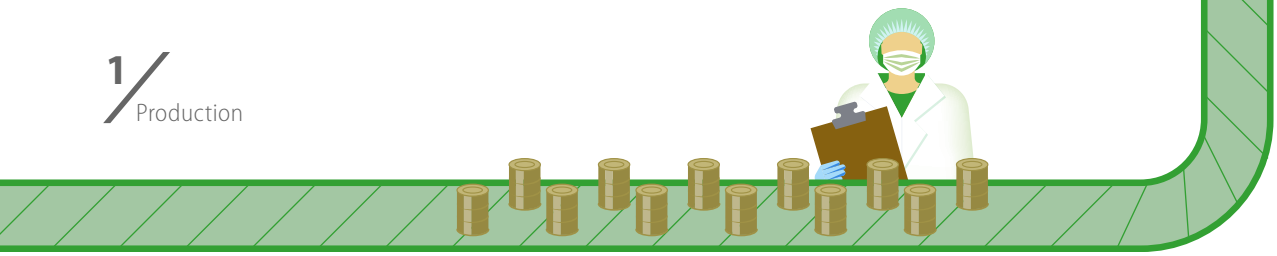


Note: index originally compiled with 2021 = 100; rescaled to 2009 = 100.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sts_inpr_a)

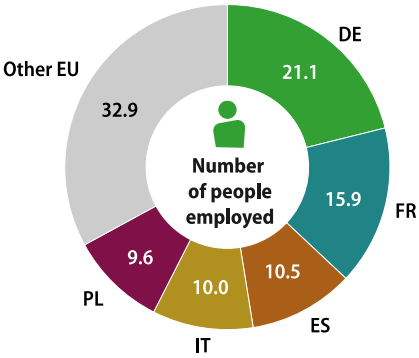
Downturns in economic activity often impact purchases of non-essential items, such as alcoholic beverages, more than essentials like staple food products. Between 2009 and 2024, real changes in EU food manufacturing output were more uniform than in overall manufacturing or the manufacture of beverages.

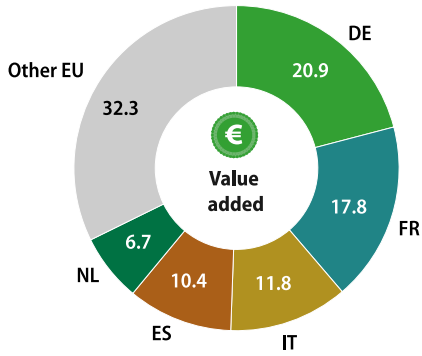
In 2020, the EU production index for beverage manufacturing fell 9.5%, reflecting reduced demand from bars and restaurants during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. Food manufacturing declined 1.8%, compared with a 7.7% fall for overall manufacturing. Activity rebounded in 2021 and 2022, but output fell again in 2023, down 1.5% for food and 3.2% for beverage manufacturing, in part reflecting shifts in consumer behaviour during the cost-of-living crisis. In 2024, food manufacturing output grew 2.2%, while the output of beverages fell a further 1.4%.



Share of EU food and beverage processing

(%, 2023)





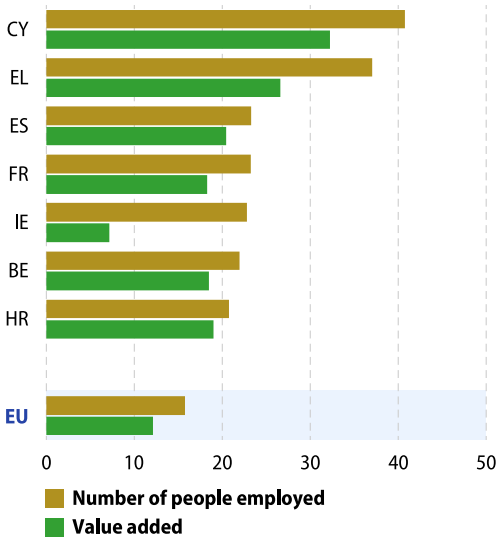
Note: includes estimates made for the purpose of this publication. Due to rounding, shares do not always sum to 100.0%.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sbs_ovw_act)

In 2023, EU food and beverage processors employed an estimated 4.8 million people. Of these, Germany had the highest share (21.1%), followed by France (15.9%), while Spain, Italy and Poland each accounted for about a tenth of EU employment. Food and beverage processing enterprises in the EU generated €299 billion of value added in 2023, with Germany having the highest share (20.9% of the EU total).

Share of food and beverage processing within manufacturing

(%, 2023)



Note: includes estimates made for the purpose of this publication. Data are presented for the EU average and EU countries with employment shares of more than 20.0%.

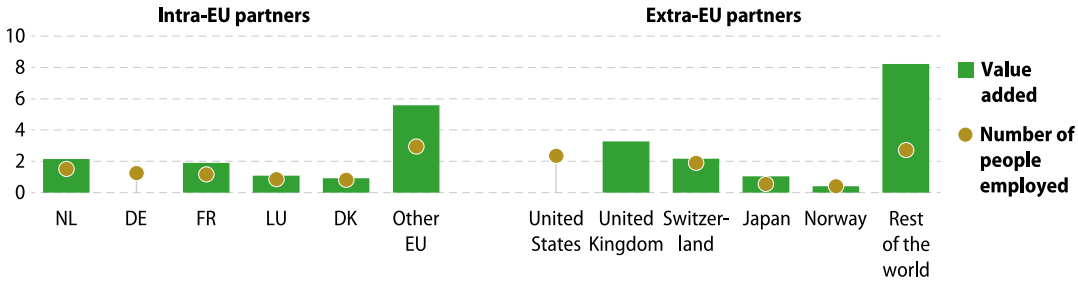
Source: Eurostat (online data code: sbs_ovw_act)

Food and beverage processing employed 15.8% of the EU's manufacturing workforce in 2023 and accounted for 12.1% of manufacturing value added. Some EU countries had much higher degrees of specialisation: this was particularly notable in Cyprus and Greece.

In most EU countries (Poland and Estonia were the only exceptions), the contribution of food and beverage processing to manufacturing employment exceeded their contribution to manufacturing value added, indicating below-average labour productivity. Factors such as relatively low wages and high seasonal or part-time employment may contribute to this pattern. Ireland (estimated data) and Greece had the largest disparities in 2023, with employment shares exceeding value added by 15.6 and 10.4 percentage points, respectively. Ireland's very low share of manufacturing value added in food and beverage processing also reflects, in part, exceptionally high added value in capital-intensive, high-technology industries such as pharmaceuticals and electronics.

Share of foreign controlled enterprises in food, beverage and tobacco processing

(%, EU, 2022)



Note: ranked on value added. Includes estimates made for the purpose of this publication. Germany: value added, not available (included in the other EU). United Kingdom: people employed, not available (included in the rest of the world). United States: value added, not available (included in the rest of the world).

Source: Eurostat (online data code: fats_activ)

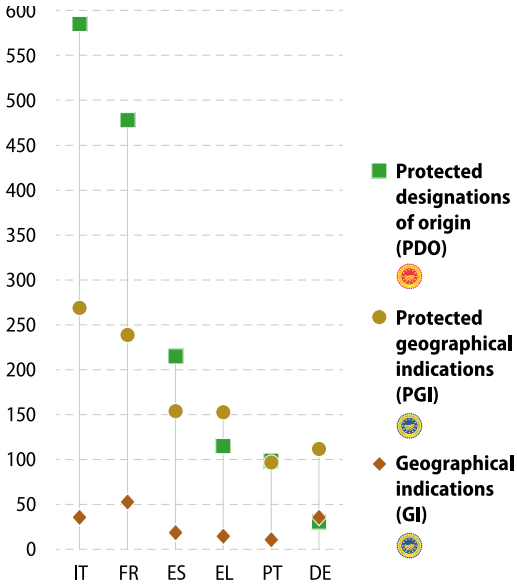
For statistical purposes, foreign affiliates are considered to be enterprises resident in one country and controlled by a unit resident in another.

Foreign-controlled enterprises play an important role in food and beverage processing. In 2022, they contributed 26.8% of the value added generated within EU food and beverage processing, while their share of employment was lower, at 16.5%. Enterprises controlled from outside the EU accounted for 15.1% of value added, while enterprises controlled from other EU countries contributed 11.6%.

In 2022, enterprises ultimately controlled by a unit from the United Kingdom accounted for 3.3% of total value added in EU food and beverage processing; relatively high shares were also recorded for enterprises controlled by a unit from Switzerland (2.2%) and the Netherlands (2.1%); note data are missing/confidential for several countries.

Protected food and beverage designations and indications

(number, as of September 2025)



EU geographical indications establish intellectual property rights through 3 schemes: protected designations of origin (PDOs), protected geographical indications (PGIs) and geographical indications (GIs). These systems protect the names of products that come from specific regions and whose unique qualities, reputation, or characteristics are directly linked to their origin.

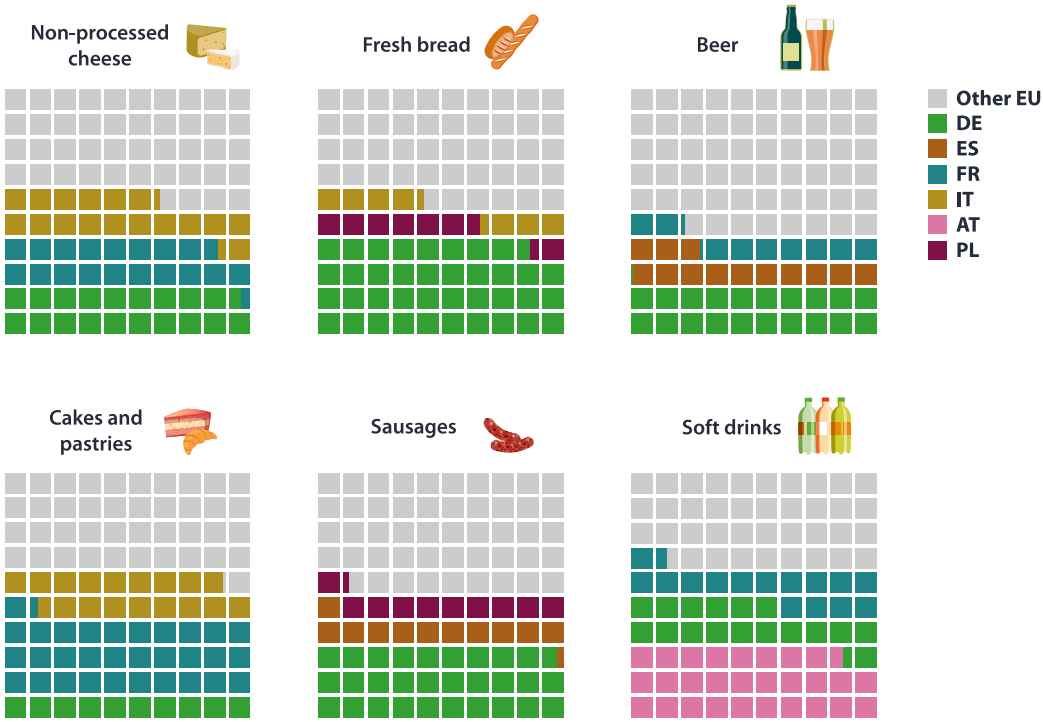
As of September 2025, Italy and France had the highest numbers of PDOs (585 and 478, respectively), PGIs (269 and 239, respectively) and GIs (36 and 53, respectively; Germany also recorded 39 GIs). By contrast, many smaller EU countries registered relatively few food and beverage products under these designations.

Note: only EU countries with at least 100 designations and indications are shown. Includes double-counting for certain products identified as having designations/indications across more than one EU country.

Source: European Union Intellectual Property Office

Main producers of selected manufactured food and beverage products

(% based on production value, 2024)



Note: the chart shows the top 3 EU producers for each product and the contribution from the remaining EU countries. Non-processed cheese: EL, HU, NL and AT, not available. Fresh bread: ES, PT and SE, not available. Beer: NL, PL, PT, SI and SE, not available. Cakes and pastries: BG, PT, SI and SK, not available. Sausages: DK, LV, AT and SE, not available. Soft drinks: BE, BG, LV, NL, PT, SI and SE, not available.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: DS-056120)

Food and beverage processors manufacture a wide range of products, from staple foods to high-value items. Based on the Prodcom list, non-processed cheese was the EU manufactured food and beverage product with the highest production value (€42.0 billion) in 2024. Enterprises from Germany (€8.2 billion), France (€8.0 billion) and Italy (€7.4 billion) together produced more than half (56.3%) of the EU's non-processed cheese.

Fresh bread (€34.0 billion) and beer (€32.9 billion) ranked second and third in terms of EU production value. In 2024, Germany was the leading producer in the EU for both these products: fresh bread (€13.1 billion; 38.6% of the EU total) and beer (€6.6 billion; 20.1% of the EU total).

In 2024, other major manufactured products with EU production value above €25 billion included cakes and pastries (€31.2 billion), sausages (€30.0 billion), soft drinks (€29.4 billion) and fresh or chilled pigmeat (€26.1 billion).

2

Distribution

Trade in agricultural, fishery, food and beverage products

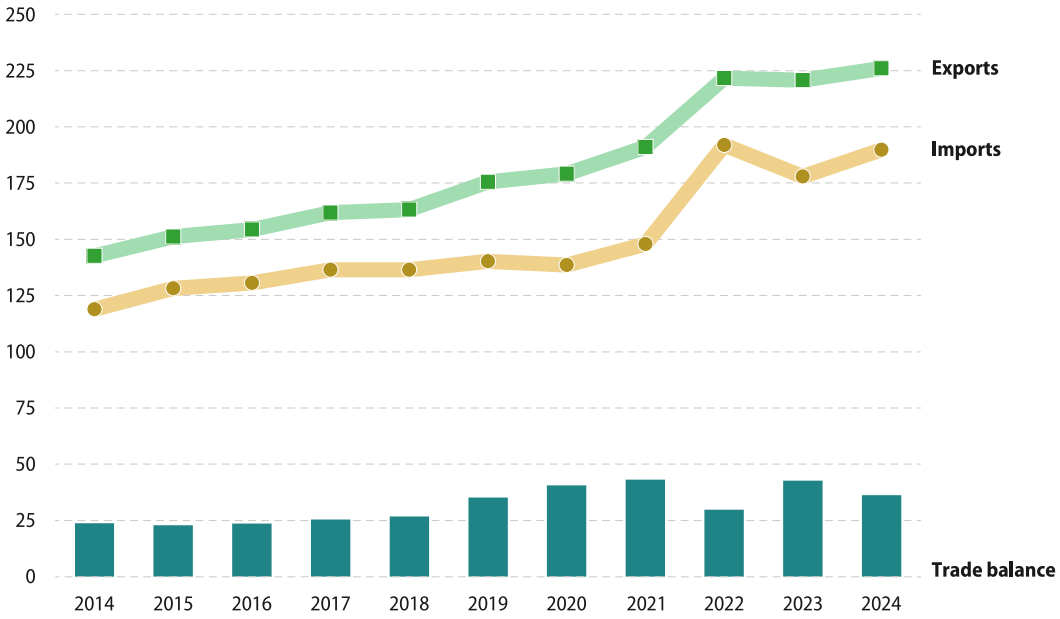
Trade data for individual EU countries cover both intra-EU (trade between EU countries) and extra-EU flows (trade with countries outside the EU).

The EU aims to include a sustainability chapter in its international trade agreements, promoting high standards in areas such as animal welfare and food safety, supporting cooperation and development in partner countries, and ensuring fair and sustainable access to global markets. These trade objectives align with the broader EU Vision for Agriculture and Food.

In 2024, EU exports of agricultural, fishery, food and beverage products to non-EU countries were valued at €226 billion. The EU ran a trade surplus for these products, with extra-EU exports €36 billion higher than extra-EU imports. Agricultural, fishery, food and beverage products represented 8.7% of the EU's exported goods and 7.8% of its imported goods.

Extra-EU trade developments for agricultural, fishery, food and beverage products

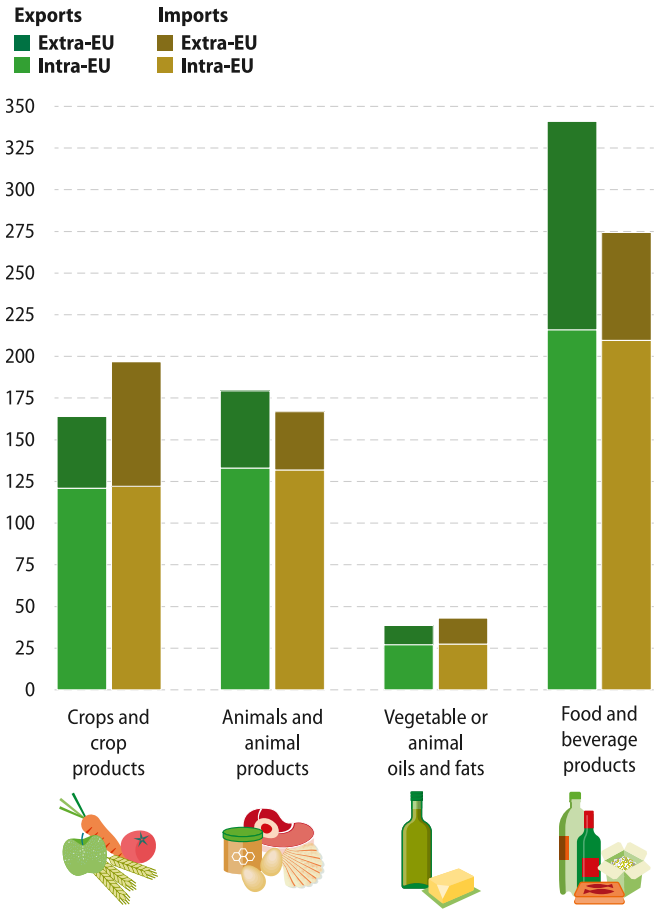
(€ billion, EU, 2014–24)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: DS-045409)

Intra- and extra-EU trade in agricultural, fishery, food and beverage products

(€ billion, EU, 2024)



Note: due to quasi-transit trade, the addition of intra-EU trade and extra-EU trade may lead to double counting. An example of this would be goods imported from China via the Netherlands where they are cleared by customs for free circulation before being dispatched to Germany. This would lead to the same goods being counted as imports by both the Netherlands and Germany. More precisely, they would appear in the Netherlands' extra-EU imports from China and intra-EU exports to Germany and in Germany's intra-EU imports from the Netherlands.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: DS-045409)

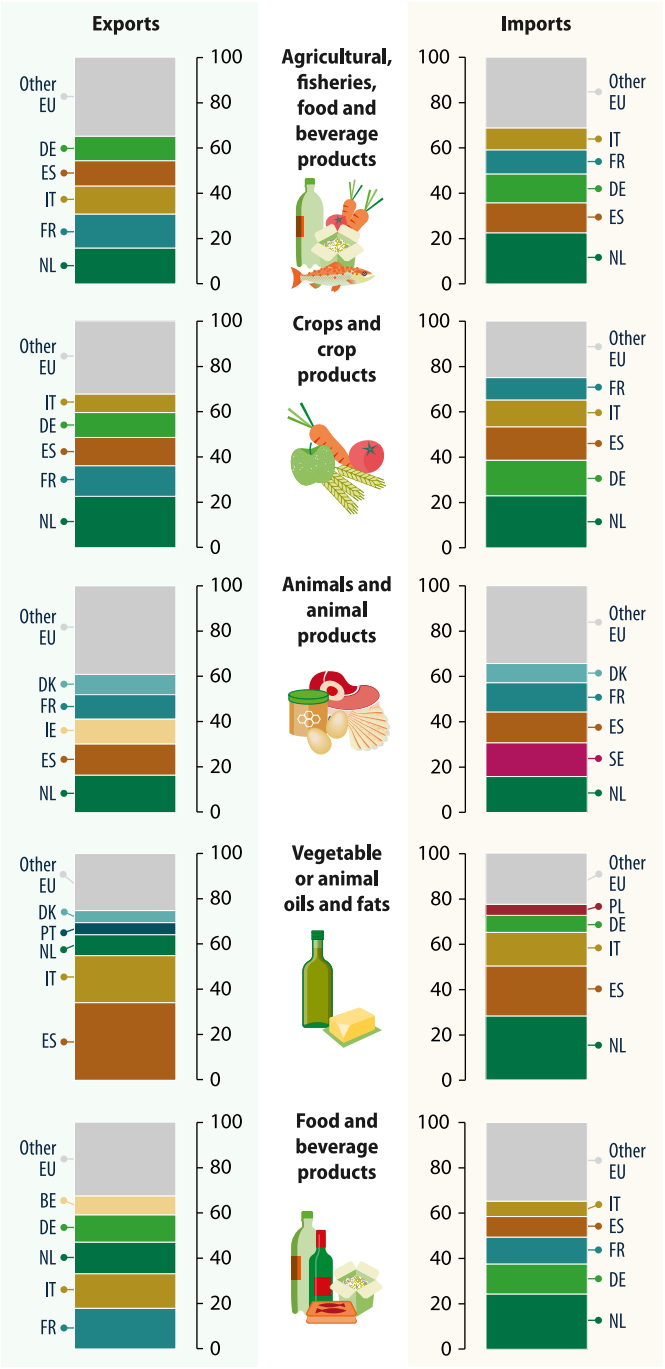
The EU generally imports raw, unprocessed agricultural and fishery products, while its main exports are processed food and beverages. Some crops, such as coffee beans as well as certain fruits and nuts, only grow outside the EU, helping to explain why imports of crops and crop products from non-EU countries reached €74.6 billion in 2024, €31.7 billion more than exports. The EU also ran a trade deficit for vegetable or animal oils and fats (€3.9 billion).

By contrast, EU exports of processed food and beverages to non-EU countries were €125.0 billion in 2024, almost twice the value of imports (€64.8 billion). The EU also ran a trade surplus for animals and animal products (€11.6 billion).

The EU is largely self-sufficient in a broad range of agricultural commodities, particularly dairy products and most meats. For example, production of skimmed milk powder in 2024 was almost twice the level of consumption (a self-sufficiency rate of 189%). High self-sufficiency rates were also recorded for whole milk powder, whey, olive oil, and processed peaches and nectarines. By contrast, the EU depends, to some extent, on imports for processed oranges, oilseeds and oilmeals.

Share of extra-EU trade

(% share of EU total, based on value, 2024)



In value terms, the Netherlands imported and exported the highest levels of agricultural, fishery, food and beverage products from/to non-EU countries in 2024, at €42.8 billion and €35.9 billion, respectively. This represented 22.6% of EU imports and 15.9% of EU exports of these products.

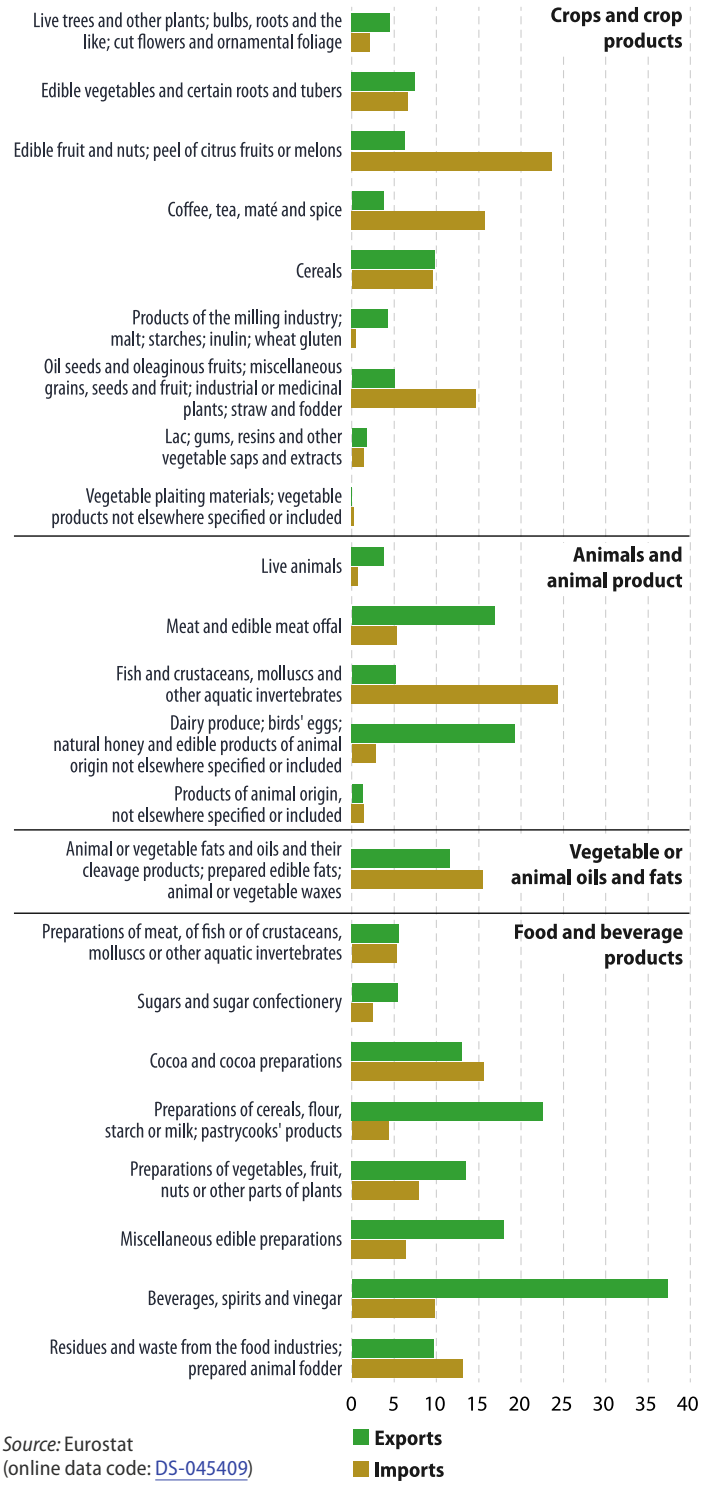
The Netherlands had the highest share of extra-EU exports for crops and crop products in 2024 (22.7% of the EU total) and for animals and animal products (16.6%). Spain had the highest share for vegetable or animal oils and fats (34.3%), and France for food and beverage products (17.9%).

The Netherlands also recorded the highest share of extra-EU imports in 2024 for all 4 main product groups. Its largest share was for vegetable or animal oils and fats (28.3% of the EU total), followed by food and beverage products (24.4%), crops and crop products (23.0%), and animals and animal products (15.9%).

Source: Eurostat (online data code: DS-045409)

Extra-EU trade in agricultural, fisheries, food and beverage products

(€ billion, EU, 2024)



Source: Eurostat
(online data code: DS-045409)

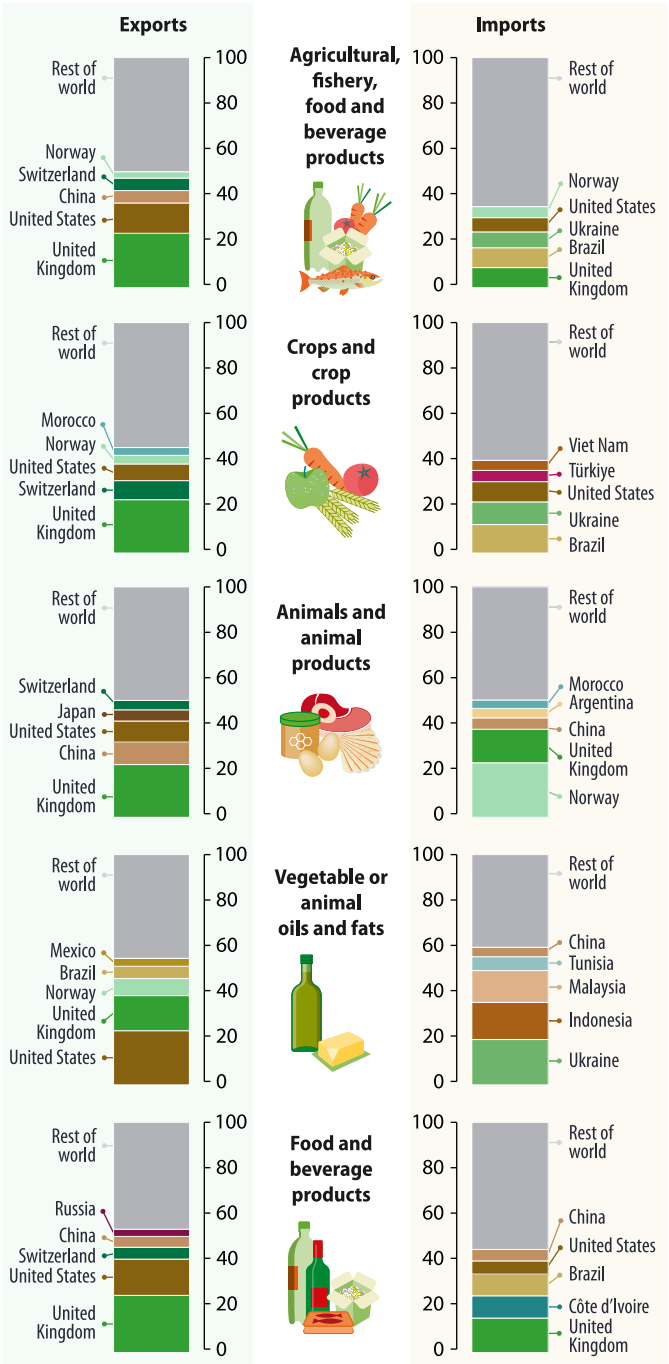
A more detailed view of extra-EU trade products in 2024 shows that the EU's 2 main exports were beverages, spirits and vinegar (€37.3 billion), and preparations of cereals, flour, starch or milk (€22.6 billion). These were followed by dairy produce (including cheese, milk and yoghurts) and birds' eggs and natural honey (€19.3 billion). The EU's main imports included fish, crustaceans and aquatic invertebrates (€24.4 billion) and edible fruit and nuts (€23.7 billion).

In 2024, the EU recorded trade deficits for several crop and crop products, including edible fruit and nuts (€17.4 billion), coffee, tea, maté and spices (€12.0 billion), and oilseeds and oleaginous fruits (€9.6 billion). Among animals and animal products, the largest trade surpluses were for dairy produce, birds' eggs and natural honey (€16.5 billion) and for meat and edible meat offal (€11.5 billion). The biggest deficit was for fish, crustaceans and aquatic invertebrates (€19.2 billion).

For food and beverage products, the EU's largest trade surpluses were for beverages, spirits and vinegar (€27.5 billion) and preparations of cereals, flour, starch or milk (€18.2 billion).

Extra-EU trade partners for agricultural, fishery, food and beverage products

(%, EU, 2024)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: DS-045409)

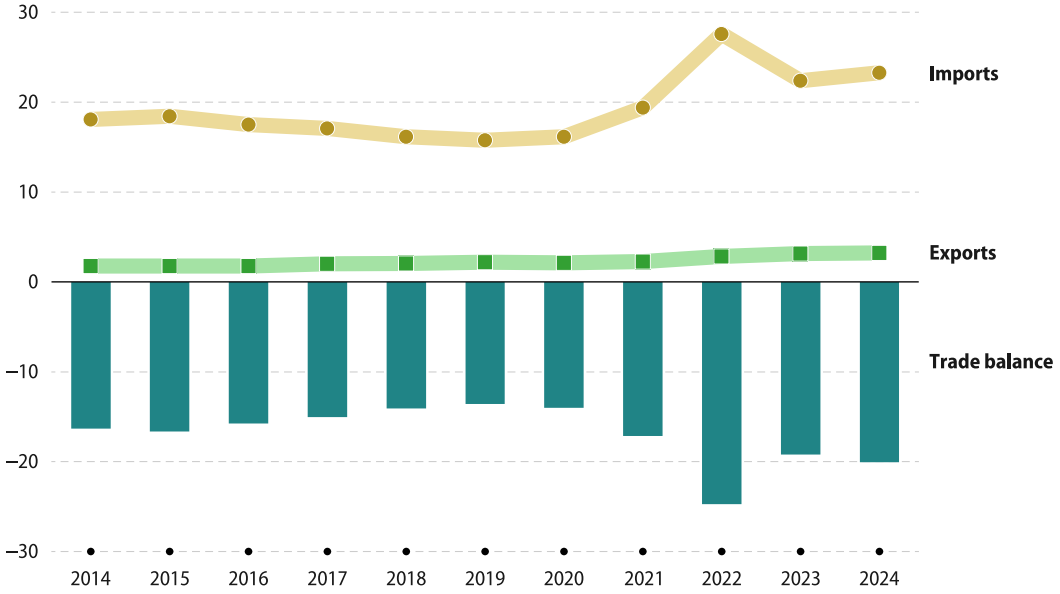
In 2024, EU exports of agricultural, fishery, food and beverage products to the United Kingdom were valued at €53.4 billion, representing 23.6% of the EU's total exports of these products. The next highest shares were for exports to the United States (13.2%) and China (5.4%). The United Kingdom was the main destination for EU exports of food and beverage products (24.9%), crops and crop products (23.1%) and animals and animal products (22.9%), while the United States was the main destination for vegetable or animal oils and fats (23.5%).

In 2024, the EU imported €16.5 billion of agricultural, fishery, food and beverage products from the United Kingdom (8.7% of the EU total), with Brazil (also 8.7%) and Ukraine (6.9%) recording the next largest shares. Brazil was the main origin for EU imports of crops and crop products (12.3%), Norway for animals and animal products (23.7%), Ukraine for vegetable or animal oils and fats (19.7%) and the United Kingdom for food and beverage products (15.0%).

More information: extra-EU trade in agricultural goods.

Trade developments for agricultural, fishery, food and beverage products with Mercosur countries

(EU, 2014–24)



Note: data cover Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. Bolivia became a full Mercosur member in July 2024, while Venezuela's membership has been suspended since December 2016.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: DS-045409)

In September 2025, the European Commission put forward proposals for the signature and conclusion of an EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement (EMPA). This forms part of the EU's strategy to diversify trade relations and strengthen economic and political ties, potentially creating significant export opportunities, while expanding the EU's potential sources of imports of critical inputs and raw materials.

In 2024, EU imports of agricultural, fishery, food and beverage products from Mercosur countries – Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay – were valued at €23.3 billion, representing 12.3% of all extra-EU imports of these products. Exports of the same products to Mercosur countries accounted for 1.4% of extra-EU exports. Overall, the EU had a trade deficit of €20.1 billion for these products with Mercosur.

The EMPA agreement sets limits on preferential Mercosur imports and includes measures to prevent harmful surges. The European Commission plans to apply these safeguards through a legal act, potentially aligning production standards and strengthening sanitary and phytosanitary (plant health) import controls too.

In 2024, the EU registered a trade deficit with Mercosur countries for most categories of agricultural, fishery, food and beverage products. The largest deficits included residues and waste from food industries and prepared animal fodder (mainly solid residues from the extraction of soya-bean oil; €6.9 billion), coffee, tea, maté and spices (€5.0 billion) and oilseeds and oleaginous fruits (€3.6 billion).

Transport

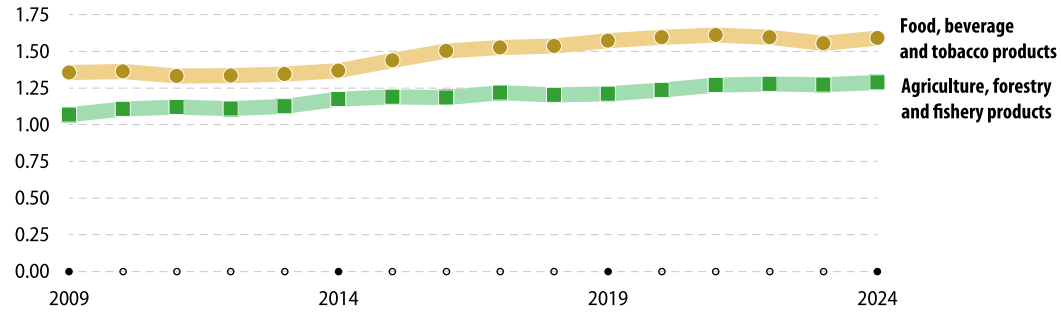
The data in this section cover goods transported on EU roads by heavy goods vehicles registered in EU countries. They do not include products carried by vehicles registered outside the EU, nor by vehicles below a certain size threshold.

In 2024, heavy goods vehicles registered in the EU transported 1.29 billion tonnes of agriculture, forestry and fishery products, as well as 1.59 billion tonnes of food, beverage and tobacco products. Between 2009 and 2024, transported quantities grew on average by 1.2% per year for agriculture, forestry and fishery products, and 1.1% per year for food, beverage and tobacco products. When considering both quantity and distance transported (in tonne-kilometres, the payload distance), average annual growth was 1.6% and 1.4%, respectively.

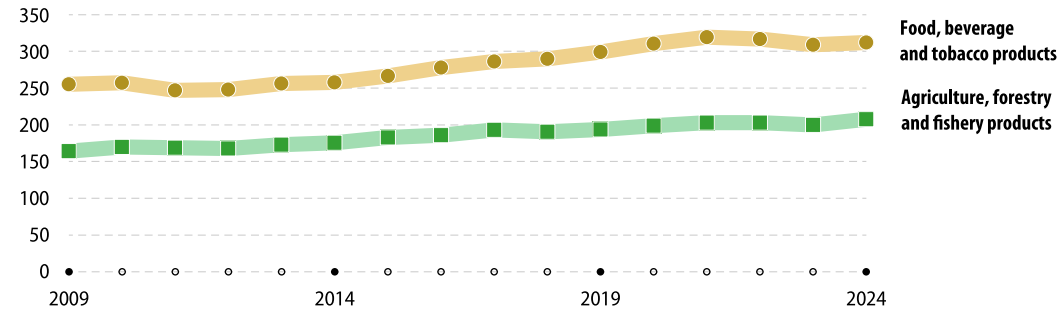
Road transport developments

(EU, 2009–24)

Quantity (billion tonnes)



Payload distance (billion tonne-kilometres)

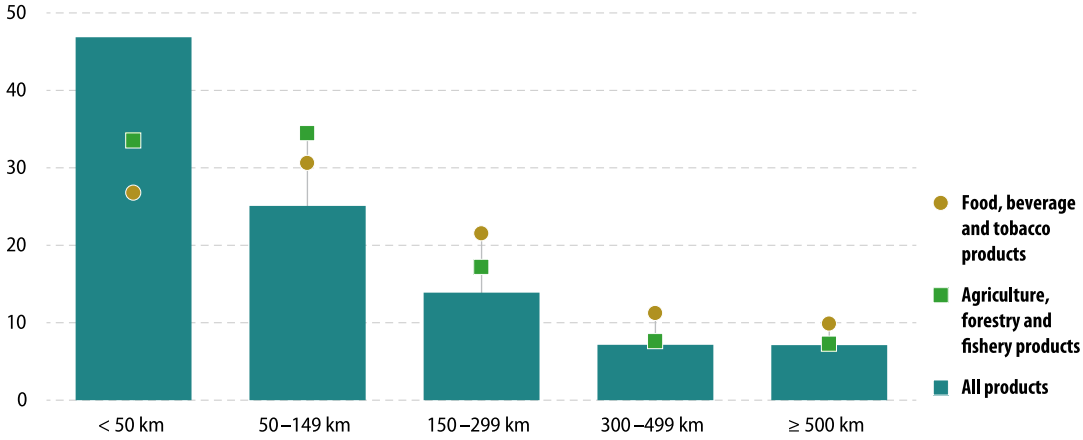


Note: goods transported by heavy goods vehicles registered in EU countries.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: road_go_ta_tg)

Distance of road transport for agriculture, forestry, fishery, food, beverage and tobacco products

(% based on tonnes, EU-registered vehicles, 2024)



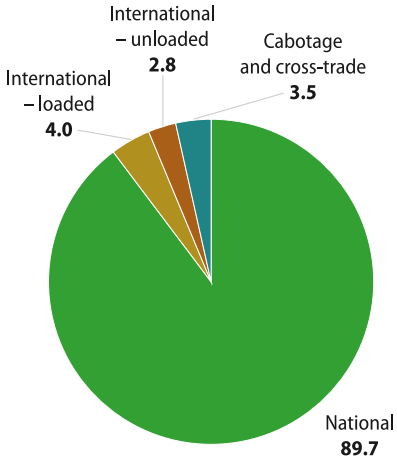
Note: goods transported by heavy goods vehicles registered in EU countries.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: road_go_ta_dctg)

In 2024, most agriculture, forestry and fishery products (85.1%) and food, beverage and tobacco products (78.9%) transported by EU heavy goods vehicles were moved over distances of less than 300 km. However, the share transported over distances under 50 km was relatively small: 33.5% for agriculture, forestry and fishery products and 26.8% for food, beverage and tobacco products, compared with an average of 46.8% for all products.

Type of road transport for agriculture, forestry, fishery, food, beverage and tobacco products

(% based on tonnes, EU, 2024)



Note: the data show the type of operations for vehicles registered in EU countries. Excluding MT.

In 2024, national transport accounted for the vast majority (89.7%) of the road freight transport of agriculture, forestry, fishery, food, beverage and tobacco products by EU-registered heavy goods vehicles. In other words, these goods were transported within individual EU countries by vehicles registered in the same country.

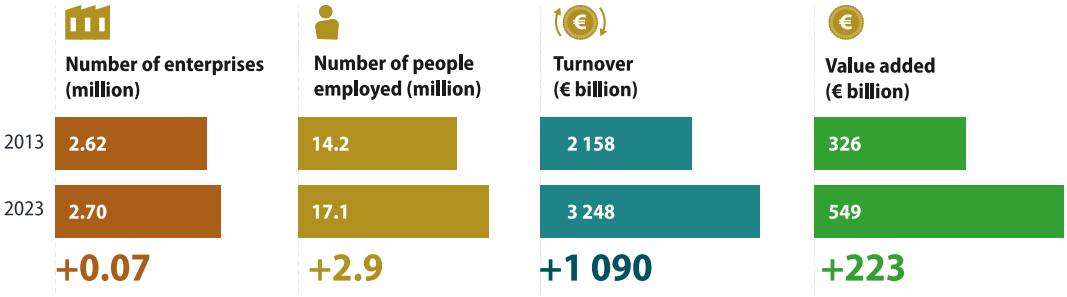
Loading for international transport accounted for 4.0% of the total quantity of agriculture, forestry, fishery, food, beverage and tobacco products transported in 2024, while unloading after international transport accounted for 2.8%. The remaining 3.5% comprised other transport, including cross-trade and cabotage.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: road_go_ta_tg, road_go_na_tgtt, road_go_ia_lgtt and road_go_ia_ugtt)

Wholesale, retail and services provision of food and beverages

Wholesaling, retailing and serving of food and beverages

(EU, 2013 and 2023)



Note: for wholesaling and retailing, food and beverages also covers tobacco. These trade and service activities include NACE Rev. 2 codes: 46.17, 46.3, 47.11, 47.2, 47.81 and 56. Includes estimates made for the purpose of this publication. Different scales are used for each indicator.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: sbs_ovw_act, sbs_na_dt_r2 and sbs_na_1a_se_r2)

Enterprises trading or serving food and beverages include wholesalers and retailers (who also trade tobacco) as well as businesses such as restaurants, bars, cafés and caterers. Under the EU's Vision for Agriculture and Food, these businesses are encouraged to support a sustainable, resilient food system. This may include reformulating products to support healthy diets, providing clear information on calories and ingredients, reducing environmental impacts, or minimising packaging.

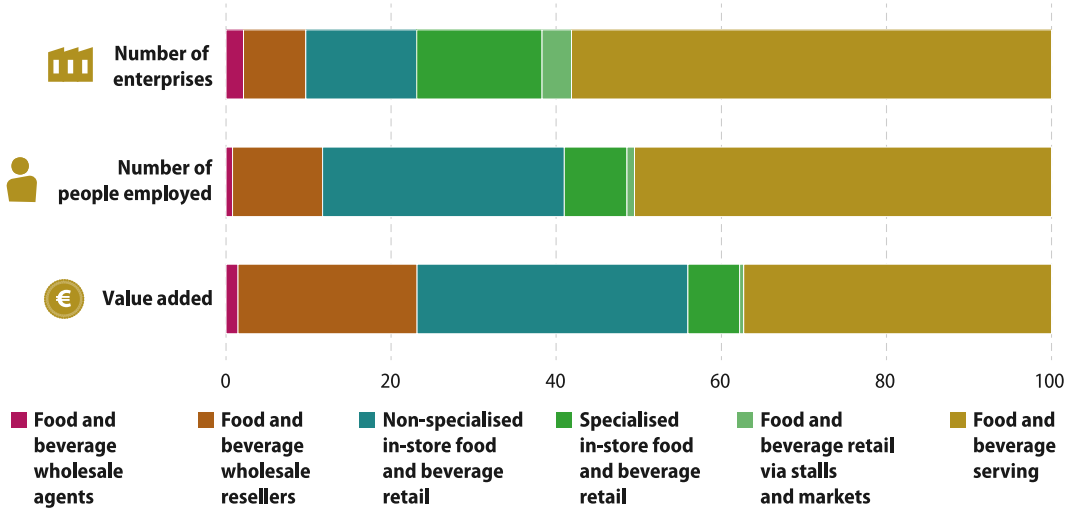
In 2023, there were 2.70 million enterprises wholesaling, retailing or serving food and beverages across the EU: 261 000 wholesalers, 867 000 retailers and 1.57 million enterprises serving food and beverages. Together they employed 17.1 million people, generating €3.2 trillion of turnover and adding €549 billion of value.

While the economic performance of enterprises engaged in wholesaling, retailing or serving food and beverages generally followed an upward path over the last decade, several activities contracted sharply in 2020 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions. In 2021, these enterprises saw their activity rebound across the EU, with further growth in 2022 and 2023. However, food and beverage retailing in specialised stores and in stalls and markets showed more mixed developments.

Between 2022 and 2023, the number of people employed grew strongly for enterprises serving food and beverages (up 3.1%) and modestly for food, beverage and tobacco wholesalers (up 0.5%). Employment in non-specialised food retailers remained unchanged, while other wholesale and retail activities saw a decline in their respective workforces.

Structure of wholesaling, retailing and serving of food and beverages

(%, EU, 2023)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: sbs_ovw_act)

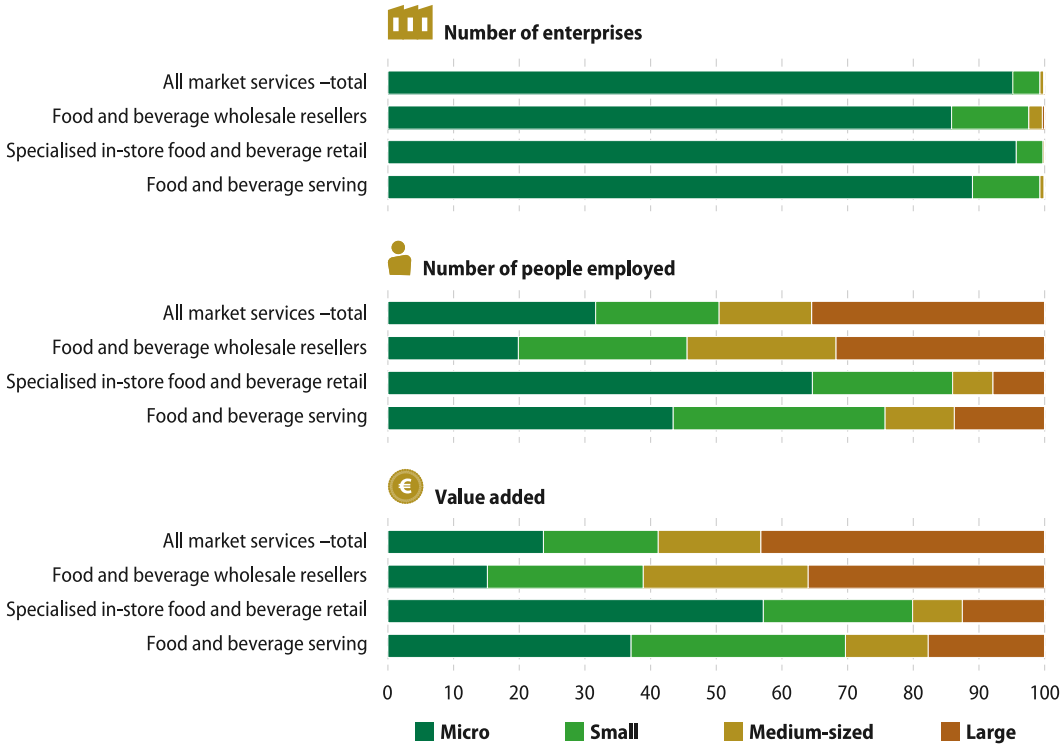
As is typical for wholesaling, most food and beverage wholesalers in the EU in 2023 were resellers, buying and selling products (203 000 enterprises; 7.5% of all enterprises wholesaling, retailing or serving food and beverages). Food and beverage wholesale resellers accounted for a larger share of the workforce (1.9 million; 10.9%) and value added (€119 billion; 21.7%) than wholesale agents (trading on commissions).

Specialised in-store retailers – such as greengrocers, butchers, fishmongers, bakers and tobacconists – were the most common type of food and beverage retailer across the EU in 2023 (410 000 enterprises; 15.2% of all enterprises wholesaling, retailing or serving food and beverages). They outnumbered non-specialised in-store retailers with food and beverages predominating – such as general grocers and supermarkets (362 000 enterprises; 13.4%). However, non-specialised in-store food and beverage retailers were considerably larger in terms of value added (€180 billion; 32.8%) and employment (5.0 million; 29.3%).

Enterprises serving food and beverages made up a majority (58.2%) of all EU enterprises wholesaling, retailing or serving food and beverages in 2023, while their contributions to employment and value added were 50.5% and 37.3%, respectively.

Key size class indicators for wholesaling, specialised retailing and serving of food and beverages

(%, EU, 2023)



Note: includes estimates made for the purpose of this publication.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sbs_sc_ovw)

Enterprises can be classified according to their size:

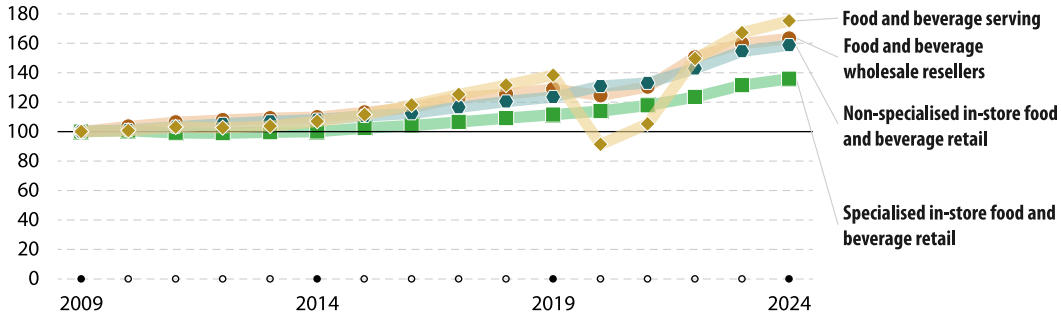
- micro enterprises, with fewer than 10 people employed
- small enterprises, with 10 to 49 people employed
- medium-sized enterprises, with 50 to 249 people employed
- large enterprises, with 250 or more people employed.

As in many market services, micro enterprises dominated the EU's food and beverage sector. In 2023, wholesale resellers of food and beverages had the lowest share of micro enterprises (85.8% of all enterprises in this subsector). The shares were higher for food and beverage serving enterprises (89.0%) and for specialised in-store food and beverage retailers (95.7%). Among wholesale resellers, micro enterprises contributed a relatively small share of employment and value added (19.9% and 15.2%, respectively). The shares for large enterprises were 31.8% for employment and 36.0% for value added.

Among specialised in-store food and beverage retailers, micro enterprises across the EU accounted for 64.7% of employment and 57.2% of value added in 2023. For enterprises serving food and beverages, micro and small enterprises together contributed 75.7% of employment and 69.7% of value added, well above the average shares for all market services (50.4% and 41.2%, respectively).

Turnover index for wholesaling, retailing and serving of food and beverages

(2009 = 100, EU, 2009–24)



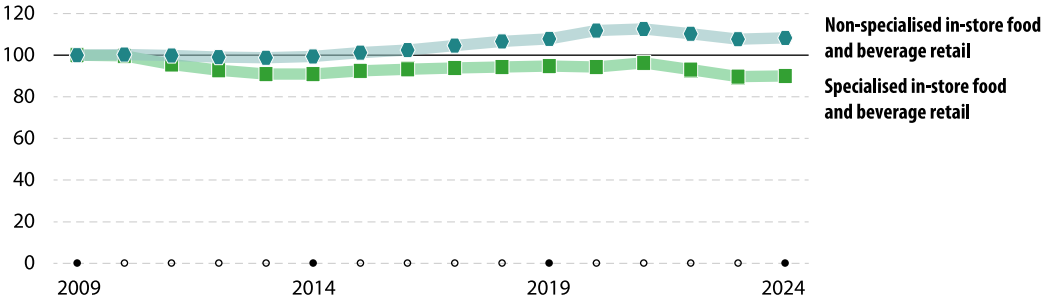
Note: index originally compiled with 2021 = 100; rescaled to 2009 = 100.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: sts_trtu_a and sts_setu_a)

In current price terms, the turnover of EU enterprises serving food and beverages rose 38.3% between 2009 and 2019, averaging 3.3% per year. The COVID-19 pandemic hit this activity hard in 2020, when turnover fell 33.9%. It partly rebounded in 2021 (up 15.2%), then grew rapidly in 2022 and continued rising in 2023 and 2024 (up 42.2%, 11.7% and 4.8%, respectively). Turnover of food and beverage wholesale resellers also declined in 2020 (down 3.4%) but recovered over the next 4 years (up between 2.1% and 15.2% each year). By contrast, turnover of specialised and non-specialised food and beverage in-store retailers grew steadily from 2020 to 2024, initially supported by more people eating at home during COVID restrictions and more recently by higher food prices linked to the rising cost of living.

Volume index of sales for retailing of food and beverages

(2009 = 100, EU, 2009–24)



Note: index originally compiled with 2021 = 100; rescaled to 2009 = 100.

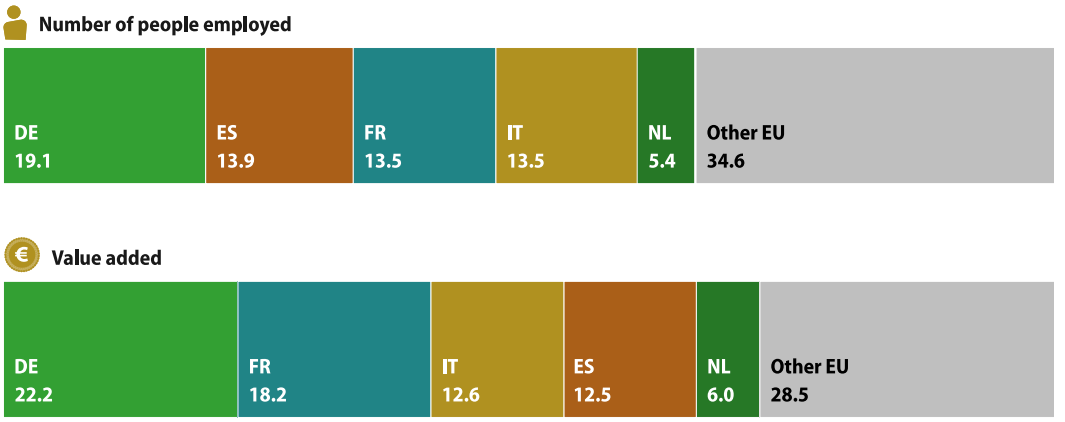
Source: Eurostat (online data code: sts_trtu_a)

For retail trade, a volume index of sales is available. Adjusted for price changes, EU sales from non-specialised in-store food and beverage retailing were 8.3% higher in 2024 than in 2009, while sales from specialised retailers were 10.0% lower, reflecting a shift toward general grocers and supermarkets.

In recent years, the cost-of-living crisis has influenced consumer behaviour. In 2024, EU sales from specialised in-store food and beverages retailing were 6.5% below 2021 levels, while sales from non-specialised retailing were 3.7% lower, as consumers reduced the volume and/or quality of purchases.

Share of EU wholesaling, retailing and serving of food and beverages

(%, 2023)



Note: includes estimates made for the purpose of this publication.

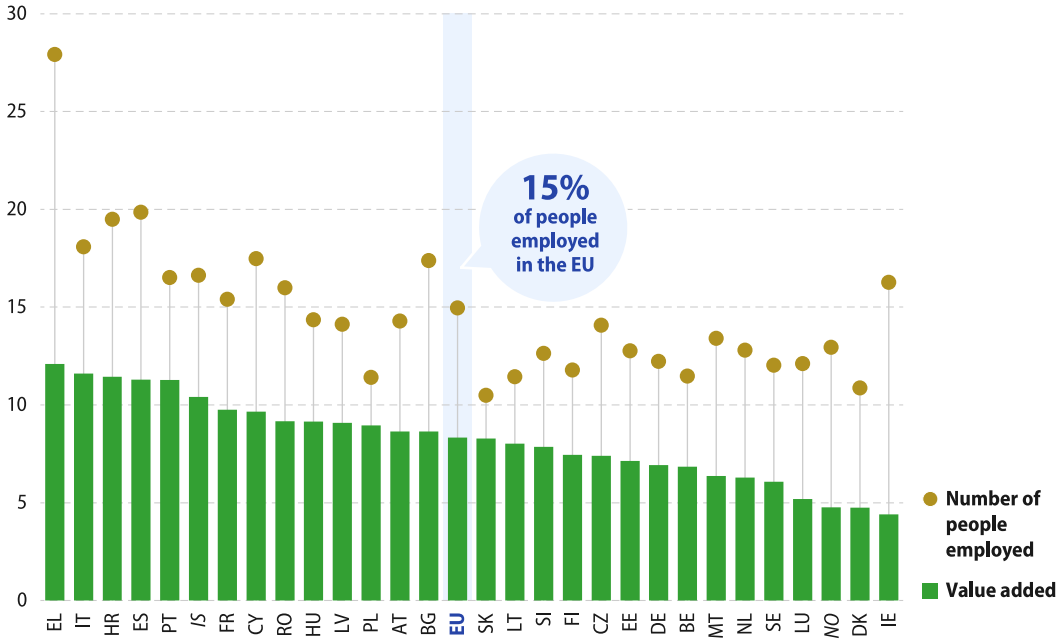
Source: Eurostat (online data code: sbs_ovw_act)

Within the EU's wholesaling, retailing and serving of food and beverages activity, the relative size of each country reflects several factors. While population size clearly influences overall sales, cultural preferences, consumption patterns and differences in price levels also play a role. These differences are particularly relevant in the context of the EU's Vision for Agriculture and Food, which emphasises strengthening the sustainability, competitiveness and resilience of the food system by promoting opportunities such as sustainable sourcing, fair pricing and improved access to diverse and healthy food products.

In 2023, Germany recorded the highest value added and the highest number of people employed among enterprises in wholesaling, retailing and serving of food and beverages, accounting for 22.2% of the EU's value added and 19.1% of its employment. France had the second highest share of value added (18.2%) and the third highest share of employment (13.5%); the latter was linked to a relatively low number of people employed serving food and beverages. Spain and Italy, by contrast, had relatively high shares of the total number of people employed (13.9% and 13.5%, respectively) compared with their shares of value added. This reflected a greater share of people working for enterprises serving food and beverages.

Share of wholesaling, retailing and serving of food and beverages within market services

(%, 2023)



Note: ranked on value added. Includes estimates made for the purpose of this publication.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sbs_ovw_act)

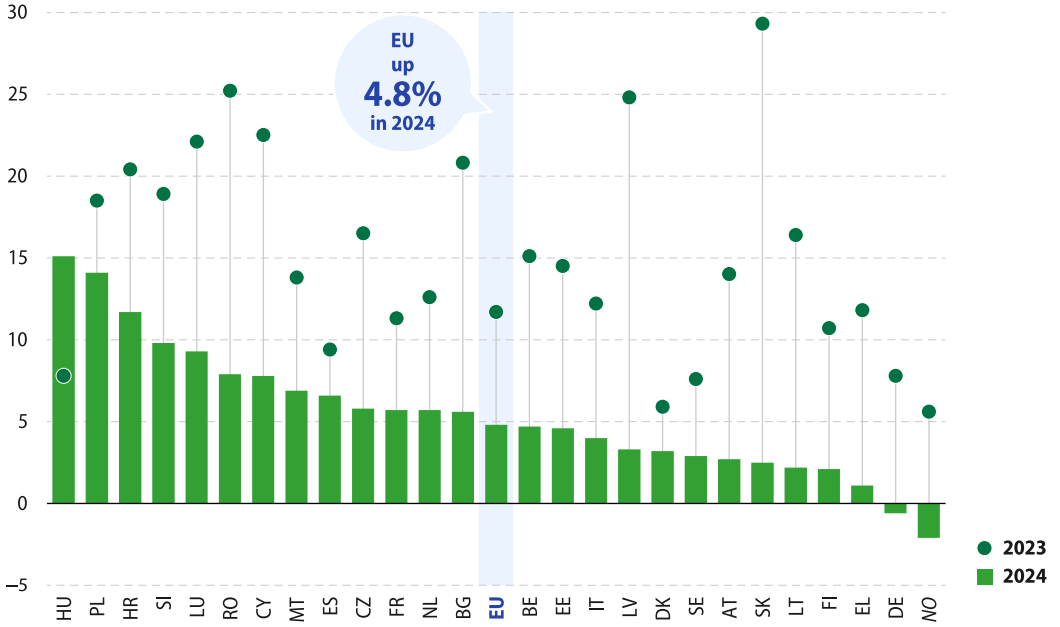
Enterprises wholesaling, retailing and serving food and beverages contributed 15.0% of total employment within the EU's market services sector in 2023, whereas their share of value added was considerably lower, at 8.3%. This gap indicates that labour productivity was relatively low. However, note some enterprises employ a high share of part-time and/or seasonal workers, and employment figures are based on a simple headcount.

Enterprises wholesaling, retailing and serving food and beverages contributed particularly strongly to market services in several (generally southern) EU countries that are prominent tourist destinations. In 2023, these activities accounted for at least 17.0% of total employment in the market services sectors of Greece, Spain, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus and Bulgaria. Greece had the highest share (27.9%), followed at some distance by Spain (19.8%).

Greece, Italy, Croatia and Spain also recorded the highest shares of value added. In 2023, enterprises wholesaling, retailing and serving food and beverages accounted for 12.1%, 11.6%, 11.4% and 11.3%, respectively, of total value added in their market services sectors. Portugal was the only other EU country with a double-digit share (also 11.3%).

Annual change in turnover index for serving of food and beverages

(%, 2023 and 2024)



Note: IE and NL, not available.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sts_setu_a)

From March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic in the EU had a marked impact on enterprises serving food and beverages, such as restaurants, bars and cafés. Activity contracted sharply as many EU countries implemented restrictions on indoor socialising. Across the EU, a partial recovery began in 2021, accelerating in 2022 with sales growth of 42.2%, and continuing into 2023 and 2024 with increases of 11.7% and 4.8%, respectively.

Most EU countries experienced a similar pattern of development, with sales increasing in 2021, accelerating in 2022, and continuing to rise in 2023 and 2024 (albeit at slower rates). The rapid growth in turnover reflected several factors: the post-pandemic recovery, a rebound in national and international tourism, supply chain disruptions, rising costs of ingredients and energy, labour shortages affecting wages in some hospitality activities. Although growth slowed in 2023, it remained positive in every EU country, with annual rates of change ranging from 5.9% in Denmark up to 29.3% in Slovakia. In 2024, the pattern was similar, except for a modest fall in Germany (down 0.6%); elsewhere, sales growth ranged from 1.1% in Greece up to double-digit increases in Croatia and Poland, peaking at 15.1% in Hungary.

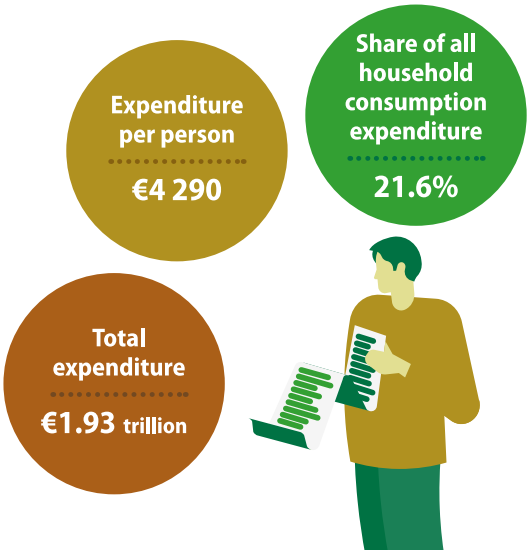
3

Consumption and environment

Human consumption of food and beverages

Annual household expenditure on food, beverages, and food and beverage serving

(EU, 2023)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: nama_10_cp18)

Food and beverages are recurring expenditure items, reflecting local, regional and national cuisines, as well as cultural identity.

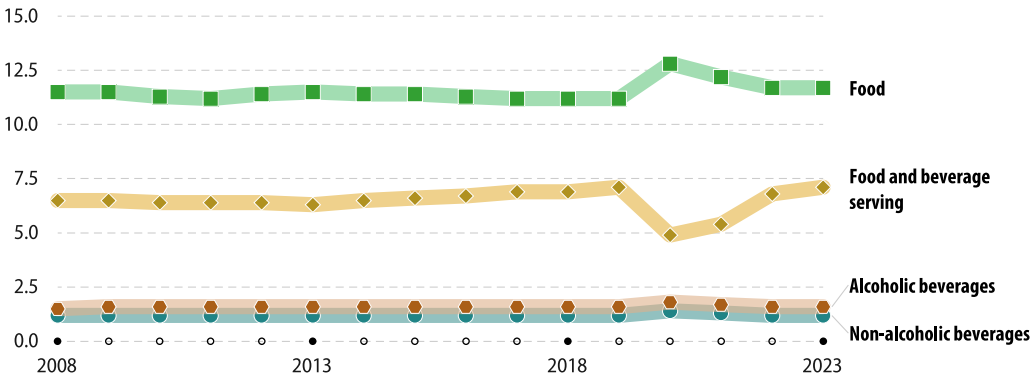
In 2023, EU final consumption expenditure on food, beverages and food and beverage serving totalled €1.93 trillion (€4 290 per inhabitant), up 8.8% from 2022, reflecting rising food prices during the cost-of-living crisis.

Food, beverages and food and beverage serving accounted for 21.6% of EU household consumption expenditure in 2023: 11.7% on food, 7.1% on food and beverage serving, 1.6% on alcoholic beverages and 1.2% on non-alcoholic beverages.

Between 2022 and 2023, the share of food and beverage serving in total household consumption expenditure rose in every EU country except for Malta (no change) and Cyprus (down 0.2 percentage points). In Ireland, this share increased 1.7 points, with relatively large increases also recorded in Spain (up 0.9 points) and Greece (up 0.8 points). By contrast, spending on alcoholic beverages fell in every EU country except for Latvia (up 0.3 points) and Bulgaria (up 0.1 points). The biggest decrease was recorded in Ireland – down 0.4 points – with its share falling from 2.2% to 1.8%.

Share of total household consumption expenditure

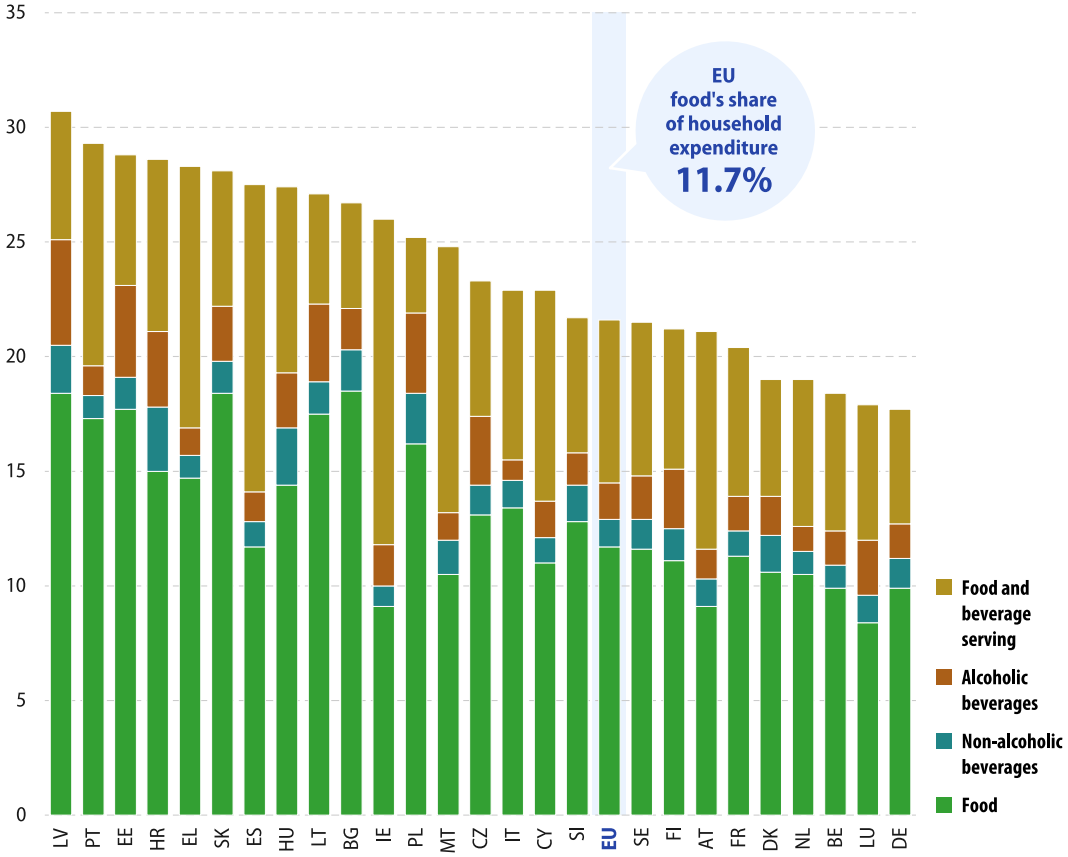
(%, EU, 2008–23)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: nama_10_cp18)

Share of total household consumption expenditure

(%, 2023)



Note: RO, not available.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: nama_10_cp18)

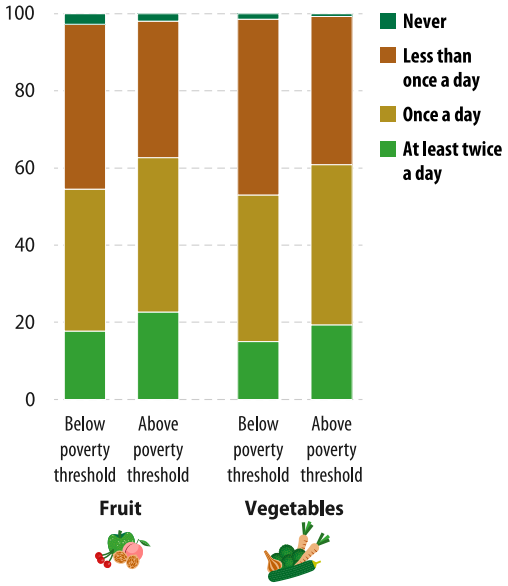
The share of household expenditure on food, beverages and food and beverage serving varies considerably across EU countries. In 2023, the lowest shares were in Germany (17.7%) and Luxembourg (17.9%), while the highest were in Portugal (29.3%) and Latvia (30.7%).

In all EU countries except Poland, food and food and beverage serving were the 2 largest components of total expenditure on food, beverages and food and beverage serving in 2023. Among these 2 items, food generally accounted for the larger share, although in Ireland, Spain, Malta and Austria, the share of expenditure on food and beverage serving was higher. In Poland, food accounted for the highest share of total expenditure, followed by alcoholic beverages (ahead of food and beverage serving). Italy, Malta, Slovenia and Hungary were the only EU countries where expenditure on non-alcoholic beverages exceeded that on alcoholic beverages.

In 2023, Germany accounted for 19.3% of the EU's total household consumption expenditure on food, beverages and food and beverage serving. France (15.7%), Italy (14.7%) and Spain (12.3%) were the only other EU countries with double-digit shares; Poland (5.5%) followed at some distance.

Daily consumption of fruit and vegetables, by risk of poverty

(%, EU, people aged 16 or over, 2022)



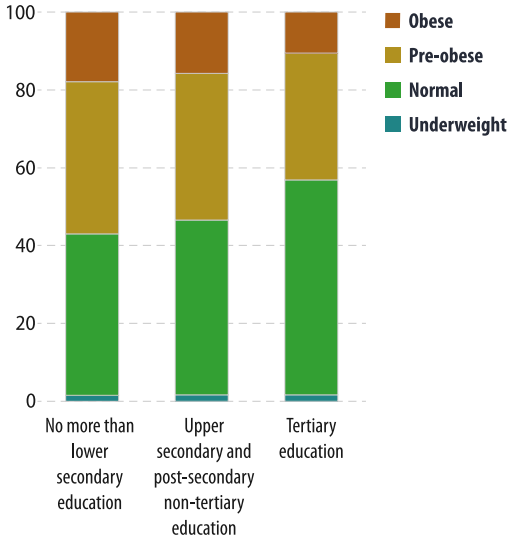
Fruit and vegetables are key components of a healthy, balanced diet, providing vitamins, minerals and fibre. Studies indicate that a high intake ('5 a day') is associated with a lower risk of chronic diseases, including certain cancers and cardiovascular conditions.

Across the EU in 2022, 22.7% of people aged 16 or over living above the at-risk-of-poverty threshold ate fruit at least twice a day, while 19.3% did so for vegetables. Among people below the poverty threshold (in other words, at risk of poverty), the shares were lower: 17.7% ate fruit at least twice a day and 15.0% ate vegetables at the same frequency. At the other end of the scale, 2.7% of people at risk of poverty did not eat any fruit, compared with 1.4% for vegetables. For those above the poverty threshold, the corresponding figures were 1.9% and 0.7%, respectively.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: ilc_hch11)

Share of the adult population, by education level and body mass index

(%, EU, people aged 18 years or over, 2022)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: ilc_hch10)

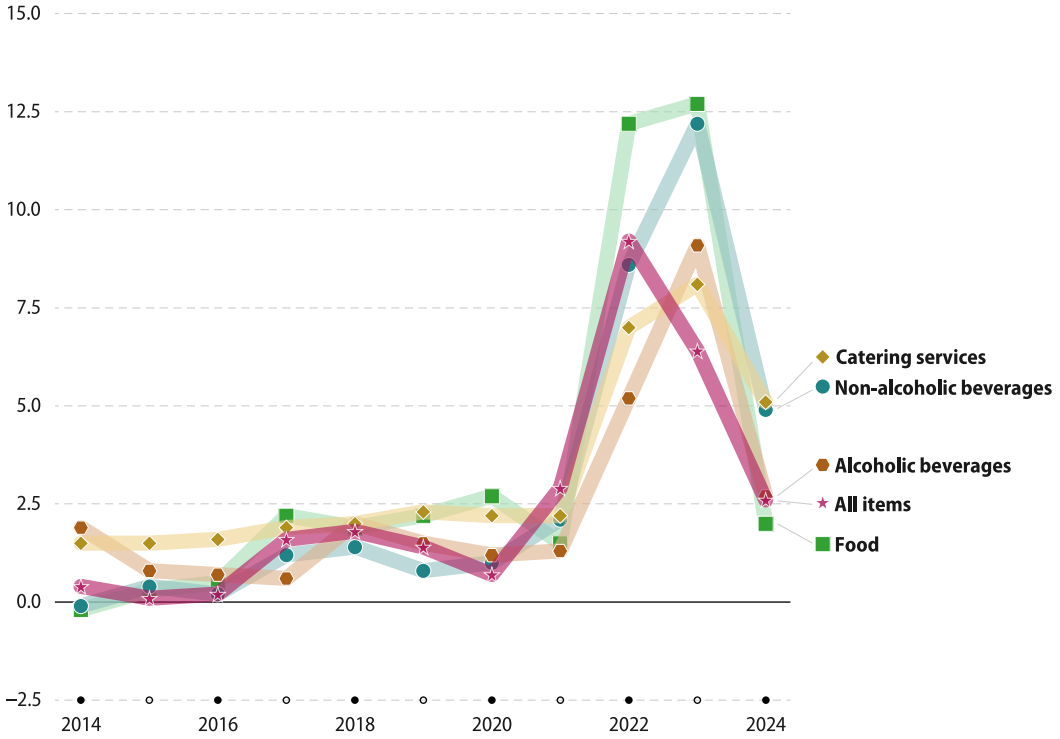
The body mass index (BMI) is defined as someone's weight (in kilograms) divided by their height (in metres) squared. The BMI for adults (aged 18 years or over) provides an estimation of a person's body fat and can be used to classify people as: underweight (BMI less than 18.5), normal weight (BMI above 18.5 but below 25), pre-obese (BMI above 25 but below 30) or obese (BMI above 30).

Underweight people face higher risks of malnutrition, decreased muscle strength and osteoporosis. Overweight people (either pre-obese or obese) are more likely to develop high blood pressure, coronary heart disease, or type 2 diabetes.

Within the EU in 2022, a slightly higher share (1.7%) of adults with a tertiary level of educational attainment were underweight compared with those with lower levels of education. At the other end of the scale, 57.0% of people with no more than a lower secondary education were overweight, compared with 43.1% of people with a tertiary education. The gap was particularly wide in relation to obesity: 17.9% of people with no more than a lower secondary education were obese compared with 10.5% for those with a tertiary education.

Annual rate of change of consumer prices

(%, EU, 2014–24)



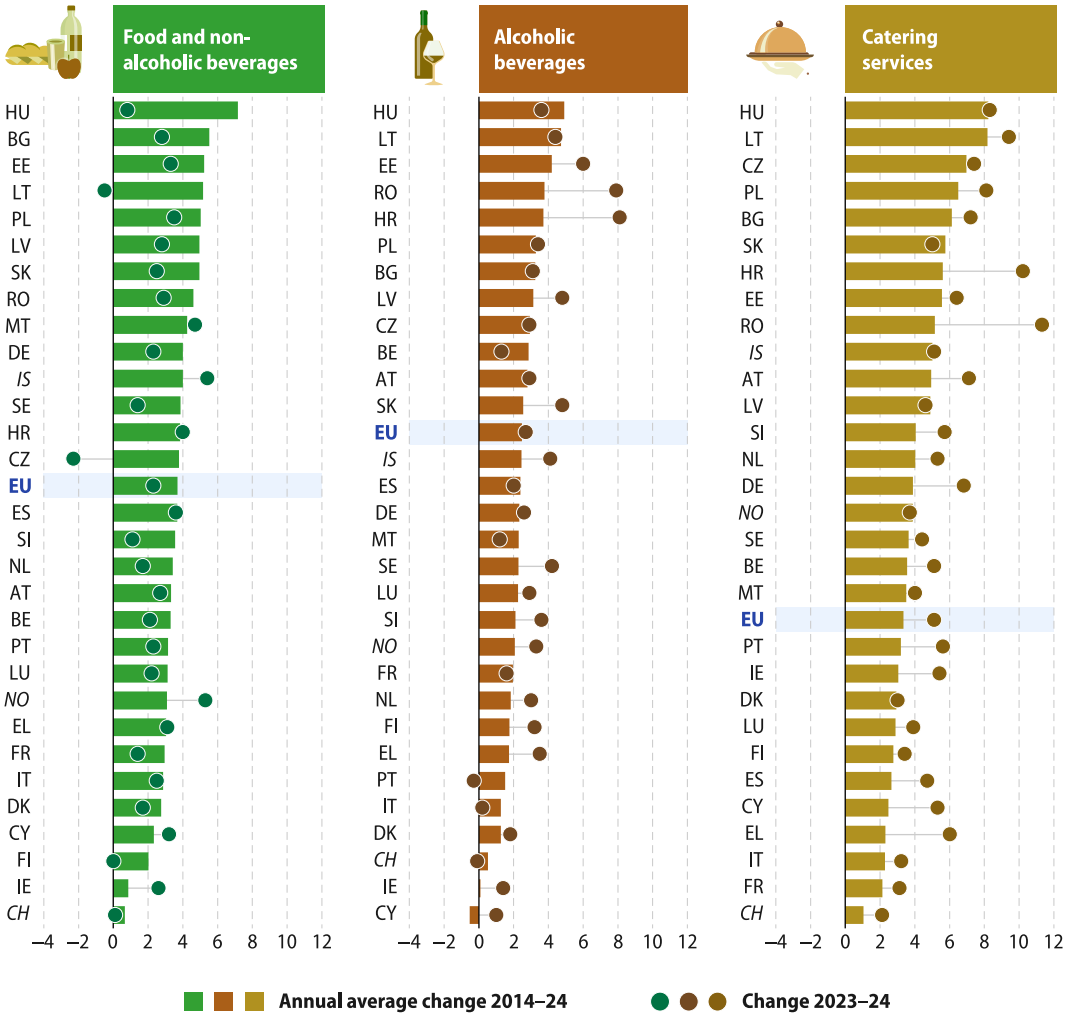
Source: Eurostat (online data code: prc_hicp_aind)

Prices are a key consideration for many consumers when deciding what to eat and drink; they can influence choices related to more sustainable and healthy diets – a priority highlighted in the EU's Vision for Agriculture and Food. Across the EU, food and beverage prices rose rapidly during 2022 and 2023, contributing to a cost-of-living crisis. While price increases eased in 2024, price levels remained historically high.

Between 2014 and 2024, overall consumer prices (measured by the all-items consumer price index) increased 29.8% in the EU. While price rises for alcoholic beverages were below this level (up 27.7%), non-alcoholic beverages (up 37.0%), catering services (up 39.0%) and food (up 44.4%) recorded above-average increases.

Long-term and recent changes in consumer prices

(%, 2014–24 and 2023–24)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: prc_hicp_aind)

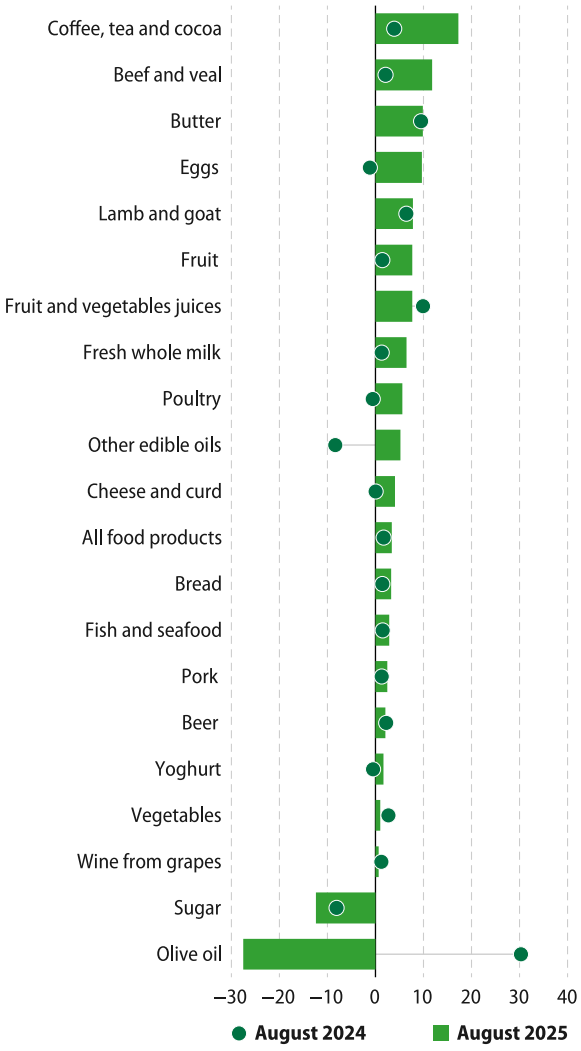
Between 2014 and 2024, EU consumer prices for alcoholic beverages rose by an average of 2.5% per year. The price of catering services and of food and non-alcoholic beverages rose at somewhat faster paces, averaging 3.4% and 3.7% per year, respectively.

In 2024, the pace of price growth in the EU slowed compared with the rapid increases witnessed in 2022 and 2023). Prices for food and non-alcoholic beverages, alcoholic beverages, and catering services rose 2.3%, 2.7% and 5.1%, respectively.

Malta and Croatia recorded the highest annual price increases for food and non-alcoholic beverages in 2024, at 4.7% and 4.0%, respectively. Finland saw no change in these prices, while Lithuania (down 0.5%) and Czechia (down 2.3%) were the only EU countries to experience falling prices.

Annual change in consumer prices of selected food and beverage products

(%, EU, August 2024 and August 2025)



In recent years, several factors have put upward pressure on global food prices. These include disruptions to supply chains, partly influenced by the COVID-19 crisis; rising costs of energy and fertilisers, key components of intermediate consumption for many farmers; higher energy costs for food processors, transporters and distributors; and labour shortages.

Food prices increased rapidly during 2022 and the first half of 2023, before easing somewhat. In August 2025, food price inflation across the EU stood at 3.4%, up from 1.7% a year earlier, signalling renewed upward pressure.

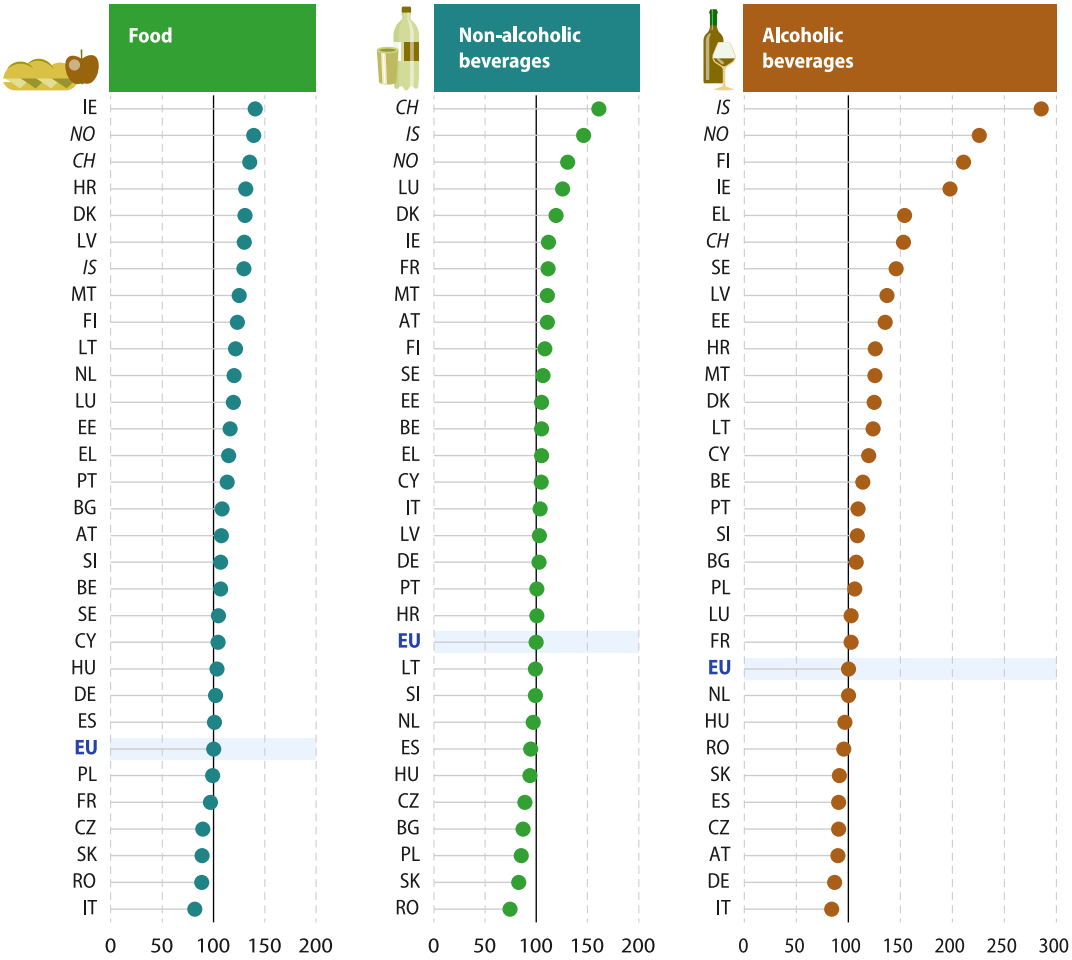
Having recorded the highest price increases (up 30.3%) in the EU among a group of selected food and beverage products over the 12 months to August 2024, the price of olive oil declined sharply during the following year (down 27.5% between August 2024 and August 2025). There were 2 food items that recorded double-digit price inflation in August 2025: coffee, tea and cocoa (up 17.3%), and beef and veal (up 11.8%).

Note: other edible oils includes edible oils other than olive oil.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: prc_fsc_idx)

Price level comparisons

(EU = 100, 2024)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: prc_ppp_ind)

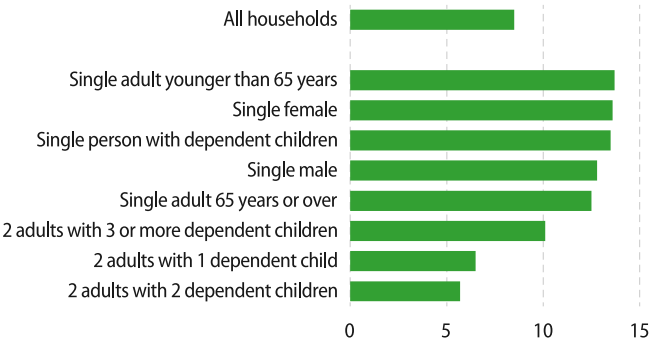
Despite considerable differences in consumer price developments over the last decade, disparities in food price levels persist across EU countries. Several eastern EU countries, along with Spain, the Netherlands and Lithuania, recorded food prices below the EU average. By contrast, most Nordic and western EU countries, as well as several southern and Baltic countries, had above-average prices. In 2024, food prices were lowest in Romania (74.6% of the EU average) and highest in Luxembourg (125.7%).

For non-alcoholic beverages, only 6 EU countries had price levels below the EU average in 2024. These included some of the EU's most populous countries: Italy, Romania, France and Poland. Price levels ranged from 81.8% of the EU average in Italy to 140.4% in Ireland.

A similar pattern was observed for alcoholic beverages, with several of the most populous EU countries – Italy, Germany, Spain and Romania – reporting price levels below the EU average in 2024. Prices ranged from 83.9% of the EU average in Italy to 197.6% in Ireland and 210.4% in Finland, partly reflecting differences in alcohol taxation.

Share of people unable to afford a proper meal every second day, by type of household

(%, EU, 2024)



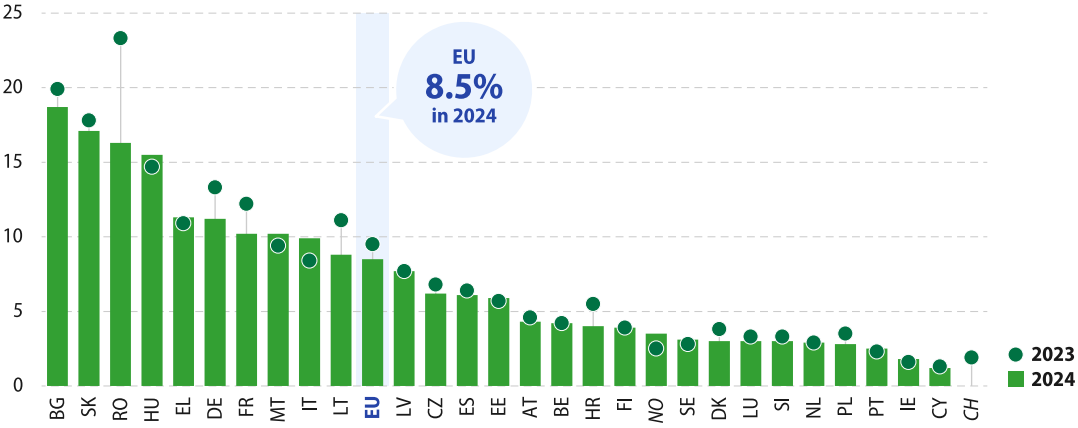
In 2024, 8.5% of people in the EU were unable to afford a proper meal every second day. Food affordability was particularly an issue for adults aged under 65 living alone, with 13.7% of this group affected. This share was lower among people living in households composed of 2 adults with 2 dependent children, where 5.7% faced the same difficulty.

Note: a proper meal is defined as a meal with meat, chicken, fish or a vegetarian equivalent.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: ilc_mdes03)

Share of people unable to afford a proper meal every second day

(%, 2023 and 2024)



Note: a proper meal is defined as a meal with meat, chicken, fish or a vegetarian equivalent. CH: 2024, not available.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: ilc_mdes03)

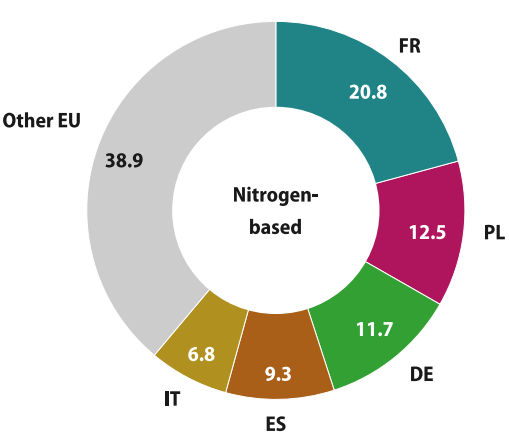
The share of people in the EU unable to afford a proper meal at least every second day rose from 7.3% in 2021 to 9.5% in 2023, at least in part reflecting rising food prices and the cost-of-living crisis, before falling back partially to 8.5% in 2024. Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Bulgaria reported the highest shares of people facing difficulties in relation to the affordability of food in 2024. Between 15.5% and 18.7% of people in these countries could not afford a proper meal every second day. The lowest shares were recorded in Ireland (1.8%) and Cyprus (1.2%).

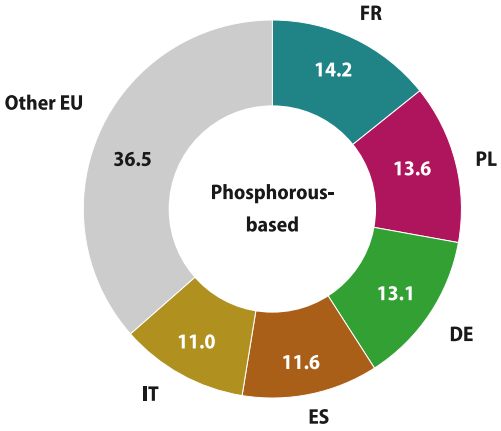
In Italy, the share of people unable to afford a proper meal every second day rose 1.5 percentage points between 2023 and 2024, reaching 9.9%. Only 7 other EU countries recorded an increase, while the largest declines were in Romania (down 7.0 points to 16.3%), Lithuania (down 2.3 points), Germany (down 2.1 points) and France (down 2.0 points).

Agriculture and food: environment

Share of EU consumption of inorganic fertilisers

(% based on tonnes, 2023)





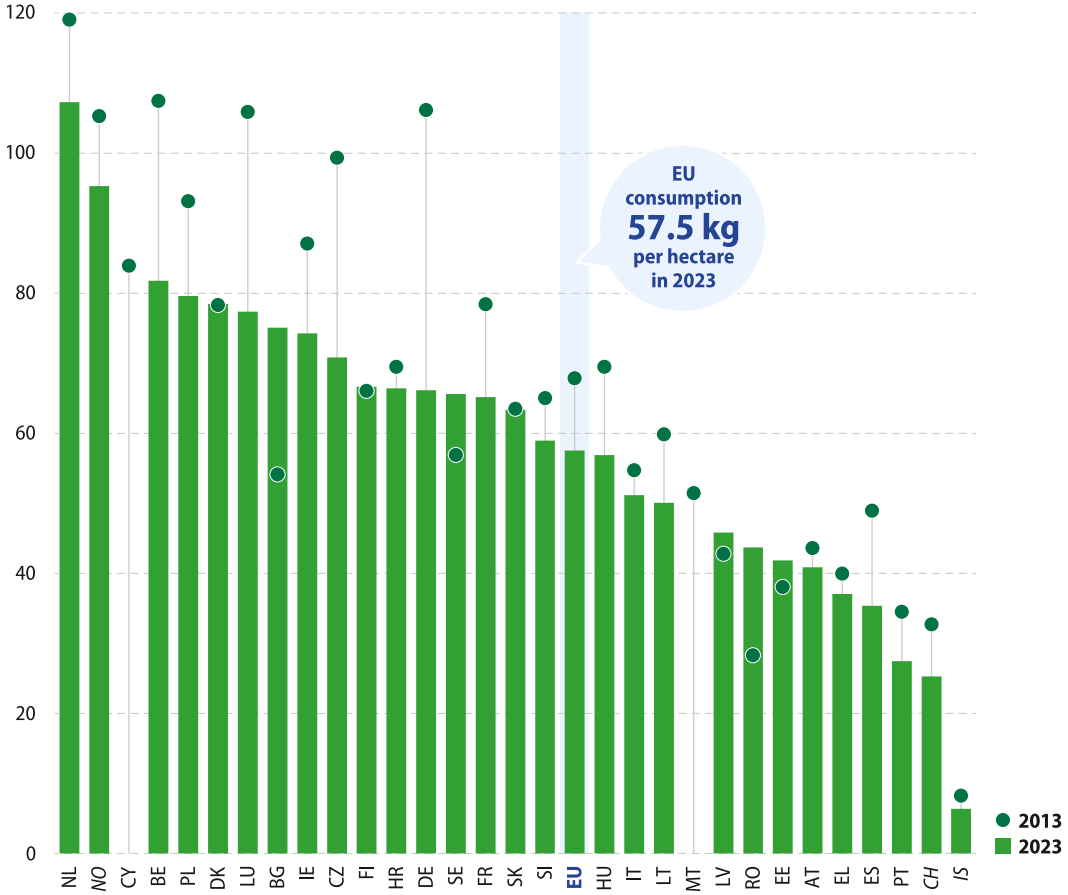
Note: excluding CY and MT (no recent data available).

Source: Eurostat (online data code: aei_fm_usefert)

Inorganic and organic fertilisers are widely used in agriculture to optimise production, though excessive use of fertilisers can lead to environmental pollution. In 2023, more than 8.3 million tonnes of nitrogen-based fertilisers and more than 910 000 tonnes of phosphorous-based fertilisers were applied to EU agricultural lands. France had the highest consumption of nitrogen-based fertilisers (20.8% of the EU total) and phosphorous-based fertilisers (14.2%).

Consumption of inorganic fertilisers

(kg per hectare of utilised agricultural area, 2013 and 2023)



Note: EU excluding CY and MT for 2013 and 2023.
CY and MT: 2023, not available.

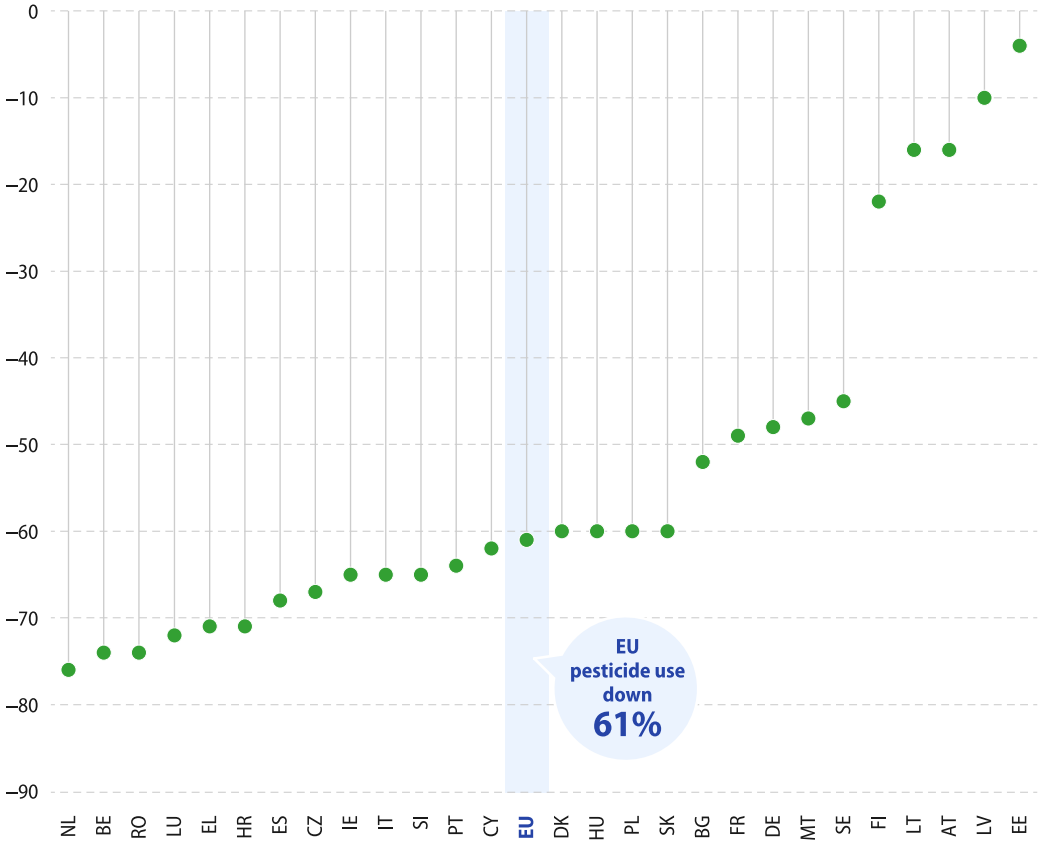
Source: Eurostat (online data codes: aei_fm_usefert and apro_cpnh1)

In 2023, an estimated 57.5 kilograms of inorganic fertilisers were applied on average to each hectare of EU agricultural land. The Netherlands had the highest rate, at 107.3 kilograms per hectare, followed by Belgium and Poland, both with around 80 kilograms per hectare. In Portugal, Spain and Greece, consumption averaged less than 40.0 kilograms per hectare.

Between 2013 and 2023, inorganic fertiliser use per hectare fell in the EU by 15.3%. Among the 25 EU countries for which data are available, 18 recorded declines. Luxembourg, Spain and Czechia had decreases of more than 25%, while the largest fall was in Germany (down 37.7%). By contrast, consumption per hectare rose sharply in Romania (up 54.1%) and Bulgaria (up 38.6%).

Overall decrease in the risk from pesticide use

(%, 2023 compared with average for 2011–13)



Note: this indicator covers all sectors of the economy, not just sales to agriculture. More information on harmonised risk indicators is available from the European Commission's website.

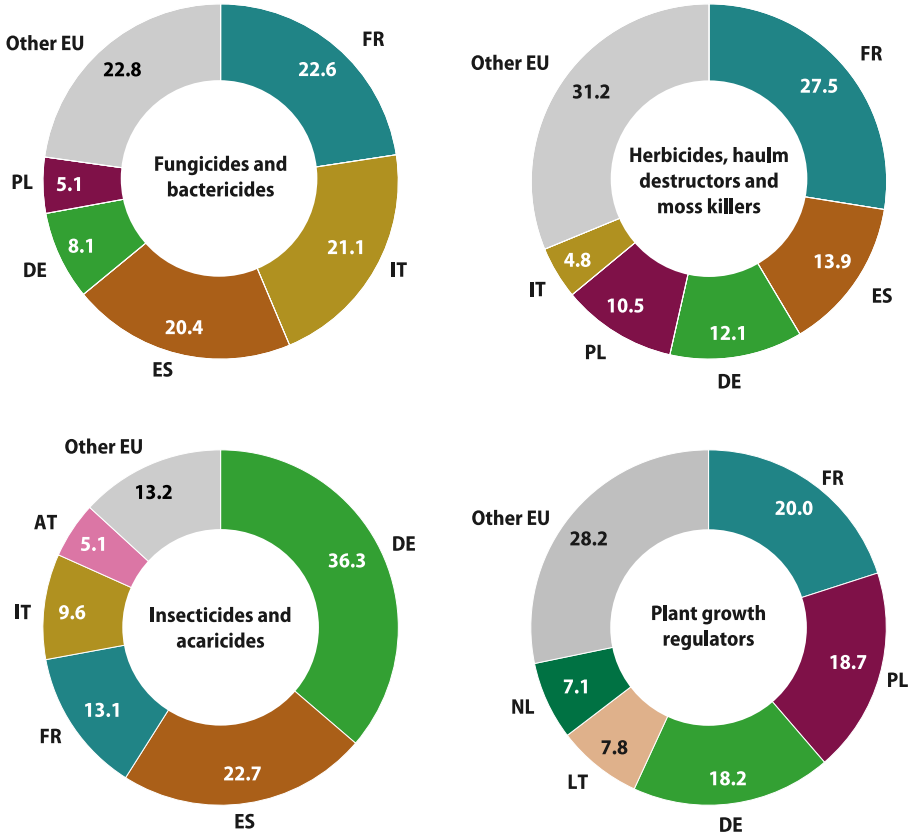
Source: Eurostat (online data code: aei_hri)

The types of active substances used in pesticides are changing, so the quantity of sales alone does not necessarily reflect the potential hazards of pesticide use. Harmonised Risk Indicator 1 provides estimates of the risks associated with pesticide use, taking into account the active substance content.

The risk from pesticide use in the EU was 61% lower in 2023 compared with the average risk for 2011 to 2013. Over this period, the risk from pesticide use declined in every EU country, with decreases of more than 70% in the Netherlands, Belgium, Romania, Luxembourg, Greece and Croatia. Estonia was the only EU country where the risk did not decrease by at least 10%.

Share of EU pesticide sales, by destination

(% based on kilograms, 2023)



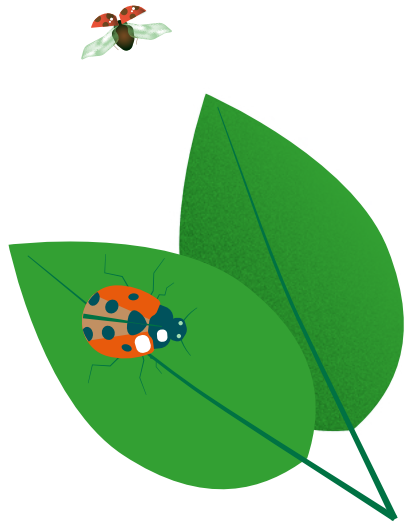
Note: EU totals (used to calculate the shares) include 2022 data for MT for fungicides and bactericides and BG and PL for plant growth regulators and exclude LU for fungicides and bactericides, EE and LU for insecticides and acaricides and ES and SE for plant growth regulators. Due to rounding, not all shares sum to 100.0%.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: aei_fm_salpest09)

The quantity of pesticides sold across the EU in 2023 was around 292 000 tonnes, 9.2% lower than the level of sales a year earlier.

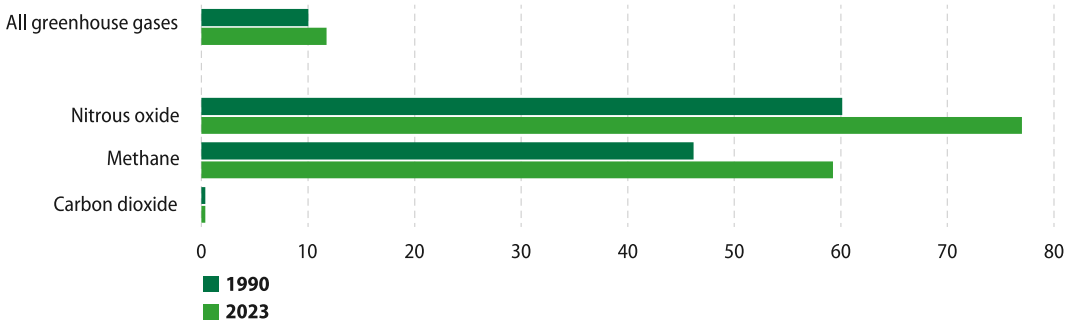
The EU countries with the highest pesticide use varied by type. In 2023, Germany used the most insecticides and acaricides (36.3% of the EU total), while France had the largest share for herbicides, haulm destructors and moss killers (27.5%), fungicides and bactericides (22.6%), and plant growth regulators (20.0%).

More information: consumption of pesticides.



Share of agriculture in greenhouse gas emissions

(% based on tonnes of CO_2 equivalents, EU, 1990 and 2023)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: env_air_gge)

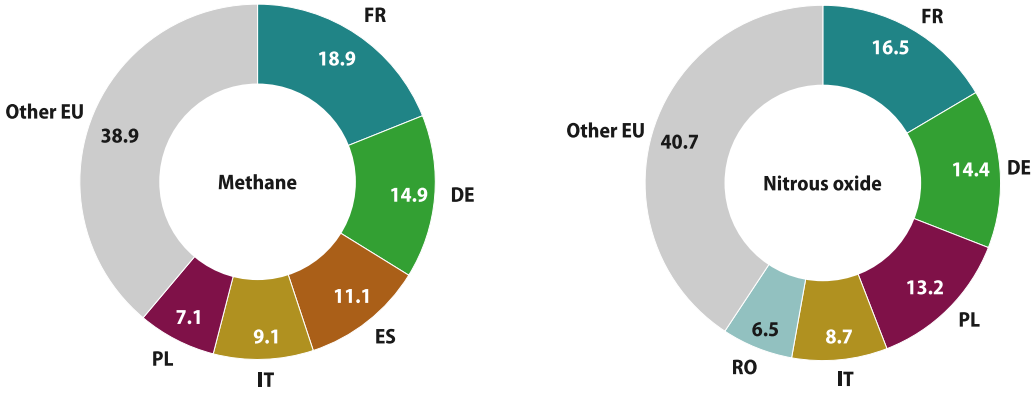
There are 3 main greenhouse gases emitted from agricultural processes: carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4) and nitrous oxide (N_2O). Expressing each gas in tonnes of CO_2-equivalents, based on their global warming potential relative to carbon dioxide, facilitates the comparison and aggregation of emissions. For example, methane is 25 times more potent as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide.

In 2023, EU agricultural processes produced 365 million tonnes of CO_2-equivalents of greenhouse gases. Although agricultural emissions fell 25.4% between 1990 and 2023, the sector's share of total greenhouse gas emissions rose from 10.0% to 11.8%.

The main greenhouse gases emitted from agriculture are methane and nitrous oxide. Agriculture is the largest source of both, accounting for 59.3% of EU methane emissions and 77.0% of EU nitrous oxide emissions; both shares have risen over the past 3 decades.

Share of EU emissions from agriculture

(% based on tonnes of CO_2 equivalents, 2023)

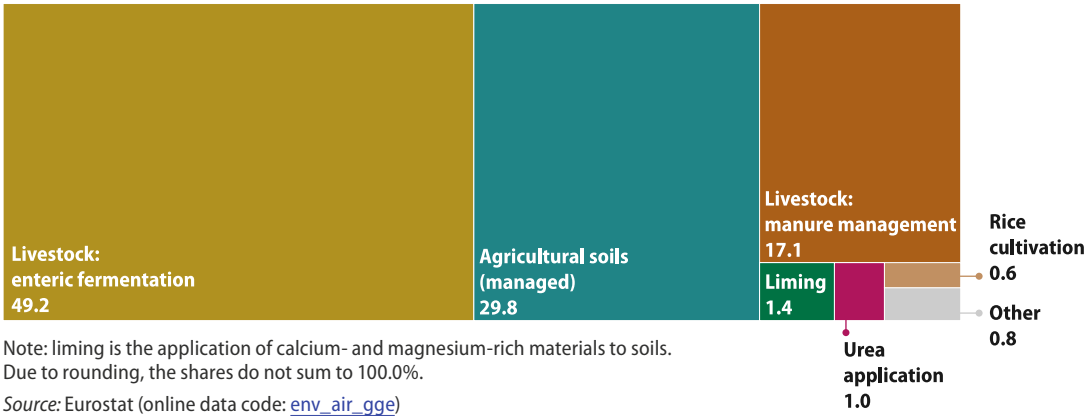


Source: Eurostat (online data code: env_air_gge)

Agricultural greenhouse gas emissions depend on factors such as the size of agricultural areas, farming practices and intensification, fertiliser use, climate and soil conditions, as well as government policies, adoption of new technologies and economic conditions. EU countries with intensive livestock and crop systems generally produce the most emissions. In 2023, France had the highest level of agricultural methane and nitrous oxide emissions (respectively, 18.9% and 16.5% of the EU total).

Structure of agricultural greenhouse gas emissions

(% based on tonnes of CO_2 equivalents, EU, 2023)



Note: liming is the application of calcium- and magnesium-rich materials to soils. Due to rounding, the shares do not sum to 100.0%.

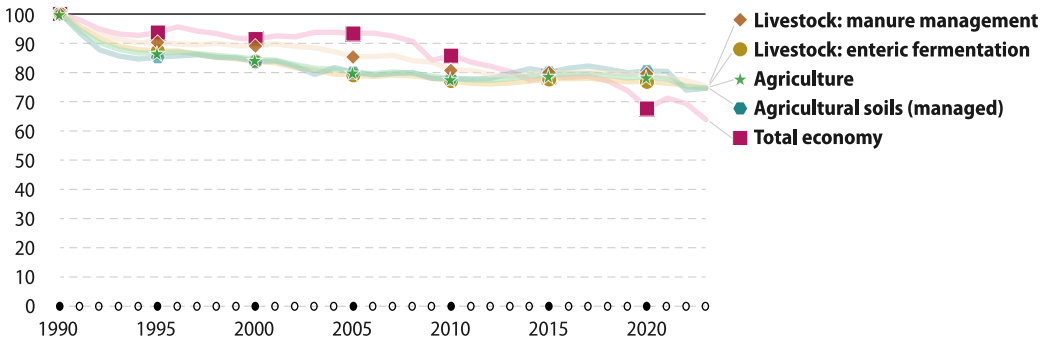
Source: Eurostat (online data code: env_air_gge)

Enteric fermentation – the breakdown of feed during an animal's digestive process – is a major source of methane emissions. Managed agricultural soils are a major source of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide emissions; they can also act as a sink by storing greenhouse gases. Manure management is a major source of methane emissions, with the rest of its emissions being nitrous oxide.

In 2023, enteric fermentation accounted for 49.2% of the EU's agricultural greenhouse gas emissions, with smaller shares for managed agricultural soils (29.8%) and manure management (17.1%).

Developments in greenhouse gas emissions

(1990 = 100, based on tonnes of CO_2 equivalents, EU, 1990–2023)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: env_air_gge)

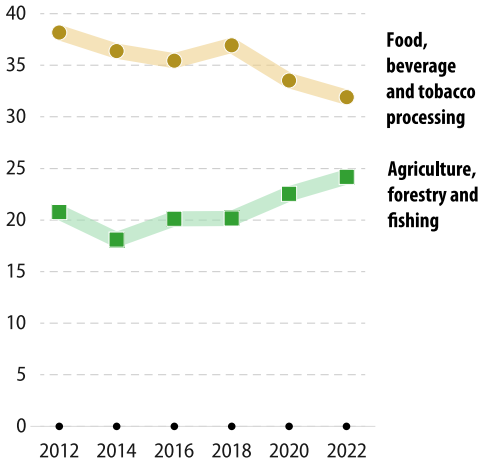
EU greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture fell sharply between 1990 and 1992 and continued to decline most years through to 2012. They then rose modestly (up 3.0% between 2012 and 2017), before resuming a downward trend (falling 6.3% between 2017 and 2023).

Overall, agricultural emissions of greenhouse gases in the EU fell 25.4% between 1990 and 2023, including a 25.5% reduction from managed agricultural soils, a 25.4% reduction from enteric fermentation and a 24.8% reduction from manure management. By comparison, total greenhouse gas emissions across the EU economy fell 36.3% over the same period.

More information: greenhouse gas emissions by source sector.

Developments of waste generation from productive activities

(million tonnes, EU, 2012–22)



Note: over 50% of agricultural waste consists of animal faeces, urine and manure.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: env_wasgen)

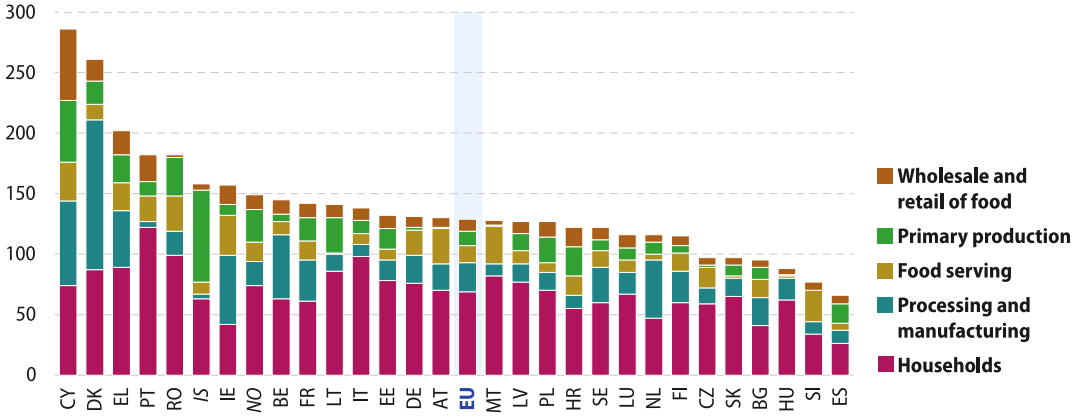
Reducing food loss and waste is part of sustainable development goal 12.3. It aims to halve food waste per inhabitant at retail and consumer levels and cut food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses, by 2030.

In 2022, agriculture, forestry and fishing, together with food, beverage and tobacco processing, generated 56.1 million tonnes of waste in the EU, representing 2.8% of all waste from productive activities.

Between 2012 and 2022, waste from food, beverage and tobacco processing fell 16.4%, with decreases in every 2-year period except 2018. By contrast, waste from agriculture, forestry and fishing rose by 16.4% overall, increasing in every 2-year period except 2014. The latest increase in 2022 mainly reflected higher urine waste in Greece, the Netherlands and Sweden.

Food waste

(kg per inhabitant, 2023)



Note: BG, ES, LT, RO and IS, 2022.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: env_wasfw)

In 2023, food waste generation in the EU averaged 130 kilograms (kg) of fresh mass per person; over half (53%) came from households and 18% from food and beverage processing and manufacturing. Portugal (122 kg per inhabitant), Romania (99 kg) and Italy (98 kg) recorded the highest ratios for food waste generated by households, while Spain had the lowest (26 kg; 2022 data). Ireland, Malta and Cyprus recorded the highest ratios for waste generated by food and beverage serving activities, followed by Austria and Romania (2022 data). The figures for the two Mediterranean countries are likely inflated by high numbers of international tourists. In this context, it should be noted that Ireland, Malta and Austria were among the 4 EU countries where household expenditure on catering services exceeded that on food, the other being Spain.

More information: food waste statistics.

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Print: KS-01-25-049-EN-C
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KEY FIGURES ON THE EUROPEAN FOOD CHAIN 2025 EDITION

'Key figures on the European food chain' provides a selection of indicators on the food chain, from primary production in agriculture and fisheries through to consumption. Statistical data are presented for the European Union (EU), EU countries and European Free Trade Agreement (EFTA) countries.

For some readers, this publication may offer an introduction to agriculture, fisheries and food chain statistics, while others can use it as a starting point to explore further a wide range of data and information. These are freely available on Eurostat's website and in Statistics Explained.

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